

I Like it



Dominican Republic
Has it all



Photo of the cover and interior page: Saona Island

WELCOME TO DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

The Dominican Republic takes up two thirds of the eastern side of Hispaniola island which it shares with the Republic of Haiti and it is the second-largest and most diverse country in the Caribbean with an area of 49,967 square kilometres. It has a population of around 10,5 million and enjoys a sunny, tropical climate all year round. The average temperature fluctuates between 25°C and 31°C. The coolest season is November to April, whilst the hottest is from May to October.

Bathed by the Atlantic Ocean to the north and the Caribbean Sea to the south, our lush tropical island boasts 1,600 kilometres of coastline, interspersed with the best beaches in the world, wonderful accommodation and a great variety of entertainment and recreation. Known for its warm, hospitable people, the Dominican Republic is a destination like no other where you can dance to the rhythm of the thrilling merengue, relax at our luxurious hotels, explore

the ancient relics of the First City in the Americas, enjoy the delicious Dominican cuisine or enjoy an exciting adventure in our national parks, mountains, rivers and beaches.

With such a wide range of activities on offer and diverse scenarios, the Dominican Republic is still the prime destination for visitors who wish to play a challenging round of golf thanks to our 27 impressive courses created by the best designers in the world; to enjoy romantic celebrations to suit every style and wallet; and to organise meetings, congresses and incentive groups, affording a unique experience.

Conveniently accessible through its eight international airports, paradise has never been easier to explore. We would like to invite you to discover our impressive country and create memories that will last a lifetime.



DISTANCES:

From Santo Domingo to:

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

*The stated time may vary depending on traffic conditions. For road emergencies, please contact Highway Assistance on 829-688-1000.

Cayo Levantado. Samaná

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

RECOMMENDED ROADS



Atlantic Ocean

KEY

- Highway
- Main Road
- Secondary Road
- Rural Road
- Toll Station
- City or Town
- Point of Interest
- Cruise Port
- Protected Area or Park
- Ocean / Sea/River / Lake
- International Airport
- Domestic Airport
- Golf Course
- Highest Peak



Caribbean Sea



SANTO DOMINGO



The city of Santo Domingo, the capital of the Dominican Republic, is the destination with the greatest cultural wealth in the Caribbean and without a shadow of a doubt the most vibrant, retaining all the splendour of colonial times. Visitors are lured by the charm of its colonial buildings and contemporary hotels set in old, cobbled streets, as well as by its gastronomy which becomes clear at the gourmet restaurants serving Dominican and international cuisine. With its many boutiques and top store chains from the USA and Europe, the shopping attracts tourists and residents alike. The Colonial City –declared a Heritage of Humanity Site by UNESCO in 1990 owing to its great historical and cultural wealth – boasts a large number of museums, art galleries and theatres, ensuring a countless number of cultural experiences.

COLONIAL CITY

A journey back into the past whilst you stroll along the cobbled streets of the Colonial City and allow yourself to be whisked away by your imagination, walking alongside the pirates and settlers who used to be its inhabitants. This was the first city established in the New World, built by Bartholomew Columbus, and it has preserved the first constructions in America such as the cathedral, the hospital, the university, Calle Las Damas and the monastery.



Cathedral of Santo Domingo



Fortaleza Ozama



Colonial City

If you prefer to take a guided tour, we recommend starting off in Calle El Conde, famous for its craftwork shops specialising in ceramics, amber and larimar jewels, Taino details, wood, leather, metal and colourful paintings. Keep walking as far as Parque Colón (Columbus Park) where you will find the majestic statue of Christopher Columbus. On one side of the park stands Santo Domingo Cathedral - Primada de América - which dates back to 1540, whilst on the other side you can observe how the famous Dominican cigars are made by hand.

Leaving the park behind you, carry on along Calle Las Damas - the first street in the New World - until you behold the striking Ozama Fortress, the oldest in America. Its interior houses the Casa de Bastidas and the Torre del Homenaje which retain the canons that protected the port of the city in days gone by. On this street, you will also find the National Pantheon, the Royal Houses Museum and the Sundial, all surrounded by fortified walls. Right at the end of Calle Las Damas, we will come to Plaza España and Alcázar de Colón - Diego Columbus' old house. In the close vicinity, you will find the new Royal shipyards museum (MAR) which houses the most important underwater archaeology museum in the country and in all of America.

Your sense of adventure will surely drive you on to keep discovering other places. If it does, don't forget to visit the ruins of the San Nicolás de Bari Hospital and the San Francisco Monastery, the Amber Museum, the Chocolate Museum and the Larimar Museum. And now, there are many more ways of discovering Colonial City: walking, cycling, by Trikke or a 45-minute tour by train.



Las Damas Street



Royal Shipyards Museum (MAR)

LOS TRES OJOS

This open-air limestone cave system boasts three underwater lakes and an open-air lake - whose waters project mysterious blue, green and yellow reflections - created by tectonic fractures when the underground caves collapsed centuries earlier. They are surrounded by stalactites and stalagmites as well as old drawings by Taíno Indians and inhabited by fish and turtles. Visitors can explore it thanks to some stepped paths surrounded by luxuriant vegetation.

BEACHES

Near the city of Santo Domingo, there are two main beaches: Boca Chica, just 30 km east of the capital, famous for its fine white sand and its vast multitudes at weekends; and Juan Dolio, 20 km from Boca Chica, a quiet tourist destination that boasts a wide variety of excellent restaurants offering Dominican and international cuisine.

GASTRONOMY & NIGHTLIFE

Santo Domingo is a cosmopolitan city with a wide variety of specialised restaurants and night-time entertainment spots such as casinos, theatres and bars. From romantic, bohemian atmospheres in the Colonial City - attracting younger visitors with its bar crawls - to the more modern ambience in the city's avenues.



Juan Dolio



Los Tres Ojos



Parque Colón

LA ROMANA



Dominicus beach

Along the southeast coast of the Dominican Republic, a vast strip of sugar cane plantations surrounds some of the most picturesque areas in the country, with elegant accommodation and an incomparable range of entertainment options. La Romana, known for its golf, its beaches and diving, is the ideal destination for families, couples, golfers, fishing and sailing enthusiasts.

ALTOS DE CHAVÓN

This hidden jewel is an impressive replica of a 16th-century Mediterranean village, with its cobbled streets and buildings made of coral stone and terracotta. Altos de Chavón was built in 1976 and is set high above the Chavón River. The City of Artists - as it is also known - has become a major cultural centre, the home to artists' studios, art galleries, restaurants, museums and an amphitheatre. In the city centre stands the San Estanislao church where mass is given.

