



# **New Horizons Youth Ministries Mountain View Academy**

*(Step 3 of 3-Additional Information)*

**Summer 2006**

## Welcome Letter

Greetings!

My name is Jeff Seabrooke and I am the director of Escuela Caribe, which is located in the beautiful mountain town of Jarabacoa in the Dominican Republic. In addition to our year round program, we have developed the Mountain View Academy to offer a wide range of experiences for your, both physically and educationally for your son or daughter this summer!

The summer program offers your teen the opportunity to earn three high school credits as well as be challenged and developed in two other key areas. The first area is work. Each summer the group tackles a major project and learns to work together through light construction. In past summers, we have built additions to a house and a gazebo. This summer we will build a chemistry lab. But the most important things we will build this summer are Godly relationship and character. We have a full complement of staff ready to come alongside your child and support and love them in Christ and encourage them to grasp firmly to your family's value system and return with a greater Godly focus for the upcoming fall.

Today's youth need a different perspective to compare to their home environment and culture. Spiritually, our youth are losing their vision and thus are perishing. We do not want them to perish, but find life and one of abundance. To do this they must "focus {their} eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who the joy set before Him..." for this we too endure and will call your son or daughter to "look up unto the hills from whence {their} help will come." Our summer offers this and much more, it will be a summer they will never forget!

Jeff Seabrooke  
Escuela Caribe Director

## Introductory Letter

Dear Parents,

Our primary goal is to provide a Christ-centered experience in which we attempt to impact the lives of youth through intense physical labor coupled with intense relational experiences. We want this ten-week program to be a “shot in the arm” for those who come. However, please know that we at New Horizons consider the summer experience at Mountain View Academy to be part of our overall program and goal of impacting young lives for Christ. Therefore, near the end of the 10-week program, you will receive our recommendation as to whether or not your teen is ready to return home or stay with the program and in what capacity. This recommendation will be based upon progress made and will be offered after careful consideration by the staff and administrators.

You will be interested in the following procedures for communication with your child. Please feel free to email as often as you like, but we ask that only parents and immediate family members do this. Students will receive these emails within 48 hours and will be given time to respond to them once a week. Usually you will receive an e-mail from your son/daughter on Mondays. Occasionally, a letter will be returned to a student to rewrite. This is to ensure that their correspondence is truthful and respectful. In these cases, there may be delays in the email being sent out. However, all efforts will be made for students to receive and send mail quickly. Please have correspondence by non-immediate family members sent via regular mail.

You will have the opportunity to visit your son/daughter on the 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup> of July. If you would like to know more about this opportunity, please see attached letter (parent Visit Information Packet). If you do not choose to or are not able to come to the Dominican Republic for a visit, you will be invited to telephone your son/daughter. A 20-minute telephone call will be set up for you. No other calls will be allowed during the summer, except for the 5-minute call you will receive when your son/daughter arrives in the Dominican Republic. We want our students to keep their minds and their focus on what is asked of them here.

A calendar of events, which shows what your son/daughter will be doing on a general scheme, along with various dates of the progress reports that will be done on your child, and other dates of interest, will be included. Please look over this calendar. A progress report will be completed every two weeks and will be available for review on our website.

If you have any questions concerning anything that happens regarding your son/daughter during their stay with us, please feel free to contact Deb Hatland at New Horizons Academy in Marion, IN or myself here at Escuela Caribe/Mountain View Academy.

God Bless,  
Joshua Molnar  
Mountain View Academy

## MVA STUDENT CLOTHING AND SUPPLIES LIST FORM

Please pack your son's/ daughter's belongings in two (2) large duffle bags. This is the type of luggage we use throughout the ministry. PLEASE DO NOT USE ANY OTHER TYPE OF LUGGAGE. ONLY DUFFLE BAGS!

