

# DOMINICAN REPUBLIC CRUISE GUIDE



**Dominican Republic**  
Has it all





# Dominican Republic



Located in the heart of the Caribbean on the eastern two-thirds of Hispaniola, Dominican Republic is a land of brilliant contrasts and intriguing culture – a traveler’s dream. Visitors can experience the first city of the Americas, dance to the pulse-pounding beats of merengue and interact with the friendly locals. The lush island nation boasts stunning white-sand beaches, modern cities and quaint towns, mountains with rivers and breathtaking waterfalls, saltwater lakes, lagoons, and mysterious caves.

Dominican Republic is bordered by the Atlantic Ocean on its North Coast and the azure Caribbean Sea on its South Coast. Christopher Columbus discovered the island nation on December 5, 1492 during his first voyage to the New World and its natural beauty and rich history still amaze today’s visitors.

Three major cruise ports provide travelers with easy access to Dominican Republic’s countless offerings and Dominican culture dispersed throughout the country. Dominican Republic is a cosmopolitan melting pot that overflows with ethnic diversity and cultural offerings that excite travelers looking for authentic Dominican culture.

Year-round sports, effervescent nightlife, exciting casinos, magnificent national parks and numerous ecotourism offerings make for a jam-packed vacation to-do list on any Dominican Republic visit. Here you will find the world’s most beautiful championship golf courses designed by Pete Dye, Nick Faldo, Jack Nicklaus and more. With a variety of lavish hotels, top spas, family-friendly resorts and exclusive villas, Dominican Republic offers a fantastic combination of environments to capture your imagination and refresh your soul.

Two major seaports in Santo Domingo and La Romana currently welcome cruise ship passengers, while docking facilities at Samaná Bay and Cayo Levantado make Dominican Republic a flexible cruise destination with fascinating excursions. Additionally, a new port in Dominican Republic’s Puerto Plata region on the northern eco-friendly coast is in development. Come and begin your exploration through Dominican Republic’s many cruise ports located strategically around its 1,000 miles of breathtaking coastline.

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Cover photo: Cruise ship at Samaná





## SANTO DOMINGO

Modern and cosmopolitan Santo Domingo is one of the Americas' most historically important destinations. Here, travelers can get a taste of the country's history and the root of its culture. The sophisticated city is located on the Caribbean Sea at the mouth of the Ozama River, and is the Americas' oldest inhabited settlement.

Amid its world-class arts, accommodations, attractions, restaurants and shopping, you will find the Colonial City that was named a world heritage site by UNESCO in 1990. Established by Christopher Columbus and his brother Bartholomew, the Colonial City maintains some of the firsts in the Americas and allows travelers to walk the cobblestone streets that conquistadors once strolled centuries ago.

Nowadays, visitors can arrive via Santo Domingo's world-class cruise terminals at the Port of Don Diego and Sans Souci, both of which provide easy access to the Dominican lifestyle and cultural traditions prevalent in the capital city.

## SANTO DOMINGO ATTRACTIONS

### Colonial City

The Colonial City is the perfect starting point for visitors to discover Santo Domingo. The first street in the Americas is Calle Las Damas, the site of numerous historic buildings – Ozama Fortress, the Americas' oldest fortress included. There is also the house of Nicolás de Ovando, Santo Domingo's governor in the early 1500's. Of great historical interest are the Museo de las Casas Reales and the

Alcázar de Colón (Castle of Columbus) built by Diego Columbus and his wife, Maria de Toledo.

### Santo Domingo Tourist Train

Santo Domingo's tourist train, Chu Chu Colonial, is a tourist train that enriches the capital city's heritage. The tour is composed of panoramic views and information on the historic city's most outstanding monuments, some dating back more than 500 years. Open seven days a week, the tour lasts 45 minutes and departs hourly between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. The tour provides travelers with audio guides in Spanish, English, French, Italian and Russian. [www.ChuChuColonial.com](http://www.ChuChuColonial.com)

### Plaza de la Cultura

With an abundance of museums, Santo Domingo can transport visitors back through time. Many of these museums are located in the Plaza de la Cultura, a large park area where visitors can stroll easily from one museum to another. They include The Museum of Dominican Man, the Museum of Modern Art, the National Museum of History and Geography, the National Museum of Natural History and the National Theater.

