

Dominican Republic Guide





Dominican Republic





The Dominican Republic is located in the center of the Caribbean, forming part of the Greater Antilles. It shares the Island of La Española or Hispaniola with the Republic of Haiti, occupying two thirds of its area.

Its geographical position is 68°19' and 73°31' West longitude and 17°36' 19°59' North latitude. Its limits are: to the north the Atlantic Ocean, to the south the Caribbean Sea or the Antilles, to the east the Mona Channel, which separates it from the island of Puerto Rico, and to the west is the Republic of Haiti.

The surface that the Dominican Republic occupies is 48,511.44 km², and the area of the Keys and adjacent Islands is 159.38 km², for a total area of 48,670.82 km². The main distances are from west 388 kms (Cabo Engaño – Las Lajas) and north to south 264 kms (Cabo Beata – Cabo Isabela). The country has 1,576 km of coastline and 488 km of border with Haiti.

The surface of the Dominican Republic is 72.5% mountain range, with three large mountain systems standing out, which are the following: The Cordillera Central, which is the largest mountain system, also has the highest elevation of the Antilles Archipelago, Pico Duarte, with 3,175 meters above sea level. The northern Cordillera in the

north separates the Atlantic Coastal Plains from the Cibao Valley, with Pico Diego de Ocampo being of the highest elevation. In the Eastern Region is the Cordillera Oriental, which serves as the limit to the largest area of the country called the Caribbean Coastal Plains.

There are other minor mountain formations, such as the Sierra de Neiba, the Sierra de Bahoruco, the Sierra de Yamasa, and the Sierra de Samaná, which is an extension of the Cordillera Septentrional, from which it is separated by the Llanos del Gran Estero.

The Dominican Republic has a significant number of rivers that serve for agriculture and supply drinking water to the main cities. The most important are Camú, San Juan, Aminas, Soco, Mao, Yaqué del Norte, Yaqué del Sur, Yuna, Artibonito, Ozama, Higuana, Nizao and Haina. With the exception of the Ozama River, they are only navigable by small flat-bottomed boats. Lake Enriquillo is the largest in the Antilles, it is located between the Sierras de Neiba Bahoruco and is 43 meters below sea level, constituting one of the most important ecosystems on the Island. Other lake sources of importance in the country are: Rincón or Cabral Lagoon, Oviedo Lagoon, and the Redonda and Limón Lagoons in the Seibo Province.

Entry Requirements





The majority of visitors who arrive in the Dominican Republic by air, including those who come from the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, the European Union, Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Mexico, many countries in South America, Central America, Japan, Israel, etc., do not need a visa to enter the country. The cost of the tourist card that was previously paid separately is already included in the price of the air ticket. Every foreign citizen who enters the Dominican Republic, exclusively for tourist purposes, must have a valid passport during their stay and departure from the country. This exceptional measure is valid until July 31, 2022.

Presentation of vaccination cards upon arrival in the Dominican Republic

In accordance with the protocols approved by the Civil Aviation Board within the framework of its powers, the presentation of vaccination cards will NOT be required from passengers arriving in the Dominican Republic.

Entrance to hotels, hotel complexes and services offered within them

To enter the hotels and services offered within them and the hotel complexes, the presentation of the vaccination card against COVID-19 will not be necessary, nor will the negative PCR test be required, taking into account the application of strict protocols of risk management previously approved for the sector.

All airports and tourist activities in the Dominican Republic are open to the public, as well as ports, marinas and anchorages to receive yachts, ferries and cruise ships.

E-Tiket

The Dominican Republic adopted an electronic system providing digital versions of the Traveler's Health Affidavit, Customs Declaration and International Embarkation/Disembarkation forms, combined in a single digital form. All passengers entering and departing the country on commercial flights will be required to fill out and submit their digital forms through the Electronic Ticket Portal either before or upon their arrival to the country. To save time during the arrival procedure, we recommend filling out the form 72 hours before the trip, printing or making a screenshot of the QR code and keeping it on hand until arrival, where it will be scanned by the authorities when the passenger goes through Customs.

Passengers will need to fill out a form for arrival and another one for departure and the system will generate two QR codes. The QR code will not be scanned during departure, but it is a confirmation that the form was completed correctly. If you need to make a change to the form, in the E-ticket portal you can select the option to consult the issued E-ticket, enter the application code of the form and make the necessary changes.

Dominican airports have free internet access, so that passengers who did not fill out the form before flying can do so when they arrive in the country. For additional information and to watch an instructional video, please visit: <https://viajerodigital.mitur.gob.do/>. Passengers arriving on private flights, non-commercial vessels, ferries, cruise ships, etc., do not need to fill out the electronic form.

The physical Traveler's Health Affidavit, Customs Declaration and International Embarkation/Disembarkation forms will be accepted for the aforementioned passengers.

Stay Extension

If you stay more than 30 days, you will have to pay an additional fee when you leave the country, which will be determined by the total duration of your stay. Find the applicable fees and upload the required documents here, which you will need to pay for online before your departure or at the migration section at the airport after check-in and after passing through security. There is also a US\$20 departure tax required by law, but it is included in the airfare.