CASA DE CAMPO

The favourite getaway spot for celebrities, Casa de Campo is one of the most luxurious, elegant resorts in the Caribbean. Golf enthusiasts can enjoy themselves at one of the best courses in the country: Teeth of the Dog, Dye Fore and The Links. What's more, it offers an attractive marina where you can find boutiques of international renown and restaurants that offer culinary options of the finest gastronomy.

CIGAR TOURS

Dominican cigars have become a point of reference for cigar lovers. The country produces some of the most highly sought-after brands on the market. Here you can discover the manufacturing process from start to finish as well as the proud work of the most experienced craftsmen of the tobacco industry. Its cigar stores, including the largest in the Américas, offer the most refined selection and the best prices for superior Dominican cigars. www.cigarcountrytours.com



BAYAHIBE

Located 25 minutes east of La Romana, it was founded in 1874 as a genuine fishing city. The region enjoys a combination of picturesque beaches, majestic nature, exquisite accommodation and fun attractions. This ecotourist region is home to the national flower, the exotic Bayahibe Rose and it is the ideal place for those who like to go snorkelling and diving. It also boasts charming restaurants on the seashore which offer fresh fish and seafood dishes.

COTUBANAMÁ NATIONAL PARK

This protected territory has a total area of 420 Km², including the Saona and Catalina Islands, and it is surrounded by strikingly beautiful beaches. The East National Park, as it is also known, boasts caves of great archaeological value which still retain cave paintings. Its luxuriant forests and mangroves are the home to manatees, sea turtles, dolphins and more than 300 species of birds; 8 of which are native to the island and 11 to the Caribbean.

SAONA ISLAND

Saona Island is reached from Bayahibe Beach and is located in the Cotubanamá National Park. Its dream beach was selected as one of the best in the Caribbean. The island is a habitat for birds, turtles, dolphins and manatees and has become the most popular excursion among tourists who wish to visit the area and one of the most charming beaches in the Dominican Republic.

CATALINA ISLAND

Located opposite La Romana coast, Catalina Island is surrounded by a natural coral reef. It is one of the best spots for diving in the Dominican Republic thanks to its “Underwater Living Museum”, home to the wreck of Captain Kidd’s ship. A slope alongside the beach forms a spectacular coral water garden which is less than 3 metres deep, ideal for snorkelling. It is also a destination for some cruise ships which moor there in search of its underwater wealth and beauty.

CUEVA DE LAS MARAVILLAS

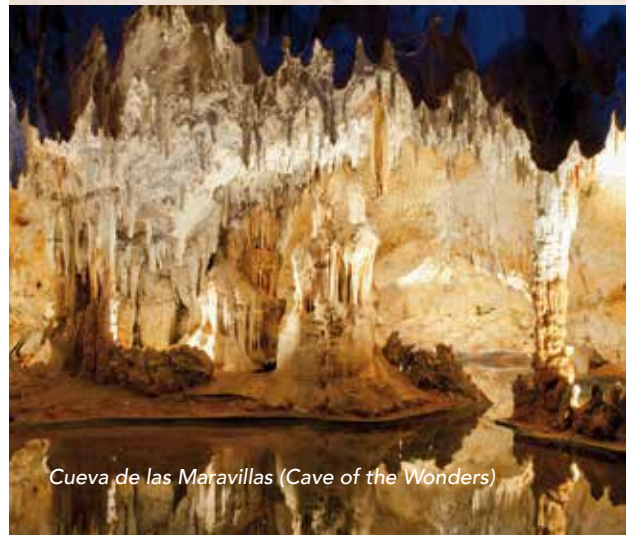
Located between San Pedro de Macorís and La Romana, it is home to the most important samples of rock art and boasts some amazing stone formations. This fascinating cave system contains around 500 extremely well-preserved petroglyphs, pictograms and engravings created by the Taíno Indians who resided there thousands of years ago. www.cuevadelasmravillas.com



Bayahibe



Saona Island



Cueva de las Maravillas (Cave of the Wonders)



PUNTA CANA



Punta Cana is the most amazing, popular destination in the Dominican Republic with 160 km of the best beaches in the world. The coast, surrounded by large world-class resorts, beautiful, turquoise waters, white sands and impressive palm trees, attracts holidaymakers from all around the world who flock there to explore the natural treasures and enjoy the luxurious accommodation of the area.

BEACHES

The main attraction of this luxurious, exotic destination is its pristine beaches – some of the most beautiful in the world, according to UNESCO – marking the meeting point between the Atlantic Ocean and the Caribbean Sea. The blue waters with their many tones and the white sands provide visitors with an unforgettable impression. The most popular are Juanillo, Punta Cana, Playa Blanca, Cabeza de Toro, Bávaro, El Cortecito, Arena Gorda, Macao and Uvero Alto.

GOLF

For golf enthusiasts, Punta Cana is still the prime destination for golfers looking for a challenging course. It offers the best selection of world-class golf thanks to its 10 courses in the most sumptuous resorts in the country, some of them with breathtaking views of the Caribbean sea.



ATTRACTIONS & TRIPS

Thanks to its great diversity, the region offers a variety of activities such as diving and snorkelling, playing on the wonderful golf courses and visiting water parks – where you can swim with the dolphins and manta rays. You can also let your more adventurous side loose and take an adrenalin-fuelled ride on buggies or take a trip around the adventure parks fitted with ziplines, flight simulators, trails, caves and much more. But if what you want is to relax, enjoy a cool swim in the springs and lagoons in the area or visit one of the best, most majestic spas in the Caribbean. A short distance away, in Bayahibe and La Romana, you can take a boat to the paradisiacal and extremely popular Saona and Catalina islands.

