



INFO PACKET

Dominican Republic

MARCH 4-11, 2023

PATHWAY DOMINICANA

POPULATION & GEOGRAPHY

Together the Dominican Republic and the country of Haiti make up the island of Hispaniola in the Caribbean. As of 2021, the population of the Dominican Republic was roughly a little over 11,000,000 with 31% of the country under the age of 15. The southern coastal plains and the Cibao Valley are the most densely populated regions of the country with the capital city of Santo Domingo having a population alone of almost 3,000,000.

LANGUAGES

The primary spoken language in the Dominican Republic is Spanish, specifically the local variant 'Dominican Spanish.' English and French however are taught as mandatory foreign languages in both private and public schools and as a result more and more Dominicans can speak these languages with fluency. Haitian Creole is the largest minority language in the DR and is primarily spoken by Haitian immigrants and descendants.

CULTURE & CLIMATE

Due to cultural influences from Europe and Africa and in combination with the native Taíno peoples, the culture of the DR represents a culture uniquely it's own with influences of other cultures seen in art, literature and especially in architecture. The DR is known worldwide for it's popular musical style merengue, a lively fast-paced dance.

Most of the DR exists within a tropical rainforest climate with the average annual temperature at 77F. January and February are the coolest months of the year with August being the hottest.

RELIGION

95% of the population identify as Christians, with roughly 57% claiming to be Roman Catholics and 23% as Protestants or 'Evangelicos'. Only 2.6% claim no religion and 2.2% identify with something other than Christianity. The DR has had an abundance of influence from Episcopal, Methodist, Pentecostal, Seventh Day Adventist, and Moravian missionaries and churches over the centuries.

DOMINICAN FOOD

Dominican cuisine is similar to what can be found in other Latin American countries. Meals tend to favor meats and starches over dairy and vegetables. Some favorite Dominican foods include chicarrón, yuca, casaba, empanadas, chimichurris, and tostones.

CURRENCY AND ECONOMY

The Dominican Peso is the national currency of the Dominican Republic. However, the United States Dollar, the Euro, the Canadian Dollar, and the Swiss Franc are accepted at most tourist sites.

The DR has the largest economy in the Caribbean and Central American region and the seventh largest in Latin America. Former economic drivers were dependent on agricultural exports such as sugar, cocoa, and coffee, but recent economic growth has been driven by construction, manufacturing, mining, and tourism as the DR is the most visited destination in the Caribbean.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: TRIP DETAILS | Mission, training and preparation.

OUR MISSION IN THE DR

The Salem Chapel mission team will work alongside Pathway Dominicana and local churches to minister to families and churches in the rural sugar cane villages (Bateyes). Our team will distribute food, administer medical care, provide construction help, and engage alongside translators and local churches in relational ministry to the children and families of the villages.

Because of the demands of the trip, we are limiting this initial trip to ages 10 and over. Additionally, any minors under the age of 15 must have a parent/guardian present with them to participate.

Tentative Schedule Summary: March 4th – March 11th

SATURDAY: Depart US/Arrive in DR

SUNDAY: Attend church and prepare for week

MONDAY: Medical Clinic / Food Distribution

TUESDAY: Medical Clinic/ Food Distribution

WEDNESDAY: Construction/ Kid's Ministry

THURSDAY: Construction/ Kid's Ministry

FRIDAY: Visit Catalina Island

SATURDAY: Depart for US

TRAINING AND PREPARATION

We must prepare both spiritually and physically for the task ahead of us. We want to do everything to ensure that our time in the DR is as utilized as effectively as possible. To that end, each participant will be required to complete the training. There will be three sessions occurring on Sunday mornings which will cover the following:

Missions Dynamics: A look at the Biblical foundation for missions, the role of short-term mission projects, and Salem Chapel's vision for local and global missions.

Spiritual Dynamics: Spiritual preparations as well as training our team in various elements of evangelism, including articulating a clear gospel presentation and sharing one's personal testimony.

