

# WEDDINGS & HONEYMOONS



**Dominican Republic**  
Has it all



A large, mature pine tree stands prominently on a grassy hill. The tree's trunk is thick and textured, with several branches extending outwards, some bearing green needles. Below the tree, there is a dense, dark green bush. In the background, a calm body of water, likely a lake, stretches across the middle ground. Beyond the lake, a range of mountains is visible under a sky filled with soft, white clouds. The overall scene is peaceful and scenic, capturing a natural landscape in the Dominican Republic.

# WELCOME TO DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Cover photo: Las Terrenas, Samaná  
Inside cover photo: Jarabacoa





Stunning beaches, vibrant culture, fascinating history, and majestic nature make Dominican Republic the ideal destination for romantic celebrations. Nearly 1,000 miles (1,600 kilometers) of golden coastline dotted with pristine white sand beaches beckon brides-to-be, while a variety of sophisticated resorts, hotels, villas and wedding venues make the second largest country in the Caribbean the ideal setting for a dream wedding or fantasy honeymoon of any style and budget.

The country is easily accessible through its eight international airports and boasts a collection of hotels offering professional wedding planners, a variety of packages and professional support to ensure your celebration is the most enchanting and memorable one possible. It's clear to see why Dominican Republic was named one of the 20 "Best Honeymoon Destinations" and one of the 12 "Best Places to Renew Wedding Vows" by Destinations Wedding & Honeymoons magazine. Come and fall in love with Dominican Republic!



## TABLE OF DISTANCES:

Santo Domingo to:

Boca Chica	40 minutes
Juan Dolio	50 minutes
La Romana	1 hour 30 minutes
Bayahibe	1 hour 50 minutes
Constanza	2 hours
Jarabacoa	2 hours
Santiago	2 hours
Punta Cana	2 hours 15 minutes
Samaná	2 hours 30 minutes
Barahona	3 hours
Puerto Plata	3 hours 30 minutes

\* Times may vary according to traffic conditions. For emergency on the road, contact Roadside Assistance at 829-688-1000 or 9-1-1.

[www.911.gob.do](http://www.911.gob.do)

Playa Portillo, Samaná

# DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

## KEY

- City and Town
- Point of Interest
- Cruise Port
- International Airport
- Domestic Airport
- Beach
- Protected Area/Park
- Golf Course
- Whales
- Highest Peak







## FACTS

Río San Juan

Dominican Republic occupies the eastern two-thirds of the island of Hispaniola, which it shares with the Republic of Haiti, and is the second largest country in the Caribbean, comprising an area of 19,292 square miles (49,967 square kilometers). The country has a population of more than 10.5 million and enjoys sunny tropical weather year-round. The average year-round temperatures are 77° to 88° F (25° to 31 C°). The cooler season is November through April, while it is warmest from May through October.

**TIME:** The local time zone is Eastern Caribbean Time (GMT -0400). Dominican Republic does not observe daylight savings time.

**CAPITAL CITY:** Dominican Republic's historic and sophisticated capital city, Santo Domingo, is the oldest city of the New World and its Colonial City was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1990.

**LANGUAGE:** Spanish is the official language; however, you'll be surprised by the fact that the majority of employees in hotels and tourist destinations speak relatively good English, French, German and Italian.

**CURRENCY:** The Dominican peso (RD\$) is the official currency.

**GETTING HERE:** Dominican Republic currently has eight international airports throughout the country, including: Punta Cana International Airport (PUJ), La Romana International Airport (LRM), Gregorio Luperón International Airport (POP) in Puerto Plata, El Cibao International Airport (STI) in Santiago, Las Americas International Airport (SDQ) in Santo Domingo, and El Catey International Airport (AZS) in Samaná. Maritime ports that regularly receive cruise ships include Santo Domingo Port (Don Diego and Sans Souci terminals), La Romana (East and West docks, Isla Catalina and Casa de Campo Marina), Puerto Plata (Amber Cove), and Samaná Bay facilities.

**DOCUMENTATION:** Most visitors arriving in the Dominican Republic—including those from the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, the European Union, Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Mexico, many South American countries and Central America (see the full list of countries on our website)—only need a passport with a minimum validity equivalent to the duration of their stay to enter the country. The cost of the 30-day tourist card, paid separately in the past, is now included in the airline ticket for all visitors.

