

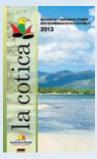
NATIONAL TOURISM GUIDE OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC 2013

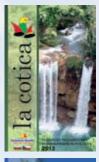


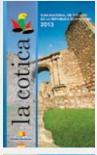
Crystalline waters Turquoise blue sky Burning tropical sun White sandy beaches Spectacular sunsets Historical relics Kind people Beautiful flowers White water streams Color harmony Tons of smiles Adventure sports Golf, baseball merengue, bachata and son salsa and reggaeton Writers, poets Ecological paths dunes, mountains lush vegetation local and gourmet gastronomy hustle and bustle tranquility cave paintings cutting-edge technology communications sense of humor endemic reptiles, birds and fish spelunking... Colonial area World Heritage Colorful transportation love, joy, hospitality...

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# Summary

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# 4 Message from the Minister of Tourism

# 8 La Cotica

# 10 General information

Language • List of national tourism offices • The nation: government and territory • Education • Couriers directory • Emergencies 911 • Religion • Climate • Senderos de la Fe (Paths of Faith) • Pharmacies open 24-7 • Water • Electricity • Health • Time zone • Medications • Sun • Weights and measures • Holidays

# 22 Foreign investment

Investment directory • Arrival and stay, documentation • What to bring from home • Chambers of commerce • Accredited dominican cosulates abroad • Diplomatic missions accredited to the Dominican Republic

# 30 Upon arrival

Immigration • Currency • Customs regulations • POLITUR • Taxi directory • Ladies traveling alone • Traveling with children • Congresses and incentives • Nuptial celebrations in the Dominican Republic • Traveling with pets

# 36 Media

Serenades: a beautiful way of spiritual communication • Ground Transportation • Santo Domingo Metro Route • OMSA • Interurban • Cruise • Airlines directory • Rent-a-Car directory • Airport directory • Distance chart

# 44 Gastronomy

Typical and regional cuisine • Siesta • Restaurant directory











- 48 What to buy
  Art Amber Shopping mall directory
- 52 Where to go
  Our beaches National parks •
  Botanical garden National Zoo •
  Cultural Plaza National theater
   Sports and recreation Theater
  directory Museum directory
- 60 Our music Entertainment • Night Life
- 64 Santo Domingo, The Athens of the New World
  The First City in The Americas'
  Cultural Tourism Routes Columbus Park Map of the Colonial Zone
   Cathedral of Santa María of the Incarnation, America's First The Columbus Mausoleum Map How to exit the Santo Domingo City Exiting the city of Santo Domingo Interrurban
- 70 Tour operator directory
- 72 Hotel and beach resort directory
- 78 Golf course directory

- 80 Map of the Dominican Republic
- 82 The Cibao Valley
  La Vega Real Mountain tourism •
  Constanza Jarabacoa Santiago
  de los caballeros
- 90 Towards the Amber Coast
  Montecristi Map of the northern region
   Puerto Plata Map of Puerto Plata
   Cofresi Costambar Long Beach •
  Playa Dorada The Silver Bank Sosua
   Cabarete Beach Maria Trinidad
  Sanchez Nagua Samana El Portillo
  and Las Terrenas
- 104 Towards the southern region San Cristobal • Peravia • Map of the southern region • Azua de Compostela • Barahona
- 112 Towards the land of sunrise
  La Caleta Map of the eastern region •
  Boca Chica Playa Caribe, Juan Dolio,
  Guayacanes, and Villas del Mar San
  Pedro de Macoris La Romana
- 122 Higüey, America's Holy Land

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that offers the most diversity to tourists, guaranteeing an unforgettable vacation.

The tourism leader in all of the Caribbean region, our country offers the best weather and idyllic beaches; a city, the first in all the Americas, that is packed with history; a wide range of hotels to accommodate every taste, world-class golf courses and the most outstanding culinary variety you can imagine.

Welcome to the Dominican Republic. I am convinced that you will find the happiness of a people for whom every day begins with a smile and who turn extraordinary warmth into a part of ordinary life infectious, leading you to feel at home.

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 Tainos 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 www.dominicanway.com.



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# Our covers:

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# information *x*eneral





Bahía de las Águilas.

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 17o 40' and 19o 56' North and longitude 68o 20' and 72o 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.





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.

Taíno 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 Bohechio'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.

# Tourism offices in the Dominican Republic

Bávaro	<b>2</b> 809-552-0142	Mao, Valverde	<b>2</b> 809-585-9230
Boca Chica	<b>2</b> 809-523-5106	Montecristi	<b>2</b> 829-570-3744
Bonao	<b>2</b> 829-727-1751	Nagua	<b>2</b> 809-584-3862
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La Romana	<b>2</b> 809-550-6922	San José de Ocoa	<b>2</b> 809-558-4166
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Las Terrenas	<b>2</b> 809-240-6141	Santiago	<b>2</b> 809-582-5885
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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.

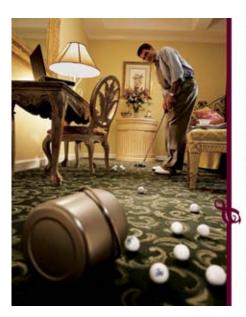
Some visitors tend to think that we are either angry or deaf when they

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







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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.

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

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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 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



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# Medical emergencies

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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 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 Rage, the Pico Duarte soars to a height of, as per Professor Kenneth Orvis, 3.098 meters (10.164 feet) above sea



# Senderos de la Fe (Paths of Faith)

# An offering designed to make visits to sites of importance to the Catholic faith easier.

The route starts at the protected park of La Isabela in Puerto Plata, first European settlement in American soil and the site where Father Bernard Boil held the first mass in the New World on January 6th, 1494, at the Navidad Fort. It continues on to the province of La Vega Real, stopping at the ruins of the old La Vega city, founded in 1496, where it is said that the first baptisms took place in the New World, the Cathedral, exhibiting more modern architecture, and the Museo Sacro or Sacred Museum located across from the Cathedral. From there, we climb up to the Santo Cerro, the place where the Vera Cruz, a symbol of Christendom in the Americas, was first planted, and where visitors can observe the church, the monument of the Light of the World and admire the beauty of the valley of the Vega Real from the very viewpoint from which Admiral Christopher Columbus exclaimed before its magnificence: "This is the most beautiful land that human eyes have ever seen".

The tour continues on to Monte Plata, province where one can see the Holy Christ of Bayaguana, a national pilgrimage site, and concludes upon arriving in the province of Higuey, Holy Land of the Americas, to visit the Basilica, Mecca to the largest Marian pilgrimage in the country. The faithful flock to the Shrine of Our Lady of Altagracia every January 21st in search of health and spiritual enrichment.

# 1. La Isabela

FIRST CHRISTIAN CITY OF THE NEW WORLD 1492: First mass celebrated in the Americas by Fray Bartolomé de las Casas.

# 2. La Vega

CRADLE OF CHRISTIANITY IN AMERICA 1496: First Holy Baptism performed in the Americas to Taino chieftain Guatucaba (Guaticagua). Santo Cerro de La Vega, one of the country's pilgrimage sites.

# 3. Santo Domingo

COIONIAI CITY

1496: City was established on strategic location, along key sea route.

1521: Construction begins on the Cathedral of Santa Maria La Menor, first cathedral of the Americas.

# 4. Bayaguana

EL SANTO CRISTO (THE HOLY CHRIST) A site of pilgrimage and miracles.

# 5. Higüey

BASILICA OUR LADY OF ALTAGRACIA
The most important pilgrimage site in the country,
considered a place where miracles happen.



# Pharmacies open 24-7

# Farmacia Carol

Av. Estrella Sadhalá 29, Santiago

■ 809-241-0000 
■ www.farmaciacarol.com

## **Farmax**

Av. Lope de Vega, Plaza Lope de Vega, Sto. Dgo.

**2** 809-333-4444 **3** www.farmax.com.do

# Farmacia Los Hidalgos

Av. Abraham Lincoln 801, Sto. Dgo.

**2** 809-338-0700

# Farmacia Carol

Av. 27 de Febrero 221, Sto. Dgo.

**2** 809-563-6060 ■ www.farmaciacarol.com

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.

# 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 Taínos, who first





settled on this island - that they also called bohio - 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** 

8:00 a.m. -7:00 p.m Mon. - Fri.

8:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m Sat.

**Banks Express at Malls** 

9:00 a.m.  $-\overline{7}$ :00 p.m. Mon. - Sat.

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Sun.

Commercial Service Offices

8:00 a.m. -5:00 p.m Mon. - Fri.

8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Sat.

**Government Offices** 

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

Stores / Shopping Centers / Malls

9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m Mon. - Sat.

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 am. and 2:00 pm. 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

# **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, observed.

February 27: Independence Day

Moveable: Good Friday

May 1: International Workers Day

Moveable: Corpus Christi

July: Merengue Festival

August 16: Restoration Day

September 24: Our Lady of las Mercedes

October 12: Columbus Day

**November 6:** Constitution Day

December 25: Christmas Day

national legislation, the metric system. Nevertheless, the country continues to use certain units from the old Spanish system and from other systems that were formerly used in the territory.

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



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# 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.

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**

Under law 875 on Visas, foreigners who travel to the Dominican Republic

must have among their travel documents the corresponding visa issued by the Dominican Embassy and Consulate accredited abroad, as well as a tourist card, which can be acquired for (US\$10.00) at the embassy and accredited consulates abroad, when ticket is purchased or upon arrival to the country at ports and international airports.

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



# Foreign investment directory

# 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

# El Portillo Beach Club

■ 809-381-6244 

www.elportillobeachclub.com

# Gestión y Servicios Empresariales

- **2** 809-381-1189 ☑ info@gestionyservicios.com
- www.gestionyservicios.com

# La Castilla Colonial

- **☎** 809-682-8623 ⋈ ventas@lacastilla com do
- www.lacastillacolonial.com

# Los Altos Club

**809-523-2600** 

**Toll free** 1-877-979-2600

■ www.losaltosclub.com

# Pellerano & Herrera

- **8** 809-541-5200
- ₿ 809-567-0773
- www.phlaw.com

# Russin Vecchi & Heredia Bonetti

# Viva Residence Las Terrenas

**2** 809-562-6001

□ vivaresidence@vivaresorts.com

www.vivaresidence.com

Government information \*GOB (\*462)
Foreign Affairs Ministry (DR-CAFTA) ☎ 809-987-7001 및 www.mirex.gov.do

In transit passengers will only be admitted into national territories if they posses a Dominican Republic visa.

• Info:

Foreign Affairs Ministry

**2** 809-987-7001

■ www.mirex.gov.do

General Direction of Migrations:

**2** 809-508-2555

■ www.migracion.gov.do

# 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, sun glasses 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 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.