### Columbus Lighthouse

The Faro a Colón (Columbus Lighthouse), an impressive cross-shaped structure, which was constructed to mark the 500th anniversary of Christopher Columbus' arrival in the Americas in 1492. It houses his remains in an impressive tomb and features numerous exhibits.



### Catedral Primada de América

The Colonial City in Dominican Republic is home to the Catedral Primada de América – the First Cathedral of the Americas. The ancient church was pronounced the New World's first cathedral by Pope Paul III in 1542. Constructed in the early 1500s, the cathedral incorporates design influences from both Gothic and Renaissance eras. Visitors to the Cathedral are welcome any day from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., free of charge.

### Los Tres Ojos & National Aquarium

Los Tres Ojos is an impressive 50-foot (15 meter) deep cave with three lagoons surrounded by stalagmites and lush vegetation, located just five minutes from the Columbus Lighthouse. The National Aquarium, also minutes away, is a medium-sized aquarium where the main attraction is the huge fish tank with a Plexiglas tunnel running through it, which causes visitors to feel as if they are swimming underwater with schools of exotic fish, sharks, and stingrays. Giant Carey turtles are also a hit with the kids.

### Botanical Gardens & Parks

The Santo Domingo Botanical Gardens is the largest in the Caribbean. The park is viewable by small train. Within are exhibits housing the island's natural flora and areas dedicated to palm trees, orchids and exotic plants, making it well worth the visit if you love nature. Other city parks worth visiting are the Mirador del Sur Park and the Mirador del Norte Park (for bicycling, skating, jogging and kite-flying).

### Amber Museum

The Amber Museum is located in the Colonial City in Santo Domingo. The museum has historical and scientific data on the creation of amber, in addition to insights on the animals and vegetation that

were fossilized at that time. Dominican amber has received special international recognition because of its purity, diversity of colors and scientific and collectible value. [www.AmberWorldMuseum.com](http://www.AmberWorldMuseum.com)

### Horse-Drawn Carriages

Locally designed and decorated horse-drawn carriages ride along Santo Domingo's maritime boulevard and the Colonial Zone. The carriages contain artwork of well-renowned names in the Dominican visual arts, including Elsa Nunez, Jose Cestero, Candido Bido, Mirna Guerrero and more. The carriages are part of city tour packages offered by the Tourism Cluster of Santo Domingo for those who visit the region.

### World-Class Shopping

Santo Domingo will charm even the most discriminating shopper because of the many shopping experiences. The Blue Mall offers upscale stores like Louis Vuitton, Armani and Cartier. The Acropolis Mall has many European stores and a variety of restaurants making it a favorite. The ultra-modern Novo-Centro is transforming the capital city's skyline and features beautiful modern architecture with many popular shops, bars, cafes, and small movie theaters. Other shopping venues in Santo Domingo include Plaza Central, Bella Vista Mall, Americana Departamentos, Ikea and Cuesta. The Agora Shopping Mall, the country's first eco-friendly mall, houses 180 stores and an amusement park, ScreamLand. In addition, there are many gift shops located in the Colonial City, including the famous pedestrian street El Conde and the Mercado Modelo. Boca Chica, a beach nearby, delights shoppers with its main shopping strip, which includes Dominican essentials like rum, cigars, artwork, crafts and more.







### Don Diego Terminal Features

The contemporary Don Diego Terminal, which displays a functional design that takes advantage of the natural light, provides cruise passengers with easy access to the Colonial City and its offerings. The Terminal contains two cruise reception areas, one on the north and one on the south, and meets the necessary requirements to best accommodate its guests. The Terminal has facilities for visitors and specifically designed parking spaces for tour buses, which can easily coordinate the departures and arrivals of cruise ships.

### Sans Souci Terminal Features

The Sans Souci Terminal is the second cruise ship terminal in the Port of Santo Domingo and is the Caribbean's most modern. The state-of-the-art Home Port Terminal is located on the city's east side and was designed to accommodate the high capacity required by major cruise lines, assuring the smooth movement of passengers through immigration and baggage handling. Visitors will notice that the Colonial City's design, flexibility in spaces and illumination, and architecture are reflected throughout this Terminal.

