Santo Domingo
GUIDE
Welcome from the Dominican Republic
Minister of Tourism

Bienvenidos a la República Dominicana!

On behalf of the Dominican Republic Ministry of Tourism, it is a pleasure to welcome you to Santo Domingo, the Dominican Republic’s capital city and the first city in the Americas. Santo Domingo is lovingly called the Cradle of the Americas because exploration of the New World originated from our Colonial City, located inside the modern and sophisticated Santo Domingo we know today.

Santo Domingo de Guzman was founded by Governor Bartholomew Columbus in August 1496. With over 500 years of spirited Dominican culture, Santo Domingo’s assets are especially unique and offer the world a living testament to the past that formed us as a nation.

The oldest part of the city is known as the Colonial City, where visitors can explore the Alcázar de Colón, Columbus’ home, as well as visit the first cathedral, university and hospital of the Americas. Here historic buildings rest along cobblestone streets once strolled by Spanish conquistadors. The legendary city has a wealth of museums, monuments and restaurants, set among the larger city’s modern amenities such as the new Metro transportation system, state-of-the-art cruise ship terminals, savory cuisine, unique shopping, architecture and more.

Resting on the Caribbean Sea, Santo Domingo is now a sophisticated center of commerce with 2.3 million residents, dozens of world-class museums, theater, arts and historic sites like the Columbus Lighthouse. With two major airports, highways and seaports, Santo Domingo serves as gateway to 1,000 miles of stunning DR coastline, dazzling mountains studded with waterfalls, exotic cuisine, and countless arts and entertainment options.

Dominican Republic has it all for visitors: unspoiled beaches, top-ranked championship golf, world-class sports, exciting nightlife and countless opportunities for eco-tourism and adventure. We invite you to discover the many diverse facets of Dominican Republic. Please enjoy your visit as much as we enjoy sharing our island nation with you.

Sincerely,

Francisco Javier García
Minister of Tourism
Dominican Republic
Check it out, there is always something happening in Santo Domingo. The most vibrant city in the Caribbean, Santo Domingo is the birthplace of the Americas. The leading university town and the city with most museums in Central America and the Caribbean, it features culture and entertainment for all ages.

Dominicans are some of the world's most open and hospitable people. Socializing is a national pastime and this sets the tone in the capital city, marked by thousands of restaurants, bars and colmadones, the local pubs. Visitors are invited to join in.

At the close of 2010 Santo Domingo was named the most successful American Capital of Culture of all times. This is truly a city of events every day, every weekend, every month. Use this guide as a checklist and introduction to exploring what the city has to offer. Our website, dr1.com keeps you posted on what is happening in Santo Domingo.
The Santo Domingo Guide is full of outstanding places where you may be inspired. But this is a reminder to be open to the little things that can make you smile and will brighten your day, those Wow! moments.

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The Sights

Declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1991, the Colonial City of Santo Domingo is 16 square blocks laid out in a grid system between forts. La Zona, as it is commonly called, has many claims to colonial era fame – America’s first cathedral, hospital, palace, paved street, university, monastery and more. Today it comes very much alive at night with a selection of pubs, restaurants and small theaters. Because it is very walkable, the Colonial City has a big following. Numbered monuments are listed in the order of a walking tour (see Colonial City Map, pages 14-15).

1 Puerta del Conde
The Count’s Gate marks the spot where the founders of the Republic proclaimed independence from Haiti on 27 February 1844. The gate leads into Independence Park whose perimeter fence doubles as the city’s largest outdoor arts and photography gallery. Independencia & Palo Hincado.

2 El Conde
Eight-block pedestrian bohemian-vibe street lined by Art Deco buildings loaded with small shops. Grab a Bon ice cream at the start or midway and stroll at leisure to appreciate the outstanding first half 20th century architecture (look up to the balconies).

3 Iglesia de Nuestra Señora de las Mercedes
Completed in 1555 and dedicated to our Lady of Mercedes, named patron of the DR in 1617. Impressive bell tower, the biggest in the city. Mass Mon-Sat 5:30pm-6:15pm, Sun at 9:30, 11am and 7pm. Las Mercedes & Jose Reyes, 809 682-3744.

4 Iglesia Regina Angelorum
Imposing late Gothic structure with gargoyles and buttresses, the church houses the remains of Padre Billini, the philanthropist who discovered Columbus’ bones. Mass Sunday 6pm-6:30pm. Padre Billini & Jose Reyes, 809 682-2783.

5 Convento de los Dominicos
Built in 1510, this was the first site of the New World’s oldest university (1538), now the Universidad Autónoma de Santo Domingo (UASD). From its pulpit, Fray Antón de Montesinos became the first to denounce colonial violations of human rights in the Americas, when he spoke out against the treatment of the Taino Indians. Padre Billini & Av. Duarte, 809 682-3780.
6 Casa de Tostado
Built around 1520 for Governor Nicolás de Ovando’s wealthy scribe Francisco Tostado. It is distinguished by the Gothic decoration of the twin window, unique in the Americas. Today a museum showcasing the way the wealthy lived in the 19th century. Mon-Sat 9am-4pm. Arzobispo Meriño & Padre Billini, 809 689-5000.

7 Catedral Primada de América
Oldest in the Americas, planned by Alonso Rodríguez, the architect who later designed the Mexico City cathedral. Begun in 1514 and completed in 1540. Its modern stained glass windows, by Dominican artist Jose Rincón Mora, were donated by the Archbishop of Munich, Cardinal Friedrich Wetter. Mon-Sat 9am-4pm, Mass Mon-Sat 5pm, Sun 12pm & 5pm. No mass Tue. Arzobispo Meriño & Arzobispo Nouel, 809 682-3848.

8 Parque Colón
Located beside the Cathedral, this square is surrounded by eclectic architecture (colonial, republican and modern) with plenty of shady trees, pigeons, sidewalk cafes and a great people-watching mix of tourists and locals, especially on Sundays and late afternoons. The centered bronze monument with statues of Christopher Columbus and Taino Indian heroine Anacaona, by French sculptor Ernesto Guilbert, dates back to 1887, giving the space its name today.