# Chambers of commerce

# **Nationals**

American 🕿 809-381-0777

⊠ amcham@claro.net.do

**British ☎** 809-616-2335

oxtimes recepcion@britchamdr.com

Chinese **2** 809-547-3316

camarachinadecomercio@gmail.com

**Ducth 2** 809-542-6929

☑ christina.baber@gmail.com

Puerto Rican **2** 809-563-5060

info@camaraprrd.com

Russian **2** 809-620-1471

□ consuladoruso@gmail.com

**Santiago 2** 809-582-2856

Santo Domingo 2 809-682-2688

 $oxed{\boxtimes}$  archivo@camarasantodomingo.do

**Spanish 2** 809-567-2147

☑ info@camacoes.org.do

Taiwanese \$\mathbb{\alpha}\ 809-531-3555

⊠ jlkchang@gmail.com

# **Binationals**

Dominican-Brazilian **2** 809-594-0042

□ ccdom-bra@hotmail.com

**Dominican-Canadian ☎** 809-540-7545

⊠ ccdc@claro.net.do

**Dominican-French ☎** 809-472-0500

□ admin@ccdfdo.org

**Dominican-German ☎** 809-688-6700

⊠ ccdomalemana@claro.net.do

Dominican-Haitian 🕿 809-563-9382

☑ infoballemar@gmail.com

**Dominican-Honduran 2** 809-566-7474

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 info@cacodoho.com
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 info@cacodoho.com
 info@cacodoho.com
 info@

**Dominican-Italian 28** 809-535-5111

⊠ c.italiana@claro.net.do

**Dominican-Japanese ☎** 809-565-5531

□ bonanzadom@claro.net.do

**Dominican-Korean 28** 809-541-8224

🖾 eantonio.lama@magna.com.do

Dominican-Mexican 28 809-541-8724

⊠ cadomex@claro.net.do

**Dominican-Swiss 2** 809-412-7828

☑ info@dominicosuiza.org



# Accredited dominican consulates abroad

# Antigua and Barbuda

□ adrianoherrerar@hotmail.com

**2** (268) 562-6571 **4** (268) 562-6570

# Argentina

consuladodominicano@fibertel.com.ar

**2** (5411) 4894-2080 **4** (5411) 4312-2078

## Aruba

□ consuladordaruba@hotmail.com

**2** (297) 583-5330 **4** (297) 583-5352

# Australia

□ greg.teal@uws.edu.au

**2** (612) 4620-3247 **3** (612) 4620-3494

# Austria

mprdoiv@yahoo.com

**2**/**4**31) 505-8555

# Belgium

consudom.amberes@skynet.be

**2** (32-3) 281-5059 **4** (32-3) 281-5121

# **Belize**

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consuladorepdom@salazar-law.com.bo

**2** (5912) 279-6282 **3** (5912) 211-2407

## Brazil

⊠ consudom@terra.com.br

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# Canada

**284-6600** (514) **284-5511** 

# Chile

⊠ embajada@embajadadominicana.cl

**2** (562) 953-5750 **3** (562) 953-5758

# China

⊠ ecootd@netvigator.com

**2** (852) 2521-2801 **4** (852) 2537-1535

# Republic of China, Taiwan

**2** 886-2-2875 1357 **3** 886-2-2875 2661

# Colombia

⊠ consudombogota@hotmail.com.co

**2** (571) 620-1012 🖶 (571) 213-7715

# Cuba

□ consudomcuba@gmail.com

**2** (537) 204-3152

# Curacao

⊠ consudomcur@onenet.an

**2** (59-99) 465-9777 **3** (59-99) 465-9666

# Czech Republic

 $\boxtimes$  consuladodominicanoprg@gmail.com

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# Denmark

□ consulrddk@hotmail.com

**2** 45-2468-2381

# Ecuador

□ lencalad@lasfragancias.com

🕿 (5937) 4089-999 🖶 (5937) 4089-652

# Finland

**2** (358) 96802992 **4** (358) 9611972

# France

□ consuldompar@wanadoo.fr
 □

**2** (331 55) 37 10 30 **3** (331 44) 09 98 88

# French Guyana

**2** (335) 9438-0996 **3** (335) 9430-9598

# Germany

□ consuladodominicanoffm@hotmail.com

**2** (4969) 7438-7781 **3** (4969) 7438-7640

## Greece

□ co2gendom@yahoo.gr

**2** (30-210) 748-6948 **3** (30-210) 748-6957

# Guadalupe

consulatgeneraldgaf@gmail.com

**2** (590) 41 66 94 **4** (590) 82 84 25

# Haití

□ consudompuertoprincipe@gmail.com

**2** 509-3836-1293

# Holy See (State of the Vatican City)

**2** (3906) 686-4084 **3** (3906) 681-9325

# Honduras

**2** (504) 25553-6357 **(504)** 25553-6358

# Israel

**2** (972-2) 625-9399 **4** (972-2) 625-9059

# Italy

□ consulado.dominicano.florencia@hotmail.it

**2** (39-055) 553-7145 **3** (39-055) 552-0961

# Jamaica

☑ jeremiasjimenez l@hotmail.com

**1** (876) 906-3898 **4** (876) 924-6232

# Japan

□ consudom@gol.com

**2** (81-33) 499-6010 **4** (81-33) 499-2627

# Jordan

**2**/**4** (962) 6 582 8222

# Mexico

□ consudomex@yahoo.com.mx

**2** (5255) 5260-7289 **3** (5255) 5260-7262

# Morroco

embdomrabat@gmail.com

**2** (537) 71-5905 **3** (537) 71-5957

# Netherlands, Holland

**2** (31-20) 6471062 **4** (31-20) 6408300

# Nicaragua

≥ embdom@cablenet.com.ni

**2** (505) 2276-2029 **(505)** 2276-0654

# Palestine

□ palestinedrconsul@gmail.com

**2** / **4** 972-2776902

# Panama

□ consudompma@gmail.com

**264-8630** (507) **269-6591** 

# Paraguay

**2** (595 21) 280-137 **4** (59521) 557 290

## Peru

□ embdomperu@speedy.com.pe

**2** 511-421-9765 **3** 511-222-0639

# **Portugal**

consudom@net.sapo.pt

**(351-21)** 3637568

# **Philippines**

□ consudom\_mm@yahoo.com

**2** (632) 810-6546 **4** (632) 810-6549

# Puerto Rico

□ consudompr@hotmail.com

**2** (787) 725-9550 **3** (787) 721-7820

# Republic of Belarus

**2** 375-17-284-1774 **3** 375-17-284-0310

# Republic of Korea

**2** (8241) 529-5773 **4** (8241) 552-5501

## Russia

□ domruspb@gmail.com

**2**/**2** 7812-333-2564

# Spain

□ consudomadrid@hotmail.com

**2** 3491-435-0227 **3** 3491-576-1168

# Sri Lanka

⊠ bafaul@eureka.lk

**2** 9411 243-3986 **4** 9411 242-1450

# St. Marteen

**2** (599) 542-0338 **3** (599) 542-0337

# Sudán

**2** 00249185335937 **3** 00249185335940

# Sweden

Stockholm@domemb.se

**2** (468) 667-4611 **3** (468) 667-5105

# Switzerland

**2** (4143) 818-9344 **3** (4143) 818-9346

# Thailand

**2** (662) 933-5686 **3** (662) 933-5685

# Turkey

☑ lalia@hip.com.tr

**2** (90 212) 293-8356 **4** (90 212) 293-8335

# **United Kingdom**

**2** (44-020) 7727-7091 **4** (44-020) 7727-3693

# **United States of America**

□ antedespacho@consuladord-ny.org

**2** (212) 768-2480 **3** (212) 768-2677

# Uruguay

embajadomuruguay@adinet.com.uy

**2** (5982) 628-7766 **3** (5982) 628-9655

# Venezuela

🖂 consulado.rd.venezuela@hotmail.com

**2** (0212)762-8983 **3** (0212)761-4871

# Diplomatic missions accredited to the Dominican Republic

# Antigua and Barbuda

⊠ mattress@claro.net.do

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曷 809-541-4781

# Apostolic Nunciature

□ nuncap.rd@claro.net.do

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**Argentina** ⋈ embarg@claro.net.do **2** 809-682-2977 **3** 809-221-2206

**Austria** ⊠ santo-domingo-as@bmaia.gv.at **2** 809-412-4014 **3** 809-532-5603

**Bahamas** ⊠ c.actuariales@claro.net.do **2** 809-688-3787 **3** 809-682-0237

**Belgium** ⊠ consulbelga@hotmail.com **2** 809-687-2244 **3** 809-221-7369

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**Bolivia** ⊠ mariatelavayen@hotmail.com **2** 809-530-7081 **3** 809-530-1712

**Brazil** ⊠ contacto@embajadadebrasil.org.do **☎** / **8** 809-532-4200

# **British Guyana**

**Canada** ⊠ sdmgo@international.gc.ca **8** 809-262-3100 **8** 809-262-3108

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**Colombia** ⊠ erdominicana@cancilleria.gov.co **2** 809-562-1670 **8** 809-562-3253

**Costa Rica** ⊠ embcr.domicana@gmail.com **2** 809-683-7002 **8** 809-565-6467

**Cuba** ⊠ embadom@claro.net.do **2** 809-537-2113 **3** 809-537-9820

**Cyprus** ⊠ kbnegocios1@yahoo.com **2** 809-476-7998 **3** 809-616-0717

**Czech Republic** ≥ jrbrea@claro.net.do **2** 809-685-6900 **3** 809-221-5607

Ecuador ⊠ mecuador@yahoo.com

**2** 809-563-8363

# El Salvador

⊠ emb.salvador@claro.net.do

☎ 809-565-4311 
曷 809-541-7503

# European Union

⊠ delegation-dominican-rep@eeas.europa.eu

**2** 809-227-0525 **3** 809-227-0510

Finland ≥ consuladofinlandiard@hotmail.com

**2** 809-202-3500

France ≥ ambafrance.org@gmail.com

**2** 809-695-4300 **3** 809-695-4311

**Germany** ⊠ info@santo-domingo.diplo.de **2** 809-542-8949 **3** 809-542-8955

**Greece** ⊠ c.otorrino@claro.net.do **2** 809-685-3372 **3** 809-689-0071

**Grenada** ⊠ sdqkoenig@gmail.com **8** 809-544-3797 **8** 809-541-4781

# Guatemala

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**Honduras** ⊠ embhndom@yahoo.com **8** 809-482-7992 **8** 809-482-7505

