

SANTO DOMINGO

Guide

Dominican Republic
Has it all



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PUERTO SANTO DOMINGO



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Welcome to the Dominican Republic!

On behalf of the Dominican Republic Ministry of Tourism, it is a pleasure to welcome you to Santo Domingo, the capital of our country and the first European city in the Americas. The exploration of the New World began in the Colonial City, located in the heart of the modern Santo Domingo that we know today.

Governor Bartolomé Colón founded the city of Santo Domingo in August 1496. With more than 500 years of culture, its attributes offer the world a living testimony of the past that has shaped us as a nation. In the Colonial City, visitors can discover the Alcázar de Colón, as well as the first university and the first Cathedral of the Americas. Here, you can visit historic buildings and the authentic cobblestone streets once walked by the Spanish conquerors.

Located along the Caribbean Sea, this legendary city is rich in museums, monuments, theaters, restaurants and historical sites such as the Columbus Lighthouse. Santo Domingo is also easily accessible with two international airports, excellent infrastructure and seaports, making it the gateway for the thousands of miles of Dominican coast.

Dominican Republic has it all: beautiful beaches, stunning mountains, majestic waterfalls, exotic cuisine, a wide range of entertainment activities, art, culture, adventure and ecotourism, golf courses and exciting nightlife. We invite you to discover the many facets of Dominican Republic and hope you enjoy your stay as much as we like to share our tropical paradise with you!



Francisco Javier García
Minister of Tourism, Dominican Republic



TOP 10



Check your list!



1 Alcázar de Colón

Built for Christopher Columbus' son 1510-1512 to lodge the King of Spain's niece and impress on fellow Europeans his status as royalty. The Monarchial palace frames the Plaza de España and its collection of restaurants.



2 Catedral Primada de América

The first cathedral in the Americas, consecrated in 1540, built primarily in the Gothic style, hosts inspirational choral evenings for Easter Sunday and Christmas Day. The cathedral is the backdrop to the picture-perfect Parque Colón, one of the best-loved urban spaces in Santo Domingo.



3 Jardín Botánico

Because of its size, flora diversity and beauty, it is popular with locals for early morning and afternoon walks.



4 Mercado Modelo

Former green market turned arts and crafts center. It's a labyrinth of small shops for a leisurely stroll to find a memorable souvenir.



5 Faro a Colón

Christopher Columbus' remains are located here, enshrined in a bronze and marble monument and insights into the DR's Hispanic heritage.



6 Malecón

A 9 mile-long maritime boulevard fringed by palm trees, with benches to sit on and admire the Caribbean Sea.



7 Polígono Central

Gustavo Mejía Ricart, Pastoriza, Lope de Vega, Tiradentes, Churchill & Lincoln avenues are in the center of the modern city's bustling Polígono Central neighborhoods. Malls and many "in" shops, restaurants, cafes and nightspots keep the vibe.



8 Avenida Venezuela

Large discos and regular performances of Dominican salsa, merengue and bachata bands is the trademark of this area that is popular with Dominicans yet hardly known by tourists. 20 minutes from Sans Souci Port and the airport, on the Boca Chica side of the city.



9 Casa de Teatro

Center of bohemian life in Santo Domingo, stage for up-and-coming artists and old-time great performers with a hip bar to boot.



10 Palacio de Bellas Artes

The Palace of the Fine Arts is home to the national schools of the visual arts, ballet, dance, folklore and drama. Av. Máximo Gómez & Independencia.



Our Cover:

Alcázar de Colón

Photo: Ministry of Tourism

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Santo Domingo
So Happy!™



Carnival

is in the air

Iberoamerican Capital
of Carnival 2014

Check it out, there is always something happening in Santo Domingo. The most vibrant city in the Caribbean, Santo Domingo is the birthplace of the Americas. The leading university town and the city with most museums in Central America and the Caribbean, it features culture and entertainment for all ages.

Socializing is a national pastime and this sets the tone in the capital city, marked by thousands of restaurants, bars and colmadones, the local pubs. Visitors are invited to join in.

The Colonial City is being given a US\$30 million facelift in 2013. The city is preparing to be the Iberoamerican Capital of Carnival in 2014. This is truly a city of events every day, every weekend, every month.

Use this guide as a checklist and introduction to exploring what the city has to offer. Our website, dr1.com keeps you posted on what is happening in Santo Domingo. See dr1.com/calendar & dr1.com/forums for Q&A.



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Juan Dolio, San Pedro de Macorís*
Fried Fish
Tee Off



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Colonial City
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7 to taste

Genuinely
Dominican



City of Events

More reasons
to visit



Transportation

Taxi, car, bus, Metro
Travel time box
SDQ flights

JENNY POLANCO



Santo Domingo
Blue Mall 809.955.3184
Casa Virginia 809.565.3124
Bella Vista Mall 809.255.0699
Zona Colonial 809.221.3796
Romana
La Marina 809.523.2305
Casa Del Río 809.951.1899
Altos de Chavón 809.523.8155



What's Near the Port Cruise Arrivals 101

Cruise ship passengers arriving at Santo Domingo by sea are 10 minutes away from many of the leading attractions of the capital of Santo Domingo. This is a big city experience, with historical heritage, dining, shopping and entertainment.

Don Diego Terminal

The Ozama River west side terminal is a short walking distance to the city's leading attraction, the Colonial City of Santo Domingo. Stroll up the steps to Calle El Conde and continue to Columbus Square with the first cathedral in the New World, arts & crafts shopping and the bohemian atmosphere of the downtown area. From there, head to the Columbus Alcazar, the first European palace in the Americas. See pages 9-13 for details on these attractions.

Visitors overnighing in Santo Domingo should check out the many restaurants, bars and lounges within the old city walls. Or cross the city to the Gustavo Mejia Ricart area, also known for its restaurants and vibrant nightlife.

The Don Diego Terminal has an information center, a telecommunications center, a currency exchange bureau, ATM facilities and gift shops for the convenience of travelers. Note the artistic marine stained-glass façade and ceramics mural.

The terminal is located on Francisco Caamaño Deñó Avenue (also known as Avenida del Puerto) with its long sidewalks connecting the Ozama riverside to the Caribbean Sea. A taxi to

most points in the city costs RD\$500. A shuttle (US\$7 round trip) leaves every 20 minutes from Sans Souci Port to Don Diego Gate in the Colonial City until 5pm.

Sans Souci Terminal

Tourists arriving at Sans Souci Terminal on the east side of Santo Domingo are a five-minute taxi ride from the Colonial City. Also within a five-minute drive... The Columbus Lighthouse, the mausoleum honoring Admiral Christopher Columbus, pays tribute to the landmark European discovery of the new land. The National Aquarium, shark tunnel included, with its lovely gardens by the sea. Los Tres Ojos nature park is like a journey to the center of the Earth. (See page 17 for details on these attractions). A taxi from the terminal to these attractions costs RD\$400.

This is the larger of the two terminals, able to accommodate today's largest world-class cruise ships. Sans Souci Terminal includes gift shops, a telecommunications center, a currency exchange bureau and ATM facilities for the convenience of visitors.

A shuttle (US\$7 round trip) leaves every 20 minutes from Sans Souci Port to Don Diego Gate in the Colonial City until 5pm.

This stylishly designed terminal located on Av. España provides some great photo opportunities – it's a vantage point for viewing the skyline of modern Santo Domingo as well as the Colonial City.



Colonial City Where the Americas began

Declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1991, the Colonial City of Santo Domingo is 16 square blocks laid out in a grid system between forts. La Zona, as it is commonly called, has many claims to colonial era fame – America's first cathedral, hospital, palace, paved street, university, monastery and more. Today it comes very much alive at night with a selection of pubs, restaurants and small theaters. Because it is very walkable, the Colonial City has a big following. Numbered monuments are listed in the order of a walking tour (see Colonial City Map, pages 14-15).



Puerta del Conde

1 Puerta del Conde

The Count's Gate marks the spot where the founders of the Republic proclaimed independence from Haiti on 27 February 1844. The gate leads into Independence Park whose perimeter fence doubles as the city's largest outdoor arts and photography gallery. *Independencia & Palo Hincado.*

2 El Conde

Eight-block pedestrian bohemian-vibe street lined by Art Deco buildings loaded with small shops. Grab a Bon ice cream at the start or midway and stroll at leisure to appreciate the outstanding first half 20th century architecture (look up to the balconies).

Plaza de España

3 Iglesia de Nuestra Señora de las Mercedes



Iglesia Nuestra Señora de las Mercedes

Completed in 1555 and dedicated to our Lady of Mercedes, named patron of the DR in 1617. Impressive bell tower, the biggest in the city. Mass Mon-Sat 5:30pm-6:15pm, Sun at 9:30, 11am and 7pm. *Las Mercedes & José Reyes, 809 682-3744.*

4 Iglesia Regina Angelorum

Imposing late Gothic structure with gargoyles and buttresses, the church houses the remains of Padre Billini, the philanthropist who discovered

Columbus' bones. Mass Sunday 6pm-6:30pm. *Padre Billini & José Reyes, 809 682-2783.*

5 Convento de los Dominicos

Built in 1510, this was the first site of the New World's oldest university (1538), now the Universidad Autónoma de Santo Domingo (UASD). From its pulpit, Fray Antón de Montesinos became the first to denounce colonial violations of human rights in the Americas, when he spoke out against the treatment of the Taino Indians. *Padre Billini & Av. Duarte, 809 682-3780.*

6 Casa de Tostado

Built around 1520 for Governor Nicolás de Ovando's wealthy scribe Francisco Tostado. It is distinguished by the Gothic decoration of the twin window, unique in the Americas. Today a museum showcasing the way the wealthy lived in the 19th century. Mon-Sat 9am-4pm. *Arzobispo Meriño & Padre Billini, 809 689-5000.*



Interior of Catedral Primada de América

7 Catedral Primada de América

Oldest in the Americas, planned by Alonso Rodríguez, the architect who later designed the Mexico City cathedral. Begun in 1514 and completed in 1540. Its modern stained glass windows, by Dominican artist Jose Rincón Mora, were donated by the Archbishop of Munich, Cardinal Friedrich Wetter. Mon-Sat 9am-4pm, Mass Mon-Sat 5pm, Sun 12pm & 5pm. No mass Tue. *Arzobispo Meriño & Arzobispo Nouel, 809 682-3848.*



View of the Parque Colón

8 Parque Colón

Located beside the Cathedral, this square is surrounded by eclectic architecture (colonial, republican and modern) with plenty of shady trees, pigeons, sidewalk cafes and a great people-watching mix of tourists and locals, especially on Sundays and late afternoons. The centered bronze monument with statues of Christopher Columbus and Taino Indian heroine Anacaona, by French sculptor Ernesto Guilbert, dates back to 1887, giving the space its name today.

