



## DOMINICAN REPUBLIC MINISTRY OF TOURISM WEEKLY UPDATE

April 16, 2018

### Updates from Dominican Annual Tourism Exchange (DATE):

- **Dominican Republic Travel Up 7.7 Percent This Year** | *Dominican Republic tourism figures in 2017 increased by 3.8 percent, which surpassed the 1.7 percent growth for the Caribbean overall last year. Numbers announced at DATE revealed the first quarter of 2018 saw an increase of 7.7 percent, one of the highest year-over-year growths on record.*
- **Santo Domingo Announces Public Walking Routes** | *Tourism arrivals to Santo Domingo grew 64 percent from 2010 to 2017, according to tourism industry experts at DATE. Several new developments are planned for the capital city to help meet tourism demand, most notably a series of 10 public walking routes through Colonial City. The \$3.5 million project will offer connectivity and another way for travelers to experience the UNESCO site.*
- **Cruise and Air Arrivals Increase to North Coast** | *Cruise arrivals to Amber Cove, the popular cruise port located on the North Coast, increased 20 percent compared to 2016, welcoming 490,873 passengers in 2017. The cruise port anticipates welcoming 700,000-plus cruise passengers in 2018. Additionally, Gregorio Luperón International Airport, located in Puerto Plata, experienced nearly a 10 percent growth of air passenger arrival last year.*
- **Two Punta Cana Resort Openings Announced** | *Punta Cana continues to be the leading tourism destination in Dominican Republic, and officials at DATE announced openings for two major travel brands in the area. Luxury boutique property Blue Beach Punta Cana recently opened its doors and will host its official grand opening on May 27. Additionally, international hotel brand Temptation will open a new resort in Punta Cana by the end of 2019.*
- **Puerto Plata to Host Inaugural Rum Festival in July** | *The country's first Dominican Rum Festival will be held July 6–7 at the recently opened Puerto Plata Amphitheatre located in La Puntilla. The first event of its kind will celebrate Dominican's rum heritage and offer seminars, workshops, tasting events and a concert from Gilberto Santa Rosa.*

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 Bridget Tisher ([bridget.tishler@bvk.com](mailto:bridget.tishler@bvk.com)), BVK Word for the Dominican Republic Ministry of Tourism.