**VISAS:** Any person, regardless of their nationality, can visit Dominican Republic if they are a legal resident of, or if they have one of the following valid visas in their passport: United States, Canada, United Kingdom or Schengen. Travelers who do not have a passport or visa from countries listed above will need to apply for a visa. To issue a visa, the passport needs to have a validity of at least six (6) months. If you need to apply for a tourist visa, please visit this website to find your Dominican consulate abroad: [www.consuladord.com](http://www.consuladord.com)

**ELECTRICITY:** Operates at 110 Volts/60 Hertz, the same as North America. If needed, adapter plugs are available at most hotels.

**TAXES:** Dominican hotels and restaurants collect 28 percent of their published prices (18 percent sales tax + 10 percent service charges).

**MEDICAL PRECAUTIONS:** Because of the strength of the Caribbean sun and the climatic conditions of the area, it is recommended that vacationers always wear sunscreen and mosquito repellent when outdoors, and drink water throughout the day to avoid dehydration. Only bottled water is advised. For emergencies, contact 9-1-1, our National Care System for Emergency and Safety. <https://911.gob.do>

**DRINKING AGE:** The legal drinking age in the country is 18 years old.

**HOTELS:** For information about Dominican Republic hotels, visit: [www.GoDominicanRepublic.com/en/hotels](http://www.GoDominicanRepublic.com/en/hotels), and the Association of Hotels and Tourism: [www.asonahores.com](http://www.asonahores.com)

Download our free [Go Dominican Republic app](#), available in the App Store and on Google Play.





## THE WEDDING



Dominican Republic is the perfect backdrop for those looking to tie the knot. Conveniently, brides-to-be have access to a vast variety of hotels that offer comprehensive wedding packages including wedding coordinators, bridal treatments, couples spa services, a photographer, music, flowers, honeymoon suite, personalized wedding cake, catering, amenities for guests and more to ensure that the wedding day is as hassle-free, cost-effective and relaxed as possible. Couples won't have to lift a finger until it's time to place the rings on them.

Dominican Republic also offers a range of nuptial settings for couples to consider, whether you are looking for paradisiacal beaches, lush tropical gardens, a romantic atmosphere surrounded by history or the uniqueness of a quaint village, the exotic island accommodates extravagant or intimate, and exciting or relaxed for every style and budget.





**WEDDING REQUIREMENTS:** Before the ceremony, submit the following paperwork before the Oficialía del Estado Civil (Civil Registry Office) for the preparation of your marriage certificate. Note that you may send photocopies in advance and bring the originals with you:

- Original passport with photocopy of the front page with the latest entries into the country.
- Sworn declaration before a notary public of being single and eligible to marry. This is also known as a single status affidavit.
- Original Birth Certificate(s) of the bride, groom and any children they may have in common
- Divorce Certificate(s) or Death Certificate(s) when applicable.
- Two or more witnesses, with valid passports. Relatives cannot be witnesses.
- The bride and groom must arrive in the country 3 business days before the wedding.

Civil ceremonies are performed only in Spanish, but a translator can be requested. The required documentation varies depending on the couple's country of origin. Most documents require an Apostille, to be translated into Spanish by an official translator and legalized by the Consulate or Embassy of the Dominican Republic in the country where the documents were issued. Please contact them for more information on each case [www.consuladord.com](http://www.consuladord.com)

No paperwork is required for a symbolic wedding. The wedding planner will normally officiate these kind of ceremonies.

*\* More information on pages 22 and 23.*







## RELIGIOUS CEREMONIES

Altos de Chavón. La Romana

For those who like the idea of getting married in a tropical setting but still want a religious ceremony, Dominican Republic offers that possibility. Many hotels have religious wedding planners and are able to offer the best assistance with the required formalities.

### REQUIREMENTS

If you wish to have a Catholic wedding, you need the authorization of an archbishop from your country of residence and deliver it to the local archdiocese, in addition to:

- Premarital Certificate
- Civil Marriage License legalized by the Dominican Consulate, when applicable.

