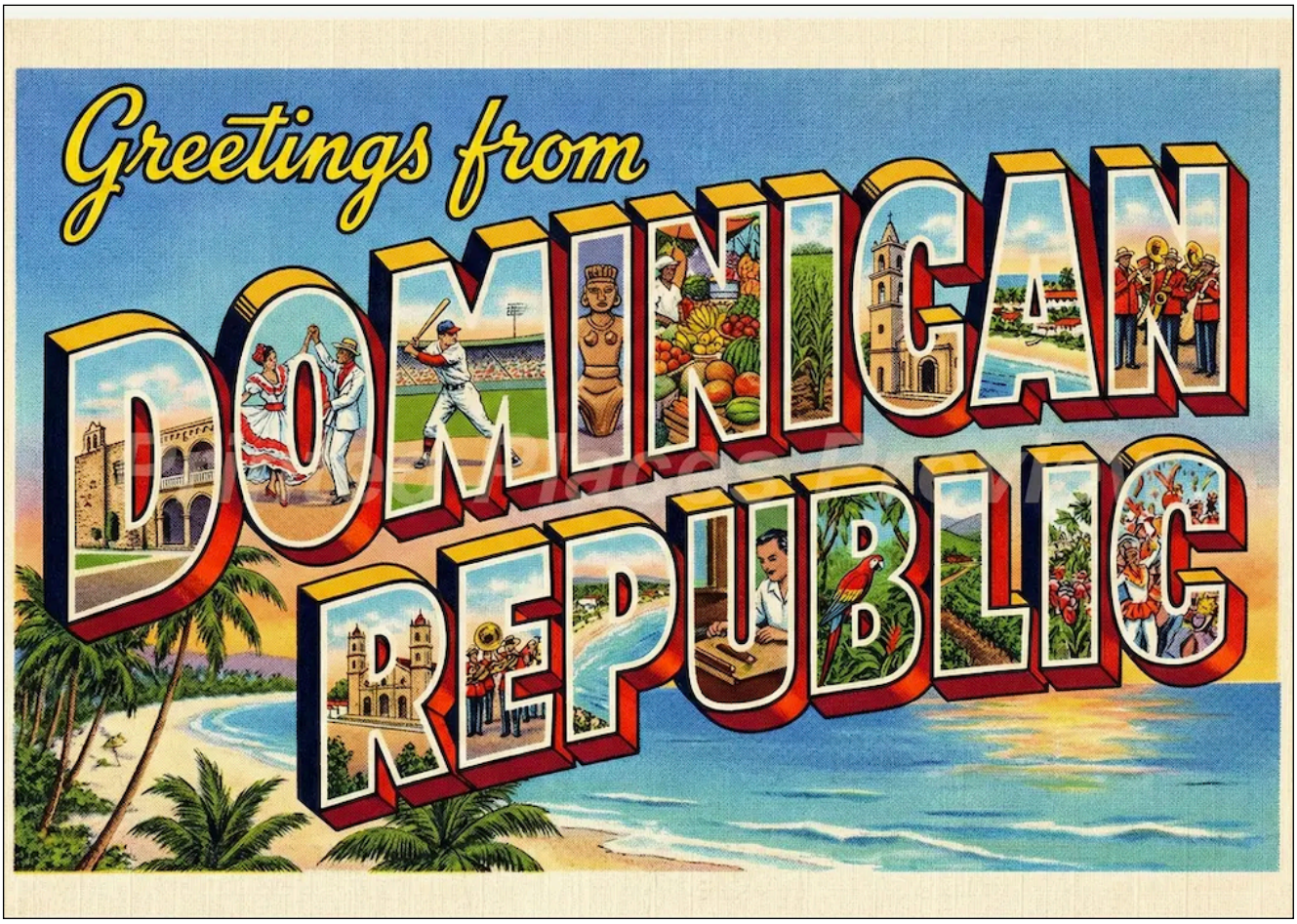
Dominican Republic Mission Trip

Overview and Itinerary

March 6-12, 2027



RUF

Overview

Short-term mission trips provide a great opportunity to experience the opportunities and challenges that churches and ministries face in other parts of the world. The Lord has often used short-term mission trips like this to deepen our understanding of the Gospel and grow in our own callings to serve the church. It was on a short-term trip to Belize where the Lord began to stir in my heart a desire to serve in ministry full time. Reading and discussing God's Word, worshipping in a cross-cultural context, and witnessing the transforming power of the Gospel in another part of the world, caused me to reflect on the purpose of my life and how the Lord might use me to serve Him.