9 Fortaleza Ozama
Today site of the Museo de Armas, a military museum, some of its structures date as far back as 1503. At the center is the 5-floor high Torre del Homenaje with its 6ft thick walls and a lookout platform. Adjacent is a children’s museum, Tramolín. 9am-6pm. Sat & Sun 10-7pm. Las Damas, 809 685-5551.

10 Hostal Nicolás de Ovando
Overlooking the Ozama River, this manor was once the home of Nicolás de Ovando, first governor of Santo Domingo. Today a luxury hotel. Las Damas, 809 685-9955.

11 Museo de las Casas Reales
Exhibits of Dominican history from 1492-1821. Originally administrative center of the West Indies, housing the Royal Court, Treasury, Governor’s Office and law courts in the 1500s. Tue-Sun 9am-5pm. Las Damas, 809 682-4202.

12 Casa de Cordón
Completed in 1504, it is the oldest stone house in the Americas. Originally owned by Francisco de Garay who arrived with Columbus. There is an impressive stone carving of the characteristic cord of the Franciscan order on its portal. Banco Popular offices are located there. Mon-Fri 9am-4pm. Isabel la Católica & Emiliano Tejera, 809 544-8915.

13 Museo Casa de Duarte
Built during the late 16th century to honor the military’s patron saint. Open only for mass: Mon-Sat 6pm-6:45pm. Sun 8am-9am, 9am-10am. Isabel la Católica, 809 682-3307.

14 Alcázar de Colón
The Columbus Palace was built (1510-1512) by Christopher Columbus’ son Diego, appointed Viceroy of the Indies to house the stately court he held with his wife María de Toledo, niece of the King of Spain. At the time, the Alcázar was the center of the Spanish court in the Americas, and the palace hosted the legendary Spanish explorers Hernán Cortés, Francisco Pizarro and Ponce de León. Today the Alcázar showcases authentic Medieval and Renaissance furniture and objects depicting domestic life of 16th century Spanish nobility in the Americas. Tues-Sat 9am-3pm. Sun 9am-4pm. Closed Mondays. Plaza de España, 809 682-4750.

15 Puerta de San Diego
Down the steps from the Alcázar de Colón are the ruins of the San Diego Gate built in Renaissance style in 1540. For a time, this was the main gate to the city.

16 Iglesia de Santa Bárbara
Built during the late 16th century to honor the military’s patron saint. Open only for mass: Mon-Sat 6pm-6:45pm. Sun 8am-9am, 9am-10am. Isabel la Católica, 809 682-3307.

17 Museo del Ron y la Caña
Rum producers have come together to tell the story of rum and sugar cane production in the...
The Sights

**Museo de Larimar**
A museum and store dedicated to Larimar, a rare pale-blue colored semi-precious stone found only in the DR. Mon-Sat 8:30am-6pm, Sun 9am-1pm. Isabel la Católica, 809 689-6605.

**Centro Cultural de las Telecomunicaciones**
The history of TV, radio and telecommunication in the Dominican Republic. State-of-the-art museum just opened in July 2011. Open Tue to Thu 9am to 5pm, Fri & Sat, 9am to 9pm, Sun 10am to 6pm. Isabel la Católica & Emiliano Tejera, 809 732-5555.

**Museo Memorial de la Resistencia Dominicana**
Opened in May 2011, it showcases the facts and consequences of the struggles of several generations of Dominican men and women, mainly during the 30-year Rafael L. Trujillo dictatorship (1930-1961). Open Tue to Sun 9:30am-6pm. Arzobispo Nouel 210 in the Colonial City, 809 563-3463

**Museo del Ambar**
Visitors can see a range of samples of amber, fossil resin, some with trapped insects, leaves and even lizards. Mon-Sat 8:30am-6pm, Sun 9am-1pm. Arzobispo Meriño & Restauración, 809 682-3309.

**Ruinas de San Francisco**
With its lovely Plateresque gate, with St. Francis’ cord carved in stone intact, this became the first monastery in the Americas when Franciscan monks arrived in 1502. The present stone structure was built from 1543-1664. Open daily 9am-5pm. Hostos between Emiliano Tejera & Emiliano Tejera, 809 732-5555.

**Hospital San Nicolás de Bari**
The ruins of the first hospital in the New World, constructed in 1503. Hostos & General Luperón.

**Calle Hostos**
Calle Hostos is famous among movie buffs for its part of the 1974 Hollywood classic “The Godfather II”. It forms the backdrop to the scene where Michael Corleone witnesses a suicide bombing in 1958 Cuba, leading him to reconsider family business there. Walk down the cobblestone streets after you visit the Ruinas de San Francisco.

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**Monumento de Fray Antón de Montesinos**
The 30-meter high statue was donated by the government of Mexico and is dedicated to the 16th century priest who preached against the atrocities being committed against the Taino Indians. His rage is depicted by the flames in his hair. Located at the westernmost entrance to the Port of Santo Domingo, where the Malecón starts.

**Puerta de la Misericordia**
Gate of Mercy. Built in 1543, and named following the 1842 earthquake when local priests set up tents to help the injured. Ramón Matías Mella fired the first shot here before proclaiming independence from Haiti on 27 February 1844. Palo Hincado & Arzobispo Portes.

**Parque Independencia**
Home to the Altar de la Patria, a marble mausoleum containing the remains of the nation’s founding fathers: Juan Pablo Duarte, Ramón Matías Mella and Francisco del Rosario Sánchez. The compass in the park’s center is Kilometer 0, from which all distances in the country are measured. The Mausoleum is open daily 7:30am-6pm. This park is popular for its outdoor arts & photography gallery.
Ciudad Colonial

Puerto del Conde. A national monument marking where the founders of the Republic proclaimed independence from Haiti in 1844.

Catedral Primada de América. The oldest cathedral in the Americas. Construction began in 1514 and was consecrated a cathedral in 1540.

Parque Colón. Located beside the Cathedral, this square is surrounded by interesting architecture. It is great for people watching.

Fray Anton de Montesinos. His statue here was erected in favor of the Tano Indians in 1511. He is regarded as the first human rights defender in the Americas.

Hospital Nicolás de Bari. The main hospital in the New World. It was constructed in 1582 by order of 322 first governor Nicolas de Ovando.