**Iceland** ⊠ miladeh@hotmail.com **8** 809-532-3256 **8** 809-535-2187

**IDB** ⋈ biddominicana@iadb.org **8** 809-562-6400 **8** 809-562-2607

**Israel** ⊠ info@santodomingo.mfa.gov.il **2** 809-472-0774 **3** 809-472-1785

**Italy** ⊠ ambsdom.mail@esteri.it **2** 809-682-0830 **3** 809-682-8296

**Jamaica** ⊠ emb.jamaica@tricom.net.do **☎** 829-567-7770 & 809-620-2497

**Japan** ⊠ emb.jpn@claro.net.do **2** 809-567-3365 **3** 809-566-8013

**Jordan** ⊠ consjordan@gmail.com **8** 809-533-0127 **8** 809-540-6448

**Latvia** ≥ lvconsulate@claro.net.do ≈ 809-620-0802 8 809-620-0379

# Lebanon

**2** 809-547-3440 **3** 809-547-3540

**Liberia** ⊠ senida2006@yahoo.com **8**09-412-7546

**Lithuania** ⊠ caloren2002@gmail.com **≈** 809-565-3333 **8** 809-378-0412

**Mexico** ⊠ embamex@claro.net.do **≈** 809-687-6641 **8** 809-687-7872

**Morroco** ⊠ sifamasdomingo@claro.net.do **2** 809-732-0911 **3** 809-732-1703

**Netherlands** ⊠ std@minbuza.nl **2** 809-262-0300 **3** 809-565-4685

**Nicaragua** ⊠ embanic-rd@claro.net.do **2** 809-563-2311 **3** 809-535-1230

**Norway** ⊠ creid@reid.com.do **2** 809-562-7211 **3** 809-563-7881

# People's Republic of China Office of Commercial Development

⊠ dm@mofcom.gov.cn

**2** 809-334-1843 島 809-620-2114

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**Paraguay** ⊠ claraporcella@yahoo.com **2** 809-472-0967 **3** 809-412-2829

**Peru** ≥ embaperu@claro.net.do ≈ 809-482-3300 809-482-3334

**Philippines** ⋈ dadulo@claro.net.do **2** 809-563-6633 **3** 809-472-0487

**Poland** ⊠ g.vega@claro.net.do **2** 809-472-2072 **3** 809-472-2208

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# República of Korea

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≈ 809-368-5522 

≈ 809-368-5566

**Russia** ⊠ consuladoruso@gmail.com **2** 809-620-1471 **3** 809-563-9083

**Saint Lucia** ≥ consuladosrd@gmail.com **2** 809-544-3787 **3** 809-541-4721

# Serbia

□ asistenteconsularserbiard@hotmail.com
 □ 809-472-6700

**South Africa** ⊠ georginamoya@yahoo.es **2** 809-508-7100 **3** 809-508-7140

# Sovereign Military Order of Malta

⊠ emb.ordenmalta@claro.net.do

**Spain** ⊠ emb.santodomingo@maec.es **8**09-535-6500 **8** 809-535-1595

# St. Kitts & Nevis

⊠ consul.lama@bonanza.dominicana.com.do

**2** 809-567-5023 **3** 809-566-1087

**Sueden** ⋈ sven@dominicantravel.com ≈ 809-616-3000 & 809-549-6112

**Switzerland** ≥ sdd.vertretung@eda.admin.ch ≈ 809-533-3781 ≥ 809-532-3781

**Thailand** ⊠ a.diaz@ceprisa.com.do **2** 809-620-9585 **3** 809-533-7735

 $\mathbf{Trinidad} \ \& \ \mathbf{Tobago} \boxtimes \mathsf{freyes@alnap.com.do}$ 

**☎** 809-731-3329 **♣** 809-731-3325

**Turkey** ≥ turconsd@hotmail.com **2** 809-381-4242 **3** 809-381-4343

**UNESCO** ⊠ cnu\_rd@hotmail.com **2** 809-688-9634 **3** 809-688-9459

**UNICEF** ⋈ santodomingo@unicef.org **8**09-473-7373 **8** 809-473-7272

**UNPD** ⊠ registry.do@undp.org **2** 809-537-0909 **3** 809-531-3507

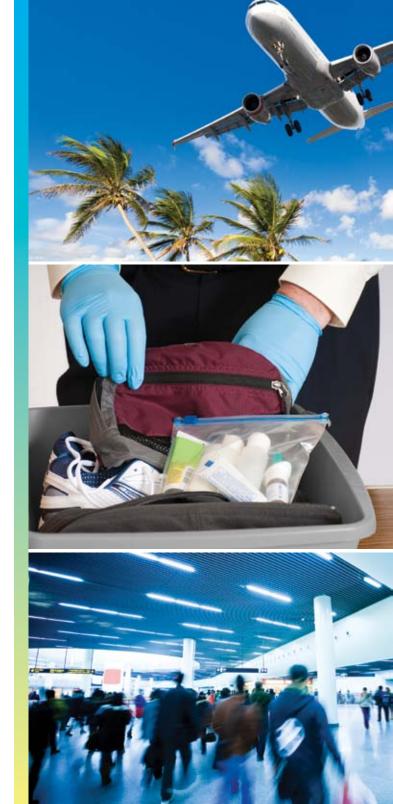
# United Kingdom

**USA** ■ santodomingo.usembassy.gov **2** 809-221-2171 ■ 809-686-7437

**Uruguay** ⊠ embur@claro.net.do **2** 809-227-3475 **3** 809-472-4231

**Venezuela** ⊠ emb.venezuela@claro.net.do **2** 809-537-8882 **3** 809-537-8780

# 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 50 and 20). 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.

"Tourism awareness is the understanding of tourism activities and their effects, which translates into responsible and agreeable behavior from the host community and a welcoming attitude and attentiveness towards visitors."

Rita Cabrer



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

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

a) Opium in all its forms and all its by-products (alkaloids, salts,

compounds, synthetic preparations or replacements).

- b) Heroin.
- c) Coca (Erythroxylum Coca).
- d) Cocaine, its by-products, synthetic replacements or any other compound whose base it is used as.
- e) All plants of the *Cannabinacea* Family and those by-products having narcotic or stimulating properties, such as: Cannabis Indica, Cannabis Sativa, Marijuana and other herbs which present similar properties.

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

### Politur

<b>Montecristi ☎</b> 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 🕿 809-221-8697
Sosúa 🕿 809-754-3274
<b>Zona Colonial ☎</b> 809-689-6464

The Policía Turística de la República Dominicana (Touristic Police of The Dominican Republic) is an organization that serves to protect and aid tourists visiting our beaches and other popular tourism and entertainment areas within the country. Their units patrol these spots on foot, on boats, on horseback, four-wheels, Segway and motorcycles.

**☎** 809-754-3070 • 809-754-3000 **■** www.politur.gob.do

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<b>Taxi Bávaro</b>	Apolo Taxi
Bávaro-Punta Cana <b>2</b> 809-221-2741	Santo Domingo ☎ 809-537-0000
Romana Taxi	Maxi Taxi
La Romana 🕿 809-556-4050	Santo Domingo ☎ 809-541-5989
Taxi Puerto Plata	Taxi Anacaona
Puerto Plata ☎ 809-586-5335	Santo Domingo ☎ 809-531-1212
Taxi Monumental	Taxi Paraíso
Santiago ☎ 809-581-0002	Santo Domingo ☎ 809-683-9000

### 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 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.

### 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, lectopirosis, 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
  - **2** 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.



### CIGAR FACTORY TOUR 809-734-2563



### Media





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

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 through16 stations, as well as an east-west line (Line 2A) that begins at the 9nth kilometer of the Duarte Highway and travels all the way to the Francisco del Rosario Sanchez 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).

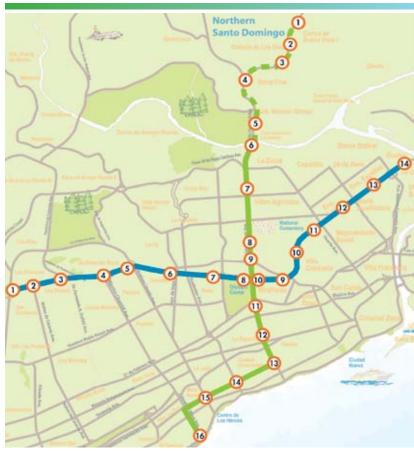
There are eight different bus routes covered by Mercedes Benz and Volvo BUSCAAR buses, which transport passengers for a fee that ranges from RD\$10 to RD\$15 from 6:00 am to 9:30 pm.

Taxis offering transportation services in the city of Santo Domingo are easily located at airports, ports, the Colonial Zone and all hotels, where visitors can usually also find a board with information regarding taxi rates. Usually taxi cabs are cream-colored or vellow 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

### Santo Domingo Metro route



### Stations

### ■■■ Above-ground line

### Line 1

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

### Line 1

### Line 2A

### Line 2A

- María Montez.
- 2. Pedro Francisco Bonó.
- 3. Francisco Gregorio Billini.
- Ulises Francisco Espaillat.
   Pedro Mir.
- 6. Freddy Beras Goico.
- 7. Juan Úlises Gracía Saleta.
- 8. Juan Pablo Duarte.
- 9. Cnel. Rafael T. Fernández Domínguez.
- 10. Mauricio Báez.
- 11. Ramón Cáceres.
- 12. Horacio Vásquez.
- 13. Manuel de lesús Galván.
- 14. Eduardo Brito.

in offering safe, efficient and timely transportation via comfortable airconditioned 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 position. More and more visitors reach the nation via cruise ship and experience the many offers

### **OMSA Buses**

### Santo Domingo

### **⊃** 27 de Febrero Route

Origin: Km. 13 Autopista Duarte. Destination: Hipódromo V Centenario, Autopista Las Américas.

### **⊃** Charles de Gaulle Route

Oriain: Av. Hermanas Mirabal. Destination: Hipódromo V Centenario.

### ⇒ J. F. Kennedy North Route

Origin: Km. 9 Autopista Duarte. Destination: El Tamarindo, Paraue Industrial Nueva Isabela.

### **⇒** Los Alcarrizos Route

Origin: Hato Nuevo, Los Alcarrizos. Destination: Km. 13, Carretera Sánchez.

### **☼** Los Ríos Route

Los Ríos-Núñez de Cáceres-Independencia-W. Churchill-Los Ríos.

### ⊃ Máximo Gómez Central Route

North-South Origin: Av. Charles de Gaulle. Destination: Centro de los Héroes.

### **⇒** Naco Route

Origin: Terminal OMSA, Km 9.5 de la Autopista Duarte.

Destination: Terminal OMSA, Km. 9 1/2 de la

Autopista Duarte.

### South Route (Av. Independencia)

Origin: Km. 13, Carretera Sánchez. Destination: Hipódromo V Centenario.