We have a great opportunity this year to partner with a La Mesa Ministry which is a part of Serge Global Mission.

The city of Jarabacoa is located in the Central Mountain Range of the Dominican Republic in the beautiful valley of La Vega. The area is popular with Dominican tourists and filled with small rural communities with tremendous material and spiritual needs.

The Dominican Republic is culturally Catholic, and if asked, most people will say they believe in God. But they often do not see the need for a personal relationship with Jesus and feel that because they are 'basically good' they don't have anything to worry about. The outlying communities are materially poor and have very few resources. By sharing the hope of Jesus and acknowledging the needs, we hope to be catalysts for positive change.

> *La Mesa Ministry exists to set tables for transformation, inviting stakeholders, community leaders, church pastor and leaders, local and international experts, and others of good faith and goodwill to join to listen to needs, both spiritual and material, and work together to plan and implement solutions that help communities and individuals to thrive.*

> *La Mesa Ministry is located in the rural mountain community of Crucero, Dominican Republic, approximately 10 miles from Jarabacoa. Some of our current initiatives include a small bakery, exercise and English classes, Bible studies, mentoring and discipling, and working with local women and youth. We are members of La Vid (The Vine) church, located in Jarabacoa, with whom we partner in hosting teams and other outreach.*
> *La Mesa Ministry is a part of Serge Global Mission.*





Lodging

Short-term teams are housed in and around Crucero and Jarabacoa. La Mesa Ministry strives to have housing that is safe and comfortable for short-term teams. Please keep in mind that certain things are different here, for example, you may experience periods without electricity and/or water. There will likely be fans in the rooms, but not air-conditioners. There may not be screens for the windows. Water from taps is not potable. Drinking water will always be available from 5-gallon jugs (called botellones). Water pressure and temperature will vary.

Meals

Dominican food is flavorful and seasoned with natural ingredients like onions, garlic and cilantro. Food will be prepared by an experienced Dominican cook or at restaurants where we know food is properly prepared. Snacks like packaged chips are fine for eating.

Prior to arrival, we will ask for any food allergies of the team members. We will do our best to accommodate, but because the Dominican Republic is a developing nation, so if you have a signifianct allergy you should plan to bring what you need. We will be in communication with the local missionaries regarding our specific needs and they will help us plan accordingly.

Transportation

La Mesa Ministry will provide transportation to and from the airport, and within the country with trusted drivers.

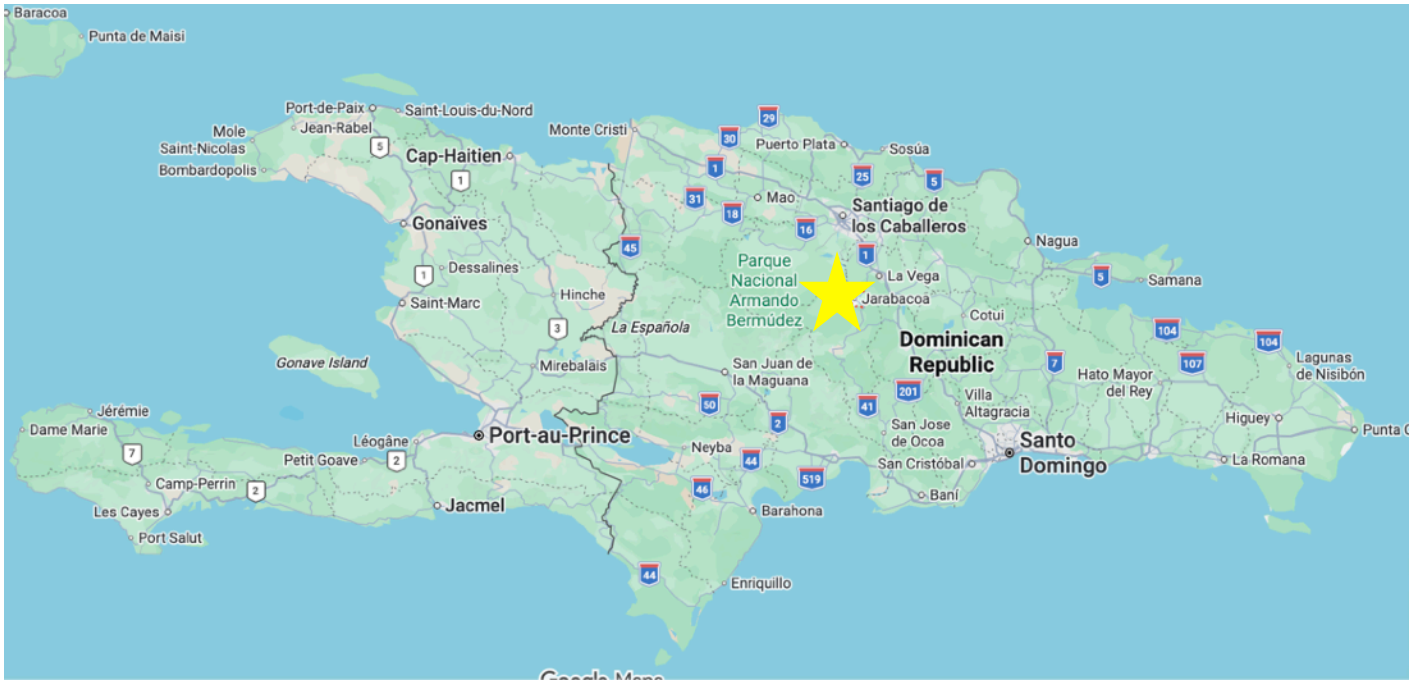
The Dominican Republic has a high incidence of motor-vehicular accidents and mortalities. However, more than 70% of those involve at least one motorcycle. For this reason, no motorcycle driving or riding will be permitted by any team member.