### CLOTHING NEEDS FOR MALE STUDENTS (All clothing must be modest in appearance.)

2-3 navy blue dress pants for school	6 non-white t-shirts for work time (no negative words, logos, or groups)	2 ties
1 pair new jeans (not faded or tight)	3 white collared dress shirts (2 short and 1 long sleeved)	2 belts
3 pair old pants for work time (no holes or rips; jean material is best)	2 pair shorts (thigh length)	10 pair undershorts
2 pair casual pants	10 pair white socks	1 pair swimming trunks
3 sport shirts with collars (polos or button-up)	3 pair dress socks	gym shorts

### CLOTHING NEEDS FOR FEMALE STUDENTS (All clothing must be modest in appearance.)

2-3 navy blue slacks for school	10 pair white socks	1 modest one-piece swimsuit (no bikinis)
1 pair new jeans (not faded or tight)	4 bras	gym shorts
3 pair old pants for work time (no holes or rips; jean material is best)	2 belts	sandals (dress sandal, if desired)
2 pair casual slacks	10 pair panties	2 pair dress shoes (flat or low heel)
3 colored blouses/shirts with collars	2 modest dresses (length: 2 inches below knee)	tampons (3-month supply)
6 non-white t-shirts for work time (no negative words, logos, or groups)	2 slips (1 full, 1 half-length)	minimal cosmetics
3 white blouses (short and long sleeved)	2 camisoles	
2 pair walking shorts	1 modest night gown	

### BEDDING & TOILETRIES

2 pillow cases	2 bottles shampoo	2 containers deodorant
1 pillow	1 bottle conditioner (if needed)	house shoes (sturdy flip sandals without heel support)
2 bath towels	hand razors	sleeping bag
1 tube toothpaste	shaving cream	shower shoes—GIRLS only (plastic flip-flops)
2 toothbrushes	2 washcloths	1 warm blanket—GIRLS only
comb and brush	2 bars body soap	4 single, non-fitted sheets—GIRLS only

## OUTERWEAR & MISCELLANEOUS

light, sturdy rainwear	1 beach towel	camera/film
1 light jacket	beach water shoes (used for bathing in river)	cologne/perfume (minimal & if desired)
1 sweatshirt	scuba mask and snorkel (if desired)	stationery and envelopes
1 pair tennis shoes	insect repellent	U.S. stamps
1 pair dress shoes for school	backpack for school (good quality)	Bible
1 pair hiking boots (can be for working also)	sunscreen (SPF 12-15)	pens
1 pair work boots (can be for hiking also)	wrist watch	current address list of family members and positive friends
1 pair leather work gloves	15 plastic hangers	
1 bandana or hat or baseball cap	flashlight and battery	

## OPTIONAL ITEMS

pictures of family	musical instruments	small crafts
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## ITEMS NOT TO BRING

secular audio tapes/CDs * radios (walkmans) * tape players * personal computers * gambling devices *
playing cards * "Gameboys" and similar devices * violent, pornographic, or other negative reading materials *
posters of secular music groups * alcoholic beverages * smoking materials * drugs or drug paraphernalia devices *
birth control material * silk clothes * clothes needing to be dry cleaned * valuable jewelry * hair dryers *
Jackknives or pocket knives * skateboards or skates

## **Goals for Education**

### **Goals for Education**

The education department is excited about the summer ministry and looks forward to your child being a part of it. Here is a brief description of the educational aspect of the ministry.

Your child will be enrolled in and receive one credit for Dominican Studies and one credit for Industrial Arts. They will also receive a full credit in our Character Development course, which uses a classical approach to character development that combines physical training with classes on Biblical studies, social justice issues, and cultural issues. Dominican Studies will be a combination of cultural interaction, Dominican construction, and Dominican history. This may fulfill one of your child's social studies requirements; if not, it can be counted as an elective. The other classes should count as electives.

If you need more information about the educational aspect of the summer, please do not hesitate to contact Brian N. Baker, the school principal, via e-mail at [cvs@nhym.org](mailto:cvs@nhym.org)

## Our Approach to Counseling

Dear Parents,

I would like to take this opportunity to explain one of the fundamental principles of child management by which we operate. Teens are not particularly rational in their thinking. This limits the effectiveness of traditional counseling. In light of this understanding, your child's primary counseling at Mountain View Academy will focus on what you child experiences at the academy. The counselor will then help your child see the parallels between their behaviors here and their behaviors at home. Then, they will help them develop better coping mechanisms in the process.

While it may seem that we are not dealing with the issues and patterns which plagued your child and family by not using traditional counseling, please know that the experiences and challenges your teen will face here will introduce choices and consequences which have a more positive impact on living life as God intends. To that end, the counseling we do takes place as your child faces these real-life situations here in the Dominican Republic. This proves more effective than traditional counseling as we know it. We will teach your son or daughter how to function within structure and within relationships. As problems arise in either of these two areas, they will be handled in a way consistent with the actions and in a manner that will facilitate the most growth.

