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VISIT Oan Oana



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Dear Visitors:

Without a doubt, the Dominican Republic is the best option for your vacation; the ideal destination for enjoying that well deserved break, an escape from your everyday routine.

Our offer is the most fun and most diverse, hence our standing as the Caribbean region's tourism leader. In our country you'll find ideal weather, heavenly beaches, a great variety of hotels to satisfy every taste and need, world-class golf courses, Santo Domingo -cradle of European civilization of the Americas-, a city full of history; and the most ample and delicious gastronomic offer you can imagine.

Welcome to the Dominican Republic, where the constant smiles of kind, hospitable people, the laughter of the sea, the warmth of the Caribbean sun and the buoyant merengue and bachata music are all waiting to welcome you and make you feel at home.

Lic. Francisco Javier García Minister of Tourism of the Dominican Republic

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OUR COVER

Warm temperatures all year round, turquoise water beaches, idyllic mountain corners for ecotourism and activities within plain nature, a cultural and historical heritage of invaluable wealth, exquisite cuisine, vibrant night life and the Dominican's warmth, an added value that make tourists return, have positioned Dominican Republic in the Caribbean as leader in terms of visitor arrivals.

For these and other reasons that distinguish us, we bring on the cover the human factor to convey to readers the excitement of interacting with the lush Dominican landscapes.







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WELCOME TO

THE EMOTIONS' REPUBLIC.

Dominican Republic is an amalgam of vibrant emotions. To dance, eat, dream, laugh, enjoy, live, share, feel.... are verbs that come to life in the heart of each guest who visit us.



Constanza, La Vega.

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Bahia de las Águilas (Eagles Bay)... Pedernales.

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Playa Macao, La Altagracia.



Cayo Arena. Punta Rucia, Montecristi.



(Dominican bodegas).



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Cueva Fun Fun Hato Mayor.



Dominican Tree House Village. El Valle, Samaná.

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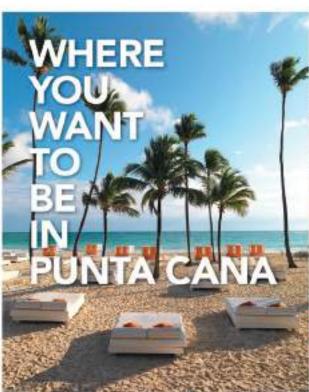
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Punta Cana.











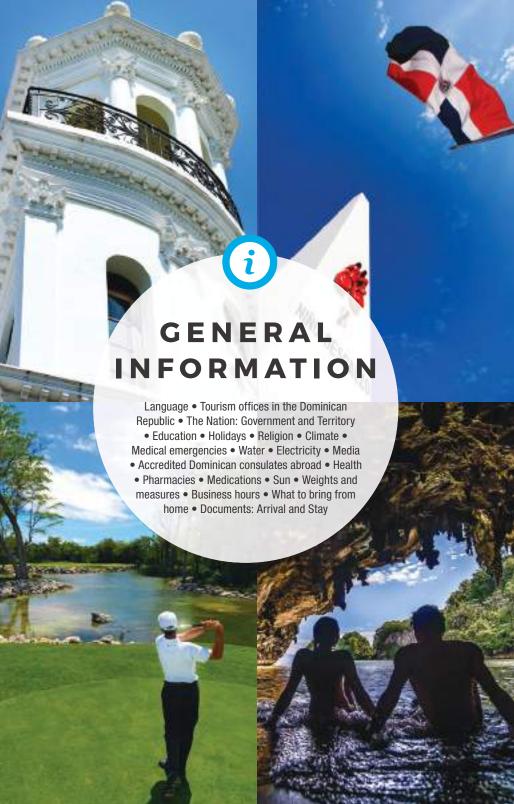


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Foods Santack Storegons of Sunday



Nestled in the heart of the Caribbean, bathed by the waters of the Atlantic Ocean to the north and the impetuous Caribbean Sea in the south, is a placid and beautiful country officially named Dominican Republic.

Nestled in the heart of the Caribbean, bathed by the waters of the Atlantic Ocean to the north and the impetuous Caribbean Sea in the south, is a placid and beautiful country officially named Dominican Republic.

It is located between latitude 17° 40' and 19° 56' North and longitude 68° 20' and 72° 01' west of the Greenwich Meridian (GMT-4).

Christopher Columbus discovered the island on December 5, 1492, during his first trip to the New World. It occupies 18,704 sq. mi/48,442 sq. km of the 76,192 sq. km it shares with the neighboring Republic of Haiti. Its natural beauty and rich history fascinates and excites those who get to know it.

Through a 1508 royal edict, King Ferdinand of Spain named it the Island of Santo Domingo. Its aboriginal name, "Quisqueya", means "mother of all lands" in the Taino language. At the time of its "Discovery" by Christopher Columbus, aborigines that called themselves "Tainos", a word that translates as "the good", populated our island.

The Taino were a part of the Arawak people of the tropical regions of the South American continent, from where it is believed they migrated on canoes from the Lesser Antilles to the Greater Antilles. They were physically well-built; they had a rather tawny complexion and dark eyes. Even though they were generally peaceful and were practically subjugated by an internal regime under the dominion of a "cacique" or chieftain, historical records do show instances in which they bravely defended their families, their land and

their freedom from the Conquerors that enslaved them. Unfortunately, a population estimated at around 600,000 was practically exterminated in less than thirteen years.

Taíno sociopolitical structure was organized under five chiefdoms or cacicazgos: Marién, governed by Guacanagarix; Maguá was dominated by the Chieftain (cacique) Guarionex; Caonabo ruled in Maguana; in Higüey, Cayacoa; and Jaragua fell under the might of Bohechío. After Bohechio's death, his sister Anacaona, who was also Caonabo's widow, emerged as his successor. She was reputedly the cleverest, most beautiful and talented woman in the island. Nevertheless, she had to witness the merciless slaughter of her people at the sword of Nicolás de Ovando, the Spanish governor, in 1503. This first act of cruelty has gone down in historical records as the Jaragua Massacre. Made a prisoner, the Taino Queen responded to the heinous act with these words:

"It is not honorable to kill; nor can honor propitiate the tragedy. Let us open a bridge of love, so that across it even our enemies may walk and leave for their footprints for posterity".

Language

Spanish is the Country's official language. Nevertheless, in some communities that have a foreign origin and tourist hubs, English, German, French, Italian, Dutch and other languages are spoken.

It is important to point out that the Dominican way of speaking is the result of our collective experiences and the wisdom of rural farmers and peasants. Our Spanish comes with a rustic accent and hinterland flavor. In our country each region has its own accent, charm and peculiar expressions, which usually identify the speaker from the very moment he or she opens his or her mouth.



Despite the preponderance of Spanish culture, several words from the Taino's melodious and sweet language remain in use and have become a part of the everyday slang. Nearly all these terms preserve their original meaning. For example: ají (pepper), barbacoa (barbecue), batea (trough or small tub), bija (anatto fruit), bohío (hut), burén (flat griddle), canoa (canoe), carey (tortoise-shell), caribe (Caribbean), casabe (cassava), coa (sharp wood rod), conuco (a plot of land for cultivation), guanábana (soursop), guayaba (guava), hamaca (hammock), higüero (calabash tree), huracán (hurricane), iguana (iguana), lambí (conch meat), maíz (corn), tabaco (tobacco), tiburón (shark), yagua (palm), and vuca (vucca), among others.

Some visitors tend to think that we are either angry or deaf when they hear us talking. Indeed, shouting and gesticulating, is common among rural folks who overcome distances by raising their voices, have now made their way to urban areas, and have even crossed generational lines.

For this reason, protest in this country differs markedly from what one might see in Switzerland or the United States. While their practice isto walk slowly in silence at the venue of the protest as they hold a banner that expresses their feelings, we Dominicans tend to shout while making abrupt gestures and running from one place to the other in order to call attention. For this reason, a demonstration that may appear imminently violent to a visitor tends to fizzle out within half an hour without any great problems. This way of protesting, which is very much a reflection of our national character, has on occasion been misunderstood by the international media.



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Luperón



The nation: government and territory

Dominican Republic's population is almost 10 millon people. Its territory is divided into 31 provinces plus the National Capital District of Santo Domingo. The country is a Democratic Republic. Government is composed of three branches: executive, legislative and judicial. The country elects its president, vice president and legislators every four years by universal adult suffrage. The country's capital, Santo Domingo de Guzmán, with a population of nearly 3 million, was founded by Bartholomew Columbus, Esq., on August 4, 1496. It is the oldest city of the New World.

Because of its key geographical position, Dominican Republic has always been considered a strategic location for the hegemony of the continent and has been coveted by the great powers. It has been invaded and controlled at different times by Spain, France, England, Simon Bolivar's Great Colombia, Haiti and United States.

However, thanks to the unbridled patriotism of Juan Pablo Duarte, Francisco del Rosario Sánchez and Matías Ramón Mella, the Founding Fathers, the nation won its independence and the Dominican Republic, as a free and sovereign state, was established on February 27th, 1844.

Located on La Hispaniola, the island beloved by the Great Admiral Christopher Columbus, as he himself stated in his diary, the Dominican Republic's past is studded with historical events that showcase the most prominent figures of the Discovery Age. This land of promise that was conquered and colonized by the Spaniards in 1492 continues to be, five centuries later, a new frontier that is full of opportunities and a true paradise for international tourism.

So, welcome, visitors, to this old haven of the Americas, the original site of the conquest of the New World and the Colonial era. We invite you to browse in the secret drawers of this antique colonial cabinet, now five hundred years old, where relics of an era, very much a heritage for all of the Americas, still survive; it is also a source of pride for those who received the light of the Gospel under the influence of Spanish culture.



Education

In 1505 the Convent of the Friars of the Franciscan Order established the first primary schools, which were later moved to the St. Francis Monastery in 1512. It was here that the chieftain (cacique) Guarocuya was educated and baptized into the Christian faith under the name of Enriquillo.

In 1510 the missionaries of the Dominican Order settled in the Hispaniola under the leadership of Friar Pedro de Córdoba. The Order requested that the Pope confer the status of University to the center for higher education that they were directing. The Pontiff granted their request by the "In Apostulatus Culmine" papal bull and, on October 28, 1538, the first university in the Americas was established. It was named after Saint Thomas Aquino, O.P. Today, it is the Universidad Autónoma de Santo Domingo (Autonomous University of Santo Domingo), a center of great intellectual activity whose reputation aptly earned for the city of Santo Domingo the nickname "Athens of the New World".

Based on that heritage of scholarship, many prominent citizens felt the need to make education accessible to all people. Consequently, the Constitution states that free compulsory education shall be provided for all children between the ages of six to thirteen. Basic education is no longer a privilege; it has become a universal right in the Dominican Republic.

The state's public education policy extends to the secondary level through the provision of subsidies for private school education. The State also supports public higher education at the Universidad Autónoma de Santo Domingo (UASD), and subsidizes higher education schools specializing in science and technology, as well as several private academic centers that have been accredited by the Ministry for Higher education, Science and Technology and several private academic centers that have been accredited by the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology (Ministerio de Educación Superior, Ciencia y Tecnología). Currently public education at the basic and secondary levels are provided to more than 3 million students nationwide.



HOLIDAYS







January 1: New Year's Day

January 6: Epiphany or Three Kings day

January 21: Our Lady of Highest Grace (La Altagracia)

January 26: Birthday of the Founding Father, Juan Pablo Duarte

February 27: Independence Day

Moveable: Good Friday

May 1: International Workers' Day

Moveable: Corpus Christi

August 16: Restoration Day

September 24: Our Lady of Mercy (Las Mercedes)

October 12: Columbus Day

November 6: Constitution Day

December 25: Christmas Day

GENERAL INFORMATION



Dominican Flag.

The national ensign is identified with the colors Navy blue and Red vermilion, in barracks cornered and alternated, separated by a white cross that has on its center the coat of arms of the Dominican Republic. The red represents the blood shed by our liberators, blue alludes to the sky and God's protection, while the white cross is the symbol of the battles that took place so that it can be a free country today.

Religion

In Dominican Republic, freedom of religion is guaranteed and protected under the constitution. According to the latest census figures, Roman Catholicism is the predominant religion of the country. It is considered offensive and inappropriate to enter a temple inebriated or in shorts.

Climate

The average annual temperature fluctuates between 18 $^{\circ}$ C / 65 $^{\circ}$ F and 27 $^{\circ}$ C / 81 $^{\circ}$ F. The fertile Dominican soil is ideal



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for grain cultivation. According to the W. Koppen Climate Classification System, the predominant climate is the tropical savanna climate with two rainy seasons and its three variations of jungle, forest and savanna, with five variations or microclimates, classified as: humid, dry steppe, tropical jungle, forest and savanna. Thus, for Dominicans there is only one season: summer.

The country's pleasant climate may be understood in terms of its geographical location. The prevailing determinant of precipitation and vegetation is the northwest trade winds. Variations from the general weather and vegetation patterns are conditioned by such factors as elevation and proximity to ocean currents.



Monument to Fray Antonio de Montesino

One of the most important symbols of the tourist circuit that make up the Colonial City and the Malecon. It represents the first shout on our island, in 1511, in favor of human rights, freedom and courage.

In the Central Mountain Rage, the Pico Duarte soars to a height of, as per Professor Kenneth Orvis, 3.098 meters (10.164 feet) above sea level, making it the highest peak in all of the Antilles. Another interesting feature of the island's topography is in the province of Barahona: The Enriquillo Lake. From the lake's surface, at 30m below sea level, emerges the Cabritos Island, where according to Dr. Sophie Jackowska "the largest reserve of the American crocodile exists".

Water

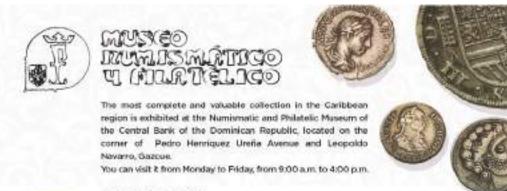
About 80% of the urban population has access to tap water. Nevertheless, to avoid "the revenge of Caonabo", one should drink purified and bottled water.

Electricity

We use 100-120V/60Hz North-American plugs. There are power outages and blackouts in our country, but in tourist hubs, 95% of all hotels have their own private power supply and restaurants and other businesses usually have emergency generators.

Media

Because of the high quality of its telecommunications, the Dominican Republic has been consistently ranked among the best connected countries in Latin America. The Dominican Republic has permanent access to any other country on the planet via the internet and through direct circuits.



For additional information: PO Box 1347, Santo Domingo, R. D.

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France +33(0)155371030

secretariat@consuldompar.fr

French Guyana (335) 9438-0996

roger.parfait@orange.fr

Germany (4969) 7438-7781

info@consuladodominicanoff.de

Great Britain (+44(0) 2072 626856

dominicanembassy.org.uk

Greece +30 210 7486948/9

co2gendom@yahoo.gr

Guadalupe © 011 590 590 60 52 10

consuladordguadalupe@hotmail.com

Haití

consudompuertoprincipe@mirex.gob.do

Honduras © 011 504 25536357

ericardop1@gmail.com

India 91-11-4342-5000

dr-embassy-india.com

Israel (9723) 516-2020

admatalon@admatalon.co.il

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Jamaica 876-633-7765

embassydomrepja@hotmail.com

Japan (81-33) 499-6010

consudom-tokio@gol.com

Jordan (962) 6 582 8222

elconsulate@vahoo.com

Kazakhstan ((7701) 7255-557

hconsulkazak.dr@gmail.com

Martinique (335) 96-58-24-24

alex.hdespointes@orange.fr

Mexico (5255) 5260-9531

consudomex@yahoo.com.mx

Monaco (377-93) 302914

consulat.repdom@monaco.mc

GENERAL INFORMATION

Netherlands, Holland (31-20) 6471062

consudomamsterdam@gmail.com

Nicaragua (505) 228-1505

embdom@cablenet.com.ni

Pakistan 92425872284

syedumairpk@gmail.com

Palestine 972-277-6902

palestinedrconsul@gmail.com

Panama (507) 264-8360

consudompma@gmail.com

Paraguay (595 21) 551 187

paraguay@consudom.com.py

Philippines (632) 810-6546

consudom_mm@yahoo.com

Portugal © (351) 213637568

consudom@net.sapo.pt

Puerto Rico ((787) 945-0405

consudompr@mirex.gob.do

Reino Unido (+44(0) 2072 626856

consulate@dominicanembassy.org.uk

Republic of Belarus

375-17-284-1774

belmif@mail.ru

Republic of Korea 041-529-5773

Russia 7812-333-2564

domruspb@gmail.com

Spain © 91 431 53 21

@ consuladordmadrid.com

1 0094 777312586

St. Marteen (1-721) 542-0337

consuladostmaarten@live.com

Sudan © 00249185335937/193/407

Sweden (+46 8 667 46 11

stockholm@domemb.se

Switzerland (4143) 818-9344

consuldomzh@hotmail.com

Thailand (662) 933-5686

contact@dominicanconsulate.org

Turkey (90 212) 293-8356

lalia@hip.com.tr

Uruguay (598) 4244-8857

consulado@outlook.com

USA-California (818) 504-6602

consuladord@gmail.com

USA-Chicago (773) 714-4924

☑ drchicagoconsulate@gmail.com

USA-Miami (305) 358-3220

consudom.mia@gmail.com

USA-Nueva York ② 212-768-2480

info@consuladord-ny.org

Venezuela (0212) 263-8256

consulado.rd.venezuela@hotmail.com

breathe in our new world











La Cotica (parrot).

The native parrot, Amazona ventralis, is part of our daily life from the Taíno bohío, to the Dominican home of our day. The Taínos gave it to the Spaniards as a symbol of friendship and hospitality. Current legislation to protect this nearly extinct wild bird imposes severe penalties for any attempt to capture and/or sell la cotica in any form whatsoever.

Also, in many hotels, restaurants, shopping malls and main avenues in the city, wireless connection is possible.

Health

In our country, when it comes to health, we refer to the Taínos, who first settled in this island - that they also called bohío (hut)- because in it they found the largesse of mother nature, the absence of any hostile environmental conditions, and a mild climate that lured them to make this place their home.

In recently submitted reports, more contemporary sources such as the World Health Organization and various technical commissions

have offered their conclusions, which indicate that not much has changed over time. [...] Under all circumstances, having chosen your location wisely, you will be able to bask in the delightful weather, where pulmonary afflictions and frightening epidemics are rare.

Attracted by the advantages offered by its favorable geographic location and excellent interconnectivity, great weather, the fabulous tourism industry and access to specialists educated in United States, Europe and local universities who offer personalized medical attention of the highest caliber, the number of visitors who come to the island in search of medical services is growing daily.



PHARMACIES



Farmacia Carol Santo Domingo

Farmacia Carol Bávaro •

Farmacia Los Hidalgos La Romana •

Farmacia Profesional Puerto Plata • C

809-562-6767

809-933-4444

809-550-3999

09-330-3999

809-586-3416

farmaciacarol.com

farmaciacarol.com

farmaciasloshidalgos.com.do

1 Info

To acquire information about these services, visit the Dominican Association of Health Tourism's website at in adtusalud. org **Q** 809-544-0524

Medications

Most essential and generic medications are available at reasonable prices. Nevertheless, it is advisable to bring with you whatever pharmaceutical products and supplies you generally need or use. Also it is important to keep in hand antihistamines and insect repellents to ward off common insects such as bees, wasps, mosquitoes and other pests.

Sun

Dermatologists advise against sunbathing between 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Instead, they suggest gradual exposure and always using sunscreen and other protective items such as hats and sunglasses. Moisturizing the skin daily enhances and prolongs a tan.

Weights and measures

Concerning weights and measures, the Dominican Republic uses the metric system, in conformity with national legislation. Nevertheless, the country continues to use certain units from the old Spanish system and from other systems that were formerly used in the territory.

Urban land areas are measured in square meters, while in the countryside they are measured by "tarea", a unit that equals 628.86 sq. meters.

Another unconventional custom in our markets is the bargaining that takes place between the potential buyer and seller to arrive at a mutually acceptable price. Your purchasing success will depend on your negotiation skills. During the process you might even make a friend and the seller



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Chavón River and its excursions.

If you are in Casa de Campo or Bayahibe you can get to the charming town of Altos de Chavón on one of the excursions that navigate the Chavón River, a natural habitat for many species of native wildlife. To explore it is to enjoy its beauty at its best: mangroves, flocks of brown pelicans, dolphins that pass near the river mouth, rhinoceros iguanas and lots of birds, such as the carpenter of La Hispaniola.



might give you "a ñapa" (something extra) at the end of the sale.

What to bring from home

First of all, bring a positive state of mind and the intention of having a good time.

Regardless of what the thermometer reads while you are packing, include a bathing suit, sun screen / lotion, sunglasses and loose, comfortable clothing made of natural fibers. Do not forget your Bermuda shorts and a soft, baggy robe to wear as you relax and are lulled to sleep by the sounds of the gentle breeze rocking the palm trees on a tropical moonlit night.



BUSINESS HOURS



Banks: Lobby Hours 8:00 a.m. − 7:00 p.m Mon. − Fri. • 9:00 a.m. − 1:00 p.m Sat.

Banks Express at Malls: 9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. Mon. – Sat.9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Sun.

Commercial Service Offices: 8:00 a.m. − 5:00 p.m Mon. − Fri. • 8:00 a.m. − 1:00 p.m. Sat.

Government Offices: 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Mon. - Fri.

Stores / Shopping Centers / Malls: 9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m Mon. - Sun.

Supermarkets: 8:00 a.m. − 10:00 p.m. Mon. − Sat. • 8:00 a.m. − 3:00 p.m. Sun.

Bars / Nightclubs: 6:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m. Sun. - Thur. • 6:00 p.m. 2:00 a.m. Fri - Sat.

The Santo Domingo Cableway.

Solution of public transportation that contributes to improve traffic in Santo Domingo, an example of the steps that the Dominican capital takes towards modernity. For both national and foreigners, it is a tourist attraction that invites to discover the city from the height.



Men traveling to attend a conference, or for business reasons, may need to bring a jacket and a tie. Some events, depending the type, may require a tuxedo for men and an evening gown for women. On certain, less-formal occasions, a white suit or a linen guayabera may be adequate. For cool nights (from November through February), a shawl for ladies is enough. In the mountains, a light jacket or sweater might be required.

Don't forget to bring your camera and videorecorder. The Colonial City has areas that are studded with historical monuments and offer magnificent scenery, flower-covered balconies and observation points from which fabulous effects of high contrast may be achieved.

There is another dazzling spectacle you might be lucky enough to capture, as many painters and photographers have, and get to keep as an unforgettable memento of your trip. It takes place in spring, when the red fronds of the majestic Flamboyant trees are in full bloom and strikingly decorate the countryside and cities alike.

1 Info

The photographing of some museums and military establishments is prohibited. In addition, it is not advised to take a picture of an on-duty military official, unless you are first given permission to do so. In general, people are willing to allow you to take their picture. You just have to ask first.

