



## DOMINICAN REPUBLIC MINISTRY OF TOURISM WEEKLY UPDATE

January 11, 2021

### What's New in Dominican Republic:

- **Dominican Republic Extends Free Health Coverage Plan to March 2021** | *The Ministry of Tourism announced the continuation of the free health coverage plan to March 31, 2021, for tourists arriving on commercial flights and staying at a hotel. The plan, which was originally set to cover tourists only through January 1, 2021, is effective from the moment of check-in at a hotel and covers all medical emergencies, including those caused in the event of an infection or exposure to COVID-19 while in-country. The extension of the plan is a measure that attests to the commitment of the Ministry of Tourism with the industry, a driving force for the Dominican economy, and constitutes an important incentive to continue the path of tourism recovery for 2021. [www.godominicanrepublic.com](http://www.godominicanrepublic.com)*
- **Tourism Development Council Officially Authorizes Three Tourism Projects** | *The Tourism Development Council of the Dominican Republic (CONFOTUR), granted authorization to the development of three tourism projects that together add up to 665 rooms to the industry. The approved projects are St Regis Cap Cana Resort & Residences in Punta Cana, Homs Health & Wellness Center in Santiago, and Armonía in Las Terrenas. These projects effectively reaffirm investors' confidence to continue considering Dominican Republic as an attractive investment destination. [www.mitur.gob.do](http://www.mitur.gob.do)*
- **Dominican Republic Reports That 65 Percent of Hotels Are Open** | *The new president of the Association of Hotels and Tourism, Rafael Blanco, reported that as of November 2020, 65 percent were open with an average occupancy rate of approximately 45 percent. The reopening of hotels in the country further supports the recovery of tourism post COVID-19. [www.mitur.gob.do](http://www.mitur.gob.do)*
- **Dominican Republic Tobacco Industry Breaking Records** | *Already the world's largest cigar producer, the Dominican Republic is estimated to have exported a record \$1 billion worth of tobacco products in 2020. According to government figures, that would represent a 6 percent jump over the \$942 million it sold abroad in 2019. Cigar tourism is also quickly becoming a niche market in the country as visitors look to experience one Dominican Republic's most unique specialties - the world's finest cigars. [www.bloomberg.com](http://www.bloomberg.com)*

News releases, images and the press kit also can be accessed from the official DR Ministry of Tourism website: [www.GoDominicanRepublic.com](http://www.GoDominicanRepublic.com). For additional photos, b-roll and more specific needs, please contact Callie Murphy ([callie.murphy@bvkc.com](mailto:callie.murphy@bvkc.com)) or Pacome Schembri ([pacome.schembri@bvkc.com](mailto:pacome.schembri@bvkc.com)), BVK PR for the Dominican Republic Ministry of Tourism.