### Santiago

### Canabacoa Route

Origin: Rotonda Av. Estrella Sadhalá esa. 27 de Febrero. Destination: Av. Duarte - Ortega.

### Central Route

Origin: Gurabo.

Destination: Autopista Duarte.

### Circunvalación Route

Origin: Rotonda Av. Estrella Sadhalá esq. 27 de Febrero.

Destination: Av. Estrella Sadhalá, Rotonda La

Fuente, Circunvalación.

### ⊃ Gurabo-Hato del Yaque Route

Origin: Gurabo.

Destination: Parque Hato del Yaque.

### Interurban

**Caribe Tours 2** 809-221-4422

**Metro Expreso ☎** 809-227-0101

**Expreso Bávaro 2** 809-682-9670

Oficina Metropolitana de Servicios de Autobuses (OMSA) Www.omsa.gob.do 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 and Samaná. The cruise line season starts in October and ends in April.

• Info: OPETUR Directory, pag. 70.

### **AIRLINES**

		I
Airline	Phone	Website
Air Canada	809-959-3014	www.aircanada.com
Air Caraibes	809-621-7777	www.generalairservices.com
Air Europa	809-683-8033	www.aireuropa.com
Air France	809-686-8432	www.airfrance.com.do
American Airlines	809-542-5151	www.aa.com/español
Avianca	809-563-2209	www.avianca.com
British Airway	809-959-0254	www.britishairways.com
Condor	809-221-6111	www.condor.com
Copa Airlines	809-472-2233	www.copair.com
Cubana Aviación	809-227-2040	www.cubana.cu
Delta Airlines	809-200-9191	www.delta.com
Dutch Antilles Express	809-541-5151	www.flydae.com
Iberia	809-227-0010	www.iberia.com.do
Insel Air	809-621-7777	www.generalairservices.com
JetBlue AirWays	809-200-9898	www.jetblue.com
Liat	809-621-7777	www.generalairservices.com
Pawa Dominicana	809-227-0330	www.pawad.com.do
Spirit Airlines	809-549-0200	www.spirit.com
Taca Airlines	809-200-8662	www.taca.com
United Airlines	809-541-2000	www.united.com
US Airlines	809-549-0233	www.usairways.com
USA3000 Airlines	809-221-6626	www.usa3000.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.

AVIS • George Washington 517

**2** 809-535-7191

₿ 809-535-1747

□ reservaciones@avis.com.do

■ www.avis.com

Budget • J. F. Kennedy

**2** 809-566-6666

■ 809-567-0177

info@budget.com.do

■ www.budget.com

Dollar • Independencia 366

**2** 809-221-7368

₿ 809-221-7270

□ reservaciones@dollar.com.do

www.dollar.com.do

EuropCar • Independencia 354

**2** 809-688-2121

₽ 809-688-0808

□ europcar.reservas@europcar.com.do

■ www.europcar.com.do

Hertz • José María Heredia 1

**☎** 809-221-5333

₿ 809-221-8927

□ customerservice@mercantilstodgo.com

■ www.hertz.com

**Honda** • J. F. Kennedy / P. Salcedo

**2** 809-567-1015

**809-541-0039** 

www.hondarentcar.com

National-Alamo • Próceres 41

**2** 809-562-1444

₿ 809-227-9015

□ nationalcar.dr@grupoambar.com

www.nationalcar.com

Nelly • Av. Independencia 654

**8** 809-687-7997

₽ 809-687-7263

□ reservaciones@nellyrac.com

■ www.nellyrac.com

Sixt • Av. Charles Summer 10

**2** 809-541-7498

□ contacto@sixt.com.do

■ www.sixt.com.do

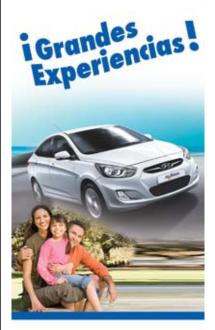
Thrifty • Av. Lope de Vega 80

**2** 809-333-4000

₿ 809-732-6676

www.thrifty.com





### 809-221-RENT (7368)

Santo Domingo Santiago Bávaro Punta Cana

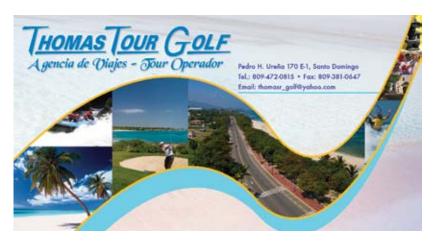
www.dollar.com.do

## Airport directory

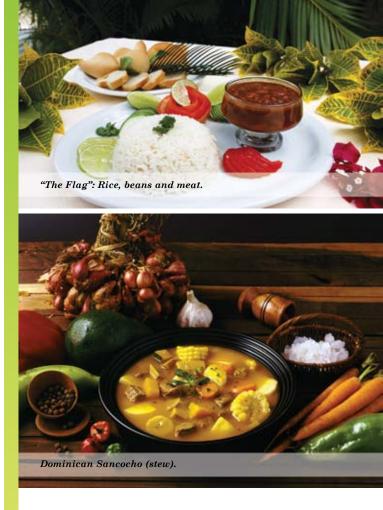
Name	IATA Code	OACI Code	Location	Phone
Aeropuerto Internacional de Barahona María Montés AIMM	BRX	MDBH	Barahona	809-524-4144
Aeropuerto doméstico 14 de Junio de Constanza	COZ	MDCZ	Constanza, La Vega	809-539-1022
Aeropuerto internacional de La Romana LRM	LRM	MDLR	La Romana	809-813-9000
Aeropuerto internacional 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	809-248-2566
Aeródromo El Portillo	EPS	MDPO	Samaná	809-381-6244
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

### **Distance Chart**

Azua																		
Baní																		
Barahona		135																
Elías 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	344	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	Elías 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



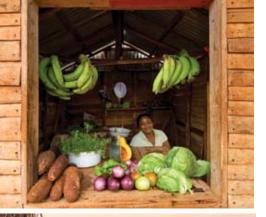
## Gastronomy



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 our exotic local specialties.

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







### Tips

By law, a 16% 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.

### **Reservations**

### Especialities

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

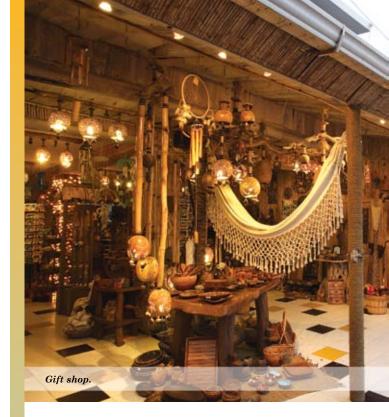
The city of Santo Domingo has many comfortable and beautiful restaurants capable of satisfying the most demanding palate.

Bávaro • Punta Cana
El Pulpo Cojo
<b>2</b> 809-552-0909 • Carretera El Cortecito 1, Bávaro
Hard Rock Café Cap Cana
809-552-0594
Capitan Cook
<b>☎</b> 809-552-0645 • Playa Cortecito, Bávaro
Cappuccino Mare
<b>2</b> 809-468-4646 • Av. Estados Unidos, Bávaro9
Boca Chica • Juan Dolio • Guayacanes
Agave
<b>2</b> 809-526-1115 • C∕ Principal, Juan Dolio
Boca Marina
<b>2</b> 809-523-6702 • C/ Prolongación Duarte 12 A, Boca Chica
El Pelícano
<b>☎</b> 809-523-4611 • C/ Duarte Esq. Caracol. Be Live Hamaca Hotel
El Mesón
<b>☎</b> 809-526-2666 • C/ Boulevard, Juan Dolio
El Sueño
<b>☎</b> 809-526-3903 • C/ Principal, Juan Dolio
Neptuno's
<b>☎</b> 809-523-4703 • C/ Duarte 12, Boca Chica8-10
Playa El Pescador
<b>☎</b> 809-526-2613 • Playa de Guayacanes
Salitre Restaurant
<b>☎</b> 809-526-1969 • Playa Guayacanes
La Romana
Shish Kabab
<b>2</b> 809-556-2737 • Francisco del Castillo Márquez 32, la Romana
Puerto Plata
Poseidón
<b>2</b> 809-291-1111 • Cofresí
Samaná
Mi Corazón
<b>☎</b> 809-240-5329 • C/ Juan Pablo Duarte 7, Las Terrenas

### Santiago

Santiago
Camp David Ranch
<b>☎</b> 809-276-6400 • Carretera Luperón km 7 1/2, Gurabo
Pez Dorado
<b>☎</b> 809-582-2518 • Calle del Sol 43
Santo Domingo
Agave
☎ 809-732-3232 • Lope de Vega 104
Boga Boga
<b>2</b> 809-472-0950 • Bolívar 203
Cane
<b>2</b> 809-368-2200 • Av. Lincoln 1059
Café Teatro           ☎ 809-689-3430 • Arzobispo Meriño 110, Zona Colonial
<b>★</b> 809-089-3430 • Arzobispo Merino 110, Zona Colonial
Casa Olivier Restaurante – Lounge
☎ 809-682-0836 • C/ Arzobispo Portes esq. Hostos #151
Don Pepe
<b>2</b> 809-563-4440 • Porfirio Herrera 31
D' Luis Parrillada
<b>☎</b> 809-689-7115 • George Washington 25
El Conuco
<b>2</b> 809-686-0129 • Casimiro de Moya 152
Hard Rock Café
<b>2</b> 809-686-7771 • C/ El Conde 103
Meson De Bari
<b>2</b> 809-687-4091 • Eugenio María de Hostos 302
Mesón De La Cava  ■ 809-533-2818 • Mirador del Sur 1
Mesón Iberia
<b>1 Sept. 1 Deria 2 Sept. 530-7200 ● Miguel Angel Monclús 165</b>
Mijas Restaurant
<b>19 809-567-5040 ●</b> Max Henríquez Ureña 47
007 307 3040 4 7 Max 1 leiling 1622 Otenia 47
Mitre
☎ 809-472-1787 • Av. Abraham Lincoln esq. Gustavo Mejía Ricart
Olivo
<b>☎</b> 809-549-3792 • Madame Curíe 19-P
TGI Friday's
<b>2</b> 809-955-8443 • Torre Acrópolis, 3er piso
Vesuvio Malecón
<b>☎</b> 809-221-1954 • George Washington 521
Vesuvio Tiradentes
<b>2</b> 809-562-6060 • Tiradentes #17
9.12.13
Wok Chinese Bistro
<b>☎</b> 809-621-4666 • Rómulo Betancourt 435

## What to buy



It is possible to find anything you seek here and to acquire it for a better price that you would almost anywhere else.