Calle Las Damas

The oldest paved street in the New World. Built in 1502, it acquired its name with the arrival of Diego Columbus and his wife Maria de Toledo in 1509. With them came family members and court members who strolled up and down the street in their finery.



Fortaleza de Santo Domingo (Ozama)

9 Fortaleza Ozama

First permanent military structure built by the Spaniards in the Americas in 1503. At the center is the 5-floor high Torre del Homenaje with its 6ft

thick walls and a lookout platform with impressive view. It was the first residence of Columbus' son, Diego and wife upon their arrival from Spain in 1509. Adjacent is a children's museum, Trampolín. Tue-Sun 9am-5pm. *Las Damas. 809 688-1553.*



Guard at the Panteón Nacional

10 Panteón de la Patria

Built in 1714-1745 as a Jesuit convent, later warehouse and cultural center. In 1956, it was designated the National Pantheon for historical figures behind its stone walls. 8am-5:45pm. *Las Damas.*

11 Hostal Nicolás de Ovando

Overlooking the Ozama River, this manor was once the home of Nicolás de Ovando, first governor of Santo Domingo. Today a luxury hotel. *Las Damas. 809 685-9955.*



Inside the Museo de las Casas Reales

12 Museo de las Casas Reales

Exhibits of Dominican history from 1492-1821. Originally administrative center of the West Indies, housing the Royal Court, Treasury, Governor's Office and law courts in the 1500s. Tue-Sun 9am-5pm. *Las Damas. 809 682-4202.*

13 Casa del Cordón

Completed in 1504, it is the oldest stone house in the Americas. Originally owned by Francisco de Garay who arrived with Columbus. There is an impressive stone carving of the characteristic cord of the Franciscan order on its portal. Banco Popular offices are located there. Mon-Fri 9am-4pm. *Isabel la Católica & Emiliano Tejera, 809 544-8915.*

14 Plaza de España

What was once the center of colonial power and trade with a mix of merchants, sailors and Spanish high officials, is today a large romantic plaza replete with restaurants, bars and steps overlooking the Alcázar de Colón.



Dinner at Plaza de España

15 Alcázar de Colón

The Columbus Palace was built (1510-1512) by Christopher Columbus' son Diego, appointed Viceroy of the Indies to house the stately court he held with his wife María de Toledo, niece of the King of Spain. At the time, the Alcázar was the center of the Spanish court in the Americas, and the palace hosted the legendary Spanish explorers Hernán Cortés, Francisco Pizarro and Ponce de León. Today the Alcázar showcases authentic Medieval and Renaissance furniture

and objects depicting domestic life of 16th century Spanish nobility in the Americas. Tue-Sat 9am-5pm. Sun 9am-4pm. Closed Mondays. *Plaza de España, 809 682-4750.*



Alcázar de Colón

16 Puerta de San Diego

Down the steps from the Alcázar de Colón are the ruins of the San Diego Gate built in Renaissance style in 1540. For a time, this was the main gate to the city.

17 Iglesia de Santa Bárbara

Built during the late 16th century to honor the military's patron saint. Open only for mass: Mon-Sat 6pm-6:45pm. Sun 8am-9am, 9am-10am. *Isabel la Católica, 809 682-3307.*

18 Museo Casa de Duarte

Once the house of Juan Pablo Duarte, the country's founding father. He led the movement that brought independence from Haiti in 1844. Mon-Fri 8am-6pm, Sat-Sun 9am-4pm. *Isabel la Católica, 809 687-1436.*

Chu Chu Colonial

Hop on board this 45-minute touristic train ride before setting out on foot to discover the Colonial City. Mon-Sun 9am-5pm. *Isabel la Católica & El Conde, 809 686-2303.*

Museo de Larimar

A museum and store dedicated to Larimar, a rare pale-blue colored semi-precious stone found only in the DR. Mon-Sat 8:30am-6pm, Sun 9am-1pm. *Isabel la Católica, 809 689-6605.*

Centro Cultural de las Telecomunicaciones

The history of TV, radio and telecommunications in the Dominican Republic. State-of-the-art museum just opened in July 2011. Open Tue to Thu 9am to 5pm, Fri & Sat, 9am to 9pm, Sun 10am to 6pm. *Isabel la Católica & Emiliano Tejera, 809 732-5555.*



Centro Cultural de Telecomunicaciones

19 Museo del Ambar

Visitors can see a range of samples of amber, fossil resin, some with trapped insects, leaves and even lizards. Mon-Sat 8:30am-6pm, Sun 9am-1pm. *Arzobispo Meriño & Restauración, 809 682-3309.*



Museo del Ambar

Museo Memorial de la Resistencia Dominicana

Opened in May 2011, it showcases the facts and consequences of the struggles of several gen-

erations of Dominican men and women, mainly during the 30-year Rafael L. Trujillo dictatorship (1930-1961). Open Tue to Sun 9:30am-6pm. *Arzobispo Nouel 210, 809 563-3463.*



Ruinas de San Francisco

20 Ruinas de San Francisco

Lovely Plateresque gate, with St. Francis' cord carved in stone still intact. Franciscan monks arrived in 1502, making it the first monastery in the Americas. The present stone structure was built from 1543-1664. Open Mon-Sat 9am-5pm. On Sundays, the Bonye concert starts at sunset. *Hostos between Emiliano Tejera & Restauración.*



Hospital San Nicolás de Bari

21 Hospital San Nicolás de Bari

The ruins of the first hospital in the New World, constructed in 1503. *Hostos & General Luperón.*

Calle Hostos

Calle Hostos is famous for its part of the 1974 Hollywood classic "The Godfather II". It forms the backdrop to the scene where Michael Corleone

witnesses a suicide bombing in 1958 Cuba, leading him to reconsider family business there. Walk down the cobblestone streets. At night stop off at Lucia 203 for live entertainment and dancing.

22 Monumento de Fray Antón de Montesinos

The 30-meter high statue was donated by the government of Mexico and is dedicated to the 16th century priest who preached against the atrocities being committed against the Taino Indians. His rage is depicted by the flames in his hair. It is located at the westernmost entrance to the Port of Santo Domingo, where the Malecón starts.

23 Puerta de la Misericordia

Gate of Mercy. Built in 1543, and named following the 1842 earthquake when local priests set up tents to help the injured. Ramón Matías Mella fired the first shot here before proclaiming independence from Haiti on 27 February 1844. *Palo Hincado & Arzobispo Portes.*

24 Parque Independencia

Home to the Altar de la Patria, a marble mausoleum containing the remains of the nation's founding fathers: Juan Pablo Duarte, Ramón Matías Mella and Francisco del Rosario Sánchez. The compass in the park's center is Kilometer 0, from which all distances in the country are measured. The Mausoleum is open daily 7:30am-6pm. This park is popular for its outdoor arts & photography gallery with frequently changing exhibitions. *Palo Hincado & Independencia.*



Altar de la Patria, Parque Independencia

Ciudad Colonial

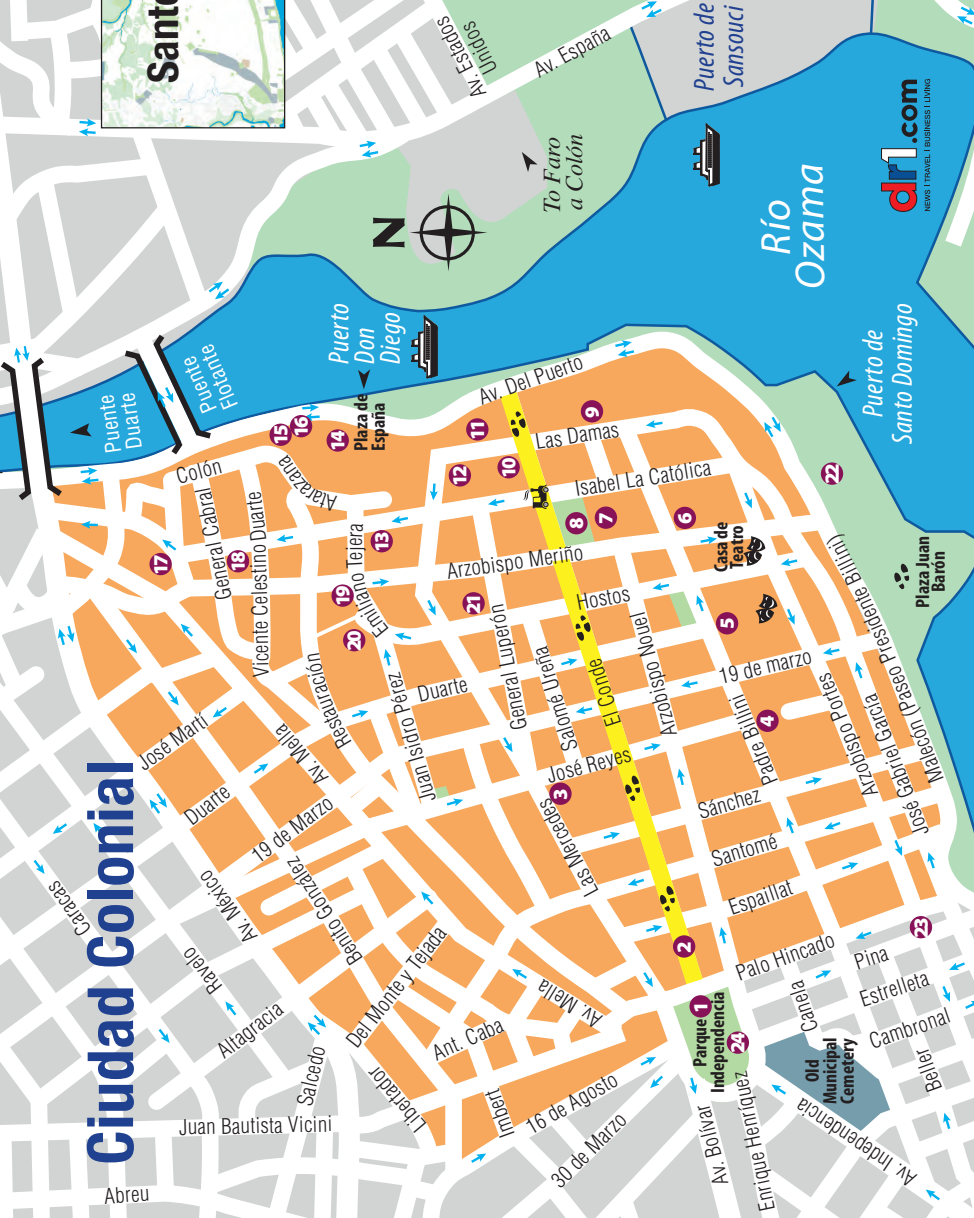


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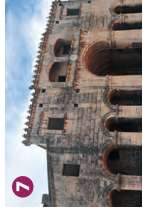
- Ciudad Colonial
- Sightseeing
- Parks/plazas
- Sea/Rivers
- Pedestrian street
- Traffic Flow
- Bridge
- Chu Chu Colonial
- Theaters



Chu Chu Colonial. Explore the historic sites of the Colonial City on board this train. Non-stop 45min tour from 9am to 5pm.