Structure is important because it teaches us how to function when parts of our world fall apart. We need to learn how to go on and persevere when we do not know where we could possibly find the strength to carry on. We have to function. Ephesians 6:13,14 tells us that we need to use the armor of God to stand, and when we have done everything we can possibly do, we are to stand. We need to carry on. Through our structure, the points and level system, and the hard work that we will require of your child, we will do everything in our power to produce perseverance in your son/daughter.

Of course, life is about loving others and having relationships. If we are unable to function in healthy, well-rounded relationships, we will cannot grow and mature. Your son/daughter will be held accountable to work out relational problems that arise with either staff or students in a manner compatible with the principles set forth in Matthew 18. We will talk about problems, address conflicts, and sometimes discuss past issues. For example, if a student portrays a certain behavior toward male authorities or treats women in a particular way, parallels may be drawn between actions seen here and his/her actions in the home environment. Our staff will work on these issues as they arise. In His Service,

Joshua Molnar  
**Mountain View Academy**

**Important Correspondences to Send to MVA**  
**Please refer each specific form to determine when to send it.**

**May 26<sup>th</sup>**

Contact Mountain View Academy by calling, faxing, or e-mailing to confirm your interest in either visiting your child in the Dominican Republic or setting up a phone call.

**June 6<sup>th</sup>**

You will be sent our recommendation as to whether a visit from you would be beneficial for your child. Please expect this message to be sent via e-mail or fax.

**June 10<sup>th</sup>**

Contact Mountain View Academy to confirm your plans for visiting or calling your child. Even if you receive a letter stating that we do not believe a visit would be best, we still would like for you to contact us to let us know your intent to visit or call. If you plan on calling, we will schedule a call with your child and contact you via e-mail or fax regarding the date, time and number for you to call.

**June 13<sup>th</sup>**

If you plan on visiting your child in the Dominican Republic, you should fax the parent visit information form back to Mountain View Academy.

**June 18<sup>th</sup>**

Parent calls begin for non-visiting parents. Calls can be taken on June 18<sup>th</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup>

**July 19<sup>th</sup>**

You should receive communication from our school with our final recommendation as to whether your child should transfer home on August 9th or transition into our regular program here.

**July 29<sup>th</sup>**

Contact Mountain View Academy to confirm your decision about your child's transferring home on the 9th or remaining in the Dominican Republic in our regular program.

**August 16<sup>th</sup>**

Students depart for home or transfer into our regular program.



## Correspondence for Mountain View Academy

To be sent to MVA on or before May 26, 2006

### Initial Plans for Visiting or Calling

Send this form by fax: (809) 574-2917 or e-mail: cvs@nhym.org  
To: Mountain View Academy

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

From: \_\_\_\_\_

Subject: **Confirmation of initial plans for visiting our child or setting up a phone call.**

Dear Mountain View Academy Director,

We would like to express our interest regarding the parent visit weekend which will take place on June 23rd-26th 2006 .

At this time, we would like to visit our child in the Dominican Republic.

At this time, we plan to call our child rather than visiting.

We understand that we will receive correspondence on June 6th, 2006 giving Mountain View Academy's recommendation as to whether a visit would be beneficial for our child.

On June 10th, 2006, we will contact Mountain View Academy to confirm our plans for visiting or calling our child.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Correspondence for Mountain View Academy**  
**To be sent to MVA on or before June 10, 2006**

**Final Plans to Visit or Call**

Send this form by fax: (809)574-2917 or e-mail: cvs@nhym.org  
To: Mountain View Academy

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

From: \_\_\_\_\_

Subject: **Confirmation of final plans to visit our child or schedule a phone call.**

Dear Supervisor of the Summer Program,

We would like to confirm our final plans regarding the parent visit weekend taking place on June, 23- 26, 2006 .

We plan on visiting our child in the Dominican Republic on the above dates. The number of family members visiting is \_\_\_\_\_ .

The names of those members and how they are related to my child:

Name: _____	Relation: _____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

We will send our completed Parent Information Form via fax or e-mail to Mountain View Academy by June 13, 2006.

