

Volunteer Opportunities with YWAM San Pedro, Dominican Republic

Youth With A Mission

In March 2011 a group of staff from YWAM San Diego/Baja relocated to the Dominican Republic to set up a new YWAM campus in the San Pedro region. Our main focuses here are providing shelter, counseling community led projects and encouraging Church growth through evangelistic programs.

San Pedro de Macoris is located one hour's drive east of the capital Santo Domingo. It is a city of approximately 400,000 inhabitants and is also known as being a source of talent for US major league baseball teams.

An opportunity of a lifetime

- Do you have a heart for the poor and needy?
- Do you want to spread the Gospel?
- Do you want to experience the Dominican culture?

YWAM San Pedro has opportunities for volunteers that range anywhere from 1 week to 6 months, lending a hand in a variety of ways at our San Pedro Campus. This is a great place to serve the Lord and provide much needed assistance to a missionary base that is busy providing homes for the poor and serving young people from around the world. We need people to help serve alongside us in our current ministries. You can come alone, with friends or family and serve; you won't be disappointed!

Got Building Skills?

Our Homes of Hope ministry provides houses free of charge for needy families in the San Pedro area. If you have experience in construction, carpentry, electrical work, or are just plain handy with power tools, we'd love to have your help!

Spring or Summer Break

Head to the beautiful Caribbean island for Spring or Summer Break – an unforgettable experience! Partner with our full-time missionaries as we host teams of young people in our Homes of Hope and/or outreach programs. You'll help provide youth groups with an unforgettable outreach experience, impact the local neighborhoods through evangelism and practical ministry, and see a wave of young people rise up to meet the call of missions on their generation! The Dominican Republic is waiting – are you ready?

All year round – grab a hold of missions in the Dominican Republic

Have you ever thought about becoming a full-time missionary but aren't quite sure what to expect? Come join our ministry in the Dominican Republic to find out what the missionary life is all about! We host teams year round and minister in the surrounding communities in a variety of ways. We'd love to have you spend a week, a month, or even up to six months serving with us in this amazing ministry. Trust us. Once you get a taste of missions, there's no turning back!

The Campus

The YWAM San Pedro campus is located in the Juan Dolio hotel district, close to the beach and just 10 minutes outside of the town of San Pedro. Surrounded by hotels, restaurants and convenience stores the campus is ideally located for teams and is just 30 minutes from the Santo Domingo airport.

The leased 25,000 sq ft property has three villas surrounding a large pool and is used for housing teams, schools, staff and serves as an office location coordinating the different programs that YWAM offers.

All of our short-term volunteers are accommodated on campus in our dorms, though for married couples we will provide separate rooms on campus if available.

Frequently Asked Questions

Volunteer Fees

Volunteer fees cover food and lodging and are US\$300 per month. If you are coming from a category B or C country volunteer fees are US\$150 per month.

Staff fees can be paid in:

- US Cash
- US Check (payable to YWAM)
- Equivalent Dominican Cash (local ATMS are available)
- Credit Card Payment (online but a 3% surcharge will be added)

All fees are to be paid here locally.

Health and hygiene

- Vaccinations
 - Tetanus (required)
 - Cholera (optional)
 - Typhoid (optional)
 - Hep A (optional)
 - Hep B (optional)
 - Rabies (optional)
- Malaria – there is no requirement for anti-malarial medication in the San Pedro area, though there are mosquitos present and we recommend bringing mosquito repellent (also available in local stores). Mosquito nets will be provided for sleeping.
- The tap water in DR is not drinkable. Purified water is provided at the base.
- Read more about health and travelling to the DR here:
<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/dominican-republic.htm>
- Please take note that in DR you cannot flush the toilet paper, it must be placed in the provided bins. But don't let this scare you, you will quickly get used to it 😊

Visas

- The Dominican Republic has a long list of countries that can come into the country without a visa and require you to purchase a 'Tourist card' upon entry into the Dominican Republic which allows you to be in the country for 30 days. Please contact us for a list of nations that are required to obtain a visa if you are not from the USA, Canada, Mexico or from western Europe.
- If you stay longer than 30 days you will need to pay an overstay 'fine' upon exiting the country.
 - From 30 days to 3 months - \$60 US
 - From 3 months to 9 months - \$90 US
 - From 9 months to 1 year - \$115 US
 - From 1 year to a 1 year and 6 months - \$145 US
 - From 1 year and a half to 2 years - \$180 US
 - From 2 years to 2 years and 6 months - \$210 US
 - From 2 years and 6 months to 3 years - \$245 US

- From 3 years to 5 years - \$300 US
- Please check the current validity of your passport. All travelers need a passport valid for at least 90 days following your departure date from the Dominican Republic.

Medical Insurance

All guests, volunteers and staff are required to carry their own medical health insurance while in the Dominican Republic. There is an emergency room located in the main hospital in San Pedro (15 minutes from YWAM campus). As short term volunteer you are responsible for your own insurance. We recommend the following company: <https://www.volunteercard.com/purchase/>

Changing Money

The exchange rate for 1 US Dollar is around 45 pesos (as per January 2015). You can exchange money at the airport, but for a lower exchange rate, we suggest to wait until we can take you to a local exchange house.