Puerta del Conde. A national monument marking where the founders of the Republic proclaimed independence from Haiti in 1844.



Catedral Primada de América. The oldest cathedral in the Americas, construction began in 1514 and was consecrated a cathedral in 1540.



Casa del Cordón. Completed in 1504, this is the oldest stone house in the Americas, originally owned by Francisco de Garay.



Museo del Ámbar. Visitors can see samples of amber, the semi-precious gemstone the DR is known for.



Calle El Conde. An outdoor exhibition tells the history of the pedestrian street through its architecture.



Parque Colón. Located beside the Colón Cathedral, this square is surrounded by interesting architecture. It is great for people watching.



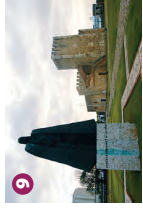
Plaza de España. Once the center of colonial power and trade, today it is a large romantic plaza replete with restaurants and bars.



Ruinas Monasterio de San Francisco. First monastery in the Americas, when Franciscan monks arrived with SD's first governor, Nicolás de Ovando in 1502.



Iglesia de las Mercedes. Constructed between 1549 and 1555, the church was dedicated to the Lady of Mercedes.



Fortaleza Ozama. The oldest military plaza in the Americas, it was used as a garrison and prison well into the 1960s.



Alcázar de Colón. The Columbus Palace was built (1510-1512) by Christopher Columbus's son Diego.



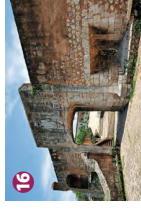
Hospital Nicolás de Bari. The ruins of the first hospital in the New World. It was constructed in 1502 by order of SD's first governor, Nicolás de Ovando.



Iglesia Regina Angelorum. The church houses the remains of Padre Billini, a 17th century priest.



Panteón Nacional. Built from 1714-1745, in 1936 it was converted to the National Pantheon.



Puerta de San Diego. Built in 1540, this was the original main gate to the city.



Fray Anton de Montesinos. His statue honors whom spoke out in favor of the Taino Indians in 1511. He is regarded as the first human rights defender in the Americas.



Convento de los Dominicos. Built in 1510, the convent was the site of the New World's first university, Santo Tomas de Aquino.



Hostal Nicolás de Ovando. Once the home of SD's first governor, it was restored into a luxury hotel.



Iglesia de Santa Bárbara. Though date of construction is unknown, estimates point to the late 16th century. It was rebuilt after an earthquake in 1751.



Puerta de la Miser cordia. The Gate of Mercy. Built in 1543, this was the original gate of the city's western wall.



Casa de Tostado. Built around 1520 for Francisco Lozada. The house is now a museum that displays Dominican wealth in the 16th century.



Museo de las Casas Reales. From this 16th century stone building Spain ruled its empire in the New World.



Museo Casa de Duarte. Once the house of Juan Pablo Duarte, the country's founding father.



Parque Independencia. Home to the Alar de la Parra, it is an important venue for public art exhibitions.

Beyond the Colonial City



Palacio Nacional

Palacio Nacional

The Presidential Palace, an imposing neoclassical structure, was inaugurated by Dominican dictator Rafael Trujillo in 1947. It houses the executive and administrative offices, but not the President's residence. Pre-booked visits required. *Av. Mexico & Dr. Delgado, 809 695-8359.*

Plaza de la Cultura

Museo del Hombre Dominicano

A wide collection of Taino artifacts with sections dedicated to the post-Columbus era and the country's African heritage. Tue-Sun 10am-5pm. Closed Mondays. *Av. Pedro Henríquez Ureña, 809 687-3622.*



Museo de Arte Moderno

Museo de Arte Moderno

Four floors of the museum are dedicated to 20th century Dominican art. Alternating temporary exhibitions. Tue-Sun 9am-5pm. Closed Mondays. *Av. Pedro Henríquez Ureña, 809 685-2153.*



Museo Bellart

Museo Bellart

Museum dedicated to collections of well-known Dominican artists. Outstanding exhibitions. Mon-Fri 9:30am-6pm, Sat 9am-12pm. Closed Sundays. *Av. John F. Kennedy, Edificio Honda, 809 541-7721 ext. 296.*



Hispaniolan solenodon, one of two surviving mammals

Parque Zoológico Nacional

Enjoyable by all the family, this is a leisurely stroll that can easily take up a whole morning. Travel to Africa by touring the Great Plains. On the main road, meet the flamingos and many tropical birds. Do not fear the big snakes in the snakes area. The children will love the petting zoo exhibits and the lemurs from Madagascar. The Zoo carries out important work to create an awareness about endangered species, including the Solenodonte, American crocodile, Rhinoceros iguana, turtles, and the Ridgeway Hawk of Hispaniola among others. Tue-Sun 9am-5pm. *Av. Los Arroyos de Arroyo Hondo, 809 562-3149.*



Acuario Nacional

Acuario Nacional

Visitors can walk through a large plexiglass tunnel full of sharks, stingrays and turtles. Walkable distance to Columbus Lighthouse. Tue-Sun 9:30am-5:30pm. Closed Mondays. *Av. España 77, 809 766-1709.*



Los Tres Ojos

Los Tres Ojos

Although named "The Three Eyes", this attraction boasts four clear water lagoons in limestone sinkholes. A deep staircase leads visitors to the underground caverns once used by Taino Indians in religious ceremonies. Daily 8am-5:30pm. *Av. Mirador del Este, 809 472-4204.*

Mirador del Sur

This almost 4 mile-long park is popular for walks, jogging, cycling, skating and skateboarding. The best times are early morning and at sunset. The park was built in the 70s with a design by architect Manuel Valverde Podestá, student of the famed Brazilian landscape architect Burle Marx. It features a restaurant at Av. Anacaona side and nightspots on the Av. Mirador del Sur side.



Parque Iberoamericano

Parque Iberoamericano

Check out the Rhinoceros Iguanas, an endangered species, in the habitat created for them at the Parque Iberoamericano in Santo Domingo. The large lizards are fun to watch from the bridge that crosses their abode or from the gated surroundings. The Ibero-American Park is the city's latest renovated public space. It surrounds the National Music Conservatory and is located between Cesar Nicolas Penson, Bolivar and Alma Mater avenues. The park is perfect for biking, rollerblading, jogging, romantic strolls, or just sitting. Once the city's zoo, the park is built atop an impressive cave system, including the Santa Ana Caves. Aerobics classes are regularly held in the gym area near the Bolivar entrance, where there are outdoor exercise machines and a cafeteria. But the main attraction of the park is its 1.4km of walkways shaded by lovely trees.

Faro a Colón

Completed in 1992 for the 500th anniversary of the European settlement of the Americas, from a 1929 contest-winning design. The monumental mausoleum houses the remains of the famous explorer and historic exhibits donated by other nations. Tue-Sun 9am-5:30pm. Closed Mondays. *Av. Mirador del Este, 809 591-1492.*



Faro a Colón



The Botanical Gardens

Meet the flora of the island

Santo Domingo's Jardín Botánico Nacional is the largest and most complete botanical garden in the Caribbean and Central America. Designed by architect Benjamin Paiewonsky in 1976 and covering an area of more than a mile (2kms²), its diverse landscape takes visitors on an extended encounter with the island's flora.

Well preserved, it welcomes a large group of faithful joggers along its numerous trails through plains and undulating terrain.

The park attracts thousands of birds that make their homes among its greenery.

Be amazed by the variety of aquatic plants (48 large ponds), the orchid building with more than 300 species, the fern exhibit, the herbarium with its medicinal and aromatic plants (90,000 samples) and the 13,123 yards (12,000m²) arboretum with more than 1,500 native, exotic and endemic trees.

Fruits can be picked from the many trees in the fruit trees area of the park.

There is an area with all the palms on the island, with more than 30 different trees on display.

Its Japanese garden is a high point of every visit for its scenery. A Torii, or gateway to heaven, embellishes the entrance to woods of araucarias and bamboo shoots.

Beyond there is a pavilion with exotic cacti and other desert plants, and another dedicated to bromeliads. There is an area dedicated to the flowering trees and plants of the island of Hispaniola, with colors that vary depending on the time of year.

The Gardens hold annual orchid and bonsai exhibits and frequent temporary exhibitions. A train takes visitors on a 40-minute tour that can be broken up by stopping at the halfway point of the Japanese Garden and walking back.

Daily 9am-5pm. Av. República de Colombia, 809 385-2611.

Riparian habitat, wooded areas, open palm savannas of the garden offer opportunities for seeing many interesting endemic and migratory birds. Birdwatchers may attempt to enter any time after about 6am with identifying binoculars in hand. There is a guided bird walk every first Sunday of each month at 7am, meeting at the front door.



BIRDWATCHERS!



El Malecón

Avenue by the Sea

It is to Santo Domingo what the Eiffel Tower is to Paris and the Empire State Building to New Yorkers. Dominicans take it for granted; it seems it has always been there. . .

The 9-mile (14.5 km) long Malecón (officially the Av. George Washington) was recognized by the international organizers of American Capital of Culture 2010 as one of the city's seven cultural treasures. Merengue Festival takes place there in July, and there is street partying for Christmas holidays.

It has history and several sections of colonial walls are still visible. See the 16th Century San Gil Fort, the Monument to Financial Independence celebrating the payment of the foreign debt in 1940. Since 1982, the Monument to Fray Antón de Montesinos recognizes the Spanish priest's role as the precursor of human rights in the Americas.

At the start of the 19th Century, wealthy families had embraced sea-front property for their haciendas. Few know that it was a visionary, José Ramón Báez López-Penha, who in 1931, less than a year after the devastation caused by Hurricane San Zenón, convinced dictator Trujillo to retake the coast by building a boulevard the length of the city's southern side for everyone to enjoy. Ironically, the dictator would be assassinated there in 1961.

The Supreme Court of Justice, Department of Migration and offices of the city government of Santo Domingo are located in the Centro de los Héroes government center.

The Malecón continues to reinvent itself over the years with multiple seaside public spaces – Plaza Juan Barón, Güibia Park and the new Maritime Walk on the western side.

The avenue is dotted by hotels and restaurants. The vistas are spectacular -- from the city's iconic skyscraper skyline to the colonial walls and the Columbus Lighthouse. The view of the waves breaking against the coastal waters creates a sensation of peace and tranquility. To "go down to the Malecón" is part of city life.

The National Carnival Parade takes place on the Malecón in early March. Special celebrations are planned for 2014, when the city will be the Iberoamerican Capital of Carnival.