Visas

The Dominican Republic issues tourist, business, work, student and residence visas. Tourist visas can be issued for single or multiple entries. Anyone, regardless of their nationality, can visit the Dominican Republic if they are a legal resident of or have one of the following valid visas in their passport: United States, Canada, United Kingdom, or Schengen. Travelers who do not have a passport or visa from the countries mentioned above or from other authorized countries, will need to apply for a visa. To issue a visa, the passport must be valid for at least six (6) months.





Who is exempt from needing a visa?

- Residents in the Dominican Republic and Dominican nationals.
- Diplomatic and consular personnel with assigned missions in the country, while they remain in service.
- Passengers using non-commercial private aviation as long as the aircraft meets the following requirements: the trip must be for sports, leisure, tourism and business purposes, and the aircraft must not weigh more than thirty thousand (30,000) pounds and have a maximum capacity of 12 passengers.

See list of [Dominican consulates abroad here](#). Be sure to always check for up-to-date requirements before you travel.

Customs

The following items are allowed to be brought into the Dominican Republic:

1. A maximum of 20 packs of cigarettes, 25 cigars or 200 grams of tobacco.
2. Up to three (3) total liters of wine, beer, rum, whiskey or liquor.
3. Gifts worth up to US\$500 (five hundred US dollars) once every three months.
4. Medications for personal use in quantities that justify the exclusive use of the passenger. In the case of medications that contain psychotropic substances, you must present the medical prescription that supports their use.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Air Entry





The Dominican Republic has 8 international airports, 5 cruise destinations, a variety of marinas for boats and yachts, and domestic runways for private planes and charter flights.

Whatever your destination in the Dominican Republic, whether by sea or air, choosing the right point of entry is very important. It is a large island, with roads whose distances sometimes cannot be covered in a single day. For example, traveling by land between the Punta Cana and Puerto Plata airports can take up to seven hours. Therefore, choosing your point of entry and exit, according to your final destination on the island, is crucial, and will save you money and time.

International Airports:

Santo Domingo

Las Américas International Airport (SDQ)—also known as José Francisco Peña Gómez International Airport—is located 30 minutes from the capital of Santo Domingo, and is the city’s main point of entry for international air arrivals. SDQ is also convenient to the tourist beach towns of Boca Chica and Juan Dolio, starting just six miles away.

La Isabela International Airport (JBQ)—also known as Dr. Joaquín Balaguer International Airport— is located north of Santo Domingo, and handles flights to Haiti, Cuba, and select neighboring Caribbean islands.

Punta Cana

Punta Cana International Airport (PUJ), is a 15-minute drive from the Punta Cana and Cap Cana areas, a 30-minute drive from Bávaro, El Cortecito, and Arena Gorda, and a 45-minute drive from the Macao and Uvero Alto areas. Offering direct flights from over 28 countries and 96 cities around the world, this is the busiest airport in the Dominican Republic and the second busiest in the Caribbean region, with nearly 3.5 million international passenger arrivals every year.

Puerto Plata

Gregorio Luperón International Airport (POP) is conveniently located 20 minutes from the north coast city of Puerto Plata, and near neighboring tourist destinations such as Cofresí, Playa Dorada, Sosúa, and Cabarete. It is also convenient to Playa Grande and Río San Juan, an hour away by road.

La Romana

La Romana International Airport (LRM), also known as the Casa de Campo International Airport—is strategically located on the southeastern coast, a mere 10-minute drive from Casa de Campo Resort & Villas, and a 20-minute drive from Bayahibe. The airport is also less than two hours’ drive from Santo Domingo, and less than an hour’s ride from Punta Cana.





Samaná

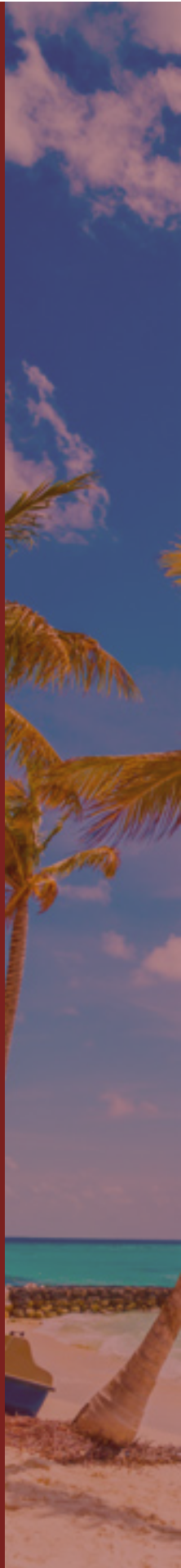
El Catey International Airport (AZS)– también conocido como Aeropuerto Internacional Juan Bosch, se encuentra a media hora de la ciudad de Santa Bárbara de Samaná, a media hora de Las Terrenas y a solo una hora de Las Galeras.

Santiago

Cibao International Airport (STI) is 15 minutes from bustling Santiago, the second largest city in the Dominican Republic, tucked in the mountainous center of the country. It is closest to the nearby cities and towns of La Vega, Jarabacoa, and Constanza. It can also be a second gateway option if you are staying in Puerto Plata—just ensure additional transportation time before your return flight.



