CRUISE GUIDE

Dominican Republic
Has it all
CRUISES IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
Dominican Republic is located on the island of Hispaniola surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean to the north and the Caribbean Sea to the south. It has more than 1,000 miles (1,600 km) of coastline dotted with the best beaches in the world. Known for its warm and hospitable people, the country is a destination like no other. With brilliant contrasts and intriguing culture – here visitors can dance to the rhythm of thrilling merengue, explore the ancient relics of the First City of the Americas, taste delicious Dominican cuisine, play challenging golf on world-class courses, enjoy lively nightlife and year-round events, interact with the friendly locals or take part in exciting adventures in our national parks, mountains, rivers and beaches. The country’s natural beauty and rich history is sure to amaze visitors.

In 2017, more than 1.1 million passengers and 535 cruise ships visited Dominican Republic from Miami, Tampa and Fort Lauderdale; to name a few.

Each cruise destination has its specialty: Santo Domingo, the first city of the Americas, is a large cosmopolitan city, full of history, culture and great shopping centers. La Romana has Altos de Chavón, a replica of a XVI century Mediterranean village, in addition to world-class golf courses. Puerto Plata, an adventure region, where the warm water and perfect trade wind make it a renowned wind sport destination and the Kiteboarding Capital of the World. Samaná, a natural gem and one of the country’s most unexplored regions, is a heaven for eco-tourists, with the spectacular waterfall Salto El Limón, Los Haitises National Park and beautiful unspoiled beaches. Punta Cana, Dominican Republic’s most lavish and popular destination with 100 miles (160 km) of the world’s best beaches.

Come and begin your exploration through Dominican Republic’s many cruise ports located strategically around its breathtaking coastline.
Dominican Republic occupies the eastern two-thirds of the large island of Hispaniola, which it shares with the Republic of Haiti, and is the second largest country in the Caribbean, comprising an area of 18,704 square miles (48,442 square kilometers). The country has a population of 10 million and enjoys sunny tropical weather all year. The average year-round temperatures are 78°F to 88°F (25°C to 31°C). The cooler season is November through April, while it is warmest from May through October.

**TIME:** The local time zone is Eastern Caribbean Time (GMT-0400). Dominican Republic does not observe daylight savings time.

**CAPITAL CITY:** Dominican Republic’s historic and sophisticated capital city, Santo Domingo, is the oldest city of the New World. Santo Domingo’s Colonial City was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1990.

**LANGUAGE:** Spanish is the official language; however, you’ll be surprised by the fact that the majority of employees in hotels and tourist destinations speak relatively good English, French, German and Italian, among others.

**CURRENCY:** The Dominican peso (RD$) is the official currency.

**GETTING HERE:** Dominican Republic currently has eight international airports throughout the country, including: Las Américas International Airport (SDQ) in Santo Domingo, La Romana International Airport (LRM), Punta Cana International Airport (PUJ), Gregorio Luperón International Airport (POP) in Puerto Plata, El Cibao International Airport (STI) in Santiago, and El Catey International Airport (AZS) in Samaná.

**DOCUMENTATION:** For most visitors, a valid passport along with a US $10 Tourist Card (available online or at the airport) is required to enter the country. Any person, no matter their nationality, can enter with a Tourist Card if they are a legal resident or if they have one of the following valid visas in their passport: United States, Canada, United Kingdom or Schengen. Starting April 25, 2018, the cost of the Tourist Card will be included in the airline tickets. More information is available here: [www.dgii.gov.do/tarjetaTuristica/en](http://www.dgii.gov.do/tarjetaTuristica/en)

**ELECTRICITY:** Operates at 110 Volts/60 Hertz, the same as North America. If needed, adapter plugs are available at most hotels.

**TAXES:** Dominican hotels and restaurants collect an additional 28 percent of their published prices (18 percent sales tax + 10 percent service charge).