Documents: Arrival and Stay

In accordance with Law No. 875 regarding Visas, foreigners traveling to Dominican Republic must include among their travel documents the corresponding Visa issued by Dominican Embassies and Consulates accredited abroad, with the exception of nationals of countries with which the Dominican Republic has agreements on visa exemptions and nationals of countries authorized to travel to the country with a tourist card, provided you are visiting the country exclusively for tourism purposes.

1 Info

The tourist card cost is US\$10.00 and its use is limited to one entry to Dominican territory. Since April 2018, it is included in air tickets issued (abroad) out of Dominican Republic. All foreigners entering the Dominican Republic, be it with a Visa or a tourist card, must have a valid passport, with the required minimum validity and must maintain said passport valid for the duration of their stay and departure of the country. To verify current requisites for your country of origin, visit:

Foreign Affairs Ministry

● 809-987-7001 **●** mirex.gob.do

General Direction of Migrations

■ 809-508-2555 migracion.gob.do



Immigration

Before arriving to the country's ports, airports or crossing the border, the international regulatory form should be filled out and given to immigration authorities upon arrival and departure.

Money

The monetary unit in Dominican Republic is the Dominican peso. Its symbol is RD\$. The peso is divided into 100 cents. There are coins of 1, 5, 10 and 25 pesos in circulation. The currency note is in denominations of 50, 100, 200, 500, 1.000 and 2.000 pesos.

When shopping, remember that most of the prices are marked in Dominican pesos and you can always pay in local currency. However, it could be an advantage if you pay in American dollars, knowing the daily official exchange rate.

As a general rule, you get more security and more pesos when exchanging your dollars in commercial banks, which have branches in the Country's main avenues and streets as well as in shopping centers. For your convenience, there are also currency exchange establishments located in most hotels. These are likewise required to place the daily exchange rate in public view.

Most hotels, restaurants and businesses accept major credit cards, and cardholders are charged the official exchange rate at the time of their transaction.

Customs regulations

Personal luggage or other personal items generally clear customs without much difficulty. You are entitled to bring 3 liters of liquor, 200 cigarettes, your laptop, and medication under prescription.

Depending on the level of tourism awareness of the customs inspector who greets you, you may receive a warm smile and glide through customs with your luggage unchecked, or you might be asked to open your bags and have your belongings thoroughly inspected without receiving a single word from the customs agent, who is protected by Dominican law.

If you are on a business trip, on vacation or traveling for health reasons, everything will undoubtedly turn out well. If, on the contrary, you are part of a group that is smuggling firearms, explosives, drugs or other illegal substances, you will probably find yourself face-to-face with an INTERPOL agent.

According to Act. 50-88 on drug enforcement in the Dominican Republic:

For the purposes of the present legislation, the following are defined as narcotic drugs:

- a) Opium in all its forms and all its by products (alkaloids, salts, compounds, synthetic preparations or replacements).
- b) Heroin.
- c) Coca (Erythroxylum Coca).
- d) Cocaine, its by-products, synthetic replacements or any other compound whose base is used as it.
- e) LSD or any other hallucinogenic substance.
- f) All plants of the Cannabinacea Family and those by-products having narcotic or stimulating properties, such as: Cannabis Indica, Cannabis Sativa, Marijuana and other herbs which present similar properties.

Severe sanctions are applied to those people who do not comply with the above-mentioned legal provisions.

Wedding Celebrations in Dominican Republic

Most hotels and resorts listed in our Directory offer special wedding and honey-moon packages conveniently personalized and customized to make the pre-nuptial and honeymoon celebrations a memorable experience for all couples.

To legalize a marriage in Dominican Republic, the couple must bring a notarized letter from the Dominican Consulate in their country of origin indicating their marital status. If their passports are in Spanish and specify their marriage status as single, the presentation of the notarized letter is not mandatory. For other cases, the letter must be issued by the Civil Registry of the country of origin or country of legal residence, translated by a certified translator and legalized by the Attorney General of the Republic and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



For more information about this process, visit Junta Central Electoral

809-539-5419
 ice.gob.do.

Traveling with your pet

To travel with pets there are certain regulations to consider. All live animals, except dogs and cats, need prior permission from the General Directorate of Livestock to enter the Dominican Republic. Animals must comply with protocols according to the species, the country of origin and the carrier. Once on Dominican soil, the Animal Quarantine Station is responsible for veri-fying permits and indicating laboratory tests.

Dogs and cats must be accompanied by their current vaccination card and a health



certificate issued by an authorized veterinarian in their country of origin; Upon arrival in the national terri-tory, an official veterinarian of the quarantine service will check the documents and the health status of the pet. In order to avoid setbacks, the authorities also require microchip and titration of the rabies antibodies, and recommend that the animals travel in a cage and that the owner feed them before leaving home.

When leaving the country, you should try to possess the following certificates issued by a regis-tered veterinarian: animal's health, health, vaccination and any other required by the country of destination.



७ 809-535-9689 **⊗** ganaderia.gob.do



SPECIALIZED TOURIST SECURITY CORPS CESTUR



CESTUR is an organism that provides protection and orientation to tourists visiting our beaches and most popular tourism and recreation hubs via foot patrols, water patrols, mounted units, four wheel units, Segway units and motorized units. Download CESTUR APP for assistance and important information for tourists.

● 809-222-2026 cestur.gob.do



DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS ACCREDITED TO THE DOMINICAN GOVERNMENT

Apostolic Nunciature 809-682-3773

na.dominicana@diplomat.va

Argentina © 809-682-0976

edomi@cancilleria.gov.ar

Belize 809-567-7146

@ embelize.org

Brazil 809-532-4200

consular.sdomingos@itamaraty.gov.br

Canada 809-262-3100

sdmgo@international.gc.ca

Chile 809-797-2433

embaj.chile@claro.net.do

China 809-373-3825

chinaemb_dom@mfa.gov.cn

Colombia 809-562-1670

@ republicadominicana.embajada.gov.co

Costa Rica © 809-683-7002

embcr.dominicana@gmail.com

Cuba ③ 809-537-2113

embajada@do.embacuba.cu

Ecuador **©** 809-563-8363

mecuador@yahoo.com

El Salvador © 809-565-4311

emb.salvador@claro.net.do

European Union 809-227-0525

delegation-dominican-rep@eeas. europa.eu

France 809-695-4300

do.ambafrance.org

Germany © 809-542-8949

anto-domingo.diplo.de

Great Britain @ 809-472-7111

uk.indominicanrepublic@fco.gov.uk

embrepdominicana@minex.gob.gt

Haiti @ 809-686-7115

amb.saintdomingue@diplomatie.ht

Honduras (809-482-7992

embhnrd@gmail.com

IDB 309-784-6400

biddominicana@iadb.org

Israel 809-920-1500

info@santodomingo.mfa.gov.il

Jamaica © 829-567-7770

@ embajadadejamaica-rd.com

Japan © 809-566-8023

do.emb-japan.go.jp

Mexico 3 809-687-6444

embamex.sre.gob.mx

Morroco **(Sept.)** 809-732-0409

sifamasdomingo@claro.net.do

std@minbuza.nl

Nicaragua 809-535-1120

embajadanic@gmail.com

Panama 809-685-3665

embpanamard@mire.gob.pa

Paraguay **©** 809-540-0855

embapardominicana@mre.gov.py

Peru 809-482-3300

embaperu@claro.net.do

Qatar © 809-535-7600

info@gatarembdr.com

Republic of Korea 809-482-6505

embcod@mofa.go.kr

Sovereign Military Order of Malta

809-549-5576

emb.ordendemaltard@hotmail.com

Spain (2) 809-535-6500

emb.santodomingo@maec.es

Switzerland 809-533-3781

santodomingo@eda.admin.ch

Turkey © 809-532-7783

santodomingo.be.mfa.gov.tr

UNESCO 3 829-893-4745

cndu.gob.do

UNICEF (Section 2) 809-473-7373

santodomingo@unicef.org

UNPD © 809-537-0909 **(a)** do.undp.org

Uruguay 809-472-4229

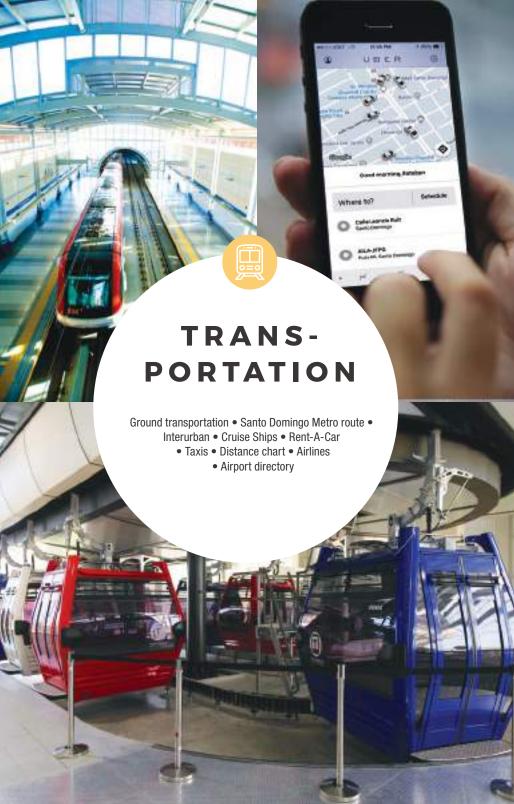
urudomiminicana@mrree.gub.uy

USA (See Supplier of Suppli

do.usembassy.gov

Venezuela 809-537-8882

emb.venezuela@claro.net.com



Ground transportation

The Santo Domingo metropolitan area has the north -south Metro route which travels 15 kms, and west-east (Line 2A), which starts at the 9th Km of The Duarte Highway and up until where the Francisco del Rosario Sánchez bridge begins. Recently the Metro network was increased with line 2B, which runs from the oriental headboard of that bridge until Megacentro. The Santo Domingo cableway connects with the Metro in Gualey and ends on the Charles de Gaulle Avenue. See route's map.

Taxis offering transportation services in the city of Santo Domingo are easily located at airports, ports, the Colonial City and all hotels, where visitors can usually also find a board with information regarding taxi rates. Usually taxi cabs are cream-colored or yellow and are identified by a sign reading "TAXI TURÍSTICO" along with the code for the vehicle assigned by the Ministry of Tourism painted on its doors.

Whether you are in the city or in other towns, it is not advisable to utilize the services of vehicles that are not properly identified as taxis. Also, the motoconcho (motorcycle taxi) might be a popular transportation mode for some locals, but these are as well not recommended as they are unsafe and no insurance will cover accidents or damages that take place in these unorthodox taxis.

For transportation from one city or town to another there are several reputable companies that have a long and distinguished track record in offering safe, efficient and timely transportation via comfortable air-conditioned buses.

Visitors will find car rental offices and services conveniently located in all airports. The minimum required age for renting a car in the country is 25. For renting vehicles, a valid driver's license—whether local or international issued at

the renter's country of origin- and a credit card are required.

The Dominican Republic has right hand traffic (RHT). Gas stations measure fuel in American Gallons. Tolls are paid on highways.

More than 160 military patrols trained to provide first aid, protect lives, mobile properties and facilitate the return to vour destination, are The Citizen's Protection and Road Assistance Service. These units equipped with ambulances and GPS, operate 24/7, regardless of the weather, in the main highways forming the country's road network:San Pedro - La Romana Highway, The Romana Ringway, The Punta Cana Tourist Boulevard, Coral Highway, East Highway, Uvero Alto - Miches Highway, Las Americas Highway, The North -East Highway, The Duarte Highway, The Joaquín Balaguer Highway, The Navarrete - Puerto Plata Highway, The 6 November Highway, the Sánchez Road, the Azua - San Juan Highway, the Barahona - Paraiso - Pedernales Highway, the North Atlantic Corridor and the Santo Domingo Ringway.

1 Info

For assistance please call

329-688-1000.

But there are connections that will add unique experiences to your visit: rent bicycles to ride around the Colonial City of Santo Domingo and the Puerto Plata Pier bike route; trikkes spanning streets filled with centuries-old stories; horse-backrides to reach El Limon fall; Safari trucks and 4x4 Vehicles in Ecotourism Destinations; board a catamaran to the Catalina and Saona islands; boats to explore the mangroves of Samana and Rio San Juan; rides in hot air balloons in Bavaro; paragliders that fly over the valleys and crops of Jarabaoca and



SANTO DOMINGO METRO ROUTE





- Mamá Tingó.
- 2. Gregorio Urbano Gilbert.
- 3. Gregorio Luperón.
- 4. José Francisco Peña Gómez.
- Hermanas Mirabal.
- 6. Máximo Gómez.
- Los Taínos.
- 8. Pedro Livio Cedeño.
- 9. Peña Batlle.
- 10. Juan Pablo Duarte.
- 11. Prof. Juan Bosch.
- 12. Casandra Damirón.
- 13. Joaquín Balaquer.
- 14. Amín Abel.
- 15. Francisco Alberto Caamaño.
- 16. Centro de los Héroes.

- María Montez.
- 2. Pedro Francisco Bonó.
- 3. Francisco Gregorio Billini.
- 4. Ulises Francisco Espaillat.
- Pedro Mir.
- 6. Freddy Beras Goico.
- 7. Juan Ulises García Saleta.
- 8. Juan Pablo Duarte.
- 9. Cnel. Rafael T. Fernández Domínguez.

LINE 1

LINE 2A

- 10. Mauricio Báez.
- 11. Ramón Cáceres.
- 12. Horacio Vásquez.
- 13. Manuel de Jesús Galván.
- 14. Eduardo Brito.

15. Ercilia Pepín.

16. Rosa Duarte

17. Trina de Moya Vásquez

LINE 2B

CABLEWAY

18. Concepción Bona

E4 Charles de Gaulle

E3 Sabana Perdida

E2 Los Tres Brazos

E1 Gualey

metrosantodomingo.com

TRANSPORTATION

Constanza and enjoy a spectacular view of the Puerto Plata coast from the only cableway in the Caribbean.

Cruise Ships

The Dominican Republic's boom as a cruise line destination places the country in a privileged position. More and more visitors reach the nation via cruise ship and experience the many offers of sun and beaches, ecotourism, gastronomy and

cultural and religious tourism that the number one destination in the Caribbean has in store. The Port of Santo Domingo, regarded as one of the most efficient, safe and modern in Latin America, receives world renowned cruise lines, some of which have made it their home port. Other important and continuously growing Dominican ports are La Romana, Amber Cove (Maimón, Puerto Plata) and Samaná. The cruise line season starts in October and ends in April.



INTERURBAN



Anolo Tavi a Cente Demingo

Caribe Tours 809-221-4422

aribetours.com.do

Expreso Bávaro 809-682-9670

expresobavaro.com

Metro Expreso 809-227-0101

metroserviciosturisticos.com

Transporte Espinal 809-575-4880

transporteespinal.com



TAXIS







Apolo Taxi • Santo Domingo •	809-537-0000
Asociación de Taxis de Las Terrenas • Las Terrenas •	809-240-6339
Emitaxi • Santiago •	809-581-3000
Sichotarro • La Romana •	809-550-2222
Sichotratur • Juan Dolio •	809-526-3110
Taxi Bávaro ● Bávaro-Punta Cana ●	809-221-2741
Taxi Costámbar ● Puerto Plata ●	809-586-5335
Taxi Lope de Vega ● Santo Domingo ●	809-565-9595
Taxi Sosúa ● Puerto Plata ●	809-571-3097
Tüv Süd Taxi • Santo Domingo •	809-561-3333

UBER Puerto Plata • Santiago • Santo Domingo





RENT-A-CAR





AVIS •	
Budget •	
Europcar •	
Hertz •	

Honda •
National-Alamo •
Nelly •
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809-566-6666 809-688-2121 809-995-3150

809-567-1015

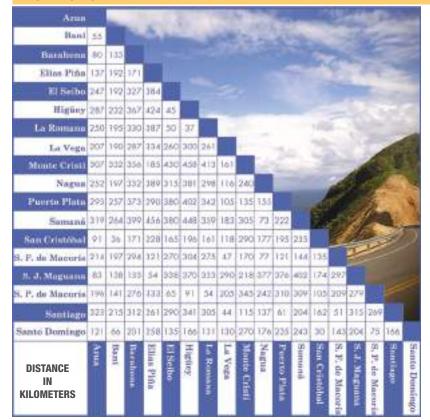
809-562-1444 809-687-7997 809-333-4000 hertz.com hondarentcar.com nationalcar.com.do

budget.com.do

europcar.com.do

nellyrac.com thriftyrd.com

DISTANCE CHART

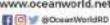




Located in Cofresi, Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic, Ocean World features an adventure park ideal for the entire family, where visitors are provided with the opportunity to swim and play with dolphins; interact with sea lions and even swim with sharks. A tropical forest with exotic birds, slides and water games, snorkeling in a beautiful coral reef aquarium and several shows complement a day full of adventure and fun.



809.291.1000 www.oceanworld.net









AIRLINES





The Dominican Republic is connected to all corners of the globe through very convenient flight connections. The principal routes are serviced by the most prestigious carriers in the airline industry. The main tourism hubs in the country also offer extensive interconnectivity routes for internal flights, making it possible for national and international users to cover these distances in less time.

Aerolíneas Argentinas
Aeromexico
Air Canadá
Air Century
Air Europa
Air France
Air Transat
American Airlines
Avianca
Condor
Copa
Cubana
Delta
Edelwiss
Eurowings
Frontier
Gol
lberia
InterCaribbean Airways
JetBlue Airways
Latam
Southwest
Sunwing
United

	809-621-7777	aerolineas.com.ar
	1-888-760-0141	aeromexico.com
	809-959-0200	aircanada.com
	809-826-4333	aircentury.com
	809-683-8033	aireuropa.com
	809-200-9191	airfrance.com.do
	809-621-7777	airtransat.com
	809-542-5151	aa.com.do
	809-563-2209	avianca.com
	809-689-9625	condor.com
	809-472-2233	copaair.com
	809-227-2040	cubana.cu
	809-200-9191	delta.com
	809-959-0144	flyedelweiss.com
	809-959-0035	eurowings.com
	809-959-3014	flyfrontier.com
	1-888-751-9004	voegol.com.br
	829-946-1072	iberia.com
S	809-688-6969	intercaribbean.com
	809-200-9898	jetblue.com
	809-959-0144	latam.com
	809-362-8278	southwest.com
	809-959-0035	sunwing.ca
	809-262-1060	united.com
	809-621-7777	wamosair.com
	1-800-148-5344	westjet.com
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AIRPORT DIRECTORY











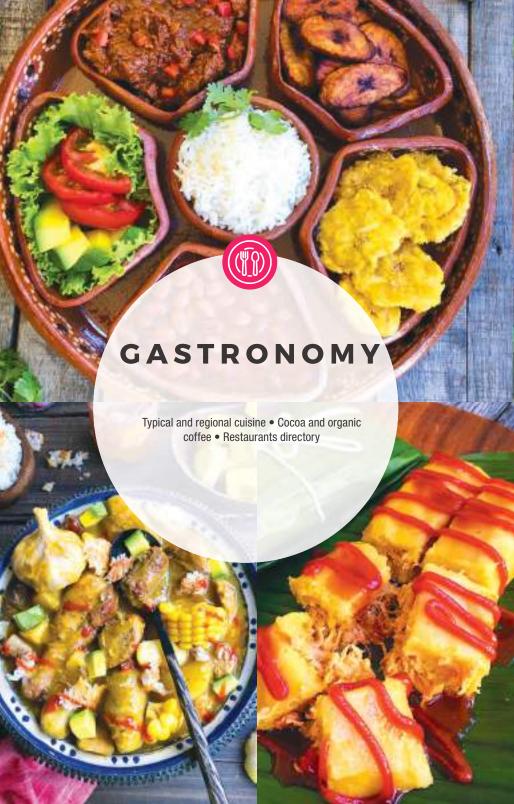


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Traditional Breakfast.

Although it varies by region, there is a consensus that the King of the Dominican breakfast is the mangú: boiled and mashed green bananas that are accompanied with fried salami, fried onions and fried cheese. There are who add other ingredients such as fried eggs, porkchops or avocado.



The Dominican Republic boasts many cozy and comfortable eating establishments that are headed by competent chefs whose skills and service will satisfy the most demanding palate.

Each restaurant carries an international menu, in addition to its own specialty. Conceivably, you can enjoy culinary delights from Germany, the Middle-East, Argentina, Spain, France, Italy, the Mediterranean, Mexico and East Asia. Above all, however, feast on some our exotic local specialties.

As a general rule, restaurants accept major international credit cards.

1 Info

By law, a 18% sales tax (ITBIS) and a 10% service charge are added to the bill. An additional tip may be added if service was particularly special or excellent.

Typical and regional cuisine

The typical Dominican kitchen is very rich and varied. The most common meal known as "La bandera" (the flag) consists of white rice, beans, meat, vegetables, and fried, ripe plantains or "fritos verdes" (which are nothing other than green plantains fried in a special way). The Dominican sancocho is a gastronomic

derivative of the Spanish cocido (stew), and each region of the country has its peculiar way of preparing it. Do not leave without trying a "sancocho prieto", made of seven different local meats. It is a respectable and respected dish.

If time permits, we suggest you try other regional specialties. Samaná's pescado con coco (fish cooked in a coconut milk sauce) for example, or chivo de Azua (goat dish from Azua) and chivo liniero (goat dish from the north western region), which has an exquisite, peculiar taste because the goat eats wild oregano daily and consequently, its meat is seasoned while the animal is alive. Also the delicious "puerco en puya" (pit-smoked pork), meat pies in leaves and "chicharrones de pollo" (deep-fried pieces of chicken).

Johnny Cakes and mangú, the gastronomic legacy of Windward and Leeward island immigrants, are part of our daily diet. You can order the former from the fritureras (women who sell fried food) or on beaches as "yaniqueques". The Dominican Mangú, a purée made of boiled green plantains, is a popular native breakfast dish that can be found in most hotels' menus. It is highly recommended to those suffering





Habichuelas con dulce/ Sweet Beans.

Sweet beans, delicious recipe that is also synonymous of dominicanity, is served in Lent throughout the country. It is said that there is no Eastern without a good cup of this delicacy. Historians relate its origin to the arrival of the french to Santo Domingo in the late 18th century.



from "Caonabo's Revenge" also known as Tourist's Diarrhea, known locally as "Caonabo's revenge."

The casabe (flat and round cassava bread) and catibías (cassava flour fritters stuffed with meat) are Taíno foods we keep in the typical Dominican diet. Those who enjoy natural food should know that cassava bread has a high content of vegetable fiber and less than 0.35% fat per portion. Casabe seldom goes bad, and it may be purchased in almost all the colmados (small grocery stores) and supermarkets in the country. In hotels and restaurants offering native foods, it is served as a substitute for bread.

Cocoa and organic coffee

In the last few years the cocoa that is cultivated in the Dominican Republic has risen to become the highest valued in the world. As per global rankings, the country occupies the number one spot in organic cocoa production and export. Various tourism circuits include tours in which the entire process, from growing the cocoa bean to chocolate manufacturing, is explained. Among these: Sendero del Cacao, in the Hacienda La Esmeralda, in San Francisco de Macorís; Hacienda Cufa in Puerto Plata; Sendero del Cacao, in Yamasá; and Vicentillo Route, in Hato Mayor.