The SANSOUCI project is built with the vision of integrating the redevelopment of the Santo Domingo Port area and the Colonial City's unique offerings, creating an attractive destination for cruises and welcoming high-end tourism into the capital city.

For additional information, please contact The Santo Domingo Port at [information@sansouci.com.do](mailto:information@sansouci.com.do) [www.SanSouci.com.do](http://www.SanSouci.com.do)

## THE PORT OF SANTO DOMINGO

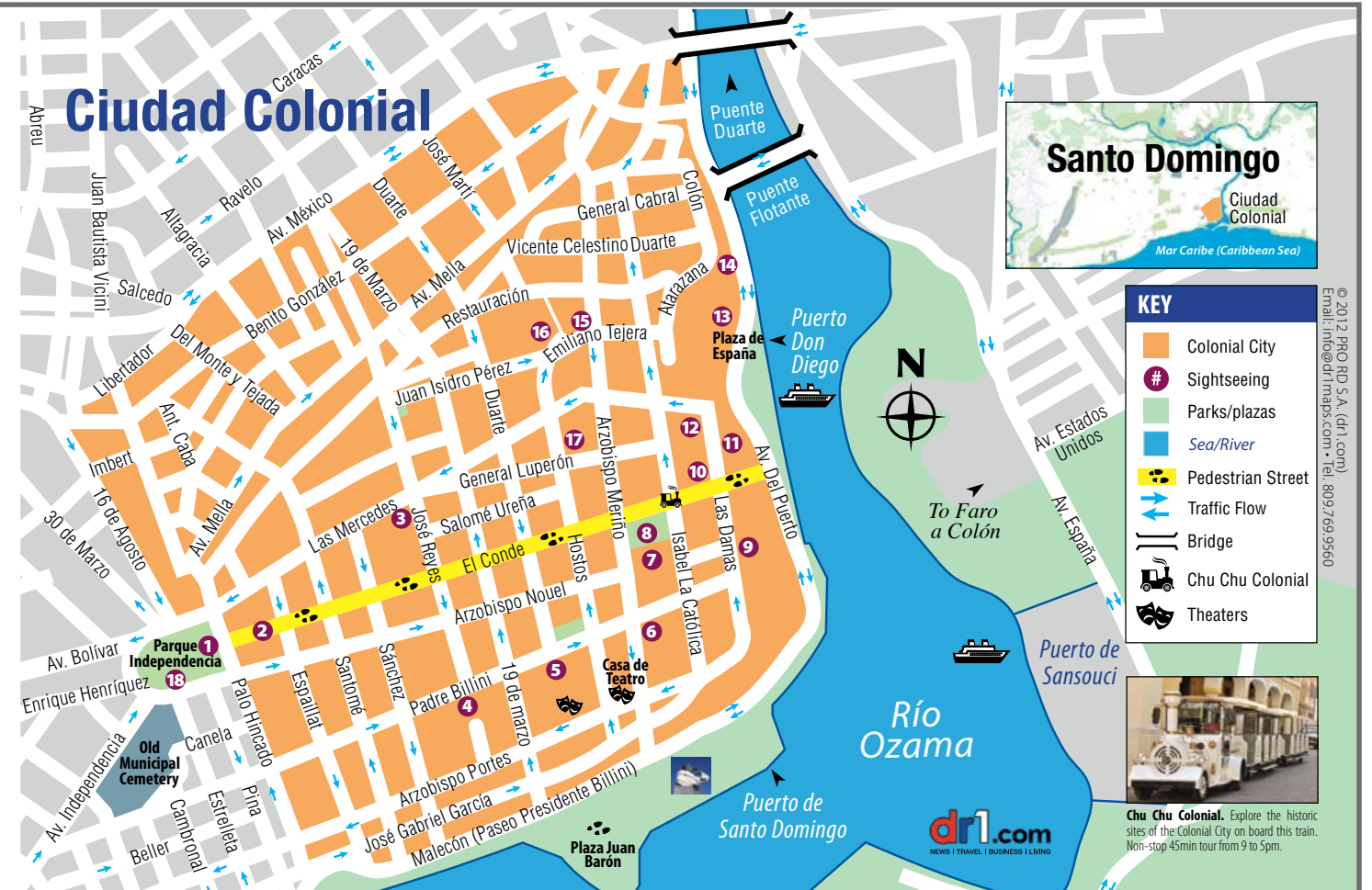
Santo Domingo's world-class port has a privileged geographic location, as it is nestled at the mouth of the Ozama River where it meets the Caribbean Sea at the marine entrance to the city. The Port features two state-of-the-art cruise ship terminals well-equipped to host cruise ship passengers who want to enjoy a world-class city's amenities while experiencing the sights, sounds and land that hosted the founders of the America's oldest town, the Colonial City. The Don Diego and Sans Souci Terminals are an important part of the Port of Santo Domingo and welcome the world's most venerable cruise ships to the first city of the Americas.