Museo del Ámbar. Visitors can see samples of amber, the semi-precious gemstone the DR is known for.

Ruinas Monasterio de San Francisco. First monastery in the Americas when Franciscan monks arrived with 322 first governor Nicolas de Ovando in 1502.

Puerta del Conde. An outdoor exhibition tells the history of the pedestrian street through its architecture.

Iglesia de las Mercedes. Constructed between 1541 and 1555, the church was dedicated to the Lady of Mercedes.

Iglesia Regina Angelorum. The church houses the remains of Padre Billini, a 17th century priest.

Parque Independencia. Home to the Altar de la Patria, it is an important venue for public art exhibitions.

Casa de Tostado. Built around 1520 for Francisco Tostado. The house is now a museum that displays Dominican wealth in the 19th century.

Casa del Cordón. Completed in 1504, this is the oldest stone house in the Americas. It was used as a prison well into the 1960s.

Iglesia de Santa Bárbara. Though the date of construction is unknown, estimates point to the late 16th century. It was rebuilt after an earthquake in 1751.

Hostal Nicolás de Ovando. Once the home of 322 first governor, it was restored into a luxury hotel.

Museo de Casas Reales. From this 16th century stone building, Spain ruled its empire in the New World.

Puerto de San Diego. Built in 1540, this was the original main gate to the city.

Iglesia de Santa Bárbara. Though dates are unknown, estimates point to the later 16th century. It was rebuilt after an earthquake in 1751.

Puerto de la Misericordia. The Gate of Mercy. Built in 1543, this was the original gate of the city's western wall.

Parque Independencia. Home to the Altar of the Father, it is an important venue for public art exhibitions.

Parque Colón. Founded in 1504, this is the oldest stone house in the Americas, originally owned by Francisco de Garay.
Beyond the Colonial City

**Palacio Nacional**
The Presidential Palace, an imposing neoclassical structure, was inaugurated by Dominican dictator Rafael Trujillo in 1947. It houses the executive and administrative offices, but not the President’s residence. Pre-booked visits required. Av. Mexico & Dr. Delgado, 809 695-8359.

**Plaza de la Cultura**

**Museo del Hombre Dominicano**
A wide collection of Taino artifacts with sections dedicated to the post-Columbus era and the country’s African heritage. Tue-Sun 10am-5pm. Closed Mondays. Av. Pedro Henríquez Ureña, 809 687-3622.

**Museo Bellapart**

**Faro a Colón**
Completed in 1992 for the 500th anniversary of the European settlement of the Americas, from a 1929 contest-winning design. The monumental mausoleum houses the remains of the famous explorer and historic exhibits donated by other nations. Tue-Sun 9am-5:30pm. Closed Mondays. Av. Mirador del Este, 809 591-1492.

**Acuario Nacional**
Visitors can walk through a large plexiglass tunnel full of sharks, stingrays and turtles. Walkable distance to Columbus Lighthouse. Tue-Sun 9:30am-5:30pm. Closed Mondays. Av. España 77, 809 766-1709.

The Sights

**Los Tres Ojos**
Although named “The Three Eyes”, this attraction boasts four clear water lagoons in limestone sinkholes. A deep staircase leads visitors to the underground caverns once used by Taino Indians in religious ceremonies. Daily 8am-5:30pm. Av. Mirador del Este, 809 472-4204.

**Mirador del Sur**
A 6-km long park popular for running, biking, rollerblading and walking in the early mornings and late afternoons.

Beauty Parlors
Beauty parlor-going is part of Dominican culture. Little girls start going from 4 years old or even earlier. The beauty parlor experience is just as much about looking good as getting a psychological uplift. It is a time women dedicate to themselves. Dominican beauty parlors keep up to date on the new hair cuts and deep conditioning treatments. Dominican stylists are known the world over for the mastery of the art of blow drying, working from root to tips and painstakingly drying hair in sections, twirling the brush at the ends to give hair body and shine.

Ola guides you!
Buy the Dominican Republic map for your mobile

www.ola.com.do
The Sights

The Botanical Gardens
Meet the flora of the island

Santo Domingo’s Jardín Botánico Nacional is the largest and most complete Botanical Garden in the Caribbean and Central America. Designed by architect Benjamin Paiewonsky in 1976 and covering an area of more than 2kms², its diverse landscape takes visitors on an extended encounter with the flora of the island.

Well preserved, it welcomes a large group of faithful joggers along its numerous trails through plains and undulating terrain.

The park attracts thousands of birds that make their homes among its greenery.

Be amazed by the variety of aquatic plants (48 large ponds), the orchid building with more than 300 species, the fern exhibit, the herbarium with its medicinal and aromatic plants (90,000 samples) and the 12,000m² arboretum with more than 1,500 native, exotic and endemic trees.

Fruits can be picked from the many trees in the fruit trees area of the park.

There is an area with all the palms on the island, with more than 30 different trees on display.

Its Japanese garden is a high point of every visit for its scenery. A Torii, or gateway to heaven, embellishes the entrance to woods of araucarias and bamboo shoots.

Beyond there is a pavilion with exotic cacti and other desert plants, and another dedicated to bromeliads. There is an area dedicated to the flowering trees and plants of the island of Hispaniola, with colors that vary depending on the time of year.

The Gardens hold annual orchid and bonsai exhibits and frequent temporary exhibitions. A train takes visitors on a 40-minute tour that can be broken up by stopping at the halfway point of the Japanese Garden and walking back. Daily 9am-5pm. Av. República de Colombia, 809 385-2611.

BIRDWATCHERS!

Riparian habitat, wooded areas, open palm savannas of the garden offer opportunities for seeing many interesting endemic and migratory birds. Birdwatchers may attempt to enter any time after about 6am with identifying binoculars in hand. The Hispantanóla Ornithological Society has a walk every first Sunday of each month at 7am, meeting at the front door. Contact jbrocco@soh.org.do or 809 753-1388

El Malecón
Avenue by the Sea

It is to Santo Domingo what the Eiffel Tower is to Paris and the Empire State Building to New Yorkers. Dominicans take it for granted; it seems it has always been there…

The 14km long Malecón was recognized by the international organizers of American Capital of Culture 2010 as one of the city’s seven material cultural treasures.