Organic coffee is another of the country's agricultural and eco-tourism pillars. Get to know the communities responsible for producing this popular drink with tours that show you how coffee is planted, grown and toasted. These experiences can be found in the Atabey Coffee Route, in the province of Monseñor Nouel; Jamao Coffee Route, in Hermanas Mirabal province; and the Café de la Mami route, in Paraíso, Barahona, southern province that celebrates Festicafé, Festival of Organic, Coffee every year. The tours are an ideal opportunity to purchase these products at a lower price.



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Lorenzillo's Punta Cana
IG: @lorenzillospc

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Boca Chica • Guayacanes • Juan Dolio

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Reservations

Dominican Republic has many comfortable and beautiful restaurants capable of satisfying the most demanding palate.

Puerto Plata

La Casita Azul IG: @lacasitaazulpop

- **809-261-3330**
- Beller 40, Puerto Plata8



La Casita de Papi 809-986-3750
 ■ Cabarete10



Samaná





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Jarabacoa • Constanza

Aroma de la Montaña IG: @aromadelamontana @ 829-452-6879 • Jarabacoa

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Bottega Frattelli IG: @bottegafratelli

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Jalao IG: @jalaosd

 809-792-1262 ● El Conde 103. Ciudad Colonial5



Naca'n IG: @nacanrest **829-954-8908**

· Isabel La Católica. Ciudad Colonial2-8





Our beaches

Perhaps there is no better way of providing our readers with a more objective appraisal of our beaches than to borrow an excerpt below from a United Nations report on our beaches and coasts:

"Of all the tourist beaches in the world, few are blessed with such beautiful grains of sand or crystal-clear waters. The beaches are strewn with granules of sand that are so white that they seem nearly magical, fantastic. Without question, they must rank among the best in the world."

The choice is yours! You may bask in the magic of our unspoiled, virgin Atlantic shores to the north. Or you may lull yourself to wonderland with the white sands of our southern shores, alternately kissed and teased by the crystalline waters of the Caribbean Sea.

National parks

Designated and managed as the national parks system are: urban parks and recreational areas, natural habitats, and zoological / botanical reserves where the country's flora and fauna are protected. Among the country's main National Parks we find the Armando Bermúdez National Park, which, along with the José del Carmen Ramírez National Park, is the most important in the Central Mountain Range; los Haïtises National Park, in Samaná, although it also extends to the provinces of Monte Plata and Hato Mayor; and the Cotubanamá National Park, in the province of La Altagracia.

Traveling with children

Most hotels and resorts offer special facilities and activities to entertain visiting children. They also offer trained personnel to care of children during the parent's absence.

Additionally, our smallest visitors have attractive options that include educational, recreational and water parks such as: Peképolis, at Silver Sun Gallery; Screamland, at Ágora Mall; Aquamundo, at Sambil Santo Domingo; ; Ocean World, in Puerto Plata and Nickelodeon Hotel & Resort Punta Cana, Manatí Park, Sirenis Aquagames and Dolphin Discovery, in Punta Cana, among others.

National Botanical Garden

All known species of the island's flora have been collected, classified and exhibited at the Museo de Historia Natural (Museum of Natural History) as well as at the Jardín Botánico Nacional (National Botanical Garden). The latter resembles a huge emerald island amidst the surrounding urban development. It also bears the name of the prominent Dominican botanist, Dr. Rafael M. Moscoso, founder of the Botanical Institute of the Autonomous University of Santo Domingo.

In the National Botanical Garden there is a butterfly farm that is worth visiting. The area of 340 square meters includes a pond, benches and gardens and gives the traveler a unique show with dozens of butterflies, such as the monarch, an endangered species. The species vary according to the time of the year.

People who are hearing or visually impaired may tour and get to know the gardens thanks to a unique sensory experience known as the Sensory Trail.

🚺 Info

National Zoo

The Dominican Republic, as a territory in the Caribbean, is endowed with a varied yet peculiar range of animal life. A taxonomy of the island's fauna shows a predominance of the lower species, a rich bird population, and few native mammals.



Among the most interesting native species are the rock-climbing iguanas, of the cyclura type; the hutias, rodents of the solenodon and plagidontia types; the American crocodile, cocodryluys americanus acatus, and our "cigua palmera" Dulus Dominicus, the national bird, all examples of groups and species exclusive of our Antillean region.



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Cultural Square

The Plaza de la Cultura, an oasis for the city with its huge gardens, majestic fountains and ancient trees, just as its name suggest, is a cultural center located right in the heart of Santo Domingo. It has been designed in such a way as to allow access to its installations from three of the cities most important avenues: Máximo Gómez, Pedro Henríquez Ureña and César Nicolás Penson.

The modern building complex houses the Biblioteca Nacional (National Library), the Cinemateca Nacional (National Film Library), the Galería de Arte Moderno (Gallery of Modern Art), the Museo de Historia Natural (Museum of Natural History), Museo de Historia y Geografía (Museum of History and Geography), Museo del Hombre Dominicano (Museum of Dominican History), and the Teatro Nacional (National Theater). A visit to the Cultural Plaza is more than just a pleasant stroll; it is a walk through Dominican culture and history.

National Theater

The Teatro Nacional (National Theater) is a modern building located in the very heart of the Cultural Plaza.

The main auditorium can hold 1,700 patrons in comfortably designed seats that allow for optimal viewing from any seat. Its state-of-the-art modulated acoustics system can authentically transmit a whisper from stage to audience. Should your stay coincide with the theater season, it would be worthwhile attending a performance.



THEATERS





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Gran Teatro del Cibao Av. Las Carreras 1, Santiago	809-583-1150
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Santo Domingo	
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Santo Domingo 🚱 teatrolasmascaras.org	
Microteatro Santo Domingo • José Reyes 107,	809-802-0310
Ciudad Colonial, Santo Domingo, Santo Domingo	009-002-0310
microteatro.do	
Palacio de Bellas Artes • Máximo Gómez /	809-687-0504
Independencia, Santo Domingo	
Teatro Nacional • Máximo Gómez 35, Plaza de la Cultura,	809-687-3191
Santo Domingo 🚱 teatronacional.gob.do	

Sports and recreation

The Dominican Republic is a unique tourist destination in the Caribbean. Its benign climate allows you to watch or participate in a variety of sports and recreational activities year-round. Throughout the country's vacation and tourist hubs, different excursions to various sports activities and tournaments are regularly organized. Baseball, be it professional or amateur, reigns supreme as the number one sport in the Dominican Republic.





The annual international calendar for sporting events celebrated in the country is quite extensive. In Santo Domingo

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GOLF COURSES DIRECTORY





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Cocotal Golf and Country Club Bávaro - Punta Cana

Corales Golf Club Bávaro - Punta Cana

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Golf Club Cabeza De Toro Bávaro - Punta Cana

Guavaberry Resort & Country Club Juan Dolio

Hard Rock Golf Club at Cana Bay Báyaro - Punta Cana

Iberostar Bávaro Golf Club Bávaro - Punta Cana

Isabel Villas Golf and Country Club Santo Domingo



La Cana Golf Club Bávaro - Punta Cana

La Estancia Golf Course La Romana

La Romana Country Club La Romana

Ocean's 4 La Romana

Las Aromas, Santiago Golf Club Santiago

Los Mangos Golf Course Puerto Plata

Metro Country Club, Los Marlins Golf Resort Juan Dolio

Playa Dorada Golf Course Puerto Plata

Playa Grande Golf Club Río San Juan

Punta Blanca Golf Club Bávaro - Punta Cana

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playagrande.com

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countryclub.do

casadecampo.com.do

barcelobavarogolf.net

casadecampo.com.do



Federación Dominicana de Golf
809-338-1004
fedogolf.org.do

there are many good sporting facilities, such as the Centro Olímpico Juan Pablo Duarte, the Coliseo Carlos Teo Cruz and Sebelén Bowling Center, where gymnastics, basketball, boxing, fencing, judo, karate, tennis, billiards and bowling, among other sports, are practiced.

For those with a need for speed, there's the Kartodromo Julian Barceló, located in the Autopista 30 de Mayo. Here, important Go-Kart and Karting competitions take place and it is also an ideal spot for good, clean fun with one's family. Meanwhile, the El Higuero International Motocross Track hosts several international events and the Autódromo Sunix, located in the 16th Kilometer of the Autopista Las Américas, is the ideal venue for automobile racing.

Info

autodromosunix.com

Golf

For this sport lovers the country has magnificent 18-hole golf courses made by the most famous designers and world golfers, like P.B. Dye, in Casa de Campo; Robert Trent Jones, in Playa Dorada, Playa Grande and Santo Domingo; Tom Fazio in Punta Cana and the Jack Nicklaus's

internationally famous Punta Espada, in the Cap Cana zone, considered by *Golf Magazine* among the world's best.

Walks Through the city

If you are a habitual jogger or a walker, there are places in the capital city where you can exercise safely, both at dawn and at dusk: the Centro Olímpico, the Malecón, the Paseo de los Indios or Mirador Sur, Boulevar Winston Churchill, and National Botanical Garden.

In the metropolitan tour of the National District, we find the Iberoamérica Park, home to the National Conservatory of Music and the Nuryn Sanlley amphitheater. This pedestrian space includes a beautiful boulevard, an open-air gym, a medical unit, a children's area and an iguana farm.

Hiking

For both thrill-seekers and the less adventurous there are tours that have been especially designed to bring visitors closer to our fascinating flora and farms, with experiences such as the coffee route, the cocoa route and agricultural treks, like the Ginger route and the pineapple route, both in Samana. Don't miss out on enjoying the Mountain Trail in the







The Enriquillo Lake.

With more than 370 km² it is the biggest lake in the Antilles. In its hypersaline waters endemic species live such as the American crocodile and iguanas. Among migratory birds stand out the flamingo and the Florida Duck. Part of its touristic attraction lies in its sulfur waters baths.



Jamao River basin, as well as Jima River trail, in Bonao and the Socoa River trail, in Monte Plata. In the southern region, visitors find the Cabritos Island trail. located on the Lake Enriquillo; the coastal trails known as Sierra Martín, between Azua and Barahona and the trails of Rabo de Gato and La Placa located in the Bahoruco Mountain Range. In the eastern region visitors can travel through the Saona Island trails and the Our Father trail, which leads to the Chicho Cave, in Bayahíbe. Furthermore, the Puntacana Ecological Foundation offers a tour in the Yauva River area and, in the province of Montecristi, the peculiar Salt Route awaits you.

Equestrian Destination

Horse races take place at the V Centenario Racetrack, in front of the Caribbean Sea.

During the last years our country has become a destination for equestrian competitions enthu-siasts. With its spectacular polo fields, Casa de Campo Resort & Villas and the equestrian city Los Establos at Cap Cana make the Dominican Republic consolidate in this sport. In addition, the nearly 12 Paso Fino championships and those of other modalities such as jumping are al-ready a must for this public.

1 Info

Asociación Dominicana de Polo

809-696-2857 adopolo.com

Los Establos Cap Cana

■ 809-469-7770 losestablos.com.do

Club de Polo Casa de Campo

809-523-38951

(a) casadecampo.com.do

Hipódromo V Centenario

Second Secon

Water Sports and Fishing

The impressive scenery offered to locals and visitors by the crystalline waters that

Scape Park.

Scape Park offers everything from thrilling and adrenaline packed adventures to smooth and cultural experiences. Let your senses Scape while ziplining on a cliff, exploring ancient caverns, swimming in underground caves, jumping from water zip lines and riding in our splash hammocks! In addition to all these unique adventures you can also have the option to cruise along stunning beaches, snorkel in tropical waters or just relax in our exclusive beach club.





surround our island, make it a paradise for those who enjoy aquatic sports. Beaches with tranquil waters or with a strong surf, seduce the aficionados and professionals of windsurfing, jetskiing, sailing, sport fishing, deep-sea fishing, kitesurfing, surfing and diving.

Annually, the Marlin Azul (blue marlin) classic, as well as the Dorado and the Marlin Blanco (White marlin) tournament, are held in Cap Cana, La Romana and Cabeza de Toro.



Club Náutico de Santo Domingo, Andrés, Boca Chica ♥ 809-683-2582

(a) clubnautico.com.do

For deep-sea fishing and diving, almost all hotels along the littoral offer excursions to the coral reefs, fish sanctuaries, and



treasure-laden sunken vessels from the age of high sea piracy. On the Atlantic coast are sites of remarkable beauty that span five provinces, from Montecristi to Samaná. Along the Caribbean coast are La Caleta, Bayahibe, Punta Cana, Bávaro, and the Saona and Catalina islands.

Practicing scuba diving and being captivated by the flora and fauna of the underwater world will be an unforgettable experience.

There are specialized, world renowned companies that offer aquatic excursions for your enjoyment. Please make sure to check with the Guest Services desk in your hotel.



Audio guides and sign guides in different languages to tour the country's main museums.

3 809.565.0746 Audio Guide Dominicana



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809-991-0622



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Casa Museo del Pelotero Profesional Dominicano • Coronel Rafael Fernández 6, Ensanche Quisqueya • 3:00-7:00 p.m. Mon- Fri • Cover	809-566-0098
Casa Museo Hermanas Mirabal • Carretera Duarte Km. 1, El Conuco, Salcedo • 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. – Tue– Sun • Cover	809-587-8530
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Centro Cultural de las Telecomunicaciones • Isabel La Católica esq. 829-378-6250 Emiliano Tejera, Ciudad Colonial, Santo Domingo. • 9:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m. -Tue-Sab • 10:00 A.M.- 5:00 P.M. - Tue-Sab • Cover Centro Cultural E. León Jimenes • 27 de Febrero 146. Santiago. 809-582-2315

Centro Histórico Ron Barceló • Carretera Ingenio Quisqueva, Km 6 1/2. 809-334-2000 San Pedro De Macorís. ronbarcelo.com • 9:00 a.m. − 3:00 p.m. ext: 3101 - Mon - Fri • Cover

centroleon.org.do • 10:00 a.m. − 7:00 p.m. − Tue− Sun • Cover

Convento de los Dominicos . Hostos esq. Padre Billini, Ciudad Colonial, 809-682-3780 Santo Domingo. • 8:00 a.m. − 1:00 p.m. • 3:00 p.m. − 6:00 p.m. − Mon − Fri Cover



Faro a Colón • Boulevard del Faro, Villa Duarte, Santo Domingo Este. 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. – Tue – Sun • Cover

Monumento a los Héroes de la Restauración • Daniel Espinal, Santiago 809-241-1391 de Los Caballeros 51000 • 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. - Tue - Sat • 9:00 a.m. -4:00 p.m.Sun . Cover

Museo Arqueológico Regional . Altos de Chavón, La Romana. 809-523-8554 💸 altosdechavon.museum • 9:00 a. m. – 9:00 p.m. – Mon – Sun No cover Museo Bellapart • Av. Jonh F. Kennedy esg. Luis Lembert, Santo Domingo. 809-541-7721 museobellapart.com • 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. - Mon - Fri • 9:00 a.m. -



Museo Cándido Bidó . Mella esq. San Antonio, Bonao. • 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. • 2:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. - Tue - Sat • Cover

Museo De Arte Moderno • Pedro H. Ureña, Plaza de la Cultura, Santo Domingo. 809-685-2154

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MUSEUMS DIRECTORY



















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Museo del Ron y la Caña • Isabel La Católica 261, Ciudad Colonial, Santo Domingo. • 9:00 a.m 5:00 p.m. – Mon - Fri • 9:00 a.m 2:00 p.m. Sat • No cover	829-470-8489
Museo Dominicano del Larimar ● Isabel La Católica 54 esq. P. Billini, Ciudad Colonial, Santo Domingo. 🍪 Iarimarmuseum.com ● 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. – Mon – Sat ● 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Sun ● No cover	809-689-6605
Museo Fortaleza de San Felipe • Extremo Oeste Malecón, Puerto Plata. • 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. –Mon – Sat • Cover	809-261-1911
Museo Fortaleza Ozama Calle Las Damas 1, Ciudad Colonial, Santo Domingo. 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. – Tue – Sun No cover	809-688-1553
Museo Infantil Trampolin Las Damas, Ciudad Colonial, Santo Domingo. † trampolin.org.do 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. – Tue – Fri 10:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. – Sat – Sun Cover	809-685-5551
Museo Judio de Sosúa Calle Alejo Martínez, El Batey, Sosúa 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. – Mon – Wed – Fri Cover	809-571-1093
Museo Memorial de la Resistencia Dominicana « Arz. Nouel 210, Ciudad Colonial, Santo Domingo. Museodelaresistencia.com • 9:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. – Tue – Sun • Cover	809-688-4440
Museo Mundo del Ámbar • Arz. Meriño 452 esq. Restauración, Ciudad Colonial, Santo Domingo. → amberworldmuseum.com • 9:00 A.M. – 6:00 p.m. – Mon – Sat • 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. – Dom • Cover	809-686-5700
Museo Numismático y Filatélico ∘ Dr. Pedro Henríquez Ureña Edif. Banco Central, Santo Domingo. 🏟 bancentral.gov.do. •9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. – Mon – Fri • No cover	809-221-9111

Panteón de la Patria e Las Damas 52, Ciudad Colonial, Santo Domingo. 809-689-8501
• 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. – Tue– Sun • No cover



Of all the musical styles and rhythms that enrich our folklore, Merengue is king and has been declared an Intangible Cultural Treasure of the Dominican Republic.As a popular musical form, it is very dynamic and varies from one generation to the next.

Generally sung in our vernacular, we love to move to the thump and beat of this music which, according to the lyrics of a carnival song, pulsates in our every being the urge to: "...dance in the street by day, dance in the street by night." Merengue is the total sum of the harmonious interplay of the güira, the tambora (small drum), and the accordion.

The bachata, a musical genre whose sounds remind us of the Cuban son-boleros and of Puerto Rican dance, has firmly introduced itself into the taste and idiosyncrasy of the Dominican people. Also known as the "music of anguish and love scorned", this genre enjoys huge popularity abroad and is considered a true representation of the people of the rural areas of the Dominican Republic, as well as the sound of popular "fiestas".

f Info

The perico ripiao, a minstrel trio, interprets various popular musical forms in the rural environment. The Dominican tambora (small drum) owes its peculiar sound to having on one side, the hide of an old male goat, tempered with native rum and, on the other, that of a young female goat that has not given birth; the accordion and the third instrument is the the güira, typical Dominican instrument that consists of a grater made of latten brass in the shape of a hollow cylinder that, when scratched with a scraper, emits a buzzing rhythmic sound.

In the small town of Rincón Caliente de Guananico, in Puerto Plata, visitors can learn each instrument's history, as well as witness demonstrations about how they are manufactured. In this location, the birthplace of prominent traditional Merengue musicians, one of every five inhabitants is linked to the musical genre.

Great stages

Throughout the year several country stages are home to concerts and festivals in which Dominican music excels or shares the limelight with artists of international fame. One of the most anticipated events is the Presidente Festival, sponsored by Cervecería Nacional Dominicana, an event of broad media coverage which celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2017. On its usual stage at the "Felix Sanchez" Olympic stadium, some of the greatest Dominican music representatives have passed, like Juan Luis Guerra, Milly Quezada, Los Hermanos Rosario, Fernando Villalona, Miriam Cruz and Sergio Vargas; and foreign representatives such as Marc Anthony, Bruno Mars, Justin Timberlake, Juanes, Shakira, 50 Cents, Alejandro Sanz, Ricky Martin, Maluma, and Gilberto Santa Rosa.

A stage that has witnessed great musical events is the famous Altos de Chavón Amphitheater, next to the Casa de Campo Resort & Villas in La Romana. It opened officially on August 21st, 1982 with the memorable "Concert for the Americas", in which, among others, Frank Sinatra and Carlos Santana were presented. In its 35 years of existence, it has hosted more than 200 concerts and shows with the best of the Dominican music and international figures such as Julio Iglesias, Placido Domingo, Elton John, Sting, Duran Duran and Andrea Bocelli.

Since its arrival in the country, Hard Rock International has combined to perfection, cuisine and hospitality with good music, both local and foreign. The Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Punta Cana has hosted from Rihanna and Justin Bieber to Enrique





ENTERTAINMENT

Bávaro, Punta Cana

Coco Bongo

Centro Comercial Downtown Punta Cana 809-466-1111 cocobongo.com.do



Imagine

Av. Estados Unidos, antiguo cruce carretera Coco Loco a Friusa, Punta Cana 809-466-1049 imaginepuntacana.com



ORO Nightclub Punta Cana

Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Punta Cana 809-731-0080

© 809-731-0080 oronightclub.com



Pearl Beach Club Cabeza de Toro

© 809-933-3171 pearlbeachclub.com



La Romana

Onno's Bar

Altos de Chavón, Casa de Campo

© 809-523-2868 onnosbar.com



Puerto Plata

Ocean World Terrace

Ocean World Puerto Plata

©809-291-1000 oceanworld.net



Santo Domingo

Bar Parada 77 Isabel La Católica 255,

Ciudad Colonial 809-221-7880

parada77rd



Jet Set

Av. Independencia Km. 6 1/2

© 809-535-4145 jetsetclubrd.com



Hard Rock Café

Blue Mall Santo Domingo 809-686-7771

hardrockcafe.com/location/santo-domingo



Sabina Bar

Isabel La Católica 206, Ciudad Colonial

809-906-9706

sabinabarsd



Iglesias. While Hard Rock Live, imposing Concert Hall in the Central Square Shopping Center, Blue Mall - just next to Hard Rock Cafe Santo Domingo-, contributes to an even more exciting night life in the capital.

Night life

The pleasant weather and Dominican's innate friendliness and outgoing nature allows us to enjoy an active social life in almost every corner of the country.

We are happy and friendly people, and here the night starts with happy hours after work.

There are nice restaurants, discos, pubs, bohemian bars, and you may choose from different environments and shows according to your preferences and possibilities.

For moviegoers and film-lovers, there are modern and comfortable movie theaters that exhibit current box-office attractions. Movie listings and show times available at:

(a) cine.com.do.

However, there is an even more enchanting spectacle that can be enjoyed at no expense to you: a stroll along the Malecón of Santo Domingo. During the carnival celebrations, on New Year's Day, and every weekend, this ocean-view boulevard is converted into the world's longest nightclub.

FESTIVALS



Bonyé • Sunday • San Francisco Ruins, Colonial City, Santo Domingo

@ godominicanrepublic.com.

Carnaval • February/March

@ cultura.gob.do

Procigar Festival • February • Punta Cana/La Romana. (3) procigar.org

Festival Musical de Santo Domingo •

March (3) sinfonia.org.do

Barbarella •

May • @ presidente.com.do

Expo Mango • June • Baní

expomango.org

Rincones Festival.