### Don Diego Terminal

Completed in 2006, the Don Diego Terminal boasts a contemporary and functional design, styled to take advantage of natural light and the terminal's easy access to the Colonial City. It features two cruise reception areas that exceed expectations in providing the complete comfort of its guests. Don Diego Terminal features an artistic marine stained-glass facade, an entrance hall with an information center, access to an international and local telecommunications center and a currency exchange for the convenience of travelers. A modern lighting system illuminates the outside and perimeter area of the Terminal, ensuring security and nighttime visibility.

### Sans Souci Terminal

Completed in early 2009, the Sans Souci Terminal is state-of-the-art. Special care was taken to ensure the terminal combines the essential in design and flexibility in its spaces with stunning illumination. The design of the terminal is also very respectful in relation to its proximity with the Colonial City, allowing stunning views of the Ozama River, the azure blue Caribbean Sea and the first city of the Americas, the Colonial City. The terminal is able to handle nearly 4,000 passengers plus crew and can accommodate today's largest world-class ships. Sans Souci Terminal also boasts a ground level for baggage handling and disembarking, a mezzanine level, which accommodates immigration and customs, duty-free stores, and an internet and information center.





Altos de Chavón



## LA ROMANA

La Romana International Pier is another favorite stop for cruise ships. The brilliant waters, white-sand beaches and activities attract visitors to the lush La Romana, located two hours east of Santo Domingo. The Southeastern Coast is decorated with vast sugar cane fields that surround some of La Romana's and Bayahibe's most beautiful resorts and beaches, the natural scenery providing an experience like none other.

La Romana is also home to a Leading Hotel of the World and one of the most complete resorts in the Caribbean, Casa de Campo. Here, golf enthusiasts at any skill level can play golf on three magnificent courses: Teeth of the Dog, Dye Fore and The Links. Additionally, the resort boasts a Marina with internationally renowned boutiques and restaurants, polo, and pampering spas, as well as Altos de Chavón, a replica of a 16th century artists' village overlooking the Chavón River.

La Romana is located near the National Park of the East, surrounded by some of the most geologically rich natural areas in the Caribbean, which makes it a very ideal spot for exploring nature among the peaceful towns and pristine beaches. Nearby local resort spot Bayahibe is also a favorite for their pristine beaches.

Cruise ships delight passengers at Catalina Island with facilities that can accommodate up to 2,000 guests. The small island is surrounded

by a marine coral reef nature preserve, which is perfect for diving and snorkeling enthusiasts and an ideal day excursion to explore Dominican Republic's underwater world.

The Port of Casa de Campo-La Romana allows cruise ship passengers to enjoy the top facilities and luxurious offerings of the Southeast Coast

## LA ROMANA ATTRACTIONS

### Altos de Chavón

A must-see in the area is Altos de Chavón, a replica of a 16th century Mediterranean-style village located on the upper part of the Chavón River. Coral block and terra-cotta brick buildings house artists' studios, craft workshops, galleries, stores, and restaurants. This cultural center features the Chavón amphitheater laid out in Greek style and seats up to 5,000 people. At the center you'll find the Church of St. Stanislaus. [www.CasadeCampo.com.do](http://www.CasadeCampo.com.do)

### Cueva de Las Maravillas (Cave of Wonders)

The Cueva de las Maravillas is located on the highway toward La Romana. It is home to the most important sample of rock art left by the Taino people in the Caribbean and features amazing rock formations such as stalactites, stalagmites, columns, and 276 pictographs. In 2002, the cave became accessible with the addition of walkways, ramps and a modern elevator.