- Baptism Certificate of bride, groom, and any children they may have in common; First Communion and Confirmation Certificates.
- Certificate of Annulment by the Catholic Church, if applicable.
- Birth Certificates of bride, groom, and any children they may have in common.
- Single Status Affidavit, if applicable.

Catholic ceremonies are performed in Spanish by a priest. They have the same legal validity as a civil marriage, so they require the same documentation; a legally valid Marriage Certificate is issued.

*\* More information on page 23.*

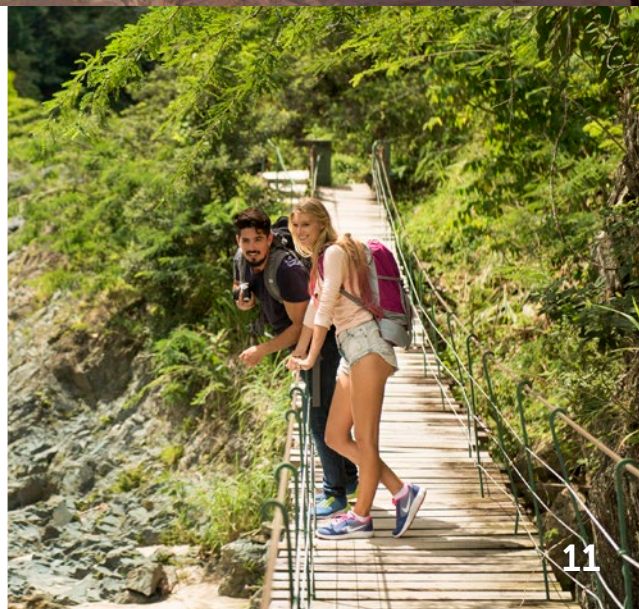




## THE HONEYMOON

A major advantage of traveling to Dominican Republic is that newlyweds are already at their honeymoon destination, simply an “all-in-one” package. You can choose from a wide variety of environments that provide an unforgettable romantic experience. There is no shortage of beauty and romance at the beautiful beaches of Punta Cana and Bayahibe, the luxury of La Romana, the history and romance of the capital city of Santo Domingo, the captivating nature of Samaná and the adventurous spirit of Puerto Plata.

Still stumped about which direction to take? Then make it a split decision – spend a week in the south or the east and a week in the north. Some destinations are only 3 or 4 hours apart, so you won’t waste a whole day traveling and you can explore more than one region during your stay. After all, it’s your honeymoon; make it memorable!





# SANTO DOMINGO

Santo Domingo, the Cultural Capital of the Americas, is undoubtedly the most diverse, vibrant and culturally rich city in the Caribbean. With fascinating museums, delicious gastronomy, exciting entertainment options and rich history with the azure Caribbean Sea as your romantic backdrop, Santo Domingo is the ideal destination for those looking for a place combining both romance and history.

**COLONIAL CITY:** The Colonial City was the first city established in the New World in 1498 by Christopher Columbus' brother, Bartholomew Columbus. Thanks to its historical and cultural value, the Colonial City –home to the first cathedral, street, hospital, university and monastery in America– was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1990. Here, lovers will find preserved buildings dating back to the 16th century, many of which are museums. Among them is the Alcázar de Colón, the Ozama Fortress and the palace of the Spanish court (Museo de las Casas Reales), offering exciting and exotic backdrops to a lifelong proposal.

**LOS TRES OJOS:** Los Tres Ojos, or The Three Eyes, is the name of a 50-foot (15 meter) open-air limestone cave in Mirador del Este Park near Santo Domingo. Inside are one open-air and three underground lakes created by tectonic fractures when underground caves collapsed ages ago. Surrounded by stalactites and stalagmites and Taino pictographs, and inhabited by bats, turtles and fish, the lakes give rise to mysterious reflections of blue, green and yellow.





**CULTURAL PLAZA:** Santo Domingo has dozens of museums, many of which are located in the city's Plaza de la Cultura. Here, couples can explore the Museum of the Dominican Man, the Museum of Modern Art, the National Museum of History and Geography, and the National Museum of Natural History. The new Museo de las Atarazanas Reales (MAR) houses in the Colonial City, the most important exhibition of underwater archeology in the Dominican Republic and America, with its valuable collection of historical and cultural assets extracted from the Dominican coasts.