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Shopping



Malls & Shops Brands, arts and crafts

Shopping

NAME	ADDRESS	PRODUCTS	TEL
MALLS			
Acrópolis Center	Av. Winston Churchill	Clothing, shoes, restaurants & movie theatre	809 221-1764
Ágora Mall	Av. Abraham Lincoln	Clothing, shoes, supermarket, restaurants and movie theatre	809 472-2076
Bella Vista Mall	Av. Sarasota	Clothing, shoes, supermarket, restaurants and movie theatre	809 689-6654
Blue Mall	Av. Winston Churchill	Luxury brands, restaurants and movie theatre	809 562-4848
Ikea	Av. John F. Kennedy	Furniture, household goods	809 682-6944
Galería 360	Av. John F. Kennedy	Clothing, shoes, supermarket, restaurants and movie theatre	809 686-0129
La Sirena	Av. Winston Churchill	Clothing, shoes, supermarket, household goods	809 687-4091
Megacentro	Santo Domingo Este	Clothing, shoes, supermarket, restaurants and movie theatre	809 368-2200
Novo Centro	Av. Lope de Vega	Luxury brands, restaurants and movie theatre	809 685-9955
Plaza Central	Av. Winston Churchill	Clothing, shoes, restaurants and movie theatre	809 567-0070
Plaza Lama	Av. Winston Churchill	Clothing, shoes, supermarket, household goods	809 688-9714
Sambil	Av. John F. Kennedy	Clothing, shoes, supermarket, restaurants and movie theatre	809 633-0505
ARTS & CRAFTS			
Feria Artesanal	Padre Billini / Arz. Meriño	Dominican arts & crafts (Thursday to Sunday)	
Mercado Modelo	Av. Mella	Arts & crafts and souvenirs	809 565-3070
COMMERCIAL STREETS			
Arzobispo Meriño	Ciudad Colonial	Arts & crafts and souvenirs	809 533-2818
Calle El Conde	Ciudad Colonial	Clothing, shoes, arts & crafts and souvenirs	809 472-1787
Gustavo Mejía Ricart	Polígono Central	Clothing, restaurants, supermarkets	809 472-0100
Isabel la Católica	Ciudad Colonial	Arts & crafts and souvenirs	809 687-8089
ALL DOMINICAN			
Museo del Ambar	Arz. Meriño / Restauración	Jewelry	809 540-2789
Galería de Arte Arawak	Rafael Augusto Sánchez	Paintings and sculptures	809 688-9400
Fiori	Plaza Fernández, Winston Churchill	Handbags and leather goods	809 685-2997
Jenny Polanco	Casa Virginia, Av. Roberto Pastoriza	Dominican fashion	809 686-3586



Amber

The DR is famous for its amber. This fossil resin, more transparent than its Baltic counterpart, is beautiful when set in jewelry and is an excellent keepsake.



Larimar

Found only in the Dominican Republic, this gemstone's sunlit blue color is a great way to remember the Caribbean.



Coffee

Dominican coffee is rich and strong. Can be bought at any supermarket.



Guava and pineapple marmalades

Bon guava and pineapple marmalades are the perfect souvenirs to take back the sweet taste of the Caribbean.

10 to take

Ways to Remember the DR



Dominican cigars

Dominican cigars are internationally recognized for their quality.



Leather handbags

The designs of many Dominican brands, such as Fiori, are a fusion of the latest trends in international fashion with the colors of the Caribbean.



Faceless dolls

These ceramic dolls are famous throughout the DR and are also very delicate. Be sure to pack them tight.



Macadamia nuts

Grown in the Dominican forest, La Loma macadamia nuts are sold at Bon Ice Cream stores, leading supermarkets and select gift shops nationwide.



Dominican beer

Dominicans love their beer and since you may have trouble finding some back home, it may be best to take a bottle or two for the road.



Rum

Aged to perfection, Dominican rums are preferred locally on the rocks or as a "Cuba Libre" with Pepsi or Coca Cola.

La Gustavo Mejía Ricart

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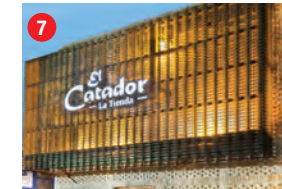
La Libanesa. Lebanese.
Tel: 809 562-2124
Open daily from 10am-9pm



Buen Provecho. Dominican.
Tel: 809 562-4848
Open daily from 7:30am to 4:00pm



Chef Pepper. Meats / Grill.
Tel: 809 565-4068
Sun-Thur: 12pm-12am, Fri-Sat 12pm-1am



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Tel: 809 540-1644
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Chinatown

Note the traditional arch donated by the People's Republic of China on the Av. Mexico entrance and the one donated by Taiwan on the Av. Mella exit to Santo Domingo's Chinatown district. Its main street, Jacinto de la Concha, is lined with life-sized oriental bronze statues. Bargain prices are the draw at the neighborhood's shops and restaurants owned by Chinese immigrants. This is the place for Dim Sum and Peking Duck. It is also the site of the annual Chinese New Year celebration in January or February. It falls on 31 January in 2014.



Beauty Parlors

Beauty parlor-going is part of Dominican culture. Little girls start going from 4 years old or even earlier. The beauty parlor experience is just as much about looking good as getting a psychological uplift. It is a time women dedicate to themselves.

Dominican beauty parlors keep up to date on the new hair cuts and deep conditioning treatments. Dominican stylists are known the world over for the mastery of the art of blow drying, working from root to tips and painstakingly drying hair in sections, twirling the brush at the ends to give hair body and shine.



All for the Children

City malls have opened large centers for children to be entertained while their parents shop. Descubria (Galerias 360 mall), Screamland (Agora Mall), Happyland (Jumbo Luperon and Megacentro super-stores), Aquarium (Sambil Mall), and Pekepolis (Silver Sun Mall) are popular with the children. In the Colonial City there is the Museo Trampolin. On the Malecon, Helados Bon ice cream store offers low cost bicycling, toy car riding, and more at its Plaza Juan Baron location. The ice cream chain has 250 shops nationwide and is a traditional favorite with children. East of the city and just 8 kms from Juan Dolio beach area, is Los Delfines Water Park, the largest in the Caribbean with 17 slides.



What's Cooking Santo Domingo?
Savor the Dominican Cuisine

Santo Domingo dining is a 516-year old melting pot of gastronomic influences from around the world. What makes Santo Domingo's cuisine tastier is that chefs have an abundance of fresh local fruits and vegetables, fish and meats, aside from imports. Chefs cook up traditional recipes from around the world, but many give a Dominican twist to these recipes with seasonal ingredients.

Early influences date back to the original Taino pre-Columbian days, to the mark left by the Spanish conquistadors and the droves of African slaves in the 16th and 17th century. Inter-marriages ensured that the varied cooking prevailed throughout the centuries.

Today, this is no different. Immigrants from Italy, Germany, France, the United States, Canada, Brazil, Mexico, Argentina, Colombia, Venezuela, the Middle East, Japan, China, Taiwan and Korea are leaving their mark.

Add very cosmopolitan Dominicans and new entrepreneurs that travel and bring back styles and ritzy decors to best each other. Many eateries are chic and pricey. But because the student crowd is big in Santo Domingo, more restaurants are good value, not fancy. Tourists benefit from restaurants that work hard to attract frequent visitors.

Breakfast places are popular as are luncheon specials at the malls and a selection of restaurants in commercial districts. The US fast food chains are here but discover the

dishes served by hardy Dominican fast food places that have won over the locals.

There is no city in the Caribbean with more restaurants than Santo Domingo. For a sampling, drive through upscale areas of the city, such as the commercial-residential area of the Poligono Central (Av. Gustavo Mejia Ricart, Abraham Lincoln, Winston Churchill, Naco and Piantini neighborhoods) for your pick of restaurants with outdoor terraces for appreciating the light breezes and the balmy night air. The explanation, Dominicans are forever on the lookout for the latest new place to be the first to tell their friends.



List of restaurants in Santo Domingo (* see Zone Map on pages 44-45)

RESTAURANT	ADDRESS	LOCATION/ZONE*	CUISINE	MEALS	PHONE	\$
Atarazana	Atarazana 5	Ciudad Colonial/Z3	Dominican	PM	809 689-2900	\$\$
Adrian Tropical	Malecón 2	Gazcue/Z2	Dominican	AM,PM	809 221-1764	\$\$
Atracciones El Lago	Anacaona 24	Mirador Sur/Z2	Dominican	PM	809 338-5246	\$\$\$
Barra Payan	30 de Marzo 140	Gazcue/Z2	Dominican	AM,PM	809 689-6654	\$
Buen Provecho	Gustavo Mejía Ricart 59	Naco/Z1	Dominican	AM,PM	809 562-4848	\$\$
Cafeteria El Conde	El Conde & Meriño	Ciudad Colonial/Z3	Dominican	AM,PM	809 682-6944	\$
El Conuco	Casimiro de Moya 152	Gazcue/Z2	Dominican	PM	809 686-0129	\$\$
Mesón di Bari	Hostos 302	Ciudad Colonial/Z3	Dominican	PM	809 687-4091	\$\$
Platano's	Olof Palme & Privada	San Gerónimo/Z1	Dominican	PM	809 482-4130	\$\$
La Residence	Hostal Nicolas de Ovando	Ciudad Colonial/Z3	Caribbean	AM,PM	809 685-9955	\$\$\$
Cane	Abraham Lincoln 1059	Piantini/Z1	Caribbean	PM	809 368-2200	\$\$
Baladi	Virginia de Peña 5	Naco/Z1	Mid-Eastern	PM	809 567-0070	\$
Falafel	Padre Billini 352	Ciudad Colonial/Z3	Mid-Eastern	PM	809 688-9714	\$\$
O.Livia	Lope de Vega	Piantini/Z1	Scandinavian	PM	809-547-3592	\$\$\$
Caffé Milano	Tiradentes 11	Naco/Z1	International	AM,PM	809 540-3000	\$\$\$
Market	Gustavo Mejía Ricart 84	Piantini/Z1	International	PM	809 378-2222	\$\$
Mesón de la Cava	Mirador del Sur	Mirador Sur/Z2	International	PM	809 533-2818	\$\$
Mitre	Gustavo Mejía Ricart 1001	Piantini/Z1	International	PM	809 472-1787	\$\$
Mix	Gustavo Mejía Ricart 69	Piantini/Z1	International	PM	809 472-0100	\$\$
Pat'e Palo	Atarazana 25	Ciudad Colonial/Z3	International	PM	809 687-8089	\$\$\$
Peperoni	Plaza Universitaria	La Julia/Z2	International	PM	809 508-1330	\$\$\$
Dolce Italia	Novo Centro	Naco/Z1	International	AM,PM	809 540-2789	\$\$
Rita's Café	Atarazana 27	Ciudad Colonial/Z3	International	PM	809 688-9400	\$\$
Angelo	Atarazana 21	Ciudad Colonial/Z3	Italian	PM	809 686-3586	\$\$
Il Cappuccino	Máximo Gómez 60	La Esperilla/Z2	Italian	AM,PM	809 682-8006	\$\$
La Briciola	Arzobispo Meriño 152	Ciudad Colonial/Z3	Italian	PM	809 688-5055	\$\$
Pala Pizza	R Pastoriza & Churchill	Evaristo Morales/Z1	Italian	PM	809 566-0500	\$
La Cassina	Roberto Pastoriza 504	Evaristo Morales/Z1	Italian	PM	809 363-4444	\$\$\$
Pizzarelli	Sarasota & Churchill	La Julia/Z2	Italian	PM	809 508-1638	\$
Sapori d'Italia	Max Henríquez Ureña 29	Naco/Z1	Italian	PM	809 683-5691	\$\$
Vesuvio	Malecón 521	Zona Universitaria/Z2	Italian	PM	809 221-1954	\$\$\$
Vienna Caribe	Malecón Km 10-1/2	Malecón/Z4	German	PM	809 534-0100	\$\$
Bella Cristal	Roberto Pastoriza 458	Piantini/Z1	Chinese	PM	809 540-2923	\$\$
Chino de Mariscos	Sarasota 38A	Bella Vista/Z2	Chinese	PM	809 533-5249	\$\$
Pan Oliva	Centro Comercial Embajador	Bella Vista/Z2	Chinese	PM	809 533-7380	\$\$