**MEDICAL PRECAUTIONS:** Due to the strength of the Caribbean sun and the climatic conditions of the area, it is recommended that vacationers always wear sunscreen and mosquito repellent when outdoors, and drink filtered water throughout the day to avoid dehydration. For emergencies, contact 9-1-1, the National Care System for Emergency and Safety. [www.911.gob.do](http://www.911.gob.do)

**DRINKING AGE:** The legal drinking age in the country is 18 years old.

**HOTELS:** For information about Dominican Republic hotels and accommodations in Punta Cana region, visit [www.GoDominicanRepublic.com/hotels](http://www.GoDominicanRepublic.com/hotels), and the Association of Hotels and Tourism [www.asonahores.com](http://www.asonahores.com)

Download our free [Go Dominican Republic](http://www.GoDominicanRepublic.com) app, available in the App Store and on Google Play.
The capital city of Dominican Republic is located on the Caribbean Sea at the mouth of the Ozama River. Santo Domingo, the most culturally rich destination in the Caribbean and possibly the most vibrant, welcomed nearly 136,000 cruise passengers in 2017. Visitors are captivated by the charm of its colonial buildings and contemporary hotels stationed in ancient cobbled streets, as well as the gastronomy reflected in the gourmet restaurants of Dominican and international cuisine. Its shopping scene attracts tourists and residents alike with abundant boutiques and recognized chain stores from the United States and Europe. Santo Domingo’s Colonial City was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1990 for its high historical and cultural value and wealth of museums, art galleries and theaters – all ensuring countless cultural experiences for international visitors and locals.

**COLONIAL CITY:** The Colonial City – first city established in the New World – was built by Bartholomew Columbus, and it still keeps the first structures of the Americas, well preserved and open to guests. The 100-year-old cathedral, hospital, university, monastery and historically significant Calle Las Damas beckon to travelers.
Calle El Conde is famous for its shops selling colorful hand-crafted items, paintings and ceramic, wood, leather and metal crafts, while Calle Las Damas – the first street of the New World – houses the impressive Fortress Ozama, the oldest of America, the National Pantheon, the Museo de las Casas Reales, all surrounded by fortified walls and well-preserved cannons that once protected the city. Additionally, the impressive gothic-style Nuestra Señora de la Encarnación Cathedral — the first of the Americas, whose construction dates back to 1540 – and the Alcázar de Colón – former house of Diego Columbus – also captivates visitors.

The area is very pedestrian friendly, however many visitors choose to explore the Colonial City by a 45-minute train ride with audio guides; colorful horse carriages, which includes a tour to the Seaside Boardwalk (El Malecón); a guided modern trikke or by an ecofriendly bike. All of these options assure a fun and comfortable way to feel the authentic vibe of the first city of the Americas.

**BOTANICAL GARDEN:** The Santo Domingo Botanical Gardens, occupying 0.77 square miles (2 square kilometers) is the largest in the Caribbean. Commonly experienced while riding a small train, the park is a haven for the island’s natural flora and is decorated with areas of palm trees, orchids and exotic plants. [www.jbn.gob.do](http://www.jbn.gob.do)

**LOS TRES OJOS:** East of the city, there is an open system of limestone caves which has four natural lagoons created by tectonic fractures when underground caves collapsed centuries ago. Surrounded by stalactites and stalagmites and home to ancient drawings of the Taino Indians, visitors can explore the caves through their staggered trails surrounded by the lush vegetation while keeping an eye out for native fish inhabiting the area.
**BEACHES:** Near the city of Santo Domingo are two main beaches: Boca Chica – just 19 miles (30 km) east of the capital, famous for its fine white sand and large crowds during weekends – and Juan Dolio – a relaxed tourist destination about 12 miles (20 km) from Boca Chica with a large variety of delicious restaurants.

**WORLD-CLASS SHOPPING:** Santo Domingo will charm even the most selective shopper with a variety of destinations. Blue Mall offers upscale brands like Louis Vuitton, Carolina Herrera and Cartier. Ágora Mall, with its many European stores and a variety of restaurants and children’s playground, is also a favorite. The ultra-modern Novo-Centro and the new Downtown Center shopping malls are transforming the capital city’s skyline and featuring beautiful contemporary architecture. Other shopping venues in Santo Domingo include Acrópolis, Bella Vista Mall, Sambil, Galería 360 and many other affordable department stores.