Throughout the week we will do a lot of walking, so please bring comfortable shoes! Pedestrians do not have the right of way in the Dominican Republic, and not all areas have sidewalks. While walking, it is important to remain alert, stay on the sides of the roads, and listen to your guides.

Itinerary

- Sat. Mar 6 - Fly from Ft. Lauderdale to Santago D.R.
  - Welcome Dinner, Overview and Guidelines for the week
- Sun. Mar 7 - Worship at la Vid Church.
- Mon. Mar 8 - Wed. Mar 10 - Working on site: Construction (e.g. concrete, painting, etc.) afternoon kids' clubs, and community engagement.
- Thurs. Mar 11 - Free day, visit Jarabacoa
- Fri. Mar 12 - Fly from Santiago to Ft. Lauderdale

Jarabacoa, Dominican Republic



Cost

$900 + Flight per person(final cost dependent on airfare. As soon as the cost of airfare is finalized, we'll communicate that information. Flights as of 10/30 are around $800, which is higher than normal. We're hoping that price will come down.)

All donations will be received by the RUF FAU Missions account, preferably through our online giving portal. RUF's national office will process and receipt all donations. Donor's will be able to designate their giving towards individual students to help us track student's progress. All money given is tax-deductible, even if it is from the student attending the mission trip. Donors will receive the normal gift receipt and year end statement.

- To give online, you can click here .
- To give by check, donors should make checks payable to RUF and include the student's name and the associated school on the memo line (Ex: "Joe Smith/FAU Mission Trip"). Checks must be mailed to: Reformed University Fellowship, PO Box 890004, Charlotte, NC 28289-0004

Trip Requirements

By signing up, you commit to attend three pre-trip training sessions. We'll have one in November, and two in the Spring. Training sessions will be scheduled in coordination with all trip participants, based on your availability. These trainings will undergird our trip with prayer, and will equip you to fundraise and give you a Biblical framework for ministry and this trip.

- Session 1: Trip Q+A, & how and why to fundraise
- Session 2: Biblical theology of ministry and short-term missions
- Session 3: History of Dominican Republic, pre-trip prayer, and final details

To register, please fill out your information here. In addition to this registration, all participants will be required to fill out a mission trip application.

Deadlines

- Nov 15th - $100 Non-refundable Deposit and Applications Due
- Dec 1st - Support letters to prosective donors
- Jan 1st - $500 raised to cover flights
- Feb 1st - Total balance received by RUF

Staff

Jeff and Jenny Lee (along with their kids) will be present on this trip. Abbay Kocsis (campus staff) and her husband Jordan will also be attending. If you have any further questions, please feel free to send Jeff an email at jeff.lee@ruf.org. La Mesa regularly hosts teams for week long trips. They do not host multiple groups at a time, so our group will be the only one present that week.





Packing List

***Valid US Passport is Required!**

- Sunday clothes
- Comfortable work clothes for 4 days
- Clothes to wear after work and during the day off
- One pair of work shoes, boots or sneakers
- Hat
- Pajamas
- Swimsuit (we may go to a beach)
- Towel and washcloth
- Twin sheet for the bed
- Pillow
- Toiletries(shampoo, soap, toothbrush, etc.
- Insect repellent
- Personal medications (Inform your leader of any prescription medication that you are carrying).
- Sunscreen (SPF 15 or higher recommended)
- Reusable Water bottle for the workplace
- Small bag to carry personal items
- Bible, journal, pen