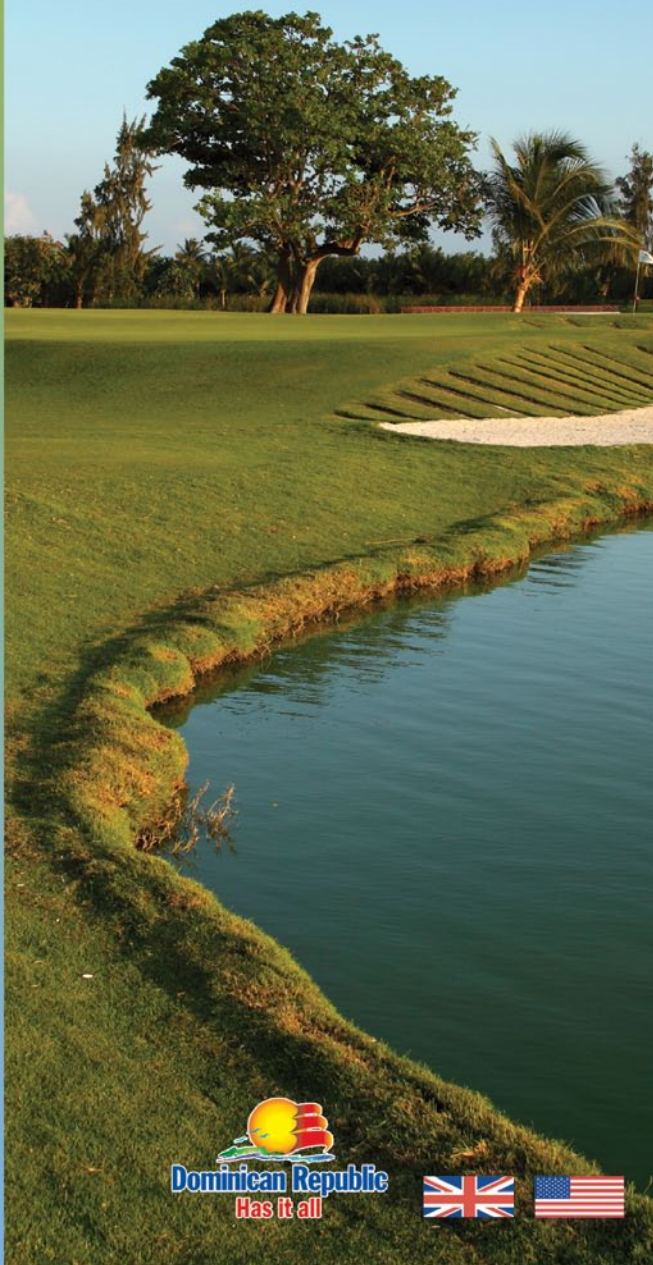




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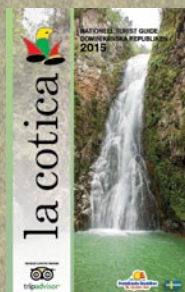
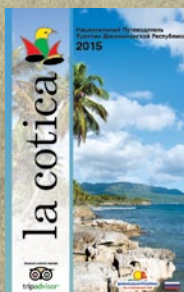
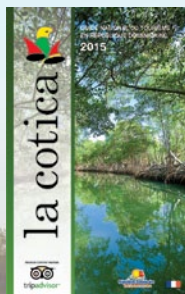
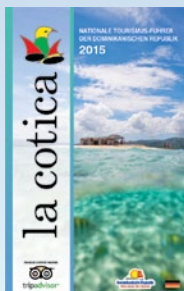
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5. Playa Bonita:

143 Reviews



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Summary

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Greetings



Ministry of Tourism

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 America-, 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 a 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.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Francisco'.

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





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Acknowledgements



The native parrot, a Caribbean bird belonging to the Psittacidae family and the Amazona Ventralis species has been a part of our daily lives from the days of the Taino hut to the modern Dominican household.

Due to its exotic appearance and the ease with which it reproduces human speech, it has been a decorative feature in many homes and a loud but beloved pet to the many children and adults who patiently teach their "Cotica" to talk.

Parrots can be friendly, reproachful, tattletales, cynical, diplomatic, foul-mouthed or even political and highly partisan. Not surprisingly, their unsolicited interventions at family gatherings have often spelled doom for many an amorous relationship and even old friendships.

The native Taínos usually offered them as gifts to the Spaniards as a symbol of their 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.

For further information
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General information



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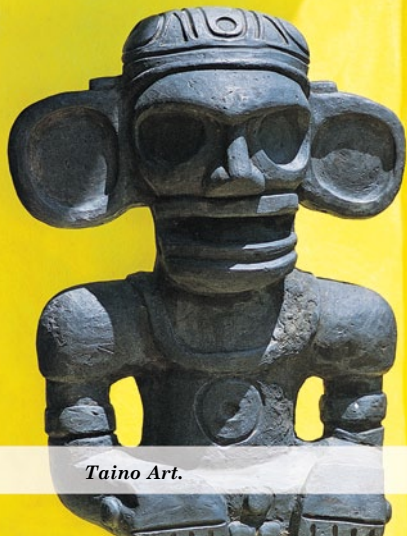


Cradle of the Caribbean.

In the heart of the Caribbean, washed by the waters of the Atlantic Ocean to the north and the impetuous Caribbean Sea in the south, nestles a placid and beautiful country officially called The 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 voyage 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 fascinate as well excite those who get to know it.



Taino Art.

By 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, our island was populated by aborigines that called themselves “Tainos”, a word which translates as “the good”.

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 by canoe through 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 Conquistadors that enslaved them. Unfortunately, a population

estimated at around 600,000 was practically exterminated in less than thirteen years.

Taino sociopolitical structure was organized under five polities or cacicazgos: Marién, governed by Guacanagarix; Maguá was dominated by the cacique Guarionex; Caonabo ruled in Maguána; in Higüey, Cayacoa; and Jaragua fell under the might of Bohechío. After Bohechío's death, his sister Anacaona, who was also the widow of Caonabo, 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 Nicolas 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 posterity their footprints”.

Language

Spanish is the Country's official language. Nevertheless, in some communities that have a foreign origin and in 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 and 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.

This unique form of expression has been a source of inspiration for renowned writers, both native and foreign. It is not known precisely when the common country parlance started to be used in literary writings. Nevertheless a rustic poem written in 1635 by Tirso de Molina earned a literary award—the rustic lilt had been immortalized thanks to his sojourn between 1616 and 1618 at the Convent of Las Mercedes in the colonial zone of Santo Domingo.

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 lingo. 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), higüera (calabash tree), huracán (hurricane), iguana (iguana), lambí (conch meat), maíz (corn), tabaco (tobacco), tiburón (shark), yagua (palm), and yuca (yucca), among others.

Some visitors tend to think that we are either angry or deaf when they hear us talking. Indeed, shouting and gesticulating, common among rural folk 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 it is their

practice to walk slowly in silence at the venue of the protest as they hold a poster 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 manner of protesting, which is very much a reflection of our national character, has on occasion been misunderstood by the international media.

The nation: government and territory

The Dominican Republic has a population of over million 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 2.5 million, was founded by Don Bartolomé Colón on August 4, 1496. It is the oldest city of the New World.

Because of its key geographical position, the 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 Gran Colombia, Haiti and the United States.



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Boca Chica	☎ 809-523-5106
Cabarete	☎ 809-571-0962
Constanza	☎ 809-539-2900
Higüey	☎ 809-554-2672
Jarabacoa	☎ 809-574-7287
Jimaní	☎ 809-885-9417
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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 Age of Discovery...* 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 Colombian civilizations. 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 the heritage of 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 that were later moved to the St. Francis Monastery in 1512.



It was here that the cacique Guarocuya was educated and baptized into the Christian faith under the name Enriquillo.

In 1510 the missionaries of the Dominican Order settled in 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 St. Thomas Aquino. 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 twelve. 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 as well. 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 State Department of Higher Education, Science and Technology (Ministerio de Educación Superior, Ciencia y Tecnología).

Currently public education at the basic level and secondary education is provided to more than 2,6 million students nationwide.

Religion

In the 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 °C / 65 °F and 27 °C / 81 °F.

The fertile Dominican soil is ideal for the cultivation of grain. According to the W. Koppen

Medical emergencies



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Santo Domingo

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Hospital General de la Plaza de la Salud • Av. Ortega y Gasset, Santo Domingo ☎ 809-565-7477 🌐 www.hgps.do

North Region

Centro Médico Bournigal • C/ Antera Mota Esquina Doctor Zafra, Puerto Plata ☎ 809-586-2342 🌐 www.bournigal-hospital.com

Hospital Metropolitano de Santiago • Aut. Duarte, Km 2.8, Santiago ☎ 829-947-2222 🌐 www.homshospital.com

East Region

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🌐 www.hospiten.com.do

Centro Médico Central Romana • Calle I Principal, Central Romana, La Romana ☎ 809-523-3333 Ext. 5491 🌐 www.centralromana.com.do

South Region

Centro Médico Regional Barahona • José Francisco Peña Gómez 71, Barahona ☎ 809-524-2470



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Climate Classification System, the predominant climate is 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 vegetational patterns are conditioned by such factors as elevation and proximity to ocean currents.

In the Central Mountain Range, 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 relief is in the province of Barahona: the Lake Enriquillo. From the lake's

surface, at 30m below sea level, emerges Cabritos Island, where according to Dr. Sophie Jackowska "there exists the largest reserve of the American crocodile".

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.

Pharmacies open 24-7

Farmacia Trizza

Plaza Taveras Center, local 2C, Carretera Mella, Higüey ☎ 809-554-4242

Farmax

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Farmacia Los Hidalgos

Av. Abraham Lincoln 801, Sto. Dgo. ☎ 809-338-0700
www.farmaciasloshidalgos.com.do

Farmacia Mariam

Instituto Materno Infantil, Av. Juan Pablo Duarte, Esq. Bisonó Toribio, Santiago ☎ 809-587-3404

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.

Health

In our country, on matters of health we refer to the Tainos, who first settled on this island - that they also called bohío - because they found in it the largesse of mother nature, the absence of any hostile environmental conditions, and a mild climate that beckoned them to make this place their home.

Business Hours

Banks: Lobby Hours

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8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Sat.

Banks Express at Malls

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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.

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. [...] In all circumstances, it is possible to enjoy, if one knows how to choose the right locality, a delightful climate where lung disease, scarlet fever and other dreaded epidemics found in the Northern countries are not common. Also, there is no risk of contracting malaria or yellow fever.

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 at 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 2:00 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 measurements

Concerning weights and measurements, the Dominican Republic uses, in conformity with national legislation, the metric system. Nevertheless, the country

Holidays

January 1: New Year's Day

January 6: Epiphany or Three Kings day

January 21: Our Lady of Altagracia

January 26: Birthday of 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 las Mercedes

October 12: Columbus Day

November 6: Constitution Day

December 25: Christmas Day

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 624 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 human-relations expertise. During the process you might even make a friend and the seller might give you "a ñapa" (something extra) at the end of the sale.



For more information



Av. Abraham Lincoln No. 856, Santo Domingo • Tel.: 809 621 0000 / Fax: 829 541 1000
holidaystodomingo@ihg.com • www.holidayinn.com/sdqdominicana



Foreign Investment



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. For more information, please visit www.vuird.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.

Documents: Arrival and Stay

In accordance with Law No. 875 regarding Visas, foreigners traveling to the 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, which can be acquired for US\$10 / £10 in the aforementioned diplomatic representations, when buying airline ticket or upon arrival to the country at international ports and airports, provided you are visiting the country exclusively for tourism purposes.

Investment in the Dominican Republic Consultancy Services



✉ info@estrellatupete.com
🌐 www.estrellatupete.com
Santiago ☎ 809-724-0000
Santo Domingo ☎ 809-262-2500

ADETI- Asociación Dominicana de Empresas Turísticas

Inmobiliarias • ☎ 809-562-3232 🌐 www.adeti.com.do

CEI-RD Centro de Exportación e Inversión de la República

Dominicana • ☎ 809-530-5505 🌐 www.cei-rd.gov.do

Codelpa • Sto. Dgo. ☎ 809-567-0047 – Bávaro ☎ 809-552-6247 🌐 www.codelpa.com

Gestión y Servicios Empresariales • ☎ 809-381-1189

✉ info@gestionyservicios.com 🌐 www.gestionyservicios.com

Russin Vecchi & Heredia Bonettim • ☎ 809-535-9511 🌐 www.rvhb.com



To verify current requisites for your country of origin, visit:
www.dominicanway.com

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.