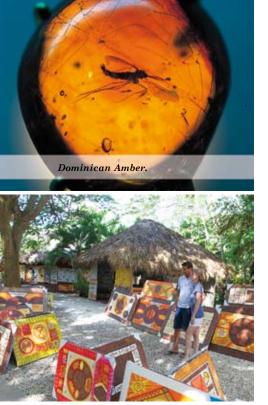
In Santo Domingo, as well as in its neighboring towns and inside tourism resorts, there are fabulous malls and commercial plazas with specialized shops that represent internationally renown franchises.

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 Perez, 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



### Bella Vista Mall



### Blue Mall

Av. Winston Churchill esq. Gustavo Mejía Ricart, Santo Domingo 
■ 809-334-0505 ■ www.bluemall.com.do



### Mega Centro

Carr. Mella esq. Av. San Vicente de Paul, Santo Domingo Este ≈ 809-236-7660 ■ www.megacentrord.com

Palma Real Shopping Village Bávaro - Punta Cana ☎ 809-552-8725/26  ■ www.palmarealshoppingvillage.com	Diamond Mall Av. Los Próceres, Arroyo Hondo, Santo Domingo ☎ 809-412-2189 ■ www.diamondmall.com.do
San Juan Shopping Center Bávaro - Punta Cana ☎ 809-466-6000  ■ www.sanjuanshoppingcenter.com	Galería 360 Av. John F. Kennedy, Santo Domingo ☎ 809-540-2525 ■ www.galeria360.com.do
Colinas Mall Av. 27 de Febrero, Santiago  ≈ 809-576-6555  □ www.colinasmall.com.do	Multicentro Churchill Av. Winston Churchill esq. G. Mejía Ricart, Santo Domingo ☎ 809-472-4444  ⊔ www.tiendaslasirena.com
Acrópolis Av. Winston Churchill esq. Rafael A. Sánchez, Santo Domingo № 809-955-2020   www.acropolisdr.com	Novo-Centro Av. Lope de Vega 29, Santo Domingo ☎ 809-549-5815 ■ www.novo-centro.com
Ágora Mall Av. John F. Kennedy esq. Abraham Lincoln, Santo Domingo ≈ 809-472-2076   www.agora.com.do	Sambil Av. John F. Kennedy esq. Paseo de los Aviadores, Santo Domingo ☎ 809-633-0505 www.tusambil.com/santodomingo

manifested by the attraction it has on lighter objects.

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

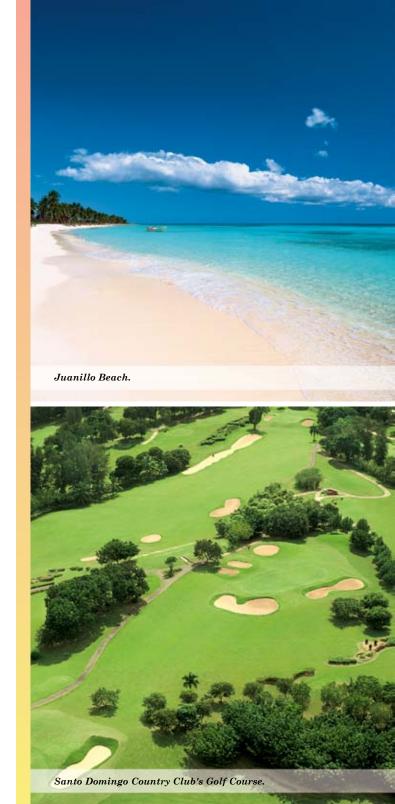
Make the most of your stay and bring home to your loved ones a jewel as a souvenir of your visit. There aren't many places in the world where you can buy amber and larimar, the Dominican turguoise.

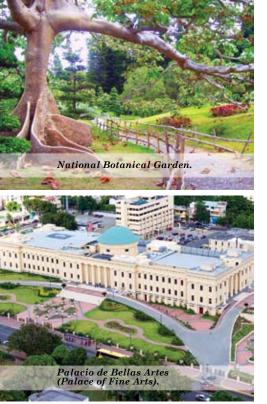
One of the biggest deposits worldwide is located in the Amber Coast and only in our country can you find mines of blue, red and black amber, which are classified among the more desirable varieties. The exhibition and sale of the finest amber and larimar jewels are in Santo Domingo, in the Museum of Ambar 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.



## Where to go





### Our beaches

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

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

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

### National parks

Designated and managed as the national parks system are: urban parks and recreational areas, natural habitats, and zoological/botanical reserves where the country's flora and fauna are protected.

### 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, cocodryluys 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:

**2** 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 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

### **Theaters**

### Casa de Teatro Arzobispo Meriño 110,

Santo Domingo

**2** 809-689-3430 ■ www.casadeteatro.com

### Palacio de Bellas Artes

Máximo Gómez / Independencia, Santo Domingo

**2** 809-687-0504

■ www.bellasartes.gov.do

### Guloya

Arzobispo Portes 205, Zona Colonial. Santo Dominao

**2** 809-685-4856

www.teatroguloya.org

### Teatro Nacional

Máximo Gómez 35,

Plaza de la Cultura, Santo Domingo

**8** 809-687-3191

### Las Máscaras

Arzobispo Portes 56, Zona Colonial, Santo Domingo

**2** 809-687-9788

www.teatrolasmascaras.net.do

### 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 🖂 teatrodelcibao@hotmail.com



- Info.
  - www.autodromomobil1.com
  - www.hipodromovcentenario.net

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 78.

For further information:

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

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



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

- Info:
  - **2** 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
  - **2** 809-696-2857

Jarabacoa and Constanza provide outings designed for everyone, from intrepid adventurers to less daring types. Info: Excursions Directory Page 126.

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<sup>\*</sup>
  - **8** 809-523-4226.
  - 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, Bayahíbe, Punta Cana, Bávaro, and the Saona and Catalina islands.

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

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

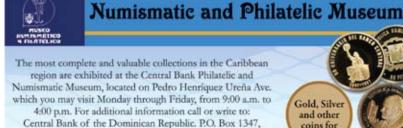


Audio tours are available Audio tours are available for children in Spanish and English at the Alcázar de Colón museum, the Museo del Hombre Dominicano and the Museum of Modern Art.

### **Museums Directory**

Name	Adderess	Phone	Cover
Alcázar de Diego Colón 📸	Zona Colonial, Plaza España, Sto. Dgo.	809-682-4750	Cover
Altar de la Patria	Zona Colonial, Sto. Dgo.	809-682-4750	No cover
Casa de Tostado	A. Meriño, Esq. Padre Billini, Sto. Dgo.	809-689-5000	Cover
Casa Museo Hermanas Mirabal	C/ Carretera Duarte Km. 1, Conuco, Salcedo.	809-587-8530	
Catedral Primada de América	A. Meriño, Plaza Colón, Sto. Dgo.	809-682-6593	No cover
Museo Cultural de las Telecomunicaciones	Calle Isabel La Católica, Zona Colonial, Santo Domingo	829-378-6250	Cover
Centro Cultural E. León Jiménez	27 de Febrero 146, Santiago	809-582-2315	Cover
Convento de los Dominicos	C/ Hostos Esq. Paseo Padre Billini, Sto. Dgo.		No cover
Faro a Colón	Boulevard del Faro, Villa Duarte, Sto. Dgo.	809-591-1492	Cover
Hard Rock Café	C/ El Conde 103, Sto. Dgo.	809-686-7771	No cover
Museo Bellapart	Av. Jonh F. Kennedy esq. Luis Lembert, Sto. Dgo.	809-541-7721	No cover
Museo Casa del Cordón	Isabel la Católica esq. Emiliano Tejera, Sto. Dgo.	809-687-4722	No cover
Museo de Arte Moderno 🔆	Pedro H. Ureña, Plaza de la Cultura, Sto. Dgo.	809-685-2154	Cover
Museo de Duarte	Isabel la Católica 308, Sto. Dgo.	809-687-1436	Cover
Museo de Historia Natural	Pedro H. Ureña, Plaza de la Cultura, Sto. Dgo.	809-689-0106	Cover

Museo de Historia y Geografía	Pedro H. Ureña, Plaza de la Cultura, Sto. Dgo.	809-686-6668	Cover
Museo del Dibujo Contemporáneo	Rafel A. Sánchez 53, Piantini, 3er piso, Sto. Dgo.	809-563-7860	No cover
Museo del Hombre Dominicano	Pedro H. Ureña, Plaza de la Cultura, Sto. Dgo.	809-687-3622	Cover
Museo de las Casas Reales	Las Damas esq. Mercedes, Sto. Dgo.	809-682-4202	Cover
Museo de la Cerámica Contemporánea	C/ Victor Garrido Puello 130, Edif. Metropolitano, Sto. Dgo.	809-540-7762	No cover
Museo de la Porcelana	José Reyes 6, Ciudad Colonial, Sto. Dgo.	809-688-4759	Cover
Museo de la Resistencia Dominicana	Calle Arzobispo Nouel 210, Ciudad Colonial, Sto. Dgo.	809-688-4440	No cover
Museo Dominicano Larimar	Isabel la Católica 54 esq. P. Billini, Sto. Dgo.	809-689-6605	No cover
Museo Fortaleza de San Felipe	Extremo oeste Malecón, Puerto Plata	809-330-8876	Cover
Museo Infantil Trampolín	Las Damas, Ciudad Colonial, Sto. Dgo.	809-685-5551	Cover
Museo Mundo del Ámbar	A. Meriño 452 esq. Restauración, Sto. Dgo.	809-686-5700	Cover
Museo Numismático y Filatélico	Dr. Pedro Henríquez Ureña Edif. Banco Central, Sto. Dgo.	809-221-9111	No cover
Panteón Nacional 🍇	Calle Las Damas, Ciudad Colonial, Sto. Dgo.	809-682-0185	No cover



Santo Domingo, R. D. Phone: 809-221-9111,

exts. 3788 • 3643/for coins sales, 3665 • 3657/for group tours

www.bancentral.gov.do/museo.asp www.bancentral.gov.do



## Our Music



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 vesterday 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 lullables 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

### 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 El Cortecito

**Imagine ≅** 809-466-1049 Carretera Arena Gorda, Cocoloco, Friusa

Mangú Disco ☎ 809-221-8787 Hotel Occidental Grand 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, Las Terrenas

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, Santiago Sabrass Café-Bar ☎ 809-241-6741 Av. J. Pablo Duarte 101, Plaza Boulevar Galería

**Tribecca Lounge ≅** 809-724-5000 Calle Mauricio Álvarez 6, Los Colegios

### Santo Domingo

**Atarazana 9 Bar ☎** 809-688-0969 Atarazana 9, Zona Colonial

Bottom's Bar ☎ 809-541-6226 Hotel Clarión 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

**Coppa Bar ☎** 809-682-2102 Hotel Meliá Santo Domingo

**Dock ☎** 809-567-6116 Acrópolis Center

**Ferros Café ☎** 809-540-5718 Max H. Ureña esq. Virgilio Díaz Ordoñez

Guacara Taina ☎ 809 533-0671 Av. Mirador Sur

**Jet Set ☎** 809-537-9337 Av. Independencia 2253

**La Barrica ≅** 809-334-5803 Av. Abraham Lincoln esq. José Amado Soler

La Cantina del Agave 809-567-4444

Arzobispo Meriño 115, Zona Colonial

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.

