



International Volunteer Learning Opportunities with ILI Travel



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How It Works

Choose a Destination

Your first step is to choose a destination for your tour group. Currently, our international volunteer programs are based in the Dominican Republic and Haiti, though we are looking to expand in the future. You can learn about our destinations when you visit our website.

Choose a Program

We offer a wide selection of programs, all of which are based on the principles of economic, educational, and environmental sustainability. Our work will make a lasting impact on the communities we visit! Different programs may offer opportunities for language immersion, social justice activities, and service learning experiences. Visit our website to find a full list of our programs.

Connect with Us

Once you have chosen your program and destination, it's time to start planning your service learning trip with our team. This is where your once-in-a-lifetime experience begins. The ILI Travel team can help you organize a tour or join an existing tour group. Call us at 866-881-1249 or send us a message online.

Enroll Group Members

Give people in your community the chance to see the world and get a new perspective on their lives back home. Start enrolling volunteers for your service learning trip! You only need 12 group members to begin your journey, though we can accommodate up to 50 volunteers. If you need any guidance during the enrollment process, just give us a call.

Make a Difference

Our organization partners with local nonprofits to identify community needs in the countries we serve. Volunteers will work alongside community members as they tutor students, perform light construction work, and offer other assistance.

In addition to the important work that we do during our daily volunteering, the money that our groups spend will help to support these communities. Your tour group will stay in locally-owned hotels and eat in locally-owned restaurants. Finally, your local guide/educator and bus driver will be paid Fair Trade Wages.



What Are My Destination Options?

The Dominican Republic

This Caribbean nation shares an island with Haiti, but its culture is quite distinct. The Dominican Republic is famous for its spectacular natural beauty, upbeat Merengue music, and welcoming culture. Of course, our service learning groups get to experience a side of the Dominican Republic that most people will never get to see.

A large percentage of students in the Dominican Republic will drop out of school before eighth grade. Children struggle to learn in overcrowded classrooms with poor-quality facilities and outdated curriculums. In many places, school only runs for a half-day. ILI Travel tour groups will partner with Dominican developmental organizations to support a school and its surrounding community. Our volunteers have worked as camp counselors, English teachers, and helping hands for beautification projects.

Haiti

When our groups visit Haiti, they are struck by its beautiful mountains and surprised to learn that Haitians don't speak Spanish! Their main languages are Haitian Creole and French — two cultures that have also influenced their incredible cuisine!

Unfortunately, Haiti has faced many challenges over the years, particularly since its devastating 2010 earthquake. Roughly 14% of the Haitian population is unemployed ¹, and approximately 40% of Haiti's people cannot read and write ². Food shortages are another major concern. Our groups work with local Haitian nonprofits to offer much-needed support. On past service learning trips, our volunteers have taught children English, put together chicken coops, and built tilapia farms.

Additional Destinations

We're currently working on service learning trips to Jamaica and Native American Reservations! Contact us to learn more.

¹<https://tradingeconomics.com/haiti/unemployment-rate>

²<http://worldpopulationreview.com/countries/haiti-population/>





What Types of Programs Can I Participate In?

Service learning isn't just for students! We offer educational travel programs that appeal to a wide variety of groups. Explore our most popular program options below:

Language Tours

The best way to learn a new language is through immersion in a different culture. When you lead an eight-day language tour with ILI Travel, your group members will practice their Spanish with our language instructors. Additionally, each participant will stay in the home of a Spanish-speaking host family where they will experience the unique culture of the Dominican Republic.