Men traveling to attend a conference, or for business reasons, may need to bring a jacket and a tie. Some events, depending the

Chambers of commerce

Nationals

American ☎ 809-381-0777

✉ amcham@claro.net.do

British ☎ 809-616-2335

✉ recepcion@britchamdr.com

Ducth ☎ 809-427-4569

✉ christina.baber@gmail.com

Puerto Rican ☎ 809-732-2792

✉ treyes@mediosdelcaribe.com

Prochile ☎ 809-537-2407

✉ lriivas@prochile.gob.cl

Russian ☎ 809-620-1471

✉ consuladoruso@gmail.com

Santiago ☎ 809-582-2856

✉ directorejecutivo@camarasantiago.com

Santo Domingo ☎ 809-682-2688

✉ info@camarasantodomingo.do

Spanish ☎ 809-567-2147

✉ info@camacoes.org.do

Taiwanese ☎ 809-531-3555

✉ chuangjenhcueh@gmail.com

Binationals

Dominican-Brazilian ☎ 809-594-0042

✉ ccdom-bra@hotmail.com

Dominican-Canadian ☎ 809-540-7545

✉ ccddc@claro.net.do

Dominican-Chinese ☎ 809-683-6141

✉ info@rdchina.org

Dominican-Belgian ☎ 809-985-8595

✉ gdehostos@cocdbl.org

Dominican-Ecuadorian ☎ 809-549-6831

✉ esantaella@claro.net.do

Dominican-French ☎ 809-472-0500

✉ admin@ccdfdo.org

Dominican-German ☎ 809-688-6700

✉ ccdomalemana@claro.net.do

Dominican-Honduran ☎ 809-508-0701

✉ luisa.abinader@gmail.com

Dominican-Italian ☎ 809-535-5111

✉ c.italiana@camaraitaliana.com.do

Dominican-Japanese ☎ 809-565-5531

✉ bonanzadom@claro.net.do

Dominican-Korean ☎ 809-544-1555

✉ eantonio.lama@magna.com.do

Dominican-Mexican ☎ 809-541-8724

✉ cadomex@claro.net.do

Dominican-Nicaraguan ☎ 809-544-0222

✉ farachadm@claro.net.do

Dominican-Swiss ☎ 809-475-1721


✉ info@dominicosuiza.org




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.


- **Info:**


Foreign Affairs Ministry

 809-987-7001

 www.mirex.gov.do

General Direction of Migrations

 809-508-2555

 www.migracion.gov.do

type, may require a tuxedo for the men and an evening dress for the 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 video-recorder. 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 before, and 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 adorn the countryside and cities alike.

- **Tips**

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.

Accredited dominican consulates abroad

Antigua and Barbuda

☎ (268) 562-6571

✉ adrianoherrerar@hotmail.com

Argentina

☎ (5411) 4894-2080

✉ consuladodominicano@fibertel.com.ar

Aruba

☎ (297) 583-5330

✉ consuladordaruba@hotmail.com

Australia

☎ (612) 4620-3247

✉ greg.teal@uws.edu.au

Austria

☎ (431) 505-8555

✉ consular@embrepdom.at

Bahamas

☎ (242) 26-2618

Belgium

☎ (32-3) 281-5059

✉ consudom.amberes@skynet.be

Belize

☎ (501) 822-2387

Bolivia

☎ (5912) 279-6282

✉ consuladorepdom@salazar-law.com.bo

Brazil

☎ (5511) 3898-1120

✉ consudom@terra.com.br

Canada

☎ (416) 369-0403

✉ info@dominicanconsulate.ca

China

☎ (852) 2521-2801

✉ ecootd@netvigator.com

Colombia

☎ (571) 300-3765

✉ crismelylora@yahoo.com

Cuba

☎ (537) 204-3152

✉ consudomcuba@gmail.com

Curacao

☎ (59-99) 465-9777

✉ consudomcur@onenet.an

Czech Republic

☎ (420) 241-40-99-39

✉ consuladodominicanoprg@gmail.com

Denmark

☎ 45-2468-2381

✉ consulrddk@hotmail.com

Ecuador

☎ (5934) 269-0532

✉ nts@ecua.net.ec

Finland

☎ (358) 96802992

France

☎ (331 55) 37 10 30

✉ consuldompar@wanadoo.fr

French Guyana

☎ (335) 9438-0996

Germany

☎ (4969) 7438-7781

✉ consuladodominicanoffm@hotmail.com

Greece

☎ (30-210) 748-6948

✉ co2gendom@yahoo.gr

Guadalupe

☎ (590) 41 66 94

✉ consulatgeneraldgaf@gmail.com

Haiti

☎ 509-3836-1293

✉ consudompuertoprincipe@gmail.com

Honduras

☎ (504) 25553-6357

✉ walterpablovw@hotmail.com

India

☎ 91-11-4342-5000

✉ embadom@dr-embassy-india.com

Israel

☎ (9723) 516-2020

✉ admatalon@admatalon.co.il

Hong Kong

☎ (852) 2521-2801

✉ domrepcomm@gmail.com

Italy

☎ (39-02) 2024-0965

✉ consudomil@tiscalinet.it

Jamaica

☎ (876) 906-3898

✉ jeremiasjimenez1@hotmail.com

Japan

☎ (81-33) 499-6010

✉ consudom@gol.com

Jordan

☎ (962) 6 582 8222

Martinique

☎ (335) 96-58-24-24

Kazakhstan

☎ 7701-7255557

✉ hconsulkazak.dr@gmail.com

Mexico

☎ (5255) 5260-9531

✉ consudomex@yahoo.com.mx

Netherlands, Holland

☎ (31-20) 6471062

Pakistan

☎ (9242) 5872284

✉ syedumairpk@gmail.com

Palestine

☎ 972-2776902

✉ palestinedrconsul@gmail.com

Info: Foreign Affairs Ministry

☎ 809-987-7001 🌐 www.mirex.gov.do

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✉ consudompma@gmail.com

Paraguay ☎ (595 21) 280-137
✉ javierb@filmagic.com.py

Portugal ☎ (351-21) 3637568
✉ consudom@net.sapo.pt

Philippines ☎ (632) 810-6546
✉ consudom_mm@yahoo.com

Puerto Rico ☎ (787) 725-9550
✉ consudompr@hotmail.com

Republic of Belarus
☎ 375-17-284-1774

Republic of Korea ☎ (8241) 529-5773
✉ bhjun@willbes.com

Russia ☎ 7812-333-2564
✉ domruspb@gmail.com

Spain ☎ 3491-435-0227
✉ consudomadrid@hotmail.com

Sri Lanka ☎ 9411 2677201
✉ bafalulsi@gmail.com

St. Marteen ☎ (599) 542-0338
✉ ilopezines@hotmail.com

Sudán ☎ 00249185335937

Switzerland ☎ (4143) 818-9344
✉ infodom@consuldomzh.ch

Thailand ☎ (662) 933-5686
✉ doconbangkok@yahoo.com

Turkey ☎ (90 212) 293-8356
✉ lalia@hip.com.tr

United States of America
☎ (212) 768-2480
✉ antedespacho@consuladord-ny.org

Uruguay ☎ (5984) 244 -8857
✉ consulado@outlook.com

Venezuela ☎ (0212) 762-8983
✉ consulado.rd.venezuela@hotmail.com



Nuestra
mejor
reserva...

tú.

Personas como tú conforman nuestra esencia.
Sigamos construyendo unidos nuestro país.

BanReservas
El banco de los dominicanos

Diplomatic missions accredited to the Dominican Republic

Albania ☎ 809-482-1352

✉ jmromero@lawyer.com

Antigua and Barbuda

☎ 809-544-3797

✉ mattress@claro.net.do

Apostolic Nunciature ☎ 809-682-3773

✉ nuncap.rd@claro.net.do

Argentina ☎ 809-682-2977

✉ embarg@claro.net.do

Australia ☎ 809-541-4446

✉ Suite600@claro.net.do

Austria ☎ 809-412-4014

✉ santo-domingo-as@bmaia.gv.at

Bahamas ☎ 809-688-3787

✉ bahamasconsul@claro.net.do

Belgium ☎ 809-687-2244

✉ consulbelga@hotmail.com

Belize ☎ 809-567-5023

✉ consulate@embelize.org

Benin ☎ 809-732-5905

✉ andre@src.com.do

Bolivia ☎ 809-530-7081

✉ mariatelavayen@hotmail.com

Brazil ☎ 809-532-4200

✉ contacto@embajadadebrasil.org.do

British Guyana ☎ 809-567-5023

✉ consulate@embelize.org

Canada ☎ 809-262-3100

✉ sdmgo@international.gc.ca

Chile ☎ 809-797-2889

✉ embaj.chile@claro.net.do

Colombia ☎ 809-562-1670

✉ erdominicana@cancilleria.gov.co

Costa Rica ☎ 809-683-7002

✉ embcr.dominicana@gmail.com

Cuba ☎ 809-537-2113

✉ embadom@claro.net.do

Cyprus ☎ 809-476-7998

✉ consuladodechiprer2@yahoo.com

Czech Republic ☎ 809-685-6900

✉ jrbrea@claro.net.do

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

Finland ☎ 809-564-4440

✉ info@consulfindom.com

France ☎ 809-695-4300

✉ ambafrance.org@gmail.com

Germany ☎ 809-542-8949

✉ info@santo-domingo.diplo.de

Greece ☎ 809-685-3372

✉ c.otorrino@claro.net.do

Grenada ☎ 809-544-3797

✉ sdqkoenig@gmail.com

Guatemala ☎ 809-381-0249

✉ embrepdominicana@minex.gob.gt

Haiti ☎ 809-686-7115

✉ embajadahaiti@yahoo.com

Honduras ☎ 809-482-7992

✉ embhndom@yahoo.com

Iceland ☎ 809-532-3256

✉ miladeh@hotmail.com

IDB ☎ 809-562-6400

✉ biddominicana@iadb.org

Israel ☎ 809-472-0774

✉ info@santodomingo.mfa.gov.il

Italy ☎ 809-682-0830

✉ ambsdom.mail@esteri.it

Jamaica ☎ 829-567-7770

✉ emb.jamaica@tricom.net.do

Japan ☎ 809-567-3365

✉ emb.jpn@claro.net.do

Jordan ☎ 809-533-0127

✉ consjordan@gmail.com

Latvia ☎ 809-620-0802

✉ lvconsulate@claro.net.do

Lebanon ☎ 809-547-3441

✉ consuladodelibano@gmail.com

Lithuania ☎ 809-565-3333

✉ caloren2002@gmail.com

Info: Foreign Affairs Ministry

☎ 809-987-7001 🌐 www.mirex.gov.do

Mexico ☎ 809-687-6444
✉ embamex@claro.net.do

Monaco ☎ 809-565-3333
✉ sonwer2@gmail.com

Morocco ☎ 809-732-0911
✉ sifamasdomingo@claro.net.do

Netherlands ☎ 809-262-0300
✉ std@minbuza.nl

Nicaragua ☎ 809-535-1120
✉ ialvarez@cancilleria.go.ni

Norway ☎ 809-562-7211
✉ creid@reid.com.do

**The People's Republic of China
Office of Commercial Development**
☎ 809-373-3825
✉ representacionchinard@gmail.com

Panama ☎ 809-685-3533
✉ panaconsul-rd@claro.net.do

Paraguay ☎ 809-472-0967
✉ claraporcella@yahoo.com

Peru ☎ 809-482-3300
✉ embaperu@claro.net.do

Philippines ☎ 809-563-6633
✉ dadulo@claro.net.do

Poland ☎ 809-472-2072
✉ g.vega@claro.net.do

Portugal ☎ 809-227-8790
✉ consulportugal@claro.net.do

Puerto Rico ☎ 809-549-63630
✉ info@puertorico.org.do

Qatar ☎ 809-535-7600
✉ info@qatarembdr.com

Republic of Belarus ☎ 809-685-5889
✉ consuladobelarus.rdom@gmail.com

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☎ 809-508-6200
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Republic of Korea ☎ 809-482-6505
✉ embacod@mofa.go.kr

Romania ☎ 809-368-5522
✉ arturo.villanueva@asonahores.com

Russia ☎ 809-620-1471
✉ consuladoruso@gmail.com

Saint Lucia ☎ 809-544-3797
✉ consuladosrd@gmail.com

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
☎ 809-544-3797
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Serbia ☎ 809-368-1176
✉ asistenteconsularserbiard@hotmail.com

South Africa ☎ 809-508-7100
✉ n.decastro@dr-law.com

Sovereign Military Order of Malta
☎ 809-549-5576
✉ emb.ordenmalta@claro.net.do

Spain ☎ 809-535-6500
✉ emb.santodomingo@maec.es

St. Kitts & Nevis ☎ 809-567-5023
✉ consulate@embelize.org

Sueden ☎ 809-616-3000
✉ sven@dominicantravel.com

Switzerland ☎ 809-533-3781
✉ sdd.vertretung@eda.admin.ch

Thailand ☎ 809-535-9585
✉ c.cabrera@ceprisa.com.do

Trinidad & Tobago ☎ 809-731-3329
✉ freyes@alnep.com.do

Turkey ☎ 809-381-4242
✉ turconsd@hotmail.com

UNESCO ☎ 809-221-4141
✉ cnu_rd@hotmail.com

UNICEF ☎ 809-473-7373
✉ santodomingo@unicef.org

UNPD ☎ 809-537-0909
✉ registry.do@undp.org

United Kingdom ☎ 809-472-7111
✉ brit.emb.sadom@claro.net.do

USA ☎ 809-567-7775
🌐 santodomingo.usembassy.gov

Uruguay ☎ 809-227-3475
✉ urudominicana@mrr.gub.uy

Venezuela ☎ 809-537-8882
✉ emb.venezuela@claro.net.do

Upon arrival



Immigration

Before arriving at 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 of the Dominican Republic is the Dominican peso. Its symbol is RD\$. The peso is divided into 100 cents. In circulation are coins of 1, 5, 10 and 25 pesos. The currency note is in denominations of 20, 50, 100, 200, 500, 1.000 and 2.000 pesos.

