

GAMBLING & CASINOS

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After a full day of sun, sand and surf, visitors to the Dominican Republic (DR) can spend the evening hours trying their luck at any of the island's casinos. Colorful flashing lights, friendly card dealers and the sounds of winning cheers and falling coins are sure to draw even the novice gambler to a blackjack table or slot machine.

Most casinos are conveniently located within major resort complexes and are open until dawn, if not 24 hours. Dominican casinos use Las Vegas odds, so the casino's profits and player winnings are relatively the same and considered fair. To provide easy access to gambling funds, many of the casinos offer ATM's, cash traveler's cheques and will charge playing chips to a credit card. With a major stroke of luck, one may even be able to pay off their vacation.

Following is a list of popular casinos from coast-to-coast in the DR. Buena suerte!

North Coast

- **Occidental Allegro Playa Dorado Hotel and Casino El Dorado, Playa Dorada**
Hours: Slots 4 p.m. – 4 a.m. Table games 8 p.m. – 4 a.m.
Games: 46 slot machines, miscellaneous table games
- **Paradise Beach Club & Casino, Puerto Plata**
Website: www.amhsamarina.com/resorts/paradise_beach_club
Hours: 8 p.m. – 4 a.m. daily
Games: 20 slot machines, table games including: blackjack, Caribbean Stud Poker, craps, roulette
- **Puerto Plata Beach Resort and Casino, Puerto Plata**
Website: www.puertoplatavillage.com
Games: 20 slot machines and table games including: blackjack, poker, roulette
- **The American Casino at Jack Tar Village**
Website: www.amcasgroup.com/puerto_plata.htm
Hours: 4 p.m. – 4 a.m. daily
Games: 40 slot machines and table games including: Caribbean Stud Poker, blackjack, craps, poker, roulette
- **ClubHotel Riu Bachata, Bahia-Maimon**
Website: www.riu.com / E-mail: clubhotel.bachata@riu.com
- **Playa Chiquita Resort and Casino, Sosua**
Phone: (809) 571-3416
Games: 96 slot machines, table games including: blackjack, craps, poker, roulette

East Coast

- **Barcelo Bavaro Casino, Punta Cana**
Website: www.barcelo.com
Hours: Slots 2 p.m. – 3 a.m., Table games 8 p.m. – 3 a.m.
Games: 100 slot machines, table games including: billiards, blackjack, roulette
- **Iberostar Hotel and Casino, Punta Cana**
Hours: Slots 4 p.m. - 4 a.m. Table games 8 p.m. – 4 a.m. daily
Games: 46 slot machines, miscellaneous table games
- **Melia Caribe Tropical and Casino Palma Real, Punta Cana**

MORE

Website: www.meliacaribetropical.solmelia.com

Hours: 8 p.m. – 3 a.m. daily

Games: 40 slot machines, table games including: blackjack, poker, roulette

▪ **Majestic Colonial , Punta Cana – NEW IN 2006**

Website: <http://www.majestic-resorts.com/ingles.html>

Games: slot machines, miscellaneous playing tables

South Central Coast

• **Coral Hamaca Beach Hotel & Casino, Boca Chica**

Website: coralbyhilton.com/Hamaca

Hours: Casino is open 8 p.m. – 3 a.m. daily

Games: 70 slot machines, table games including: blackjack, craps table, poker, roulette

• **Coral Costa Caribe Beach Hotel & Casino, San Pedro de Macious**

Website: coralbyhilton.com/CostaCaribe / Phone: (809) 526-2244

Hours: 8 p.m. – 4 a.m. daily

Games: 75 slot machines, table games including: Caribbean Stud Poker, blackjack, craps, poker, roulette

• **Barcelo Gran Hotel Lina & Casino, Santo Domingo**

Website: www.barcelo.com

Hours: 4 p.m. – 5 a.m. daily

Games: 45 slot machines, table games including: blackjack, Pai Gow Poker, poker, roulette

• **El Napolitano Hotel & Casino, Santo Domingo**

Hours: 6 p.m. – 6 a.m. daily

Games: 40 slot machines, table games including: blackjack, roulette

• **Hotel & Casino Naco**

Hours: 4 p.m. – 5 a.m. daily

Games: 45 slot machines, table games including: blackjack, poker, roulette

• **Melia Santo Domingo Hotel and Casino Diamante, Santo Domingo**

Website: www.meliasantodomingo.solmelia.com

Hours: 4 p.m. – 6 a.m. daily

Games: 50 slot machines, table games including: blackjack, craps, roulette

• **Occidental El Embajador Hotel & Casino, Santo Domingo**

Website: www.grupocomar.com/uk/casinos_america.html#

Hours: 4 p.m. – 6 a.m. daily

Games: 50 slot machines, table games including: blackjack, poker, roulette

• **Renaissance Jaragua Hotel & Casino, Santo Domingo**

Website: www.renaissancehotels.com/SDQGW

Hours: 4 p.m. – 4 a.m. daily

Games: 50 slot machines, table games including: bacarat, blackjack, craps, Pai Gow Poker, roulette

• **San Gerónimo Hotel & Casino, Santo Domingo**

Hours: 4 p.m. – 5 a.m. daily

Games: Table games including: blackjack, craps, roulette

Central

• **Matum Hotel and Casino Diamante, Santiago**

Hours: 4:30 p.m. – 6 a.m. daily

Games: 50 slot machines, table games including: blackjack, craps, roulette

• **Club Bahia Principe, Rio San Juan**

Hours: 8 p.m. – 3 a.m. daily

Games: 30 slot machines, table games including: blackjack, poker

Insider's tip: Winnings are paid in the currency that was used to gamble with and cannot be converted (US dollar to US dollar and DR peso to DR peso). Therefore, it's recommended to use US currency when gambling.

Insider's tip: Casinos have lower minimum bets when games are played in pesos. So, if a gambler is hoping to leave with the shirt he came with, the game can be switched from dollars to pesos.