High School Groups

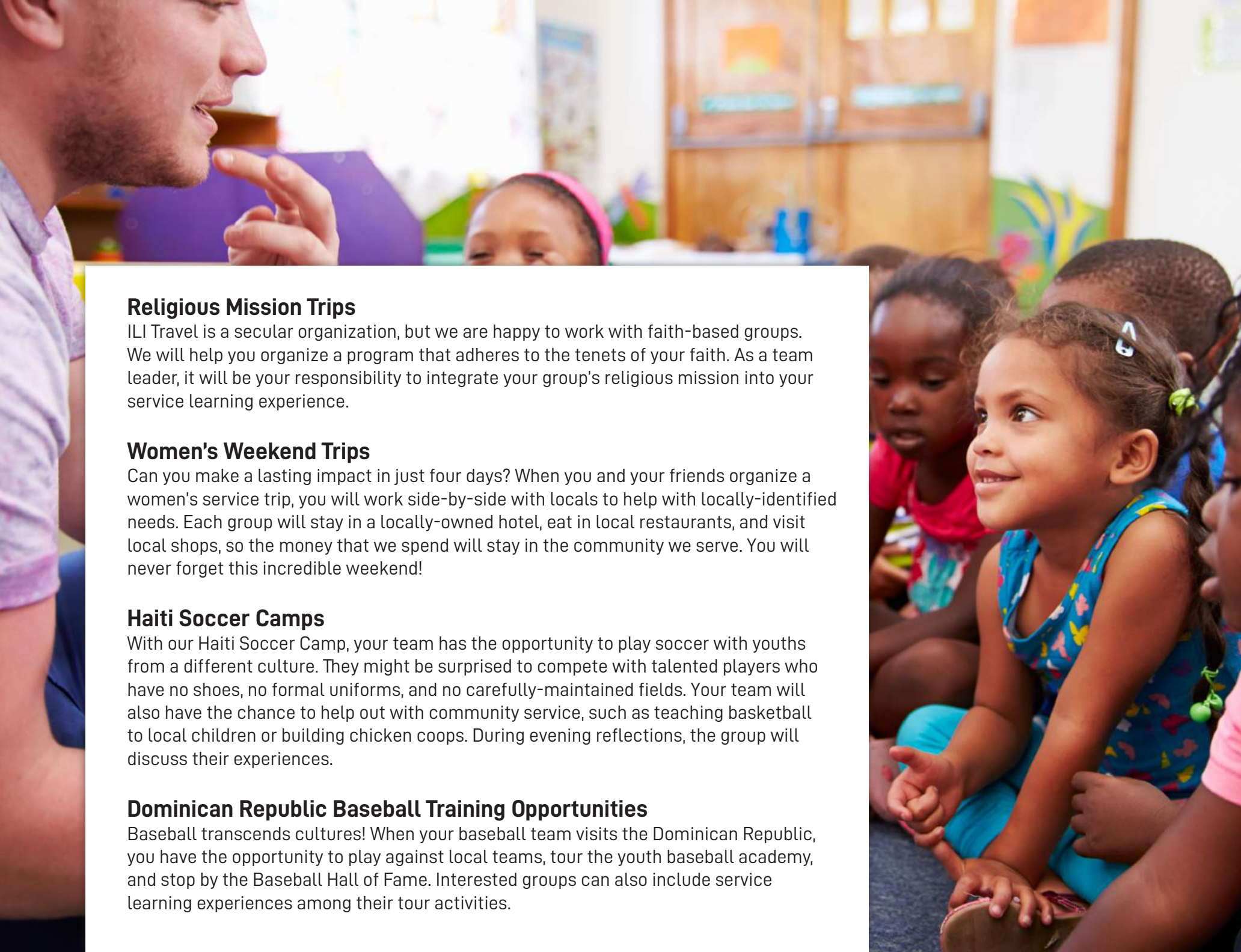
When you organize a service learning group for your high school, you offer students the opportunity to learn from the culture that we partner with. Through volunteer work and nightly reflections, students will gain a greater understanding of ethical travel with a focus on sustainability. Trips can be organized over the summer or during the school year — and teachers and chaperones travel for free!

College Groups

Our educational trips give college students the opportunity to interact with the true fabric of a local community while contributing to social justice abroad. All college groups will partner with community organizations to address locally-identified needs. Their volunteer activities will be crafted with economic and educational sustainability in mind.

Non-Religious Mission Trips

Would you like to provide meaningful service to a community in need? We can help your non-religious or interfaith group organize a mission trip that is not founded in any religious faith. Our team will work closely with local organizations to ensure that you make a lasting difference in the community you serve.



Religious Mission Trips

ILI Travel is a secular organization, but we are happy to work with faith-based groups. We will help you organize a program that adheres to the tenets of your faith. As a team leader, it will be your responsibility to integrate your group's religious mission into your service learning experience.

Women's Weekend Trips

Can you make a lasting impact in just four days? When you and your friends organize a women's service trip, you will work side-by-side with locals to help with locally-identified needs. Each group will stay in a locally-owned hotel, eat in local restaurants, and visit local shops, so the money that we spend will stay in the community we serve. You will never forget this incredible weekend!

Haiti Soccer Camps

With our Haiti Soccer Camp, your team has the opportunity to play soccer with youths from a different culture. They might be surprised to compete with talented players who have no shoes, no formal uniforms, and no carefully-maintained fields. Your team will also have the chance to help out with community service, such as teaching basketball to local children or building chicken coops. During evening reflections, the group will discuss their experiences.

Dominican Republic Baseball Training Opportunities

Baseball transcends cultures! When your baseball team visits the Dominican Republic, you have the opportunity to play against local teams, tour the youth baseball academy, and stop by the Baseball Hall of Fame. Interested groups can also include service learning experiences among their tour activities.

What Kinds of Safety Measures Will ILI Travel Take Before and During My Trip?

Safety is our first priority. Our team has created a comprehensive Five-Point Safety Plan to ensure the wellbeing and comfort of everyone who travels with us:

1) 24/7 Local Partners

Each of our groups will have a bilingual, local guide/educator with us 24/7. This guide will not just to lead the group but also, in the event of an emergency, direct us to the necessary local resources, such as the closest pharmacy, doctor, or medical clinic. We also have a bus driver and bus with us 24/7 for the same reasons. These local professionals will stay at the same hotel and eat at the same restaurants as your group.

2) Safety in Transportation

When hiring a local transportation company, we don't settle for the lowest bidder. Instead, we emphasize recommendations from other nonprofits that work with travel groups. In fact, in the Dominican Republic, we hired the transportation company with the highest bid because they have an outstanding reputation with local nonprofit organizations.

3) Guaranteed Security

We only choose hotels that have the proper safety and security measures, including security officers and limited building access points. The locations where we volunteer will also have tested safety and security measures in place.

4) Travel Insurance

We provide international travel insurance for all of our participants and chaperones. This covers both health care and emergency evacuations. Comprehensive travel insurance provides a safety net for our groups.

5) Fair Trade Wages

When we visit a community, we create local jobs and pay Fair Trade wages. The result is that we tend to get first pick among the educators and guides, and we work with individuals who are interested in an ongoing partnership with us. These guides know that safety and security is our #1 priority, so they make decisions that put safety first. This is critical in their communication with our transportation company, volunteer sites, and more.