Dragon House	Duarte & Mexico	Chinatown/Z3	Asian	PM	809 687-0230	\$\$
Asia Mia	Agustin Lara 25	Piantini/Z1	Asian	PM	809 221-7186	\$\$
Coreano Manna	12 de Julio 7	Bella Vista/Z2	Korean	PM	809 535-3355	\$\$
Kogi Grill	27 Febrero & Ortega Gasset	Naco/Z1	Korean	PM	809 918-4401	\$\$
Aka	Max Henríquez Ureña	Naco/Z1	Japanese	PM	809 338-1166	\$\$
Samurai	Seminario 57	Piantini/Z1	Japanese	PM	809 565-1621	\$\$\$
Yokomo	Rómulo Betancourt 1316	Bella Vista/Z2	Japanese	PM	829 535-5999	\$\$
Don Pan & Mrs. Café	Lope de Vega, Novo entro	Naco/Z1	Sandwiches	PM	809 567-5809	\$\$
Asadero Los Argentinos	Centro Comercial Embajador	Bella Vista/Z2	Meats/Grills	PM	809 535-7076	\$\$
Chef Pepper	Gustavo Mejía Ricart 62	Naco/Z1	Meats/Grills	PM	809 540-3541	\$\$
Victoria by Porter House	Gustavo Mejía Ricart 91	Piantini/Z1	Meats/Grills	PM	809 542-6000	\$\$\$
D'Luis Parrillada	Malecón 25	Ciudad Nueva/Z3	Meats/Grills	PM	809 686-2940	\$\$
David Crockett	Gustavo Mejía Ricart 34	Piantini/Z1	Meats/Grills	PM	809 565-8898	\$\$\$
Parrillada Don Nestor	Lope de Vega 13	Piantini/Z1	Meats/Grills	PM	809 412-1386	\$\$
Churrasqueria Brazilian	Gustavo Mejía Ricart 7	Naco/Z1	Meats/Grills	PM	809 686-8064	\$\$
El Agave	Lope de Vega 104	Naco/Z1	Mexican	PM	809 732-3232	\$\$
La Vecindad	Tiradentes & Cub Scout	Naco/Z1	Mexican	PM	809 633-2121	\$\$
Tiliches	Gustavo Mejía Ricart 74	Naco/Z1	Mexican	AM,PM	809 227-2486	\$\$
El Racó	Privada 104B	Luperón/Z6	Seafood	PM	809 534-4462	\$\$
Sully	Charles Sumner 19	Fernández/Z1	Seafood	PM	809 562-3389	\$\$
Boga Boga	Bolívar 203	Esperilla/Z2	Spanish	PM	809 472-0849	\$\$
Cantábrico	Independencia 54	Gazcue/Z2	Spanish	PM	809 687-5102	\$\$
Don Pepe	Porfirio Herrera 31	Piantini/Z1	Spanish	PM	809 563-4440	\$\$\$
El Olivo	Madame Curie 19	La Esperilla/Z2	Spanish	PM	809 549-3792	\$\$\$
Mesón Iberia	Miguel Angel Monclús 165	Mirador Norte/Z1	Spanish	PM	809 530-7200	\$\$
Mijas	Max Henríquez Ureña 47A	Piantini/Z1	Spanish	PM	809 567-5040	\$\$\$
La Libanesa	Gustavo Mejía Ricart 81A	Naco/Z1	Lebanese	PM	809 562-2124	\$\$
Nipau	Max Henríquez Ureña 20	Piantini/Z1	Mediterranean	PM	809 540-3558	\$\$
El Ribereño	Federico Geraldino	Piantini/Z1	Mediterranean	PM	809 566-1348	\$\$
La Boheme Bistrot	F. Prats Ramirez 151	Piantini/Z1	French	PM	809 449-7325	\$\$
BOCA CHICA / JUAN DOLIO						
Boca Marina	Prolongacion Duarte 12A	Boca Chica	Seafood	AM,PM	809 688-6810	\$\$
El Pelicano	Duarte 1	Boca Chica	Seafood	PM	809 523-4611	\$\$
Neptuno's	Duarte 12	Boca Chica	Seafood	PM	809 523-4703	\$\$
El Sueño	Calle Principal	Juan Dolio	Seafood	PM	809 526-3903	\$\$
Mesón Español	Calle Boulevard	Juan Dolio	Spanish	PM	809 526-2666	\$\$
Deli Swiss	Playa Guayacanes	Guayacanes	Seafood	PM	809 526-1226	\$\$



Sancocho

Soup with different meats and vegetables (see recipe).



Pollo Guisado

Stewed chicken in a tomato, onion, garlic, olives, capers and cilantro sauce.



Pescado con coco

Fresh fish with red bell peppers and onions in a coconut milk-based sauce.



Morir Soñando

"To die dreaming". Sweet shake with evaporated milk, orange juice, ice and sugar.



Mofongo

Mashed fried plantains mixed with garlic and pieces of chicken or pork.



Flan de leche

Crème caramel – popular dessert in the DR, made with eggs, milk and sugar.



Batida de lechoza

Dominican fruit shake with papaya, milk, vanilla, ice and sugar.

7 to taste

Flavors not to be Missed

Sancocho de 7 Carnes (Seven-Meat Stew)

Time: 90 Mins
Difficulty: Advanced
Serve: 6 people

Before starting to cook: Cut the meat into small pieces. Scrub the meat (except the pork sausage) with the lemon.

Ingredients

- 2 lbs beef with bones
- 1 lb of goat meat
- 1 lb pork sausage (longaniza)
- 1 lb pork
- 1 1/2 lb chicken
- 2 lbs of pork ribs
- 1 lb of bones from a smoked ham
- 4 lemons cut in halves
- 1 tablespoon of mashed garlic
- 4 tablespoons of oil

- 1/2 lb of cassava cut into 1-inch thick pieces
- 1/2 lb of yam cut into 1-inch thick pieces
- 2 celery stalks
- 1/2 lb of malanga cut into 1-inch thick pieces
- 1/2 lb of potatoes cut into 1-inch thick pieces
- 3 unripe plantains, 2 cut into 1-inch thick pieces
- 2 cubes of beef stock (optional)
- 2 corn cobs cut into 2-inches long pieces (optional)
- 1/2 teaspoon of powdered oregano
- 1/2 teaspoon of coriander(cilantro)
- 2 teaspoons of vinegar
- 2 teaspoons of chili pepper sauce or agrio de naranja
- 10 boiled flour rolls (bollitos de harina) (optional)



The following sancocho recipe (one of the most cherished by Dominicans) is brought to you by Aunt Clara's Dominican Cookbook, an excellent reference with 100 traditional Dominican recipes; fully illustrated with beautiful color photography. Get your copy by visiting dominicancooking.com and bring the flavor of the Dominican Republic back home to your kitchen.

Preparation

1. Place the beef in a pan and add the celery, coriander, oregano, garlic, vinegar, and salt. Marinate for at least half an hour. In an iron pot heat the oil, add the beef and stir (be careful with hot oil splattering). Cover and simmer for 10 minutes. Add a few spoons of water if the meat sticks to the pot. Add the pork and let simmer for 15 minutes, adjust water when necessary. Add the rest of the meat to the pot (except for the chicken) and let simmer for another 15 minutes, adding tablespoons of water as needed to prevent it from burning. Add the chicken and let simmer for another 10 minutes.
2. Add 1/4 gallon of water to the pot and bring to a boil. Add the yam, malanga and the two plantains that you had previously cut. Add the bollitos now. Let simmer for 15 minutes. Add all remaining ingredients and adjust water when necessary. Stir regularly to avoid excessive sticking. Let simmer until the last ingredients you added are tender. Grate the remaining plantain and add to the pot. Let simmer until the stew is thick.
3. Adjust salt to taste. Serve while hot with white rice and avocado slices.



City of Events

The reason to come

This is no ordinary Caribbean city. Forget beaches, forget quaintness. With three million people, Santo Domingo makes the big league of cities anywhere in the world. Monday to Friday, tropical chaos is the order of the day. Always try to avoid peak hour traffic times -- 7:30am-9am and 5-7:30pm.

But the traffic chills out in the evening and on weekends when a different Santo Domingo comes alive. The cultural industry is big here. Local fans following art, fashion, dance, theater and music performances and many festivals all year long. The large local population means stars on tour of Latin America and the Caribbean make sure that Santo Domingo is included. This makes the big shows and events THE reason to come to the city.

The venues... Teatro Nacional, Palacio de Bellas Artes, Casa de Teatro, Conservatorio Nacional de Musica, Plaza de España, Centro

Cultural de España, Museo de Arte Moderno, Centro Dominicó-Alemán, Teatro Guloya, Teatro Las Máscaras, and open spaces and auditoriums in the many city malls.

Dominicans proved by winning the 2013 World Baseball Classic that the best ball is played at the Quisqueya Ball Park in Santo Domingo during the local season that runs from mid October to the next February. The Santo Domingo Yacht Club, Mobil One Racing Track, the Feria Ganadera, the Olympic Center and Parque del Este are other venues.

Public spaces... Columbus Park next to the Cathedral, Plaza de España, Guibía, Parque Iberoamericano, Paseo Marítimo, Plaza Juan Barón and street dancing for Carnival and Christmas on the Malecon and New Year at the Avenida del Puerto.

Arts and entertainment are guaranteed in the big city.

Friday and Saturday there is folklore dancing at Plaza de España. DR1 Calendar keeps track of the sports, art exhibitions, fashion weeks, classic, folkloric and contemporary dance, concerts, musicals, comedy and drama at the small and large theaters, jazz, film festivals, electronic music DJs, national symphony orchestra season and musical tributes as they are announced. See dr1.com/calendar

MARK THE CALENDAR!