Climate





Thanks to its location in the Caribbean, the Dominican Republic is a destination with sunshine all year round. Whether in high-altitude regions or in cities, it's rare not to see blue skies during the day. Being surrounded by more than 1,600 km of coastline to the north, east and south, and the climate is tropical. Temperatures range between 27°C and 32°C

The months of December through early March, which coincide with the coldest winters in North America and Europe, have the most pleasant weather in the Dominican Republic. Mornings and evenings feature cool breezes and temperatures as low as 18°C, while daytime temperatures range from 25°C to 27°C. In the mountainous areas of the country, such as Jarabacoa and Constanza, temperatures can drop even lower, with days starting at 10°C and some nights below zero degrees.

Summer is the hottest and rainiest season in the country, while the humidity is more intense from April to October. Temperatures hover around 32°C at the peak of the day, and storms are more frequent but short-lived. Because we are in the tropics, it is difficult to say if and when there is a rainy season.

Hurricane season

The official Atlantic hurricane season runs from June 1 to November 30, with September being the busiest. The Dominican Republic is within the storm area, but the chances of a major hurricane making landfall are slim. In the last century only 11 hurricanes have reached the Dominican Republic. On the slim chance that any kind of tropical storm is on the way, hotels and airlines are always well informed and prepared, and you'll have plenty of time to adjust your plans.

In the last two years, climate change has taken its toll on the Caribbean region, and the Dominican Republic has not been spared. There are hotter days than in the past, and Mother Nature has been more unpredictable. But one thing is for sure: the sun always rises in the Dominican Republic.





Language





The official language of the Dominican Republic is Spanish; and like many of their Latino counterparts, Dominicans have their own accent, colloquialisms, and idioms. They are particularly famous for speaking incredibly quickly, mouthing words at a mile a minute. They abbreviate, omit syllables and do not pronounce certain letters, such as the plural "s" (for example, they say La Terrena when referring to Las Terrenas).

Not knowing Spanish is not a problem: English is widely spoken in tourist areas. Tour guides and hotel staff in the different regions are also well-versed in multiple languages, including Italian, French, German, Russian, among others.

The Dominican people are very friendly; That is why, if you come across people who do not speak your language, they will surely make sure to help you find someone who can assist you.

Money





The local currency is the Dominican Peso (RD\$). The exchange rate fluctuates depending on the day and location of the exchange point.

Keep these ballpark numbers in mind as a general guide:

RD\$100 = US\$2

RD\$500 = US\$10

RD\$1,000 = US\$20

Businesses in tourist destinations, including restaurants, bars, department stores, souvenir shops and supermarkets tend to accept dollars, although you will receive a less favorable rate than in banks. That said, most prices in the Dominican Republic are in Dominican pesos. If you plan to make a large purchase from small shops and markets, first negotiate with the seller who may be interested in receiving payment in US dollars or euros. However, prices are fixed in supermarkets and in stores in shopping malls. The best option is to use an ATM to withdraw in local currency at the best daily exchange rate.

You'll find ATMs at a variety of banks, including Scotiabank and Banco Popular. These are safe to use and make withdrawals in the local currency, they will also offer you the best exchange rates. Please choose indoor ATM and adhere to daytime use. If you need help determining the amount you want to withdraw, download and use a free app like XE.

US dollars and euros can be easily exchanged at banks or authorized exchange offices throughout the country. Some exchange houses also accept the following currencies: Canadian dollar, Swiss franc, Danish krone, British pound, Japanese yen, Scottish pound, Swedish krona and Norwegian krone.

Banks close at 5 P.M. on weekdays, but most branches inside shopping malls stay open until around 7-8 P.M. ATMs are available in supermarkets and shopping malls until later. For security reasons, it is better to use exchange services or withdraw money from ATMs along the trip. ATMs offer a menu in English or Spanish.

Is it better to change money at the airport?

The only advantage is the convenience to pay for your airport taxi and your first transactions. Otherwise, if you must change money, go to one of the main banks in the Dominican Republic: they use the daily exchange rate of the Central Bank as a reference point for exchange transactions, so the difference in the exchange rate between banks is insignificant.

Tips

Restaurant bills include a 10% service charge, plus 18% sales tax that you'll see listed as ITBIS. It is customary and good practice to leave an additional 10% to ensure that the waiter receives a tip.

Taxis do not typically take tips, but if you feel you received exceptional service or had a specific situation where the driver helped you, feel free to reward the service.





Important Data





What to pack?

Packing to travel to the Dominican Republic means carrying an assortment of clothes, tailored to your chosen destination. Bring your bathing suits, long cotton sleeves to protect yourself from the sun, and shorts for the beach, but also pack casual daytime clothes for visits to the city, and avoid wearing shorts in Santo Domingo, or to enter places of interest. Please note that walking in a bathing suit is acceptable on the beach, near the pool or in the outdoor areas of your resort, but not in the streets, supermarkets or restaurants.