### Saona Island and the National Park of the East

Located in the National Park of the East near La Romana, Saona Island is a tranquil Caribbean island known for its powdery sand, clear waters and beautiful palm trees. The island is home to some 112 species of birds, in addition to turtles, bottlenose dolphins, whales and endangered West Indian manatees that live in the waters off the island. Saona Island features many lush green forests contrasted with depressions in the terrain occupied by saltwater lagoons and boggy ground. In nearby waters off the shores are impressive coral reef formations with a depth of up to 160 feet (60 meters). The reefs stand out because of their grandness and are one of the Caribbean's most important underwater formations.

### Golf

La Romana is the ideal destination for golf lovers seeking upscale golf amid breathtaking scenery. Within this luxurious region, golfers can play at some of the world's best courses designed by the Dye family dynasty. Four courses are located at Casa de Campo Resort while the newest course in the area, La Estancia, includes gorgeous fairways and surprising challenges. Once a sugar-producing region, La Romana still charms with the azure Caribbean Sea, exotic islands, the Chavón River Valley and palm-tree covered National Parks that provide scenic backgrounds from the area's five courses.

### Bayahibe

The community of Bayahibe was founded as a fishing village in 1874 and is a short walk from the Bayahibe hotel zone and just 25 minutes from La Romana. Here you can enjoy a tour of the surrounding nature and learn the history of the authentic fishing village or visit the several top-rated beach strips found within.

### Living Underwater Museums

Fascinating underwater archaeological reserves are located in front of the coast of the Bayahibe hotel zone. Shipwrecked galleons dating back to the early 18th century have been recreated to replicate their appearance when marine biologists originally discovered them. Both snorkelers and scuba divers can visit the museums.

### Flor Dominicana Cigar Factory

Located in La Estancia, La Romana, visitors can witness the pride and hard work of the most experienced cigar crafters. On this tour you will learn from the aging cellar of the cigar, its preparation, blends, handcrafting and the final packaging. The exclusive cigar shop

offers the best selection and prices for premium Dominican tobacco, including La Flor Dominicana, the most recognized Dominican premium cigar from the last decade. The factory is open daily from 8 a.m. – 7 p.m. [www.cigarcountrytours.com](http://www.cigarcountrytours.com)

### The Padre Nuestro Archeological Trail

The Padre Nuestro Archeological Trail allows visitors to delight in the area's incredible natural beauty. Located in the National Park of the East, the trail leads you to unique flora and fauna, making it easy to appreciate the tropical vegetation along the 1.25 mile (1.9 kilometer) route, which includes areas once populated by the Taino Indians. Here you can contemplate the history of these ancient inhabitants and the geology of the area formed billions of years ago.

### Chu Chu Train

Casa de Campo's Chu Chu Caña enriches cruise passengers' experience of the Caribbean's sweetest town – La Romana. The trip is composed of panoramic views and information on its most relevant assets, including the sugar production impact in the town's economy growth and the development of the tourism industry. The Chu Chu Caña, which lasts 45 minutes, is available for all cruise passengers arriving in the port and departs hourly between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. The tour provides travelers with audio guides in Spanish, English, French, Italian and German. [www.ChuChuColonial.com](http://www.ChuChuColonial.com)



Dye Fore





## PORT OF CASA DE CAMPO LA ROMANA

Each year hundreds of cruise ships dock at the beautifully picturesque Port of La Romana. With so much to see and do in the area, the cruise port accommodates up to 24 tour buses. Today, the port is a modern platform and harbor terminal, with a capacity for two large cruise ships. The port features two docking platforms, a passenger terminal and ample parking facilities.

### Port of Casa de Campo

The Port of Casa de Campo is situated on the Chavón River along a modern platform and harbor terminal with capacity for two large cruise ships. The port features two docking platforms, a passenger terminal and ample parking facilities. The Port's experienced boarding staff can welcome any size cruise vessel with two ships in the main Port and one in Catalina Island.

As a Port Authority, their relationship with Immigration and Customs gives the Port the ability to handle all oceangoing cruise vessels with a range of services that include crew and passenger sign-in and off, airlift, accommodations, medical services, transfers and luggage.

