

Day 1...Saturday January 5

Welcome to the DR! Arrive in the afternoon to Puerto Plata. If you fly into Puerto Plata, we can give you the information to meet us there, and if you fly into Santiago, known as "La Ciudad Corazon" (The Heartland City) we will organize a pick up time to get the group and transport everyone. We will get settled and then go on a walk to explore. Enjoy a big opening dinner and later soak in the sunset. Bring your sketchbooks and paints, there's always something beautiful to paint. A little night cap by the water will be a great way to unwind and get accustomed to the Caribbean life!

Day 2...Sunday January 6

Meet up for breakfast and head to the telefirico cable car to ride up to the top of the mountain where you will see the large statue of Jesus (*like the one in Rio De Janeiro of Brazil*) and explore a tropical paradise. The views are stunning and the ride up is a breathtaking experience. We may stop by a local shop for fresh squeezed fruit juice or head back for lunch and a leisurely afternoon on the beach. A trip to the Amber museum could also be a cool experience for those whoever watched Jurassic Park or are interested in history. As the evening rolls in and the beach cools off, we will meet up for a plein air painting lesson. Dinner and dancing are always a great way to finish the evening.





Day 3...Monday January 7

Free day at the beach or optional excursions to Monkey Jungle Ziplines, Horseback riding, fishing, or to the 27 Charcos (waterfalls).

Cost for one of these excursions is around \$85 (not included in the tour expense). We will meet back at the end of the day for dinner, dancing and to share your days adventures!

Day 4...Tuesday January 8

Breakfast and bus trip to Monte Cristi. After we check into our hotel we will eat lunch and visit an amazing artist. His studio is built with old planked wood and giant French-styled doors and architecture are a fantastic feast for your eyes. I love the fact that he paints subjects specific to Monte Cristi. There is a famous clock that is in the center of the city where we will spend some time drawing and painting after we view his renditions. You may find some pieces you'd like to take home (his originals are very affordable) or just enjoy the visit and exploration of another painter's place. Then a quick visit to the salt mines and out to El Morro. El Morro de Monte Cristi has a rock, the shape of a Nike shoe (Zapata), that just sits off the shore. It is a secluded beach and off the beaten path with few American or European visitors to explore it. Enjoy an afternoon to swim and rest. Dinner back at the hotel with the option to visit local bars and dancing.

Day 5...Wednesday January 9

After breakfast get ready for our big boating day@! Bring your cameras and swimsuits! Today we are taking a private boat-ride through the everglades, rivers and exceptional places to explore and see for this northwest region. You will get to take a natural clay bath in the river which is the best natural exfoliant. We will also pack a picnic lunch and finish our afternoon on a little uninhabited island called Calabra. Here you can hike, swim or explore and find hundreds of large seashells that are absolutely amazing! The water is perfect for snorkeling and the white sandy beaches are everything you imagine the Caribbean to offer. I couldn't believe that the water could be that clear, that blue, and that warm...but it was. This is also a great day to paint or draw if time and energy allow. Dinner back in town with the option to visit local bars and dancing.

Day 6...Thursday January 10

Spend today with the locals back in Jorge's village. We will be spending time touring around the area in which Jorge grew up, visit a local farm, visit homes and people in his home town. We will also use this day as a day to "give back" to his community. Time spent at the ball fields helping with training or spending time in the local schools helping me teach art to the students there will be our focus. You can also get some real Dominican cooking classes from Jorge's mom as she will be preparing a traditional meal for us to enjoy that night.

Day 7...Friday January 11

The DaJobone. This is more of a knowledge-seeking than a pleasure-seeking foray. For those who'd rather lounge by the pool or stroll along the beach, please feel free to stay at the hotel and enjoy those amenities. Because experiencing the Dajobone was so eye-opening for me and such a cultural experience, I wanted to offer it. The Dajobone is the biggest border city of the DR and Haiti. On certain days, people from Haiti are allowed to bring over their products to sell in the DR or to buy things as well. You will see hundreds of

people from Haiti bringing tablecloths full of various items (what we call "junk"), schlepping across this bridge for their chance to sell in the DR. For those who would like a better understanding of how the DR and Haiti are separate as people, cultures and countries, come with us to the Dajobone. All will enjoy a group dinner that night and of course dancing or late night drinks are always an option.

Day 8...Saturday January 12

Arrangements will be made to get everyone to the airport in the morning prior to their departures. Depending on what time everyone leaves will dictate our time. Enjoy your last breakfast in paradise and prepare to come back to reality. Bonvoyage and thank you for joining us on this amazing adventure! Until next time!

Along with this great experience, there are a few rules that will help! The first rule is to **"be flexible"**! We are going to an island where their rules and culture are extremely different from ours! They move slower during the day, and yet stay up all night! There is music playing nonstop and there aren't really any noise ordinances. They are gracious and beautiful people but are often on "island time"! If you have a checklist to get through and you are in a hurry, you'll be miserable, but if you can learn to accept the culture and people for who they are and just go with the flow, you will reap some beautiful memories, and have a great time along the way! The next rule is **"listen to Jorge and our local guides"**. Jorge grew up here and he knows his people. He takes a lot of responsibility in making sure that we are all safe and having the best time. The last rule is to **"have fun and really live for today"**! The Dominican people really get this one. They celebrate now, letting tomorrow's worries be for tomorrow! Try your best to be in the moment. Don't worry about checking your email, since internet is really spotty anyway, or trying to upload pictures to your Facebook! Just enjoy the moment...that perfect moment when the sun is setting over the water and you are surrounded by beauty! I promise...all of that other stuff will be there when you get home! Vamanos!

Tour Details

The cost of this tour is \$2,295 per person. This includes:

- 8 days and 7 nights in the Dominican Republic
- Accommodations (double occupancy)
- Two meals per day
- All transportation between cities
- Tours, museum entrance fees, and a wide variety of activities
- Painting instruction and materials
- Priceless time touring with Professional Artist, Elida Field, and Dominican Republic Local, Jorge Bello De La Rosa

Travelers are responsible for airfare, 1 meal per day (typically lunch), drinks, all incidentals, and the activities they choose to participate in on their “Free Day” in Puerto Plata.

A \$500 nonrefundable deposit is due by November 1, 2018 to hold your space on this tour. Final payments are due by December 1, 2018.

To register for this tour, please visit www.elidaart.com/store.