

AWARDS & RANKS (2016-2017)

As in previous years, the achievements for Dominican Republic tourism continue. Dominican Republic recently received some of the most important awards in the tourism industry. The numbers of visitors arriving each month to the country are among the highest reported in recent years, reflecting the great efforts made to create numerous innovative tourism programs across the country. Currently, Dominican Republic is one of the leaders in hotel construction in the Caribbean, continually adding new rooms to accommodate increasing numbers of visitors.

HERE IS A SELECTION OF THE MOST RELEVANT, HIGHEST HONORS BESTOWED TO THE COUNTRY:

2017

- Six of the Barceló Group properties have received TripAdvisor Certificates of Excellence and Top Travel Reviews in 2017, including: El Embajador, Royal Hideaway Hotel; Barceló Bávaro Palace; Barceló Santo Domingo; Barceló Bávaro Palace Deluxe; Premium Level at Barceló Bávaro Palace; and Barceló Bávaro Beach.
- Dominican Republic has been nominated for two important World Travel Awards: *“Caribbean Leading Beach Destination”* and *“Caribbean Leading Cruise Destination”* in 2017.
- Iberostar Grand Bávaro Resort & Club was recognized by Cristal International Standards in 2017, a safety inspection company, for having the highest quality, hygiene, and safety standards in food handling in the region.
- The American Automobile Association (AAA) awarded Tortuga Bay its highest rating of 5 Diamonds in 2017, a qualification they achieved for the third time. AAA also recognized the Bamboo restaurant in Tortuga Bay with a rating of 4 Diamonds for its food and services quality.
- Nickelodeon Hotels & Resorts Punta Cana has been selected by the renowned Reader's Digest Canada magazine as the number one water park resort in the world in 2017.
- The Ibero-American Conference of Ministers and Entrepreneurs of Tourism (CIMET) gave the Medal for Tourism Merit of 2017 to Dominican Republic for its contribution to the industry.
- The AAA recognized Punta Cana as one of the “Top Destinations for Summer Vacations” in 2017; this merit was awarded for its famous beaches, charismatic people, and its hospitality.
- The Dominican Republic was named one of the "World's Best Snorkeling Destinations" by CNN Travel in 2017.
- AAA recognizes 19 Dominican hotels in the prestigious Four Diamond category of its tourist guide of 2017.
- Playa Bávaro in Punta Cana, Playa Bonita in Samaná, and Sosúa in Puerto Plata have been named among the 25 Best Beaches in the Caribbean in 2017.
- The Colonial City received the Universal Accessibility Award 2017; the award was granted by the National Disability Council.

- Dominican Merengue was honored by UNESCO. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization has recognized Merengue as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2017. This designation aims to honor and protect cultural traditions today.

2016

- Renaissance Santo Domingo Jaragua Hotel & Casino received the prestigious AAA Four Diamond Award in 2016 after major renovations.
- Receiving the Top Caribbean Destination Award for airline vacation packages, Delta Vacations announced that 2016 was the best year for air traffic to Punta Cana, with 50% year-over-year growth for the group's business offerings area.
- Dominican Republic has more Green Globe certifications than any other destination in the Caribbean with a total of 18 hotels in 2016. Green Globe certifications recognize the travel and tourism business for sustainable operations and responsible ecotourism.
- The Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Punta Cana and Paradisus Palma Real in Punta Cana were featured in the Caribbean Journal special on the "Best Caribbean Hotels for Meetings" in 2016.
- Green Globe has awarded and certified the Memories Splash Punta Cana and Royalton Punta Cana Resort & Casino hotels in 2016.
- Punta Cana International Airport (PUJ) has been awarded at the Routes Americas Marketing Awards in 2016; this recognition is considered one of the most coveted distinctions in the international aviation industry. The Punta Cana International Airport was the only Latin American airport among the finalists.
- Six Iberostar Hotels & Resorts properties in Dominican Republic received the Green Key Award for outstanding sustainable management of water, waste, energy, staff training and environmental education in 2016.
- Punta Cana International Airport (PUJ) won the Airport Service Quality (ASQ) 2016 prize, awarded by Airport Council International (ACI).
- Dominican Republic has been named the "Spot # 1" in the 2016 Caribbean Tourism Quality Index, the guide that belongs to Resonance Consultancy.
- Dominican Republic won "Best Destination" at the International Travel Fair of 2016. Dominican Republic was chosen as "Best Long Distance Destination" by travel agents at the Top Resa Travel Show in Paris.
- Dominican Republic was named Best Golf Destination in the Caribbean for the third time at the World Golf Awards 2016.