June • Santo Domingo

rinconesfestival.com

Festival de las Flores •

June • Jarabacoa

(a) festivaldelasflores.com.do RD Fashion Week •

July 🚳 rdfw.com.do

& Wine Festival •

July • Punta Cana

Bocao Food Fest •

July

bocaofoodfest.com

Oktoberfest •

Octubre Santo Domingo / Santiago

(3) oktoberfest.com.do

DominicanaModa • October

• Santo Domingo. @ dominicanamoda.com

Dominican Republic Jazz Festival •

November • Cap Cana/ Puerto Plata/

Santiago @ drjazzfestival.com

Santo Domingo Colonial Fest •

November @ colonialfest.org

The Paradise Music & Arts

December • Cap Cana (3) theparadise.com

Noche Larga de los Museos • Spring

(March), Summer (June), Autumn (September), Winter (December) . Santo Domingo

@ cultura.gob.do



Ministry of Tourism @ godominicanrepublic.com • Ministry of Culture @ cultura.gob.do



It is possible to find anything you seek here and to acquire it for a better price than what you wouldn'talmost get anywhere else.

In Santo Domingo, as well as in its neighboring towns and inside tourism resorts, there are fabulous malls and commercial plazas with specialized shops that represent internationally renown franchises.

There are also specialty stores that have lingerie, intimate apparel, socks, and fine leather.

Art

"To know a country's art is to know its people, and also the emotions of the artists who have created it."

By visiting our art galleries you will be able to discover and appreciate our real native art, which is not the popular pseudo-primitive style that seems to be everywhere in other Caribbean islands, but something far more akin to the spirit and soul of outstanding Dominican artists such as Guillo Pérez, Ramón Oviedo, Alberto Ulloa, Candido Bidó, Rosa Tavares, Ada Balcácer and many others.

The Dominican School of Plastic Arts (located at the corner of El Conde Street and Isabel La Católica) maintains a permanent exhibit in small and medium formats. In addition to their affordable prices, these are guaranteed to be authentic pieces.



Do you wish to leave this country with a memento of refined craftsmanship? In both rural and urban areas, our people's collective artistic expression is usually manifested in the production of crafts. Each region expresses its style and specialty in a variety of artifacts that are available throughout the major commercial centers of Santo Domingo, as well as in the hinterland and tourist centers.

Special places of interest are: Mercado Modelo, El Conde street and Las Atarazanas, where a wide choice of crafts made by local artists are sold: horn, wood, leather, snail shell, amber and larimar articles; pottery, ceramics, baskets, embroidery, and locally-manufactured cotton fabrics.

Other prized goods are cigars, jewelry, rum, Santo Domingo coffee, casaba, chocolate and seasonal fruit marmalades.

Amber and larimar

Our national gem, also known around the world as the "Golden Gem of the Ages", holds millenary fossils where nature exhibits perfectly preserved evidence of life in the Tertiary Age. It has electrical energy that is clearly manifested by the attraction it has on lighter objects.

Ancient wise men attributed to it the power of counteracting negative vibrations and, because of these "magical properties", wore it as an amulet. According to tradition, however, the gem's magical attributes remain dormant unless it is received as a gift.

One of the biggest worldwide deposits is located in the Amber Coast and only in our country can you find mines of blue,







red and black amber, which are classified among the most desirable varieties.

The province of Barahona, in the southern region of the country, is the only place in the world where the larimar or blue pectolite is found. With this semi-precious stone, skilled Dominican artisans make pieces of jewelry that transcend our borders. It was discovered in 1916 by the priest Miguel Domingo Fuertes and in 2011 it was declared a national stone, as it constitutes a symbol of identity and cultural heritage of the nation. In Barahona it is possible to visit the mines where the gem is extracted and an interesting thematic museum.

The exhibition and sale of the finest amber and larimar jewels are in Santo Domingo, in Joyas Criollas, located in an old house in El Vergel.



SHOPPING CENTERS



Acrópolis Av. Winston Churchill esq. Rafael A. Sánchez, Santo Domingo ☎ 809-955-2020 ☎ acropolisdr.com

Ágora Mall Av. John F. Kennedy esq. Abraham Lincoln, Santo Domingo 809-363-2323 Agaora.com.do

Bella Vista Mall Av. Sarasota 62, Santo Domingo
809-255-0665 Dellavistamall.do

Blue Mall Punta Cana

Boulevard Turístico esquina Carretera Juanillo, Punta Cana 809-784-4001 bluemalipuntacana.com.do

Blue Mall Santo Domingo

Av. Winston Churchill esq. Gustavo Mejía Ricart, Santo Domingo 809-955-3000 Dumall.com.do

Colinas Mall Av. 27 de Febrero, Santiago 809-576-6555 🗞 colinasmall.com.do

Downtown Center

Nuñez de Cáceres Esq. Rómulo Betancourt, Santo Domingo 🚳 809-482-8710 🗞 downtowncenter.com.do Galería 360 Av. John F. Kennedy, Santo Domingo 829-995-7360 aleria 360.com

Megacentro Av. San Vicente de Paul esq. Carretera Mella, Santo Domingo Este

Bávaro - Punta Cana 809-552-8725/26 palmarealshopping.com

Plaza Internacional

Ave. Juan Pablo Duarte, esq. Calle Ponce Sector La Esmeralda, Santiago.
809-581-7044

tiplazainternacional.com

San Juan Shopping Center Carretera Barceló Km. 9, Bávaro/Punta Cana 809-466-6000 sanjuanshoppingcenter.com

Sambil Av. John F. Kennedy esq. Paseo de los Aviadores, Santo Domingo 809-234-5678 sambil.com.do

Silver Sun Gallery Av. Tiradentes 32, Naco, Santo Domingo. ₹ 809-567-3320 ★ silversungallery.com.do



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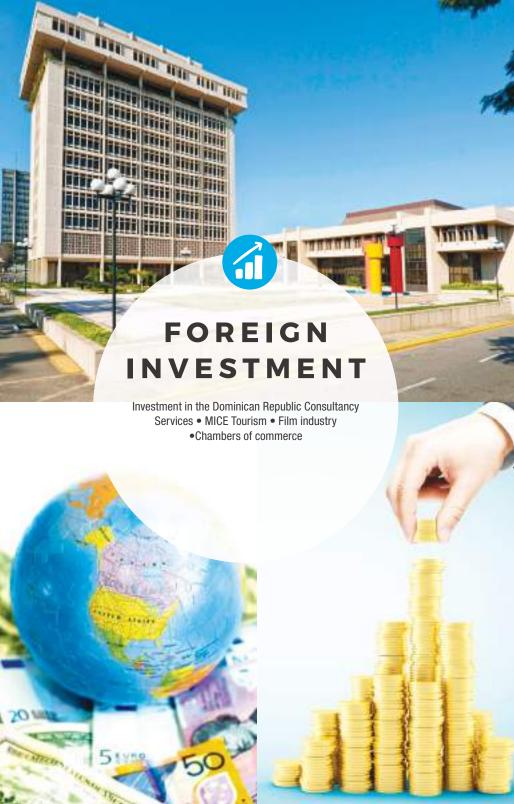
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Live up to more



If you are considering investing in the Caribbean region, the Dominican Republic has sets of laws in place that are aimed at providing foreign investors with favorable terms in specific areas.

Taking full advantage of these laws, several telecommunication, transportation, tourism, free zone industries and other firms and businesses have established themselves successfully in the country. The Dominican Republic boasts Single Window for Investment service (VUI-RD), an advantageous tool that places the country in a more competitive level in the region and the world as it offers investors a single, centralized point where he or she can perform main processes, including acquiring permits, certifications and licenses, all of which are required to bring forth investment projects.



Centro de Exportación e Inversión de la República Dominicana CEI-RD

- **③** 809-530-5505
- @ cei-rd.gob.do

Various private and public organizations can provide reliable information, objective counseling, and suggestions for succeeding in any entrepreneurial venture in The Dominican Republic.

MICE Tourism

All first category hotels located in Santo Domingo and within the Country, offer many facilities for meetings MICE-Meetings, Incentives, Conventions and Exhibitions. Consult the Hotel Directory in page 77.

INVESTMENT IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC CONSULTANCY SERVICES







ADETI- Asociación Dominicana de		
Empresas Turísticas Inmobiliarias •	809-562-3232	adetird@gmail.com
BESTINPROGROUP •	829-761-9088	bestinprogroup.com
Guzmán Ariza •	809-255-0980	drlawyer.com
Campagna Ricart & Asociados •	809-669-3045	campagnaricart.com
Codelpa •	809-567-0047	codelpa.com
DMK Abogados Central Law •	809-549-3446	dmklawyers.com
Estrella & Tupete •	809-724-0000	estrellatupete.com
Gestión y Servicios Empresariales •	809-381-1189	gestionyservicios.com
Russin Vecchi & Heredia Bonetti •	809-535-9511	rvhb.com
Therrestra •	809-567-5667	therrestra.com



Film industry

From the enactment of the Law on the Promotion of the Film Industry in 2010, the country was setting a dividing line with a before and after in the industry of the seventh art. Not only did local film production increased, but foreign investment also had a new niche. According to the National Film Directorate (DGCine),

most of the money raised is due to the large number of "reality shows" and series that are filmed in the different natural settings provided by the Do-minican Republic. In the gigantic locations of Pinewood Indomina Studios, in Juan Dolio, several foreign films have been filmed - or part of them - such as "47 Meters Down", "xXx: The Return of Xander Cage" and "Ladrones" "Thieves".



CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

NATIONALS

American 809-381-0777

@ amcham.org.do

British 809-616-2335

britchamdr.com

Dominican Chambers

of Commerce Federation

■ 809-682-2688 fedocamaras.com

Central chamber of Commerce of the Dominican

Republic 809-535-5330

centrocamara-rd.org

Eurocamara

829-899- 6344 ⊕ eurocamarard.org

Korea Trade – Investment Promotion

Agency-K0TRA- © 809-567-9733

& kotra.org.do

ProChile 809-537-2407

@ prochile.gob.cl

PROCOLOMBIA 809-562-1670

srios@procolombia.co

Santiago 809-582-2856

camarasantiago.org

Santo Domingo 809-682-2688

@ camarasantodomingo.do

Spanish © 809-567-2147

camacoes.org.do

BINATIONALS

Dominican-Belgian

© 809-985-8595

cocdbl.org

Dominican-Canadian

809-540-7545

ccdc.org.do

Dominican-German

3 809-688-6700

ccda.org.do

Dominican-Italian

809-535-5111

(a) camaraitaliana.com.do

Dominican-Japanese

809-565-5531

■ bonanzadom@claro.net.do

Dominican-Mexican

3 809-541-8724

cadommex.com

Dominican-Portuguese

● 809-565-3015 @ ccitprd.com

Dominican-Swiss

809-475-1721

camaradominicosuiza.org

French-Dominican

809-472-0500

@ ccifranco-dominicana.org



An Adults Only All-Inclusive Oasis Created Just For You

Situated on the while sandy beaches of Savaro Beach averlooking the Caribbean Sea is Mesă Punta Cana Beach -a new all-inclusive adults only playground in Funta Cana, Dominican Republic. This all-inclusive resort is only 15 minutes from Punta Cana International Airport, 40 minutes from La Romana and 2 hours by land transportation from Santa Domingo. trand new The Level expellence with exclusive restaurant, pool and Conciengs service 5 restaurants including an international buffer featuring new sufmary concepts giving guest access to a new driving experience every day free-flow driving: guests 18 and older can access relect restaurants at the adjacent Melia Caribe Beach expanding the culinary offering to a folial of 13 restaurants 4 Bars: Jigger, Olives, Replay Sports Sar and Swim-up pool bar Full service YH Spa (1) and Alness center Unlimited golf of Cocord Golf & Country Club * Daily activities and entertainment programs 5 Meeting Rooms with capacity for up to 700 persons

538 newly renovated rooms & suites Lagoan-style Swimming pool







Santo Domingo de Guzmán, modern and cosmopolitan, was the cradle of American civilization during the XV and XVI centuries. Founded in august 1496 by the advanced Bartholomew Columbus, Esq., it is the oldest city in the New World. Today it is a metropolis that blends the passion and allure of the Caribbean with the cultures that have contributed to its identity.

Exciting and seductive are two words that perfectly describe the experience for visitors as they surrender to the flavorful cuisine, the vibrant nightlife and culture and the possibility of shopping for the latest trends in fashion.

Numerous attractions define Santo Domingo as an attractive, versatile destination, where travelers can find everything from vice regal palaces to modern shopping malls and entertainment, as well as ecotourism routes for those who wish to be in contact with nature.

All this plus an asset that visitors, as per polls, appreciate for its true worth: the warmth and hospitality of its people, the expression of the soul of a nation that invites all who visit it to stroll through its streets and the many locations brimming with magic and authenticity.

A very practical way to get around in the city is via metro. The newest addition to the transportation system serves the metropolitan area with two lines that run through the city, one north-south and the other east-west.

Contagious rhythms like the merengue, bachata and the 'perico ripiao" - all a testament to the richness of the country's folklore - converge with other artistic manifestations and expressions, making the Dominican capital a unique destination that has been declared by UNESCO one of the ten most interesting cities in the Caribbean for cultural tourism.

Colonial City

The best way to get to know the Colonial City and discover all that there is in this

historical space that was once surrounded by city walls and forts is by foot. We suggest starting off at the Las Damas Street, the oldest in the first city of the Americas, where we feel transported back to the days when Doña María de Toledo would walk accompanied by all the ladies of her Spanish vice regal court.

When we see the mixture of architectural styles from different eras that mingle here we become witnesses to how old and new come together in perfect harmony with this vibrant city, which, over 500 years after its founding, is still bustling with cultural effervescent and nightlife.

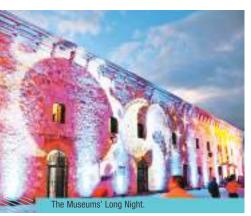
Arriving in Columbus Park, meeting point that allows you to cool down before restarting your walk through the old town, and you can make it more at ease by taking from here a ride on the Colonial Chu-Chu train, and if you want to remember your childhood. you can tour the streets in "trikke", a type of scooter-bicycle. There are other ways of getting to know the area, one of them is by bike, and you can rent one at Zona Bici, where you are also provided with helmet, lock and water bottle. If you want your ride to have a little more adrenaline rush, do it on a scooter at Colonial Road Company. Do not despise the ride on a carriage pulled by horses, as if it was a trip to the colonial times when the gig was the primary mean of locomotion in the city within the walls. On your way back have a look at the South side of the Columbus Park and see one of the treasures that Dominicans show with pride: the Santa María de la Encarnación Cathedral, America's Primate.

Culture and history are everywhere in the Colonial City. Get to know more about its rich past by visiting the Vice Regal Palace Alcázar of Diego Colón, las Atarazanas Reales (Royal Shipyards), Convento de los Dominicos (Convent Of The Dominican Order), the National Pantheon, the House of Jesuits and the Palaces that once belonged to Nicolás de Ovando and Hernán Cortés, among other attractions.



Malecon of Santo Domingo.

Headquarters of the traditional national Carnival parade and the military parade of Independence Day. Its hammocks, swings, photographic viewpoints and other attractions make it an ideal place for family recreation. The attention is called by its two iconic obelisks, the "Male" and the "Female."



History buffs can opt for the Museum route. Among the many museums, the Museum of Las Casas Reales, the Museum of the Dominican Family and the Museum of the Resistance, which features a chronological look at the horrific Trujillo Era and evokes catharsis from the pain he brought to so many, are all a must. There's also the Amber Museum and the Larimar Museum.

The Museums' Long Night is an event that takes place four times a year and brings in large numbers of people all eager to take advantage of the museums extended schedule to take in some history aided - as visitors can be throughout the year - by modern audio guides with services available for visitors that are hearing impaired.

Public spaces in Santo Domingo reveal the customs and practices of today's inhabitants of the older quarter of the city. Along with Columbus Park, visitors can walk through other parks and squares where they'll encounter people playing dominoes, street musicians, living statues, itinerant art galleries, antiques and folk art bazaars and street fruit vendors hawking their goods, all coming together to construct a sort of living postcard. The majestic Plaza España, an icon of fun and entertainment in the historic quarter, has served as the stage for many concerts and cultural activities and also offers an unforgettable gastronomic experience in a fun and lively environment.

All over the capital city, as in all the other cities and towns in the country, you'll find the famous "colmados", Dominican bodegas, or small grocery stores, that are a part of Dominican folklore and idiosyncrasy. Here you'll always be able to find ice-cold beer or, as they are also called, a "vestida de novia" ("dressed like a bride", a reference to the coating of ice that forms around the bottle of beer chilled to perfection). Most of these establishments serve also as thermometers of what is "in" in music as the popular radio stations dedicated to merengue, bachata and urban music's top hits are forever on.

WELCOME TO THE GREAT SANTO DOMINGO

Other tourism routes that will not disappoint travelers are the religious route tour of Catholic churches and landmarks; the National Independent route, showcasing sites and landmarks related to the country's fight for Independence; and the military route, featuring forts and other sites related to the city's military history.

El Conde, a beautiful pedestrian walkway that stretches for 8 blocks, exudes a bohemian, picturesque ambience in which varied architectural styles mix and merge. Its most important buildings are a part of our collective urban memory and date back to the early 20th century. The Copello building, La Ópera building, Ceramé and the López de Haro bank building are all samples of Dominicans' first attempt at modernity. The Baquero building and the Diez building are examples of neoclassic architecture; and Casa Plavime and the Saviñón building are Art Deco. Such architectural legacy denotes a transition from the Colonial to the Modern. At the shops in El Conde, visitors can admire and acquire handicrafts and souvenirs, and at its cafes, they can enjoy fun moments accompanied by tapas, cocktails and even a fine, locally produced cigar.

Beyond the old city walls

Santo Domingo is so much more. Moving towards the area known as the central polygon, we enter the Great Santo Domingo, which little by little shows the more modern side of the city. In the neighborhoods of Gazcue, Naco, Piantini, Paraíso, Evaristo Morales, Arroyo Hondo, Bella Vista and Mirador Sur, visitors will find themselves in a metropolis that frankly displays its budding development and dazzles thanks to its ample selection of restaurants, bars, theaters and shopping malls.

Just as in many other major cities of the world, the Chinese community shows off its culture's many charms in an area that has become highly popular with locals and tourists alike. In Santo Domingo's Chinatown visitors have at their disposal shops, restaurants, museums and centers dedicated to Chinese traditional medicine.





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NOVUS PLAZA HODELPA

Hotel located is the heart of the historic colonial city of Santo Domingo, the first city founded in America. A few steps from numerous museums, churches and cathedrals bars, restaurants and activities.

Calle Huston esso calle III Conde, Cluded Cotorus. Santo Domingo, República Dominicana. T 1,800 888 5500

> errorit resnovusolazattinodelpa com www.hadeipa.rsm/novus-class



(Commentation should be





The Plaza de la Cultura is home to several museums, among them the Museo del Hombre Dominicano (Museum of the Dominican Man), the Museo de Arte Moderno (Museum of Modern Art) and the Museo Nacional de Historia Natural (National Museum of Natural History). It also holds the Cinemateca Nacional (National Film Archives), the Bibioteca Nacional (National Library) and the Teatro Nacional (National Theater), the stage for innumerable artistic and cultural performances that have brought joy, awe and wonder to the lives of Dominicans. To access this important center, visitors can travel via metro and get off at the "Casandra Damirón" stop.

At the Palacio de Bellas Artes (Fine Arts Palace), inaugurated in1956, visitors will

find the Teatro de Bellas Artes (Fine arts Theater), the Ballet Folclórico Nacional (National Folkloric Ballet), the Escuela Nacional de Danza (National School of Dance), the Coro Nacional (National Choir), the Escuela de Arte Dramático (School of Dramatic Arts) and the office of the National Symphonic Orchestra. Multiple artistic performances and shows, theater and dance festivals and visual arts exhibitions take place here throughout the year.

Lined with palm trees, the Malecón (ocean front promenade/esplanade) is a mandatory stop for Santo Domingo visitors. Facing the Caribbean Sea, this seaside esplanade is one of the seven cultural treasures recognized by organizers of the

The flag Typical Dish.

Probably the most typical dish.
Comprised by white rice, meat
and stewed beans, normally red.
Sometimes beef can be substituted by chicken or even fish.
It's usually accompanied with
salads, avocado, fried plantains
or fried sweet plantains.



American Capital of Culture in 2010. The attractive avenue boasts hotels, casino, entertainment centers and restaurants. To truly enjoy it, sit on one of its many benches and enjoy a cold beer or coconut water from a freshly cut coconut as the sea breeze caresses your skin and gets you day-dreaming about a second visit to this hospitable city. Keep in mind that when the sun sets on the Malecón, it becomes the longest outdoor discotheque in the world.

Other important attractions in Santo Domingo are the Jardín Botánico (Botanical Gardens) and the National Zoo, which have been rated among the most extensive and complete in the Caribbean. The Botanical Gardens, with an area of two million square meters, and boasting palm trees, endemic plants, orchids and exotic flora is an earthly paradise for relaxation and exercise. The National Zoo, thanks to its vast extension and great diversity of species, is an attractive option for those traveling with kids. Their mascot is the soledonon, the oldest and largest species of all the insect-eating mammals in the Antilles, and the only surviving representative for native insectivorous mammals in the island.

Flavors that identify us

Over 500 years of fusions and influences have given shape to Dominican cuisine.



And Santo Domingo, with an extraordinary number of restaurants, is a culinary paradise that stands out in the Caribbean. Tropical fruits and vegetables, shellfish, fish and meats are turned into culinary masterpieces at the hands of expert chefs that delight visitors' taste buds. From fish with coconut, catibias (Dominican cassava empanadas) and Chivo Liniero (goat cooked in the traditional Northwestern region way), to the Shrimp of Sánchez, mangú (mashed green plantains) and the typical Dominican drinks, the array of flavors is an irresistible challenge for visitors. The food is always delicious.

Among the gastronomic events stand out Santo Domingo Taste, a festival for sybarists, with culinary shows, tastings



National Botanical Garden.

To be in contact with nature without leaving the city is possible thanks to the National Botanical Garden. The Japanese garden is a must-see for its scenic beauty and the peace that reigns in it. Its floral clock is one of the world's largest of its kind.

and conferences; Bocao Food Fest, SDQ Gastronómico, Oktoberfest and Rincones. To these are added the food trucks boom in the city, a trend that arrived to stay.

You cannot leave Santo Domingo without trying its traditional dishes: the Sancocho, a hearty stew that combines different meats, vegetables, plantain and tubers; the locrio, a dish that resembles Spanish paella; the mangú, puréed boiled green plantains; the Bandera ("the flag"), the typical Dominican lunch consisting of white rice, red kidney beans, meat and fried sweet plantains; roasted pork; the pica-pollo, which is Dominican-style fried chicken; the moro de gandules con coco, a mixture of rice and green pigeon peas cooked in coconut milk, and every type of fish and shellfish. At the end of this feast, there will be palitos de coco (coconut sticks), canquiñas (a taffylike candy cane), habichuelas con dulce (sweet cream of beans), jalao (ball-shaped sweets made with coconut and molasses), mala rabia (sweet plantains, guava and sweet potato cooked in simple syrup), conconete (a coconut-based macaroon), alegría, majarete (sweet corn pudding) and a great variety of milk-based sweets.