**PORT OF SANTO DOMINGO**

Santo Domingo’s world-class port has a privileged geographic location, as it is nestled at the mouth of the Ozama River where it meets the Caribbean Sea at the marine entrance to the city. It features two terminals: Don Diego and Sansoucí. Both are well equipped and welcome the luxury cruise ships, ideal for passengers who want to enjoy a world-class city’s amenities while experiencing the sights that hosted the founders of the America’s first city, the Colonial City. The Santo Domingo Port offerings create an attractive destination for cruises and high-end tourism into the capital city.

**DON DIEGO TERMINAL:** The Don Diego Terminal boasts a contemporary, secure and functional design, styled to take advantage of natural light and the terminal’s easy access to the Colonial City. It features two cruise reception areas that exceed expectations in providing complete comfort for its guests. The terminal features an artistic marine stained-glass facade, an information center, a telecommunications center, shuttle to and from the Colonial City, a currency exchange service for the convenience of travelers, and parking spaces for tour buses, which can easily coordinate the departures and arrivals of cruise ships. [www.sansouci.com.do](http://www.sansouci.com.do)

**SANSOUCÍ TERMINAL:** The Sansoucí Terminal, located on the city’s east side, can handle nearly 4,000 passengers plus crew, assuring a smooth movement of passengers through immigration and baggage handling. Its design is very respectful in relation to its proximity with the Colonial City, allowing stunning views of the Ozama River, the azure blue Caribbean Sea and the first city of the Americas. The terminal boasts duty-free stores, taxi services, shuttle to and from the Colonial City, internet services and an information center. [www.sansouci.com.do](http://www.sansouci.com.do)
Along Dominican Republic’s southeastern coast lie vast sugar cane fields surrounding some of the Caribbean’s most beautiful resorts and beaches of La Romana and Bayahibe. These areas boast a combination of picturesque beaches, chic accommodations and desirable attractions to more than 422,000 cruise passengers every year.

La Romana, originally a sugar-producing region, is home to world-class golf courses –most of them designed by the Dye family; Casa de Campo, a Leading Hotel of the World and one of the most luxurious resorts in the Caribbean; and Altos de Chavón, a beautiful replica of a 16th-century artists’ village overlooking the Chavón River, with internationally renowned boutiques and restaurants. The fishing village of Bayahibe is now known as a favorite destination for the beach and sun. This ecotourism-rich destination is located just 25 minutes east of La Romana and allows visitors to enjoy a tour of the surrounding nature. It is also home to the country’s national flower, the beautifully exotic Bayahibe Rose.

**ALTOS DE CHAVÓN:** This hidden gem is an impressive replica of a 16th-century Mediterranean village, complete with cobbled streets and buildings made of coral stone and terracotta. Altos de Chavón was built in 1976 on the heights of the Chavón River. “The City of Artists,” as it is also known, has become an important cultural center, home to artists’ studios, art galleries, restaurants, museums and the St. Stanislaus church, where masses are offered to all. It also houses the Altos de Chavón Amphitheater, which holds world-class concerts and performances. [www.casadecampo.com.do](http://www.casadecampo.com.do)
GOLF: La Romana is the ideal destination for golf lovers who seek upscale golf amid breathtaking scenery. The destination offers three championship golf courses – Teeth of the Dog, Dye Fore and The Links. Here, golfers can play at world-class courses designed by the Dye family dynasty, located at the Casa de Campo Resort & Villas. www.casadecampo.com.do

CHAVÓN RIVER: An exhilarating journey on the waters of the Chavón River –where some of the scenes of “Apocalypse Now” where shot– offers visitors a chance to experience the natural beauty of the La Romana region. Visitors can choose from a wide range of excursions to explore and admire the lush vegetation and mysterious shores of the river –kayaking, embarking on a breathtaking riverboat to the rhythm of merengue, or by a Mississippi-style boat.