We plan on calling our child rather than visiting him/her. Mountain View Academy will schedule a 20-minute phone call with our child. Mountain View Academy will send us a schedule of when to call.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Correspondence for Mountain View Academy**  
**To be sent to MVA on or before June 13, 2006**

**Parent Visit Information Form for MVA**

If visiting your child, fax this completed form to (809) 574-2917

To: Mountain View Academy    Date: \_\_\_\_\_    From: \_\_\_\_\_

Subject: **Parent visit information**

Dear Supervisor of the Summer Program,

Our family will be visiting our child on the parent visit weekend, which will take place on the June 23-26, 2006 (see parent visit information packet for more details). This form will provide Mountain View Academy with important information regarding our visit.

The number of family members visiting \_\_\_\_\_ .

The names of those members and how they are related to my child:

Name	Relation
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Arrival date into the Dominican Rep. \_\_\_\_\_

Departure date out of the Dominican Rep. \_\_\_\_\_

Port of Entry: \_\_\_\_\_

- Santiago
- Santo Domingo
- Puerto Plata

Arrival flight # \_\_\_\_\_

Flight arrival time \_\_\_\_\_

Departure flight # \_\_\_\_\_

Flight departure time \_\_\_\_\_

## ***Arrival & Transportation Information***

**Check one only -**

- We would like Mountain View Academy to pre-arrange a private driver and car to meet us at the airport and transport us to Mountain View Academy that same day. After our visit we would like the driver to transport us back to the airport on our departure date. (If you ask us to set up transportation, please expect to be met by one of our Dominican chauffeurs holding a sign saying "Escuela Caribe or Mountain View Academy".)
- We will be renting a car or hiring a taxi ourselves at the airport and driving to Mountain View Academy that same day.

## ***Accommodations in Jarabacoa***

**Check one only -**

- We would like Mountain View Academy to make reservations for a hotel in Jarabacoa. Our family would like to stay at the following hotel in Jarabacoa: \_\_\_\_\_

(Hotels are listed in the parent weekend packet. MVA recommends El Gran Jimenoa.)

- We will be making our own reservations at a hotel in Jarabacoa.

## ***Departure Information***

**Check one only -**

- We would like Mountain View Academy to pre-arrange a private driver and car to take us to the airport on our departure date.
- We will be driving our rental car back to the airport or hiring our own taxi to drive us back on our departure date.

Please enclose your flight itinerary.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Parent Visit Information Packet for MVA

Dear Parents,

This is a letter to inform you of Parent Weekend at Mountain View Academy which is set for Friday –Monday, June 23-26, 2006. The following is information you should find helpful.

## DO YOU PLAN ON VISITING?

Some of our parents are not able to visit due to scheduling difficulties or financial limitations. It would be beneficial to our ministry if you would inform us of whether or not you are interested in a visit before May 26, 2006. We would like to have confirmation of your interest via e-mail (cvs@nhym.org) or fax (809-574-2917). Upon receiving your plans, Mountain View Academy will begin evaluating the benefit of a visit and communicate concerns if any. If you are not expected to visit we will schedule a 20-minute phone call with your child near the parent weekend dates.

## CAN WE VISIT?

Parent visits are a therapeutic part of our ministry. In some cases, separation for the entire summer would be far more beneficial than a visit. We will seek the input of the staff working directly with your child before a final decision is made. If we believe that a visit will not be of value we will contact you on or before June 6th.

Due to space limitations, Mountain View Academy cannot provide accommodations for parents. It will be necessary for you to stay in a hotel, but we will gladly make reservations for you. This may be done by calling (809-574-2322, ext 231 or 222) or by e-mailing our office (cvs@nhym.org) and requesting we make reservations for you at a hotel in Jarabacoa for your family (see Hotel Accommodations following).

## PARENT VISIT SCHEDULE

Our campus schedule allows students to visit with their parent(s) from 10:00am Friday until Monday at 1:00pm. On Sunday at 10:00am we welcome you to join us for worship in our chapel, followed by Sunday school at 11:30am. All parents are invited to eat Sunday lunch in their student's house. Since the boy's ministry is located in another town, those parents will be served a meal on our main school campus. For the girl's ministry this is a great opportunity to visit and observe your daughter's routine at her residence. For the boy's ministry the meal provides you an opportunity to meet the staff and the other teens your child works and lives with. A parent visit meeting will be scheduled during your visit. During this time you will have the opportunity to discuss your child's progress with the staff who works closely with him/her here.