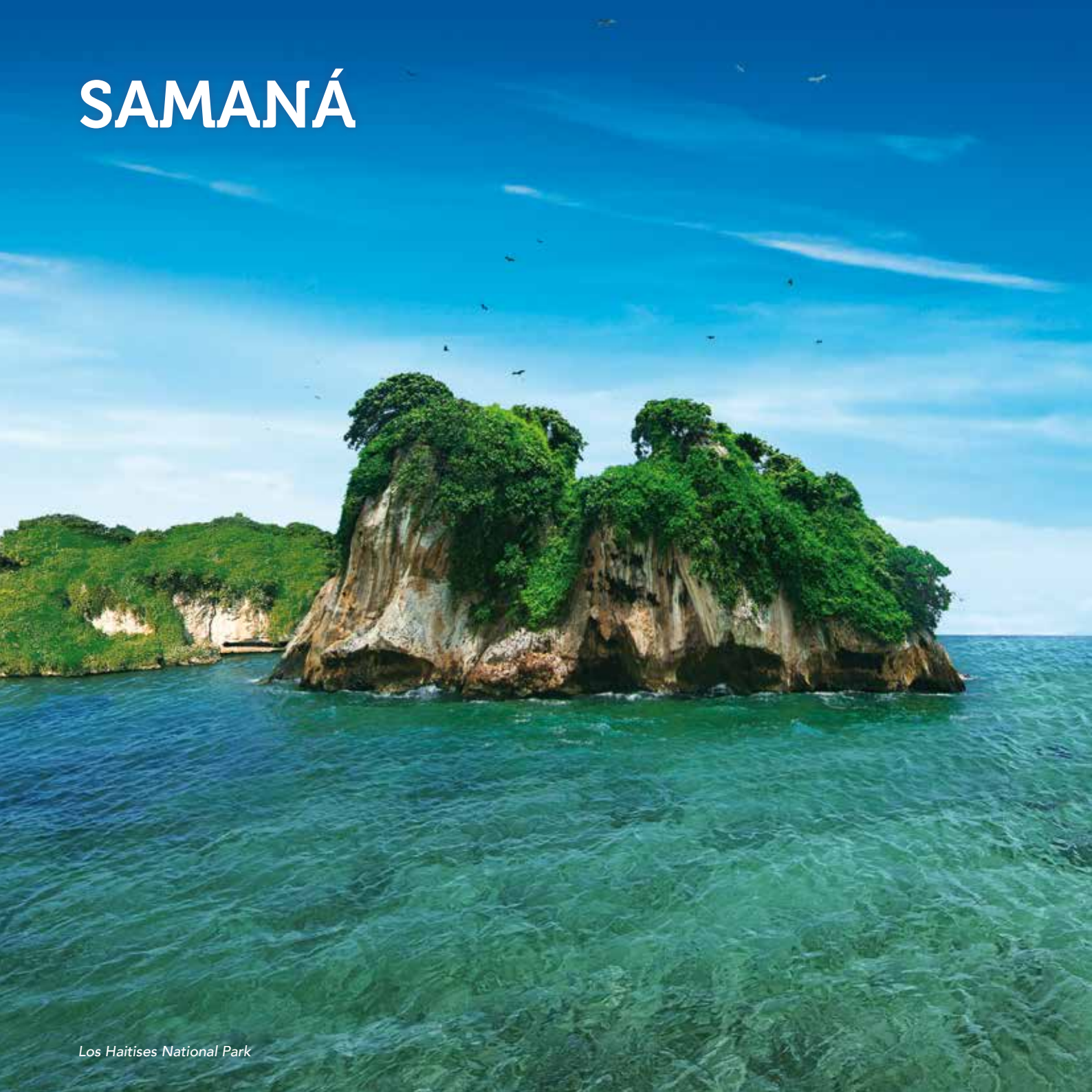
GASTRONOMY & NIGHTLIFE

Punta Cana offers a varied selection of night-time entertainment, both at the resorts and in the surrounding areas. You can visit international discos like Coco Bongo and the exotic Imagine, inside a rocky cave. If it's gastronomy you're looking for, the haute cuisine of the region has been acknowledged as one of the best in the Caribbean, as have its picturesque beach restaurants. The region also offers attractive shopping centres with wide-ranging cuisine options like the new BlueMall Puntacana, Puntacana Village, Downtown Punta Cana, Palma Real and San Juan and many more. Sanctuary Town in Cap Cana offers an interesting variety of bars and restaurants. At Bávaro beach, you can visit Plaza Bibijagua which is full of the stalls of street vendors and local craftsmen.





SAMANÁ



The Samaná Peninsula is a breath-taking paradise with majestic waterfalls of crystal-clear waters, virgin beaches, mountainous hills bordered by coconut palms and an infusion of rich culture and history. This peninsula is a natural, unexplored jewel for those seeking adventure, nature and romance.

LOS HAITISES NATIONAL PARK

Los Haitises –meaning highland in the Taíno language – is a unique and extremely diverse protected area covering an area of around 600 km² that comprises mangroves, karst hills, coves and bays. It is easy to reach by boat across Samaná Bay and is known for its magnificent limestone rock caves bedecked with Taíno art. In the mangroves, visitors will find a wide variety of flora and fauna.

HUMPBACK WHALES

From January to March every year, Samaná Bay is a sanctuary for 1,500 to 2,000 humpback whales which mate and breed in the warm waters of the Dominican Republic. Take in the authentic nature and its fauna on a boat trip whilst observing the whales frolicking from a distance or, if you prefer, watch them from terra firma by paying a visit to the Whale Observatory in Punta Balandra.





EL LIMÓN WATERFALL

Regarded as one of the most spectacular waterfalls in the country, the El Limón waterfall captivates visitors as they watch the water fall from a height of more than 50 metres into a natural pool where you can take a refreshing dip. Although the waterfall is accessible on foot, the best way to get there is on horseback, through the lush vegetation.

CAYO LEVANTADO

Located in Samaná Bay, this idyllic island measuring 15 square kilometres has become one of the best tourist destinations in the area for falling in love, relaxing, sunbathing, savouring the delicious Dominican gastronomy, diving and snorkelling in the company of colourful fish.

ZIPLINE TRIPS

Adventure-seekers will also enjoy a new dimension of entertainment in Juana Vicente, just a few minutes from Samaná Bay, and in El Valle, where visitors can experience the emotion of flying over palm trees and green valleys, with breath-taking views of Cayo Levantado and Samaná Bay.



BEACHES

Samaná boasts magnificent beaches with soft sand and turquoise waters. The beaches in the bay are some of the most isolated and peaceful in the area, such as Rincón Beach, Las Galeras, whilst the most popular, tourist-oriented ones are Las Terrenas, Bonita Beach, Cosón, Las Ballenas, Portillo, El Limón and Morón Beach.

LAS TERRENAS

Formerly a fishing village, Las Terrenas offers a blend of restaurants, bars, accommodation, attractions and a vibrant nightlife, adapting to suit any style and wallet. Its 28 kilometres of spectacular virgin beaches and lush vegetation combine with a wide variety of entertainment, from water sports, horse rides and beach relaxation to 4WD adventures.

GASTRONOMY & NIGHTLIFE

Pueblo de los Pescadores (the fishing village), located in Las Terrenas, is the centre of the nightlife in the region thanks to its range of restaurants and bars and its varied gastronomy and entertainment. Its casual, relaxed atmosphere will allow you to socialise with locals and tourists.



