



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC MINISTRY OF TOURISM WEEKLY UPDATE

February 26, 2018

What's new in Dominican Republic:

- **Bávaro Beach Named Best in the World** | A leading travel engine, TripAdvisor, recently released its Best Beaches of 2018 Travers' Choice Awards including Bávaro Beach, located along the east coast 25 minutes North of Punta Cana. Dominican Republic is home to over 1,000 miles of sparkling coastline including 30 beaches accredited by Blue Flag for meeting international environmental and safety standards. www.TripAdvisor.com
- **Dominican Republic Prepares to Welcome Spring Travelers** | As families continue to seek adventure and culturally rich trips, Dominican Republic is preparing to welcome travelers to its action-packed destinations such as Puerto Plata and its renown cities of San Felipe, Cabarete and Sosúa. In 2017 cruise arrivals to Puerto Plata exceeded 1.46 million – the highest of record, according to the Ministry of Tourism Cruise Department.
- **2018 Dominican Republic Jazz Festival Announced** | The 22nd annual Dominican Republic Jazz Festival announced its series of free concerts commencing in Punta Cana August 24-25. The concert will return October 28 in Santo Domingo followed by a two-day series throughout Santiago and Puerto Plata with a two-day finale in Cabarete. The lineup and festival theme are yet to be announced. The festival is presented by FEDUJAZZ and the Dominican Republic Ministry of Tourism. www.DRJazzFestival.com
- **Tourism Development in the Southwest to Create 1,200 Rooms** | In the coming years, the Perla del Sur tourism project will provide 1,200 rooms through multiple stages. The first stage, a hotel "La Casita" and "La Casita Village" a series of boutique hotels, all featuring an eco-friendly design. The final phase will unveil a marina and convention center to its extensive real estate offerings of apartments and private bungalows.
- **Central Park Opens in Santiago** | Last week over 3,000 residents celebrated Santiago's recently opened Central Park with a Family Day, days later President Danilo Medina hosted an inauguration ceremony. The park is supported by The Ministry of Public Works and promotes Dominican Republic's commitment to creating environmentally sustainable offerings for residents and tourists alike.
- **Top March Events in Dominican Republic** | Travelers will have a variety of events to attend throughout March including the final Carnival celebrations March 3 in Punta Cana and March 4 in Santo Domingo, in the north coast Puerto Plata will host a Caribbean Cigar Night at Playa Dorada Golf Club on March 16. The month will wrap up with the 2018 PGA Tour held in Corales Golf Club March 19-25.

News releases, images and the press kit also can be accessed from the official DR Ministry of Tourism website: www.GoDominicanRepublic.com. For additional photos, b-roll and more specific needs, please contact Annie Holschuh (annie.holschuh@bvk.com) or Bridget Tisher (bridget.tishler@bvk.com), BVK Word for the Dominican Republic Ministry of Tourism.