Dominicans dress well and keep their appearance neat at all times, especially when they go out in the evenings. Pack a couple of dressier outfits for dinner and nightlife. If you're staying in Santo Domingo, bring your regular city clothes, as well as a couple of fancy options. If you are going to a performance at the National Theater, you will need a jacket; and jeans are not allowed. Also, if you are visiting churches or certain national monuments and museums, you may not be able to enter if you are in shorts or miniskirts. Some government offices do not allow you to enter with a sleeveless shirt or not closed shoes.

If you visit the mountain towns of Jarabacoa and Constanza, or even the hills of Puerto Plata, you will need long sleeves, a jacket and pants to protect you on excursions, but also because the temperatures are lower in these places; It's cold at night and in the morning.

Aside from clothing, don't forget to bring any prescription medications, your preferred brands of sunscreen (limited options are available here), a hat, sunglasses, and mosquito repellent. If you'll be spending significant time traveling to the countryside, bring a book or two and your headphones.

The Dominican Republic is a modern destination, and you will find everything you need in the many shopping centers in the center of the main cities of the country, from toy stores to clothing stores, pharmacies and supermarkets. Remember that imported items will cost

more than in their country of origin.

Electricity

Electricity in the Dominican Republic runs on 110 volts. This means that visitors from the United States and Canada do not need adapters and will be able to plug directly into the outlets. Travelers coming from Europe or other regions that operate on 220 volts will need to bring adapters and converters. Although larger resorts have some on hand at the front desk, it's best to bring your own to avoid disappointment.

The main resorts have generators to deal with any blackouts in the street. If you stay outside the tourist areas, in a small hotel or in the countryside, be aware that there may be frequent irregularities and power surges. This means you should protect your electronics,

especially on a long trip, is to have your own phone number. If your cell phone is in the GSM network, you can use it. However, roaming costs will be high. The best option is to bring an unlocked phone and buy a SIM card here to have a local number; you can get one with your passport or ID and activate it at any of the local telecommunications companies. Go to a Claro or Altice branch, sometimes inside a mall or supermarket, and buy a new SIM card for less than US\$5. This usually includes ten minutes of free local calls. You must bring:

- An unlocked cell phone or smartphone;
- A valid passport, legally required to obtain a SIM card.

Once you have a phone and a working phone number, you can top up your credit in any amount you choose throughout the country. Telephone credits are also available through Banca booths (betting and lottery locals) located throughout the country. You simply give them your number, and indicate the amount you would like to top up.

Wi-Fi access is very common in the Dominican Republic. You will find it inside cafes, restaurants, large bus stations and hotel lobbies. Don't expect high speed or consistency at all times, but it's generally enough for checking email and doing basic errands.

If you need faster service and access anywhere in the country, even in the countryside, consider buying a mobile internet device for about \$55-60 from a phone company. You will need your passport to make the purchase. You can then top up the device as needed by weekly pack or by GB.

Communications



The telephone country code is +1. There are three area codes: 809, 829, and 849.

Like its infrastructure, the Dominican Republic's telecommunications services are among the most complete and advanced in the Caribbean, from local cell phone service to Internet access options. The two largest and best-known communications providers in the country are Claro and Altice.

The cheapest way to keep in touch and make calls while in the Dominican Republic, espe-





Shopping Hours

Most businesses work from 8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. on weekdays; until 1:00 P.M. on Saturday afternoons and closed on Sundays. In the cities, large shopping centers and supermarkets are an exception: they close at 9:00 P.M. on weekdays and open on Sundays from 9:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.

Restaurants generally stay open and serve food until 10:00 P.M. – 12:00 A.M., Sunday through Thursday, and until 2:00 A.M. on Fridays and Saturdays. Holidays have a special schedule; be sure to check each establishment's policy on their website or social media pages.

Holidays

The Dominican Republic celebrates 12 official holidays. The most important are Easter and Christmas.

- ◆ 1 of January New Year
- ◆ January 6: Three Kings Day
- ◆ January 21: Day of Our Lady of La Altagracia (Patron Saint of the Dominican Republic)
- ◆ January 26: Juan Pablo Duarte Day
- ◆ February 27: Independence Day
- ◆ April 10: Good Friday (Easter)
- ◆ May 1: Labor Day
- ◆ June 11: Corpus Christi Day
- ◆ August 16: Restoration of Independence Day
- ◆ September 24: Day of Our Lady of Mercedes
- ◆ November 6: Constitution Day
- ◆ December 25: Christmas Day

Health and Security





Water

The tap water is not drinkable, and you should not drink the shower water either. To drink, buy bottled water at all times. Hotels often provide a couple of free bottles a day for each room, or have dispenser purified bottled water available for guests to use. In local Colmados or corner stores, and supermarkets you can easily buy drinking water.

Sun Protection

The sun is very strong in the Caribbean, even on cloudy days. Whether you're at the beach, on a boat trip, or walking around town, make sure to wear sunscreen at all times. It is best to bring your favorite brand. Although you will be able to buy sunscreen in the country, you may not find the brand you prefer and it will be more expensive at souvenir shops and resorts.

When you go on a hike, to the beach at sunset, or stay in the country, use mosquito repellant to prevent bites.

Personal Security

You must apply common sense rules when traveling in the Dominican Republic, as in any other destination.