### Parent visit schedule:

After lunch you may want to go back to your hotel to spend the rest of the day with your child and family. Also located in Jarabacoa is a local tour guide company called "Rancho Bagueate" (which specializes in taking tourists on exotic Dominican trips that include horseback riding, visiting waterfalls, river rafting, or four-wheeler riding). You may call this company at (809)-574-4940.

On Friday and Saturday, your family may spend the day doing activities at your hotel or in the Jarabacoa area. We require that you keep your student in the Jarabacoa area to help facilitate crisis intervention from our school if problems should arise. You may want to go hiking in some of the mountains in the Jarabacoa area, swim at your hotel, or arrange for some adventures with the tour company listed above.

On Monday morning, make plans to travel back to our campus and attend a parent visit meeting held at 3:30pm. During this time, you will have the opportunity to talk about your child with the staff who works closely with him/her. After this meeting, which should last about one hour, you are free to remain on campus, hike the hills around our campus, or travel back to town. We ask that your child be back at the student house no later than 8:45pm.

## TRAVELING TO A FOREIGN COUNTRY

When traveling to the Dominican Republic, a passport is required. The D.R. will not accept a driver's license as proof of citizenship; you need a passport or birth certificate, a copy will not be accepted).

## ARRIVAL

We recommend you fly in Santiago (STI), which is the closest international airport (only 45 minutes from our campus). Flights from the United States arrive in the early morning or early evening. You will need to purchase a tourist card, as soon as you enter the terminal building. The cost is \$10 US. Keep this card with you for your departure, as you will not be permitted to leave the country without it. The following are some of the terms you will need to know in order to fill out your tourist card.

**nombre completo** - full name

**fecha de nacimiento** - date of birth

**estado civil** - marital status

**ocupacion** - occupation

**direccion permanente** - permanent address

**direccion en la Republica** - address in Dominican Republic (Escuela Caribe, Jarabacoa)

**puerto de embarque** - port of embarkation (Santiago, Santo Domingo, or Puerto Plata)

**motivo del viaje** - purpose of trip (recreo-pleasure)

**firma** - signature

After filling out the tourist card, you will go through immigration where your passport and tourist card will be checked. Depending upon the number of people on your flight, this could take between five and thirty minutes. Be sure that all of your documents are returned to you and that you have your tourist card (yellow or green paper) before you go into the baggage claim area.

## BAGGAGE CLAIM & INSPECTION

From immigration, proceed to the baggage claim area. If you should happen to not collect all of your luggage, be sure to fill out a lost baggage claim immediately. It is wise to carry your valuables, cameras, etc., and a change of clothes in your carry-on bag. Carry all currency and travelers checks on your person.

Proceed to where the luggage is inspected (i.e., customs/aduana). If asked, open your luggage, packages, purses and bags. Everything may be checked, so be sure to keep your eye on the inspectors because they may try to take something for themselves. If they ask for money, do not give it to them unless they determine that an item will be charged a customs fee and forms are filled out. Instead ask them in English, "Why?" and they will let you pass eventually.

If a porter carries your luggage outside, pay him either \$1.00 US per bag or the Dominican peso equivalent. Pay only this, even if he helped you through customs. More than likely, he will take what you offer him.

## CURRENCY AND RATES OF EXCHANGE

Once you land in the Dominican Republic, all prices are in pesos (except for the tourist card). You will need to exchange your dollars as soon as possible. The dollar is universally accepted as a medium of exchange. The exchange rate varies considerably, but it is approximately 30.00 pesos for one dollar. You can exchange dollars at the airport or at any bank. Do not change with individuals who approach you! If you look carefully, you should be able to find a bank at the airport or a money exchange place. The bank may ask you to exchange money at the exchange place, which looks like an information counter.

We will be happy to show you where you can exchange your money when you arrive in Jarabacoa (although we prefer you not take your child who is attending Mountain View Academy there during your stay).

## TRANSPORTATION FROM THE AIRPORT

At your request, we can pre-arrange a private driver and car to meet you as soon as you leave customs. When discussing your arrangements with Mountain View Academy, please let us know if you want this. If you do not find anyone to meet you as planned, find a pay phone and call our school. The office numbers are 574-2760 or 574-2225 (ext 231 during work hours or ext 242 or 244 after hours). If you need an operator dial "0." They usually speak English.