When shopping, keep in mind that all prices are quoted in Dominican pesos and you can always pay



with local currency. However, it might work out to your advantage to pay with US Dollars, provided you are aware of current exchange rates, which are published daily in local newspapers.

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 (See directory of shopping centers and their schedules in pages 58 and 16). 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 the daily exchange rate.

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

Specialized Tourist Security Corps CESTUR

Bávaro	☎ 809-754-3082
Bayahíbe	☎ 809-754-3012
Boca Chica	☎ 809-523-5120
Cabarete	☎ 809-754-2992
Constanza	☎ 809-754-2994
Higüey	☎ 809-754-2988
Jarabacoa	☎ 809-754-3216
Juan Dolio	☎ 809-754-2993
La Romana	☎ 809-754-3033
Las Terrenas	☎ 809-754-3042
Montecristi	☎ 809-754-2978
Nagua	☎ 809-754-3007
Playa Dorada	☎ 809-754-3011
Puerto Plata	☎ 809-754-3101
Punta Cana	☎ 809-754-3157
Rio San Juan	☎ 809-754-3034
Samaná	☎ 809-754-3066
Santo Domingo	☎ 809-685-0508
Sosúa	☎ 809-754-3274
Zona Colonial	☎ 809-689-6464

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. ☎ 809-754-3070 ☎ 809-754-3000 ✉ www.cestur.gob.do

d) Cocaine, its by-products, synthetic replacements or any other compound whose base it is used as.

e) All plants of the *Cannabina* 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.

Ladies traveling alone

A daily events and activities schedule is found in the morning edition of local newspapers. They include fashion shows, cultural events, conferences, exhibitions and art shows. If you wish to visit different touristic attractions, check with the hotel concierge or inquire about tourist guide services offered by or to the hotel.

Traveling with children

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

Congresses and incentives

International competitiveness demands that vacation centers have at the executive traveler's disposal secretarial services and state of the art technology. The Dominican Republic offers these amenities in most all of its hotels and resorts, which receive thousands of visitors each year who have been invited



to congresses and business fairs, attracted to the country by the excellent conditions offered by the year-round benign climate, exotic virgin beaches, international prestige, geographical location, friendly and hospitable locals and air, maritime and satellite connectivity. All these qualities and many more make the country an ideal destination for incentive

travels and celebrations of all types of events.

Nuptial celebration in the Dominican Republic

Most hotels and resorts listed in our Directory offer special wedding and honeymoon packages conveniently personalized and customized to make the pre-nuptial

The advertisement shows the interior of the Sheraton Santo Domingo Hotel. It features a large, modern space with high ceilings, wooden paneling, and several large columns. In the foreground, there is a sign that reads "a place to connect or disconnect". In the background, there are tables and chairs, and a bar area. The Sheraton logo is visible in the top left corner.

Sheraton Santo Domingo HOTEL

a place to
connect
or disconnect

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Taxi Costámbor • Puerto Plata
☎ 809-586-5335

Taxi Monumental • Santiago
☎ 809-581-0002

Apolo Taxi • Santo Domingo
☎ 809-537-0000

Maxi Taxi • Santo Domingo
☎ 809-541-5989

Taxi Anacaona • Santo Domingo
☎ 809-531-1212

Taxi Paraíso • Santo Domingo
☎ 809-683-9000

and honeymoon celebrations a memorable experience for all couples.

For a marriage to be authorized, the groom and the bride must bring a notarized statement attesting to their marital status and certified in the Dominican consulate in their country of origin. If previously married, they must bring a legalized copy of the divorce decree, as well as their valid passports and those of any accompanying foreign witnesses. Please remember that such documents must be translated into Spanish upon arrival in the Dominican Republic. It is recommended that all the requisites should be confirmed at the time you make your hotel reservations. For more information, visit: <http://bit.ly/AtMF88>

Traveling with your pet

The Department of Animal Health requires the following documentation

for any pets being brought into the country:

- a) Complete vaccination certificate signed by a certified vet.
- b) A health certificate from the Office of Animal Health.
- c) Anti-rabies vaccine, triple vaccine (distemper, leishmaniasis, hepatitis) and Parvo-virus vaccine certificates showing inoculations 15 days prior to the arrival date of the animal.

Pets not meeting these requirements will be quarantined for at least eight days or up to one month, depending on the country of origin. For all other types of animals, special authorization should be sought from and issued by la Dirección General de Ganadería (Animal Husbandry Department).

- *Info:*
🌐 www.ganaderia.gob.do
☎ 809-535-9689.

Prior to your departure, be sure to obtain:

- A health certificate from the Office of Animal Health.
- Health certificate issued
- Vaccination Certificate.
- Other certificates may be required by the country of destiny.



For more information

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809-688-4061
casasdelxvi.com

Media



Santo Domingo Metro.

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.

The main telecommunication companies offer services for mobile phones, along with plans designed specially for travelers' needs and offering complete access to local and international calls. Also, in many hotels, restaurants, shopping malls and main avenues in the city, wireless connection is possible.



In the Dominican Republic there are eight newspapers that are published every morning and they are all available online.

Also, www.dominicanway.com contains a lot of information that can be helpful to tourists visiting the country and is accessible in eleven languages. You can also acquire information about the country at the official site for tourism promotion and information, www.godominicanrepublic.com.



Serenades, a beautiful way of spiritual communication

In our country, serenades are among the most cherished Dominican traditions as they have been proven to be a beautiful and effective medium for spiritual communication. Through them, one person can harmoniously and unforgettably express the deepest feelings of love to another.

Although urbanism has made it more difficult for the night troubadour to sing his love song in front of the lady's window, this tradition still prevails in the neighborhoods of the capital city and villages in the interior of the country, as well as in the rural area. Serenades are still widely thought to be the most romantic and simple way to say... "I love you".

Ground transportation

Santo Domingo's metropolitan area has a subway line that runs for 15 kilometers in north-south direction through 16 stations, as well as an east-west line (Line 2A) that begins at the 9th kilometer of the Duarte Highway and travels all the way to the Francisco del Rosario Sánchez Bridge, stopping on 14 stations. There is also a safe and efficient secondary public transportation service provided and regulated by the Development of Land Transport (FONDET). See route map.

The city of Santo Domingo also has permanent public transportation inside the metropolitan area that is provided and regulated by the Oficina Metropolitana de Servicios de Autobuses (OMSA).

There are eight different bus routes covered by Mercedes Benz and Volvo BUSCAAR buses, which transport passengers for a fee that ranges from RD\$10 to RD\$15 from 6:00 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.



Taxis offering transportation services in the city of Santo Domingo are easily located at airports, ports, the Colonial Zone

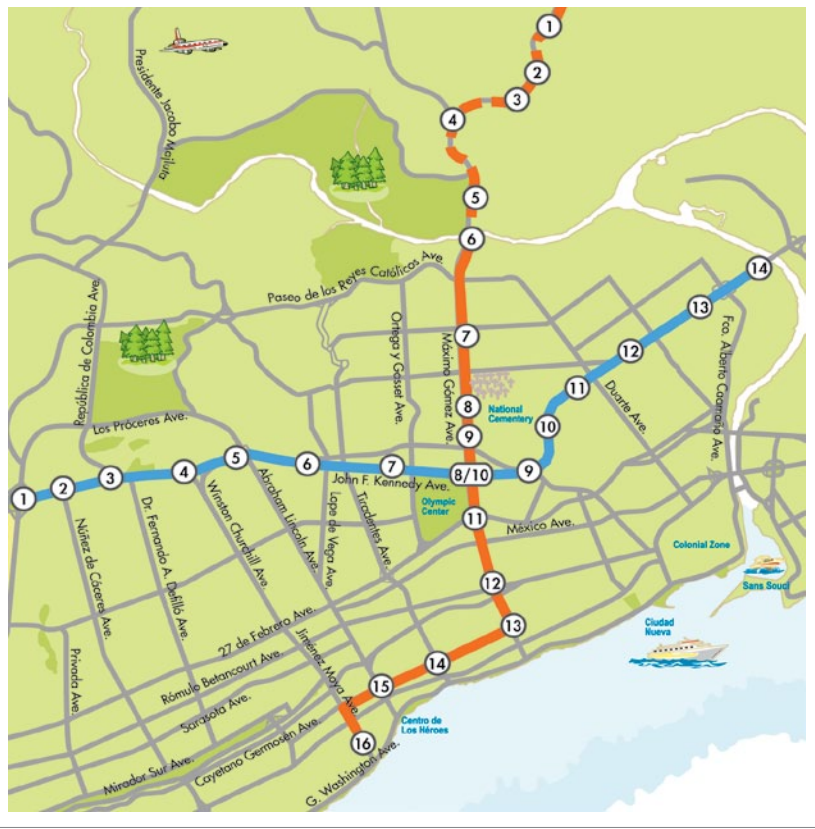
Interurban

Caribe Tours ☎ 809-221-4422

Metro Expreso ☎ 809-227-0101

Expreso Bávaro ☎ 809-682-9670

Santo Domingo Metro route



- Stations
- Above-ground line

- Line 1
- Line 2A

Line 1

- Mamá Tingó.
- Gregorio Urbano Gilbert.
- Gregorio Luperón.
- José Francisco Peña Gómez.
- Hermanas Mirabal.
- Máximo Gómez.
- Los Taínos.
- Pedro Livio Cedeño.
- Peña Batlle.
- Juan Pablo Duarte.
- Prof. Juan Bosch.
- Casandra Damirón.
- Joaquín Balaguer.
- Amin Abel.
- Francisco Alberto Caamaño.
- Centro de los Héroes.

Line 2A

- María Montez.
- Pedro Francisco Bonó.
- Francisco Gregorio Billini.
- Ulises Francisco Espaillat.
- Pedro Mir.
- Freddy Beras Goico.
- Juan Ulises Gracia Saleta.
- Juan Pablo Duarte.
- Cnel. Rafael T. Fernández Domínguez.
- Mauricio Báez.
- Ramón Cáceres.
- Horacio Vásquez.
- Manuel de Jesús Galván.
- Eduardo Brito.

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, international or 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.

Cruise Ships

The Dominican Republic's boom as a cruise line destination places the country in a privileged

The Dominican Republic
or Puerto Rico?



**Unfasten your seatbelts and have
fun aboard the Caribbean Fantasy.**



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809-688-4400 Sto. Domingo, R.D.
809-583-4440 Santiago, R.D.
787-622-4800 San Juan, P.R.



acferries.com

Síguenos en:



Golf courses directory

Name	Location	Holes
Cabeza de Toro Golf Club	Bávaro	9
Catalonia Caribe Golf Club	Bávaro	18
Cocotal Golf and Country Club	Bávaro	18
Punta Blanca Golf Club	Bávaro	18
The Lakes Barceló Golf Course	Bávaro	18
Campo de Golf Bella Vista Bonao	Bonao	9
Jarabacoa Golf Club	Jarabacoa	9
Guavaberry Golf & Country Club	Juan Dolio	18
Metro Country Club, Los Marlins Golf Resort	Juan Dolio	18
Dye Fore	La Romana	18
La Estancia Golf Course	La Romana	18
La Romana Country Club	La Romana	18
Playa Nueva Romana Golf Club	La Romana	18
Teeth of The Dog	La Romana	18
The Links Golf Course	La Romana	18
Hard Rock Golf Club Cana Bay	Macao	18
Iberostate Bávaro Golf Club	Macao	18
Los Mangos Golf Course	Puerto Plata	9
Playa Dorada Golf Club	Puerto Plata	18
La Cana Golf Club	Punta Cana	18
Los Corales Golf Club	Punta Cana	18
Punta Espada Golf Course	Punta Cana	18
Playa Grande Golf Course	Río San Juan	18
Campo Nacional de Golf Las Lagunas	Santo Domingo	18
Isabel Villas Golf and Country Club	Santo Domingo	9
Santo Domingo Country Club	Santo Domingo	18
Las Aromas, Santiago Golf Club	Santiago	18

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, Puerto Plata and Samaná. The cruise line season starts in October and ends in April.