- ◆ Store your passport and valuables in the hotel safe. Keep a smaller form of identification or a copy of your passport with you.
- ◆ Don't wear expensive jewelry and leave all your valuables at home. When walking around big cities, dress like a local and know where you're going.
- ◆ In non-tourist areas use your cell phone discreetly, putting it away after taking your photos.

- Carry local currency in cash in limited portions; only what you need during the day. If you have a credit card, take it with you in case of an emergency.
- At night, avoid walking alone in isolated areas. Go out in groups and use an assigned taxi, recommended by your hotel, to transport you. You should also avoid driving at night, even on main roads; plan your road trips for the day.
- If you rent a vehicle, do not leave any valuables in the car in plain sight, even if you see a security guard on site.
- Stay in busy, well-lit areas.
- Learn some Spanish words and phrases, especially for asking directions.

Medical Care and Emergencies

Tourist areas and cities are equipped to offer modern medical care, with private hospitals, clinics and qualified personnel to treat patients of all ages.

For emergencies, including ambulance, firefighters and police, dial [911](#). You can also contact the [CESTUR](#) office (Specialized Tourist Security Corps), which is trained and specializes in offering assistance to visitors. If you are the victim of a crime, CESTUR agents will help you file a complaint and seek any other type of help that is necessary.



Medical Laboratories

The Dominican Republic has multiple chains of laboratories where specialized tests such as Hematology, Clinical Chemistry, Urinalysis and Parasitology, Immunology-Serology, Immunofluorescence, Microbiology, Electrophoresis and Special Tests can be performed. Among the main ones are [Laboratorio Clínico Amadita](#), [Laboratorio de Referencia y Laboratorio Clínico Lic. Patria Rivas](#).

Pharmacy

The Dominican Republic has multiple chains of laboratories where all kinds of medicines and basic health needs can be obtained. Some major chains are [Farma Xtra](#), [Farmacia Carol](#), [FarmaValue](#) y [Farmacia Los Hidalgos](#).

COVID-19

As of February 16, 2022, all the restrictive measures imposed by COVID-19 are suspended, and each individual will be responsible for taking their own measures to safeguard their health, responsibly, but without restrictions.

Measures such as the use of the mask, the presentation of the vaccination card to access places of public use or the restrictions in public spaces are the responsibility of each individual.

100% of the staff in the tourism sector (hotels, airports, restaurants, transportation, etc.) have been vaccinated with two doses, and are in the process of being vaccinated with a third and fourth dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

The Dominican Republic has a robust health system that has been able to identify the cases present in the country. For more information on COVID-19 in the Dominican Republic, please go to the website of the Ministry of Public

Health (<https://www.msp.gob.do/web/>) or download the COVID-RD mobile application, available at the App Store and Google Play, which works like a passport for tourists with which, through a QR code, the visitor can report their condition and have access to a series of services and information.



Ground transportation





The Dominican Republic has an extensive road network, most of which are in good to fair condition. The main ones are: The Autopista Duarte, which is the largest and most important, connects the city of Santo Domingo with the provinces of the northern region; the Autopista de Las Américas and the Autovía del Este, which connect the city of Santo Domingo with the entire region-Southeast; and the Autopista Sánchez, which communicates with the entire Southwest and West Regions.

The main means of intercity transport is the bus, the price of these varies depending on the distance. There are a good number of companies with daily departures from Santo Domingo to the main cities of the country. There are also bus routes to Port-au-Prince, the capital of the Republic of Haiti. Among the main companies that offer intercity passenger transport services are: Transporte Espinal, Grupo La Noel, Caribe Tours, Autobuses Metro, Servitur, APTPRA y Expreso Bávaro.

In the city of Santo Domingo, the most widespread means of transport is the bus or mini-bus, popularly called *guagua*, generally with 26 passengers, but the custom is to ride five per seat, which means seating five people per row of seats. It is best to use the large-capacity state buses, known as the OMSA, for the acronym for Metropolitan Bus Service Office.

The Santo Domingo Metro is a rapid transit system in Greater Santo Domingo. Serving the capital of the Dominican Republic, it is the most extensive metro system and the second oldest in the insular Caribbean region and Central America by length and number of stations. You can get information about the stops and the best places in the city of Santo Domingo by traveling by metro in Metro Santo Domingo.

Other means of transportation are the so-called *concho* cars, which carry out short routes within the city, and the *motoconchos*, motorcycles that transport to places where there are no routes or are difficult to access. It is recommended to request the cost of transportation before starting the route and to negotiate with the drivers.

Like any other country, the Dominican Republic

has taxi services in demand. The use of applications such as UBER and DIDI is very common in Santo Domingo and in some tourist cities.

Another way to travel is by renting a car. Foreign driver's licenses or permits are valid only for the duration of your legal stay, that is, up to 30 days or the term of your visa.

In the Dominican Republic the way to drive is on the right, the maximum speed on highways is 80 Kph, in suburban areas 60 Kph and in cities 25-35 Kph, unless a sign indicates otherwise. The infraction of traffic signals can be punished with imprisonment or a fine, depending on the seriousness of the offense.