## AIRPORT TAXI SERVICE

Airport taxis will take you to any location on the island. If you wish, you can contract a taxi car to Jarabacoa for approximately \$800 - \$1000 pesos from Santiago. You might be able to negotiate a better price. Expect some difficulty if you do not speak Spanish, but sign language and patience will help. Fares are often established and posted.

## **RENTAL CARS**

You may consider renting a car. This gives you more freedom to see the country and the sights. You will notice many car rental agencies as you exit from customs. We do not recommend any one in particular because all are more or less equal (Budget, Avis, Hertz, National, plus other local agencies). You can expect to pay \$800-1,200 RD per day, depending upon the size of the car and the comfort you desire. Most cars available are small European and Japanese models. Some agencies rent cars with unlimited mileage. For convenience sake, it is best to make arrangements through a travel agent in the States in order for your car to be waiting upon your arrival.

If you rent a car at the airport, check over the car completely and have the company mark down any scratches, etc. At times rental agencies are known to attempt to charge you for damage you did not do. Also, check to make sure that the gas tank is full before the attendants leave.

If the police or military-type officials stop you, do not attempt to communicate with them in Spanish. You are better off feigning ignorance. If you are flying into Santo Domingo you will have to pay a toll of 15 pesos in and out of Santo Domingo.

Please note that we often can arrange for a private driver to do all of your trips to and from the airport for you. This is usually a little less expensive than a car rental. When discussing your arrangements with Mountain View Academy, please let us know if you want this.

## **MAPS AND TRAFFIC LAWS**

A map of Santo Domingo and the Dominican Republic may be obtained from the rental car companies at the airport. Other maps are provided in this material to assist you in your travel. Please be sure to bring this visitor's guide and the enclosed materials with you when you come. If you are driving, keep the following things in mind: most laws and traffic control regulations are the same as you are accustomed to; however, there are a few exceptions. If a policeman is directing traffic, you must STOP when he is facing you or when his back is to you. You may pass only when he turns his side to you and waves you on. Hand signals or auto signals are expected when stopping or turning. Use caution at all intersections, even when you clearly have the right-of-way. The Dominican driver pays little regard to stop signs. You will notice that drivers use their horns much more than their brakes. Wear your seat belt. It is the law and you may be arrested if you (the driver) and/or passenger do not wear it.

## **COST PER PERSON**

Round trip airfare from Chicago is approximately \$700-1000 US per person. Hotels, rental cars, food, entertainment, etc. vary in cost and range from \$ 50.00-100.00 US per person per day. Please note that all prices listed in this guide are approximate and you can expect changes due to currency fluctuation, the season, and/or the demand for accommodations.

## **DRINKING WATER**

The most common ailment suffered by Americans in the Dominican Republic is diarrhea. To lessen the possibility of getting diarrhea, tap water should be avoided, as well as raw vegetables and fruit, which are not peeled. Water served at better restaurants is generally purified. You may want to have your family doctor prescribe an anti-spasmodic for you to bring along just in case. You may also ask your family doctor about antibiotics to take while here if you are particularly sensitive.

## **WEATHER**

The temperature in Jarabacoa ranges from 75-85 degrees during the day and from 60-70 degrees at night, depending upon the time of year. La Vega, Santo Domingo, and most of the rest of the country average about 10 degrees warmer than Jarabacoa. Unless you are from the southern states, the days will feel quite warm and the evenings in Jarabacoa may be chilly to you. You will want to keep this in mind when packing. Cool, casual sportswear is quite appropriate, and a sweater or light jacket may be needed. Also, you might want to take a change or two of dress clothes for appropriate occasions, although dress for the most part is casual but modest. Walking shorts are generally acceptable in public areas.

## **CULTURE**

The Dominican culture and environment are much different from those of the United States. Therefore, we would like to give you some information about the country in order to better prepare you.

The rolling mountains, with the lush, green vegetation from pine trees to palm trees, are truly beautiful. Many of the beaches are very beautiful too. Despite the beauty that nature provides, however, the physical conditions are not as good. The country has many poor people who live in shacks and whose children may not be wearing clothes. Horses, donkeys, and cattle may roam the business districts of towns.

The aroma of garbage in street gutters may be apparent at times. A variety of bugs prosper well in the tropical climate. Spiders, cockroaches, flies, moths, mosquitoes, and chameleons are common annoyances.