The ferry that connects the Dominican capital with the Puerto Rican capital and the city of Mayagüez is operated from the port of Santo Domingo by America Cruise Ferries. This medium is an excellent option for business people and tourists alike due to its low cost, the frequency of trips and storage capacity. The ferry plays an important role in the commercial relationship between Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic. For more information visit www.acferries.com.

- Info:
OPETUR Directory, pag. 72.

Distance chart

Azua																		
Baní	55																	
Barahona	80	135																
Eliás Piña	137	192	171															
El Seibo	247	192	327	384														
Higüey	287	232	367	424	45													
La Romana	250	195	330	387	50	37												
La Vega	207	190	287	334	260	300	261											
Monte Cristi	307	332	356	185	430	458	413	161										
Nagua	252	197	332	389	315	381	298	116	240									
Puerto Plata	293	257	373	290	380	402	342	105	135	155								
Samaná	319	264	399	456	380	448	359	183	305	73	222							
San Cristóbal	91	36	171	228	165	196	161	118	290	177	195	235						
S. F. de Macorís	214	197	294	321	270	304	275	47	170	77	121	144	135					
S. J. Maguana	83	138	133	54	338	370	333	290	218	377	376	402	174	297				
S. P. de Macorís	196	141	276	333	65	91	54	205	345	242	310	309	105	209	279			
Santiago	323	215	312	261	290	341	305	44	115	137	61	204	162	51	315	269		
Santo Domingo	121	66	201	258	135	166	131	130	270	176	235	243	30	143	204	75	166	
Distance in Kilometers	Azua	Baní	Barahona	Eliás Piña	El Seibo	Higüey	La Romana	La Vega	Monte Cristi	Nagua	Puerto Plata	Samaná	San Cristóbal	S. F. de Macorís	S. J. Maguana	S. P. de Macorís	Santiago	Santo Domingo

Airlines

Airline	Phone	Website
Air Berlín	809-586-4075	www.airberlin.com
Air Canada	809-959-0200	www.aircanada.com
Air Caraïbes	809-621-7777	www.aircaraibes.com
Air Century	809-826-4222	www.aircentury.com
Air Europa	809-683-8033	www.aireuropa.com
Air France	809-686-8432	www.airfrance.com.do
Air Pullmantur	809-621-7777	www.pullmanturair.com
American Airlines	809-542-5151	www.aa.com
Avianca	809-563-2209	www.avianca.com
British Airways	809-959-0254	www.britishairways.com
Condor	809-221-6111	www.condor.com
Copa Airlines	809-472-2233	www.copaair.com
Cubana Aviación	809-227-2040	www.cubana.cu
Delta Airlines	809-200-9191	www.delta.com
Gol	809-955-1500	www.voegol.com
Iberia	809-227-0010	www.iberia.com
interCaribbean Airways	1-809-688-6969 1-809-200-0252	www.intercaribbean.com
JetBlue Airways	809-200-9898	www.jetblue.com
LIAT	809-621-7777	www.liatairline.com
Seaborne Airlines	809-959-4293	www.seaborneairlines.com
Spirit Airlines	809-549-0200	www.spirit.com
Sunwing Airlines	809-284-7010	www.flysunwing.com
Transaero	829-634-4447	www.transaero.com
United Airlines	809-541-2000	www.united.com

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. As a way to further boost the aviation market in Dominican territory, there are internal routes from Santo Domingo to the main airports in the rest of the country, among them Santiago de los Caballeros, Puerto Plata, Punta Cana and Samaná. Hence, there are options for local and foreign users who wish to cover these distances in the shortest time possible.

Rent-A-Car

AVIS • George Washington 517 ☎ 809-535-7191 ✉ avis-reservaciones@avis.com.do

🌐 www.avis.com.do

Budget • John F. Kennedy, Km 6 1/2 ☎ 809-566-6666 ✉ info@budget.com.do

🌐 www.budget.com.do

Europcar • Av. Independencia 354 ☎ 809-688-2121 ✉ europcar.reservas@europcar.com.do

🌐 www.europcar.com.do

Hertz • José María Heredia 1, Gazcue ☎ 809-221-5333 ✉ customerservice@mercantilstodgo.com

🌐 www.hertz.com

Honda • John F. Kennedy / Pepillo Salcedo ☎ 809-567-1015 ✉ hondarentcar@claro.net.do

🌐 www.hondarentcar.com

National-Alamo • Próceres 41 ☎ 809-562-1444 ✉ nationalcar.dr@grupoambar.com

🌐 www.nationalcar.com

Nelly • Av. Independencia 654 ☎ 809-687-7997 ✉ reservaciones@nellyrac.com

🌐 www.nellyrac.com

Thrifty • Av. Lope de Vega 80 ☎ 809-333-4000 🌐 www.thrifty.com

Airport directory

Name	IATA Code	OACI Code	Location	Phone
Aeropuerto internacional de Barahona María Montés AIMM	BRX	MDBH	Barahona	809-524-4144
Aeropuerto doméstico 14 de Junio de Constanza	COZ	MDCZ	Constanza, La Vega	809-539-1022
Aeropuerto internacional de La Romana LRM	LRM	MDLR	La Romana	809-813-9000
Aeropuerto internacional de Puerto Plata Gregorio Luperón AIGL	POP	MDPP	Puerto Plata	809-586-0107
Aeropuerto internacional Puntacana AIPC	PUJ	MDPC	Punta Cana	809-959-2376
Aeropuerto doméstico Arroyo Barril		MDAB	Samaná	809-669-6100
Aeropuerto internacional Presidente Juan Bosch	AZS	MDCY	Samaná	809-338-5888
Aeropuerto internacional del Cibao AIC	STI	MDST	Santiago	809-233-8000
Aeropuerto internacional de La Isabela - Dr. Joaquín Balaguer AIJB	JBQ	MDJB	Santo Domingo	809-826-4019
Aeropuerto internacional de Las Américas Dr. José Francisco Peña Gómez AILA-JFPG	SDQ	MDSD	Santo Domingo	809-947-2225

- **Info:**

AERODOM - Aeropuertos Dominicanos 🌐 www.aerodom.com

Gastronomy



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 of our exotic local specialties.

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

- *Tips*

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

Local Dominican cuisine is very rich and varied. If you would like to sample authentic national dishes and regional cuisine, visit:



📱 www.dominicanway.com
and discover all the delicacies that are available to you.

The siesta habit

The native Dominican still takes a nap after lunch. If time permits, take a momentary vacation, and let yourself sway in a hammock for about ten or fifteen minutes after lunch. You will understand why it is so difficult for us to get rid of this habit.

When on the contrary, you believe a walk will aid your digestion, take a tour of the colonial district and walk in the Colonial Zone, experiencing the historical legacy that the city preserves and showcases in its legendary monuments. In the early hours of the afternoon, the oldest streets of the First City of the Americas are all yours.



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Restaurant directory

Reservations

Specialities

1 American Cuisine	5 Local Cuisine	9 Italian	13 Mediterranean
2 Latin American	6 Spanish	10 Seafood	14 New World
3 Mexican	7 French / Swiss	11 Oriental	Cuisine
4 Steakhouses	8 International	12 Vegetarian	

The city of Santo Domingo has many comfortable and beautiful restaurants capable of satisfying the most demanding palate.

Bávaro • Punta Cana

Acentos Bistro

 809-959-0161 • Galerías Punta Cana, Punta Cana Village 7-13-6

Capitan Cook

 809-552-0645 • Playa Cortecito, Bávaro 8-10

Boca Chica • Juan Dolio • Guayacanes

Boca Marina

 809-523-6702 • C/ Prolongación Duarte 12 A, Boca Chica 10

El Pelicano

 809-523-4611 • C/ Duarte Esq. Caracol, Be Live Hamaca Hotel 8

El Mesón

 809-526-2666 • C/ Boulevard, Juan Dolio 6

El Sueño

 809-526-3903 • C/ Principal, Juan Dolio 8-9

Neptuno's

 809-523-4703 • C/ Duarte 12, Boca Chica 8-10

Playa El Pescador

 809-526-2613 • Playa de Guayacanes 8-10

Salitre

 809-526-1969 • Playa Guayacanes 10

La Romana

Shish Kabab

 809-556-2737 • Francisco del Castillo Márquez 32, La Romana 8-13

Puerto Plata

Poseidón

 809-291-1111 • Cofresí 10

Barahona • Pedernales

Brisas del Caribe

 809-524-2794 • Carretera Batey Central, Barahona 2-4-5-8-10

Típico Rancho Las Cuevas de las Águilas

 809-753-8058 • La Cueva, 1809 Cabo Rojo, Pedernales 10

Samaná

Mi Corazón

 809-240-5329 • C/ Juan Pablo Duarte 7, Las Terrenas 8

Santiago

Camp David Ranch

☎ 809-276-6400 • Carretera Luperón km 7 1/2, Gurabo 8

Pez Dorado

☎ 809-582-2518 • Calle del Sol 43 8

Santo Domingo

B⁷

BOTTEGA FRATELLI

Bottega Frattelli

☎ 809-562-6060 • José Amado Soler esq. Pablo Casals 35 8-9

Café Teatro

☎ 809-689-3430 • Arzobispo Meriño 110, Zona Colonial 8

D' Luis Parrillada

☎ 809-689-7115 • George Washington 25 4

El Ágave

☎ 809-567-3232 • Lope de Vega 104 3



El Conuco

☎ 809-686-0129 • Casimiro de Moya 152 5

La Cassina

☎ 809-363-4444 • Roberto Pastoriza 504, Santo Domingo 13

Marea

☎ 809-732-1350 • Gustavo Mejía Ricart 88 8-10

Mesón De Bari

☎ 809-687-4091 • C/ Hostos 302 5

Mesón De La Cava

☎ 809-533-2818 • Mirador del Sur 1 8

Mesón Iberia

☎ 809-530-7200 • Miguel Angel Monclús 165 6

Mitre



☎ 809-472-1787 • Av. Abraham Lincoln esq. Gustavo Mejía Ricart 7-8-9-14

Ñam Ñam Korean Snack Cuisine

☎ 809-472-0273 • Roberto Pastoriza esq. Manuel de Js. Troncoso 11

Olivo

☎ 809-549-3792 • Madame Curie 19-P 6

O.livia

☎ 809-547-3592 • Lope de Vega 48 6-7-9

Osteria Da Ciro

☎ 809-563-0939 • Gustavo Mejía Ricart 33, Santo Domingo 9

Restaurante Atarazana



☎ 809-689-2900 • Atarazana 5, Zona Colonial, Santo Domingo 5

Restaurante Ribereño

☎ 809-566-1843 • Federico Geraldino Esq. David Ben Gurión, Piantini 13

Samurai

☎ 809-565-1621 • Calle del Seminario 57, Santo Domingo 11

Vesuvio Malecón

☎ 809-221-1954 • George Washington 521 8-9

Where to go



Juanillo Beach.



National Botanical Garden.

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



Hispaniolan Rhinoceros Iguana.

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.

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.

The National Botanical Garden was ranked by England's Kew Gardens amongst the 10 best in the world, thanks to the research that is taking place here, the environmental education, recreation, maintenance conditions and its live collections.

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, *Crocodylus americanus* acatus, and our "*cigua palmera*" Dulus Dominicus, the national bird, all examples of groups and species exclusive of our Antillean region.



For further information

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.

- *Info:*
☎ 809-686-2472

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

Theaters

Casa de Teatro

Arzobispo Meriño 110, Zona Colonial, Santo Domingo ☎ 809-689-3430

Guloya

Arzobispo Portes 205, Zona Colonial, Santo Domingo ☎ 809-685-4856

Las Máscaras

Arzobispo Portes 56, Zona Colonial, Santo Domingo ☎ 809-687-9788
www.teatrolasmascaras.net.do

Palacio de Bellas Artes

Máximo Gómez / Independencia, Santo Domingo ☎ 809-687-0504
www.bellasartes.gov.do

Teatro Nacional

Máximo Gómez 35, Plaza de la Cultura, Santo Domingo ☎ 809-687-3191

Las Canas

Plaza Comercial Las Canas, Cap Cana, Punta Cana ☎ 809-227-2262
www.capcana.com

Gran Teatro del Cibao

Av. Las Carreras 1, Santiago ☎ 809-583-1150
teatrodalcibao@hotmail.com

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.

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.

- **Info:**

 www.lidom.com

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



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city tour  RECOMMENDED

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RESERVATION:
www.trikke.do/booking
phone: 809-221-8097
Mail: info@trikke.do
From 9:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.
Night tour: 8:00 P.M.



Jarabacoa.

several international events and the Autodromo Mobil 1, located in the 16th Kilometer of the Autopista Las Américas, is the ideal venue for automobile racing. Horse races are held at the Hipódromo V Centenario, right in front of the Caribbean Sea.

- *Info:*

- 📧 www.autodromomobil1.com
 - 📧 www.hvc.com.do

For golf lovers, the country boasts magnificent 18-hole signature courses designed by the most renown golf professionals in the world, such as P.B. Dye, in Casa de Campo, (5 courses); Robert Trent Jones, in Playa Dorada and the already internationally recognized Punta Espada by Jack Nicklaus in Cap Cana, considered by *Golf Magazine* as one of the best in the world. See directory page 36.