Rincón beach

PUERTO PLATA



Cayo Arena (Paraiso)

Puerto Plata, with more than 11 km of long, beautiful beaches with lush vegetation, was where Christopher Columbus came ashore for the first time when he reached America. In 1493, Columbus gave the city its name in reference to the silverish colour that its bay acquires in the sunlight.

The region is an ecological paradise and it is a mecca for water sports; put your wetsuit on or strap on your flippers because the time has come to challenge the laws of nature: going down waterfalls, windsurfing, kitesurfing, diving and golf. In addition to fascinating, adrenaline-packed activities, this hospitable city offers a vast history and culture, as well as exquisite cuisine. It's no surprise that it is the preferred spot for those who wish to feel free and enjoy the cheerfulness of the Dominican people.

CULTURE & ARCHITECTURE

Walk amongst the beautiful 19th and 20th-century Victorian buildings and houses in the heart of Puerto Plata, stopping off at the San Felipe Fortress, endowed with colonial architecture and built in 1541 by the Spanish. Don't forget to pay a visit to the Amber Museum to get to know this prehistoric gem which is plentiful in this area, as well as the famous Brugal Rum factory where the manufacturing process is explained during the tour.

CAYO ARENA

Also called Cayo Paraíso, this is a small coral island located between the beaches of Punta Rucia and La Ensenada. On arrival, you will feel like you are on the secret island of your dreams, with soft, white sand and bathed in turquoise waters, ideal for snorkelling alongside colourful fish or relaxing with your travel companions.



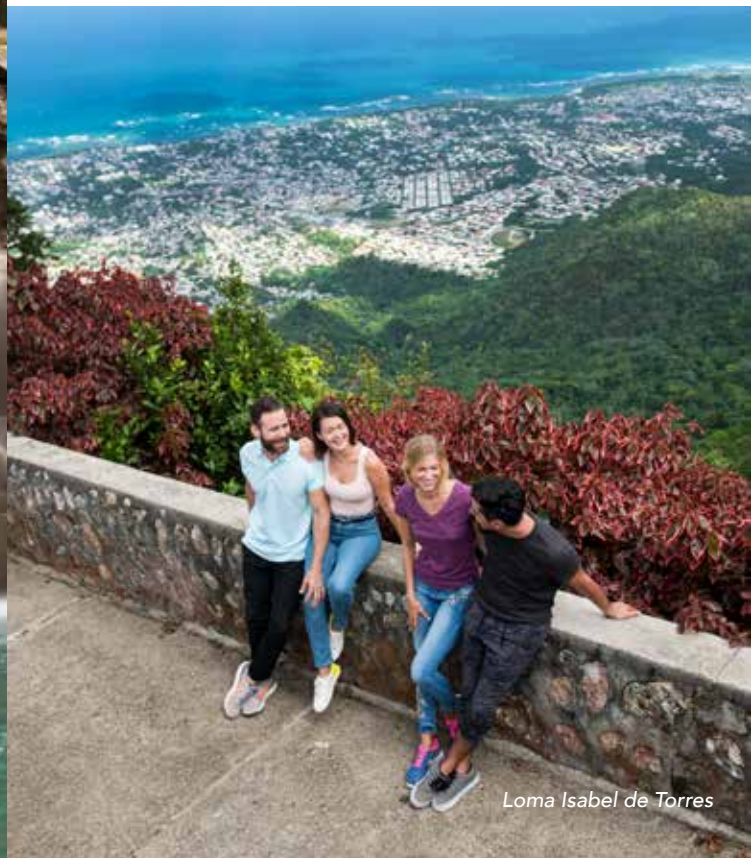


LOMA ISABEL DE TORRES

Rise up into the heavens by taking a cable car ride to a height of more than 700 metres to the top of Loma Isabel de Torres. During your trip take a look at the striking views of the city and at the Atlantic coastline. At the top, a replica of the Brazilian Christ the Redeemer statue awaits you with open arms.
www.telefericopuertoplata.com

27 DAMAJAGUA WATERFALLS

Feel the adrenalin rush whilst you discover one of the best-kept secrets of the Dominican Republic, just to the south of Puerto Plata, the 27 Damajagua Waterfalls. Climb up one of the many waterfalls and jump back down again from the ridges or slide down the water chutes, a sensation you will never forget.
www.27charcos.com



OCEAN WORLD ADVENTURE PARK

The favourite of children and adults alike, Ocean World gives you a close-up experience with dolphins, sea lions and sharks. Swim with some of the most majestic creatures in the ocean, bonding with them. Enjoy this atmosphere along with the local gastronomy, live music and night-time entertainment.

www.oceanworld.net

CABARETE

This is the mecca for water sports and one of the 10 best beaches in the world for surfing, windsurfing and kitesurfing. All the year round the trade winds bring waves and spectacular conditions to suit water sport enthusiasts. Here, you can go on walking, horse-riding or 4WD trips to the Cabarete and Goleta Lagoons Natural Monument to explore their caves and admire the surrounding nature.

SOSÚA

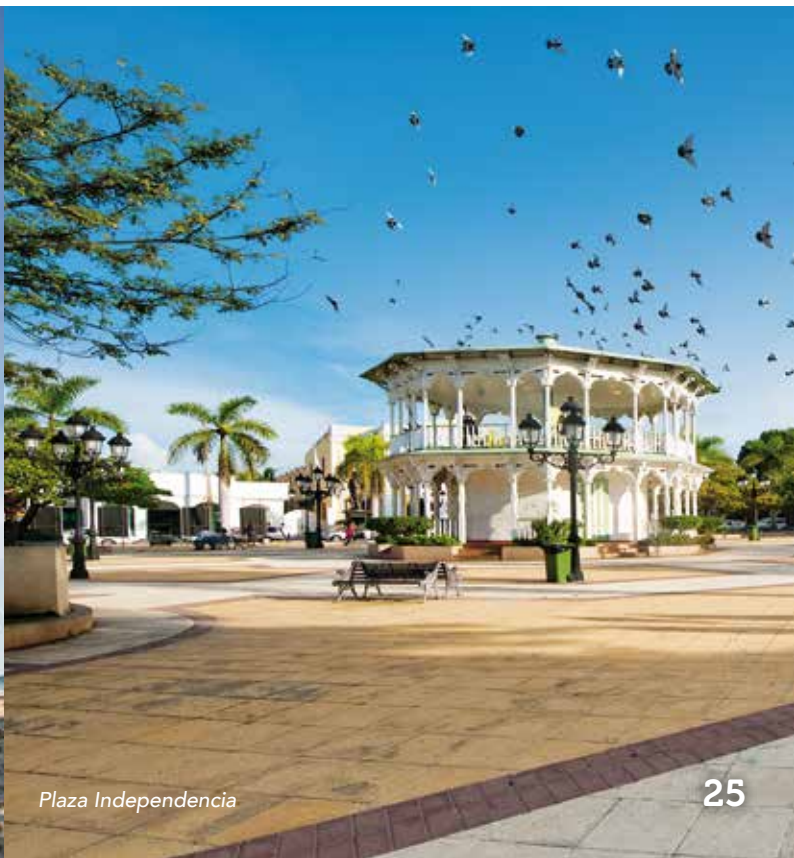
This picturesque town is famous for its huge beach in the shape of a crescent with gentle waves and for its marine sanctuary, making it the ideal spot for diving and snorkelling. Sosúa is a hospitable area with small, comfortable hotels, restaurants on the seashore and lively discos and bars.