Nightlife



Tropical Nights

Yesterday, tonight and tomorrow

Bonyé at the Ruinas de San Francisco

Santo Domingo is the capital of nightlife in the Caribbean. It's that Dominicans love to party. Nights start with dining out. Bars offering drinks and food snacks are popular, especially in the Av. Gustavo Mejía Ricart area. Many choose to go dancing or listening to live music in one of the Colonial City night spots, such as Lucia 203. Revelers on a low budget may be seen hanging out at the open-air colmadones and the liquor stores where people gather to drink outside, on the street. Sunday evening through Thursday, bars and restaurants close for drinks at 1am. On Fridays, Saturdays and holidays, they stay open to 3am. For the Christmas & New Year holidays, the limits are lifted. Open hours at city hotel bars and discos are not limited.

It has been merengue, bachata + jazz. Casa de Teatro hosts its Jazz Festival in June and July and daily shows with emerging and well known artists.

Every Friday, the Fiesta Sunset Jazz makes for a wonderful spot to start the weekend. Check out the sunset from the top floor of the Dominican Fiesta Hotel. Great ambience and baby boomer crowds. Reservations 809 562-8222. Free admission.

Sunday nights with Bonyé

Each Sunday, on the steps of the San Francisco Ruins, in the Colonial City (see pages 14-15) the love of music fills the hot Santo Domingo nights with bluesy son and merengue sounds when Bonyé and talented friends take the stage. The horns blare out, the drums beat tightly. Dancing feet respond. The sounds of cold beers being opened at Don Guillermo's store-bar create a lively chorus that complements the show on stage shortly after 6pm.

The old monastery ruins provide an amazing background to the show. If you are a newcomer, just pick a conversation with any local. Soon you will be long-time friends, it's the spirit of Santo Domingo.

Dress Code

Hints of what the doorman may be looking for to see if you fit in with the crowd mix of the place. It also is a clue as to what to expect pricewise: the dressier, the pricier. Rule of thumb in Santo Domingo: always dress up a notch.



Jazz at the Dominican Fiesta Hotel

Jazz City

On any given week there will be several restaurants, bars or theaters with jazz performers on stage in Santo Domingo. Guillo Carias and his group gave it a start in the 80s at the Hotel Santo Domingo, but since then

Nightspots around Santo Domingo (* see Zone Map on pages 44-45)

NAME	ADDRESS	LOCATION/ZONE*	PHONE	DRESS CODE
RESTAURANT/BAR				
Boston Burger	Bolívar & Abraham Lincoln	Abraham Lincoln/Z2	809 732-5498	Relaxed
Caffé Milano	Tiradentes 11	Naco/Z1	809 540-3000	Dressed up
Cane	Abraham Lincoln 1059	Piantini/Z1	809 368-2200	Smart Casual
Casa Avila	Blue Mall	Piantini/Z1	809 955-3158	Casual
Casa de Teatro	Arzobispo Meriño 110	Ciudad Colonial/Z3	809 689-3430	Casual
Cognac	Arzobispo Meriño 266	Ciudad Colonial/Z3	829 826-4428	Smart Casual
Falafel	Padre Billini 352	Ciudad Colonial/Z3	809 688-9714	Casual
GastroPub	Bella Vista Mall	Bella Vista/Z2	809 535-1700	Smart Casual
Hard Rock Café	Parque Colón	Ciudad Colonial/Z3	809 686-7771	Casual
Hooters	Acropolis Center	Piantini/Z1	809 565-4668	Casual
Mamajuana Café	Atarazana 19, Plaza España	Ciudad Colonial/Z3	809 685-4194	Casual
Meson di Bari	Hostos 302	Ciudad Colonial/Z3	809 687-4091	Casual
Rita's Café	Atarazana 27	Ciudad Colonial/Z3	809 688-9400	Casual
Bar La Posta	Gustavo Mejía Ricart 124	Piantini/Z1	809 475-1007	Casual
SBG	Paseo de los Locutores #9	Piantini/Z1	809 620-1001	Smart Casual
Tapatí	Emiliano Tejera #101	Ciudad Colonial/Z3	809 689-1118	Casual
TGI Friday's	Acropolis Center	Piantini/Z1	809 955-8443	Casual
Veneto Cafe Lounge	Arzobispo Meriño 211	Ciudad Colonial/Z3	809 685-5831	Casual
DANCE MIX SPOTS				
Camden Parlour	Plaza Andalucía I	Piantini/Z1	809 540-3588	Casual
Encuentro Artesanal	Arzobispo Meriño 407	Ciudad Colonial/Z3	809 687-1135	Casual
Maio Casa Bar	Mercedes 101	Ciudad Colonial/Z3	809 682-3261	Casual
Mencía Burgers & Tapas	Jardines del Embajador	Bella Vista/Z2	809 255-2505	Casual
Gold Fashion Dance Club	27 de Febrero 312	Bella Vista/Z2	809 566- 0308	Smart Casual
Miloca	Sánchez	Ciudad Colonial/Z3	809 882-6950	Casual
Onno's Bar	Hostos	Ciudad Colonial/Z3	809 689-1183	Casual
Praia Club	Gustavo Mejía Ricart 78	Piantini/Z1	809 732-0230	Smart Casual
L'Azotea	Dominican Fiesta Hotel	Mirador Sur/Z2	809 562-8222	Casual
Zambra	Roberto Pastoriza 315, Plaza Uris	Naco/Z1	809 683-7373	Smart Casual
LATIN MUSIC SPOTS				
Aurora Disco	Hotel Aurora Sol	Zona Oriental/Z4	809 483-3313	Casual
Bottom's Bar	Hotel Plaza Naco	Naco/Z1	809 541-6226	Casual
Boozer	Venezuela 52	Ozama/Z4	809 788-1039	Casual
El Sartén	Hostos 153	Ciudad Colonial/Z3	809 686-9621	Relaxed

NAME	ADDRESS	LOCATION/ZONE*	PHONE	DRESS CODE
LATIN MUSIC SPOTS				
Jet Set	Independencia 2253	El Portal/Z2	809 535-4145	Smart Casual
Las Palmas	Hotel Santo Domingo	Zona Universitaria/Z2	809 221-1511	Smart Casual
Merengue Bar	Malecón, Renaissance Jaragua	Gazcue/Z4	809 221-2222	Smart Casual
Mint	Malecón, Hotel Napolitano	Gazcue/Z4	809 687-1131	Casual
Platinum	Independencia 1111	Zona Universitaria/Z2	809 508-0115	Casual
PM	Winston Churchill	Plaza Las Américas/Z1	809 338-7676	Casual
Ni Fu Ni Fa	Roberto Pastoriza 313	Naco/Z1	809 704-7348	Smart Casual
Wao Dance & Drink to Share	Venezuela & Club Rotario	Zona Oriental/Z5	809 788-5344	Dressed up
BARS & LOUNGES				
Alpargatería	Salome Urena 59	Ciudad Colonial/Z3	809 221-3158	Relaxed
Bianco	Sarasota BQ Hotel	Bella Vista/Z2	809 993-5876	Smart Casual
Bio Bar	Sánchez 125	Ciudad Colonial/Z3	809 686-0147	Relaxed
Boca Negra	Arzobispo Meriño 256	Ciudad Colonial/Z3	809 747-9034	Relaxed
Segafredo Café Lounge Bar	El Conde 54	Ciudad Colonial/Z3	809 685-4440	Casual
Cava Alta	Agustín Lara 19	Piantini/Z1	809 518-9000	Casual
Cinema Café	Plaza de la Cultura	Gazcue/Z3	809 221-7555	Relaxed
Colmadón El Hangar	Independencia Km 9- 1/2	Zona 6	809 533-6898	Relaxed
Dock	Acropolis Center	Piantini/Z1	809 567-6116	Casual
Double's	Arzobispo Meriño 154A	Ciudad Colonial/Z3	809 333-5918	Casual
Evolution Bar & Lounge	Venezuela 13	Zona Oriental/Z5	829 447-5686	Smart Casual
Kantabar	Unicentro Plaza	Piantini/Z1	809 565-1484	Casual
La Barrica	Abraham Lincoln	Piantini/Z1	809 334-5803	Smart Casual
La Cantina del Nopal	Arzobispo Meriño 115	Ciudad Colonial/Z3	809 567-4444	Casual
La Espiral	José Reyes & Mercedes	Ciudad Colonial/Z3	809 686-1765	Relaxed
La Guagua	Presidente Billini 151	Malecón/Z4	809 754-5515	Relaxed
El Catador - La Tienda	Lope de Vega 35	Naco/Z1	809 540-1644	Casual
London Box	Abraham Lincoln, Plaza Andalucía	Piantini/Z1	829 864-0610	Casual
Lucía 203	Hostos 203	Ciudad Colonial/Z3	809 689-5546	Casual
Maruja Bar	Gustavo Mejía Ricart & Federico G.	Piantini/Z1	809 566-9103	Casual
Roulette	Españillat 60	Ciudad Colonial/Z3	809 802-0003	Casual
Shots	Roberto Pastoriza 315, Plaza Uris	Naco/Z1	829 886-1208	Casual
The Bar @ Mix	Gustavo Mejía Ricart 69	Naco/Z1	809 472-0100	Casual
Vinopolis	Max Henríquez Ureña 15	Naco/Z1	809 732-8466	Smart Casual
Zulu Radio Cafe	Isabel La Católica 7	Ciudad Colonial/Z3	809 686-0757	Relaxed

Meetings

Santo Domingo is especially attractive for small and medium-sized meetings because of all the things there are to do before, during and after the conference, convention or meeting. Hotels offer meeting space and executive floors for small events and large conference rooms for big groups. There's a great variety of venues in museums, cultural, governmental and educational centers and even in shopping malls that can be rented for presentations and events. Creative professional multi-lingual coordinators are ready to work on the organization of the events.

Easily accessible by air, Santo Domingo's Las Americas Airport (SDQ) is 3½ hours from New York, 2½ hours from Panama, 4½ from Lima and 8 hours from Madrid (see list of airlines on page 40).

An extensive roadway system connects the capital city to other tourism destinations nationwide for combining business with leisure at beach or mountain resort areas.

Renowned for the friendliness and sociability of its residents, the city of Santo Domingo boasts a vibrant cultural life all year round. The Colonial City has many of the historic firsts in the Americas. The city also has more museums and restaurants than anywhere else in the Caribbean. City malls are packed with shops and franchises from Europe, South America and the United States making it a shopper's delight. Getting around is easy with radio taxis costing around US\$5 for most rides within the city. See hotel listings at dr1.com/hotels.