How to get from Las Américas International Airport to the city of Santo Domingo?

Since the Latin American and Caribbean Cyber Competence Center (LAC4) is located in the city of Santo Domingo, it is very likely that your arrival airport will be Aeropuerto Internacional Las Américas (SDQ). To get to Santo Domingo from there you can choose any of the means of land transportation such as the airport taxi service or taxis on demand such as UBER and DIDI. The approximate cost of a trip from the airport to the city of Santo Domingo is around 2,000 Dominican pesos or US\$36.





The Latin America and Caribbean Cyber Competence (LAC4)





The regional training center created by the EU CyberNet project. It is intended to enable more targeted and systematic capacity building in the Latin American and Caribbean region and has its physical training facilities at the INDOTEL CENTER in the city of Santo Domingo.

CENTRO INDOTEL, is an institution attached to the Dominican Institute of Telecommunications that was born in 2011 with the purpose of connecting knowledge, projects, experiences, people and organizations of the digital transformation ecosystem.

CENTRO INDOTEL is located in the heart of the historic center of Santo Domingo and surrounded by the most emblematic architectural works of the colonial era of the Dominican Republic.

Main destinations within the Dominican Republic





Santo Domingo

Santo Domingo, the capital of the Dominican Republic, is also the most modern and dynamic metropolis in the Caribbean. La Capital, as it is affectionately called, transmits the pulse of Dominican culture, where the old and the new converge seamlessly, from centuries-old architecture and history, to great shopping malls, art galleries, an active and exciting nightlife and an irresistible food scene.

Exploring the Colonial City, the first European settlement in the Americas and declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1990, is a recommended experience for all travelers. This historic neighborhood consists of a labyrinth of narrow streets filled with architectural marvels dating from the 16th to the early 20th century. Its streets will take you to colonial buildings converted into museums, shops, hotels, restaurants and sidewalk cafes. For a break surrounded by nature, enjoy a picnic on the lawn of the National Botanical Garden, the largest in the Caribbean, or walk the Malecón at sunset to enjoy views of the Caribbean Sea, food stalls and people-watching.

Punta Cana

Blessed with one of the longest white sand coastlines in the Caribbean, a total of 48 kilometers, accented with coconut palms that seem to reach the sky, Punta Cana is synonymous with rest and relaxation in front of the sea. Here, where the Atlantic Ocean meets the Caribbean Sea, from the far north at Uvero Alto to the south at Cap Cana, all-inclusive resorts and boutique hotels offer all the pampering and comfort of modern beachfront living. Families will enjoy miniature entertainment centers as well as water parks for children, while couples will find dreamy wedding venues with secluded beachside offerings for an even more romantic stay.

Punta Cana is also a golfer's paradise, with 10

golf courses located along the coast, a beach escape with luxurious marinas and gourmet dining, and a wellness area with the best spas in the country, including the only Six Senses of the Caribbean.

Samaná

Jutting out to sea from the northeast coast of the Dominican Republic, the Samaná Peninsula, a natural paradise, is as coveted today as it was in the 16th century. Pirates used its lush palm forests, isolated beaches and hidden caves as hideouts, while European and Haitian troops fought over the deep waters of its bay.

Today Samaná, often shortened to refer to the entire peninsula, is well connected by land and air, yet remains the Dominican Republic's remote paradise escape of wild beaches, coconut groves and rainforests. Its rolling mountains and valleys form the crystal-clear rivers that flow into the Atlantic as they rush to sparkling white-sand beaches that stretch hundreds of miles around the peninsula's rocky coastline.

In addition to seasonal whale-watching excursions by boat in picturesque Samaná Bay, there are more ecotourism adventures: bodyboarding and kitesurfing in Las Terrenas; hiking, bird watching and caving or caves in Los Haitises National Park; horseback riding to reach the El Limón waterfall; and boat trips to the magnificent white sand beaches, at the base of 90-meter cliffs, or to the coast of the island of Cayo Levantado.

Puerto Plata

Puerto Plata, where tourism began in the Dominican Republic, continues to be one of the favorite destinations for visitors. Its spectacular and extensive landscape combines sea, mountains, green valleys, rivers and a number of beaches. Its fertile soil gives rise to cocoa and coffee plantations, while below the ground, lies the lightest amber in the world.

The natural abundance of Puerto Plata continues to amaze those who set their eyes on "The Bride of the Atlantic", as the locals call it. The Puerto Plata cable car, the only one in the Caribbean, will take you to the top of Loma Isabel de Torres with its beautiful botanical garden, where you will have a panoramic view of the Atlantic coast with its more than 100 kilometers of beach that adorn the multiple coastal towns, inland farming communities dotted with rivers and waterfalls, and hotels of all shapes and sizes to suit all tastes. In addition, Puerto Plata is home to colonial remnants, including the Caribbean's largest collection of 19th-century Victorian houses, the world's oldest amber fossils at the Amber Museum, and one of the region's first colonial fortresses, Fortaleza San Felipe, dating from 1577.