It has history. Few know that it was a visionary, José Ramón Báez López-Penha, who in 1931, less than a year after the devastation caused by Hurrican San Zenón, convinced dictator Trujillo to retake the coast by building a boulevard the length of the city’s southern side for everyone to enjoy. At the time, wealthy families had embraced seawater property for their haciendas.

Ironically, it was there that Trujillo was assassinated in 1961, it is also there that Carnaval takes place in February, Merengue Festival in July and Christmas and New Year street parties. Its Plaza Juan Baron is the newest esplanade in town.

The view of the waves breaking against the coastal waters creates a sensation of peace and tranquility that is an integral part of life for city dwellers. To “go down to the Malecón” is part of city life.

The vistas are spectacular -- from the city’s iconic skyscraper skyline, to the colonial walls and the Columbus Lighthouse.

food when the Bonarelli family’s Vesuvio Restaurant opened in the 1950s, making it the place to go for family gatherings. When tourists discovered the Vesuvio, the Bonarellis added Dominican cooking as a complement.

And even when in its early days it was all about wealthy family chalets, over the years the Malecón has given way to mixed use, with the building of hotels and luxury towers for those who want more time to contemplate the lovely vistas.

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The vistas are spectacular – from the city’s iconic skyscraper skyline, to the colonial walls and the Columbus Lighthouse.
Shopping in metropolitan Santo Domingo is as much about malls, department stores, mega stores as about market halls, marketplaces, specialist shops and Dominican design retailers.

**Best known areas**
- **Acropolis Center.** Name brands, banks & telecom, restaurants and great entertainment. **Winston Churchill**
- **Bella Vista Mall.** Sarasota **Centro Cuesta Nacional.** 27 de Febrero & Churchill
- **Blue Mall.** Gustavo Mejía Ricart **Calle El Conde**
- **Ikea.** John F. Kennedy **Jumbo stores.** Luperón
- **La Sirena.** Gustavo Mejía Ricart **Megacentro.** Santo Domingo Este
- **Novocentro.** Lope de Vega **Plaza Central.** 27 de Febrero & Churchill
- **Plaza Lama.** 27 de Febrero & Churchill **Semma.** Luperón

**Arts & Crafts in the Colonial City**
Meet the artisans at Plazoleta Fray Bartolomé de las Casas at Padre Billini corner Arzobispo Merino in the Colonial City. Open every Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 9am to 9pm.

**Gift Shops**
- **Mercado Modelo.** Mella
- Also shops at Calle El Conde, Isabel la Católica, Arzobispo Merino

**All Dominican**
- **Amber Museum.** Arzobispo Merino & Restauración. (See ad page 13)
- **Arawak Art Gallery.** Paintings and sculptures. Rafael Augusto Sánchez, Piantini
- **Fiori.** Designer leather handbags. Plaza Fernández. Winston Churchill
- **Jenny Polanco.** Designer Clothes. Casa Virginia. Roberto Pastoriza. (See ad page 7)

**Malls & Shops**
- **Brands, arts and crafts**
Faceless dolls
These ceramic dolls are famous throughout the DR and are also very delicate. Be sure to pack them tight.

Larimar
Found only in the Dominican Republic, this gemstone's sunlit blue color is a great way to remember the Caribbean.

10 to take
Ways to Remember the DR

Dominican beer
Dominicans love their beer and since you may have trouble finding some back home, it may be best to take a bottle or two for the road.

Guava Marmalade
The Bon marmalade is the perfect souvenir to take back the sweet taste of the Caribbean.

Amber
The DR is famous for its amber. This fossil resin, more transparent than its Baltic counterpart, is beautiful when set in jewelry and is an excellent keepsake.

Dominican cigars
Dominican cigars are internationally recognized for their quality.

Coffee
Dominican coffee is rich and strong. Can be bought at any supermarket.

Rum
Aged to perfection, Dominican rums are preferred locally on the rocks or as a "Cuba Libre" mixed with Pepsi or Coca Cola.

Macadamia nuts
Grown in the Dominican forest, La Loma macadamia nuts are sold at Bon Ice Cream stores nationwide, leading supermarkets, and select gift shops.

Handpainted crafts
Wooden handbags, handpainted plates and bowls are highly regarded for their mosaic patterns and lively color themes.
Chinatown

Note the traditional arch donated by the People’s Republic of China on the Av. Mexico entrance and the one donated by Taiwan on the Av. Mella exit to Santo Domingo’s Chinatown district. Its main street, Jacinto de la Concha, is lined with life-sized oriental bronze statues. Bargain prices are the draw at the neighborhood’s shops and restaurants owned by Chinese immigrants. This is the place for Dim Sum and Peking Duck. It is also the site of the annual Chinese New Year celebration in January or February.

BON

A Bon Ice Cream shop near you

Taste the Caribbean in Bon Ice Cream. Popular flavors include macadamia, rum raisin, organic chocolate, strawberry, passion fruit and coconut sherbets. A dozen fruit and cream popsicles are also available. There are more than 250+ Bon stores nationwide, including 2 stores off Calle El Conde and several on or near Winston Churchill Avenue. Bon Ice Cream is a leader in environmental programs nationwide.

Santo Domingo dining is a 516-year old melting pot of gastronomic influences from around the world. What makes Santo Domingo’s cuisine tastier is that chefs have an abundance of fresh local fruits and vegetables, fish and meats, aside from imports. Chefs cook up traditional recipes from around the world, but many give a Dominican twist to these recipes with seasonal ingredients.

Early influences date back to the original Taino pre-Columbian days, to the mark left by the Spanish conquistadors and the droves of African slaves in the 16th and 17th century. Intermarriages ensured that the varied cooking prevailed throughout the centuries.

Today, this is no different. Newcomers from the United States, the Middle East, Germany, France, Canada, Italy, Japan, China, Taiwan and Korea are leaving their mark. Add very cosmopolitan Dominicans, and new entrepreneurs that travel and bring back styles and ritzy decors to best each other. Many eateries are chic but not cheap, but because the student crowd is big in Santo Domingo, there are many that are good value, too, whilst not fancy.