Major Hotels with Meeting Facilities

HOTEL NAME	TELEPHONE	# RMS.	ADDRESS
Barceló Santo Domingo	809 563-5000	217	Máximo Gómez esq. 27 de Febrero
BQ Santo Domingo	809 535-0800	139	Sarasota 53, Bella Vista
Courtyard Santo Domingo	809 685-1010	144	Maximo Gomez 50-A, El Vergel
Crowne Plaza Santo Domingo	809 221-0000	196	George Washington 365, Gazcue
Dominican Fiesta Hotel	809 562-8222	298	Anacaona 101, Los Cacicazgos
Hilton Santo Domingo	809 685 0000	228	George Washington 500, Gazcue
Holiday Inn Santo Domingo	809 621-0000	141	Abraham Lincoln 856, Piantini
Hostal Nicolás De Ovando MGallery	809 685-9955	104	Las Damas esq. Calle El Conde, Ciudad Colonial
Plaza Naco	809 541-6226	175	Presidente Gonzalez 10 esq. Tiradentes
Hotel Santo Domingo	809 221-3030	215	Independencia esq. Abraham Lincoln
Magna 365 (soon Sheraton Santo Domingo)	809 221-6666	245	George Washington, Gazcue
Occidental El Embajador	809 221-2131	278	Sarasota 65, Bella Vista
Quality Hotel Real Aeropuerto Santo Domingo	809 549-2525	124	Autopista Las Americas Km. 22 1/2, Santo Domingo Este
Renaissance Jaragua Hotel & Casino	809 221-2222	300	George Washington 367, Gazcue

See complete city hotel directory at dr1.com/hotels

The Basics



When Christopher Columbus arrived in 1492 to the north coast, he named the island Hispaniola. At the time an estimated 400,000 Taino Indians inhabited the land. Old World diseases, slavery and abysmal treatment by the Spaniards all but erased this population. To replace the manual labor, the first African slaves were brought to the island in 1520. The country gained its first independence from Spain in 1821, but the following year, the Haitians invaded, inspired by the ideal of "one indivisible island" set by their liberator Toussaint L'Ouverture. The Dominican Republic remained under Haitian control until 27 February 1844 when the founding fathers of Dominican independence Juan Pablo Duarte, Ramón Matías Mella and Francisco del Rosario Sánchez led a successful revolt and declared independence.

Geography

The second largest country in the Caribbean after Cuba, the Dominican Republic occupies the eastern two-thirds of the island of Hispaniola in the Greater Antilles, with Haiti occupying the western portion. Situated in the heart of the region between North and South America, the country is bordered by the Caribbean Sea on the south coast and the Atlantic Ocean to the north. Its contrasting landscape ranges from towering mountains, the highest in the Caribbean, to cacti-studded deserts, to rainforest along with 400+kilometers of soft sand beaches. The DR is big by Caribbean standards at 48,442 square kilometers (30,100 square miles).

Population

The country's population is approximately 10 million. Approximately 3 million people live in the Greater Santo Domingo, where the capital, known as the National District, is located. Dominicans are a continuously changing true melting pot of races and ethnicities, as new immigrants are assimilated. The original Indian settlers were followed by the Spaniards and Africans. These were followed by waves of immigrants from the Caribbean islands, neighboring Haiti, Japan, Lebanon, and Spain that came for farming. Others were making their way to the United States and would stay, such as immigrants from China and Cuba. Thousands from France, Canada, Germany, Italy and Russia came first as tourists to now call the land their own.

Money

Dominican peso rates fluctuate daily. US\$ are easiest to exchange. A passport is needed to cash currency. The rate is set daily by the Central Bank. See www.bancentral.gov.do

Most ATMs operate on the Cirrus Networks (Mastercard) or Plus networks (Visa). Money withdrawn from ATMs in the DR

Lost or Stolen Credit Cards and Traveler's Checks

Visa	410 581-9994
Mastercard	800 307-7309
American Express	800 327-1267

will dispense Dominican pesos. Pesos are available in RD\$2,000, RD\$1,000, RD\$500, RD\$200, RD\$100, RD\$50 and RD\$20 bills. There are coins for RD\$25, RD\$10, RD\$5 and RD\$1. Visa, Mastercard and American Express credit cards are widely accepted and often preferred by businesses. Take note that there is a shortage of change for RD\$2,000 and RD\$1,000 bills, so ask for smaller bills when cashing money at a bank. Banks at major department stores stay open to 7pm on Monday to Saturday.

Government Offices

NAME	TELEPHONE	WEBSITE
Presidency of the Republic	809 695-8000	presidencia.gov.do
Ministry of Tourism godominicanrepublic.com	809 221-4660	sectur.gob.do
Administrative Ministry	809 695-8025	sap.gov.do
Dominican Republic Export and Investment Center	809 530-5505	cei-rd.gov.do
Ministry of Foreign Relations	809 535-6280	serex.gov.do
Ministry of Economy & Planning	809 695-8588	economia.gob.do
Ministry of Hacienda	809 687-5131	hacienda.gob.do
Ministry of Industry and Commerce	809 685-5171	mic.gob.do
Ministry of Agriculture	809 547-3888	agricultura.gob.do
Ministry of Culture	809 221-4141	cultura.gob.do
Ministry of Environment	809 567-4300	ambiente.gob.do
Ministry of Education	809 688-9700	see.gob.do
Ministry of Higher Education	809 533-3381	seescyt.gov.do
Ministry of Public Health	809 541-3121	salud.gob.do
Ministry of Labor	809 535-4404	set.gov.do
Ministry of Public Works	809 565-2811	mopc.gob.do
Ministry of Sports	809 565-3325	miderec.gob.do
Ministry of Interior & Police	809 686-6251	mip.gob.do

Government

A Representative Democracy, the Dominican government is made up of three branches: the Executive, Legislative and Judicial. President Danilo Medina was elected in August 2012 for a four-year term.

Beverage limitations

Discos, restaurants and casinos inside hotels are exempt from the present liquor-vending schedule that affects establishments throughout the country. Note that many restaurants, clubs and bars must close at midnight from Sun-Thu and at 2am on Fri, Sat and holidays. Numerous establishments have been given an extension allowing them to close at 1am Sun-Thu and at 3am Fri, Sat. Bring an ID. Patrons under the age of 18 won't be admitted.

Mail

For sending important parcels, consider using DHL, UPS or FedEx. There are local postal office stamp vending and drop off points for letters or postcards at La Sirena (Winston Churchill), Hotel El Embajador and Centro de los Héroes main post.

Communications

Purchase a low cost cell phone for use during your stay. Or bring an unlocked phone and purchase a local chip (SIM card) with a pre-paid plan that gives you a local telephone number. This can be done if your mobile uses GSM or CDMA frequency. Claro, Orange, Viva and Tricom telecoms will activate most open European and North American-based cell phones and these can be used with calling cards. Otherwise, if your phone works here, steep roaming charges may apply. Failing to turn off the data-roaming feature on your smart phone may rack up the bill even when email and other data functions are not intentionally used.

To call the US and Canada, dial 1+area code + phone number. To call European and South American countries dial 011+the country code + city code + the number. Blackberry is the smartphone of choice for Dominicans. Local area codes are 809, 829 and 849.

Internet

Most hotels offer internet service. Check for those including the WiFi service in the rate. Many restaurants in the city offer free WiFi. Call ahead if this is important to you.

Holidays

Consider visiting Santo Domingo during the holidays, when capital city dwellers flee for the tamer vacation sites, giving all a respite from chaotic traffic. Take note that for the Easter long weekend (from Thu to Sun) even major stores and restaurants may be closed. For a list of holidays and the long weekends they create, see dr1.com/travel/prepare/holidays.shtml

Taxes and Tipping

The sales tax is 18% (ITBIS). Restaurants will levy a 10% service tax. An additional 10% tip is expected.

Measurements

Both the metric and the English measurement system are used. Road distances and land measurements are measured exclusively in kilometers.

Conversion Box	
Weights & Measurements	
1 pound = 0.45359 kilo	1 kilo = 2.204 pounds
Speed: Kilometers/MPH:	
1 mph = 1.60934 kph	1 kph = 0.62137 mph
Fahrenheit to Celsius	
18°C = 65°F	27°C = 80°F
21°C = 70°F	30°C = 85°F
24°C = 75°F	32°C = 90°F

Climate & Weather

Temperatures average 71-85°F (22-30°C) for most of the year. Being in the tropics also means that 80% of the time the sun is shining. When traveling to the interior, prepare for weather extremes of 95°F+ (35°C+) in desert areas in the southwest and temperatures that in some mountainous areas can dip below the freezing mark in the winter months.

Santo Domingo is built on a low-lying coastal plain. With few exceptions, when it rains the sun comes back out after a short while. Take note drainage is deficient in the city. Allow much more time to get to places, avoid tunnels and flooded sections in heavy rains.

Check out the Weather & Beyond Forum in dr1.com/forums for daily updates, especially during Hurricane Season that runs from June to November.

Time

The DR's time zone is Eastern Standard, although the country does not follow Daylight Saving. Because of this, the DR is one hour ahead of Eastern Standard Time used in the US from October to April.

Safety

Be alert to your surroundings and take the same precautions recommended for traveling in any major foreign city, using the hotel safe and keeping money and valuables out of sight. Do not leave luggage or packages in sight in a vehicle.

Electricity

Electrical current in the Dominican Republic is 110 volts AC, 60 Hz. US-style two-pin plugs are standard, so European visitors should bring suitable adaptors.

Water

Drink bottled or treated water. Locals do not drink the tap water so you will be served bottled water at restaurants.

Hospitals

Hospiten Santo Domingo. *Alma Mater & Bolivar*, 809 541-3000

Cedimat. *Ortega y Gasset 10*, 809 565-9989
Centro de Medicina Avanzada Dr. Abel Gonzalez. *Abraham Lincoln 953*, 809 227-2235

Transportation

A variety of transportation options exist for getting around Santo Domingo and nearby beaches. Public transportation includes shared taxis, buses, motorcycle taxis. The north-south metro line passes by the Plaza de la Cultura culture center on Máximo Gómez Avenue, and the west-east John F. Kennedy Avenue line connects major shopping malls for an overall 27 km ride that costs RD\$20 plus the one time RD\$50 metro card.

The Basics

Private taxis

Private taxis are available 24 hours a day and can be contracted by telephone. Apolo Taxi (Tel 809 539-0000), Sansouci Port Taxi (Tel 809 684-9358). Ask the phone operator for the rate to your destination, the taxi number and color. Dominican taxis do not use fare meters. Instead there are flat rates for each destination.

Intercity Buses

Metro (Tel 809 566-7126) and Caribe Tours (Tel 809 221-4422) provide coach transportation service between Santo Domingo and major cities. Expreso Bávaro (Tel 809 682-9670) travels to Punta Cana and Transporte Samaná to Samaná (Tel 809 687-1470). Bus lines to other cities can also be boarded at the Enriqueillo Park or those headed north at Km 9 (on Duarte Highway).

Car Rentals

Major car rental companies have branches at airports, hotels and city locations. Do not cut corners when choosing your rental car service. Also take out the extra insurance plan that is available. If you suffer an accident that dents your car, for instance, the insurance will prevent delays or hassles. You must be at least 21 years, others require drivers to be 25 years old.