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, 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.





SANTO DOMINGO

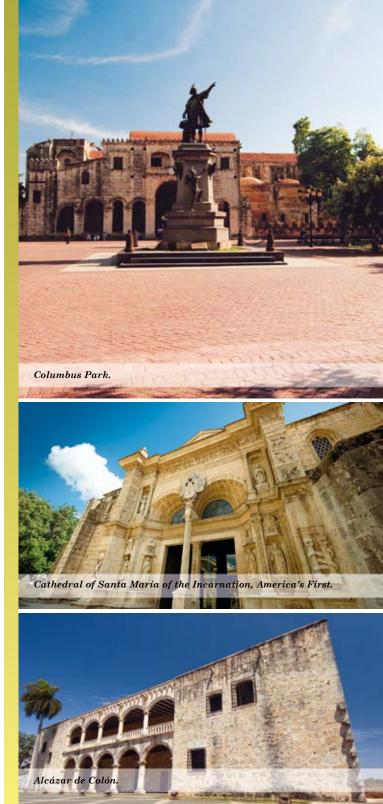
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# Santo Domingo, The Athens of the New World



Santo Domingo de Guzmán, modern and cosmopolitan, was the cradle of the American civilization during the XV and XVI centuries. Founded by Governor Bartholomew Columbus in August 1496, it is the oldest city in the New World. Its Colonial Zone, which among its golden rocks houses some three-hundred monuments, was declared in 2010 "The Cultural Capital of The Americas".

For this purpose, the Ministry of Tourism and the Ministry of Culture have designed a permanent program with 7 different Cultural Tourism Routes that highlight and acknowledge the fact that Santo Domingo was declared by UNESCO since 1990 a World Heritage Site "due to its influence in the architecture and city planning of the Americas, because of its historical

value and because it is associated with actions and events that have universal significance".

Below, the tours that make up the Cultural Tourism Routes are described. These routes have been designed to show locals and visitors the features of the First City of the Americas Colonial City Monuments, which just must be visited when traveling to our country.

### Parque Colón, Columbus Park

The Parque Colon is a meeting point for those seeking a breezy spot to catch their breath before heading for a walk on the El Conde street, a beautiful pedestrian zone where you can purchase a variety of goods of either local or foreign fabrication. Here you'll encounter the the oldest jewelry stores and shops in all of the

### The First City in The Americas' Cultural Tourism Routes

### Civil Route of the Colonial City I

Covers the Palacio Virreinal Alcázar de Diego Colón, Atarazanas Reales, Casa del Cordón, Casa de la Moneda, Alcantarillas Coloniales, San Nicolás de Bari Hospital, Casa de las Academias, Casas Reales, Reloj de Sol (Sun Dial), Casa de los Jesuitas, Casa de las Gárgolas, Casa de Juan de Villoria and the Casa de los Dávila.

### Civil Route of the Colonial City II

Includes the Casa de Nicolás de Ovando, Casa de Hernán Cortés, Casa de Bastidas, Casa de los Presidentes, Casa de Diego Caballero, the Borgellá Palace, Public Municipal Prison or Casa de los Medallones, Casa del Sacramento, Palacio Consistorial, Casa de Tostado, Casa del Tapado, Colegio the Gorjón School and Fuente del Almirante (Fountain of the Admiral).

### **Public Spaces Route**

Spans through the Colón Park, Plazoleta de los Curas, Plaza de España, Plaza María de Toledo, Plaza Fray Bartolomé de las Casas, Independencia Park and Plaza de San Antón.

### Religious Route of the Colonial City Covers Catholic churches.

### National Independence Route

Presents sites related to this historic and foundational feat.

### Military Route

Includes fortresses, forts and sites related with Dominican military history.

### **Museum Route**

Spans through all the museums located in the Colonial City, among them the Alcázar de Colón, the Casas Reales Museum, the Museo infantil Trampolin (Trampolin Kids Museum), Museo de Ámbar (Amber Museum), Museo de la Familia Dominicana (Museum of the Dominicana Family).



old Colonial City. The one-kilometer auto-free zone ends at the Parque Independencia (Independence Park).

While we are referencing historical facts, it is inevitable to remember that our country is the "old house" of the Americas and a "secret chest" for the many who are happy to have shared the experience with us.

### Cathedral of Santa María of the Incarnation, America's First

According to historical census records, the colonial district encompasses some three hundred monuments, churches, street and



residences. It would therefore be wise to spread your visit over a couple of trips. However, add to the repertoire of things to see the Cathedral of Santa María of the Incarnation, the first in the Americas and a source of imperishable pride for Dominicans.

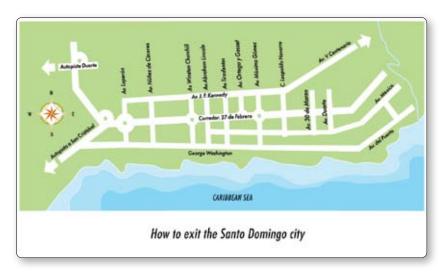
For further information about the Colonial Zone, Columbus' remain and the El Conde street, please visit: www.dominicanway.com



At the Parque Independecia, the remains of what was once the wall that protected the entire Colonial City can be observed; walking south down the Palo Hincado street, visitors can see the Puerta de la Misericordia, where Matías Ramón Mella proclaimed the nation's

Independence on February 27th, 1844. To the north, one finds the Fuerte de la Concepción, a XVII century military watchtower. In the white marbled mausoleum. the country's Founding Fathers (Juan Pablo Duarte, Francisco del Rosario Sanchez and Matías Ramón Mella) rest. Under the facade of the Puerta de FI Conde, a votive candle burns for them as a sign of the honor and respect the Dominican nation has for these great men and their heroism. A military salute is given by army personnel passing by, while civilians are expected to take off their hats as a sign of respect.

The park's gates are used throughout the year by embassies and artists as an immense gallery in which to hang art and as a place for the exposition of important cultural topics to general public via the visual arts.



### Exiting the City of Santo Domingo

Sculpted in bronze over the paving of the Independencia Park one finds the Rosa Nautica, which contains the 32 courses into which the horizon is divided. This is the spot that marks the Zero Kilometer and starting point from which the distance to other towns and cities is measured.

If you have rented a car, get a map and check it to see how to best exit the city from your current location. The three main highways for terrestrial transportation into and out of Santo Domingo carry the names of the Founding Fathers:

a.- Autopista Duarte (N 1) [Duarte Highway]: considered an ecological way, it offers a magnificent view of the Dominican countryside. It runs north through the central Cibao region, through Puerto Plata and to Montecristi. The maximum speed allowed in this radar-controlled highway is 80 Km/h. It is a must to stop at the iconic roadside restaurants: for breakfast there's Pastelería Miguelina, with their finger-licking Dominican delicacies and which is also considered by travelers as the cleanest, most hygienic stop around; and the Típico Bonao, a legend among locals and a place capable of satisfying the heartiest appetites any time of day with the many specialties in its varied and rich traditional regional dishes.

In the Cibao region the land is fertile and most any grain grows

effortlessly, which may explain why it's such a heavily populated area.

The sides of the road make up one great market where seasonal vegetables and fruits are often offered by farmers' cooperatives and local small farmers.

- b.- The Carretera Sánchez (N
  2) [Sanchez highway]: that stretches from Santo Domingo to the Southern region and all the way to the international Frontier dividing our side of the island from Haiti's.
- c.- The Americas highway (N3) will lead you to the crossroad where you can take the highway to Samana; it will lead you to the Peña Gómez International Airport, and take you to the highway that runs east to La Romana, becoming the Coral Highway, which leads to the easternmost part of the island. See map on pages 80 and 81.

Modern buses that are fully equipped to offer comfortable and safe transport have fixed itineraries from terminals located in Santo Domingo to cover the aforementioned routes.

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### Hotel and Beach Resort directory

### Legend:

Hotel or Resort Name (rooms), Addresses and Locations of Hotels.
Reservation Contact. Tel. ☎ - Fax 禹 - URL ■
Rates on Request. MAP/EP/AP/FAP/All inclusive plan. Slogan.

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Night Club - Disco



Pool



Tennis



Golf



Beach Resort



Secretarial Services



Telephone



Cable TV



Entertainment



Conference Room



Casino



Child Care



Wi Fi



Spa



Ecotourism

### Regions

Santo Domingo



North Region



Hotels in the tourist hubs, identified in special colors, are grouped in clusters of available rooms.

The directories of lodging and eating establishments were compiled through the collaboration of the National Association of Hoteliers and Tourism (ASONAHORES) and the Council for the Promotion of Tourism.



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## Rolf course directory

Name	Location	Holes
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Catalonia Caribe Golf Club	Bávaro	18
Cocotal Golf and Country Club	Bávaro	9/18
Punta Blanca Golf Club	Bávaro	18
White Sands Golf Club	Bávaro	18
Bella Vista, Bonao Golf Club	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
Teeth of The Dog	La Romana	18
The Links Golf Course	La Romana	18
Cana Bay	Macao	18
Iberostate Bávaro Golf Club	Macao	18
Roco Ki Golf Course	Macao	18
Playa Dorada Golf Club	Puerto Plata	18
Hacienda	Punta Cana	9
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

Dominican Golf Federation

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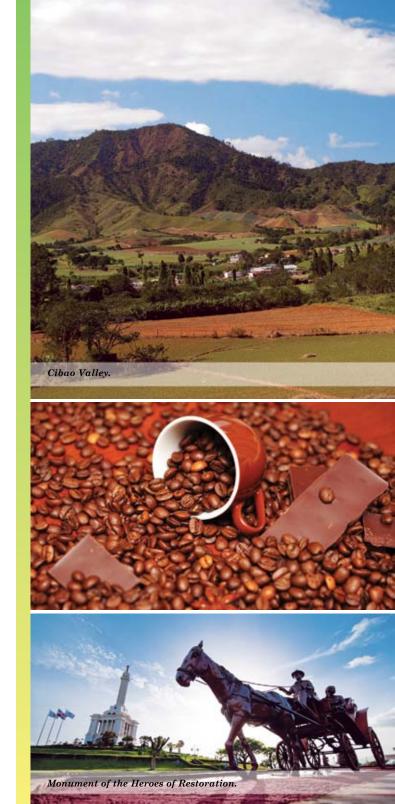




### Dominican Republic



## 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, which includes a visit to the Mirabal Sisters Museum.

• Info:

≈ 809-547–2166□ www.cacaotour.com



### 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 Gaurionex. Armed with a royal edict to establish the third fort on American ground, Columbus oversaw the building of Fort La Conception (The 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.