Breakfast places and Sunday brunch are popular as are luncheon specials at the malls and a selection of restaurants in commercial districts. The US fast food chains are here but discover the dishes served by hardy Domini-
List of restaurants in Santo Domingo (* see Zone Map on pages 42-43)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RESTAURANT</th>
<th>ADDRESS</th>
<th>LOCATION/ZONE*</th>
<th>CUISINE</th>
<th>MEALS</th>
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<td>Atarazana</td>
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<td>Gazcue/Z2</td>
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<td>809 562-4848</td>
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Coreano Magna 12 de Junio Bella Vista/Z2 Korean PM 809 535-3355 $$$
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Mei Gui Duarte 17 Chinatown/Z3 Chinese PM 809 221-7186 $$$
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Samurai Seminario 57 Piantini/Z1 Japanese PM 809 565-1621 $$
Yokomo Rómulo Betancourt 1316 Bella Vista/Z2 Japanese PM 829 535-5999 $$
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Porter House Abraham Lincoln 518 Piantini/Z1 Meats/Grills PM 809 542-6000 $$
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El Racó Privada 548 Luperón/Z6 Seafood PM 809 534-4462 $$$
Sully Charles Summer 19 Fernández/Z1 Seafood PM 809 562-3389 $$
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Cantábrico Independencia 54 Gazcue/Z2 Spanish PM 809 687-5102 $$(*****)
Casa de las Paellas Gustavo Mejía Ricart 130 Juilerta/Z1 Spanish PM 809 686-9363 $$(*****)
Don Pepe Porfino Herrera 31 Piantini/Z1 Spanish PM 809 563-4440 $$(*****)
El Olivo Madame Cueva 19 La Esperilla/Z2 Spanish PM 809 549-3792 $$(*****)
Mesón Iberia Miguel Angel Moncós 165 Mirador Norte/Z1 Spanish PM 809 530-7200 $$(*****)
Mijas Max Henríquez Ureña 47A Piantini/Z1 Spanish PM 809 567-5040 $$(*****)
Taberna El Asturiano Olaf Palm 2 San Gerónimo/Z1 Spanish PM 809 412-8600 $$(*****)
Opus 48 Mustafá Kemal Aratuk 48 Naco/Z1 French PM 809 227-5050 $$
Chalet Suizo Malecon Km 7-1/2 Malecon/Z4 Swiss PM 809 534-0100 $$
Elysée Patisserie M. de Jesús Tomonzo 23 Piantini/Z1 Café/Bakery AM,PM PM 809 566-6600 $$

BOCA CHICA / JUAN DOLIO

Boca Marina Prolongacion Duarte 12A Boca Chica Seafood AM/PM PM 809 688-6810 $$
El Pelicano Duarte 1 Boca Chica Seafood PM 809 523-4611 $$
Neptuno’s Duarte 12 Boca Chica Seafood PM 809 688-6810 $$
El Sueño Calle Principal Juan Dolio Seafood PM 809 526-3903 $$
Mesón Español Calle Boulevard Juan Dolio Seafood PM 809 526-2666 $$
Deli Swiss Playa Guayacanes Guayacanes Seafood PM 809 526-1226 $$
Flavors not to be Missed

Sancocho de 7 Carnes
(Seven-Meat Stew)

Before starting to cook: Cut the meat into small pieces. Scrub the meat (except the pork sausage) with the lemon.

Ingredients
- 2 lbs beef with bones
- 1 lb of goat meat
- 1 lb pork sausage (longaniza)
- 1 lb pork
- 1 1/2 lb chicken
- 2 lbs of pork ribs
- 1 lb of bones from a smoked ham
- 4 lemons cut in halves
- 1 tablespoon of mashed garlic
- 4 tablespoons of oil

- 1/2 lb of cassava cut into 1-inch thick pieces
- 1/2 lb of yam cut into 1-inch thick pieces
- 2 celery stalks
- 1/2 lb of malanga cut into 1-inch thick pieces
- 1/2 lb of potatoes cut into 1-inch thick pieces
- 3 unripe plantains, 2 cut into 1-inch thick pieces
- 3 cubes of beef stock (optional)
- 2 corn cobs cut into 2-inches long pieces (optional)
- 1/2 teaspoon of powdered oregano
- 1/2 teaspoon of coriander (cilantro)
- 2 teaspoons of vinegar
- 2 teaspoons of chili pepper sauce or agrio de naranja
- 10 boiled flour rolls (bollitos de harina) (optional)
- 1/2 teaspoon of mashed garlic
- 4 tablespoons of oil

Preparation
1. Place the beef in a pan and add the celery, coriander, oregano, garlic, vinegar, and salt. Marinate for at least half an hour. In an iron pot heat the oil, add the beef and stir (be careful with hot oil splattering). Cover and simmer for 10 minutes. Add a few spoons of water if the meat sticks to the pot. Add the pork and let simmer for 15 minutes. Adjust water when necessary. Add the rest of the meat to the pot (except for the chicken) and let simmer for another 15 minutes, adding tablespoons of water as needed to prevent it from burning. Add the chicken and let simmer for another 10 minutes.
2. Add 1/4 gallon of water to the pot and bring to a boil. Add the yam, malanga and the two plantains that you had previously cut. Add the bollitos now. Let simmer for 15 minutes. Add all remaining ingredients and adjust water when necessary. Stir regularly to avoid excessive sticking. Let simmer until the last ingredients you added are tender. Grate the remaining plantain and add to the pot. Let simmer until the stew is thick.
3. Adjust salt to taste. Serve while hot with white rice and avocado slices.

The following sancocho recipe (one of the most cherished by Dominicans) is brought to you by Aunt Clara’s Dominican Cookbook, an excellent reference with 100 traditional Dominican recipes; fully illustrated with beautiful color photography. Get your copy by visiting dominicancooking.com and bring the flavor of the Dominican Republic back home to your kitchen.

Photos provided by Aunt Clara’s Dominican Cookbook
This is no ordinary Caribbean city. Forget beaches, forget quaintness. With 3 million people, Santo Domingo makes the big league of cities anywhere in the world. Stars on tour of Latin America and the Caribbean make sure that Santo Domingo is included. This makes the big shows and events THE reason to come to the city.