TRAVEL TIME BOX

Santo Domingo-Puerto Plata 3.5 hours

Santo Domingo-Santiago 2 hours

Santo Domingo-Jarabacoa 1.5 hours

Santo Domingo-Constanza 2 hours

Santo Domingo-Boca Chica 30 minutes

Santo Domingo-Juan Dolio 40 minutes

Santo Domingo-Bayahibe 2 hours

Santo Domingo-La Romana 1.5 hours

Santo Domingo-Punta Cana 2.5 hours

Santo Domingo-Samana 2 hours on toll road

Santo Domingo-Barahona 3 hours



Las Americas International (SDQ) Flights

Las Americas information: Tel 809 412-5888 ext. 2297, 2225

AIRLINE	DESTINATION	TELEPHONE	WEBSITE
Air Caraibes	Fort de France, Paris	809 549-0404	aircaraibes.com
Air Europa	Madrid	809 683-8020	aireuropa.com
Air France	Paris, Fort de France	809 686-8432	airfrance.com.do
Air Turks & Caicos	Providenciales	829 251-2222	airturksandcaicos.com
American	Miami	809 542-5151	aa.com
Avianca	Bogotá	809 563-2209	avianca.com
Condor	Frankfurt, Panama, San Jose (Costa Rica)	809 689-9625	condor.com
Copa Airlines	Panama	809 472-2672	copair.com
Cubana	Havana, Santiago	809 227-2040	cubana.cu
Delta Air Lines	Atlanta, New York	809 200-9191	delta.com
Dutch Antilles Express	Aruba, Curaçao, St Maarten	829 249-5164	flydae.com
Gol	Miami, Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo	809 412-5888	voegol.com.br
Insel Air	Curaçao, St Maarten	809 621-7777	fly-inselair.com
Jetairfly	Brussels	809 566-8950	jetairfly.com
JetBlue Airways	Boston, Orlando, Fort Lauderdale, New York, San Juan	809 200-9898	jetblue.com
Liat	Antigua	809 621-7777	liatairline.com
Spirit	Fort Lauderdale	809 549-0200	spiritair.com
Taca	Lima	809 200-8662	taca.com
United	Newark	809 262-1060	united.com
US Airways	Philadelphia	809 549-0233	usairways.com
Venezolana	Caracas	809 540-8692	

La Isabela (JBQ) Domestic Flights

La Isabela information: Tel 809 826-4019

AIRLINE	DESTINATION	TELEPHONE	WEBSITE
Aerolineas Mas	Port au Prince (Haiti), Aruba	809 826-4355	aerolineasmas.com
Tortug' Air	Port au Prince (Haiti)	809 826-4122	tortugair.com

Beaches & Golf



Santo Domingo's Side Trips

Boca Chica, Guayacanes, Juan Dolio, San Pedro

Boca Chica Beach

20 miles (30 kms) east of Santo Domingo and 2 miles (a bit over 3kms) east of Las Americas International Airport, Boca Chica is the city beach. Vendors sell everything from massages to necklaces. Expect crowds on weekends. For boating and sailing pursuits, the Santo Domingo Yacht Club and Marina Zar Par. City residents join tourists at the outdoor restaurants that serve seafood and views.

Playa Caribe, Los Delfines, Guayacanes

Playa Caribe is the area's surfer beach. The new Los Delfines Park (Tel 809 476-0477), is located on the coastal highway shortly after. It is marketed as the largest water park in the Caribbean and has 17 slides and 9 pools. Next is popular Guayacanes beach with its many good restaurants.

Juan Dolio Beach

About 2 miles (3 kms) east of Guayacanes, Juan Dolio Beach is much more laid back than Boca Chica. High-rise beachfront residences cater to affluent city dwellers who make the commute to enjoy the sea views and food at the many good restaurants. The large expanse of shoreline allows for a relaxing day at the beach.

Barcelo Rum Historical Center

The Centro Histórico Ron Barceló (CHRB) in the city of San Pedro de Macoris is an easy trip from Santo Domingo, Boca Chica, Juan Dolio, Guayacanes or La Romana. The museum tells the history of rum-making in the Dominican Republic, its role in Dominican culture and gives insights into the rum manufacturing process. The rums are sold on site at the Barcelo Export Import (BEICA) company's rum aging and warehousing installations in San Pedro de Macoris. The tour includes rum tasting. The museum is open Monday to Friday from 8am to 5pm. Tel 809 334-2000.



Club Náutico Santo Domingo



Juan Dolio Beach



Centro Histórico Ron Barceló

Transport to the Beach

Santo Domingo to the beach

Hotel taxis or radio-taxi company units will take you there and wait, for a negotiated price. For a cheap ride, check out Parque Enriqueillo, the main bus hub for guaguas (buses) going to Boca Chica, Guayacanes and Juan Dolio. Public buses will make stops along the way; just let the driver know.

From the beach to Santo Domingo

Buses traveling back to the capital can be boarded along the Autovía del Este in Juan Dolio and Guayacanes and along Duarte Avenue in Boca Chica.

Note: Express buses cost a bit more, are air-conditioned and go directly to their destination. They let people off along the way but do not take on new passengers. Local buses are not air-conditioned and make frequent stops to let people on and off.

Fried Fish, Boca Chica Style

Boca Chica is famous for its fried fish. Fish vendor Rosanna Bautista says it's the love they add to the recipe that sets fried fish in Boca Chica apart from the seafood served anywhere else on the island.

Just as in all the fish vending-stalls, Bautista has her fish on display and ready to go, sea-



soned with a mix of salt, garlic and oregano. Once a client asks for a specific fish, she coats it with flour and fries the fish twice so it "takes up a good flavor," as she explains.

Most of the fish sold in Boca Chica is either Loro (Parrot Fish), Mero (Grouper) or Chillo (Red Snapper).

Fried fish comes as a "servicio" or combo and is accompanied by tostones (fried plantains) and aguacate (avocado). Patrons can also add batata frita (fried sweet potato), bolitos de yuca (cheese-filled cassava), longaniza (pork sausage) or yaniqueques (Johnny Cakes).

Tee off

Combine beach with golf. Great golf is not far from Santo Domingo. Juan Dolio features two challenging 18 hole par 72 courses at Metro Country Club's Los Marlins Golf Course and at the Guavaberry Golf & Country Club's Gary Player-designed course. Reservations are required for weekend play.

Guavaberry Golf & Country Club

Location: Juan Dolio
Holes: 18
Yardage: 7,156 Par 72
Designer: Gary Player
Contact: guavaberrygolf.com.do
 809 333-4653

Guavaberry Golf & Country Club is a golf residential community located 30 minutes east of Santo Domingo's airport near the resort town of Juan Dolio. The course design



includes a 15-foot waterfall cascading into a quarry pond and challenging plays around indigenous coral rock formations.

Los Marlins Golf Course



Location: Juan Dolio
Holes: 18
Yardage: 6,396, Par 72
Designer: Charles F. Ankrom
Contact: metrocountry.com
 809 526-1200

Located in Juan Dolio, approximately 30 minutes east of Santo Domingo's airport, Los Marlins Golf Course is located at the Metro Country Club. Numerous artistic bunkers, lakes and mounds complement the surrounding beauty of the Caribbean.



Santo Domingo



KEY			
	Mall/Shop		Restaurant
	Pedestrian		Theater
	Bank		Bar/Nightclub
	Cinema		Hotel
	Attraction		Avenue
	Metro Station		Street
	Sea/River		Bridge
	Cruise Port		Parks/plaza

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Z-1: Polígono Central

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Ave. Gustavo Mejía Ricart is at the heart of the Polígono Central, the center for business, dining, shopping and nightlife. There are more than 400 eating and drinking spots in this likewise residential zone.

Z-2: 27 de Febrero & J F Kennedy

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-
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"La 27" and "La Kennedy" are dotted with large stores and shopping centers. These are also the central cross-city expressways, routes that are used for those heading east or north or entering the city.

Z-3: Ciudad Colonial and Duarte

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"La Zona," a UNESCO World Heritage Cultural Site, is a one-stop location for souvenirs, restaurants and nightlife. "La Duarte" is for bargain shopping. It leads into Chinatown for oriental sights and sounds.

Z-4: Gazcue and the Malecón

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-
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Tree-lined streets and 19th century homes with verandas. Art galleries, museums and shows at Bellas Artes and Plaza de la Cultura. The emblematic Malecón borders the Caribbean and is the city's main hotel area.

Z-5: Venezuela, San Vicente, España

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-
-
-

These avenues are home to grassroots merengue, salsa and bachata. On "La Venezuela," 6 nightclubs are within walking distance. "La San Vicente" and Av. España are for Latin dancing and colmadon open-bar sharing.

Z-6: Avenida Luperón

-
-

"La Luperón" is a new shopping zone in western Santo Domingo. Major stores located there sell brands at reasonable prices. The Ministry of Tourism's new offices are there, too.

Dominican Republic

RECOMMENDED ROADS MAP



KEY			
	Highway		# kms. between Cities
	Main Road		Cruise Port
	Secondary Road		Protected Area
	Caution		Ocean/Sea/River/Lake
	City and Town		International Airport
	Point of Interest		Domestic Airport

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Discover the DR
The Dominican Republic is a country of wonders. If you have a few days, rent a car, mark a few points on your map and enjoy the best the DR has to offer. The following are recommendations for some of the best sights and attractions outside of Santo Domingo.

SOUTHWEST
 Among the Southwest's best attractions are the Lago Enriquillo, Bahía de las Águilas, Cabo Rojo and the Polo Magnético. Must sees also include the Hoyo de Pelempito (Park), Salt Mines and Laguna de Oviedo or birdwatching in Bahoruco.

SOUTHEAST & EAST
 Visit Los Delfines Park, La Romana (Altos de Chavón), Bayahibe, Saona and Cueva de las Maravillas. Take in the sights of the Punta Cana Ecological Foundation, golf at one of 15 courses in the area or flow with the waves at Playa Macao.

CENTRAL
 The central part of the DR has its wonders, including the mountain towns of Constanza and Jarabacoa (access to the highest peak), and the artistic and cultural centers at Bonao with its Centro Bidó and Santiago with its Centro León.

NORTHEAST & SAMANA
 Samaná is an escape of natural beauty. Lodging is located in Las Terrenas, Las Galeras and Samana city. Visit Los Haitises, Playa Rincón or the El Limón Waterfall, Cayo Levantado island. Whale-watching is from mid January to the end of March.

NORTH & NORTHWEST
 In Puerto Plata tour Mt Isabela de Torres's botanical garden. Enjoy Ocean World's day and evening shows. For adventurers, Damajagua falls. Cabarete is for wind and water sports. Rounds of golf at Playa Dorada or Playa Grande. In Montecristi, visit the Cayo Arena sand bar.

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