GASTRONOMY & NIGHTLIFE

Puerto Plata offers fun bars and discos where Dominicans and visitors alike can dance the night away to contagious merengue. What's more, most resorts offer night shows that boldly fuse different artistic expressions such as dance, music and merengue classes. Puerto Plata also offers delicious gastronomic experiences in scenarios with golden sands in the moonlight, making dinner here a romantic seaside experience.



Cabarete



Plaza Independencia

JARABACOA & CONSTANZA



At the foot of Duarte Peak, 500 metres above sea level, you will find Jarabacoa, known as the eternal springtime region owing to its very pleasant temperatures all the year round (an average of 22°C). Its mountainous landscape is packed with pine forests and numerous rivers. Jarabacoa offers a wide variety of adventure and ecotourism activities thanks to the campsites, which are points of departure for excursions such as nature walks, tubing or white water rafting and even climbing Duarte Peak. Here, the possibilities are endless.

PICO DUARTE

This is the highest mountain peak in the Caribbean and is 3,087 metres high. You can reach Duarte Peak on two, three or four-day trips depending on the route you choose. All the routes ensure striking views of the cloudy, tropical pine forests. The official guide and the mule for carrying food and bags have to be hired at the government camp “La Ciénaga”. You can spend the nights in the camping areas at Compartición or Valle de Lilís.

SPORTS

Tubing, rafting, abseiling, canoeing, safaris in 4WD vehicles, paragliding, horse-riding or mountain biking are some of the activities that Jarabacoa has to offer. Furthermore, Jarabacoa has a beautiful 9-hole golf course surrounded by a landscape of pine trees. Here the peacefulness of the mountains combines with the adrenaline caused by the numerous river courses.





Jarabacoa

EXCURSIONS

Enjoy the Café de Monte Alto tour or visit the sustainable coffee plantations (Café Altigracia) of the acclaimed writer Julia Álvarez in Los Dajaos. Taste the coffee and find out what makes coffee truly exquisite. In addition, just a 20-minute car ride from the city of Jarabacoa, and on a trip that takes a few hours, you will find the hydroelectric dam and the Waterfalls of Baigüate and Jimenoa where you can enjoy breath-taking panoramic views; adults and children alike will be impressed when crossing the three hanging bridges that lead to the majestic waterfall.

CONSTANZA

Located just an hour from Jarabacoa via a panoramic highway with sharp bends and amazing views of mountainous landscapes. Constanza, 1,164 metres above sea level, is the highest, coldest city in the Dominican Republic. It is known for its vegetables, garlic, potatoes, strawberries and beautiful flowers, as well as many tourist attractions such as the Aguas Blancas Waterfall, the Pyramid which represents the 4 cardinal points of the island, and protected areas, such as Las Neblinas, Ébano Verde and the National Parks of Valle Nuevo and José del Carmen Ramírez.



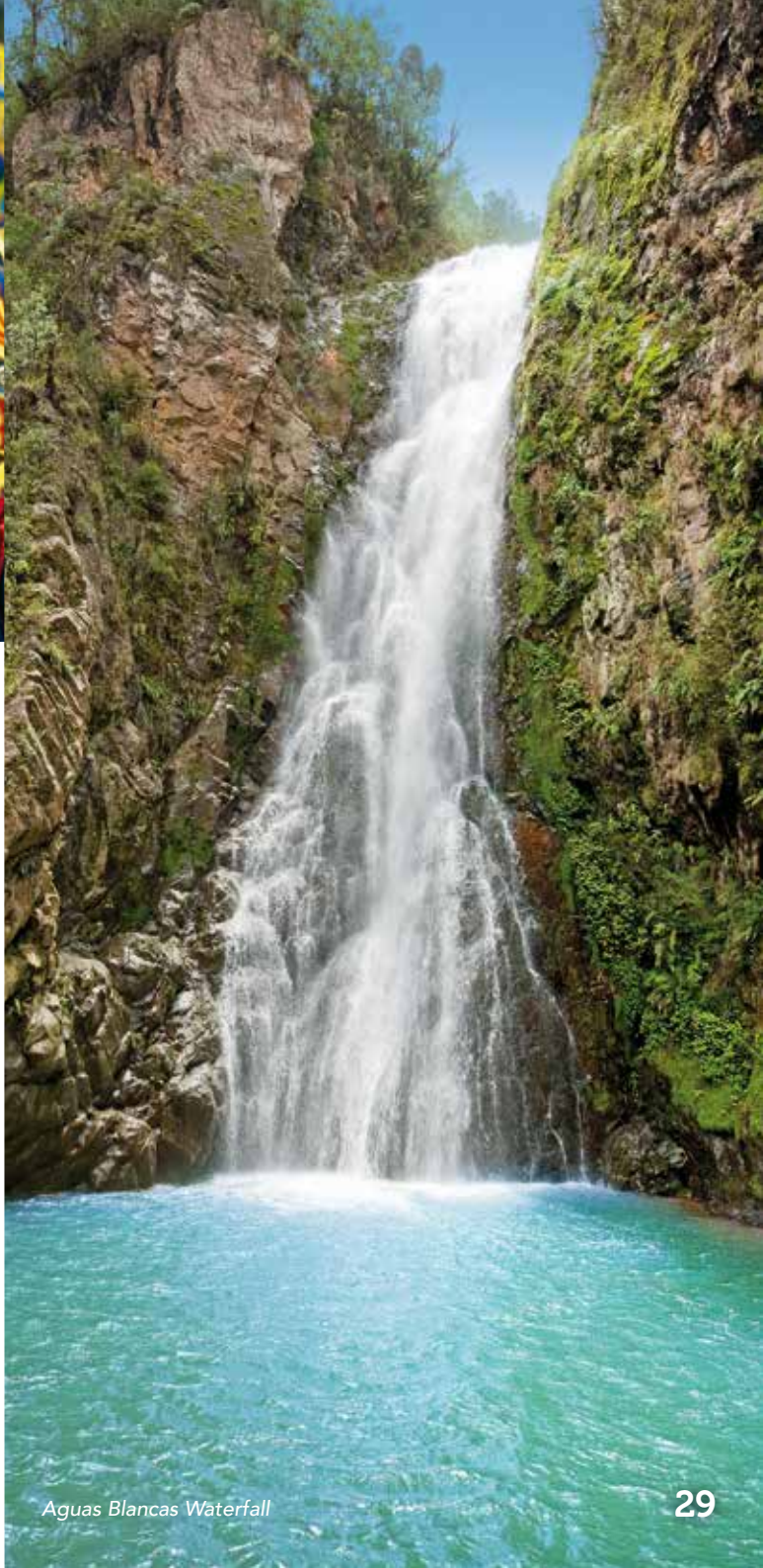
Diablos Cojuelos (Limping Devils)