CIGAR TOURS: The largest handmade cigar factory in the world, Tabacalera García, sits a short drive from La Romana’s city center, and offers visitors a solid glimpse of DR’s impressive premium cigar making process. This factory is known for making some of DR’s award-winning cigar brands. Watch in a smaller manufactory the perfected hand rolling methods, and learn about the tobacco processing from leaf to product. You can also roll one of your own along the way, and purchase premium brands right from the source. www.cigarcountrytours.com

OFF-ROAD ADVENTURES: La Romana offers something for the adventurers: ziplining across the magnificent Anamuya Mountains; off-road vehicles, where visitors can discover the Dominican countryside along sugarcane fields; mud ponds, goats and plantain trees; or an open air safari truck for sightseeing and cultural experience.
**BAYAHIBE:** Located 25 minutes east of La Romana, Bayahibe was founded in 1874 as an authentic fishing town. The region offers a combination of picturesque beaches, majestic nature, exquisite accommodations and fun attractions. This ecotourism region is home to the national flower – the exotic Bayahibe Rose – and is an ideal location for travelers interested in snorkeling and diving. Charming beach restaurants offer fresh seafood daily, served at numerous restaurants bordering the shore.

**ISLA SAONA:** Close to the shores of Bayahibe is Saona Island, the most popular excursion in the La Romana area. This dream beach was selected as one of the best in the Caribbean and is certainly one of the loveliest beaches in Dominican Republic. Located in the Cotubanamá National Park, the island is home to birds, turtles, dolphins, manatees and is accessible to travelers by a quick boat ride.

**ISLA CATALINA:** Located off the coast of La Romana, Catalina Island is a 6 square-mile island (16 square kilometers) surrounded by a natural coral reef. It is one of the best places to dive in Dominican Republic thanks to its “Living Underwater Museum,” where visitors can find the shipwreck of the famous pirate Captain Kidd. The island itself, located in the Cotubanamá National Park, is home to lush mangrove swamps, sandy dunes and a spectacular underwater coral garden, which is ideal for snorkeling. It is also a popular stop for destination cruises that dock in search of beauty and rich underwater sights.

**CUEVA DE LAS MARAVILLAS:** Located between San Pedro de Macorís and La Romana, Cueva de Las Maravillas is home to the most important example of rock art and boasts amazing stone formations. This fascinating cave system contains almost 500 petroglyphs, pictographs and well-preserved etchings, created by the Taino Indians who lived here thousands of years ago.
DOCKING FACILITIES

PORT OF LA ROMANA, CASA DE CAMPO: This modern and picturesque harbor, located on the Romana River nearby Casa de Campo, features two docking platforms capable of receiving two large cruise ships simultaneously. The port provides shopping facilities, food and beverage services, embarkation and disembarkation process, and ample parking facilities that can accommodate up to 34 tour buses. Port of Casa de Campo is operated directly by the Central Romana Corporation.

www.cdcports.com.do

ISLA CATALINA: Located about 5 nautical miles to the southwest of the Port of Casa de Campo is the anchoring facility of Catalina Island. It has a sea-mooring arrangement for cruise vessels at its sheltered anchorage. Only one ship can use the facilities of the Catalina Island at a time and can accommodate up to 3,000 guests. Passengers are transported to the Island to enjoy a beach day and a buffet lunch with the cruise’s tenders. The facilities also have tenders available - two catamaran-type with capacity for 200 passengers each.

www.cdcports.com.do
Off-the-beaten-path, Samaná beckons adventure, nature and romance seekers alike with destinations and attractions like no other. With majestic crystal-clear waterfalls, secluded pristine beaches, rolling hills studded with coconut palms, mangroves reserves, and an infusion of rich culture and history, the peninsula is a natural gem that remains one of the country’s most unexplored regions. While Samaná is renowned for nature and adventure, Las Galeras – with its breathtaking turquoise beaches – and Las Terrenas – the Mediterranean-influenced town with a vibrant nightlife and gastronomy – are two charming Samaná destinations that cater to tourists.