DR1 Calendar (dr1.com/calendar) keeps track of the sports, photography and art exhibitions, weeks of high fashion, classical and contemporary dance, musicals, comedy and drama at the small and large theaters, jazz, film festivals, electronic music DJs, national symphony orchestra season and musical tributes as they are announced.

The venues… Teatro Nacional, Palacio de Bellas Artes, Casa de Teatro, Conservatorio Nacional de Musica, Plaza de España, Centro Cultural de España, Museo de Arte Moderno, Centro Dominicano-Alemán, Teatro Guloya, Teatro Las Máscaras…

The Quisqueya Ball Park, Mobil One Racing Track, the Feria Ganadera, the Olympic Center and Parque del Este venues where the Pan American Sports Games were held in 2003. The baseball season starts mid October and ends the first week of February of the next year.

Public spaces…. Columbus Park next to the Cathedral, Plaza de España, Plaza Juan Barón and street dancing for Carnival and Christmas on the Malecon and New Year at the Avenida del Puerto.

Arts and entertainment in Santo Domingo are guaranteed.

Santo Domingo is the capital of nightlife in the Caribbean. It’s that Dominicans love to party. Nights out start with dinner, or choosing a café/bar, or just a bar for conversation over drinks. Others choose to go dancing in one of the neighborhood discos, or to dance till early morning at a city hotel disco. Revelers on a low budget may be seen hanging out at the open-air colmadones and the liquor stores where people gather to drink outside, on the street. Sunday evening through Thursday, bars and restaurants close for drinks at midnight. On Fridays, Saturdays and holidays, they stay open to 2am. For the Christmas & New Year holidays, the limits are lifted. Opening hours at city hotels are not limited.

Nightlife

Tropical Nights

Yesterday, tonight and tomorrow

Jazz at the Dominican Fiesta Hotel

Bonyé at the Ruinas de San Francisco

Bonyé at the Ruinas de San Francisco

Sunday nights with Bonyé

Each Sunday, on the steps of the San Francisco Ruins, in the Colonial City (see pages 14-15) the love of music fills the hot Santo Domingo nights with bluesy son and merengue sounds when Bonyé and talented friends take the stage. The horns blare out, the drums beat tightly. Dancing feet respond. The sounds of cold beers being opened at Don Guillermo’s store-bar create a lively chorus that complement the show on stage shortly after 6pm.

The ruins of San Francisco provide an amazing background to the show and the warmth of the locals, who at a moment’s notice become long-time friends, reflects the ongoing spirit of Santo Domingo.

Dress Code

Hints of what the doorman may be looking for to see if you fit in with the crowd mix of the place. It also is a clue as to what to expect pricewise: the dressier, the pricier. Rule of thumb in Santo Domingo: always dress up a notch.
# Nightspots around Santo Domingo (* see Zone Map on pages 42-43)

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<td>Max Henriqueen Ureña 15</td>
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Population

The country’s population is approximately 10 million. Approximately 3 million people live in the Greater Santo Domingo, where the capital, known as the National District, is located. Dominicans are a continuously changing true melting pot of races and ethnicities, as new immigrants are assimilated. The original Indian settlers were followed by the Spaniards and Africans. These were followed by waves of immigrants from the Caribbean islands, neighboring Haiti, Japan, Lebanon, and Spain that came for farming. Others were making their way to the United States and would stay, such as immigrants from China and Cuba. Thousands from France, Canada, Germany, Italy and Russia came first as tourists to now call the land their own.

Money

Dominican peso rates fluctuate daily. US$ are easiest to exchange, but most banks will also take euros. A passport is needed to cash currency. The rate is set daily by the Central Bank. See www.bancentral.gov.do

Lost or Stolen Credit Cards and Traveler’s Checks

Visa 410 581-9994
Mastercard 800 307-7309
American Express 800 327-1267

Most ATMs operate on the Cirrus Networks (Mastercard) or Plus networks (Visa).
The Basics

Government
A Representative Democracy, the Dominican government is made up of three branches: the Executive, Legislative and Judicial. The President is elected by popular vote every four years. President Leonel Fernández was elected to office through August 2012. The next presidential election is scheduled for Sunday, 20 May 2012.

Beverage limitations
Discos, restaurants and casinos inside hotels are exempt from the present liquor-vending schedule that affects establishments throughout the country. Note that many restaurants, clubs and bars must close at midnight from Sun-Thu and at 2am on Fri, Sat and holidays. Numerous establishments have been given an extension allowing them to close at 1am Sun-Thu and at 3am Fri, Sat. Bring an ID. Patrons under the age of 18 won’t be admitted.

Mail
For sending important parcels, consider using DHL, UPS or FedEx. There are local postal office stamp vending and drop off points for letters or postcards at La Sirena (Winston Churchill), Hotel El Embajador and Centro de los Héroes main post.

Communications
Bring an unlocked phone and purchase a local chip (SIM card) with a pre-paid plan that gives you a local telephone number. This can be done if your mobile uses GSM or CDMA frequencies. Orange and Claro will activate codes are 809, 829 and 849.

Electrical current in the Dominican Republic is 110 volts AC, 60 Hz. US-style two-pin plugs are standard, so European visitors should bring suitable adaptors.