**BEACHES:** There are two main beaches near the city of Santo Domingo: Boca Chica, just 18 miles (30 kilometers) east of Santo Domingo, famous for its clear turquoise water, powdery-white sand, wide variety of water sports and large crowds on weekends; and the more relaxed Juan Dolio, located 12 miles (20 kilometers) west of Boca Chica, offering a variety of excellent restaurants serving Dominican and international cuisine.

**GASTRONOMY AND NIGHTLIFE:** Santo Domingo is a cosmopolitan city with a great variety of specialized restaurants and nightlife venues, such as bars, clubs, casinos and theaters. From romantic and bohemian atmospheres in the Colonial City, to the most modern ones in the hotels and main avenues of the city.



Playa Juan Dolio





## PUNTA CANA

The sophisticated East Coast boasts 100 miles (160 kilometers) of the world's top beaches that are surrounded by turquoise waters and some of the world's most luxe resorts, from all-inclusives, to boutique hotels, to private oceanfront villas. There are several places in the area for religious ceremonies, such as the Good Jesus Catholic Church, Our Lady of Punta Cana, and the Jesus Good Shepherd and Our Lady of Carmen chapels, among others.

**SPA:** A spa visit to Punta Cana and Bávaro's all-inclusive resorts and spa facilities is an ideal way to decompress with your loved one. It does not matter if you receive spa treatments outside or indoors, individual or as a couple, for one hour or an entire day, spa professionals customize each and every treatment to a visitor's needs. Looking for a unique



experience? Relax on a boat sailing along the entire coast, with services including massages, floating mattresses, foot detox, yoga and Pilates classes.

**ATTRACTIONS AND EXCURSIONS:** Thanks to its great diversity, the region offers a range of activities such as diving and snorkeling, playing on the wonderful golf courses and visiting exciting parks such as Scape Park, Aqua Park and Bávaro Adventure Park where you can embark on adrenaline-filled adventures like buggy tours, flying on ziplines, flight simulators, trekking, caves and much more. But if you want to relax, take a refreshing dip in the springs and lagoons at the Ojos Indígenas Ecological Reserve in Punta Cana, featuring a wide variety of exotic plant species, or sail at sunset on a luxurious catamaran.





**BEACHES:** The main draw to this area is the beaches that border the meeting point between the Atlantic Ocean and the Caribbean Sea. The multi-shaded blue waters of the ocean complemented by pristine white sands create lasting impressions, making for a perfect sunrise or sunset with your sweetheart. Playa Blanca, Punta Cana, Bávaro, Juanillo, Cabeza de Toro, Arena Gorda, Macao, El Cortecito and Uvero Alto are among the most renowned beaches.

**GASTRONOMY AND NIGHTLIFE:** Punta Cana offers a diverse selection of night entertainment, both inside and outside the resorts. You can visit international nightclubs like Coco Bongo, or with a more local touch like Mangú, or even exotic like Imagine, located inside a rocky cave.



When it comes to gastronomy, the region's haute cuisine and quaint seaside restaurants have been recognized as some of the best in the Caribbean. The region also offers attractive shopping centers with diverse gastronomic offers such as Puntacana Village, Downtown Punta Cana, BlueMall Puntacana, Sanctuary Town, among others.

**GOLF:** Punta Cana offers golf enthusiasts the largest selection of world-class golf set among sumptuous resorts in the country, created by world-renowned golf course designers such as Nick Price, Jack Nicklaus, Tom Fazio, P.B. Dye and José (Pepe) Gancedo. This enchanting region continues to be the top destination for travelers who seek challenging golf at some of the world's most memorable courses.





## PUERTO PLATA

This region is an eco-tourist's paradise set among waterfalls, caves, mountains and the best beaches for water sports such as surf and kitesurf. Sophisticated and natural, intimate or family-friendly, the north coast is an all-in-one destination.

**CULTURE AND ARCHITECTURE:** Get down on one knee while taking in the beauty of the late 19th and early 20th century preserved Victorian homes and public buildings in the heart of Puerto Plata, making a stop at the San Felipe fortress, built in the 16th century in the Colonial architectural by the Spanish. Visit the Amber Museum to see this prehistoric gem that is abundant in Dominican Republic. Visit the Jewish Museum to learn about the history of the people that fled Nazi Europe and settled in Sosúa as ranchers and farmers, creating a community.