What to bring

The church in the Dominican Republic is very conservative, so to honor and respect the local Christians we encourage you to bring modest clothing.

- Church Clothes: Men please bring pants and a nice shirt for church. Women please bring skirts or dresses for church (**below the knees**), some churches are OK with pants but because of the weather it will be more comfortable for you to bring skirts. Bring shirts that can cover your shoulders and cleavage.
- Construction/Ministry clothes (for construction ministry, long shorts or capris are okay).
- Casual clothes: **no short shorts—only shorts above the knee please**, shirts that cover cleavage and midriff
- Modest bathing suit **with** swim shorts (**NO BIKINIS**) or tank-top with swim shorts for women, knee-length swim shorts (**NO SPEEDOS**) for men
- Work shoes, casual/nice shoes, sandals
- Towels
- Sunscreen
- Mosquito repellent
- Personal toiletries (most items are available in local stores)
- Camera
- Bible & journal
- Flashlight & batteries (power outages are frequent)
- Alcohol-based hand gel (with at least 60% alcohol)
- Sunglasses
- Water bottle

Arrival at the Airport

Please fly into the closest airport to San Pedro which is the Santo Domingo International Airport (SDQ) or known as the Aeropuerto Internacional de las Americas. It is the main airport of the country and has the most direct flights from the United States. If you fly into another airport you will be charged a transportation fee for airport pick up/drop off. Once you have booked your flight please email us your flight information (you **must** have a return flight booked before arriving to the base).

- Once you arrive at the Santo Domingo airport, before you go through immigration, go to the desk to the right and purchase a Tourist Card. The cost for this card is 10 US Dollars cash and allows entry to the Dominican Republic for 30 days.
- Then go to immigration and present your passport and paper work (you will turn in the Tourist Card to an officer that you will see before the Immigration Desk).
- Collect your baggage.

- Go through Customs (you will need to present your baggage receipt issued when you checked in before your flight).
- Head towards ground transportations.
- A staff member will be waiting for you with an YWAM/JUCUM San Pedro sign.

Traveling with Minors

When traveling with groups of minors who are NOT in the company of their parents, you MUST obtain NOTARIZED copies of 'Consent to Travel' forms that are signed by BOTH parents or legal guardian. When entering the DR you will need to present these forms and fill in an 'Entry Control of Children & Minors' form. This form is a requirement and MUST be filled in and stamped by the immigration officials. Please retain the copy of the form that they give you as you are required to present this upon leaving the DR and will greatly speed up the exit process.

Climate

The Dominican Republic has a tropical climate all year with temperatures between 77°F (25°C) and 90°F (32°C). There is also high humidity, especially during the summer rainy season.

Hurricanes (June to November)

The Dominican Republic is situated in an area of the Caribbean prone to hurricanes. In the event of a hurricane alert, Youth With A Mission will evacuate staff and guests inland to one of the other YWAM Campuses depending on the severity of the hurricane.

Security

More than 3 Million tourists travel to the Dominican Republic annually. In order to ensure the safest visit possible, you must take an active role in helping to ensure your own safety and security and being alert and aware. The Dominican Republic is similar to most other third world emerging nations, or major cities in the United States in that crime can be a problem. Needy and desperate people sometimes do desperate things. Pick pocketing and mugging are the most common crimes against tourists and violent crime can occur. Crime rates in the Dominican Republic are similar to those in major US cities.

It is important to keep in mind, that although you may consider yourself of average means or poor back at home, as a tourist from an affluent western nation you will be seen as being among the wealthiest people in the Dominican Republic. Therefore it is very important that you are diligent to always take basic safety precautions and be aware of where your valuables are.

Work time and leisure time

Normal work weeks are Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. However, sometimes we will also have programs during the evenings or weekend (for example Homes of Hope buildings), so we expect our volunteers to be flexible whenever this is the case.

Language

At the base we have both Spanish-speaking and English-speaking staff, and we provide translation when necessary. However, if you do not speak Spanish, we do encourage you to learn a little before arriving, as you will definitely appreciate every word you know once you are here.

What to expect

The ministry of YWAM San Pedro has been in operation for five years and we are still establishing ourselves as a ministry. Our ministries include the Discipleship Training School, Homes of Hope, evangelism outreach and children ministry such as "Malecon", baseball ministry and medical outreaches. Our desire is to see these programs come together with a community development

focus where we see transformational change, both physical and spiritual. Come expecting change and be willing to be flexible as we see this ministry grow.

Contact Address and Phone Numbers

Physical Address:

Juventud Con Una Misión
Calle del Sol #24
Villas del Mar
Juan Dolio
Dominican Republic

DR Phone: +1 (809) 200 2018

USA Phone (forwards to the DR): +1 (866) 430 1014

DR Campus Cell for Emergencies: +1 (829) 648 0705