Because you are an American, your presence in the country will create some attention. Although some people may be rude at times, you are usually never in danger. You will soon grow accustomed to the stares and the "Hey, you" that you will hear. In keeping with cultural expectations, we advise that females dress modestly (no short shorts or flimsy blouses), so as not to draw more attention to themselves.

## **TOURIST INFORMATION**

Currently, there are few U.S.-based Dominican Tourist Information Centers. If your travel agent is knowledgeable of a source for Dominican tourist information, please let us know so that we can inform other parents.

### **Tourist Information**

Dominican Tourist Information Center  
New York, New York 10022  
485 Madison Avenue  
(212)826-0750

Dominican Republic Tourist Office  
1038 Brickell Avenue  
Miami, Florida 33131  
(305) 371-2813

### **Escuela Caribe / MVA Locations**

Escuela Caribe  
Pinar Quemado, Jarabacoa,  
Dominican Republic  
(809) 574-2760

Jeff Seabrooke, Director  
Jarabacoa, Dominican Republic  
(809) 574-2760 ext 225 (office)  
(809) 574-7579 (home)

Chris Beam, Assistant Director  
Jarabacoa, Dominican Republic  
(809) 574-2760 ext 226 (office)  
(809) 861-3322 (cell)

## **INTERNET SOURCES**

Although we cannot vouch for the accuracy of information, there are a growing number of web pages giving helpful information about the Dominican culture, hotels and services, etc. You can use a search engine like Yahoo, Hotbot, or MSN. Or, you can check out the following:

<http://www.dr1.com>

<http://www.hispanola.com>

<http://www.dr-samana.com/facts.htm>

[http://www.state.gov/www/background\\_notes/whabgnhp.html](http://www.state.gov/www/background_notes/whabgnhp.html)

(to find US Dept.of State background notes on the Dominican Republic)



## HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

Transportation from Santiago to Jarabacoa takes about 45 minutes, and you should schedule about 1 hour to retrieve your luggage and clear customs. Transportation from Puerto Plata to Jarabacoa takes about 2-1/2 hours, and you should schedule about 1 hour to retrieve your luggage and clear customs.

The following information has been taken from newspapers, magazines and telephone books. We do not guarantee the accuracy of this information. Please inform us if you have more up-to-date information.

### Hotels in Santo Domingo:

The following scale is a rough guide. Prices are in US dollars for comparison only.

**LOW** - under \$40 per room

**MODERATE** - between \$40 - \$80 per room; all-inclusive, \$30 - \$45 per person/day

**HIGH** - above \$80 per room; all-inclusive, around \$50 per person or above/day

**HOTEL DOMINICAN FIESTA.** Large-scale hotel with pool, tennis, weight room, and two restaurants. Some rooms with a view of the ocean. 562-8222. Buffet breakfast included. MODERATE.

**HOTEL MELIA.** 245 air-conditioned rooms. George Washington Ave. Magnificent ocean view. Swimming pool, tennis court. Restaurant, cafeteria. Sauna, radio/TV, rental cars, sightseeing tours, gift shop. HIGH. Tel. 688-0823.

**HOTEL NACO.** Located on Tiradentes. Pool and restaurant. Breakfast included. 562-3100. MODERATE.

**HOTEL SANTO DOMINGO.** 250 air-conditioned rooms. Independencia Ave. On the Caribbean Sea. Swimming pool, tennis court. Restaurant, cafeteria. Sauna, radio/TV, rental cars, sightseeing tours, gift shop. HIGH. Tel. 221-1511.  
Hotels in Puerto Plata:

**PLAYA DORADA HOTEL.** 253 air-conditioned rooms. Recreational facilities. Radio/TV/cable. Gift shop. (This is like the Holiday Inn). MODERATE. 320-2019/3498. RD\$1000.00 p/p. RD\$1100 per suite.

**VILLAS DORADAS.** Complete facilities. MODERATE: all-inclusive. 320-3000.

**JACK TAR VILLAGE.** 200 air-conditioned rooms. Package deal includes food, maybe a little more expensive. Recreational facilities, restaurant, sightseeing tours, gift shop. HIGH: all-inclusive. 320-3800. US\$65.00.

**HOTEL CARACOL.** Oceanfront hotel. All-inclusive rates include three meals. 34 airconditioned rooms. TV/cable. Restaurants-terrace. Semi-olympic-size pool. Rent-acars, gift shop. Tours. Horseback riding. Malecon. Tel. 320-2588. Major credit cards. MODERATE: all-inclusive is optional.