CARNIVAL

The La Vega carnival, a tradition dating back to the 16th century, is held each year on every Sunday in the month of February. This internationally renowned carnival is one of the most important popular festivals in the country. The main character in this festivity is Diablo Cojuelo (Limping Devil) who was not a “devil” as such, but rather the character that brings the bustle, the capers, the dancing and the happiness. Its disguise mocked medieval knights with a decorated cloak, wide trousers in bright colours and a striking mask representing an animal or a horrible face.

SANTIAGO

One hour from Jarabacoa, we can find the second largest city in the country, Santiago de los Treinta Caballeros (St. James of the Thirty Knights), which was given this name by Christopher Columbus in honour of the thirty Spanish aristocrats who founded it in 1495 and formed the original community. Santiago, also known as the Cigar Capital of the World, is the largest production centre thanks to its multiple tobacco factories. Today it is a cultural centre where the León Centre explains the Caribbean and Dominican identity through exhibitions of their folklore and culture.



Aguas Blancas Waterfall

BARAHONA & PEDERNALES



San Rafael beach

Known as the “Pearl of the South” and a “Natural Wonder”, Barahona is one of the best-kept secrets of the Dominican Republic thanks to its amazingly diverse landscape. The striking nature and the contrast between the beautiful virgin beaches, the majestic mountains, almost desert-like areas and small hotels attract sustainable tourism and adventure.

BEACHES & RIVERS

The coasts of Barahona offer impressive coastal landscapes with beaches bedecked in soft white pebbles and striking waters in various shades of blue. Many of the beaches are ideal for surfing thanks to the conditions of the waves and wind. The most important beaches are Quemaito, Bahoruco, La Ciénega, Playa Paraíso and Los Patos. There is also San Rafael Beach which is situated in the mouth of the river of the same name which supplies a swimming pool in Villa Miriam; its cool, refreshing water revitalises those who decide to take a dip.

LARIMAR MINES

Larimar is a semi-precious stone, also known as “Dominican turquoise”. The Larimar mines in Bahoruco are a very popular destination for the adventurous as it is the only place in the world where you can find this blue stone. Local miners spend eight hours a day, 213 metres deep in the mountains to mine it. Explore the mines on a guided tour, during which the process used to cut and polish this gem will be explained to you.

OVIEDO LAGOON

This saltwater lake, located in the Jaragua National Park, is one of the most important ecological reserves in the Caribbean and it is the second largest body of water in the Dominican Republic after Enriquillo Lake. It has 24 keys which can be viewed on a 3-hour boat trip, but the most popular one is “Cayo de las Iguanas” (Iguana Key) owing to its rich population of iguanas and birds, making it the ideal spot for those who love to observe these animals.



JARAGUA NATIONAL PARK

This is the largest national park in the Dominican Republic and one of its natural treasures. Located in the nearby province of Pedernales, it is well-known for its various types of cacti and the 130 species of birds that live there. Its climate is mainly warm with low levels of rainfall.

BAHÍA DE LAS ÁGUILAS (Eagle Bay)

This beach impresses visitors with its soft white sand, crystal-clear water and rocky, coastal heights. Its unspoilt beach, regarded as one of the most beautiful in the country, is home to manatees, sea turtles, lobsters and a colourful variety of fish. To access the beach, you can rent a boat at Cabo Rojo or use 4WD vehicles.

ENRIQUILLO LAKE

Located just over an hour away from Barahona, this is the largest saltwater lake in the Caribbean and, at 40 metres below sea level, it is the lowest point in the Caribbean. It is a sanctuary for flocks of pink flamingos and its high salt content is ideal for the resident American crocodiles. Three islands are to be found on Enriquillo Lake; the largest, Cabritos Island, has cacti, Ricordi iguanas and a massive population of Rhinoceros iguanas, which are easily tempted by the visitors' food.

LAS CARITAS

These archaeological caves, to the north of Enriquillo Lake, feature the largest selection of petroglyphs in the area, providing evidence of the former inhabitants – the Taíno Indians.



Enriquillo Lake



Bahía de Las Águilas

CABRAL OR RINCÓN LAGOON

For bird lovers and people who enjoy watching them close-up, Cabral Lagoon is the largest freshwater lagoon in the country, covering 46.6 square kilometres. It is home to a wide variety of fauna and wildlife, including freshwater turtles, iguanas and more than 50 species of birds such as flamingos, pelicans, herons and ducks.

