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EXPLORE THE SAMANÁ PENINSULA – DOMINICAN REPUBLIC’S SECRET PARADISE

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC (JULY 27, 2009) – Samaná is nestled among the Caribbean mountains on the Dominican Republic’s (DR) Northeast Coast and surrounded by crystal blue waters from Samaná Bay and the Atlantic Ocean. Samaná provides all who experience this heavenly peninsula a spectacular one-on-one with Mother Nature. A top destination for eco-tourists and naturalists, this “off-the-beaten-path” peninsula boasts unspoiled beaches, vibrant coral reefs, mountain waterfalls and tropical forests.

“Samaná is graced with exquisite beauty, and is one of our national treasures,” said Vice Minister of International Promotion Magaly Toribio. “Exotic with stunning vistas, the peninsula and surrounding coast gives visitors and Dominicans alike a sense of what the world was like centuries ago. Here you can stand on the cliffs and see the DR’s mainland to the south, while majestic Humpback Whales frolic in the nearby Atlantic Ocean.

“You may leave Samaná, but Samaná will never leave you.”

With several distinct towns and attractions, Samaná offers something for everyone:

Santa Barbara de Samaná

The provincial capital, Santa Barbara de Samaná on the southern side of the peninsula is a popular base for whale watching excursions or day trips to Cayo Levantado, a charming island in the bay. Samaná’s Malecón, or beachfront strip, is a center of activity featuring outdoor cafés and small shops.

Las Galeras

Las Galeras is an idyllic destination for romance seekers. Serenely located on the tip of the peninsula, its main beach offers a breathtaking respite for sunning, swimming or strolling along the beachfront’s stores and restaurants.

Las Terrenas

Las Terrenas offers a variety of accommodations to fit any style or budget including small boutiques to low-key beachfront hotels to deluxe all-inclusive resorts. Also, this busy town offers a mixture of distinctive restaurants, bars, shopping and a vibrant nightlife.

Top Attractions

Whale Watching: Each winter, Samaná (according to the World Wildlife Fund) draws thousands of Humpback Whales to mate and breed in its protected waters.

El Limón Waterfall: Considered the most spectacular of the DR’s many waterfalls, El Limón captivates with a 150 foot cascade of water falling into a large swimming hole.

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Parque Nacional Los Haitises: Located south of Samaná, this national park has more than 100 species of birds and mammals and dozens of caves bearing pre-Columbian Taíno art.

Scuba Diving: Several scuba diving and snorkeling tours are available to take tourists to accessible dive and snorkeling sites, such as the Las Galeras underwater park.

Nightlife: With numerous beach restaurants and discotheques that carry on all night long, visitors can interact with locals while enjoying the area's exquisite gastronomy or dancing the night away to pulsating beats of the merengue, bachata and salsa.

Shopping: In addition to souvenir shops along the peninsula, several small shopping centers exist in Las Terrenas.

Beaches: The Samaná Peninsula boasts several magnificent beaches with sugar-colored sand gently lapped by turquoise water.

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The Dominican Republic's first tourist was Christopher Columbus in 1492. Rich in history, the DR has developed into a diverse destination offering both Dominican and European flavors to more than one million U.S. visitors each year. Named #1 Golf Destination in Caribbean & Latin America by the International Association of Golf Tour Operators, the DR boasts 25 designer golf courses, upscale resorts, pristine nature, and sophisticated cities and quaint villages filled with warm Dominican people. The DR features the best beaches, fascinating history and culture, and is a chosen escape for celebrities, couples and families alike. Visit the Dominican Republic Ministry of Tourism's official Web site at: www.GoDominicanRepublic.com or call 1-888-374-6361 for more information.