**HOTEL GRAN VENTANA BEACH RESORT.** Ocean front hotel. All-inclusive rates include three meals. TV/cable and pool. 320-1200.

**COSTAMBAR BEACH RESORT.** "Your home away from home." 1-, 2- and 3-bedroom oceanside villas and apartments with ocean view. Fully equipped, daily linen service. Costambar, Puerto Plata, Tel. 970-7005. In New York, 90-50 55th Ave., Elmhurst, New York 11373. MODERATE-HIGH: all-inclusive.

### Hotels in Jarabacoa:

**EL GRAN JIMENOA.** Located on Avenida La Confluencia, with a beautiful view of nearby mountains, and the Jimenoa River. Restaurant, pool (nice and clean), TV/cable, air-conditioned. Double and single rooms. For reservations call (809)574-6304, Fax: 574-4177. For Escuela Caribe people the cost from Monday to Thursday is RD\$750.00, and RD\$850.00 for weekends.

**PINAR DORADO HOTEL.** Located on the outskirts of Jarabacoa with a beautiful view of nearby Mt. Magote. Restaurant, pool, communal TV. RD 876.50 double/per night and RD\$815.00 single rooms. With a choice of air-conditioned or fan-cooled rooms. For reservations call (809)574-2237, 574-2820.

**JARABACOA RIVER RESORT.** Located on Avenida La Confluencia. 3 bedroom, 2 bathrooms, kitchenette, and pool. The cost RD\$770.00 a night. 3 or more nights at a lower cost. For reservations call (809)574-4688.

**BRISAS DEL YAQUE.** Located in Luperon street with a beautiful view of mountains. Communal TV/cable, air-conditioned. RD \$600.00 per night (single rooms). For reservations call (809)248-6549 and 574-2772.

**RANCHO BIAGUATE.** Located on the outskirts of Jarabacoa. Restaurant. Pool. Horses, hiking, river rafting, and ecological tours with four wheels. For reservations call (809)574-4940.

Rancho Biaguata BIG ROOMS consist of 2 Queen beds. Price listed is per person.

Breakfast included	Breakfast & Lunch	Brkfst, Lunch & Supper
US \$38.00/single	US \$45.00/single	US \$52.00/single
US \$23.00/double	US \$30.00/double	US \$36.00/double
US \$18.00/ 3 per room	US \$25.00/ 3 per room	US \$32.00 3 per room
US \$14.00 4 per room	US \$21.00/ 4 per room	US \$28.00 4 per room

**Rancho Baiaguata SMALL ROOMS consist of 2 twin beds. Price listed is per person.**

Breakfast included	Breakfast & Lunch	Brkfst, Lunch & Supper
US \$30.00/single	US \$37.00/single	US \$43.00/single
US \$19.00/double	US \$26.00/double	US \$33.00/double
US \$15.00/ 3 per room	US \$22.00/ 3 per room	US \$29.00 3 per room

### **TRANSPORTATION AROUND THE JARABACOA AREA**

When you are staying in the Jarabacoa area, you are responsible for your own transportation from town to the school campus. If you have not rented a car at the airport, we suggest using Jarabacoa's taxi service. Taxi service is provided from Jarabacoa to Escuela Caribe, or vice versa, at a rate of \$70 RD per trip. You may call Jaraba Taxi at 574-6464 or 574-4640. Pick up takes between 5 and 10 minutes.

### **FOOD AVAILABLE IN JARABACOA**

There are many restaurants in the Jarabacoa area, which serve moderate-to-good tasting and reasonably priced food. We will gladly make suggestions for you upon your arrival. If your family would like, you may eat lunch with us on our school campus at 12:30 on Monday for \$2.00 U.S. currency per person.

### **THINGS NOT TO DO**

Do not take your son or daughter outside the Jarabacoa area (down the mountain). Do not smoke or drink on campus or allow your son/daughter to smoke or drink. Students should never be left unsupervised by parents.

### **STAFF CONTACT NUMBERS**

Please feel free to call us if you have any suggestions or need any additional information.  
New Horizons Ministries Office in Marion Indiana:

765-668-4009 or 800-333-4009 (8:30 to 5:00 p.m. EST)

Tim Blossom's home in Marion, IN 765-668-7065- emergencies only  
Deb Hatland's office in Marion, IN 800-333-4009 ext. 105