**CABARETE:** The mecca for water sports; go rowing, paddleboarding, kitesurfing, windsurfing and surfing, and then relax in the wide range of restaurants that attract couples in search of gastronomic experiences. The stunning settings of golden sand under the moonlight make dining here a seaside romantic delight. At night, enjoy a wide variety of bars and clubs on the same beach, all with a fun and relaxed atmosphere.





Cayo Arena (Paraíso)



27 Waterfalls of Damajagua

**MOUNT ISABEL DE TORRES:** Get engaged in the heavens, or at least pretty close, while taking a suspended cable car 2,565 feet (781 meters) up to the top of Mount Isabel de Torres at the foot of the shores of Puerto Plata. Enjoy the magnificent views of the Atlantic Ocean while a statue of Christ the Redeemer awaits at the top, surrounded by beautiful gardens.

**27 WATERFALLS OF DAMAJAGUA:** Tap into love while discovering one of Dominican Republic's best kept secrets just south of Puerto Plata. Climb one of numerous waterfalls in order to "cascade" back down by jumping off cliffs or sliding down water chutes – an adrenaline rush not to be forgotten.

**CAYO ARENA:** Cayo Arena, also called Cayo Paraíso, is a very small sandbar surrounded by coral reefs off the beaches of Punta Rucia and La Ensenada. Upon arrival, you will feel as though you have arrived in the secret paradise island of your dreams surrounded by soft white sand and turquoise waters where snorkeling is ideal. It's a full-day excursion.

**OCEAN WORLD ADVENTURE PARK:** A favorite with kids and adults alike, Ocean World allows visitors to get up close and personal with dolphins, sea lions, rays and sharks. Swim together with some of the underwater world's most majestic creatures, creating an undeniable bond. Enjoy this incredible atmosphere along with local cuisine, live music and nightly entertainment, such as an exotic tropical show and casino. [www.oceanworld.net](http://www.oceanworld.net)



# LA ROMANA



La Romana features a combination of picturesque beaches, chic accommodations and desirable attractions. With its brilliant waters, tropical forests, protected areas, rich colonial history and excellent range of activities, La Romana provides the perfect destination for honeymooners and couples alike.

**ALTOS DE CHAVÓN:** Built in 1976, Altos de Chavón is a romantic cobblestone lined replica of a quaint 16th century Mediterranean village hitched high above the Chavón River. In the center of the village, with impressive views of the river, you'll find Saint Stanislaus church, the perfect place to get married. This cultural center also features shops, artists' studios, art galleries, restaurants, bars, museums and an amphitheater.

**CASA DE CAMPO:** Casa de Campo, a favorite getaway for celebrities, is the venerable resort and villa complex in La Romana that includes exclusive access to La Romana's marina, a variety of gourmet and casual restaurants and four of Dominican Republic's top golf courses. Get married on the fairway, on a beautiful private beach at the resort or in a villa with amazing golf course views.

**SAONA ISLAND:** With excursions departing from Bayahibe, Saona Island is part of the Cotubanamá National Park, and its pristine beaches are the main draw. Saona Island is home to some 112 species of birds in addition to turtles, sharks, bottlenose dolphins and manatees, making it a unique spot for romantic declarations.





**CATALINA ISLAND:** Catalina Island is a secluded island just off the coast of La Romana. It features one of the best dive spots in Dominican Republic, the “Living Underwater Museum”, where you can find Captain Kidd’s shipwreck. From the beach surrounding the island, a soft slope is the platform for a rich underwater garden of corals and fauna at less than 9 feet (3 m) depth, making it ideal for snorkeling.

**BAYAHIBE:** Located 25 minutes east of La Romana is the local resort area of Bayahibe, known as a favorite destination for beach and sun. Originally founded in 1874 as an authentic fishing village, Bayahibe boasts a combination of picturesque beaches, majestic nature, chic accommodations and desirable attractions. It is also the starting point for many of the sea excursions, including the very popular Saona Island.

