



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC MINISTRY OF TOURISM WEEKLY UPDATE

February 19, 2018

What's new in Dominican Republic:

- **Record-Breaking Tourism Numbers Announced** | *In 2017, Dominican Republic welcomed more than 6.2 million travelers, a 4 percent increase from 2016, according to the Central Bank. Punta Cana International Airport led with more than 3.6 million arrivals and Las Américas International Airport in Santo Domingo followed with second most arrivals with more than 920,000 passengers. For the past eight years, Dominican Republic has seen a steady increase in travelers. www.BanCentral.Gov*
- **\$195 Million Development in the Southwest Underway** | *Construction kicked off for the new Southwest tourism project Playa de Puntarena Hotel and Condominiums, a \$195 million residential and hotel development in Los Corbanitos, Baní including luxury apartments, a recreation area, bars and restaurants, a marina and more. The kickoff was honored with the official opening of the Beach Club and celebration with President Medina.*
- **Dominican Republic Charter Fishing Doubled in 2017** | *Charter fishing reservations in Punta Cana doubled from 2017, according to leading booking engine FishingBooker. The new data reveals that the ability to book charter fishing excursions online has contributed to this increase, and that 95 percent of all anglers who used this booking engine last year came from the U.S. www.FishingBooker.com*
- **Highway Development to Increase Connectivity to Southwest** | *Last week Dominican Republic Tourism Minister Francisco Javier García announced the expansions of a highway connecting Santo Domingo to the Southwest. This development will increase connection between the capital city and the up-and-coming touristic areas of Barahona, Baní and Pedernales.*
- **Master of the Ocean Festival Kicks Off This Week** | *On February 24, water sports enthusiasts from all over the world will head to Cabarete for the 16th annual Master of the Ocean Festival, the only water sports celebration to feature kite surfing, surfing, windsurfing, and stand up paddle boarding (SUP) all in one event. After the competition, attendees will celebrate with a beach party.*

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.