With new and improved highways and docking facilities, travelers can indulge in numerous nature-friendly activities such as caving, cascading, scuba diving, mountain biking, hiking, ziplining and horseback riding, each adventure an experience not to be forgotten.

**SANTA BÁRBARA DE SAMANÁ:** Discovered in 1756 and originally intended to be the country’s capital, Santa Bárbara de Samaná boasts a pedestrian bridge offering panoramic views of Samaná. Visitors are sure to enjoy the local market with fresh fruits and fish, and visit La Churcha, also known as the Dominican Evangelical Church. The church is the first African Wesleyan Methodist Church of Samaná and was made from materials originally shipped over by the English Methodist Church in the 1800s, thus maintaining traditional African-American culture in Samaná.
PARQUE NACIONAL LOS HAITISES: Los Haitises — “high land” in the Taino language— is a unique and very diverse protected area consisting of mangroves, karst mountains, inlets and bays. It is easily accessible by a short boat ride through Samaná Bay and is renowned for its magnificent limestone caves covered with pre-Columbian Taino art. In the mangroves, visitors will find themselves surrounded by more than 100 species of birds, 90 plus plant species, and a wide variety of mammals.

HUMPBACK WHALES: Each winter, Samaná Bay is a sanctuary for 1,000-2,000 humpback whales that mate and reproduce in the warm waters of Dominican Republic. Whale-watching season begins in mid-January and continues through the end of March; however, excursions are available as long as whales remain in the bay. Travelers can appreciate this true miracle of nature from a boat, watching the whales frolicking at a distance, or from the mainland, visiting the Whale Observatory in Punta Balandra.

SALTO EL LIMÓN: Considered the most spectacular of Dominican Republic’s many waterfalls, El Limón captivates as it cascades 170 feet (51 meters) into a pool where visitors may take a refreshing dip. Although the waterfall is accessible on foot, the most popular option among adventure tourists is on horseback while exploring the lush vegetation.

CAYO LEVANTADO: Cruise passengers flock to this palm-lined island located in Samaná Bay. Cayo Levantado has become one of the best tourist destinations in the area to relax, sunbathe, walk along the pristine beach, and enjoy the delicious Dominican gastronomy after diving and snorkeling in the company of colorful fish.
ANCHORING FACILITIES

SAMANÁ PIER: Cruise ships calling upon the Samaná Peninsula anchor out in Samaná Bay between the town of Samaná and the island of Cayo Levantado. The anchorage area can handle up to three ships simultaneously. The distance from the anchor to the Samaná Pier is about 1.6 nautical miles and about 2.0 nautical miles to Cayo Levantado. If the ship is going to Cayo Levantado, there is a closer anchorage position west of the island.

CAYO LEVANTADO: Cayo Levantado facilities feature a 139-foot (42-meter) dock. The island includes a covered buffet with seating for up to 1,500 visitors and from which every spot offers an ocean view. Cruise passengers flock to this palm-lined island to relax, sunbathe, and walk along the pristine beach.

BEACHES: Samaná boasts magnificent sandy beaches and turquoise waters. Beaches located in the bay are the most isolated and quiet in the area, like Playa Rincón and Las Galeras. The most popular and touristic beaches are Las Terrenas, Playa Bonita, Cosón, Las Ballenas, Portillo, El Limón and Playa Morón.

ZIPLINES: Adventure seekers can enjoy a new dimension of entertainment by zipline at Juana Vicente, located just minutes from the Samaná Bay, and in El Valle, where visitors will experience the thrill of flying over coconut palms, lush green valleys with spectacular views of Cayo Levantado and Samaná Bay.