84

- 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 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



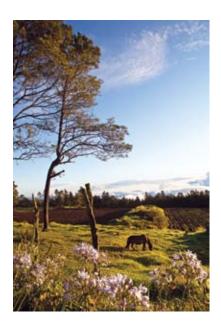
some falls, or a light breeze that gently caresses the pine trees.

### 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 Tireo, La Culata and Valle Nuevo, all of which register temperatures as low as 0 °C during winter.

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

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 allterrain 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 (Expedicion 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 8 809-539-1022. 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 72.

### 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 •
 Metro 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 Baiguate has routes designed with different options that allow you to whitewater raft along the rivers. An excursion for the most adventurous is canyoning, a rappel down the Jimenoa Canvon, 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 200 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.

**2** 809-574-6890

■ www.ranchobaiguate.com

- Where to Stay
   In Jarabacoa you can find
   accommodations in the hotels Pinar
   Dorado, Gran Jimenoa and Rancho
   Baiguate.
- Info:

Tourism Office of Jarabacoa

**2** 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 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
 Metro 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 and 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

### Entertainment

•Ahí Bar • Andy Ranch • Sabrass Café-Bar • Tribecca Lounge

### Info:

Tourism Office 809-582-5885









Av. Tiradentes 17, Naco Santo Domingo, República Dominicana. Reservaciones: 809.562.6060

www.vesuviotiradentes.com

# Towards the Amber Coast







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 orginal
   French relic from the XIX Century,
   whose clapper still makes the bell
   ring every quarter of an hour, to
   welcome visitors
- Where to Go
   Máximo Gómez and José Martí
   Museum, located in the house
   where the document that planned
   the ideological program for
   achieving independence from
   Cuba, know as the Manifiesto de
   Montecristi (Montecristi Manifesto).

The delta of the Yaque del Norte River, the biggest in the world.



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.

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 bubíes 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.

- Where to Stay
   Consult the Hotel Directory in page 72.
- 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, 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.

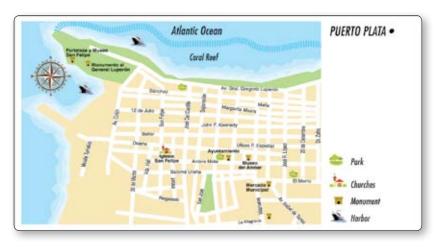
A pine fossil resin from the miocene age, endowed the region with amber mines, the national gem that entraps millenary fossils. Since within the province lies one of the world's largest amber deposits, this coast is known as the Costa de Ambar (Amber Coast).

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, I492, the maiden landing of the Santa Maria, 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.

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 40.

How to Get There
 Metro 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 oceanview route between Puerto Plata and Samaná. See a map of getting around, on page 67.

### · 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 o Paso de los Hidalgos, milepost of the first land route used by the conquistadors.

Take the urban route that forms part of the historic zone, where diverse architectural styles can be appreciated, among which the romantic Victorian style prevails; Fort of San Felipe and the Fort Museum (along the Malecon) are of historical importance and testify to the areas colonial past.

- Where to Stay
   Consult the hotel directory in page 72.
- 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 72.

### Costámbar

Located to the west of the city, Costámbar 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.

### 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 quest houses.

### Plava Dorada

Playa Dorada, with its extensive sunny beach of fine, golden sand, has at present more than 4.570 rooms 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.

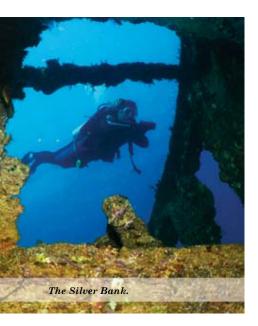
The benign climate of the region allows year-round sporting activities. Playa Dorada has excellent tennis courts, a professional, 18-hole golf course, designed by the English architect, Robert Trent Jones; it has all areas for practicing almost all aquatic sports and activities, ecotourism, guided adventure 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 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, vou 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, a cable car 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 72.
- 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 72.
- 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.

 For more information about these competitions, please contact:
 809-571-0882.

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 72.
- 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 Gri-Gri, where a yolero (owner of mediumsized 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 72.
- 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 72.
- Where to Eat Comedor Don Chen
- 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 Barbara de Samana; 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 Weslevan Methodist Church: today it is the Dominican Evangelical Church, and its the romantic Victorian architecture has lured many a photographer to its portals.

The old fishing village, sprinkled with salt and sun, located on the shore of the bay bearing the same name, became an attractive tourist city of beautiful avenues, functional buildings, comfortable hotels and restaurants where it is possible to taste international cuisine, the famous 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 Samana on January 12, 1493. The following day the first battle in the New World took place between the Taínos of Ciguayo and the Spaniards. According to a journal entry in the admiral's own handwriting, "[he had] never seen so many arrows fly over a ship." Before leaving for Castilla on January 16<sup>th</sup> 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.

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sublimesamana.com

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 accompdation. See Hotel Directory, page 72.

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 70.

Info: Tourism Office 2 809-538-2332

### El Portillo and Las Terrenas

If time permits, it is worthwhile to visit FI 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 eniov 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.

Whether you arrive at the northern part of the peninsula by air. land, or sea, you are welcomed by the trailblazer of the area: El

Portillo Beach Club & Spa, a very exclusive residential Real Estate project aimed at high level tourists who enjoy comfort and well-being. Located in front of the beautiful beach that bears its name, and within an environment favored by its tropical palm trees and an amazing turquoise sea, El Portillo Beach Club & Spa undoubtedly turns out to be an excellent investment for quietness and health.

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.

At first sight this area looks deserted, but gradually you discover the summer homes of natives and overseas visitors who, knowing this coast has some of the country's best beaches spend their leisure hours in the lucid



contemplation of the most beautiful, divine-crafted scenery road conditions notwithstanding.

### How to get there:

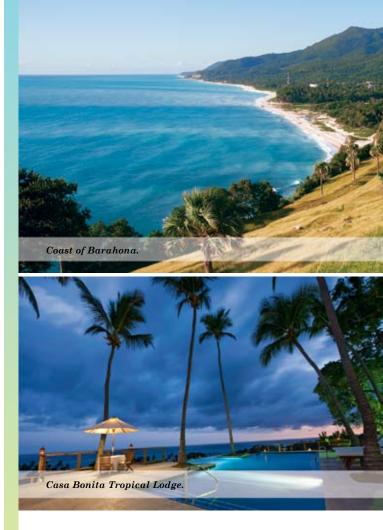
By land, from Santo Domingo, you may take the Duarte Highway, and drive for approximately four hours along a delighting landscape and passing through the urban centers of Piedra Blanca, Cotui, Pimentel, Castillo, Villa Rivas, Nagua, and Cruce de Rincon de Molinillos. If you wish to arrive faster, you may take the Santo Domingo-Cruce Rincon 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 airports, El Portillo and Arroyo Barril. For more information, check the airport directory, on page 42.

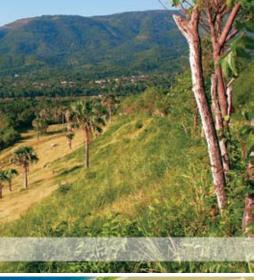
- Where to Stay
   Consult the Hotel Directory in
   page 72.
- Info: Tourism Office ☎ 809-240-6141.

### Towards the Southern Region



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

We suggest an itinerary that includes a visit to the Church of San Cristóbal. the Palacio del Cerro. La Casa de Caoba, the Cuevas de El Pomier or de Borbón, a national treasure where there are hundreds of cave paintings created by the Indians that populated the island, el Balneario I a 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 Palengue, 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 72.

### 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 67.

Born here on November 18, 1836, was Generalisimo Máximo Gómez.

liberator of Cuba, and the most admired and venerated Dominican in the land of José Martí, because he made Cuban independence his cause.

You can visit the place where Generalissimo Máximo Gómez lived, the municipal museum, the Iglesia de Nuestra Señora de Regla, Los Almendros, an inviting white sand beach with a residential complex designed to offer tourist services and, Palmar de Ocoa, a beautiful summer resort, located in the bay of the same name, where each year fishing tournaments are held.

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 Baní), a variety of the 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, the feast of Nuestra Señora de Regla.

Where to Stay
 Consult the Hotel Directory in page 72.

### 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 67, 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.

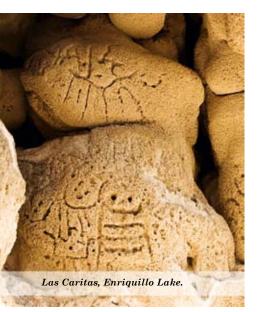
It was razed to the ground on three occasions by invading armies: Juan Jacobo Dessalines, who declared Haiti independence on January 1, 1804, ordered his men to set it ablaze when he invaded Dominican territory in 1805. In 1844, after the Haitian leader Charles Herald was defeated at the Battle of 19 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 FI Número and Las Carreras.



If you are going to continue the trip, you must make a stop to stretch your legs and to drink "una fría" (the country's famous Presidente beer frosted at its best). 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.

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.

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 8<sup>th</sup> in honor of Nuestra Señora de los Remedios.

 Where to Stay Consult the Hotel Directory in page 72.

### 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.67, Leaving the City.

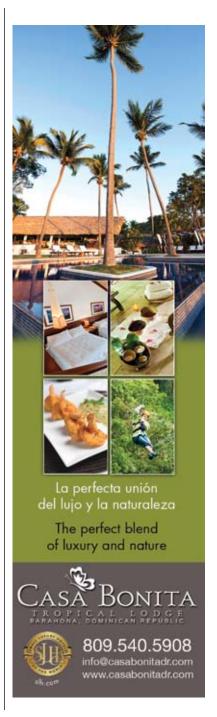
It was founded in 1802 by the Haitian General Toussaint Louverture and set up as province in 1907.

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 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 Cofresi's treasures. Also, on beaches adjacent to the town of Juan Esteban, a chest full of precious stones, jewels and other objects of great value was found.