A destination for shopping and fashion

Thanks to its positive investment climate, the Dominican Republic has experienced over the last few years an economic boom that has been highly profitable for both foreign investors and local entrepreneurs. Hence, important shopping malls and centers have emerged in Santo Domingo, making it an excellent destination for shopping.

At Acrópolis, Ágora Mall, Blue Mall, Galería 360, Megacentro, Sambil and Silver Sun Gallery you'll find international brand name goods, handicrafts and fine jewelry manufactured by Dominican goldsmiths with native elements. The traditional chacabana or guayabera is a garment that shows that comfort and elegance go hand in hand in the Caribbean. Typically worn by men, there are attractive female versions of this classic, hotweather shirt.

Santo Domingo is also a fantastic destination for fashion. With Dominicana Moda the country has entered the world of high-fashion runway shows. The event has become the most important fashion event in the Caribbean and an excellent platform for the promotion of the country's talented young designers and beautiful models.

Carnivals for everyone

For Dominicans, Carnival is a transcendental party. Each year the Dominican people look forward to the arrival of

Columbus' Lighthouse (Faro a Colón).

Gigantic Monument inaugurated in 1992 to commemorate the Admirals' 500-year arrival.

The Las Americas Museum or Columbus Lighthouse is dedicated to the research and historic memory diffusion and the international heritage related to the discovery and the colonization.



February in order to experience the lavish display of colors, joy and popular culture.

A passion for baseball

Be it professional or amateur, baseball is the king of sports in the Dominican Republic. Eternal rivals Licey Tigers and Escogido Lions are the stars of local sports life, while Dominican Major League Baseball players are an alwayspopular conversation topic. If you visit Santo Domingo in winter, the Dominican Baseball season, make it a point to visit the stadium and enjoy a live game.

East Santo Domingo

Visitors can almost touch history in the peculiar building located between the Ozama River marina and the enormous Molinos Modernos industrial complex. It is the Capilla del Rosario (Chapel of the Rosary), dedicated to the Virgin of seafarers. It was built in the same patch of land where in 1498 Bartholomew Columbus, Esq., founded the Village of Santo Domingo. In the area of Los Molinos lies SANSOUCÍ, the port of Santo Domingo. Its operations include the reception of cruise ships, ferries, freight services and events.

The main Eastern Santo Domingo arteries are the San Vicente de Paúl and Venezuela



avenues. The latter is the most commercially active and its nightlife is a smorgasbord of offerings as it has been a popular investment area for Dominicans who return home after living in other countries.

East Santo Domingo is a part of the capital's "Green Belt" thanks to its lovely woodlands, which contain important water reserves. Other natural parks of great beauty in the area are the Manantiales del Cachón de la Rubia and the Humedales del Ozama, both rich in endemic flora and fauna. The National Aquarium is also located in the area and holds a live collection of the country's and the Caribbean region's marine and aquatic fauna. It's an attraction that will delight young and old. There are over 250 marine



Boca Chica.

Due to its proximity to Santo Domingo, just 30 minutes by car, it is considered the beach par excellence by the people from the capital. Famous for its peddlers, locals who make braids to the foreign women and the typical "yaniqueques" (we recommend the "longplay" format).



species and 90 fish tanks, 7 ponds and a submarine tunnel.

In 1992, among the commemorative acts for the 5th Centennial of the Discovery of America, the urn and mausoleum that allegedly contained the remains of the Great Admiral Christopher Columbus where moved from the First Cathedral in The Americas in the Colonial City to Columbus' Lighthouse (Faro a Colón), an important monument built in the late 20th century to honor his memory. Visiting it is an interesting experience as it has a permanent exhibition presented by Latin American countries, Spain and other nations. At night, the cross-shaped building projects its lights into the sky, serving not just as a guide

to sailors, but also as a reminder that the Evangelization of the Americas started here.

When you reach the Las Américas highway, exiting from the Parque Mirador del Este (Mirador del Este Park), you'll encounter the Los Tres Ojos Museum and Park, a space that combines natural beauty with vestiges of the Island's first inhabitants; the Hipódromo V Centenario (horse-racing track) and the Autódromo Sunix (motor racing circuit), whose beautiful sea views distinguish it from other similar tracks in Central America and the Caribbean.

When you arrive at the La Caleta Underwater National Park you'll discover, along with its exhibition of a Taíno burial ground, pre-Hispanic ceramics and sunken ships, many amenities for travelers and a fantastic spot for scuba diving.

Just a few meters from the entrance to the Las Americas International Airport lies the Multimodal Caucedo Port, a modern complex for logistics that is shaping up to become the most important maritime port in the Dominican Republic and the Caribbean. Close to this area, you'll find the facilities for the Parque Cibernético (Cyber Park of Santo Domingo) and the Instituto Tecnológico de las Américas -ITLA- (Technological Institute of the Americas).

Engombe ruins.

Vestiges of several structures that were part of the Santa Ana sugar mill, first in the Americas and one of the most productive of the colonial era. Besides knowing its historical richness, the visitor can make ecotourism tours in its surroundings.



Boca Chica

30 kilometers from the center of the city lies Boca Chica, one of the most popular beaches in the country and perhaps the one that best showcases Dominican idiosyncrasy, as we can encounter many elements that are wonderful expressions of our gastronomy, such as the famous yaniqueques (a deep-fried flatbread made with flour, baking soda, water and salt), fried fish and mamajuana (an alcoholic concoction that is very Dominican and made with roots, reeds, tree bark, leaves and sweet spices mixed in a traditional way).

From a fishing town and old sugar production center, Boca Chica has grown into a much-visited locality. Thanks to its proximity to the Capital, its beach is an ideal weekend and holiday getaway. It is also quite close to the Las Américas International Airport, the second most important airport in the country for tourist arrivals.

If you wish to stay in this area, there are plenty of places to chose from "all inclusive" hotels to small establishments along Duarte Street. In small popular businesses owned by locals, you can enjoy pork rinds and fried chicken, along with other fried Dominican delicacies that many consider a particularly delicious specialty of this area.



Both in Boca Chica and in the Club Náutico de Santo Domingo (Nautical Club of Santo Domingo) - also located in this region - visitors can practice different water sports and activities: diving, water skiing, kayaking, sailing, banana boat rides and fishing, among others. The La Boya beach, located in Andrés, is ideal for surfing.

The municipality of Boca Chica is closely linked to baseball. In this region, the Colorado Rockies opened a modern academy that facilitates off season training for Major League and Minor League players and serves as a training and development center for aspiring Latin American players.



Zona Bici.

One way of touring the historical streets of the Colonial City is by bicycle. The tour promoted by Zona Bici includes free or guided rides, maintenance services, shop and bar area. An activity well recommended and suitable for all ages.



West Santo Domingo

The most highly populated points of West Santo Domingo are the areas of Manoguayabo and Herrera. The municipality of West Santo Domingo is separated from the National District by General Gregorio Luperón Avenue. The country's first faculties of agronomy and veterinary medicine are found in this zone, both belonging to the Universidad Autónoma de Santo Domingo.

Engombe, a place of great importance for tourists and ecologists alike, houses a hidden treasure between the Haina River and Manoguayabo. In the community known as Palacio de Engombe lie the ruins of the Santa Ana Sugar Mill, a colonial building dating back to the XVI century and consisting of four structures: the colonial house or palace, the church, the warehouse and the sugar mill.

In West Santo Domingo visitors also find the Haina International Terminals Company, right in the delta of the Haina River and west of the town of the same name. In Haina, the infamous Dominican dictator Trujillo built the Río Haina Sugar Mill, considered by many historians as the second largest in the world.

North Santo Domingo

The Mirador Norte Park, located between the Hermanas Mirabal Avenue and Jacobo Majluta Avenue, is a natural sanctuary chosen by many families as a recreation spot ideal for taking in the soft breeze and lush green trees during weekends and holidays. Its 10 square kilometers include important wetlands and woodlands, as well as the largest biodiversity of all Santo Doming. It is the ideal space for bird watching, horseback riding, bicycling, boat sailing, picnics, walks and celebrations. Its restaurant, La Cotorra, is a fine option for a good meal.

The Isabela River, which flows through the northern part of the city, is born in the El Pilón Hill and has as its tributaries the Higüero, Matúa and Matiguelo Rivers, as

WELCOME TO THE GREAT SANTO DOMINGO

well as numerous streams and springs. It encircles various subtropical humid forest areas, some of which have been selected for conservation within the Green Belt of Santo Domingo.

Perhaps visitors don't have to travel all the way to Villa Mella to munch on the famous pork rinds, as the popular and super popular creole delicacy is now available in several stores and shops around the Capital. However, eating it in Villa Mella has its charms and is a worthwhile experience. This area is also famous 'the Brootherhood of the Holy Spirit of the Congos", which was in 2001 declared a Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity. To become more familiar with the folklore and traditions of the Villa Mella Congos, you can visit the Museum of the Holy Spirit. Also, in no other place in the world will you find finer Son dancing than in Villa Mella.

Near the town and a few kilometers away from the center of the city we find the Joaquín Balaguer International Airport, located in the community of El Higüero. Here the daily operations for commercial and private, national and international flights are all coordinated.

Guerra, Los Alcarrizos and Pedro Brand

An important municipality in the Great Santo Domingo area is San Antonio de Guerra. History tells that the first Dominican constitutional reform was performed here by a special congress in 1854. The community is dedicated to farming and growing sugar cane. Other municipalities that belong to this province include Los Alcarrizos and Pedro Brand, where getting lost in its streets offers the best opportunity you'll have to truly get to know ordinary Dominicans and become familiar with the daily going-ons of common citizens, those who also view the city with surprise and admiration.



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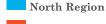
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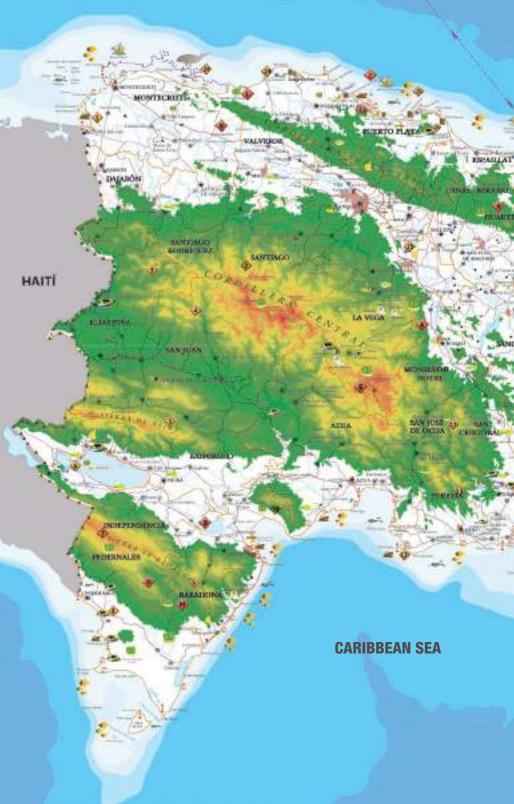
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• 18.537897, -68.356206 ♠ 809-959-2222 ♠ westinpuntacana.com • AP

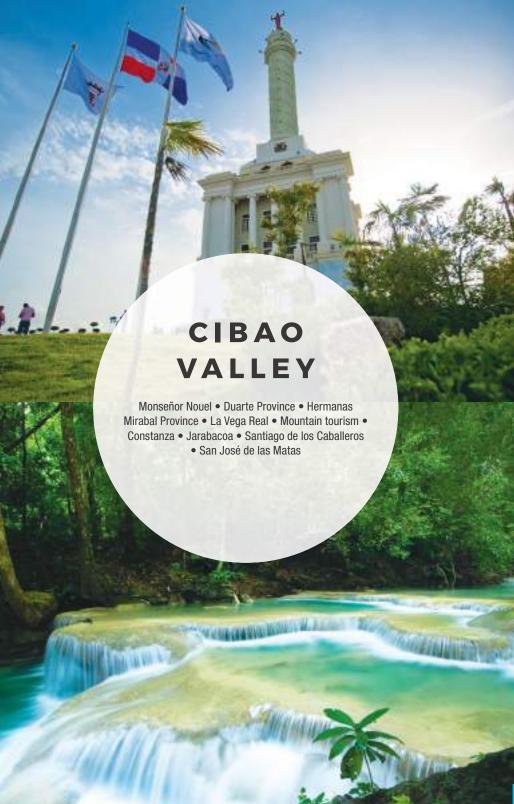
TORTUGA BAY AT PUNTACANA RESORT & CLUB (30) Puntacana Resort & Club, Punta Cana

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Observe the fascinating view offered by popular architecture and the intense colors of the dwellings of the rural folk. In the traditional bohío (a hut thatched with palm fronds) but also in the more contemporary homes, you can appreciate the creativity of the Dominican countryside.

While qualified professionals work hard to sculpt comfortable spaces to satisfy the various needs of the urban environment, the inhabitants of the Dominican hinterland simply study their surroundings and build houses that straddle the fence, between their practical daily needs and their vital importance of space. Adding a protective coating against inclement weather and insects, the rural homebuilder or homeowner ultimately infuses his persona into his home: the combination of various tones and hues mirrors the variegated tapestry of the struggles and joys that are an integral part of the human experience.

Since you are now touring the central mountain range (Cordillera Central Massif), let us tell you that our mountainous regions constitute a splendid natural resource for ecological and adventure tourism.

This exceptional region is the most fertile and productive in the country, our breadbasket. The provinces Duarte, Espaillat, La Vega Real, Monseñor Nouel, Hermanas Mirabal, Sánchez Ramírez and Santiago de los Caballeros occupy the center of the Hispaniola island and in them are also found great deposits of iron, gold, nickel, and other minerals.

Moca, the capital city of the Espaillat province, is a charming town: clean and populated by people who are hospitable, nice and friendly. It is also notorious for the bravery of its men.

Monseñor Nouel

Located in the Monseñor Nouel province we find Bonao, one of the oldest towns in the country, founded in 1495. The Plaza de la Cultura (Culture Plaza), right in the center of town, preserves the legacy of the renowned Dominican

artist Cándido Bidó, and the Museum House Cristian Tiburcio, named Bonao's heritage, offers a contemporary look at the art. In addition to its busy Carnival and the voice of Yuna Museum, the town has another cultural component that give fame, its Santos de Palo, (Wooden Saints) handcrafted figures made with oak, mahogany and other precious woods, receiving the excellence stamp for its originality by UNESCO.

To the borough's north we find the Jima jump, a perfect natural monument for relaxing with a dip and marvel at the mountainous surroundings. Among the varied cuisine of Bonao, El Anzuelo, a family restaurant where it is possible to enjoy a fishing day and try delicious dishes based on fish and crustaceans. One of the most distinctive features of this region are the famous carpets "sheaths", made by Dominican families that have made these pieces their main livelihood. When taking the route towards the country's center, we see them on display right by the road.

Info

Tourism Office @ 809-832-7135

Duarte province

The Duarte's province capital is San Francisco de Macorís, a progressive city with a lot of commercial activity and notoriously kind and pleasant citizens.

If you are traveling through this region and just happen to be a chocoholic, go for it and try a very different and entertaining tour that starts with you planting a cacao tree and then takes you through the Sendero del Cacao or Cacao Trail at the Quita Espuela Hill. It's an educational experience that guides you from the birth and early stages of the fruit to the factory that turns it into a delicious bar or a cup of that delicious nectar of the gods that is here offered to visitors.

1 Info

For further information and to book a tour:

Hermanas Mirabal province

Arriving in the Hermanas Mirabal province, you can take the tour through the Butterflies' Route, which allows an encounter with history, emblematic places related to the lives of the Mirabal sisters and the significance of the tragedy perpetrated against the martyrs of this province, victims of the Trujillo dictatorship.

The Dominican people have immortalized these heroines and honor their memory every year on November 25, a day that has been designated in their honor as International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women by the United Nations' General Assembly. The tour starts off at the Mirabal Museum and ends at the monument erected in their name in front of the home where the three heroinesfrom the community of Oio de Agua were born. For those who would like to get better acquainted with their history, we recommend "In the Time of the Butterflies", by Dominican writer Julia Álvarez, who masterfully narrates their lives and death in this best seller.

1 Info

Tourism Office @ 809-577-3647

La Vega Real

The origin of La Vega Real goes back to 1495 when Christopher Columbus arrived at Guaricano, dominion of the cacique Guarionex. Armed with a royal edict to establish the third fort on American ground, Columbus oversaw the building of Fort La Concepción (Fort La Conception). However, its modest extension, Villa La Concepción, gained so much importance for its gold foundry, that it became a center of much activity. It may have been here, it is believed, that sugarcane was produced for the first time in the New Indies.

Five kilometers past La Vega, atop the Santo Cerro, is the first convent of the Order of Mercy, a historical relic dedicated to Nuestra Señora de Las Mercedes (Our Lady of Mercy). It is the place where for the first time the Vera Cruz (Cross) was planted, symbol of Christianity in America. In 1493 Cristopher Columbus set there the one given to him by Queen Isabel the Catholic when he left the Palos de Moguer Port.

Legend has it that in the midst of a bloody battle fought between the native Taínos and the Spaniards, the Virgen de las Mercedes appeared when cacique Guarionex tried unsuccessfully to burn the cross.

Visitors can view a piece of the cross, preserved as a silent witness to the ignominious tragedy that was visited upon the indigenous people of the Americas. They can also contemplate the beauty of the Valle de la Vega Real from the very spot where Admiral Christopher Columbus, Esq., exclaimed before its magnificence: "This is the most beautiful land that human eyes have ever beheld."

The Carnaval de La Vega, Folkloric Patrimony of the Nation, is a colorful cultural event that attracts many national and foreign visitors to the beautiful city of La Vega every February; visitors who enthusiastically wander through the Las Flores Park and its surrounding areas dancing in the streets to the contagious and exhilarating beat of traditional carnival music.

O How to get there

Take Duarte Highway (N 1), about 130 km from Santo Domingo.

Q Where to go

Ruins of La Vega Vieja • Ruins of the Franciscan Monastery • Santo Cerro (Holy Hill) • The Sacred Museum, which along with the cross at the Santo Cerro or Holy Hill, the pedestrian way, the retreat home for emeritus bishops of Santo Cerro and other locations, make up the Path of Faith

- La Plaza de La Catedral (Cathedral Plaza)
- Balnearios of Bayacanes and Acapulco
- During carnival season the beautiful countryside of La Vega is ideal for enjoying rural tourism.

Hermanas Mirabal.

To visit this province is to be once again reunited with one of the most transcendental episodes of Dominican history. Minerva, Patria and Maria Teresa Mirabal, murdered by the Trujillo Dictator's orders, they are the symbol of the International Day of Women's Violence Eradication, proclaimed by UN in 1999. The best seller adaptation that tells this story was led by actors Salma Hayek and Marc Anthony in the film "In the time of butterflies."



₩ Where to stay

There are simple accommodations for travelers, but on a day-trip a stay in Jarabacoa is recommended.

1 Info

Tourism Office @ 809-242-3231

Constanza

"God is everywhere, but He lives in Constanza"

Constanza, a municipality of La Vega province that lies deep within the Central Mountain Range (Cordillera Central), has geographical characteristics that make it the cradle of diverse ecosystems, amongst which one can highlight the Valley of Constanza, the highest in the country at 1,200 meters above sea level; the valley of Tireo, La Culata and Valle Nuevo, all of which register temperatures as low as 0 °C during winter.

In the areas of San José de las Matas, Constanza and Jarabacoa, temperatures range for most of the year between 5 °C and 20 °C (41 °F to 68 °F), allowing for fruits, vegetables and ornamental flowers typical of mild climates to be successfully grown in the country. The best quality of produce, whether destined for local consumption or exportation, is found in this region.



O How to get there

If you are driving from Santo Domingo via the Autopista Duarte (Duarte Highway), approximately 5 kilometers after passing Bonao, you will find the sign for the Casabito Highway, which has been reconstructed as the required road safety standards, protected and signposted making it to be safe and passable in any kind of vehicle. It is a drive of about 50 Km through curves that wind around blue skies, lush green mountains and wild flowers.

A customary stop for travelers once they reach the top of the hill is the Shrine of the Virgin, where is a scenic viewpoint from which part of the Ebano Verde Scientific Reserve can be enjoyed. And, if you are up for it, we invite you to dive into El Arroyazo, a unique natural pool located within the Ecological Heritage site.



Jarabacoa.

Ecotourism destination par excellence in the country. Ideal sharing with family, friends, or to rest among the peaceful mountains' vegetation. Here it is possible to practice a wide range of activities: horseback riding, paragliding, river rafting, hiking, mountain biking, four wheels, golf, among many other ways of having healthy fun.



○ Where to go

Companies offer excursions on all-terrain vehicles, monster trucks and safari jeeps. You can tour forests and botanical gardens and go to Las Pirámides located in the National Park and Scientific Reserve of Valle Nuevo. The alpine vegetation that surrounds the area, among the coldest in the country, has been the subject of comparative studies with Swiss Alps • As we pass the La Culata valley, we find the Piedras Letreadas rock art monument, which has a surface that shows petroglyphic etchings made by the Tainos, the original inhabitants of the island . The Salto de Aquas Blancas (Aguas Blancas Falls) is a marvel worth experiencing. Located 1.680 meters above sea level and boasting temperatures between 10 °C and 12 °C year-round, it is,

along with the Balneario Las Palmas (Las Palmas Spring) a favorite spot for natives during Holy Week and summer vacations · Divine Child Sanctuary, on the top of the El Alto del Sillón Mountain, 1687 meters above sea level. • Ecotourism Bikeway Excursion which gives bicycle access to different crop plantations produced in the area, allowing direct contact with the agricultural production of the Valley and its protagonists. • If you are an extreme sports lover, this location offers optimal conditions for paragliding jumps. • For private aviation enthusiasts. Constanza offers the Aeródromo Expedición 14 de Junio (Expedicion 14 de Junio Airfield), where Fly In tourism is promoted and encouraged.

f Info

Tourism Office 309-539-2900
The Ecotourism Cluster of Constanza's
Office for Tourism Information is located in
the Expedición 14 de Junio Airfield. There
you can find information about all the
touristic attractions and tours available in
the area. constanza.com.do.

Jarabacoa

" Land of eternal spring "

According to legend, Jarabacoa, which in the melodious Taíno tongue means "place where the water flows", owes its names to the love story between a beautiful Taíno damsel and a handsome Spanish gentleman. The geography of the Jarabacoa Valley, perched atop the Cordillera Central at more than 500 meters above sea level, explains the year-round mild and even cool climate.

With an average annual temperature of 22 °C, this part of the country is the home of eternal spring. Here, the trill of the nightingale, and the whispers of the soft zephyr among the pines are a call respite, reflection, contemplation, and prayer.

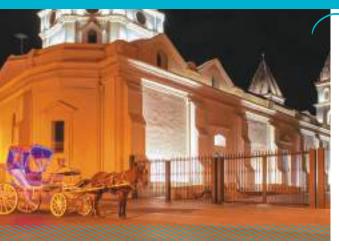
A fieldtrip to the Jimenoa River will reward you with one of the most fascinating spectacles/shows from the region, the Jimenoa jump, which can be reached through several suspension bridges over a beautiful water stream. Along the way you will find the Baiguate jump, forming a kind of staircase with its waterfalls. In the river of the same name, the traveler has at his disposal a natural pond surrounded by trees.