**CUEVA DE LAS MARAVILLAS (CAVE OF WONDERS):** Explore together this cave, cleverly lit to display the abundant stalagmites, stalactites, and nearly 500 pictographs and petroglyphs etched into the walls by the ancient Taino Indians. Make a wonderful proposal amid the serenity of these ancient drawings.







Salto El Limón



## SAMANÁ

Cayo Levantado

Known for its magnificent beauty and quiet unspoiled beaches lying within spectacular views of the Bay of Samaná, the Samaná Peninsula is one of the most natural and undiscovered regions in the Caribbean. The Northeast Coast was also named “one of the top ten honeymoon destinations” by *The Knot* magazine.

**SALTO EL LIMÓN:** Celebrate your love in a cascade of water. Considered one of the most spectacular and breathtaking waterfalls in the country, Salto El Limón captivates as it cascades 170 feet (52 meters) into a large swimming hole. While the waterfall is accessible by foot, the best way to get there is by a couple's horseback ride through the lush vegetation.

**PUERTO BAHÍA MARINA:** Located in the bay of Samaná, this marina offers all modern services, from a wide range of restaurants to hotel accommodations and a residential community. Have a cocktail by the yachts or relax by the pool overlooking Cayo Levantado island.

**CAYO LEVANTADO:** Also located in the Bay of Samaná, this idyllic island has become one of the area's top tourist destinations for romance, relaxation and refreshing Dominican cuisine. Perfect for diving and snorkeling with your other half, surrounded by colorful fish.





Samaná Bay

**LAS TERRENAS:** The town welcomes romantics with its 17 miles (28 kilometers) of beautiful white-sand beaches lined with pastel-colored wooden fishing boats. Las Terrenas has become one of the most sought-after and romantic destinations in the country thanks to its diverse offer of European-influenced boutique hotels.

**WHALE SANCTUARY:** From January through March, Samaná Bay is a haven for humpback whales that mate and breed in Dominican Republic's protected waters. Appreciate the pristine nature and animal life as you endure a romantic milestone watching whales frolic in the distance. If visitors would rather observe the whales on land, a Land Whale Observatory opened in January 2011 at Punta Balandra.

**LOS HAITISES NATIONAL PARK:** This park is located just south of the Samaná Peninsula. Discover its beautiful and abundant vegetation and animal life on a boat excursion. You will find yourselves surrounded by more than 200 species of birds and caves bearing pre-Columbian Taino art.

**GASTRONOMY AND NIGHTLIFE:** The Pueblo de los Pescadores, in Las Terrenas, is the region's nightlife hotspot thanks to a selection of restaurants and bars offering a wide range of gastronomic and entertainment offerings. Its casual and relaxed atmosphere will have you socializing with everyone, from locals to tourists.





## CIVIL WEDDING REQUIREMENTS

- Original valid passport of the spouses. If the passport is in Spanish and records your marital status as single, proof of marital status is not mandatory.
- Photocopy of the identification page (photo) of both passports and of the last entries to the country.
- Original Birth Certificates. \*
- If you have children in common, Birth Certificates (they must be previously recognized). \*
- Sworn declaration before a notary public of the country of origin or residence of being single and eligible to marry. This is also known as a single status affidavit. You must include both passport numbers, places of work and the names of your parents. Signatures must be notarized by a Notary Public and submitted to the County Recorder, who certifies the validity of the notary public's commission. \*
- Divorce Certificate(s) stamped by a notary, stating marital status and eligibility to marry, if applicable. \*
- A divorced woman cannot remarry for 10 months after the divorce is finalized, unless her new husband is the same man she divorced.
- Death certificate of the spouse, the previous marriage certificate and a legal declaration, stamped by a notary, stating the marital status and eligibility to marry, if applicable. \*
- All documents must be translated and legalized by the Dominican Consulate before arriving in the Dominican Republic, except Passports, no more than 3 months before the wedding date. It is the responsibility of the couple to have all the documentation ready before the wedding.
- Legal statements must be made per person and must include passport numbers, address and line of employment. They are valid for a period of three months from the date they're issued.
- If the couple is going to marry under the legal regime of Separation of Assets, they must submit the authentic instrument for these purposes to the Oficialía del Estado Civil (Civil Registry Office), which must be registered and duly notarized. This instrument must be issued prior to the celebration of the marriage.
- If there has been a name change or if the person has been adopted, proof of this must be presented.
- In the case of Italian citizens, the marriage banns will not be issued until posted in a visible place of the Oficialía at least three (3) days before the date on which the marriage will be celebrated. A record to that effect will be drawn up.
- Two or more witnesses with valid passports; they cannot be direct or collateral relatives up to the third degree, including the spouses.
- Address and profession of the bride and groom. Names of their grandparents. Names of the best man and maid of honor or of the witnesses, their addresses, names of their parents and a copy of their valid passports.
- The bride and groom must be in the country 3 working days before the wedding.
- Civil ceremonies are performed only in Spanish. A translator can be requested.
- After the wedding, the Judge will duly register the Wedding Certificate in the corresponding Oficialía del Estado Civil (Civil Registry Office) and will legalize it with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic. The Wedding Certificate will then be mailed to the couple; this can take up to 15 weeks. The marriage certificate is issued in Spanish.
- Upon receiving the marriage certificate with the Apostille from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic, you must translate it again into your language and send a copy to the Legalization Department of the Foreign Affairs Office of your country of origin, so that they can keep a record.
- No paperwork is required for a symbolic wedding. Normally the wedding planner will officiate. However, you can bring your own Minister or pay for the services of a local one.
- For more information visit the website (in Spanish) of the Junta Central Electoral:

