



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC ALUMNI TRIP

BASIC TRIP DETAILS

Destination: Peralta & El Naranjito region of the Dominican Republic

Dates: May 10-16, 2020

Cost: \$1,050 + airfare and baggage

Optional Add-On Destination: Las Terrenas, Samana Peninsula, Dominican Republic

Dates: May 16-21, 2020

Add-On Cost: \$650

Important Deadlines:

November 15, 2019: \$500 deposit

March 1, 2020: \$550 or \$1200 for travelers with add-on; Assumption of Risk, Responsibility, and Awareness of Agreement (required), and Health Conditions Form (optional)

May 1, 2020: We recommend travelers enroll in the US State Department STEP program (<https://step.state.gov/>)

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KEY POINTS OF INTEREST*

May 10: Your individually-booked flight should arrive at Santo Domingo's Las Americas International Airport (SDQ) by 11:00 a.m. where you will be met by your Lycoming College faculty and student research team before being transported to the historic colonial area of the capital city of Santo Domingo (el Conde) for a group lunch and coffee tasting. We'll check into our hotel and you can relax in the historic district of Santo Domingo for dinner and evening on your own. **Lunch included.**

May 11: We check out of the Santo Domingo hotel this morning and travel by private bus to the key region of Lycoming's coffee partnership, Peralta and *El Naranjito*.
All meals included between May 11 and morning of May 16.

May 11-16: You'll spend your time in this region supporting Lycoming's ongoing Warrior Coffee, ongoing education work with local schools, and/or Chemistry's clean water and green coffee research projects. You will assist in the construction of a local playground, as we work to deepen the service relationship between Lycoming College and the Peralta community.

While in Peralta the group will stay in Dominican style housing. The houses are in the town of Peralta, which is in a country setting. While staying in the Dominican style housing, participants usually sleep on air mattresses in a shared bedroom. The houses sometimes have open air windows, so it is recommended participants use the available mosquito nets. Likewise, there may be other bugs or lizards in the house. Expect to share bathrooms with multiple people and hot water is a luxury that usually is not often available.

Those desiring to can also travel to *El Naranjito* – the heart of the coffee growing region. Participants will have the opportunity to learn about how coffee is grown, harvested, and processed while we continue working collaboratively with farmers to improve growing and processing methods in order to connect them with the international coffee market. You can also join the chemistry research team as they continue analyzing the chemical composition of coffee straight off the tree.

Many of the coffee farmers live seasonally on the mountain during the coffee growing/harvesting season; therefore, the amenities available are limited. During the time at *El Naranjito*, participants will lodge in rustic camping conditions; participants will be provided with their own tent, and limited sleeping pads and cots are available. The camping site does not have access to running water (no showers), the toilet is an outhouse, and electricity is not available.

May 16: We return by private coach to the Santo Domingo Airport for individually-booked return flights. Please book your flight with a departure from Santo Domingo no earlier than 11:00 a.m.

OPTIONAL ADD-ON TRAVEL

The Las Terrenas add-on includes two lunches and one dinner. Dining options in Las Terrenas are abundant and include a variety of international cuisines. Selections range from traditional seafood huts owned by locals to the equivalent of four-star French restaurants. Enjoy a mojito on the beach at any stop!

May 16 – 21: Las Terrenas - Collaborate with Foundation Mahatma Gandhi and Las Terrenas International School on ongoing development projects, work with the education team in public and private schools, and/or support long-term Chemistry research projects. Enjoy a few well-deserved beach trips in the evenings after work is over.

May 21: Travel to SDQ for departure after 11:00 a.m.

EXPECTATIONS FOR TRAVEL IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Physical conditions: Conditions in the Dominican Republic are physically demanding, with hot temperatures and steep rugged terrain. Participants can expect to be working outdoors for a large portion of each day and walking on unpaved roads, uneven terrain, uphill, and in hot weather conditions. Sleeping conditions may also be physically taxing because they may be less comfortable, with no air-conditioning, and sometimes in sleeping bags.

El Naranjito: El Naranjito is the name of the mountain where Warrior Coffee is grown in the Dominican Republic.

Las Terrenas: In Las Terrenas, participants will stay in a 3-star hotel with a private bath. The hotel offers running water, electricity, and even free WiFi!

Ground travel: Transportation and roads in the Dominican Republic are less advanced, travel may be very bumpy, lacking air-conditioning, and over unpaved roads. Driving conditions in the Dominican Republic are less orderly and less regulated; the rules of the road are much different than the in the United States. When the group travels up the mountain to El Naranjito, the typical mode of transportation is in the back of a pickup truck.

Language: Spanish is the language spoken in the Dominican Republic; most people do not speak English. It is helpful and considerate to learn basic words and phrases in Spanish to aid in the communication and understanding while cooperating with people in the community.

Crime: In tourist destinations like Las Terrenas and Santa Domingo, it is important to protect valuables against pickpocketing or theft. Be self-aware, avoid flashy jewelry or clothing. Secure your valuables and use a money-belt.

TRAVEL CONDITIONS AND ADVISORY

The Dominican Republic is a developing country, with conditions of poverty, high temperatures, and rugged living conditions. Several mosquito borne illnesses — including Zika, Chikungunya, Dengue, and Malaria — are present on the island, and the Centers for Disease Control recommends that travelers be up-to-date on standard vaccinations as well as wear insect repellent during their time in the Dominican Republic.** Risks include several food and water-borne illnesses such as Hepatitis A and Typhoid Fever; appropriate food and water precautions are included in course instructions and expectations. Participants should understand that the Dominican Republic does not have the same level of health care services for mental health support as is available in the United States.

Visit: <https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/country/dominican-republic>

*The travel itinerary included is tentative, final travel details to be confirmed. A final detailed itinerary will be provided prior to travel.

**We recommend participants consult with their healthcare provider six months in advance of travel to make appropriate decisions regarding vaccinations.