LAS TERRENAS: Formerly a fishing village, Las Terrenas, with 17 miles (28 km) of spectacular beaches and diverse vegetation, offers a wide variety of entertainment from water sports and off-road adventures to horseback riding and relaxing on the beach. Pueblo de los Pescadores, “Fisherman’s Village,” is the center of nightlife in the region, thanks to its array of restaurants and bars facing the beach. The casual and relaxed atmosphere is perfect to socialize with locals and tourists alike.
Puerto Plata, with nearly 7 miles (11 km) of long, beautiful beaches surrounded by lush vegetation, is the site where Christopher Columbus first landed to reach the Americas in 1492. Upon his arrival, he named the region Puerto Plata – “Silver Port” in Spanish – referring to the silver shimmer of its bay by sunlight along the coastline and mountains. Also known as the Amber Coast for its rich and rare amber, Puerto Plata is situated on the outskirts of Mount Isabel de Torres where the warm waters and perfect trade winds make this area the renowned wind sports and a kite boarding mecca. This ecological paradise is perfect for defying the laws of nature by cascading down waterfalls, windsurfing, kitesurfing, diving, playing golf and much more.

The North Coast features an array of beaches for either kite boarding or peaceful tranquility. The hospitable beach towns of Cabarete, Cofresí and Sosúa are rich in culture, history, delicious gastronomy, lively music and magical ecotourism activities.

**CULTURE & ARCHITECTURE:** The town of Puerto Plata is lined with beautiful Victorian houses and buildings from the 19th and 20th centuries in the heart of Puerto Plata. Visitors can stopover the Fort San Felipe, built in 1541 by the Spanish, to admire the colonial architecture, as well as the Amber Museum to see the well-known prehistoric gem found in abundance in this area, and the famous Ron Brugal factory where a tour will explain the process of making delicious Dominican rum.

**MOUNT ISABEL DE TORRES:** Visitors can experience breathtaking scenery of Puerto Plata from Mount Isabel de Torres. A thrilling 10-minute cable car ride takes passengers up 2,290 feet (700 meters) through misty clouds to the mountain top with
spectacular views of the Atlantic Ocean along the way. The short ride up rewards visitors with lush exotic flowers that flourish atop in its botanical gardens with many walking paths. At the peak, riders can get a close up look at a statue of Christ the Redeemer, a smaller replica of the Rio de Janeiro landmark. www.telefericopuertoplata.com

**27 SALTOS DE DAMAJAGUA:** Located south of Puerto Plata, visitors can feel the adrenaline as they discover one of the best-kept secrets of Dominican Republic – the 27 Falls of Damajagua. They can climb one of the many waterfalls to jump from its cliffs or slide down through unforgettable natural waterslides, nature’s perfect water park! Experience is not necessary, although only swimmers are encouraged to participate. www.27charcos.com

**CABARETE:** A mecca for water sports and one of the top 10 beaches in the world for surfing, windsurfing and kitesurfing, Cabarete is known as the “Kiteboarding Capital of the World” and annually hosts an array of international championships. Throughout the year, the trade winds cause perfect waves and spectacular conditions for the delight of water sport lovers, filling the sky with hundreds of colorful kites carrying amateur and pro riders through the surf. From here, visitors can make excursions on foot, by horseback or by jeep to El Choco National Park to explore the caves and admire the surrounding nature.

**SOSÚA:** This picturesque village is famous for its huge, crescent-shaped beach with gentle waves and its marine sanctuary, perfect for diving and snorkeling. Sosúa, perhaps one of the Caribbean’s most popular beaches, is a small hospitable area with comfortable restaurants neighbored
by seaside bars, lively nightclubs and colorful hotels. Impressive mountains reach down to the ocean and abundant almond trees line the beach, where a few hotels sit nestled in the warmth of the Dominican sand.

**GOLF:** Puerto Plata is home to three golf courses, two of them designed by Robert Trent Jones Senior. Golfers can play in different scenarios: between mountains –Playa Dorada Golf Course–, next to the Atlantic Ocean –Playa Grande Golf Course– or all-inclusive mango trees –Los Mangos Golf Course. With 45 holes, where at least 14 of them are right on the seashore, the northern region is one of the most attractive destinations for golf lovers.