Team Dynamics: Group building, as well as providing an understanding of specific team expectations, roles, and requirements.

Cross-cultural Dynamics: A look into Dominican history and culture, and an understanding of the challenges one will face when entering into cross-cultural ministry.

The Training Dates are: **January 8th, January 29th, and February 19th** all taking place at 10:30am-12:00pm. Please make plans to attend all three of these.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Space is limited, and because we want to ensure we are taking the best-equipped team we can, all prospective team members must complete an application. If applying as a family, only one application is needed. This application process will also help you as you prayerfully prepare for this trip. Here are the steps to apply:

1. Complete & submit application by **Sunday, November 6th**.
Apply at: <https://saalemchapel.churchcenter.com/people/forms/457636>
2. Begin forming a list of 30-50 potential financial supporters. (non-Salem Chapel)
3. Pay a \$250 deposit per applicant no later than November 20th.
4. Attend the Financial & Fundraising Overview Meeting on **Sunday November 20th at 10:30am**.

FINANCIAL AND SUPPORT RAISING DETAILS

We will need the Lord's help and many other believers behind us if we are to have any impact at all. Our two most obvious areas of need are prayer and financial support. **The estimated cost of the trip will be \$2,000 per person**. While you will be expected to personally contribute to this, you will also be gathering supporters to help reach this personal financial goal. Here are some important support raising dates:

- **November 20** - Deposit: A \$250 deposit is due. This deposit will go toward the cost of the trip. Should you be unable to participate, by your decision or ours, the deposit is refundable until airfare has been purchased; after it is non-refundable. This should be a personal contribution from each participant.
- **December 1** – All support letters should be mailed by this date.
- **January 1** - Airfare: At this time we will be purchasing our airfare for the trip. Your total need at this point is \$1,000. This covers airfare and other initial expenses. If you are little short, you may need to contribute any deficit to be able to lock in your airfare.
- **February 1** - Total Raised: This is the deadline to have your trip cost fully funded.

In addition to this process, there are a couple of additional ways that we are looking to help with the financial need:

Salem Chapel Body: We will be asking the congregation of Salem Chapel to financially join with us in this venture. The church as a whole is sending this team and we want to gather behind it to make sure that the needs are taken care of.

Team Funding Dynamic: If we arrive at February 1 and there are individuals who have raised an excess amount, the overage can be applied to those who may be behind in fundraising. This will be handled on a case-by-case scenario and will be uncertain until February 1st. Any overage raised as a team will be applied to future missions projects of Salem Chapel.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: ADDITIONAL DETAILS | [More information.](#)

IMPORTANT DATES AT-A-GLANCE

Here is a summary of all the important dates that you'll want to add to the calendar:

Now: Complete application, assemble supporter names.
November 6th: Application due
November 20th: Deposit Due / Fundraising Meeting
December 1st: Support letters sent by this date
January 1st: \$1,000 total due
January 8th: Training Session #1, 10:30am
January 29th: Training Session #2, 10:30am
February 1st: Total amount due
February 19th: Training Session #3, 10:30am
February 26th: Mission Team Prayer Sendoff at Salem Chapel / Reception & Lunch
March 4-March 11: Dates of Trip

PRAYER NEEDS

As we prepare for this trip, we hope that you will also unite with us in prayer. Nothing can prepare us more for this experience than prayer. Please look over this list and lift them up as you come before the Lord in prayer.

- Pray for the ministry of Pathway Dominicana and Dio Cochrane as he works alongside the churches for gospel saturation and ministry.
- Pray for the churches and church leaders serving faithfully in the villages, often with few resources and support.
- Pray for the selection of our team, that participants would be committed to the ministry, and catch a vision for God's heart for the world. Pray as we train and prepare that God will use us to effectively minister to the Dominican people and boldly carry the gospel message in word and deed.
- Pray that God will provide the financial needs of this trip. Pray that people will be generous and will commit to partnering with our team in prayer and giving.

QUESTIONS?

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