Government Offices

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>TELEPHONE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Presidency of the Republic</td>
<td>809 695-8000</td>
<td>presidencia.gob.do</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dominican Republic Export &amp; Planning Center</td>
<td>809 530-5505</td>
<td>cee-id.gob.do</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ministry of Foreign Relations</td>
<td>809 535-6280</td>
<td>mirex.gov.do</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ministry of Economy &amp; Planning</td>
<td>809 695-8588</td>
<td>economia.gob.do</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ministry of Hacienda</td>
<td>809 687-5131</td>
<td>hacienda.gob.do</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ministry of Tourism godominicanrepublic.com</td>
<td>809 221-4660</td>
<td>sector.gob.do</td>
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<td>Ministry of Industry &amp; Commerce</td>
<td>809 685-5171</td>
<td>seic.gov.do</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ministry of Agriculture</td>
<td>809 547-3888</td>
<td>agricultura.gob.do</td>
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<td>Ministry of Culture</td>
<td>809 221-4141</td>
<td>cultura.gob.do</td>
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<td>Ministry of Environment</td>
<td>809 567-4300</td>
<td>ambiente.gob.do</td>
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<td>Ministry of Education</td>
<td>809 688-9700</td>
<td>see.gob.do</td>
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<td>Ministry of Higher Education</td>
<td>809 533-3381</td>
<td>seescyt.gov.do</td>
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<td>Ministry of Public Health</td>
<td>809 541-3121</td>
<td>salud.gob.do</td>
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<td>Ministry of Labor</td>
<td>809 535-4404</td>
<td>set.gob.do</td>
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<td>Ministry of Public Works</td>
<td>809 565-2811</td>
<td>seopc.gov.do</td>
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<td>Ministry of Sports</td>
<td>809 565-3225</td>
<td>sedef.gob.do</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ministry of Interior &amp; Police</td>
<td>809 686-6251</td>
<td>seei.gov.do</td>
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</table>

Holidays
Consider visiting Santo Domingo during the holidays, when capital city dwellers flee for the summer vacation sites, giving all a respite from chaotic traffic. Take note that for the Easter long weekend (from Thu to Sun) even major stores and restaurants may be closed. For a list of holidays and the long weekends they create, see http://www.dr1.com/travel/prepare/holidays.shtml

Taxes and Tipping
The sales tax is 16% (ITBIS). Restaurants will levy a 10% service tax. An additional 10% tip is expected.

Measurements
Both the metric and the English measurement system are used. Most stores will be able to assist you in either of these, and may sell produce in both. Road distances and land measurements are measured exclusively in kilometers.

Climate & Weather
Temperatures average 71-85F (22-30C) for most of the year. Being in the tropics also means that 80% of the time the sun is shining. When traveling to the interior, prepare for weather extremes of 95F+ (35C+) in desert areas in the southwest and temperatures that in some mountainous areas can dip below the freezing mark in the winter months. Santo Domingo is built on a low-lying coastal plain. With few exceptions, when it rains the city comes back out after a short time. Take note drainage is deficient in the city. Allow much more time to get to places, avoid tunnels and flooded sections in heavy rains.

Check out the Weather & Beyond Forum in dr1.com/forums for daily updates, especially during Hurricane Season that runs from June to November.

Safety
Be alert to your surroundings and take the same precautions recommended for traveling in any major foreign city, using the hotel safe and keeping money and valuables out of sight. Do not leave luggage or packages in sight in a vehicle.

Electricity

Water
Drink bottled or treated water. Locals do not drink the tap water so you will be served bottled water at restaurants.

Hospitals
Hospiten Santo Domingo. Alma Mater & Bolivar. 809 541-3000
Cedimat. Ortega y Gasset 10, 809 565-9989
Centro Abel Gonzalez. Abraham Lincoln 953, 809 227-2235

Transportation
A variety of transportation options exist for getting around Santo Domingo and nearby beaches. Public transportation includes carros públicos, buses and motorcycle taxis. Also, the 9 mile-long (14.5 kms) Santo Domingo Metro line provides transport from Villa Mella in the north of Santo Domingo to south-central Centro de los Héroes.
The Basics

Private taxis
Private taxis are available 24 hours a day and can be contracted by telephone. Ask the phone operator for the rate to your destination, the taxi number and color. Dominican taxis do not use fare meters. Instead there are flat rates for each destination.

Intercity Buses
Metro (Tel 809 566-7126) and Caribe Tours (Tel 809 221-4422) provide coach transportation service between Santo Domingo and major cities. Expreso Bávaro (Tel 809 682-9670) travels to the East Coast destinations. Bus lines to other cities can also be boarded at the Enriquillo Park near Duarte Avenue or those headed north at Kilómetro Nueve (on Duarte Highway).

Car Rentals
Major car rental companies have branches at airports, hotels and city locations. Do not cut corners when choosing your rental car service. Also take out the extra insurance plan that is available. If you suffer an accident that dents your car, for instance, the insurance will prevent delays or hassles. You must be at least 21 years, others require drivers to be 25 years old.

Las Americas International Flights

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<td>Fort de France,</td>
<td>809 549-6404</td>
<td>aircaribes.com</td>
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<tr>
<td>Air Europa</td>
<td>Madrid</td>
<td>809 683-8020</td>
<td>aireuropa.com</td>
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<td>Air France</td>
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<td>809 686-8432</td>
<td>airfrance.com</td>
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<td>American</td>
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<td>809 542-5151</td>
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<td>American</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aserca Airlines</td>
<td>Caracas</td>
<td>809 563-5300</td>
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<td>Avianca</td>
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<td>809 563-2209</td>
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<td>Condor</td>
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<td>Continental</td>
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<td>809 262-1060</td>
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<td>Copa</td>
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<td>809 472-2672</td>
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<td>Cubana de</td>
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<td>809 621-7777</td>
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<td>Liat</td>
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<td>809 549-2036</td>
<td>liatairline.com</td>
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<td>Pawa</td>
<td>San Juan, Aguadilla</td>
<td>809 227-8331</td>
<td>pawa dominicana.com</td>
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<td>Spirit Airlines</td>
<td>Fort Lauderdale, New York, San Juan</td>
<td>809 549-2046</td>
<td>spiritair.com</td>
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<td>Taca</td>
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<td>809 200-8662</td>
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<td>US Airways</td>
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Las Americas arrivals and departures information: Tel 809 947-2297

Santo Domingo’s Beaches
Boca Chica, Guayacanes, Juan Dolio

Boca Chica Beach
20 miles (30 kms) east of Santo Domingo and 2 miles (a bit over 3kms) east of Las Americas International Airport, Boca Chica is the city beach. Expect large crowds on weekends and vendors selling everything from massages to seafood to necklaces. On weekdays the beach is quiet, especially late in the afternoon. Boca Chica is famous for its powdery white sand and the calmest waters thanks to a coral reef that protects from big breakers and creates a great lagoon. It is home to the Santo Domingo Yacht Club, for boating and sailing pursuits. City residents join tourists at the outdoor restaurants that serve seafood with a touch of sea salt spray and views that make for excellent photo souvenirs.