HOYO DE PELEMPITO

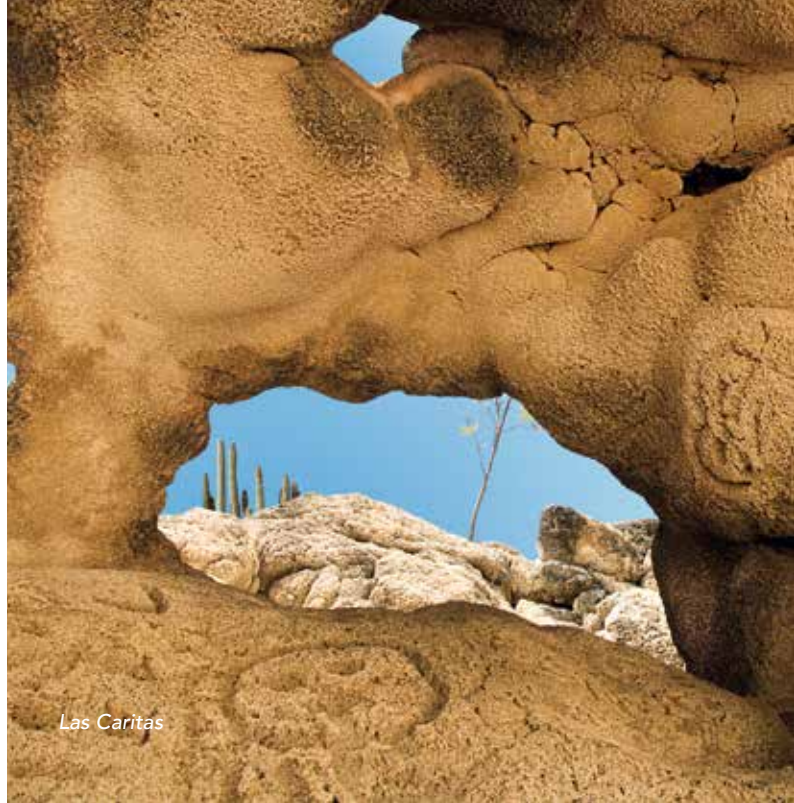
An impressive geological depression in Sierra de Bahoruco National Park, Hoyo de Pelempito is located amongst the high Pedernales mountains. It is regarded as one of the wonders of the Caribbean thanks to the contrast between the hot temperatures typical of the region with that of said depression (25°C - 0°C). The park facilities include an information centre and several trails which allow visitors to discover the diversity of flora and fauna in the area.

PALMAR DE OCOA

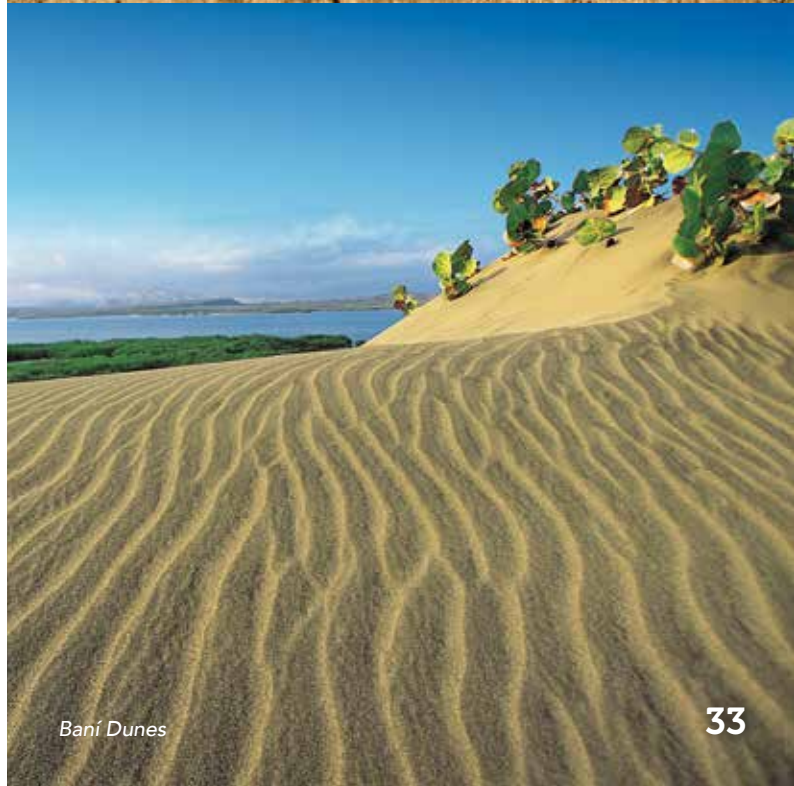
Almost 2 hours away, in the province of Azua, we can find Palmar de Ocoa, a beach with grey sand, deep waters and striking landscapes worthy of a postcard. It has a wealth of marine fauna, making it a favourite spot for enthusiasts of water sports, particularly fishing. It also includes the first Dominican vineyard and the first eco-oenological destination in the Caribbean, Ocoa Bay, a world-class winemaker.

BANÍ DUNES

To the south of the province of Peravia, and less than half an hour from Palmar de Ocoa, we can find the Baní Dunes. This natural monument was created by the action of the wind blowing in just one direction, forming wondrous, golden sand mountains. The Dunes stretch for around 15 km along the edge of a beach with incredibly salty water, Salinas, known for its excellent windsurfing conditions and other sailing sports.



Las Caritas



Baní Dunes

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC ATTRACTIONS



It doesn't matter why you came; romance, adventure, family, golf, for congresses or just to relax. You will find it here; Dominican Republic has it all!

ROMANCE

Impressive beaches, fascinating culture and history and majestic nature make the Dominican Republic the ideal destination for romantic celebrations, weddings and honeymoons. Around 1,600 km of coastline dotted with beautiful, pure white sand beaches attract future couples, whilst a variety of sophisticated accommodation make the second largest country in the Caribbean the ideal setting for a dream wedding or a honeymoon to suit all styles and wallets.

FAMILY

Head for the children's' paradise and the adults' garden of Eden with beaches boasting warm, peaceful waters as well as activities and attractions for children and adults of all ages. Friendly, hospitable people, lush nature, exotic animals, golf and hotel resorts with ample facilities where you can enjoy unique, emotion-packed holidays.





MEETINGS, INCENTIVES, CONVENTIONS & EXHIBITONS (MICE)

As far as conferences, meetings, incentives and events are concerned, the Dominican Republic breaks all attendance records. Besides enjoying an excellent climate all the year round, the country has a wide range of exclusive international quality accommodation options with modern infrastructures, a wide range of destinations and state-of-the-art technology to ensure the success and authenticity of the event.

The Dominican Republic provides numerous activities, from playing a round of golf and relaxing by the sea, to playing adventure sports and exploring the first city in the New World; the possibilities are endless.

Why should you stage MICE events in the Dominican Republic?

- Accessibility by plane thanks to 8 international airports and hundreds of daily flights from all over the world.
- Easy entry conditions for most travellers; only a passport with a minimum validity of the duration of their stay is required to enter the country.
- More than 83,000 rooms, exclusive hotel chains boasting international quality standards and a wide range of infrastructure to suit all budgets.
- Modern facilities for meetings with rooms which are appropriate for large, medium and small groups, with highly trained staff and the latest technical equipment.
- Destination management companies (DMCs) hold international certifications from the industry, local knowledge and experience in designing unforgettable programs at a high professional level.
- Multilingual staff; services are provided in Spanish, English, French, German, Italian and other languages.