In addition to nature, Puerto Plata has plenty of towns that provide a number of cultural experiences. Center of community tourism, here you can visit family cocoa or coffee plantations, learn to play and dance merengue with a family of musicians, or immerse yourself in the Dominican ball at the Bartolo Colón stadium and museum. Along the way, you'll find a wide variety of culinary experiences, from roadside sandwiches to beachside seafood and international gourmet restaurants.



La Romana

Overflowing with natural riches, from a dreamy coastline to excellent golf courses, La Romana is one of the preferred destinations in the Dominican Republic. Sugar cane fields lead to beautiful white sand beaches from Dominicus to Bayahibe. The cave-filled forests of Cotubanamá National Park are home to plenty of springs and Taino rock art. In the sea, the Saona, Catalina and Catalinita islands contain turtle nesting grounds in front of impressive coral reefs, while shipwrecks teeming with marine life rest at the bottom of our waters.

The largest sugar cane factory in the Americas was located in La Romana, until its owners branched out and founded the luxurious Casa de Campo resort in 1974, a celebrity favorite and popular destination thanks to its golf courses. Shortly after, it was followed by the beautiful replica of a 16th-century Mediterranean village that is Altos de Chavón, built with a breathtaking view of the Chavón River, and packed with entertainment, including a Greek amphitheater where renowned artists perform every year.

Jarabacoa

Located at an altitude of 529 meters, this picturesque mountain resort town is a favorite getaway for city dwellers from Santiago and Santo Domingo. They come here in search of cool temperatures, rivers and green landscapes flanked by dense pine forests and coffee-producing mountains. Jarabacoa, which means “place of waters” in Taino, is an ecotourism center that is easily accessible via highways. It features a variety of charming accommodations, from riverside ranches and eco-lodges to luxurious vacation villas right in the mountains.

Most adventurous travelers who come to this unique part of the country seek to conquer the highest peak in the Caribbean: Pico Duarte, at 3,087 meters high, is located within the Armando Bermúdez and José del Carmen Ramírez national parks, reigning over the Central Cordillera. The Yaque del Norte, the longest river in the Dominican Republic, is born at this impressive peak, flowing into the

heart of the Cibao region as its lifeline. Along with the 6 other rivers that rise here, including their tributaries, this is a region of waterfalls and outdoor adventures: go rafting, canyoning, and rappelling at Salto Baiguate, climb Salto de Jimenoa, or swim at La Cortina and in La Confluencia, two parks full of natural pools.

Constanza

With an average elevation of 1,200 meters, Constanza is one of the highest towns in the Caribbean region. With that impressive height comes frigid temperatures, rolling valleys covered in thick pine trees, cabins with fireplaces for single-digit nighttime temperatures, and an agricultural landscape that reveals a surprising distance from the beach. Constanza’s vast vegetable fields (where potatoes, cabbage, corn, and carrots are grown, among others), flowers, and even strawberries can be seen while driving through the province. Its mountain towns have magical views over these fields, which has earned Constanza nicknames such as “the Switzerland of the Caribbean” and “Enchanted Valley”.

Surrounded by four major national parks, including two scientific reserves, the geographical center of the Dominican Republic is blessed by nature, from freshly harvested food to fresh rivers and multiple types of forests. The Valle Nuevo National Park, the highest plateau in the region, with an approximate altitude of 1,900 to 2,100 meters, houses the source of the main rivers that supply the country, not to mention ideal trails for hiking in the middle of cloud forests, creole pines and ferns, as well as mountainous plains. You can find more than 70 species of birds, including the endangered golden swallow, and various reptiles, amphibians and more than 500 species of plants. At the Ébano Verde Scientific Reserve, cold but fresh pools await amidst an environment of precious woods and more than 80 species of orchids, giant tree frogs and lizards.



Santiago

Santiago de los Caballeros, named for the 30 aristocrats who followed Columbus and settled here in 1495, was the country's first capital until it suffered an earthquake in 1562. Today it is the second largest city in the Dominican Republic, and is nicknamed Ciudad Corazón thanks to its location in the center of the Cibao Valley, it is a prosperous modern city with shops, financial centers, education and services, with a vibrant culture.

Despite the fast pace of city life, Santiago's traditions remain well-rooted. Around the city are some of the most talented artisans and artists in the Dominican Republic, while the Santiago Carnival is one of the most important in the country, with the most elaborate and revered devil costumes, after those of La Vega. Nature has also blessed this region with fertile soils where the world's finest tobacco is grown, it is home to 90% of the country's largest cigar plantations and factories, giving Santiago the nickname "Land of Cigars". Tobacco aficionados will also find all the premium brand factories close to the city center in Tamboril, which offers free daily tours and exclusive shopping opportunities

Montecristi

La joya del noroeste, la provincia fronteriza The jewel of the Northwest, the border province of Montecristi features a wild and captivating landscape, ideal for adventures off the beaten path. Rice and banana plantations, goats and giant cacti can be found along the road that leads you to salt ponds and limestone cliffs that hug the Atlantic Ocean and its waves. Around this part-desert, part-Mediterranean setting, mangrove tunnels lead to cool lagoons, while offshore cays teem with migratory birds and offer secluded white-sand beaches.