For further information

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, Boulevard Winston Churchill, National Botanical Garden and The Núñez de Cáceres Enviromental Park.

The cockfighting season starts in November and ends in July. Cockfights are usually held on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. The cockfighting Club of Santo Domingo is located in the Avenida Luperón.

- *Info:*

- ☎ 809-565-3844
 - 📧 www.gallerosoy.com

Polo: Facilities and good coaches are available at Sierra Prieta and Casa de Campo, in La Romana.

- *Info:*

- 📧 www.adopolo.com ☎ 809-696-2857

Jarabacoa and Constanza provide outings designed for everyone, from intrepid adventurers to less daring

types. Info: OPETUR Directory, pag. 72.

The impressive scenery offered to locals and visitors by the crystalline waters that 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. Info: Club Náutico de Santo Domingo, in Andrés, Boca Chica.

- Info:
☎ 809-683-2582
💻 www.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.



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Audio tours are available for children in Spanish and English at the Alcázar de Colón museum, the Museo del Hombre Dominicano and the Museum of Modern Art.



Museums Directory

Alcázar de Diego Colón

Plaza España, Ciudad Colonial, Santo Domingo. ☎ 809-682-4750

9:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M. – TUE – SÁB

9:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M. – SUN
COVER



Casa del Tostado

Arz. Meriño esq. Padre Billini, Ciudad Colonial, Santo Domingo. ☎ 809-689-5000

9:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M. – TUE – SAT

9:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M. – SUN
COVER



Casa Museo Hermanas Mirabal

Carretera Duarte Km. 1,
El Conuco, Salcedo.

☎ 809-587-8530

9:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M. – MON – SUN
COVER

Casa Museo Máximo Gómez

Calle Mella 29, San Fernando de Monte-
cristi, Montecristi.

☎ 829-677-3648

8:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M. – MON – SAT

8:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M. – SUN

Catedral Primada de América

Arz. Meriño, Plaza Colón, Ciudad Colonial,
Santo Domingo.

☎ 809-682-6593

9:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M. – MON – SUN
NO COVER



Centro Cultural de las Telecomunicaciones

Isabel La Católica, Ciudad Colonial, Santo-
Domingo. ☎ 809-633-3333

9:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M. – TUE – SAT

10:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M. – SUN • COVER

Centro Cultural E. León Jimenes

27 de Febrero 146, Santiago.

☎ 809-582-2315

10:00 A.M. – 7:00 P.M. – TUE – SUN
COVER



Centro Histórico Ron Barceló

Carretera Ingenio Quisqueya, Km 6 1/2,
San Pedro De Macorís.

☎ 809-563-0019

9:30 A.M. – 2:00 P.M. – MON – FRI
COVER

ChocoMuseo

Avenida Barceló, Bávaro.

Arz. Meriño 254, Zona Colonial, Sto. Dgo.

☎ 809-466-1022

9:00 A.M. – 6:00 P.M. – MON – SUN
NO COVER

Convento de los Dominicos

Hostos esq. Paseo Padre Billini, Ciudad
Colonial, Santo Domingo. ☎ 809-682-3780

7:45 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

3:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M. – MON – FRI
NO COVER



Faro a Colón

Boulevard del Faro, Villa Duarte, Santo
Domingo Este.

☎ 809-591-1492

9:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M. – TUE – SUN
COVER

Museo Arqueológico Regional

Altos de Chavón, La Romana

☎ 809- 523-8554

9:00 A. M. – 9:00 P.M. – MON – SUN
COVER

Museo Bellapart

Av. Jonh F. Kennedy Esq. Luis Lambert,
Santo Domingo. ☎ 809-541-7721

9:00 A.M. – 6:00 P.M. – MON – FRI

9:00 A.M. – 12:00 M. – SAT

NO COVER

Museo Casa Del Cordón

Isabel La Católica Esq. Emiliano Tejera,
Santo Domingo.

☎ 809-687-4722

8:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M. – MON – SUN
NO COVER



Audio Guide Dominicana

www.audioguidedominicana.com Tel. 809.565.0746

Museo De Arte Moderno

Pedro H. Ureña, Plaza de la Cultura, Santo Domingo.

☎ 809-685-2154

9:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M. – TUE – SUN
COVER



Museo de La Altagracia

Basílica de Nuestra Señora de La Altagracia, Higüey.

☎ 809-554- 2748

8:30 A.M – 5:00 P.M. – TUE – SUN
COVER

Museo Casa De Duarte

ISATel La Católica 308, Ciudad Colonial, Santo Domingo.

☎ 809-687-1436

8:30 A.M. – 3:00 P.M. – MON – FRI
NO COVER

Museo Del Hombre Dominicano

Pedro H. Ureña, Plaza de la Cultura, Santo Domingo.

☎ 809-687-3622

9:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M. – TUE – SUN
COVER



Museo del Ron y la Caña

Isabel La Católica, Ciudad Colonial, Santo Domingo. ☎ 809-685-5111

9:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M. – MON – WED

9:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M. – THU – SAT
COVER

Museo de las Casas Reales

Las Damas esq. Mercedes, Ciudad Colonial, Santo Domingo. ☎ 809-682-4202

9:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M. – TUE – SAT

9:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M. – SUN
COVER



Museo de Historia Natural

Pedro H. Ureña, Plaza de la Cultura, Santo Domingo.

☎ 809-689-0106

9:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M. – TUE – SUN
COVER

Museo de la Resistencia Dominicana

Arz. Nouel 210, Ciudad Colonial, Santo Domingo. ☎ 809-688-4440

9:30 A.M. – 6:00 P.M. – TUE – SUN
COVER



Museo Dominicano del Larimar

Isabel La Católica 54 esq. P. Billini, Ciudad Colonial, Santo Domingo.

☎ 809-689-6605

9:00 A.M. – 6:00 P.M. – MON – SAT
NO COVER

Museo Fortaleza de San Felipe

Extremo Oeste Malecón, Puerto Plata.

☎ 809-330-8876

9:00 A.M. – 4:45 P.M. – TUE – SUN
COVER



Museo Infantil Trampolín

Las Damas, Ciudad Colonial, Santo Domingo. ☎ 809-685-5551

9:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M. – TUE – FRI

10:00; A.M. – 6:00 P.M. – SAT – SUN
COVER

Museo Mundo del Ámbar

Arz. Meriño 452 esq. Restauración, Ciudad Colonial, Santo Domingo. ☎ 809-686-5700

9:00 A.M. – 6:00 P.M. – MON – SAT

9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. – SUN
NO COVER

Museo Numismático y Filatélico

Dr. Pedro Henríquez Ureña Edif. Banco Central, Santo Domingo.

☎ 809-221-9111

9:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M. – MON – FRI
NO COVER

Panteón de la Patria

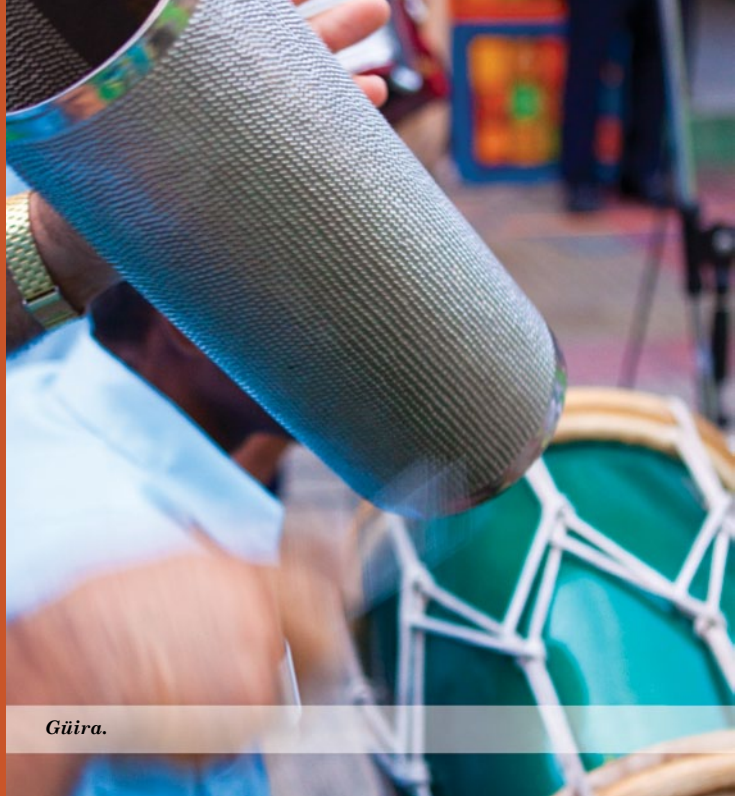
Las Damas 52, Ciudad Colonial, Santo Domingo. ☎ 809-689-0089

12:00 M. – 6:00 P.M. – MON

8:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M. – TUE- SUN
NO COVER



Our Music



Güira.

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 sum total of the harmonious interplay of the güira, the tambora (small drum), and the accordion.

Just as in the 19th century, Lanner and Strauss took the waltz from local taverns to the great dance halls and the imperial Austrian theaters, the Dominican merengue has been interpreted by national and foreign dance bands and symphonic orchestras, thanks to the works of important Dominican composers of yesterday



and today: Julio Alberto Hernández, Juan Francisco García, José Dolores Cerón, Luis Alberti, Rafael Solano y Bienvenido Bustamante, among others, who have also cultivated the traditional musical forms. Others are: Enrique de Marchena, Luis Mena, Francisco Ignacio, Ramón Díaz, Manuel Simó, Juan Luis Guerra, Michael Camilo y José Antonio Molina.

Dominicans love to dance. Father Labat, a French monk who arrived in the capital city in 1795 when Spain ceded the island to France by the Treaty of Basle, made the following profound observation: “Dance is, in Santo Domingo, the favorite passion, and I don’t believe that there is anywhere in the world where people are more drawn to musical vibrations.” Labat’s observation is very apt. Singing is probably the only phenomenon which can rival dancing as food for the Dominican’s soul.

To this day, it is customary to sing lullabies to infants before they fall asleep. The child is raised

amidst musical games and the practice of singing before school continues today. Rural farmers in the countryside sing tunes and “cantos de hacha” (axe songs) in the conuco (small farm). They chant their prayers and express their love with song. No wonder serenading is so popular! And, when a child dies in rural areas, mourners sing dirges called the “baquini”.

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”.

- *Tip*

The güira is a 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. Our indigenous Indian population used it in the areíto (Indian ceremonial song and dance). They made it from the attractive fruit of the gourd, from which they extracted the pulp and then scraped it, to later rhythmically rasp it with a forked stick. There still are pericos ripiaos that use this type of güira.

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,



Coco Bongo

Centro Comercial Downtown Punta Cana, carretera Barceló –Verón– esq.
El Boulevard, cruce de Coco Loco, Bávaro, Punta Cana ☎ 809-466-1111
📧 www.cocobongo.com.do ☒ cocopuntacana@cocobongo.com.do

Bávaro, Punta Cana

Areito ☎ 809-687-7788

Hotel Caribe Club Princess

Hard Rock Café ☎ 809-552-0594

Palma Real Shopping Village,
Punta Cana

Huracán Café ☎ 809-552-1046

Los Corales

Imagine ☎ 809-466-1049

Carretera Arena Gorda, Cocoloco, Friusa

Mangú Disco ☎ 809-221-8787

Hotel Occidental Grand Punta Cana

ORO Nightclub Punta Cana

☎ 809-687-0000

Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Punta Cana

La Romana

Onno's Bar ☎ 809-523-2868

Altos de Chavón, Casa de Campo

Victory Club ☎ 809 523-2264

Altos de Chavón, Casa de Campo

Puerto Plata

Light House Lounge & Disco

☎ 809-291-1000

Ocean World, Puerto Plata

Samaná

Café del Mar ☎ 809-503-6363

Puerto Bahía, Samaná

Gaia ☎ 809-240-5133

Pueblo de los Pescadores,

Las Terrenas

Paco Cabana ☎ 809-240-5301

Calle Libertad 1, Las Terrenas

Porto Bar ☎ 809-240-5011

Balcones del Atlántico, Las Terrenas

Santiago

Ahí Bar ☎ 809-581-6779

R. César Tolentino esq. Restauración

Andy Ranch ☎ 809-241-8358

Aut. J. Balaguer, Cruce de Quinigua

Sabrass Café-Bar

☎ 809-241-6741

Av. J. Pablo Duarte 101, Plaza

Boulevard Galería

Tribeca Lounge ☎ 809-724-5000

Calle Mauricio Álvarez 6, Los Colegios

Santo Domingo

Bottom's Bar ☎ 809-541-6226

Hotel Plaza Naco Santo Domingo

Cava Alta ☎ 809-518-9000

Agustín Lara 19 esq. Max H. Ureña

Cinema Café ☎ 809-221-7555

Av. Pedro H. Ureña, Plaza de La Cultura

Pure ☎ 809-682-2102

Hotel Magna 365

Ferro Café ☎ 809-540-5718

Max H. Ureña esq. Virgilio Díaz Ordoñez

Guácara Taina ☎ 809-533- 0671

Av. Mirador Sur

Jet Set ☎ 809-535-4145

Av. Independencia 14

La Barrica ☎ 809-334-5803

Av. Abraham Lincoln esq. José

Amado Soler

Maruja Bar ☎ 809-566-9103

Gustavo M. Ricart esq. Federico Geraldino

Platinum ☎ 809-508-0115

Plaza Mirador, Av. Independencia

Taboo Bamboo ☎ 809-227-2727

Roberto Pastoriza 313

Even though each destination has specific times set for the closing of entertainment establishments, tourism hubs are exempt from curfews. When you visit bars and clubs in our tourist areas, you don't have to stress out about closing time. You are free to continue enjoying yourself until dawn and witness a sunrise unlike any other in the Caribbean.

tempered with native rum and, on the other, that of a young female goat that has not given birth.