ADVENTURE

Test your strength: go up to the highest peak in the Caribbean, dive into the mysterious depths of the sea, go rafting, surfing, kitesurfing, windsurfing, ziplining, paragliding, fishing, visit caves and explore some of our natural spaces and parks. There's an adventure to suit every taste.

SPAS

Here time stands still and worries and strife are left behind. It is a country where you can forget everything, recharge your batteries and reconnect with inner peace in the relaxing world-class spas.



SHOPPING

The shopping centres, shops and markets offer many exclusive souvenirs and items at very affordable prices. We would always recommend haggling when shopping, except at hotels and shopping centres. The most highly sought after items are the traditional faceless clay figures; amber, an age-old resin; larimar, a semiprecious stone similar to aquamarine which is used to make necklaces, earrings, rings and bracelets; and the handmade wicker baskets and hats. You simply can't go home without our rum, coffee, organic chocolate and cigars, which are genuinely Dominican products and which, owing to their quality, are renowned worldwide.

CULTURE

Dominicans are cheerful, very hospitable people; don't be afraid to ask them about any concern you have about the country as they will always be more than willing to help you out. But if there is one thing they do take very seriously, it is baseball, the national sport. The regular season of the Winter Baseball Championship starts in October and goes on until January. This is the homeland of Juan Marichal, Pedro Martínez, Vladimir Guerrero, Manny Ramírez, David Ortiz, Robinson Canó and José Reyes, to name just a few.

If you enjoy music and dancing at the many discos, bars and cabarets spread all over the island, you will find a very lively party atmosphere. It is not for nothing that Merengue and Bachata music and dancing were declared Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO in 2016 and 2019, respectively. Both musical genres are famous worldwide.

If you are more inclined towards art and history, you can enjoy taking a walk along our cobbled streets, surrounded by 16th-century buildings or our numerous museums where you can enjoy items and remains of Taíno art or the most modern expressions of contemporary art.

Dominican culture also stands out for its picturesque gastronomy thanks to Taíno, African, Spanish and Arabian influences. The pièce de resistance is the "bandera dominicana" which consists of stewed or fried meat, rice, beans, plantain chips and salad.

GOLF

The Dominican Republic is well known for having the best golf courses in the Caribbean and Latin America. The country offers 86 holes with impressive sea views, as well as a growing list of first-class golf courses designed by the most renowned architects including Pete Dye, Jack Nicklaus, Robert Trent Jones Sr., Gary Player, Tom Fazio, Nick Price and Greg Norman. The impressive landscapes with exotic palm trees alongside striking mountains and sunbathed fairways are the ideal setting for playing on the most distinguished, unique golf courses in the world.

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JARABACOA - www.jarabacoagolfclub.com - (809) 782-9883

* Private club, you must be accompanied by a member in order to play.



USEFUL INFORMATION



SETTING

The Dominican Republic takes up two thirds of the eastern section of Hispaniola island which it shares with the Republic of Haiti and it is the second largest country in the Caribbean with an area of 49,967 square kilometres. It has a population of around 10.5 million. The official language is Spanish, but in the tourist areas a high level of English, French, German and Italian is spoken, amongst other languages.

HOW TO GET THERE

The Dominican Republic currently has eight international airports and the main ones are Las Américas (SDQ) in Santo Domingo, Punta Cana (PUJ), La Romana (LRM), Gregorio Luperón (POP) in Puerto Plata, El Catey (AZS) in Samaná and El Cibao (STI) in Santiago. The seaports that regularly receive cruise ships are Santo Domingo (Sansoucí and Don Diego terminals), La Romana (east and west quays, Catalina Island and Casa de Campo Marina), Cap Cana Marina in Punta Cana, Amber Cove in Puerto Plata and the facilities of Bahía de Samaná (Cayo Levantado).

CLIMATE

Thanks to its location in the Caribbean, the climate is excellent all year round. During the summer the temperature fluctuates between 25°C - 31°C. In winter it can fall to a minimum of 18°C. In the high mountainous areas of Jarabacoa and Constanza, the climate is cooler (0°C - 15°C).

ELECTRICITY

The sockets in the Dominican Republic are 110 volts, the same as in the USA and Canada. This is why visitors from other countries are advised to bring their own electrical adapters.

CURRENCY

The official currency is the Dominican peso (RD\$). Dollars and euros can be easily exchanged at banks and authorised bureaux de change nationwide. Credit cards are accepted by most shops and businesses.

TIPS & TAXES

The hotels and restaurants charge 28% of the published price (18% sales tax + 10% service charges). However, an extra 10% is usually given for good service. Taxi drivers are not usually tipped, but if you feel like giving a tip for good service, it will be appreciated.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Most visitors arriving to the Dominican Republic –including those from the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, the European Union, Mexico, many South American countries, Central América, Japan, and Israel (see the full list of countries on our website)–only need a passport with a minimum validity of the duration of their stay to enter the country. The cost of the 30-day tourist card previously paid separately, is now included in the airline ticket for all visitors. More information is available here: <https://dgii.gov.do/sobretarjetaturista>

VISAS

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

CLOTHES

Dominicans like dressing elegantly; fashion, cleanliness and hygiene are very important. Depending on the occasion, they will dress casually or formally. Around the hotels and tourist complexes, light clothes are usually worn such as shorts, T-shirts, bathing suits or dresses.

PHONE & INTERNET

The call system is the same as in the US and the main area code is 809. Some numbers use 829 and 849. Communication companies include Claro, Altice and Viva. The sales' outlets can be found in the main cities. SIM cards can be bought easily with a valid passport. Wi-Fi is available in numerous businesses and hotels, though the signals are weaker in the countryside. You can buy rechargeable mobile Internet devices or prepaid packages to remain connected whilst you travel.

TRANSPORT BY BUS

It is not hard to travel between the different regions of the country. There are some private companies that can take you on modern, comfortable buses for very reasonable prices. Make sure you take a jacket because they tend to keep the air-conditioning on very low. Metro Bus: www.metroserVICIOSturisticos.com
Caribe Tours: www.caribetours.com.do
Expreso Bávaro: www.expresobavaro.com

MEDICAL SERVICE

The public and private hospitals near the tourist areas have an air rescue service and hotels also offer modern medical services with qualified staff. In case of an emergency, call 9-1-1, the National Emergency and Safety System. 911.gob.do

PRACTICAL TIPS

To make your stay more comfortable, even if it's cloudy don't forget to put on mosquito repellent and sunscreen as the Caribbean sun is very strong. All-inclusive hotels urge you to eat and drink, but you are advised to do so with moderation to avoid stomach upsets. Keep hydrated by drinking bottled water or natural liquids. If you feel unwell, see a doctor.



Dominican Republic Has it all

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