Nearby Catalina Island is located about 5 nautical miles to the southwest of the port, with facilities that accommodate up to 2,000 guests. Catalina Island has a sea-mooring arrangement for cruise vessels at its sheltered anchorage. Vessels stay at anchorage and passengers are transported to the Island to enjoy a beach day and a buffet lunch. On the beautiful Island there are gift shops where the passengers can buy Dominican souvenirs.

For additional information, please contact the Port Administration at [port.operations@crcltd.com.do](mailto:port.operations@crcltd.com.do)  
[www.cdcports.com.do](http://www.cdcports.com.do)







El Limón waterfall

## THE SAMANÁ PENINSULA

Referred to as one of the most exotic assets of Dominican Republic, the Samaná Peninsula is known for its unspoiled beaches, radiant turquoise ocean waters and lush green mountains. Cruise ships dock at the Samaná Pier and are within minutes of the natural beauty and Caribbean charm relishing along the Peninsula.

This off-the-beaten-path destination beckons adventure, nature and romance seekers alike. Specifically, travelers visiting between January and March can enjoy the thousands of humpback whales that return to the protected waters around the Samaná Peninsula where they frolic, mate and give birth in the safety of the Marine Mammal Sanctuary of the Dominican Republic.

Travelers can indulge in limitless ecotourism activities in Samaná and the nearby Las Terrenas and Las Galeras during cruise stops. Tours around this ecological corridor are easily accessible and allow for a spiritual journey through some of the country's serene water and seascapes – an experience not to be forgotten.

New and improved highways and docking facilities ensure that visitors can enjoy the quiet, unspoiled beaches, radiant turquoise ocean waters, lush green mountains with abundant coconut trees and peaceful solitude amid lively little towns like Las Galeras, Las Terrenas and Playa Rincón.

## SAMANÁ ATTRACTIONS

### Beaches

Beaches and wave action on the north side of the Peninsula include: Playa Bonita with fun waves; Coson with fun waves that can also be rough; and Las Terrenas and El Portillo with more tranquil waters. Playa Rincón is on the north side, but needs to be reached via the Samaná road or by boat. Once you are in Las Galeras, there are daily small boat ferries to Playa Rincón beach, where you will find a spectacular 1-mile (2-kilometer) bay. Beaches on the south side of the Peninsula



Cayo Levantado

include: Playa Galeras (about an hour and a half from Las Terrenas) and Cayo Levantado. With its lovely white sand beaches flanked by tall coconut trees, the island is a delight to visit.

### Cayo Levantado Island

Cruise passengers flock to this palm-lined island to walk along the pristine beach, get a tan or venture out to the thriving reefs for snorkeling and scuba diving. Restaurants surround the beach and serve local Dominican food, also offering fresh coconut and pineapple drinks. Vendors line the sidewalk with locally made crafts and artwork that are great keepsakes.

### Diving and Snorkeling

Perfect day trips include swimming, snorkeling and diving. Water enthusiasts should visit the El Portillo-Las Terrenas area in Samaná, which offers attractive dives into a mixture of shallow and deeper coral reefs and caverns, as well as coral gardens for snorkeling.

### El Limón Waterfall

Considered the most spectacular of Dominican Republic's many waterfalls, El Limón captivates as it cascades 170 feet (51 meters) into a pool where visitors may take a dip. To reach the top of the falls, horseback riding is a popular option among adventure tourists and also provides a beautiful view of the surrounding jungle and natural pool below.

### Whale Observation

Between January and March every year, visitors can view the thousands of humpback whales that migrate to the protected area of the Marine Mammal Sanctuary of the Dominican Republic in Samaná Bay by land at Punta Balandra or boat. The 200 square mile (518 square kilometer) sanctuary was established in 1966 and protects the thousands of humpback whales who migrate from the arctic waters of the north every winter season.

### Los Haitises National Park

Travelers can explore ancient history in mangroves, estuaries, caves and bays at Los Haitises National Park. Easily reached by a short boat ride across Samaná Bay,

visitors can explore the park's magnificent series of limestone caves covered in Taino Indian art, and within it, they will find themselves surrounded by more than 100 species of birds, 90 plus plant species, a wide variety of mammals and caves bearing pre-Columbian Taino art.

### Las Terrenas Town

Las Terrenas is worth a stroll with lots of shops that feature beach wear and gear, and the delicious restaurants and paté and pastry shops that reflect the European influences.