<http://ayuda.jce.gob.do/kb/a27/cuales-son-los-requisitos-para-un-matrimonio-civil.aspx>





## RELIGIOUS WEDDING REQUIREMENTS

- Valid passports of the groom, bride, groom's parents, bride's parents, best man and godmother.
- Original Birth Certificates. They must be recent, no more than 1 year after being issued. \*
- Birth certificate of the children. \*
- Sworn Declaration of Marital Status proving you're single and eligible to marry, if applicable. \*
- Premarital Certificates indicating that they received Church instruction and stating that both parties are legally single individuals.
- Civil Marriage Certificate, if applicable. \*
- Original and recent Baptism Certificates (less than 6 months of being issued).
- Baptism certificates for children.
- Original Confirmation Certificates.
- First Communion Certificates.
- Death Certificate, if applicable. \*
- Certificate of Annulment by the Catholic Church, if applicable.
- Premarital Course Certificate.
- To request an immigration permit from the Archdiocese Chancellor's Office, you must submit a copy of birth certificates, baptism certificates, a letter from your country of origin stating you are single and eligible to marry apostilled and certified by the Dominican Consulate, and color copies of the passports of the bride, groom and godparents.
- The parish of the country of origin of the bride and groom must send a permit to the parish of the local Catholic Church to authorize the celebration of the ceremony in the Dominican Republic. The permit must contain a document that certifies your single status and confirm that the premarital course has been taken in the parish of the country of origin. The permit must have the parish seal and be printed on original letterhead.
- If either of the spouses is not Catholic, they need an ecclesiastical dispensation.
- A cash donation and a wreath are expected for all Catholic ceremonies.
- The bride and groom must meet with the Priest on a date agreed upon by all.
- The documentation that serves as legal support for the marriage must be delivered to the Parish Office three months before the selected date. \*
- Canonical (religious) marriages are registered by the Parish in the Oficialía del Estado Civil (Civil Registry Office).
- Catholic ceremonies have the same legal validity as a civil marriage.
- Catholic ceremonies are performed by a priest in Spanish.
- For more information visit the Central Electoral Board:

<http://ayuda.jce.gob.do/kb/c31/matrimonios.aspx>

\* Note: The Dominican Republic is a member of the Hague Convention. Citizens of member countries of said convention are required to have an apostille in all official documents issued by their Secretary of State to ensure international validity, such as birth certificates, sworn declaration of single civil status, death certificate of the spouse and divorce certificate. If the documents are not written in Spanish, they need to be translated by an official translator and legalized or certified by the Consulate or Embassy of the Dominican Republic in the country they were issued. If you do not know if your country is a member of the Hague Convention, you can find this information at <https://www.hcch.net/en/states/hcch-members/>. In the case of a country that is not a member of the Hague Convention, the proof of declaration must be legalized by the Dominican consular authority in the place where it was issued.





## Dominican Republic Has it all

## Ministry of Tourism

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