**OFF-ROAD ADVENTURES:** Visitors can experience the countryside in a more adventurous way aboard an all-terrain 4x4. The Jeep Safari Adventure allows participants to take in the landscape, while experiencing the tastes of the country from flavorful Dominican coffee to various fresh tropical fruits. Meet local Dominicans and create memorable moments getting to know their customs and lifestyle. The tour leads groups through sugar cane fields, rivers and beaches where they can enjoy a refreshing swim.

**MONKEY JUNGLE:** Located 25 minutes from Puerto Plata between Cabarete and Sosúa, Monkey Jungle is a half-square-mile (1.3 square kilometer) natural wonderland of mountains and valleys, and is home to capuchin monkeys. Visitors can zipline from mountain top to mountain top over valleys and down into a newly discovered cave. The ACCT certified course is exhilarating, safe and more fun than the barrel of monkeys that greets the visitors in the jungle. This is a true hands-on experience which has brought much joy to the hundreds of children and adults who have visited. [www.monkeyjungledr.com](http://www.monkeyjungledr.com)
**DOCKING FACILITIES**

**AMBER COVE:** Located in the Bay of Maimón near Puerto Plata City, Amber Cove Cruise Center is one of the largest cruise industry investments ever made in Dominican Republic. In 2017, Puerto Plata received nearly 490,000 cruise passengers and 165 cruise ships. The two-berth can accommodate up to 9,000 cruise passengers and 4,500 crew members daily. Amber Cove offers a transportation hub allowing visitors easy access by land and sea to the surrounding destinations and attractions. [www.ambercove.com](http://www.ambercove.com)

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**OCEAN WORLD ADVENTURE PARK:** A favorite of children and adults alike, Ocean World allows visitors to experience a close encounter with dolphins, sea lions and sharks. With a family-friendly atmosphere complimented by the local cuisine, live music and evening entertainment, visitors can swim with some of the most majestic creatures of the ocean, creating an undeniable link with them. [www.oceanworld.net](http://www.oceanworld.net)

**CAYO ARENA:** Puerto Plata’s Atlantic Coast is a gifted region full of natural jewels and one of them is Cayo Arena, also called Cayo Paraíso, a very small island off the beaches of Punta Rucia and La Ensenada. This rare coral island in Dominican Republic is worth visiting. Upon arrival, visitors will feel as though they have arrived to a secret paradise island of their dreams. The tiny island with soft white sand is bordered by turquoise waters, ideal for snorkeling with colorful fish or relaxing with travel companions.

**SANTIAGO:** One hour and a half from Puerto Plata is the second largest city in the country, Santiago de los Caballeros. The city was named by Christopher Columbus to honor the thirty Spanish aristocrats who founded it in 1495 and formed the original community. Santiago, a major producer of cigars thanks to its many tobacco factories, is known as the “Cigar Capital of the World.” Today, it is also a cultural center where the Centro León showcases the Caribbean and Dominican identity through exhibitions about folklore and culture.
The sophisticated East Coast of Dominican Republic attracts vacationers from around the world who come to explore and savor the luxuries of Punta Cana. Nestled across 100 miles (160 kilometers) of the world’s top beaches lapped by turquoise waters and dotted with swaying palm trees, Punta Cana is Dominican Republic’s most lavish and popular destination. Punta Cana’s beaches and resorts may be its biggest draw, but its world-renowned golf courses and entertainment, like swimming with dolphins and zip-lining through the exotic vegetation attract visitors and locals alike. Year after year, this region, where the Atlantic meets the Caribbean Sea, has been the venue for international fishing competitions and has also become the number one golf destination in the Caribbean, recognized among the top in the world.

**BEACHES:** The main attractions of this exotic destination are the pristine beaches, consistently named among the most beautiful in the world. These borders are the meeting point between the Atlantic Ocean and Caribbean Sea and boast warm shores. Bright white sands and a wide range of activities create an unforgettable impression on visitors. The best beaches in Punta Cana are Juanillo, Punta Cana, Playa Blanca, Cabeza de Toro, Bávaro, El Cortecito, Arena Gorda, Macao and Uvero Alto.