### Santa Bárbara de Samaná

Just a short ten-minute tender ride takes passengers to the pier and beach in Samaná City and also to the island of Cayo Levantado. Near the pier in Samaná City there are banks, ATMs, and a charming Victorian village with a variety of shops and restaurants. Visitors can also hire a taxi or rent a car from Samaná's dock.

### Souvenir Shopping

You will find a wide variety of souvenir shops in Samaná City and Las Terrenas, including smaller boutiques and gift shops at the resort complexes. The beach towns are also a popular shopping destination where local vendors sell larimar jewelry, amber artifacts and hand-crafted figurines from Dominican tropical wood.





### Zip Line Tours

Visitors can experience a new dimension of entertainment with zip line adventures in Samaná. The eco-tourist attraction takes guests flying safely over coconut palms and lush green valleys with spectacular views of the mountains, Samaná Bay and Cayo Levantado. Tours include expert trainers, refreshments and fresh Dominican-grown fruit.

## SAMANÁ DOCKING FACILITIES

With only a 34-hour steaming time from Miami, Samaná is conveniently located along the route of all eastern and southern Caribbean cruises. Making Samaná a port of call gives cruise lines great flexibility in scheduling vessels in the eastern and southern Caribbean's sometimes crowded routes. Samaná Bay is encircled by the Peninsula to the north and Dominican Republic's mainland to the south, making the peaceful bay ideal for cruise ship anchorage. Passengers can visit nearby Cayo Levantado. The island has pathways that lead visitors to all its facilities including beautiful green parks that are excellent for picnics or relaxing.

### Samaná Pier

Cruise ships calling upon the Samaná Peninsula anchor out in Samaná Bay near the west end of the small island named Cayo Levantado. The distance from the anchor to the Samaná Pier can range from 3 to 4 miles (4.8 to 6.4 kilometers) and is where cruise ship passengers disembark.

### Cayo Levantado Dock

Cayo Levantado features a 139-foot (42-meter) dock and the capacity to receive four, 40-foot (12-meter) boats per arrival. The island includes a covered buffet with seating for up to 1,500 and from which every spot offers an ocean view. Cruise ship passengers will find plenty of beach lounge chairs for relaxing and enjoying the view. For more information, please contact [faschad@bahiacruise.com](mailto:faschad@bahiacruise.com) or visit [www.CayoLevantado.com](http://www.CayoLevantado.com)







## PUERTO PLATA

Sparkling ivory-colored sand and clear blue water catch travelers' attention, but the winds, watersports and energetic pace of the provinces are the true highlight for those looking to experience Dominican Republic's North Coast.

Puerto Plata's magical ecotourism and sizzling beach towns are ready to greet cruise passengers when Carnival Corporation's tourist terminal, Amber Cove, is completed. The new state-of-the-art cruise terminal began production in 2012 at Maimon Bay and will be able to accommodate up to 8,000 cruise passengers daily upon completion. Located just north of Puerto Plata, the new cruise port is expected to be the Caribbean's most modern and will open up tourism and development on the unique North Coast, where travelers can experience authentic Dominican culture. Here visitors can step out of their hotel and interact with locals in the casual Dominican towns and villages that make up the North Coast.

Puerto Plata was Dominican Republic's first city to have cruise calls, and as a great geographical location for cruises, the new cruise port will allow for even more travelers to enjoy the historic places, local restaurants, delightful beaches, unspoiled ecotourism adventures and warm people. The construction began in 2012 and Carnival executives expect to finish it in 2014.

