



## DOMINICAN REPUBLIC MINISTRY OF TOURISM WEEKLY UPDATE

MAY 8, 2017

Updates from 2017 Dominican Annual Tourism Exchange (DATE), held May 2-5 in Punta Cana:

- **Dominican Republic Tourist Arrivals Up in 2016** | *Tourism officials opened DATE by announcing a 6.4 percent increase in tourist arrivals in 2016, totaling 6.1 million tourists.*
- **Hotel Occupancy On the Rise** | *Dominican Republic's hotel occupancy rate hit 78 percent in 2016. The country also saw the addition of 5,400 hotel rooms and 69 new hotel projects.*
- **Santo Domingo Offers Hub for MICE, Cultural Travel** | *Santo Domingo has experienced explosive growth in recent years, according to the Santo Domingo Hotel Association, and is positioned to be the go-to destination for MICE travel. A \$30 million improvement project for Santo Domingo's Colonial City, along with the opening of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Convention Center, have contributed to the growth of the MICE segment in the capital.*
- **Major Renovations Planned for Luxury Punta Cana Hotels** | *Luxury properties Tortuga Bay and Eden Roc at Cap Cana announced significant renovation and expansion plans at DATE. Tortuga Bay, part of Puntacana Resort & Club, will close for renovations this summer, and Eden Roc at Cap Cana announced the opening of its new luxury beachfront suites.*
- **Dominican Republic: Top Caribbean Destination for Airline Vacation Packages** | *Delta Vacations announced that 2016 was the best year on record for traffic to Punta Cana, with 50 percent year-over-year growth for group business offerings to the area. Delta Vacations anticipates Dominican Republic traffic in 2017 will exceed last year's numbers.*
- **Dominican Hotel Chain Announces New Projects** | *Hodelpa Hotels & Resorts shared plans to develop a MICE-oriented hotel in Santo Domingo's Colonial City. The group also plans to build two new Emotions hotels in Las Galeras, Samaná and Uvero Alto, La Altagracia, and announced plans to begin construction in 2017 on a new Hodelpa Garden Court in Punta Cana.*
- **New Punta Cana Resort to Open This Fall** | *Blue Beach Punta Cana, located in the sought-after location of Cabeza de Toro just 15 minutes outside Punta Cana, will complete construction in September. The luxury boutique hotel will offer 125 suites and luxury condos.*

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 Annie Holschuh ([annie.holschuh@bvk.com](mailto:annie.holschuh@bvk.com)) or Lauren Sieben Sternecky ([lauren.sieben@bvk.com](mailto:lauren.sieben@bvk.com)), BVK Word for the Dominican Republic Ministry of Tourism.

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