Jarabacoa Mountains and their cold spas are genuine shelters for domestic and foreign tourists who seek relief from the heat of the summer. In recent decades the area has experienced a real estate growth in the resort segment, which benefits the traveler with comfortable lodgings and the best gastronomy. Among these places we find Rancho Las Guázaras, 10 minutes away from the center of the city on the road to Jarabacoa-Manabao. The resort offers numerous activities of ecotourism, even organizing a tour to Pico Duarte (Duarte's Peak).

How to get there

Caribe Tours offers transportation from its bus station in Santo Domingo. If driving, take Autopista Duarte from the north, past La Vega Real, the industrial free-zone facilities, and the ornamental plants put together by the Salesiano School of Agriculture. You are now Jarabacoa-bound.





Santiago Apostle Cathedral, Santiago de los Caballeros.

Temple located next to the Duarte Park, in the city of Santiago. Within It is preserve one of the two only copies of the famous sculpture "The Pity" of Michel Angelo, and lie the remains of former Republic's president Ulises Heureaux and General Jose Maria Imbert.



After some 24 kms on the Federico Basilis Highway, the journey is over. Transportation options in Jarabacoa are: taxi, motoconcho, or horseback.

Q Where to go

The area is ideal for eco-tourism as well as adventure tourism. Rancho Baiguate has routes designed with different options that allow you to whitewater raft along the rivers. An excursion for the most adventurous is canyoning, a rappel down the Jimenoa Canyon, a drive to the water falls on fourwheel, off-road vehicles (Quad Runners), tubing along the Jimenoa River, a visit to a coffee factory, an ascent of Pico Duarte or paragliding with a pilot instructor (from a hill 950 meters above sea level) to experience nature's peace and masterpieces:

the fragrance-filled air, and the sight of fruits and vegetables that adorn the fertile Jarabacoa Valley.

1 Info

- **©** 809-574-6890
- (a) ranchobaiguate.com

1 Info

Tourism Office 809-582-5885 Clúster ecoturístico de Jarabacoa

- 809-763-4790
- (a) iarabacoard.com

Santiago de los Caballeros

Nestled within the Cibao valley, the fertile land suitable for the cultivation of nearly everything is the province of Santiago de los Caballeros, the industrial center of the country. Its capital, of the same name, is the second most important city in the nation and is recognized internationally for its tobacco industry: large plantations, a long-standing tradition of cultivation, harvesting, processing, marketing, and a relatively affluent populace whose wealth derives from this industry. Tobacco production includes varieties of blond, burley, wrapper and black.

Santiago is the pride of the Dominican Republic's tobacco industry. Its cigars are offered to the international market in much the same way as our Taíno ancestors offered them as symbols of peace to their

Santiago Metropolitan Hospital (Homs).

The Santiago Metropolitan Hospital (Homs) stands out for its high-quality standards. Its robotic surgery center, opened in 2015, makes it the first hospital in the Caribbean with this advanced technology.



friends and guests. Our country produces two-thirds of the premium, hand-rolled cigars sold on the international market.

How to get there

Caribe Tours offers transportation from its bus station in Santo Domingo. If driving, take Autopista Duarte (N 1) from the south to the north to the Monument of the Restoration Heroes, an impressive white marble structure that welcomes you to the city. Within the premises, the exceptional murals of the Spanish painter Vela Zanetti are exhibited.

Where to go

The tobacco museum and the first cigar Factory La Aurora, established in 1903 in the country. • Visit the Rum distilleries. • Las Aromas Santiago Golf Club. • Natural Monument Diego de Ocampo • Take a tour of Santiago and get to know, accompanied by the expert guides, the Santiago city and its municipalities main attractive such as:The City Hall; The Benito Monción Street (with varied entertainment options); The San Luis Fortress (important structure that tells the military and political story of Santiago from the beginning of the XIXth Century); The Santiago Apostle Cathedral (Seat of the Santiago Archbishopric); the Duarte Park: the Recreation Center (where high society families of the last century gathered); The Cibao Grand Theather; the Mercado Modelo (Model Market) (so you can buy native art and souveniers);

Monument to the Restauration Heroes: the Cibao Stadium (home for the Aquilas Cibaeñas team): the Cibao Grand Arena (Sports Palace of Santiago); the Leon Center; among others.

Info

Clúster Santiago Destino Turístico 809-583-1566 @ citytoursantiago.com

₩hat to buy

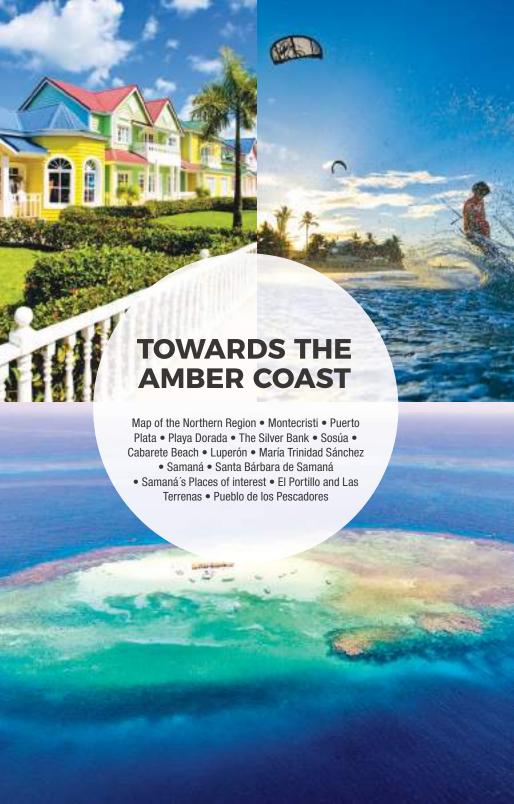
What not to buy! Santiago is a shopper's paradise. Here you can find it all. Art, crafts, embroideries and hand-made items, jewelry... and the best cigars.

San José de las Matas

It is the municipality of Santiago de los Caballeros, which has the largest concentration of attractive ecotourism due to its location north of the Central Mountain Range. Its rivers, waterfalls, watering places and the vast holiday project development, make it a fascinating destination for those seeking different from a Sun and beach holiday. While crossing through this region you should put in agenda a bath in the thermal waters of the Natural Hot Springs Regional Park "Aguas Calientes" and visit its particular crafted casabes (cassavas) factories.

1 Info

Tourism Office



The northern coast of the Dominican Republic, bathed by the Atlantic Ocean, is made up of the provinces of Montecristi, Puerto Plata, Espaillat, María Trinidad Sánchez and Samaná which have an immense tourism potential with all the appropriate natural conditions for the water sports practice.

Montecristi

Montecristi, is the coastal province of the country's northern zone that adjoins Haiti. In its arid land grows wild oregano and buckthorn, whose wood is still used by the country folks to make vegetable charcoal used for cooking.

San Fernando de Montecristi, the province's capital, the cradle of educators, is a town planned with wide streets that had their great economic boom throughout the last century when the important Grenada Fruit Company established itself there, with high quality banana and plantain plantations geared towards exportation.

How to get there

Caribe Tours offers transportation from its bus stations in Santo Domingo, Santiago and Dajabon. If you are driving, take Autopista Duarte (N 1) from the south going north until the point where the route practically ends. From there, in the town's central park, you will find the Town Clock, an orginal French relic from the

XIX Century, whose clapper still makes the bell ring every quarter of an hour, to welcome visitors.

Where to go

- · Visitors can follow the tracks of our Dominican forefathers by taking a guided excursion through the Route of the Houses (Ruta de las Casas) in the Historic Center of Montecristi, which takes travelers on a brief tour through the old quarter of the city. This interesting excursion lets visitors come into contact with family estates that have preserved their original furnishings and metal work from the XIX century. Highlights include tracing the steps of founding fathers and national heroes of the War of Restoration, and the Máximo Gómez House- Museum, which was often visited by José Martí and where the document that outlined the ideological program behind the Independence of Cuba, known as the Manifest of Montecristi, was signed.
- San Fernando Church .
- The delta of the Yaque del Norte River, the biggest in the country.
- The Montecristi National Park where you can observe the sleeping dromedary, the natural rock sculpture that lies in the sea, known as El Morro, and walk along the mangroves that conserve diverse species of the Dominican birds among which the alcatraz and the pelicans stand out.





Montecristi.

Ideal to spend a few days having a more relaxed tourism. It is an appealing destination for its deserted beaches and natural attractions, among which El Morro, a mountain with the shape of a camel's hump, and Cayo Arena, off the coast of Punta Rucia, the only coral islet of the country.



- The Center for the Interpretation of Salt located in the Garcia Salt Flats, which date back to 1890. The tour offers visitors the opportunity to become familiar with the sea salt industry via informative panels and an exhibition of the tools that are used daily.
- Beaches: Buen hombre (Good Man), Playas Costa Verde (Green Coast Beaches), La Granja (The Farm), Playa Popa (Popa Beach), Playa del Morro (The Morro Beach), with steep bank, strong tides and deep waters.
- Cayos Los Siete Hermanos (The Seven Brother Keys), seven virgin islands that encircle a coral area of more than 30 kms, with a splendid marine fauna, perfect for scuba diving. For avid bird-watchers, the keys offer an impressive spectacle each

May, when the bubies come from Florida to mate.

- Another novelty is the Cayo Arena coral islet, which many call Paradise Key due to the beautiful coloring of the mangroves that welcome visitors when they get off their boats. It is a perfect place to observe manatees, protected endemic mammals. Over 250 coral reefs are visible for those who opt to scuba dive in the crystalline waters. The best way to get there is by taking the circuit from Punta Rucia, Puerto Plata.
- The splendid Manzanillo Bay, a beautiful corner of the world and guardian of one nature's best treasures, appears to have been created for rest and contemplation. It is located far westward of the northwestern coast. With crystalline waters that run over a mantle of incredibly white sand, Manzanillo awaits a bold and daring investment that can transform it into the ultimate vacation spot without disturbing its spiritual and ecological balance or the livelihood or its inhabitants, who make up for whatever material wealth they might lack with smiles and kindness. In the Mangrove National Park of Estero Balsa, fishing boats are a new attraction; 52 of them were painted with striking illustrations to raise awareness about the parrotfish's closure.

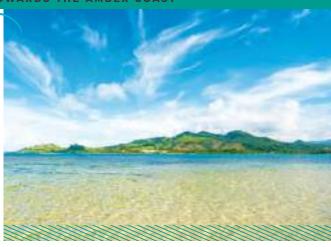
X Where to eat

In any small restaurant or affordable cafeteria in or around town, one can enjoy the

TOWARDS THE AMBER COAST

Maimón's Bay.

Natural reserve located 10 km away from Puerta Plata. Since 2015 famous for sheltering the modern ship cruise terminal Amber Cove of Carnival Corporation. The bay is defined by Punta Maimón to the west and Punta de la Guardia to the east.



delicious regional dish chivo liniero (goat dish), which has an exquisite and peculiar taste because the goat graze on wild oregano daily and consequently, its meat is seasoned and even marinated while it is still alive.

1 Info

Tourism Office § 809-579-3078 Clúster Turístico Cultural Montecristi

© 809-579-2452

@ venamontecristi.com

Puerto Plata

Between the sea and the mountains, 235 km from Santo Domingo, the "Bride of the Atlantic" awaits you.

To the north are the waters of the Atlantic, its waves lapping over the beautiful beach of golden sand with a soothing murmur. To the west lies a small peninsula where the Castillo de San Felipe (San Felipe Castle) has stood since 1540; and to the east is Long Beach, a beautiful beach with a great extension of golden sand.

A pine fossil resin from the miocene age, endowed the region with amber mines, the national gem that entraps millenary fossils. Since within the province lies one of the world's largest amber deposits, this coast is known as the Costa de Ambar (Amber Coast).

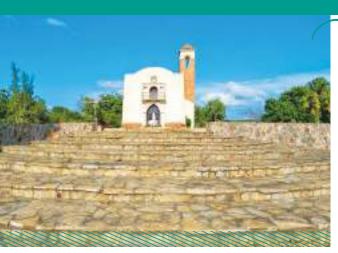
Puerto Plata's historical importance derives from its primacy as the venue of the principal events that took place in the first decade following the discovery of the Americas.

Its placid coasts of exuberant vegetation welcomed on December 5, 1492, the maiden landing of the Santa María, the ship that was carrying the brilliant navigator and his companions on December 5, 1492. It was also from here that a fort called "Christmas" was built.

Finding Fort Christmas destroyed during his second voyage, Columbus explored the area to the west of the original construction site and chose an open inlet where they founded the first city in the New World to be baptized with the name of La Isabela, in honor of Spain's Queen, Isabel la Católica in 1493.

La Isabela was the seat of the first European government in the Americas. It was here that the first court of law adjudicated disputes and where, according to historical records, Father Bernardo Boil celebrated the first mass in the New World on January 6, 1494.

History points out relevant people from Puerto Plata, who had an outstanding participation in the literary field and the independence wars, such as General



Las Américas Temple, Luperón.

In La Isabela, first city founded by the Spanish on this side of the Atlantic, took place the first religious service registered in the New World upon the arrival of Cristopher Columbus. The historical temple Las Americas is also called Sanctuary of Jesus Christ Evangelizer.



Gregorio Luperon, first sword of the Restoration and Emilio Prud'Homme, poet and educator, author of the Dominican national anthem's lyrics.

Today, Puerto Plata lives for tourism and from tourism.By air, there are scheduled direct flights from overseas, and you can get a connecting flight to Puerto Plata from most major cities in the world. The major cities are provided service by reputable international carriers.

Playa Dorada

Playa Dorada, in its extensive sundrenched area of fine golden sand, offers a large number of tourist rooms that have been designed with the visitor's maximum enjoyment in mind.

It offers meeting and convention facilities, a commercial plaza, casinos, and a selection of bars, cafeterias, clubs, and small, comfortable and cozy restaurants capable of satisfying the most demanding palate.

The benign climate of the region allows year-round sporting activities. Playa Dorada has excellent tennis courts, a professional, 18-hole golf course, designed by the English architect, Robert Trent Iones: it has all areas for practicing almost all aquatic sports and activities, eco-tourism, guided adventure tourism like River Rafting, Jeep Safari, Monster Truck, Paragliding, Out Back Safari, such as guided routes at the Siete Chorreras Chorreras (The Seven Spouts), the 27 Charcos (Puddles), Salto del Limón, scubadiving, deep-sea fishing, to a fishing town for eating fish daily, to see the humpback whales that come in the winter to mate and give birth on the Banco de la Plata (Silver Bank), or simply to ride, walk, or run.

The Amber Coast has not only beautiful, sunny beaches but also treasured precious jewels from the tertiary age. It has natural deposits of the best Dominican amber, which can be purchased, made into jewelry of different shapes and forms,

and carved by Puerto Plata-based foreign and native artisans. Don't miss a visit to the Amber Museum.

If you like heights, an aerial tram takes you to the summit of Loma Isabel de Torres, some 800 meters/2620 feet above sea level to enjoy the panoramic view.

Take advantage of your visit to eat shellfish and the fabulous crab claws, cooked native-style, served in most hotels and restaurants. Italian ice creams and ginger cookies are also a delight to the palate.

The Silver Bank

The Banco de la Plata or Silver Bank, an underwater platform of coralline origin located 80 nautical miles from the North Coast of the Dominican Republic, extends from the Bahamas to the Banco de la Navidad (Christmas Bank). Thousands of very distinguished visitors travel to this underwater sanctuary every year and are always received by Dominicans with the outmost respect and admiration. These "visitors" are the humpback whales that migrate from the frigid waters of the North Atlantic to reproduce in the warm and peaceful waters of our coasts.

Porfirio Rubirosa, renowned Dominican playboy of the international jet set who died in a car accident in Paris, once hired French divers to recover the sunken treasures of the shipwrecked Spanish galleons in the Banco de la Plata (Silver Bank); but the galleons were not found, and Rubirosa failed in this adventure. Other expeditions have had better luck, and some museums display pieces obtained from these archeological explorations.

Sosúa

Sosúa is a beautiful area, located some 16 km from Puerto Plata, where natives live in harmony with a sizeable colony of European immigrants who came to these shores as a consequence of the massive exodus generated by the turmoil of World War II.

The immigrant group, made up mostly of German and Austrian Jews, settled in Sosúa as a result of the commitment made by the Dominican Republic at the World Conference for European Refugees, held in France in 1938, to contribute to alleviating the distressing consequences of the Holocaust that Adolph Hitler had unleashed against all Jews.





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San Felipe Fortress.

One of the most important colonial military structures of the Caribbean. Its construction was completed by 1577. Its objective was to defend Puerto Plata and the Country's north coast from the British and Dutch, and the French pirates who coveted the region's gold and silver.



from which emerges a lush vegetation of almond and coconut groves.

1 Info

Tourism Office 809-571-3433

Cabarete Beach

Playa Cabarete is a favorite summer resort for locals as well as tourists, especially the younger visitors who come to enjoy its strong surf, the beautiful range of blue tones reflected in its clear waters, and the informal tourist characteristics it offers.

Given its special features, winds from 15 to 25 knots coming from the Atlantic and the safety that the wind direction represents for the competitors (blowing as they do, from inside-out) Cabarete is considered one of the world's best for windsurfing.

Every year during Cabarete Race Week, the city of Cabarete hosts the world cup for professional windsurfing and, for several years now, the world cup for professional kiteboarding. This activity has generated a lot of tourist services.

You can enjoy good food in small restaurants scattered around town, and there are hotels which offer very good service.

Each year in the month of November there's a can't miss date in Puerto Plata,

Unlike other immigrants who came to Puerto Plata at the turn of the century as marine workers, this refugee group was made up of professionals, skilled craftsmen, and corporate executives. Because of the level of their intellectual acumen, they have exerted a positive influence on the region's socio-economic development.

In Sosúa you can enjoy modern comforts within the calm and peace of a fishing village. Discover the rich Jewish heritage; visit the museum and the first synagogue established in the country.

Sosúa beach, nestled in an open bay, offers swimmers a splendid panoramic view that is lost over the mantle of golden sand Sosúa and Cabarete, where an audience of music-loving locals and tourists enjoy the best jazz at the DR Jazz Festival.

1 Info

Ø drjazzfestival.com

(i) Info

Tourism Office 🕒 809-571-0962

Luperón

In the municipal district of La Isabela, in Luperon, we find The Hispaniola National Park, created in 2009 to preserve the cultural heritage of La Isabela historic site, first European seat in the new world, with its archaeological sites, sunk Galleons in the Bay of La Isabela and ceremonial squares of the ancient Taino inhabitants. Here, the foundations of Cristopher Columbus' house are preserved, the Church where the first mass was officiated and on-site cemetery. The Park also includes mangroves and wetlands at the mouth of the Bajabonico River, La Culebra Creek and its tributaries, cliffs, caves and the coast of Cape Isabela.

The imposing Luperon Bay, on the shores of the Atlantic Ocean, transcends in history for being the place where Columbus sought refuge from the weather pounding the area. The Admiral christened it "Port of Thanks or Grace", because he managed to keep his fleet safe in it. In recent years the beautiful Bay has become an important spot for local and worldwide sailing.

() Info

Tourism Office 3 809-571-8002

Ø How to get there

If you are in Santo Domingo or Santiago, you can choose the Metro Tours services to head to the Novia del Atlantico (Atlantic's Bride), but if you rather drive, it is recommended that if you come from the capital, once you arrive to Santiago make sure to take the North Circunvalación Ave. Despite that for this one you need to pay the toll, you'll notice that it is more efficient in terms of time and gas saving.

Q Where to go

- Paso de los Hidalgos, milepost of the first land route used by the conquerors.
- Take the urban route that forms part of the historic zone, where diverse architectural styles can be appreciated, among which the romantic Victorian style prevails; Fort of San Felipe and the Fort Museum (along the Malecon) are of historical importance and testify to the areas colonial past.
- The Gregorio Luperón House Museum, dedicated to National Hero and driving force behind the Restauration of the Dominican Republic, General Gregorio Luperón, is an important Victorian-style cultural and tourist attraction that exhibits a decoration that boasts relics of the old streets of Puerto Plata, the trips of important historical figures through Europe, scenes of war and of the main buildings of the 19th century.
- museogregorioluperon.com
- The Puerto Plata promenade is one of the most beautiful and complete in the Dominican Republic. It stands out thanks to its wide sidewalks, ample streets, its La Puntilla amphitheater, with a capacity to accommodate over 5,000 people; and its spectacular views of the Atlantic Ocean.
- Within the beautiful beaches located in the Amber seacoast are: Acapulco, Alicia, Bergantín, Boca de Cangrejos, Cabarete, Caño Grande, Chiquita, Cofresí, Copello, Cosita Rica, Costa Dorada, Costámbar, Encuentro, Long Beach, Luperón, Marapicá, Mariposa and Playa Dorada.
- Ocean World, Water Park located in Cofresi Beach, offers a night full of entertainment with its show "Bravissimo", considered the best disco environment of the area, with live performances, audiovisual effects, and unlimited drinks included.

@ oceanworld.net

- Learn about the Brugal factory, the largest rum producer, produced the traditional way in the country since 1888, there are tours that include tasting and the chance to buy bottles of rum of unsurpassed quality.

 809-261-1888.
- Crystalline waters and soft white sands are the main characteristics of La Ensenada, in Punta Rucia, a beautiful beach where travelers find small stores selling refreshing drinks and exquisite Dominican food, including delicious just-caught fish and seafood.
- Get to know the Jewish Museum and its synagogue in Sosúa.
- Damajagua, a Taino Word that refers to the trees found in the area, is a locality found in the municipality of Imbert in the province of Puerto Plata, that delights visitors with its famous 27 waterfalls, a natural wonder where numerous falls and crystalclear water springs that originate atop the mountains of the municipalities of Altamira and Imbert converge. Venturing out to the 27 falls is a memorable experience.
- 27charcos.com
- At the Hacienda Cufa, found in the municipality of La Mariposa de Guananico, nature, harmony and the smell of chocolate is a recipe for happiness. The eco-tourism project produces organic cocoa and currently does all cocoa processing in an artisanal manner, from planting, recollection, extraction of the fruit and fermentation to drying, toasting, grinding and manufacturing the delicious final products that result from all it all.
- In the municipality of Altamira we find the Community Baseball Gallery and the stadium dedicated to Dominican Major League baseball star Bartolo Colón, who has pitched for the Boston Red Sox, the New York Yankees and the Oakland Athletics.
- Natural Monument Lagunas Cabarete y Goleta. The most amazing thing is its cavern system, conformed by more than 30 caverns where we can see stalactites and stalagmites of capricious shapes.

- Fricolandia in Luperon. A different place to spend the day. It offers local dishes (food) and it has a minibar.
- The 19 de Junio Footpath (Trail). Ecological path (trail) that commemorates the historical feat (exploits) of 1949. It is 464 mts long, was thought as circuit type falling into the Luperon bay.