Interested in listening to CDs of these Creole masters? Contact Fundación Sinfonía (the Symphony Foundation)

☎ 809-535-8587

🌐 www.sinfonia.org.do

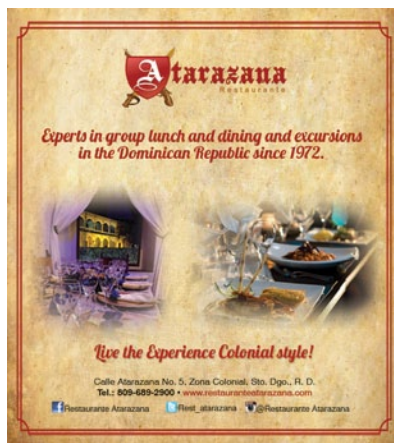
Night life

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

We are a 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:

🌐 www.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.



What to buy



Dominican Amber.

It is possible to find anything you seek here and to acquire it for a better price that you would almost 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. See Shopping Center directory page 58.

There are also specialty stores that carry 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 on 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. For further information, contact the School of Plastic Arts at ☎ 809-685-6985.

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. No matter what you do, do not leave the country without a typical mahogany and guano (palm frond) rocking chair, already packed for easy shipping. For a one-stop shopping, you may check out the Casa de Las mecedoras.

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

Amber

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

Shopping centers



Megacentro

Av. San Vicente de Paul esq. Carretera Mella, Santo Domingo Este, República Dominicana ☎ 809-236-7660 🌐 www.megacentro.com.do



Silver Sun Gallery

Av. Tiradentes esq. Gustavo Mejía Ricart, Santo Domingo ☎ 809-549-4361 🌐 www.silversungallery.com.do

Palma Real Shopping Village

Bávaro - Punta Cana ☎ 809-552-8725/26
🌐 www.palmarealshoppingvillage.com

San Juan Shopping Center

Bávaro - Punta Cana ☎ 809-466-6000
🌐 www.sanjuanshoppingcenter.com

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

Acrópolis Av. Winston Churchill esq. Rafael A. Sánchez, Sto. Dgo. ☎ 809-955-2020
🌐 www.acropolisdr.com

Ágora Mall Av. John F. Kennedy esq. Abraham Lincoln, Santo Domingo ☎ 809-472-2076
🌐 www.agora.com.do

Bella Vista Mall Av. Sarasota 62, Bella Vista, Sto. Dgo. ☎ 809-255-0665
🌐 www.bellavistamall.net

Blue Mall Av. Winston Churchill esq. Gustavo Mejía Ricart, Sto. Dgo.
☎ 809-334-0505 🌐 www.bluemall.com.do

Diamond Mall Av. Los Próceres, Arroyo Hondo, Sto. Dgo. ☎ 809-412-2189
🌐 www.diamondmall.com.do

Galería 360 Av. John F. Kennedy, Sto. Dgo.
☎ 809-540-2525 🌐 www.galeria360.com.do

Multicentro Churchill Av. Winston Churchill esq. Gustavo Mejía Ricart, Sto. Dgo.
☎ 809-472-4444 🌐 www.tiendaslasirena.com

Novo-Centro Av. Lope de Vega 29, Sto. Dgo. ☎ 809-549-5815
🌐 www.novo-centro.com

Sambil Av. John F. Kennedy esq. Paseo de los Aviadores, Sto. Dgo. ☎ 809-633-0505
🌐 www.tusambil.com/santodomingo

attributes remain dormant unless it is received as a gift.

Make the most of your stay and bring home to your loved ones a jewel as a souvenir of your visit. There aren't many places in the world where you can buy amber and larimar, the Dominican turquoise.

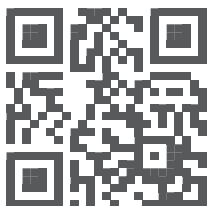
One of the biggest deposits worldwide is located in the Amber Coast and only in our country can you find mines of blue, red and

black amber, which are classified among the more desirable varieties. The exhibition and sale of the finest amber and larimar jewels are in Santo Domingo, in the Museum of Ambar and Larimar, located in an old house in the Zona Colonial.

Christie's of London auctioned and sold a piece of Dominican amber with a pre-historic lizard captured and preserved intact in its interior. It sold for US\$130,000. The export of rough amber is restricted.



Freddy Ginebra
General Coordinator
Tourism Cluster of Santo Domingo



www.clusterturisticodesantodomingo.org.do
Calle Arzobispo Meriño 157, Ciudad Colonial
809.687.8717

I am happy to greet you as you begin reading this guide and get ready to enjoy an incredible stay in this magical city. And believe me, it will be incredible.

Santo Domingo rose as the first city, amongst colors as sweet as sugar cane, aromas as warm as the tropical weather and tastes as majestic as its colonial heritage.

We are a privileged land that moves between all that is cosmopolitan and all that's popular; a place for business but also for fun; we have daring high-rise buildings and the venerable Colonial City; we enjoy crystal-clear beaches and natural reserves, as well as modern shopping malls, and stupendous art galleries.

A capital city that lives the past and the present, with different rhythms... History fills the air as one walks the narrow streets enveloped by the oldest structures in the New World, those where Christopher Columbus left us an abundance of relics. We delight in song and dance. In this Dominican Liverpool not a night will go by without you learning to dance a contagious bachata or rhythmic merengue. We dress to impress, from the catwalks of high fashion to Carnival, where fabulous outfits dazzle in their wake. By cruise ships, planes, carriages and even Metro, we never miss an opportunity to get together and have fun, especially if it's at an electrifying baseball game or a magnificent golf course. Everyday we savour our fertile land, with the most exquisite fruits and tropical delicacies.

But the city's main offering is its people... Simply a breed apart. There is no place on Earth where you'll encounter better hosts. I'm not exaggerating. Friends who are kind, open, caring and warm. In Santo Domingo we sing a song to life everyday, sharing smiles along the way.

Don't be surprised if you succumb to its many charms.

We are waiting for you!

WELCOME TO THE GREAT



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 Adelantado Bartolomeo Columbus, 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.

Effervescent and seductive are two adjectives visitors use to describe it, as they surrender themselves to its excellent cuisine, exciting night life and culture and

the possibility of shopping for the latest fashion trends.

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

Santo Domingo™



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 bustling with an effervescent cultural and nightlife.

When you arrive at Columbus Park, a fantastic meeting point and ideal place to rest before commencing your walk in the historic quarter, you can opt for an even more comfortable journey by taking a ride in the train car known as the Chu Chu Colonial.



MAP OF THE COLONIAL ZONE



However, if you'd rather let your inner kid come out and play, you can also opt to travel by "trikke", an electric vehicle that resembles both a bicycle and a scooter.

On your way back, look towards the southern side of the park, where you will find one of the sites most treasured by Dominicans: the Cathedral of Santa María de la Encarnación, the oldest in the Americas.

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), la Casa de la Moneda (Mint House), the National Pantheon, the House of Jesuits and the palaces that once belonged to Nicolás de Ovando and Hernán Cortés, among other attractions.

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 era of Trujillo and evokes catharsis from the pain he brought 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.

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 Playtime 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 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.

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 Biblioteca 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 in 1956, 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 (esplanade) is an obligatory stop for Santo Domingo visitors. Facing the Caribbean Sea, this seaside esplanade is one of the seven cultural treasures recognized by organizers of the 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.



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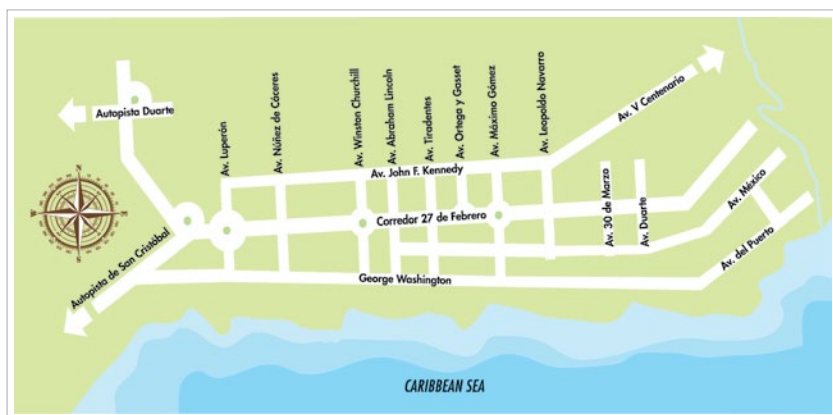
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HOW TO EXIT THE SANTO DOMINGO CITY



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, catibías (Dominican-style empanadas made with yucca) and the chivo liniero (Northwestern-style stewed goat seasoned with oregano), to the shrimp of Sánchez, in Sámara; mangú and traditional Dominican drinks, the vast array of flavors is an irresistible pleasure for visitors.

One of the organizations dedicated to rescuing the country's culinary identity is the Centro Cultural Gastronómico Casa Caribe, first of its kind in the region and dedicated to promote New Dominican Cuisine. As for gastronomic events, Taste

Santo Domingo, a festival for foodies with exhibitions of products, conferences, workshops, culinary shows and wine and food tastings, definitely stands out.

You cannot leave Santo Domingo without sampling 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 taffy-like 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 and Sambil 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, hot-weather shirt.

Santo Domingo is also a fantastic destination for fashion. With DominicanaModa 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 February in order to experience the lavish display of colors, joy and popular culture. With Santo Domingo named the Ibero-American Carnival Capital 2014-2015, the city will pull out all the stops to make this traditional celebration an unforgettable event for all those who are lucky enough to witness it.

A PASSION FOR BASEBALL

Be it professional or amateur, baseball is the king of sports in the Dominican Republic. Eternal rivals



Faro a Colón (Columbus' Lighthouse).



Licey Tigers and Escogido Lions are the stars of local sports life, while Dominican Major League Baseball players are an always-popular 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. For more information see page 47.

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 Bartolomeo Columbus 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 thoroughfares of East Santo Domingo are San Vicente de Paúl Avenue and Venezuela Avenue.

The latter is the most commercially active and its nightlife includes a mixture of elements foreign and local, a result of investments done by Dominicans living abroad.

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

En 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 were moved from the First Cathedral in The Americas

in the Colonial City to Columbus' Lighthouse (Faro a Colón), an important monuments 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 Nacional del Este (National Park of the East), 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 Mobil I (motor racing circuit), whose beautiful

sea views distinguish it from other similar tracks 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 Américas 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).



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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 manner).

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 choose 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.

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 Domingo. 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 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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Regions

 **Santo Domingo**

 **The South**

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Cibao Valley



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 labor 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, Salcedo, 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.

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

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. For further information and to book a tour:

- *Info:*
 ☎ 809-547-2166
 🌐 www.cacaotour.com

Upon arriving at the province of Salcedo, visitors can opt for the Ruta de las Mariposas tour (Route of the Butterflies), which allows them to learn about our history and get to know the iconic places that were important in the life of the Mirabal sisters, as well as the transcendence of the tragedy perpetrated against these martyrs from Salcedo, three of them victims of the Trujillo dictatorship.

The Dominican people have immortalized these heroines and honor their memory each 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 there heroines from the Ojo de Agua community where 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 Alvarez, who masterfully narrates their lives and death in this best seller.

La Vega Real and El Santo Cerro

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).

Here, for the first time the cross (symbol of Christianity in the Americas) was erected. 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.

It was also here, in 1493, that Christopher Columbus planted the cross that had been given to him by Queen Isabel la Católica when he left Puerto de Palos de Moguer. 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 Don Christopher Columbus 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.

- *How to Get There*
Take Duarte Highway (N 1), about 130 km from Santo Domingo.
- *Where to Go*
Ruins of La Vega Vieja, Ruins of the Franciscan Monastery, Santo Cerro (Holy Hill), La Plaza de La Catedral (Cathedral Plaza), Balnearios of Bayacanes and Acapulco. During



The summit of Pico Duarte.

carnival season the beautiful countryside of La Vega is ideal for enjoying rural tourism.

