



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC MINISTRY OF TOURISM WEEKLY UPDATE
April 1, 2019

Updates from Dominican Annual Tourism Exchange (DATE):

- **Dominican Republic Tourism Numbers on the Rise** | *In 2018, Dominican Republic welcomed more 6.5 million tourists to the country by air, a 6.2 percent increase compared to 2017. According to ASONOHARES, Dominican Republic received an 83 percent hotel occupancy rate. Ministry of Tourism president, Francisco Javier García noted that Dominican Republic outpaces the global average of annual tourist arrivals, and the country is continuing to see an upward trend regarding tourism.*
- **DATE 2019 Welcomed A Record Number of Attendees** | *DATE 2019 welcomed a record 750 delegates, 120 tourism businesses, 40 sponsors and 40 journalists. Ministry of Tourism president, Francisco Javier García, recognized that the success of the conference reflects the growth and maturity of the country as a tourist destination. This year's DATE conference was held March 26th at BlueMall PuntaCana.*
- **Dominican Republic Hotel Industry on the Rise** | *In 2018, Dominican Republic saw a 6 percent growth in hotel rooms. The country added 4,365 total hotel rooms throughout various regions of the country totaling 80,256 overall hotel rooms. In addition to the flourishing additions, Dominican Republic's hotel occupancy rate was an impressive 77 percent, a .5 percent increase from 2017.*
- **DATE Recognized Four Businesses at Second Annual Awards** | *The DATE Awards celebrated international and local organizations who make significant contributions to the development of Dominican Republic tourism. Winners of DATE Awards include the following; Best Destination Management Company, Meeting Point Dominicana; Best Tour Operator, Sunwing Travel Group; Best Online Travel Agency, Hotelbeds, and Best Airline, JetBlue airways Corporation.*
- **Three International Hotels to Complete Expansions** | *Three hotels announced plans to invest expand and update properties at DATE 2019. Be Live Hotels reinforced its commitment to Dominican Republic with the celebration of its seventh in-country property, Be live Collection Punta Cana Adults-Only. Amhsa Marina has invested more than \$25 million dollars in updates to facilities and technology for its luxury Casa Marina Beach & Reef hotel in Sosúa. Viva Wyndham is expanding its all-inclusive in the Dominican Republic destination of Samaná with the expansion of the adults-only Viva Wyndham V Samaná.*

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 Callie Murphy (callie.murphy@bvk.com), BVK Word for the Dominican Republic Ministry of Tourism.