Last but not least, you will want to see the shipwrecks of Montecristi, its waters are known as "the graveyard of ships of the Caribbean"

with more than 450 sunken galleons dating back to the time of Columbus, many of which are still waiting to be discovered. and studied by marine archaeologists.

Juan Dolio

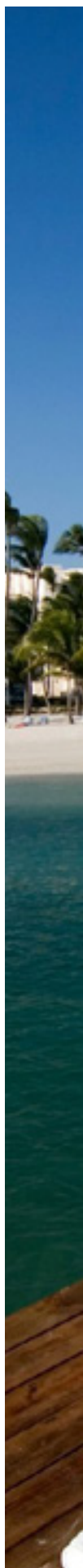
Just an hour from Santo Domingo, the cosmopolitan beach town of Juan Dolio offers an easy, laid-back tropical getaway close to the capital. It is a favorite destination for Dominicans who come there on weekends to rest along the 10 kilometers of white sand beach, which are full of hotels, restaurants, diving centers, bars, as well as a lot of private vacation villas, luxury residences, and modern apartment complexes.

Apart from the beautiful beach of Juan Dolio, this area offers many attractions. Next to Juan Dolio, is Guayacanes, a fishing village, perfect to spend the day on its beach full of boats where you can take a look at the fishing culture of the Dominican Republic. If you are a surf lover, you can head to Playa Caribe, where its bright blue waves attract the bravest. Golfers will also find places near Juan Dolio at the Guavaberry and Los Marlins golf courses.

Barahona

The deep southwest of the Dominican Republic, known as "El Sur Profundo," is geographically disconnected from the main tourist destinations in the country, but those who come will find that this remoteness has its benefits: the largest biodiversity reserve and parks in the country, surfing beaches that attract athletes, freshwater waterfalls that become recreational swimming parks, bird-watching paradises hidden between mountains, and plantations that produce some of the best coffee in the country. It is not surprising that this region is known as "The Pearl of the South".

Apart from the varied local environment of





Barahona, the province itself with its land areas that surround the Bahoruco and Independencia area, will take you into a landscape of fishing villages with their typical canoes, views of mountain ranges that seem to come from the sky and slip into the sparkling turquoise Caribbean Sea as you drive along the scenic Carretera Costera Barahona-Enriquillo.

Sierra de Bahoruco National Park, which is part of the only UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, reveals multiple ecosystems ranging from dry forests to cloud forests that rise more than 2,000 meters, where unique species make their home. These include at least 180 species of orchids, of which 32 are endemic, rhinoceros iguanas and more than 100 species of birds on its trails. You will find rivers that form a complement to wildlife, which descend to meet pebble sand beaches, with high cliffs achieving a coastline like no other in the Dominican Republic, and hidden caves in lush forests that guide you to refreshing cenotes while you listen. mystical stories.

Pedernales

Located in the southwest of the Dominican Republic, on the border with Haiti, the province of Pedernales is one of the most remote points in the country. Yet this distant coastal desert landscape is one of the most popular destinations for explorers. A place where the roads are lined with giant cacti that allow intermittent views of the shores with their iridescent turquoise waters, where cows and iguanas decorate the landscape and where naturalists will find the most important reserves in the country.

Most visitors head to Pedernales to spend the day at Bahía de Las Águilas, the crown jewel of Dominican beaches, stretching out beneath karst cliffs and untouched since pre-Columbian times. But those who spend the night will find a province with some of the most unique geographical features and the most important protected natural areas in the country. Parks, lagoons and lakes that are home to

wild flora, endemic and endangered birds and reptiles. Ancient Taino caves that reveal fresh water wells and cave art that few have seen, and the Jaragua National Park and Laguna de Oviedo. You will also find a reptile refuge, as well as the Hispaniolan solenodon and the Hispaniolan hutia. Near this area, American crocodiles breed and bask in the hypersaline waters of Lago Enriquillo, the largest lake in the Caribbean, located 43 meters below sea level.

La Vega

La Vega has earned its place in tourism due to the color and showiness of its carnival festivities held in February. It is the capital of the province where the mountain vacation destinations of Jarabacoa and Constanza are located, and it is also the center of veneration of the Virgin patron saint of the Dominican Republic, Nuestra Señora de las Mercedes. But before you set off for the surrounding mountains, take some time to enjoy this hospitable city.

Boca Chica

On weekends, Boca Chica caters to residents of the city of Santo Domingo, who are attracted by its turquoise beaches and shallow waters. Boca Chica is the best place to eat fried fish or shellfish and enjoy the beautiful view at one of the beach restaurants. On weekdays, tourists can have the beach and town to themselves. There are three beach areas: Boca Chica (swimming, restaurants, and nightlife); Andrés (sailors and sports fishermen) and La Caleta (divers).





Bonao

The city of Bonao, located halfway between Santiago and Santo Domingo, is often considered just a “stop” for food, but its natural beauty on the hills above, and the local art, make it more than just a destination. The eco-tourism trails of the Blanco River and Saltos de Jima are easily accessible. The exceptional Cándido Bidó and Tiburcio museums are open to the public throughout the year. Visiting the Bonao Carnival, during the month of February, is also particularly attractive.