**GOLF:** Often referred to as the “Golf Mecca of the Caribbean,” the glittering east coast comprised of the Punta Cana, Bávaro and Cap Cana areas boasts 189 holes of golf all easily accessible from a wide range of luxe ocean-front resorts spread across some of the
world’s top beaches. This enchanting region continues to be the premier destination for travelers who seek challenging upscale golf on some of the world’s most memorable courses.

**ATTRACTIONS & SIGHTSEEING:** Thanks to its great diversity, the region offers a variety of activities including diving and snorkeling, visiting family-oriented water parks with friendly dolphins and stingrays, and much more. Visitors can also bring out your adventurous side and get your adrenaline fix by riding buggies through the jungle or enjoying adventure parks featuring zip lines, flight simulators, hiking trails and more.

**INDIGENOUS EYES ECOLOGICAL PARK:** The southern end of Punta Cana harbors more than 500 species of exotic plants and trails that snake along 11 natural lagoons, each with a unique name from the native Taino language. The park has 1,500 acres (600 hectares) set aside as conservation land and is owned and managed by the Puntacana Ecological Foundation. The reserve is also categorized as a “transition zone sub-tropical forest” due to the flora and fauna exhibiting characteristics of both the dry and humid sub-tropical forests. www.puntacana.org

**SCAPE PARK:** Located at world-class Cap Cana, Scape Park offers athletic and entertainment activities including a zipline eco-tour, adventure buggies, Hoyo Azul natural lagoon, water activities, horseback riding and more. The park’s latest attraction, the Cave Expedition, takes visitors on a hike up the El Farallon Cliff and into the vast underground network of chambers and tunnels below. www.scapepark.com
**SHORE EXCURSIONS:** Cruise guests disembarking on the Cap Cana marina can enjoy one of the largest excursion programs in the Caribbean. These range from adventures to cultural, culinary and family experiences such as cave exploring, safari expeditions, zip lines, animal encounters, water parks, coastal cruises, deep sea fishing, golf, horseback riding, snorkeling, self-driven speed boats, cigar and rum tastings, amazing shopping and day passes at some of the most exclusive hotels in the area.

**SHOPPING:** Visitors can embrace the lifestyle of the rich and famous in Punta Cana or seek out Dominican Republic souvenirs at local shops. Upscale boutiques can be found at places like Fishing Lodge Cap Cana, Blue Mall, Puntacana Village, Palma Real Shopping Village and San Juan Shopping Center, while local vendors and shops can be found scattered along beaches, such as Plaza Bibijagua at Bávaro Beach. Traditional Dominican products like amber, larimar, ceramic dolls, chocolate, coffee, rum, cigars, macadamia nuts, merengue music and more can be bought from these local stands.

**INLAND SAFARIS:** Safari adventures by Jeep or 8-wheel military truck are offered at many resorts. These vehicles take visitors inland across rivers and rough terrain using one of several routes, usually traveling through jungles and sugarcane plantations, stopping for a refreshing swim in a river or at an unspoiled beach, enjoying a Dominican food buffet, listening to typical “perico ripiao” music, visiting a small village with a stopover at the local “colmado” (grocery store), and taking an inside peek into a country residence for a cup of home-brewed Dominican coffee.

**ANCHORING FACILITIES**

**CAP CANA MARINA:** The largest world-class marina in the Caribbean, Cap Cana Harbor & Marina is designed to be the most complete and modern one in the area where, in waters just beyond the Marina, visitors can experience some of the best angling in the Caribbean. The Cap Cana Marina has over 150 slips, accommodating up to 150-foot yachts, with complete services for captains and crew and is equipped with meteorological buoyancy services unique to the Caribbean, and includes government authorities such as harbor officials and customs departments, wireless internet and courtesy shuttle services. The marina is surrounded by an enchanting village with gourmet restaurants and elegant boutiques. The anchorage position for cruise ships is located about 1.0 nautical miles from the disembarkation pier inside the marina.
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