Tourism Office © 809-586-3676 Clúster Turístico del Destino Puerto Plata

- **309-320-1259**
- (3) discoverpuertoplata.com

María Trinidad Sánchez

Arriving in Rio San Juan, municipality in the María Trinidad Sánchez province, it's possible to take a refreshing break and stay overnight in high quality hotel facilities. Its attractions include the beautiful Playa Grande, a beach of international fame, and the Caletón beach of calm blue waters. If you travel in February, enjoy the Carnival in Rio San Juan, which is unique, being inspired on marine species.

Very close there is a paradisiacal place, the Gri-Gri Lagoon, where a botero guides you between the mangroves through a crystalline mineral water channel to discover coral banks, la Playita, the Golondrinas Cave, El Caleton and Puerto Escondido, a corner full of spell. The spot where the sea meets the lagoon is amazing.

If you are fond of diving, in the municipality of Cabrera El Dudu lagoon offers the opportunity to practice it in cave diving specialty. There are divers from all over the world attracted by its turquoise waters and the local flora, which reveal the undeniable beauty of the surroundings.

Cabrera is also famous for its sweeping beaches, including Diamante, La Entrada, Arroyo Salado and the Breton. In the same coastal road bordering the Escocesa Bay we find Punta Preciosa and a little further the French old Cape, declared a natural

monument. Very high marine terraces emerge in this coast and the underwater platform almost disappears.

Nagua, head municipality of the María Trinidad Sánchez province, is one of the main cities with major cocoa producers from the Dominican Republic. It is located on a submersion coast that offers a different set, this because the sea advances over the town to such an extent that it becomes an urban beach where the traveler can make a stop along his way and is welcomed by the warmth of its residents.



Tourism Office @ 809-589-2831

Samaná

Samaná province, with the peninsula and bay bearing its name, its many lakes and seascapes, constitute, without taking anything away from the other regions, our country's most extraordinary geographical coastal relief, and the most exotic asset of the Dominican tourist industry.

A tour along this ecological corridor, carefully designed with care by the Supreme Creator, is truly a spiritual journey. Guided boat tours are available from the ports of Sánchez, Sabana de la Mar, Samaná, Miches, Laguna Redonda, Laguna del Limón.

The first point of contact with the peninsula of Samaná, as one enters it from the west, is the vibrant city of Sánchez, along the railroad network whose construction was overseen by Mr. Baird, a Scotsman. Indeed, for years, rail service had linked the cities of La Vega and San Francisco de Macorís with the bay area of Samaná.

Here in this port city, you can enjoy fresh seafood; the bay is a famous breeding ground for fish and shellfish. Take





Laguna Dudú.

It is located on the north coast, next to Diamante Beach, 25 kilometers from Nagua. Formed by two lagoons that communicate among themselves. Its depth is 32 meters and a dense forest surrounds it. Several of the nearby caves - as the Taina - exhibit pre-Columbian art on his walls.



advantage of the opportunity to eat freshly caught shrimp and fish at Manita's friedfood stand.

This is the fork in the road, the moment to decide which way to go. Whether to go north, passing through the mountain range along a panoramic road leading to Las Terrenas and El Portillo; to follow Highway N 5, which leads to Santa Bárbara de Samaná; or to take a boat circuit to visit the charms offered by the bay and the peninsula from the amazing transatlantic port operating in its coasts.

If, on the other hand, you decide to follow the road to Samaná there is no worry. The road is level and, shortly after passing the new port of Sánchez, you will come to Arroyo Barril Airport, which serves private planes and domestic flights. Those who do not wish to lose much time and enjoy air travel should know that the flight to Samaná from Las Américas, El Higüero, La Romana or Punta Cana is between 30 to 45 minutes.

Santa Bárbara de Samaná

Continuing on the coastal highway (N 5) that winds between millions of coconut trees, one arrives at Santa Bárbara de Samaná (located 245 km northeast of Santo Domingo) the province's capital. A beautiful community that has served the tourist industry remarkably, it preserves from its past only its name and "La Churcha", an old building brought from England to house the freed North American congregation who became the nucleus of the Weslevan Methodist Church; today it is the Dominican Evangelical Church, and its the romantic Victorian architecture has lured many a photographer to its portals.

The old fishing village, sprinkled with salt and sun, located on the shore of the bay bearing the same name, became an attractive tourist city of beautiful avenues, functional buildings, comfortable hotels and restaurants where it is possible to taste international cuisine, the famous

TOWARDS THE AMBER COAST

gingerbread, yaniqueques (Johnny cakes) and the fabulous pescado con coco (fish in coconut sauce) made from the English grandmother's old recipe.

The soil of the area belongs to the cretaceous period and most of the peninsula is layered with white, pink, green and gray marble, quarried to supply the industries that process it in Santo Domingo. In addition, coconut, fish and shellfish abound.

Christopher Columbus arrived in Samaná on January 12, 1493. The following day the first battle in the New World took place between the Taínos of Ciguayo and the Spaniards. According to a journal entry in the admiral's own handwriting, "[he had] never seen so many arrows fly over a ship". Before leaving for Castilla on January 16th of the same year, he dubbed the bay the Golfo de las Flechas (Gulf of arrows).

Santa Bárbara de Samaná was founded in 1756 by the Spanish brigadier and the governor of the island, Francisco Rubio Peñaranda.

Samaná celebrates its patronal feast on December 4th. For more than half a century Doña Vetilia Peña has initiated the festivities in her home, with the bambulá, a ritual dance that can only be seen and danced in the Samaná peninsula during its patronal festivities and on October 24th, the feast day of San Rafael.

The Chivo Florete, a dance of suggestive, erotic movements that are considered inappropriate by some, is a dance typical of Samaná, as well as the





You Cannot Miss

- Bonita Beach
- Caño Frio Stream
- Cosón Beach
- El Arroyo Spa
- El Portillo Beach
- Frontón Beach
- · Las Galeras Beach

- Levantado Kev
- Los Pescadores Village
- Los Tocones Iguanario
- Parada La Manzana
- Pueblo Principe Plaza

- · Rest of the house of Teodoro Chasseriau
- Rincón Beach
- Samaná Zipline
- Surf in Las Terrenas
- The Samana
- Carnival
- Las Terrenas Beach The Santa Barbara Church
 - Valley Beach
 - Whale Museum
 - Zipline Adventures

Excursions

- 4x4 Adventures
- Adventures in Safari Vehicles
- Bikecicling, Hiking and Kayaking
- · Catamaran/ snorkel
- Cave and mangrove exploring in speed boats
- Los Haitises National Park
- Marine Diving
- Sea lions Ecounters
- The Coffee Route
- The jinger Route
- The Limon Waterfall Jump
- Whale observation expedition



Olí-Olí, it forms a part of the carnival's comparsas (costumed groups dressed alike at carnival time) in which only men participate.

In the city you will find different business centers and hotels designed for tourists which offer comfortable accommodation.

In addition to its lush beauty, the warmth of its people and the exquisite gastronomy, Santa Bárbara de Samaná is famous for the pedestrian bridge that joins multiple islets and which today is the symbol by excellence of the city. The iconic bridge, built in the last century's seventies, is an ideal tourist attraction for a walk in the early morning hours or in the evening. Photography lovers find in it an interesting point from where to capture beautiful images of the Bay and the waterfront. The latter, located along the Avenida de la Marina, another local attraction, this because from here there are tours to Cayo Levantado yearround or to the marine mammal watching humpback whales sanctuary (from January to March).

With a modern brake system, the Samaná Zipline Tour is an adventure that is sure to get the adrenaline flowing. Located in the El Valle section of Santa Barbara de Samaná, the zip-line stations are an excellent overlook for observing nature in all its glory and enjoying the surrounding natural forest, traveling down the spectacular Lulu Waterfall and swimming in the cool waters of the San Juan River.



For more information, visit

samanatreetopzipline.com

For those hungry for an exotic treat, Samaná is famous for its fabulous typical regional cuisine. A preferred dish is Pescado con Coco (fish in coconut sauce), a culinary delight. Another regional attraction is Los Haitises National Park, a forest reserve of impressive beauty, located in a zone where the capricious hills and valleys lose their continuity as they plunge into Samaná Bay.



Tourism Office @ 809-538-2332

El Portillo and Las Terrenas

If time permits, it is worthwhile to visit El Portillo and Las Terrenas. From Samaná you can make the trip along the road to El Limón, which you enter approximately 2 km after exiting Samaná. This road is completely paved and gentler than the one that crosses the sierra. To those who enjoy ecological tourism, it offers an observation area from where one can view El Salto del Limón, a beautiful waterfall of more than 30 meters of free fall that lies at the mouth of the Limón River. In this spot along the road you will find practical guides that will take you on horseback and offer all the amenities.

Continuing westward you will come upon Las Terrenas, an extensive and beautiful beach, of soft bank, crystalline waters and golden sand, where locals and a community of foreigners that "discovered" the place have develop, and continue to build, a tourism industry that today boasts rooms in good quality hotels, modest inns, and owner-managed restaurants that serve exquisite plates from the French cuisine-inspired dishes as well as fresh seafood.

This beautiful area tapped by tourism over the last few years is characterized by a Real Estate development boom, aimed at providing visitors with health and security, and respecting its magical environment.

Pueblo de los Pescadores

The fishermen village (Los Pescadores village) in Las Terrenas, is an important attraction of this municipality. A Boulevard where the sea waves provide a visual and harmonious spectacle to

Humpback whales.

Since the end of December and up until March, some 2,000 humpback whales come to breed in the warm waters of the Samaná Bay and the Banco de la Plata. The tours to see these cetaceans are the most popular for both the national tourist and foreign visitors.



the dozens of bars and restaurants that serve delicious dishes, mostly based on fish and seafood always fresh. Another particularity that differentiates it, is that its structures reflect the authenticity of its first inhabitants, with quaint shacks made out of wood and zinc.

Upon exiting Las Terrenas, traveling to the west, we reach the breathtaking Cosón Beach, located in front of Ballena Key.

At first sight this area looks deserted, but gradually you discover the summer homes of locals and foreign visitors who, aware that this coast offers some of the country's most beautiful beaches, spend their hours of leisure enjoying the gentle stillness and peacefulness of the place and contemplating the most divinely-crafted scenery, despite the less than ideal road conditions and the difficulties faced to access to this idyllic region.

⊗ How to get there

Thanks to the Boulevard Turistico del Atlantico (Atlantic Touristic Boulevard), today is easier to reach the Samaná Peninsula. This road passes through the International President Juan Bosch Airport and connects to Las Terrenas. It is a modern, safe, and express route that allow visitors to enjoy to its fullness the natural charm of the region.



The trip to Samaná by car can take less than one hour and 45 minutes from the Dominican capital taking the Juan Pablo II Highway, which starts at the 20th km of the Las Americas Highway. With the enabling of this road, distance is reduced from 220 km to 120 km.

By air, you can choose Presidente Juan Bosh International Airport, or the domestic airport, Arroyo Barril.



Tourism Office

© 809-697-7462

Clúster Turístico Samaná

© 809-566-5839

gosamana.com



Should time permit, a visit to the south would be worthwhile. Although it is possible to make the trip from Santo Domingo (200 Km., N 2) in three hours, it will be much more enjoyable to take at least four days, especially if you are driving. The panoramic view from the coastal highway is breath-taking.

The following are short descriptions on the six provinces that welcome you on your journey through the region where the first quest for freedom was uttered under American skies.

San Cristóbal

Located 28 km west of Santo Domingo, it is one of the region's most visited cities by those who wish to learn more about the events related to the dictatorship of Trujillo who ruled the country with an iron hand from August 16, 1930 to May 30, 1961.

It is believed that the city's name was taken from the nearby San Cristóbal Fortress that Admiral Don Christopher (Cristóbal) Columbus had built on the Haina river's bank. In 1934 it was raised to the status of a province, and in 1939 by Act. 93, it was given the title of "Ciudad Benemérita," (Meritorious City, a title

that disappeared when the regime was overthrown) taking into consideration that the first legal constitution of the Dominican Republic had been signed there and that it was the birthplace of the "benefactor of the country," father of the new country, Generalisimo Doctor Rafael Leonidas Trujillo Molina. The title of the civil guard city disappeared with the assassination of the tyrant.

We suggest an itinerary that includes a visit to the Church of San Cristóbal, the Palacio del Cerro, La Casa de Caoba, the Cuevas de El Pomier or de Borbón, a national treasure where there are hundreds of cave paintings created by the Indians that populated the island, el Balneario La Toma and the Cuevas de Santa María (Santa Maria Caves), where patronal festivals are celebrated with baile de palo and atabales (drum festivals), pointers to the African influence in Dominican folklore.

Also, its coasts have the beautiful beaches of Najayo, Nigua, and Palenque, with their crystalline waters that are ideal for the enjoyment of underwater fishing, and Loma de Resolí, where the climate is pleasantly cool year-round.





Bahia de las Águilas (Eagles Bay).

For many, is the most beautiful beach of Dominican Republic for its crystalline turquoise waters and its kilometers of white sand. It belongs to the Jaragua National Park and it was declared a World Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO in 2002. The easiest way to access is by boat.



This hardworking community that once belonged to the chieftainship of Maguána is located 66 km from Santo Domingo on route N 2.

Born here on November 18, 1836, was Generalisimo Máximo Gómez, liberator of Cuba, and the most admired and venerated Dominican in the land of José Martí, because he made Cuban independence his cause.

You can visit the place where Generalissimo Máximo Gómez lived, the municipal museum, and the Iglesia de Nuestra Señora de Regla.

In Puerto Hermoso (Beautiful Port) are the salt deposits that according to experts have the capacity to "fill the Caribbean region with salt."

The Bahía de Calderas, located before crossing the province's limits, is home to the Dominican Navy's most important naval base. Its strategic geographical position and the surrounding sand dunes offer natural protection.

Don't leave Peravia without trying, among other things, the delicious goat milk candy produced in the Húngaro factory in the

The carabiné, typical dance of the southern region, variant of the Canary iza, reigns over San Cristóbal's patronal festivities, celebrated from June 6-10, dedicated to the Holy Spirit.

nfo Info

Tourism Office @ 809-528-1844

Peravia

The capital of the province, Baní, city of poets, was named in honor of the cacique Baní, a subordinate of Caonabo, said to have a clear intelligence. In Juan de Castellanos' words, "...Bani was a wise man... Captain General of Caonabo's land." In Taíno, Baní means "abundance of water."

municipality of Paya, the only one of its kind in the country; the famous quails that are served in the rural dining room located on the side of the highway and the famous mango banilejo (mango from Baní), a variety of the Rosa mango that when harvested in the Peravia Valley, acquires a peculiar, exquisite taste worth trying.

The now traditional Mango Fair, held yearly in Baní, attracts mango growers, consumers and academics from across the country and around the world thanks to the high demand of this exquisite fruit in local and international markets. If your stay coincides with this annual event, make it a point to visit, especially if you are interested in getting to know the different aregions where the fruit is produced, the many varieties of mangoes from Baní and the most modern technology used for its farming.

(i) Info

@ expomango.org

♥ Where to go

The Perelló Cultural Center (with permanent exhibitions and cultural presentations)

Nuestra Señora de Regla Cathedral •

 Nuestra Senora de Regia Cathedrai
 Salt Mine Las Salinas
 Las Dunas National Park in Baní (with dunes of up until 35 meters high with unique characteristics in the Caribbean region)
 Enjoy the Club House facilities and Restaurant of the Puntarena Vacation Project

puntarena.com.do.

1 Info

Tourism Office

© 809-522-6018

Peravia Productive Tourism Cluster

Q 809-522-5871

Azua de Compostela

Azua, a land burned by the strong rays of our blazing tropical sun but also bathed by the outpouring of its melodious crystalline waters of the Caribbean, is located 121 km west of Santo Domingo.

Azua de Compostela was founded in 1504 by Diego Velázquez, Cuba's conqueror. On December 7, 1508, King Ferdinand of Spain granted Azua its coat of arms, and in 1845 it was raised to the province status.

It was razed to the ground on three occasions by invading armies: Juan Jacobo Dessalines, who declared Haiti independence on January 1, 1804, ordered his men to set it ablaze when he invaded Dominican territory in 1805. In 1844, after the Haitian leader Charles Herald was defeated at the Battle of 19 de Marzo, he set the city aflame as he passed through Azua. Yet again in 1849, the Haitian president, Faustino Soulouque, left the city smoldering as he retreated from his defeats at the battles of El Número and Las Carreras.

If you wish to continue on your journey, be sure to make a pit stop to stretch your legs and drink a natural fruit juice or "una fría" (a cold one), the term locals use for refreshing, perfectly ice-cold beer. You can visit the Archeological Museum, an interesting display of cave art and then refresh yourself in the beautiful Playa Blanca.

Azua natives are deservedly well-known for being courageous noblemen and having contributed many writers to Dominican literature. In Pueblo Viejo, near Azua, are found the ruins of the colonial city.

Another attraction for native and foreign visitors enjoying adventure tourism is El Número, the place where the battle bearing the same name took place. It is exciting to travel the winding stretch of highway where at every turn of the road dangerous cliffs await. However, the fabulous panoramic view from here of Corbanito's tourist area



Palmar de Ocoa.

Its privileged location at the entrance of the Ocoa Bay makes its beaches quiet and safe, reason for which numerous families move to this spot in the Azua Province. The town celebrates its festivities in July so that they can ask the Carmen Virgin for a plentiful fishing.



on the east coast of the beautiful and placid Ocoa Bay, compensates for the road, and serves as a spiritual sedative

during the journey.

Corbanito is an area that comprises around 9 km of extraordinarily beautiful beaches due to the topographical characteristics of the surroundings, created by rock formations of the southern massif emerging from the calm sea. Corbanito is an open cove of some three kilometers of gray sand and turquoise-blue waters, with shallow areas for swimming and protective reefs.

Here we find Palmar de Ocoa, an open beach of gray sand and deep waters, with an exotic panorama and rich marine fauna making it an excellent spot for sportfishing.

In Palmar de Ocoa we find Ocoa Bay, encircled by a landscape of incomparable beauty offered in harmonious conjunction by the fertile Ocoa Valley and the splendid bay that carries the same name. This real estate development company offers a different kind of eco-tourism project, one created for the enjoyment of a healthy life-style within a resort that incorporates neighboring communities in its design.

The unique agritourism project of Ocoa Bay spans over a million square meters and includes a private beach integrated to the self-sustainable concept, creating a boutique hotel that emphasizes health tourism and also produces OcoaWine, a local brand of wines that finally places the country on the wine harvesting and wine-making map.

Playa Chiquita, as its name indicates, is an open cove barely 1500 meters long with gray sand and crystalline waters, a medium-depth swimming area that is absent of waves, that make it a secluded, beautiful spot preferred by swimmers.

TOWARDS THE SOUTHERN REGION

Next we come to Monte Río, the beautiful beach where Hernán Cortés, who practiced in Azua as a clerk, usually spent his leisure hours; and he left from here, together with Diego Velázquez, to the land of the Eagle and the Serpent to ascend to the throne and wear the imperial crown of Moctezuma.

1 Info

Tourism Office @ 809-729-9321

Barahona

Leaving Azua, we notice a marked contrast as we enter Barahona's humid land, whose neutral-type coasts are tied together like a string of pearls by beautiful beaches that the waves kiss and abandon in the massif of the Sierra de Bahoruco.

Barahona, where the female cacique (chieftain) Anacaona ruled and where the

living legend of the untamable Enriquillo survives as a symbol of Indian rebellion against the white man's injustice, is located 204 km west of Santo Domingo.

It was founded in 1802 by the Haitian General Toussaint Louverture and set up as province in 1907.

The Barahona peninsula, which belonged to the chieftainship of Jaragua, has emersion and immersion coasts where the marine terrace stretches with the shallow waters that result in wonderful breeding places for fish and crustaceans.

The beaches of Barahona, El Quemaíto, La Saladilla, San Rafael, Los Patos (at the mouth of the river of the same name), Paraíso and other very beautiful sunny beaches surrounding the peninsula are characterized by a peaceful solitude, making Barahona an exclusive, unique



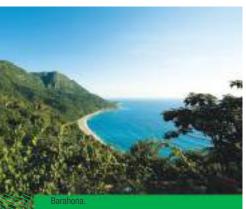






The Pelempito Hole.

A curious 700 meters high natural depression, formed between exuberant mountains of the Bahoruco Sierra. It has an observatory at its top, at 1665 meters, and several nearby trails which allow to admire the vegetation that changes while ascending.



place for the communion of the human spirit with the Supreme Being. Here you observe and are captivated by the work

of God's hand.

This coast served as the setting for the adventures of the past century's bold pirate, Cofresí, a legendary figure amongst the dwellers of the southern coast of the Dominican Republic.

Local lore says that that south of the port, in Punta Iglesia, there are earthen jugs buried with Cofresi's treasures. Also, on beaches adjacent to the town of Juan Esteban, a chest full of precious stones, jewels and other objects of great value was found.

La Zurza y Canoa are two popular springs to which are attributed healing properties thanks to its hot sulfurous waters.

Other tourist attractions in Barahona are: La Hoya del Lago Enriquillo, on whose waters, located some 30 meters below sea level, emerges the Cabrito Isle, a national park where important populations of flamingos, two species of Iguanas and the world's largest wild American crocodile reserve all reside; the archeological site of Las Caritas, a reserve of pre-Hispanic art that showcases petroglyphs created by the indigenous people that once populated the island, that proves that are ample smile is over 500 years old and that is equipped with an infrastructure for eco-tourism; the Oviedo Lake in the Jaragua National Park, a Paradise for wild life observers; and the Magnetic Pole, one of the most popular attractions, located in the stretch between the towns of Las Auyamas and Polo, where it is possible to witness a vehicle "mysteriously" roll up a hill with its engine off and no one pushing it, attracted by the magnetic force of the place.

If you love wild life, you will not regret trekking to Laguna Cabral, the largest body of sweet water in the country. The lagoon is found in the Eastern part of the Neiba valley, nestled between the communities of Cabral, Peñón, Cristóbal

Casa Bonita Tropical Lodge, Barahona.

Barahona's hotel jewel which combines adventure, luxury and relaxation in the foothills of a mountain with breathtaking view of the Caribbean Sea. Among its countless attractions stand out its Canopy Tour, whose zipline is a true adrenaline cult.



and La Lista. You can get there by taking the Cabral-Duvergé highway to the Polo-Cabral crossing. Laguna Cabral boasts an aquatic flora trail, marshes and the distinction of being recognized as a wild life refuge thanks to the large variety of birds that can be observed there.

To visit Barahona is to "touch the heavens" and, in fact, one of the many wonders of Barahona is the Cloud Forest, where visitors can almost literally touch the clouds. It is located in the Cachote hill, where a humble community lives surrounded by the ecological biodiversity. Here one can experience the Jibijoa footpath, home to over 30 different species of birds, 30 species of ferns, bromeliads, orchids and a great variety of trees. The Canto de Jilguero, a visitor center that is managed by the ecotourism micro-enterprise of the Cachote community, offers cabins with a maximum capacity of 12 people. It is recommended that you request a camp fire and ginger tea if you plan to spend the night as evenings are delightfully cool and include a soothing lullaby of bird sounds and the pitter patter of occasional light rain.