## PUERTO PLATA ATTRACTIONS

### Cabarete

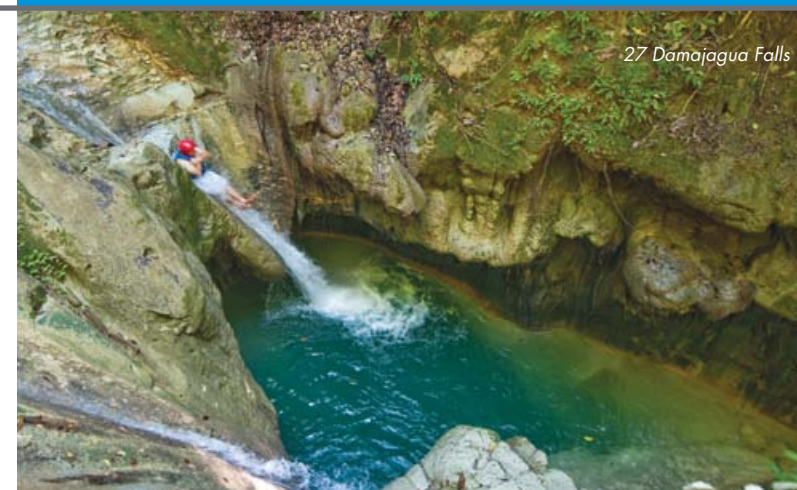
A hip and coastal village known as Cabarete sizzles with nightlife and is a hotbed for cultures from around the world. The village is located 25 minutes east of Gregorio Luperón International Airport (POP), and is known as the world's kiteboarding capital due to its warm waters and winds fit for water sports. Young and adventurous travelers are attracted to the area's vast amount of aquatic sports, the famous annual jazz festival and the eclectic bars, cafes, restaurants and shops.

### Sosúa

Once a refuge for Jewish families fleeing from Europe during Nazi persecutions, Sosúa now immerses travelers in a culture like none other. Sosúa's top attraction is the Jewish Museum, which outlines the Jewish influx to the area. Nearby, Sosúa Beach, which is located on a crescent-shaped bay, features a backdrop of towering cliffs and the turquoise-colored waters here are calm and clear, making it ideal for snorkeling.

### Damajagua

The 27 Falls of Damajagua welcome the most adventurous travelers who can hike and scale spectacular waterfalls with the forest canopy



above and crystal clear water below. Enthusiasts can jump, slide and swim down natural water chutes or jump in peaceful pools. [www.27Charcos.com](http://www.27Charcos.com)

### Ocean World Adventure Park

Ocean World Adventure Park is an entertainment complex for the entire family. The facility includes a Marina, marine park and main building where visitors can enjoy restaurants, bars, a casino, and live performances. Visitors can even get personal with the ocean's majestic inhabitants, like dolphins, stingrays, sea lions and more. [www.OceanWorld.net](http://www.OceanWorld.net)

### Mount Isabel de Torres

A cable car rides up through the clouds to the mountain top of Mount Isabel de Torres. Here remains a statue of Christ the Redeemer, a smaller replica of the Rio de Janeiro landmark, and the chance to explore the dense gardens below that display plantations and exotic flowers.

### San Felipe Fort

In 1541, Spaniards began constructing the Fort of San Felipe to protect Puerto Plata from pirates and other intruders. It was completed in 1577, making it the oldest standing structure in Puerto Plata and the only remnant of the colonial time architecture.

### Victorian Architecture

Downtown Puerto Plata is known for its gorgeous late 19th and early 20th century preserved Victorian homes and public buildings garnered with gingerbread motifs, wooden lace filigree and pastel colors. Visitors can admire turn-of-the-century charm while they take

a stroll in the heart of the city, which is decorated with beautiful Victorian architecture.

### Amber Museum

Housed in an incredible epitome of Victorian architecture known as Villa Bentz, the Amber Museum boasts a unique collection of valuable Dominican amber dating back millions of years. The Amber Museum offers guided tours in several languages. Museum displays detail how amber was formed and even how the insects in the stone inspired the film Jurassic Park. [www.AmberMuseum.com](http://www.AmberMuseum.com)

### Brugal Factory Tour

Dominican Republic is famous for its rum, and Puerto Plata houses the Brugal Rum Factory. This rum is created completely from Dominican hands, sugar cane and distilled and aged inside the country – ensuring a truly Dominican flavor. No wonder it is a favorite of many Dominicans. Tours are offered Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and again from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

### Golf

The North Coast beckons not only with sunshine, eco-adventures and miles of water-sport-beaches, but also two Robert Trent Jones Sr. masterpieces – Playa Dorada Golf Club and Playa Grande Golf Course. This majestic region's romantic landscape provides a stunning backdrop for Puerto Plata's collection of all-inclusive resorts thanks to nearly 100 miles (160 kilometers) of windy shoreline, where silvery-sand meets rugged mountains.







## MINISTRY OF TOURISM OFFICES

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