The legend recounts that Cofresi'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 "Cofresi 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 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, Portau-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 72.
- Info<sup>\*</sup>

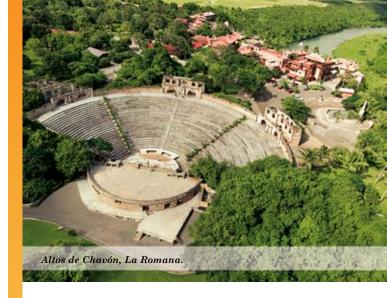
Cluster Ecoturístico de Barahona

**2** 809-566-4395

■ www.gobarahona.com



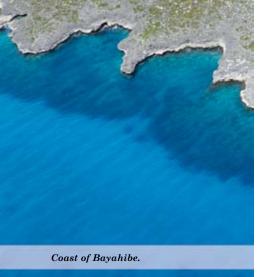
## 'owards the Land

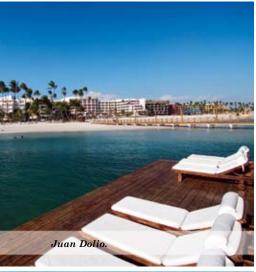


The land situated in the vast Hicayagua plain, once ruled by the cacique Cayacoa, is divided into five provinces that form the eastern region: San Pedro de Macorís, Hato Mayor, El Seibo, La Romana and La Altagracia. Its inhabitants work mainly in the sugar-cane industry, cattle trade, industrial park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

Here you can visit the National Aquarium and El Faro a Colón, the most outstanding monument built in honor the memory of the Discoverer of America, Christopher Columbus.







There rest the mortal remains of the Great Admiral and a permanent exhibition from nearly all of the American countries is also found.

Twenty-one avenues, one for every American nation, set out from the Faro a Colón and converge in the Autopista de Las Américas, 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.

Upon taking the Highway of the Americas, you can visit Los Tres Ojos, an enormous open-air cave and lagoons with transparent water located about 50 feet below ground level. Here you have the opportunity to take a boat ride and refresh yourself in the humid, tropical climate.

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 126.

### La Caleta

On the Americas Highway, after the pay toll, the National Submarine Park of La Caleta is found. It features a Taino cemetery, pre-Hispanic ceramics and sunken ships, as well as offering attractive opportunities for those interested in scuba diving and numerous amenities travelers.

The most beautiful sunsets can be seen from this small fishermen's port. Many artists set up their easels here trying to capture on their canvas the rich colors offered by the crepuscular skies.

From here to Punta Cana and Bávaro, located on the eastern tip of the island, you find the most beautiful white sand and crystalline water beaches. According to a study of this region carried out by UNESCO experts, these beaches "should be included among the best in the world."

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 Punta Cana Airport in Higuey. The latter receives on a daily basis direct flights from the most important cities of the world.

### **Boca Chica**

Your next stop is Boca Chica, only five minutes from the Las Américas International Airport JFPG, and the ideal place for resting, sunbathing,

swimming, and walking along one of the east coast's most beautiful beaches. Shallow waters and incredibly fine white sand make it a favorite spot of capital city's residents.

Near the town, which has been gradually organizing itself to receive more tourists, you can find magnificent hotel



rooms in the vacation complex Be Live Hamaca Hotel and Don Juan Beach Resort, which offer very good service.

There are also good restaurants specializing in German, Canadian, French, Italian, Creole and international cuisine that offer you personalized attention of the hands of their owners, most of whom are foreigners who have made this area their home.

In small, popular establishments owned by Dominican locals, you can buy chicharrón (fried pork rinds), fried fish, and yaniqueques (Johnny cakes), products of Dominican freiduría (frying establishments) that for many have a peculiarly exquisite taste.

- Where to Stay
   Consult the Hotel Directory in page 72.
- Where to eat:
   Boca Marina 809-523-6702
   El Pelícano 809-523-4611
   Neptuno's 809-523-4703

 Info: Tourism Office ■ 809-523-5106

### 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.

In the environment of these beaches, surrounded by coconut groves and a lush tropical landscape are fabulous vacation resorts, designed so that the visitor can enjoy to the utmost an all-inclusive vacation. There are also small hotels and very good





restaurants. The weather is almost excellent all year round. It is a preferred destination for Canadians and Europeans.

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

 Where to Stay Consult Hotel Directory in page 72.

### San Pedro de Macorís

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

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

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

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

Also theirs is the momise 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

### THEY Prefer



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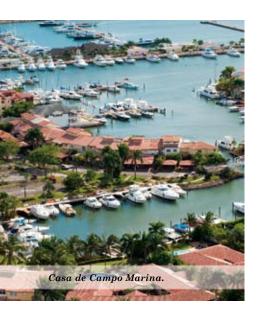
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sector supplies with the innate hospitality of the "Macorisanos".

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

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

- Where to Stay
  Consult the Hotel Directory in page 72

### 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 privatelyowned sugar-cane mill.

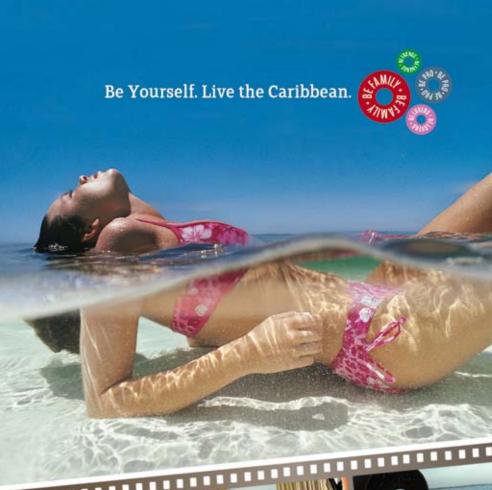
Crossing the Dulce River you find Casa de Campo, the Caribbean's most complete tourist complex and regarded as one of the world's ten best.

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 Americas 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, oldstyle 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







### Bayahibe

Be Live Canoa\*\*\*\*
Puerto Plata

Be Live Grand Marien\*\*\*\*\*

### Boca Chica

Be Live Hamaca Garden\*\*\*\* Be Live Hamaca Beach\*\*\*\* Be Live Hamaca Suites\*\*\*\*

### Punta Cana

Be Live Grand Punta Cana \*\*\*\*\*



### Varadero

Be Live Turquesa\*\*\*\*
Be Live Las Morlas \*\*\*\*



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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 532 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 Taíno 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.

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 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 Cluster Turístico Romana-Bayahibe **2** 829-520-9152

Tourism Office 2 809-550-6922.

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 Macoris.

### Where to go

Make the most of your visit to La Romana and stop by the Tabacalera de Garcia, 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

**2** 809-550-3000

■ www.cigarcountrytours.com



 Where to Stay Consult Hotel Directory in page 72.





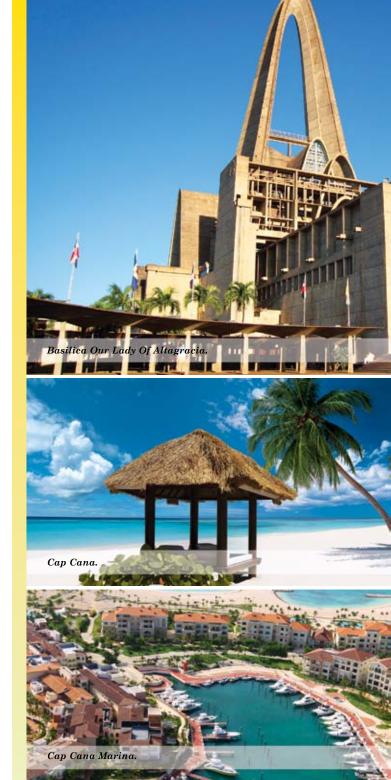




- \* Practice course
- \* Putting Green
- Golf lessons and clinics with professionals
- \* Driving Range
- Drinks and Snacks

lberostar Bávaro Resort, Playa Bávaro Higuey, Repúblicad Dominicana Tel:809.221.6500, Ext.:1607 E-mail: golfbavaro⊗iberostar.com.dp

# Higüey, Holy Land of America







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 Basilica 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.

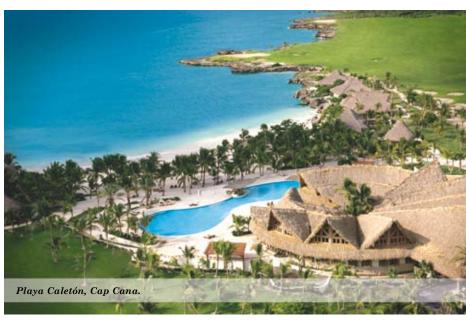
Toward the southeastern coast, we can find our largest adjacent island, La Saona, with a surface of 110 square kilometers. It is currently inhabited by approximately 450 people, who live in the town of Mano



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, PUNTACANA Resort & Club, Tortuga Bay, Cap Cana and Sivory Punta Cana Boutique Hotel. 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 31,000 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.





Try our cocktall of Caribbean sun, beach and tropical gardens. A superb mix for an unforgettable vacation!



### Excursions

Cueva Fun fun   8 809-553-2812   www.cuevafunfun.net	Rancho Baiguate
Grupo Desde el Medio	Cluster ecoturístico de Barahona  ■ 809-566-4395   www.gobarahona.com

The Dominican Republic has many circuits and excursions to offer travelers longing for unforgettable experiences. The Eastern part of the island is particularly brimming with interesting locations, but we also find thrilling trips and tours in the Southern region, in

Constanza and in Jarabacoa. Some of these are:	
• Cueva de Las Maravillas	• Visita a Altos de Chavón
• Cueva Fun Fun	Cultural-Historic Tour of Santo Domingo
• Chavón River	Bahía de las Águilas and the Enriquillo Lake
Catalina Island	• Rancho Baiguate
• Saona Island	Rancho Constanza
Caribbean Party	• Pirámides de Constanza
,	Aguas Blancas Waterfalls
Manatí Park	• El Arroyazo
Bavaro Expedition	• Ébano Verde Scientific Reserve
• Four wheeler trips	Duarte Peak
• Truck Safari Trips	• Jimenoa Waterfalls
• Jeep Safari Tours	• Wetlands of Nigua, Nigua y Diego Caballero Sugar Refineries
Saltwater Fishing	• Las Salinas
• Cultural tour through San Pedro de Macorís	• Caracoles Beach, Palmar de Ocoa
• Museos Vivos del Mar Aquatic Tour	Martín García Sierra, Alejandro Port, Eastern Bahoruco, Saladilla, Quemaíto, Paraiso
Parque Nacional del Este	Panoramic Route, Los Patos.

• Info: Tour Operators Directory Page 70. 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



Cap Cana's Marina is another delight for discerning shoppers, considering that many internationally prestigious stores



and jewelry shops are located there, namely, Morphy and Nye, Habitanea, and Sea Whisper.

- Where to sleep: Check the hotels directory, on page 72.
- 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: Tourism Office ☎809-552-0142





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