In Barahona there are deposits of rock salt and gypsum located in the northern side of the Sierra del Bahoruco; while on the southern side there are deep layers of



red soil, rich in aluminum, from where bauxite is extracted. Travertine and onyx marble are also found here.

The first Antillean cargo and passenger transportation company was established in Barahona on July 2, 1927, to offer services between St. Croix, St. Thomas, San Juan, Santo Domingo, Port-au-Prince and Santiago, Cuba.

Barahona's patron saint's day festivities are celebrated during the first week of October, dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary. The carabiné, typical dance of the southern region, is carried out in Barahona with the accordion, balsié, güira (a metal percussion instrument), and pandero (large tambourine).



Eco del mar.

Located in Playa de la Cueva, bordering the Jaragua National Park and its impressive Bahía de las Águilas. This "natural lodge" of large tents at seaside, has a bar- restaurant where you can try fresh fish and seafood from the area and a curated wine and cocktails selection.

Notable Barahona natives include immortal artists María Montés, the first Dominican actress to star in Hollywood films, including memorable Technicolor hits such as "Arabian Nights" (1942); and folklorist Casandra Damirón, ambassadorat-large of our vernacular music, who with her art raised the Dominican Republic's name to the very top, often eliciting standing ovations from those lucky enough to see her interpretations.



Tourism Office @ 809-910-3406 Clúster Ecoturístico de Barahona

809-623-1397

aobarahona.com

Neiba

Neiba, the capital of the province of Bahoruco, located in the southwest part of the country, is the only region of the Dominican Republic that specializes in growing grapevines. Here, during a special event called the Fair of the Grape, grape producers exhibit, market and exchange experiences regarding grapevine growing and wine production. Before arriving in Neiba, visitors can stop by the Las Marias swimming hole, a refreshing oasis in this desert-like area. Two national parks, Sierra Neiba and Sierra Bahoruco, are also located in this province.

Pedernales

Many call Pedernales the best kept secret in the land. One of the country's most beautiful beaches, Bahía de Águilas, is found here. If you visit the area, you can enjoy an authentic Dominican lunch at Rancho Las Cuevas de las Águilas, located right in front of the sea, at the entrance of the Jaragua National Park and the bay. The warm, crystalline waters of Cabo Rojo Beach are just a kilometer away.

Another can't-miss attraction is the Hoyo de Pelempito (Pit of Pelempito), boasting a depth of 700 meters, and registering temperatures as low as zero degrees Celsius. The pit is part of the Sierra Bahoruco National Park and a habitat for endemic species of flora and fauna that are unique to the island.

At the Laguna de Oviedo (Oviedo Lagoon), visitors can observe aquatic birds- both migratory and native-, iguanas and endemic fish, as well as lush vegetation and large mangroves, plus many cultural and archeological points of interest. It's surface measures 28 km² and its depth is 1.5 meters. Its coast is characterized for its briny, apple green waters.



Tourism Office

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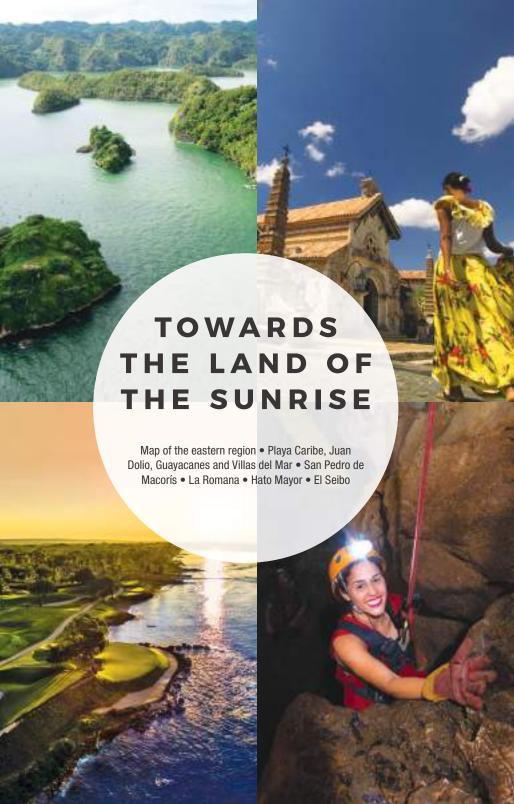
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The land situated in the vast Hicayagua plain, once ruled by the cacique Cayacoa, is divided into five provinces that form the eastern region: San Pedro de Macorís, Hato Mayor, El Seibo, La Romana and La Altagracia. Its inhabitants work mainly in the sugar-cane industry, cattle trade, industrial park zones and tourism.

The eastern plain presents calcareous phenomena in its relief pattern that give rise to the formation of caverns, some of which have been conditioned. becoming night time attractions for locals and visitors. Perhaps the best known by tourists are: the Mesón de la Cava and the Guácara Taína, located in Santo Domingo's Mirador del Sur Park, which have been turned into exotic restaurants and night clubs. Also, the Caves of Santa Ana, Los Tres Ojos, Cueva de Las Maravillas and the Fun-Fun Cavern are sites where one can experience an adventure that surpasses all limits, descending with a rope along a drop of more than 2.0 meters.

The natural resources, the agreeable climate, the few rainy days, and the Dominicans' innate hospitality have sustained tourism growth that make the eastern region a privileged destination for vacationers in the Caribbean.

There are four international airports in the region: Las Americas JFPG and Joaquín Balaguer in Santo Domingo; the La Romana Airport in La Romana and the Puntacana Airport in Higüey. The latter receives on a daily basis direct flights from the most important cities of the world.

Playa Caribe, Juan Dolio, Guayacanes and Villas el Mar

These are the other very beautiful, small beaches found on the route.

Playa Caribe is a cove with an abrupt bank and violent surf, sheltered by coconut groves; it is a favorite spot for young people.

Juan Dolio, Guayacanes and Villas del Mar are a delight for those searching for smooth surf and quiet waters.

By these beaches, surrounded by coconut trees and a lush tropical landscape, operate fabulous facilities designed so visitors can enjoy their holidays. There are also small hotels and very good restaurants. The weather is almost excellent all year round. It is a preferred destination for Canadians and Europeans.

This tourist area is 30 minutes from the international airport of the Americas JFPG, and some 45 minutes from Santo Domingo's monuments district.





The Las Maravillas Cave.

Its wide demand as tourist attraction has led to the modernization of its access, that has ramps, paths and even an elevator. It is a natural Museum of 800 meters long and 25 of depth, which displays petroglyphs and pictograms created by the Tainos.



San Pedro de Macorís

The city was founded in the early 19th century by German, Arab, Spanish, French and Italian immigrants as well as the community's native settlers, and raised to the status of province on June 23, 1882.

Several decades ago when our sugar was sold at the incredible price of twenty-two cents a pound in the US preferential market, the "Sultanate of the East" (as the city was then known) experienced an economic boom known as the "dance of the millions", which turned San Pedro de Macorís into a prosperous and stately city filled with palatial homes and princely mansions denoting the cultural refinement of its first immigrants and of the townspeople.

Together, they created a beautiful city of neoclassic and Victorian style, with a mixture of local-style architecture done by the hands of qualified laborers that arrived from the neighboring British Isles, attracted by the bonanza produced by the sugar mills.

These humble workers from the Windward and Leeward Islands, known as cocolos, not only brought easily identifiable architectonic styles (recognizable when touring the city), but, also their Bible, perhaps as their only baggage, and the rudimentary instruments with which they produce the magnetic sounds of the cainanés.

Also theirs is the Momes dance, known by the townspeople as the Guloya, a name extended to the dancers. It derives from the English drama "Mummers", which is preserved with slight modifications and three differentiated music themes: the wild dance, with which they roam through the streets; the dance of Father Winter, representing the battle of the Giant with St. George, and the dance of El Codril, formed by a group of dancers divided into two lines, dancing arm in arm.

Just like their African ancestors who worshipped their gods in ritual ceremonies at dusk, the Guloyas, after a hard day's work, surrender with passion to the impulse of their erotic and sensual dances.

During their patron saint's day festivities and carnivals, the Guloyas parade with their costumes and ornaments full of all kinds of beads. At the rolling of their rustic drums all composure is lost. The crowd surrounds them and moves, marking with their feet and whole body each tone of the dominant rhythm's beat.

As they pass, everyone rushes to the street to enjoy the spectacle. A shower of coins rain into the street and a bottle or so of liquor passes from hand to hand until its contents are emptied. This is how the guloyas and the people of Macorís celebrate their festivities and their patronal feast. Don't miss it if your visit coincides with the 29th of June, the feast of St. Peter and St. Paul. Undoubtedly, the people of San Pedro de Macorís will offer you the heartiest welcome. In 2005, the Guloyas were declared by UNESCO a Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Legacy of Humanity.

In the center of San Pedro de Macoris we find the Barceló Rum factory, founded in 1930. On the tour of the historic facilities we'll get to know how the beginnings of this prestigious brand were and ultimately taste the famous distillate.

1 Info

Centro Histórico Ron Barceló

809-334-2000 ext. 3100

(a) visitronbarcelo.com

The Maravillas Cave, located 70 kilometers east of Santo Domingo on the highway which connects the cities of San Pedro de Macorís and La Romana, is an excellent choice for speleology lovers and travelers in general. The underground cavern, about 800 meters long and 25 meters of depth, houses a large sample of pictograms made centuries ago by the Taino natives.

1 Info

La Cueva de las Maravillas

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Located in San Pedro de Macorís is the Universidad Central del Este (UCE) (Central University of the East). Since its foundation, UCE has transformed the city's lifestyle. The activity it generates drives the demand for services that the private sector supplies with the innate hospitality of the "Macorisanos".

Baseball season sends the city buzzing with activity from October to February, when the lights of the Tetelo Vargas Stadium are turned on. Its home team is the Estrellas Orientales baseball team.

Opposite the Macorís or Higuamo River stands the neoclassic-style Church of St. Paul the Apostle, whose tower (the city's symbol in photographs and post cards) is visible from any part of the city and serves as a guide for visitors. Several bus terminals operate here with fixed, scheduled routes to Santo Domingo, La Romana and other eastern provinces.

1 Info

Tourism Office

© 809-529-3644

La Romana

Located in a beautiful zone settled by Juan de Esquivel in 1502, La Romana became a province on January 1, 1945. It is a clearly flourishing region and home of the Central Romana, a privately-owned sugar-cane mill.

Crossing the Dulce River you find Casa de Campo, the Caribbean's most complete tourist complex and regarded as one of the world's ten best.

It has its own airport and those who wish to vacation at this resort can fly in directly by private planes or by the different commercial airlines.

Just a few minutes from Casa de Campo sits Altos de Chavón, an artists' village dedicated to cultural exchange and enrichment. In the heart of the Chavon Village you can visit The Saint Stanislaw Church; The Regional Archeological Museum, with a ample prehispanic art collection; small antique shops which offer jewelry, ceramic and local crafts; Chavón School of design, an important school affiliated to the Parsons School of New York. This global impact Studies Center also has a modern campus in Santo Domingo, where you can take technical courses, continued education courses and programs for children and adolescents.

The village also contains an amphitheater, with capacity for an audience of 5.000 in the natural landform offered by the terrain's depression. It is the town's center for performance arts and an international stage that has seen superstars of the caliber of Frank Sinatra, Julio Iglesias, Gloria Estefan, Carlos Santana and Sting, among many others.

How to get there

Take the Autovia del Este (Eastern Highway) from Las Americas Highway. This highway goes directly to La Romana.

♥ Where to go

Make the most of your visit to La Romana and stop by the Tabacalera de García, the biggest handmade tobacco factory in the world, and enjoy a unique cultural experience by taking a tour of the plant and learning the manufacturing process of over 50 different brands, among them the distinguished Montecristo, Romeo y Julieta, H.Upmann, Don Diego, Onyx, VegaFina, Seijas Signature and Mi Dominicana.

() Info

Cigar Country Tours

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cigarcountrytours.com

f Info

Tourism Office & 809-550-6922
Asociación de Hoteles La Romana Bayahibe and Clúster Turístico Romana
- Bayahibe & 829-520-7391

 explorelaromana.com

Hato Mayor

Hato Mayor does honor to its title of ecotourism province. Its main attraction, Los Haitises National Park, is one of the most extraordinary coastal natural heritages and Dominican Republic's area with the largest cave concentration, many of which still virgins. If you start from Sabana de la Mar, you can explore the mangroves by the Caño Hondo River, be amazed with the beauty of the San Lorenzo's Bay, and visit the Sand caves, of Line and Angel.

Other major attractions include the Fun Fun cave, located within the Rancho Capote, by the Hato Mayor-Yerba Buena road; the Chocolate route, where you can get to know the organic cocoa production process; and the Mill route, in the El Coco community, where it is possible to taste the fresh sugar cane juice. In the Don Rey Ranch, located in Sabana de la Mar, you can stay, try the region's cuisine and practice horseback riding.

El Seibo

Located at the foot of the Oriental Mountain Range, El Seibo is a destination worth visiting. Its vast natural resources, amongst which we find The Ecologic Trail of the El Seibo-Pedro Sánchez-Miches highway; the La Chiva caves y La Hondonada; The los Pájaros lake; the Cocuvo and Blanca waterfalls; the Scientific Reserve that stretches out from the Redonda Lagoon to Esmeralda Beach and El Limón in the coast of Miches, make it an ideal destination for eco-tourism. In El Seibo they worship the Holy Cross and its festivity is celebrated under the same name yearly on May 3rd, when the bull fights start. Here, visitors can experience the Basilica of the Holy Cross (Basílica de la Santísima Cruz), with a history that dates back to 1679.



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PUERTO PLATA

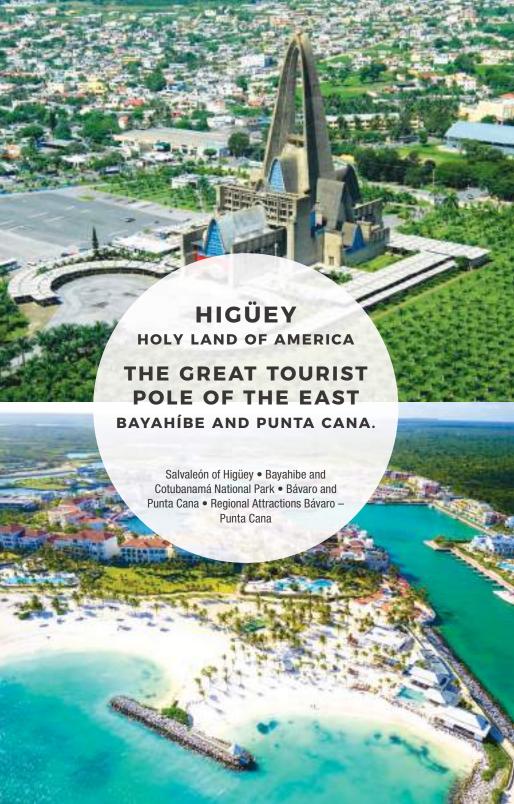
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Salvaleón of Higüey

La Altagracia, Holy land of America, founded in 1494 by the Conqueror of Jamaica, Juan de Esquivel, and populated by 1502 to 1508 by Juan Ponce de León, the conquest's Captain, is the mecca of the largest pilgrimages in the grey altagraciana that come every year on the 21st of January to the sanctuary of our Lady of la Altagracia looking for health and spiritual well-being.

24 km from its capital, Salvaleón de Higuey, is San Rafael del Yuma, where you can visit the castle which, in 1505 was ordered to be built as his housing by the man who longed to find the fountain of youth. From the Bay of Boca de Yuma Juan Ponce de León in 1508 left to the conquest of Puerto Rico, and Florida in 1513.

If you are staying in Punta Cana or Bavaro, choose any of the routes offered by Higuey. The "route of the Pilgrim", of a religious nature, includes, among other things, visits to the Museum of La Altagracia and the Basilica. The "Arquituristica Route", with emphasis on the architectural theme, also of a religious and cultural component; among its stops stands out the Municipal and Justice Palaces and the Altagracia Fortress. Finally, the "Eco-touristic - Cultural Route" includes a tour of the Museum of La Altagracia, the paths of the coffee and cocoa, Horse ranches and places that highlight the ancient Taino presence: the Atabeyra Ranch, the ceremonial plaza and the throne of Atabeyra in the Ecotouristic municipality Anamuya.

Bayahibe and Cotubanamá National Park

Bayahibe is one of the most beautiful beaches of the region, which offers a spiritual retreat far from the city noise. From its coastline most of the tours to the region's adjacent islands and the reefs surrounding it depart.

A little further, for those who like to observe the wildlife, the surroundings of the Cotubanama National Park begin – also known as the East National Park-, natural and scientific reserve, forest of protected ecosystems, mangroves and beautiful beaches, where many important marine fauna species survive, among which we find the dolphin and the manatee. It covers the Saona and Catalina Islands, reserved areas as sanctuaries of Dominican flora and fauna, with the interest of protecting endangered species.

Saona is the biggest adjacent island. Is part of this region's touristic attraction for the natural beauty of its surroundings and its beautiful virgin beaches. Every dayincreases the number of tourists that when arriving to Dominican Republic go on tour to Saona so they can enjoy the breeze that exude its extensive coconut trees, walk on its fine white sand, that extend for more than 110 km², and take a bath in its crystal-clear waters. Besides offering the visitor an unforgettable experience, it is also the habitat of native endemic species such as the manatee and the hawksbill turtle.

In Catalina Island, another jewel crimped in our coasts, we find the "Living Museums of the sea", where the remains of Cap Merchant's ship Captain Kidd, dating from 1699, are exhibited. The tour of this amazing marine universe includes the recreation of the shipwreck of Our Lady of Guadalupe, on the reef of Playa Dominicus: the reef of St. George and the one of the canyons in the Guaraguao reef.

Other unique places located in La Altagracia province are the idyllic beaches of Macao, Bavaro, Punta Cana and Cap



Bayahíbe.

The old fishing village, today one of the most famous tourist destinations in the country, expects travelers with a varied menu of options. From here catamarans depart conducting tours to the idyllic islands of Saona and Catalina, which form part of the Cotubanama National Park.



Cana, recognized in an UNESCO report among the best in the world.

Bávaro and Punta Cana

In the healthy environment lavished by nature in this part of the island, the visitor will find all the facilities and comfort of very exclusive services, designed to enjoy enchanting beaches of white sand and limpid turquoise waters sheltered by exotic palms and coconut trees.

In the area between La Romana and Punta Cana are located the best hotels and resorts in the country, nearly all recognized as world class destinations. From these complexes stand out Casa de Campo Resort & Villas (La Romana), the residential resort community Cap Cana and Puntacana Resort & Club.

The Bavaro-Punta Cana area has more than 40,000 hotel rooms, golf courses from international firms such as Jack Nicklaus and Tom Fazio, world class marina and high-quality alternative services such as laundries, restaurants, hardware stores, supermarkets, malls, department stores and theme parks such as Manatee Park, Dolphin Explorer, Seaquarium Punta Cana, among others. Scape Park at Cap Cana and the Ecological Reserve Indigenous Eyes - within the Puntacana Resort & Club - with its turquoise water cenotes invite visitors to a sublime ecotourism experience.

The night life is very active in this part of the island and is even more dynamic with the shows of the international franchise Cocobongo, located in Downtown Punta Cana Plaza.

To the delight of shoppers there are distinguished shopping Malls, Palma Real Shopping Village, Downtown Punta Cana, San Juan Shopping Center and BlueMall Punta Cana. There you can find a wide range of recognized prestigious brands and designers that guide international

fashion, as well as drinks, cigars and local jewelry handcrafted in amber and larimar of fine national goldsmithing.

O How to get there

Take the Autovía del Este (Eastern Highway) from The Americas Highway. After the La

Romana exit, take the Autopista del Coral (Coral Highway). Santo Domingo - Punta Cana (2 hours and 15 minutes).



Tourism Office 809-552-0142



REGIONAL ATTRACTIONS BÁVARO – PUNTA CANA









Atractions

- Aquagames Theme Park
- AguaPark
- Bávaro Lagune
- Catalina Island
- ChocoMuseo
- Dolphin Explorer Punta Cana
- Juan Ponce de León Museum.
- •La Altagracia Museum
- Manatí Park
- •Ocean Adventures Caribbean

Buccaneers Dinner Show

- •Ojos Indígenas Ecological Park
- Saona Island
- Scape Park at Cap Cana



Excursions

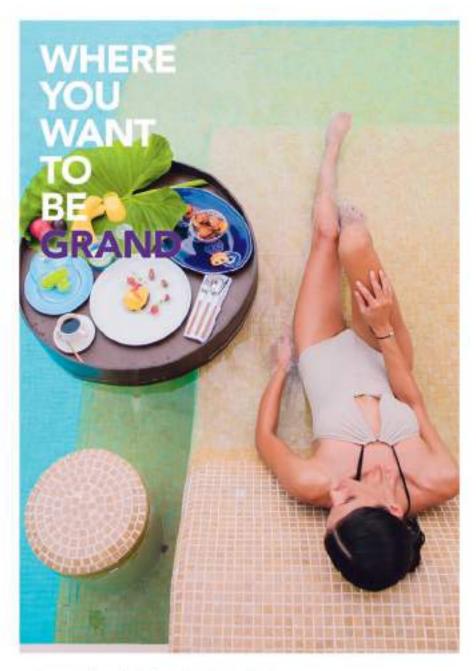
- Budgies Eco-adventure
- / Four-wheel safari
- Cave Expedition
- Helicopter Tour
- Horseback riding
- Hot-air balloon rides
- Hoyo Azul Eco Tour
- Juanillo VIP
- Mountain bike Pump Track

/Cool Biker

- Scuba diving Cruise
- Segway Caribe
- •Underwater adventure with special

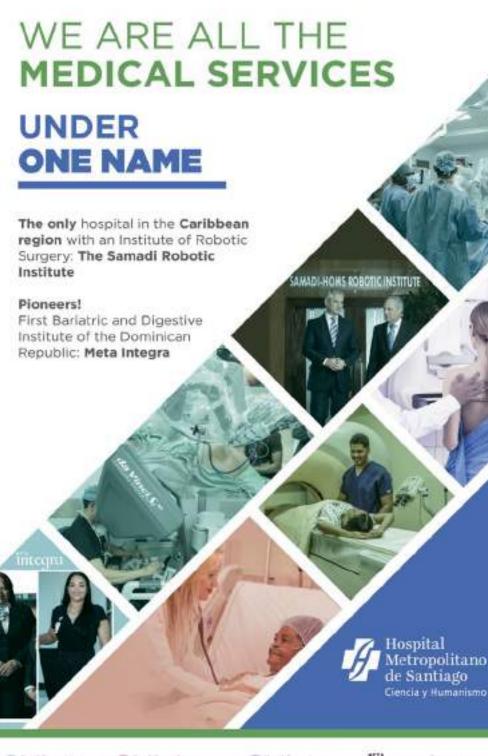
helmet and motorized scuba bikes

• Zipline Eco-adventure / Canopy Tours



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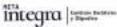
















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