- **Where to Stay**
There are simple accommodations for travelers, but on a day-trip a stay in Jarabacoa is recommended.
- **Info:**
Tourism Office ☎ 809-242-3231

Mountain tourism

Visitors who associate mountains with winter sports should be informed that these mountains offer a year-round very mild, cool temperatures; its monotonous tranquility is broken only occasionally by the chant of a nightingale, the mesmerizing notes of crystalline creek cascading down some falls, or a light breeze that gently caresses the pine trees.

Constanza

“God is everywhere, but He lives in Constanza”

Constanza, a municipality of the province of La Vega that lies deep

within the 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 Tiro, 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.

- **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 per 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 bathrooms and a scenic viewpoint from which part of the Ebano Verde Scientific Reserves can be enjoyed are available. 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.

- **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. You can even plan to go on a nocturnal hare hunt. According to experts, this may be the geographical center of the island; and the alpine vegetation that surrounds the area, among the coldest in the country, has been the subject of comparative studies with Europe's Alps. It is worth enjoying this spectacle that the Salto de Aguas Blancas offers at 1,680 meters above sea level. Indeed, with year-round temperatures between 10 °C to 12 °C, the Arroyazo and the Balneario Las Palmas have become a favorite vacation spot for Dominicans during la Semana Santa (Holy Week). The Salto de Aguas 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.

For private aviation enthusiasts, Constanza offers the Aeródromo Expedición 14 de Junio (Expedición 14 de Junio Airfield), where Fly In tourism is promoted and encouraged. For those who love adventure travel and Xtreme Sports, in ALTOCERRO, Villas, Hotel & Camping you will find everything you seek and more.

- **Info:**

The Ecotourism Cluster of Constanza's Office for Tourism Information is located in the Expedición 14 de Junio Airfield. Their phone number is ☎ 809-539-1022. There you can find information about all the touristic attractions and tours available in the area.

- **Where to Stay**

There are only a few hotels in Constanza and its surrounding areas; however, it is possible to find comfortable accommodations. Consult the Hotel Directory in page 74.

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.

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

- **Where to Go**

The area is ideal for eco-tourism as well as adventure tourism. Rancho Baiguatue 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 four-wheel, 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.

☎ 809-574-6890

🌐 www.ranchobaiguatue.com

- **Where to Stay**

In Jarabacoa you can find accommodations in the hotels Pinar Dorado, Gran Jimenoa and Rancho Baiguatue.

- **Info:**

Tourism Office of Jarabacoa

☎ 809-574-7287

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



Tels.: 809-530-6192
www.altocerro.com





Monument of the Heroes of Restoration.

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 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 Heroes of Restoration, 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*
Take a tour of the Tobacco Museum and visit the first cigar factory, La Aurora, established in the country since 1903. • Museum of the City of Santiago, located in a magnificent Victorian palace • Tomás Morel Folk Art Museum • Museum of Yoryi Morel, teacher and costume designer • The Monument and Cultural Center • Visit the rum distilleries • The Kaskada Park, great for the whole family • Centro León



• *Info:*

🌐 www.centroleon.org.do

- *Where to Eat*
Camp David Ranch ☎ 809-276-6400
Pez Dorado ☎ 809-582-2518
- *What 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. Simply take a stroll along El Sol Street and la Zona Rosa.
- *Info:*
Tourism Office ☎ 809-582-5885

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Towards the Amber Coast



Montecristi.



Aerial Tram, Puerto Plata.

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 potential for tourism with all the natural conditions appropriate for the practice of water sports.

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 original 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.

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.

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: Playas Costa Verde, La Granja, Playa Popa, Playa del Morro, 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 boobies come from Florida to mate.

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 of its inhabitants, who make up for whatever material wealth they might lack with smiles and kindness.

- *Where to Stay*
Consult the Hotel Directory in page 74.
- *Where and What to Eat*
In any small restaurant or affordable cafeteria in or around town, one can



enjoy the 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.

- **Info:**
Tourism Office ☎ 829-570-3744

Puerto Plata

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

Don Christopher Columbus arrived on its shores on January 11, 1493 and, admiring the shining sea, named it Puerto Plata (Silver Port).

Surrounded by the beauty of a landscape somewhat indolently carved out of nature’s whim, emerges the majestic Loma Isabel de Torres at whose foot Don Bartolomé Colón founded the city in 1496.

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 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.

Puerto Plata has also made immense contributions to the literary and political cultures of the Dominican Republic.



For further information
www.dominicanway.com.

Today, Puerto Plata lives for tourism and from tourism. Its tourist zone includes a stretch of golden sand beaches estimated at

around 300,000 sq. meters. Eleven kilometers of beach, reaching from Cofresí to Sosúa are being developed into a tourist complex that can satisfy the needs of the most demanding traveler.

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 service by reputable international carriers. Consult the Airline Directory on page 38.

- **How to Get There**

Caribe Tours offers transportation from its bus station. If you are driving, take the Autopista Duarte (#1) from the south northward to Villa Bisonó, take Exit #5 to the right, you are on your way to Puerto Plata. Route #5 is the ocean view route between Puerto Plata and Samaná. See a map of getting around, on page 66.

- **Where to Go**

La Isabela National Park: the first European settlement in the New World, location of Christopher Columbus' ashes, venue of the first mass ever celebrated in the New



World, and a cemetery. The Park also houses a Taíno museum, regional crafts and gift shop, and the temple of the Americas, inaugurated on January 6, 1994, to commemorate the five-hundredth anniversary of the first mass.

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 Malecón) are of historical importance and testify to the areas colonial past.

- *Where to Stay*
Consult the hotel directory in page 74.
- *Where to Eat*
Poseidón ☎ 809-291-1111
- *Info:*
Tourism Office ☎ 809-586-3676

Cofresí

Cofresí is a small inlet of crystalline waters offering a splendid panoramic view of almost the entire zone, with a beach of less than one kilometer covered by coconut groves. Hotels offering very good service operate in this beautiful place. See the Hotel Directory in page 74.

Costámbur

Located to the west of the city, Costámbur is an open beach protected by coral reefs and an exuberant vegetation of almond trees that shields it from the sun. Hotels offering very good service

operate here. See the Hotel Directory in page 74.

Long Beach

Puerto Plata's urban beach also is sheltered by almond trees and coconut groves; it is accessible to all patrons of the city's hotels and guest houses. See the Hotel Directory in page 74.

Playa Dorada

Playa Dorada, with its extensive sunny beach of fine, golden sand, has at present more than 2,680 rooms under the "all-inclusive" modality designed for the absolute enjoyment of the traveler.

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 Jones; it has all areas for practicing almost all aquatic sports and activities, eco-tourism, guided adventure tourism like River Rafting, Jeep Safari, Monster Truck, Parapente, Out Back Safari, such as guided routes at the Siete Chorreras, the 27 Charcos, Salto del Limón, scuba-diving, deep-sea fishing, to a fishing town for eating



Playa Dorada.

fish daily, to see the humpback whales that come in the winter to mate and give birth on the Banco de la Plata, or simply to ride, walk, or run.

Other beautiful beaches located along the Amber Coast are: Cabarete, Boca de Cangrejos, Caño Grande, Bergantín, Playa de Copello, and Playa Mariposa.

Before leaving Puerto Plata it is advisable to take a tour of La Isabela Archaeological Park, the first European settlement in the New World. You can get there by taking the Imbert-Luperón highway. Taking a tour through the urban area that forms the historical zone of Puerto Plata, you can admire the combination of diverse architectural styles, where the romantic Victorian style prevails. The Fort of San Felipe, along with the Fort Museum, are other points of historic interest that testify to the colonial past they are located along the Malecón.

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.

- *Where to stay:*
Consult the hotel directory in page 74.
- *Info:*
Tourism Office in Puerto Plata
☎ 809-586-3676

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.

Under the auspices of the United Jewish Appeal, the Dominican Republic Settlement Association (DORSA) was established to initiate an experimental agricultural community project.

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. The majority were single men who very soon becoming permanent residents and settlers in Dominican homes.

Medical doctors, engineers, industrial chemists, artists, decorators and agronomists, among others, dedicated themselves to agroindustrial ventures and animal husbandry.



They later founded industrial dairy and cattle production cooperatives, with an initial contribution of RD\$10 from each member. Today, this cooperative is a powerful enterprise that makes the famous Sosúa sausages, cheeses and butter.

The demand for service has gradually created a harmonious infrastructure that is not often found in small communities. What was once a small village of refugees in the 1940s, is now a thriving, self-sufficient, hospitable community that has opened its arms to international tourism.

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

- *Where to Stay:*
Consult the Hotel Directory page 74.
- *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.

- *Where to Stay*
Consult the Hotel Directory in page 74.
- *Info:*
Tourism Office ☎ 809-571-0962

María Trinidad Sánchez

When you get to Rio San Juan, a town in the María Trinidad Sánchez province, you may take a refreshing break and stay overnight at cozy hotels.

Nearby is a charming spot you should not miss: Laguna Grí-Grí, where a yolero (owner of medium-sized rowing boat) will guide you

between mangroves, through a canal of crystalline mineral water to find coral banks, la Playita, la Cueva de las Golondrinas, El Caletón, and Puerto Escondido beach (Hidden Port), an enchanted haven along our shoreline that is almost paradise!

Along the same coastal road that borders the Bahía Escocesa (Scottish Bay) are located Punta Preciosa, and farther on, Cabo Francés Viejo. On this coast, marine terraces of great height emerge where the ocean floor practically disappears. You have also reached the highest point from which you can contemplate the Atlantic Ocean and meditate on the crimson glow of a beautiful sunset.

A few kilometers farther are the municipality of Cabrera, Laguna Grande beach, and Diamante beach.

- *Where to Stay*
Consult the Hotel Directory in page 74.
- *Info:*
Tourism Office ☎ 809-589-2831

Nagua

The next stop is the town of Nagua, located over a low-lying coastal strip that gives it a distinctive appearance, the receding ocean tide has left an ample stretch reminiscent of an urban beach. Here the traveler can rest and feel the warmth of townsfolk. Nagua is the capital of the province of María Trinidad Sánchez.

- *Where to Stay*
Consult the Hotel Directory in page 74.

- *Info:*
Tourism Office ☎ 809-584-3862

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 advantage of the opportunity to eat freshly caught shrimp and fish at Manita's fried-food 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.





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

The shallow marine floor of Samaná (the greatest depth of the bay is barely 45 meters) represents a danger for ocean-going vessels with a deep draft; but, on the other hand, conditions are favorable for a large-scale fishing industry.

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.

During the pre-Hispanic period, the territory belonged to the chieftainship of Maguá under the domain of the Ciguayo, Guarionex. From excavations carried out, interesting archeological pieces have been preserved as pointers to the history of that period.

Christopher Columbus arrived in Samaná on January 12, 1493. The following day the first battle in the New World took place between the Tainos 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 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 accomodation.

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.

If you wish to visit or coordinate an excursion to Los Haitises, please check our OPETUR directory on page 72.

- *Where to Stay*
Consult the Hotel Directory in page 74.
- *Info:*
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 1.100 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.

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:*

By land, from Santo Domingo, you may take the Duarte Highway, and drive for approximately four hours along a delighting landscape and passing through the urban centers of Piedra Blanca, Cotuí, Pimentel, Castillo, Villa Rivas, Nagua, and Cruce de Rincón de Molinillos. If you wish to arrive faster, you may take the Santo Domingo–Cruce Rincón de Molinillos Highway, and get there in less than two hours.

This new highway –designed for fast and safe traveling– offers a journey where nature prevails, disclosing all its splendor. Tolls must be paid at three stations.

By air, you can choose Presidente Juan Bosh International Airport, or the domestic airport, Arroyo Barril. For more information, check the airport directory, on page 39.

- *Where to Stay*
Consult the Hotel Directory in page 74.

- *Info:*
Tourism Office ☎ 809-240-6141.

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Towards the Southern Region



Palmar de Ocoa.

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 four provinces that welcome you on your journey through the region where the first quest for freedom was uttered under American skies. See page 66, Getting Around in the City.

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



Bani's Sand Dunes and Salt Mines.

that it was the birthplace of the “benefactor of the country,” father of the new country, Generalísimo 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.

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.

- *Where to Stay*
Consult the Hotel Directory in page 74.
- *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.”

This hardworking community that once belonged to the chieftainship of Maguána is located 66 km from Santo Domingo on route N 2. See map of Getting Around in the City on page 66.

Born here on November 18, 1836, was Generalísimo 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 Generalísimo Máximo Gómez lived, the municipal museum, the Iglesia



Rosa mango that when harvested in the Peravia Valley, acquires a peculiar, exquisite taste worth trying.

Its patronal festivities are from June 15 to 24, in honor of San Juan, and November 21,

de Nuestra Señora de Regla, Los Almendros, an inviting white sand beach with a residential complex designed to offer tourist services.