Guayacanes Beach
About 8 miles (13 kms) east of Boca Chica is the small town of Guayacanes. The town’s beach can also get pretty crowded on weekends with a mix mainly of locals and some tourists, but its calm inviting waters and the absence of large resorts only adds to its small village appeal. Like Boca Chica, it is usually not crowded on weekdays. A smattering of good restaurants is also a big draw, bringing in capital city dwellers for a day outing.

Juan Dolio Beach
About 2 miles (3 kms) east of Guayacanes, Juan Dolio Beach is much more laid back than Boca Chica. High-rise beachfront residences cater to affluent city dwellers who make the commute to enjoy the sea views and food at the very good restaurants. The large expanse of shoreline allows for a relaxing day at the beach. At the three beaches, small hotels and all-inclusive resorts cater to tourists. The resorts even sell one-day passes with all-included minus the room.

Beaches & Golf

Boca Chica, Guayacanes, Juan Dolio

Juan Dolio Beach

Club Náutico Santo Domingo

Beach resort

Juan Dolio Beach

Beach resort
**Transport to the Beach**

**Santo Domingo to the beach**
Hotel taxis or radio-taxi company units will take you there and wait, for a negotiated price. For a cheap ride, check out Parque Enriquillo, the main bus hub for guaguas (buses) going to Boca Chica, Guayacanes and Juan Dolio. Public buses will make stops along the way; just let the driver know.

**From the beach to Santo Domingo**
Buses traveling back to the capital can be boarded along the Autovía del Este in Juan Dolio and Guayacanes and along Duarte Avenue in Boca Chica.
Note: Express buses cost a bit more, are air-conditioned and go directly to their destination. They let people off along the way but do not take on new passengers. Local buses are not air-conditioned and make frequent stops to let people on and off.

**Fried Fish, Boca Chica Style**
Boca Chica is famous for its fried fish. Fish vendor Rosanna Bautista says it’s the love they add to the recipe that sets fried fish in Boca Chica apart from the seafood served anywhere else on the island.

Just as in all the fish vending-stalls, Bautista has her fish on display and ready to go, seasoned with a mix of salt, garlic and oregano. Once a client asks for a specific fish, she coats it with flour and fries the fish twice so it “takes up a good flavor,” as she explains.

Most of the fish sold in Boca Chica is either Loro (Parrot Fish), Mero (Grouper) or Chillo (Red Snapper).

Fried fish comes as a “servicio” or combo and is accompanied by tostones (fried plantains) and aguacate (avocado). Patrons can also add batata frita (fried sweet potato), bolillos de yuca (cheese-filled cassava), longaniza (pork sausage) or yaniqueques (Johnny Cakes).

**Tee off**
Combine beach with golf. Great golf is not far from Santo Domingo. Juan Dolio features two challenging 18 hole par 72 courses at Metro Country Club’s Los Marlins Golf Course and at the Guavaberry Golf & Country Club’s Gary Player-designed course. Reservations are required for weekend play.

**Los Marlins Golf Course**
- **Location**: Juan Dolio
- **Holes**: 18
- **Yardage**: 6,396, Par 72
- **Designer**: Charles F. Ankrom
- **Contact**: metrocountry.com
  809 526-1200

Located in Juan Dolio, approximately 30 minutes east of Santo Domingo’s airport, Los Marlins Golf Course is located at the Metro Country Club. Numerous artistic bunkers, lakes and mounds complement the surrounding beauty of the Caribbean.

**Guavaberry Golf & Country Club**
- **Location**: Juan Dolio
- **Holes**: 18
- **Yardage**: 7,156 Par 72
- **Designer**: Gary Player
- **Contact**: guavaberrygolf.com.do
  809 333-4653

Guavaberry Golf & Country Club is a golf residential community located 30 minutes east of Santo Domingo’s airport near the resort town of Juan Dolio. The course design includes a 15-foot waterfall cascading into a quarry pond and challenging plays around indigenous coral rock formations.
The Dominican Republic is a country of wonders. If you have a few days, rent a car, mark a few points on your map and enjoy the best the DR has to offer. The following are some of the best sights and attractions outside of Santo Domingo.

**SOUTH & SOUTH-EAST**

Among the South's best attractions are the Lago Enriquillo, Bahía de las Águilas, Cabo Rojo and the Polo Mágico. Must sees also include the Hoyo de Pelempito (Park), Salt Mines and the Llinarre Mines.

**EAST & SOUTH-EAST**

Enjoy the wonders of the eastern and southeastern part of the DR by visiting Isla Saona, Isla Catalina or the Cuevas of las Maravillas. Take in the sights of Altos de Chavón, the waters of Playa Macao or golf at one of 15 courses.

**CENTRAL**

The central part of the DR has its wonders, including the mountain towns of Constanza and Jarabacoa (access to the highest peak), and the artistic and cultural centers at Bonao with its Centro Bido and Santiago with its Centro Leon.

**NORTH & NORTH-EAST**

Samaná is an escape of natural beauty. Los Haitises, Playa Rincón or the Salto del Limón should be on the list. Cayo Levantado is worth a trip and whale-watching is for those visiting mid-January to end of March.

**NORTH & NORTH-WEST**

The northern part of the DR has the country's best wind and water sports. Enjoy the Punta Rucia sand bar, take up rounds of golf at Playa Dorada or Playa Grande. Mt Isabela de Torres's botanical garden are a great adventure, Damajagua falls or ocean world's day and evening shows.
DR1 Directories

HOTELS • MAPS • PHOTOS • REVIEWS

When you search online, you’ll soon notice it’s difficult or impossible to find or contact many of the small and unique hotels dotted around the Dominican Republic.

DR1.com solved the problem with the new DR1 Hotel Directory.

Independent travel now is easy. Check out the largest collection of hotels and resorts in Santo Domingo and the rest of the Dominican Republic. All-inclusives and lodging only hotels featured.

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Discover the historic City of Firsts. The oldest city in the New World will make its indelible mark upon your heart and you will discover that one visit will never be enough!

GoDominicanRepublic.com