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 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 Bani), a variety of the

the feast of Nuestra Señora de Regla.

- *Where to Stay*
Consult the *Hotel Directory* in page 74.

Azua de Compostela

Azua, a land burned by the strong rays of our blazing tropical sun but also washed by the outpouring of its melodious crystalline waters of the Caribbean, is located 121 km west of Santo Domingo. See page 66, Leaving the City.

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

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 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.




Numismatic and Philatelic Museum

The most complete and valuable collections in the Caribbean region are exhibited at the Central Bank Philatelic and Numismatic Museum, located on Pedro Henríquez Ureña Ave. which you may visit Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For additional information call or write to:
Central Bank of the Dominican Republic. P.O. Box 1347,
Santo Domingo, R. D.

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Enriquillo Lake.

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. Info:

📧 www.ocoabay.com.do.

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.

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.

Azua's patronal feast is on September 8th in honor of Nuestra Señora de los Remedios.

- *Where to Stay*
Consult the *Hotel Directory* in page 74.

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. See p.66, Leaving the City.

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, La Saladilla, San Rafael, Los Patos, Paraíso and other very beautiful sunny beaches surrounding the peninsula are characterized by a peaceful solitude, making Barahona an exclusive, unique 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 paradisiacal coast was the location chosen by the Dominican



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designer Oscar de la Renta for the tropical-setting photographs that travel the world in the most famous international fashion magazines. This coast also 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 has it that south of the port, in Punta Iglesia, there are earthen jugs buried with Cofresí'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.

The legend recounts that Cofresí's treasures have not been recovered because it was the pirate's custom to also bury, together with the treasure, whoever helped in the task, hence the belief that in order to unearth the treasures, a

companion must be left where the treasure was found. On more than one occasion, groups of adventurers have organized to unearth a treasure that "Cofresí has revealed to someone in a dream." These groups dissolve as soon as they draw lots to see who will be buried in place of the treasure.


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.

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

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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).

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, ambassador-at-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.

- *Where to Stay*
Consult Hotel Directory in page 74.
- *Where to eat:*
Brisas del Caribe ☎ 809-524-2794

- *Info:*
Clúster Ecoturístico de Barahona
☎ 809-566-4395
🌐 www.gobarahona.com

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.



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Towards the Land of The Sunrise



Altos de Chavón, La Romana.

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.

Leaving Santo Domingo driving towards the Land of the Sunrise, there are marked routes that will prevent confusion: a) Along John F. Kennedy Avenue, take the Centenario V expressway, make a right on Josefa Brea, which runs towards the south and you will find the exit to Puente Duarte that you will take to the Avenue of the Americas, a scenic highway facing the Caribbean that leads you to the Las Américas International Airport of JFPG and connects with the eastern highway that ends in La Romana.; b) The route 27 de Febrero will take you directly to Avenue of the Americas; c) Taking El Malecón towards the Avenida del Puerto that carries you to the provisional bridge, or to Puente Mella, upon leaving the bridge, turn to the right. The Sugar Cane Monument indicates that you should take la Avenida España on the premises of Parque Mirador del Este.



Bayahibe.



Casa de Campo Marina.

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 20 meters. To consult and reserve an excursion consult page 72.

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 three international airports in the region: Las Americas JFPG 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 del 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.

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.

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”.



San Pedro Cathedral.



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.

- *Where to Stay*
Consult the Hotel Directory in page 74.
- *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. You can also arrive at Santo Domingo's Las Américas international airport via the routes served by major European and US 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 Altos de Chavón you can visit: a school of design affiliated with Parsons School in New York; St. Stanislaus Church; the Regional Archeological Museum with its ample collection of pre-Hispanic art; and small, old-style shops offering locally-made jewels, ceramics, and crafts.

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.

Towards the eastern area there is a beach called Bayahibe, where you can find the Be Live Canoa, a resort with 871 rooms. Along the same road, on one of the most beautiful beaches in the region, is the Viva Wyndham Dominicus Beach, offering a secluded spot for spiritual rest, far from city noises, with informal cabins, constructed with primitive-style thatched roofs of natural fibers resembling the Taino bohío.

A little farther along, for those who like observing wild life, is the boundary of the East National Park, which includes the Saona and Catalina islands, an area reserved as a sanctuary for Dominican flora and fauna in the interest of protecting endangered species.



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The Saona Island is the largest of our adjacent islands. Located within the Parque Nacional de Este, it is a part of the tourism attractions of the region thanks to the majestic natural beauty of its landscapes and the breathtaking untouched beaches that surround it. Saona Island has only two permanent human settlements in it: Mano Juan and Catuano, though every day the number of visitors that, upon entering the Dominican





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Isla Saona.

Republic, schedule a trip to Saona in order to enjoy the soft breeze as it blows through its many coconut trees, walk on the pristine white sands that cover over 110 square kilometers and bathe in its crystalline waters, grows. Various circuits take travelers to this slice of paradise on earth, which, aside from offering tourists an unforgettable experience, also serves as the habitat of endemic species like the manatee and the Carey turtle.

At Catalina Island, another jewel set on our Eastern coast, The “Museos Vivos del Mar” (Live Museums of the Sea), was recently inaugurated. Here the remains of Captain Kidd’s ship, the Cara Merchant, which dates back to 1699, are exhibited. A tour through this underwater universe includes a recreation of the Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe shipwreck in the reef of Playa Dominicus, the reef of St. George and of the canons in the Guaraguao reef.

- *Info:*
Asociación de Hoteles La Romana-Bayahibe and Clúster Turístico Romana-Bayahibe ☎ 829-520-7391
✉ www.explorelaromana.com
Tourism Office ☎ 809-550-6922.
- *How to Get There*
Take the east-bound expressway from Las Américas and follow it to la Avenida de Circunvalación, and to the industrial free-zone where you will find the Cumayasa highway that goes to La Romana, located 35 km from San Pedro de Macorís.
- *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 ☎ 809-550-3000
✉ info@cigarcountrytours.com
✉ www.cigarcountrytours.com
- *Where to Stay*
Consult Hotel Directory in page 74.

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IBEROSTAR Hacienda Dominicus, Bayahibe



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HOTELS & RESORTS

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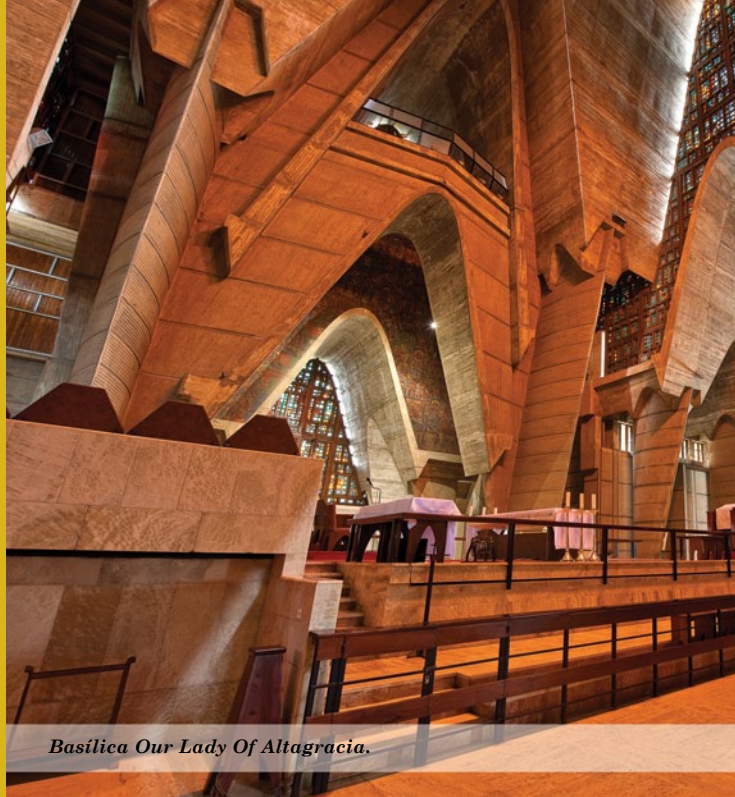
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Higüey, Holy Land of America



Basilica Our Lady Of Altagracia.



Iberostar Golf Course.



White-crowned pigeon.

Higüey, America's Holy Land, was founded in 1494 by Jamaica's conqueror, Juan de Esquivel, and settled from 1502 to 1508 by the Captain of the Conquest, Juan Ponce de León. Higüey is the Mecca of the largest pilgrimages of Our Lady of Altagracia's followers where, every year on the 21st of January, thousands of pilgrims arrive at the Basílica de Nuestra Señora de la Altagracia seeking health or spiritual wellbeing.

Twenty-four kilometers from Higüey is San Rafael del Yuma where you may visit the castle that was built from 1505 to 1506 by the man who sought for the fountain of youth.

From Boca de Yuma Bay, Juan Ponce de León sailed, in 1508, for the conquest of Puerto Rico, and in 1513, for that of Florida.

The National Eastern Park, located along the road from Bayahibe to Boca de Yuma, is a natural and scientific reserve, a forest of protected ecosystems, mangrove swamps and beautiful beaches where important species of marine fauna, including dolphins and manatees, live. This sanctuary park harbors several species of migratory and native endemic birds, among which we find the White-crowned pigeon, which nests and prevails here.

Regional Attractions Bávaro – Punta Cana

You Cannot Miss	Excursions
Dolphin Explorer Punta Cana	Helicopter Tour
Bávaro Lagune	Hot-air balloon rides
Ojos Indígenas Ecological Park	Mountain bike Pump Track / Cool Biker
Choco Museum	Hoyo Azul eco-tour
Catalina Island	Cave Expedition
Saona Island	Zipline Eco-adventure / Canopy Tours
Manatí Park	Budgies Eco-adventure / Four-wheel safari
Aquagames Theme Park	Segway Caribe
Ocean Adventures - Caribbean Buccaneers Dinner Show	Scuba diving Cruise
	Underwater adventure with special helmet and motorized scuba bikes
	Horseback riding

• Info: Tour Operators Directory Page 72.



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Toward the southeastern coast, we can find our largest adjacent island, La Saona, with a surface of 110 square kilometers. It is currently inhabited by approximately 450 people, who live in the town of Mano Juan and the community of Punta Cautano. They mainly make their livings out of fishing and hunting pigeons and wild boars. Between the areas of firm land and its emersion and submersion coasts, there are lowlands that serve as wonderful breeding areas for fish and shrimps.

It is important to point out that La Saona enjoys the lowest mortality gross rate in the Dominican Republic.

Some other unique places located in the province of Higüey are the beautiful beaches of Macao, Bávaro, Punta Cana and Cap Cana, recognized to be among the best in the world. According to a report

issued by the UNESCO: “Out of all the tourist beaches throughout the world, there are few that enjoy such crystalline waters and thin sand. It is so white that it is hard to believe it’s real. It can certainly be said that this area must be included among the best ones in the world”.


Within the healthy environment favored by nature in this part of the island, visitors will find all the comforts granted by exclusive services designed to make tourists enjoy these beautiful beaches with white sand and clear turquoise waters, sheltered by exotic palm trees and coconut palm trees.

In the area between La Romana and Punta Cana we can find the country’s best hotels and holiday complexes, almost all of them recognized as world-class destinations. Those that stand out are Casa de Campo, Grand Palladium Resort & Spa, Barceló


Bávaro Beach Resort & Spa, Be Live Grand Punta Cana, Catalonia Bávaro Beach Golf & Casino Resort, Meliá Caribe Tropical, The Westin Puntacana Resort & Club, Iberostar Hotels and Ifa Villas Bávaro. There are different transportation options to reach this area, either by air, by land or by sea, as it has two international airports currently working, in addition to national roads and a cruise ports and marinas.

The area of Bávaro-Punta Cana has more than 36,000 hotel rooms, golf courses of international signatures such as Jack Nicklaus and Pete B. Dye, world-class marinas, and high quality alternate services like laundry, restaurants, hardware stores, supermarkets, shopping malls, department stores, and theme parks like Dolphin Explorer Park, where visitors can enjoy a collection of lions, parrots, monkeys, squirrels, iguanas, sharks, rays and Bengal tigers trained by a team of expert vets and biologists.



- *For more information, go to:*
 www.dolphinexplorer.com.do.

For shopaholics, there's distinguished Palma Real Shopping Village, the main shopping destination in the Dominican Republic's eastern coast. There, you can find a diversified offer of renowned prestigious brands and designers who set the standards of international fashion, as well as beverages, cigars, Larimar and Amber jewelry of refined national metal work.

- *To see the stores directory, go to:*
 www.palmarealshoppingvillage.com
- *Where to sleep:*
Check the hotels directory, on page 74.
- *How to get there:*
Take the Autovia del Este (East Highway) from Las Americas. After passing the city of La Romana, take the Coral Highway. Santo Domingo - Punta Cana (2 hours and 15 minutes).
- *Info:*
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