

Destination Guide

Dominican Republic



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Dominican Republic ... At a glance



Airports

Santo Domingo (SDQ)
Puerto Plata (POP)
Punta Cana (PUJ)
La Romana (LRM), Puerto Plata (PUJ) or
Santo Domingo (SDQ)



Landmarks, Attractions and Points of Interest

Santo Domingo

Puerto Plata

La Romana

Punta Cana



Your Orbitz University Destination Guide

As a travel professional your customers count on you to be knowledgeable about the destinations you sell.

This guide is designed to provide you with a background on **Dominican Republic**.

A Travel Pro Knows - Overview... will provide you with basic information about **Dominican Republic** such as time zone, electricity, health, safety and currency issues etc..


Successful Sales Conversion Questions which will help guide you through the qualification/probing process.

Other sections included in the destination guide are:

Getting To provides basic information about how travelers usually arrive at the destination

Getting Around provides basic information about how travelers get around the destination.

Points of Interest Map provides basic information about the region including what's nearby in terms of lodging, and attractions.

To get more information on the region click on the interactive star symbol 

Landmarks section provides basic information about some of the key landmarks and attractions. This is not meant to be an all-encompassing list.

Area specific sections provide more detailed information about each geographic area of the destination including some key hotels, museums, theatres, etc.

Attractions & Services offered on the Orbitz and Cheap Tickets sites provides basic information about some of the attractions and services that are offered on www.orbitz.com and www.cheaptickets.com.

References Guide acknowledges materials used in the creation of the destination guide and provides links to further in-depth information.



A Travel Pro Knows - Overview

Destination Overview

The Dominican Republic blends Spanish, French, Haitian, and African influences with a rich and storied history. Christopher Columbus described this lush land as "a beautiful island paradise with high forested mountains and large river valleys".

As true today as it was in 1492, the Dominican Republic combines the comforts of sun, sea, and sand, and offers an exciting and unique cultural experience that will captivate your customers' senses.

Like no other destination, the Dominican Republic is a sensual feast of stunning landscapes, exotic dining, and a remarkable variety of arts and entertainment options.

The pulse-pounding thrill of the merengue, intriguing artifacts from centuries past, premium cigars, and even world-class baseball await your guests. The Dominican Republic is a surprising place that will delight even the most experienced traveler.



A Travel Pro Knows - Overview



Climate

Dominican Republic has year-round temperatures averaging around 25°C (77° F), making any time of year a good time to visit. Due to the warm and sunny conditions experienced almost everywhere in the country, some call the climate 'the endless summer'.

The cool season runs from November through April when lower humidity prevails, and the evenings are much cooler than in the summer months.

The more mountainous interior is considerably cooler, and temperatures have been known to drop below freezing, with frost visible on the mountain tops.

The Dominican Republic is susceptible to hurricanes during the summer months (June – October). Historically, the Dominican Republic's peak hurricane activity has been in August and September.



Currency

The currency is the Dominican Republic Peso (DOP). You can change currency upon arrival at the airport, but may not be able to change back upon departure. Major credit cards and travelers checks are accepted at most major tourist areas in the country. ATMs may be found in cities and most resorts; they aren't as readily accessible as in the US. Avoid carrying large amounts of cash (use the in-room safes or safety deposit boxes provided by most resorts).



Electricity

Electricity is 110 volts AC, as it is in the continental United States and Canada.



Health

Malaria can be an issue around rainforests if travelers don't take protective measures such as repellents against mosquito bites. Many of the local foods are safe to eat including the meats, fruits, and vegetables. Visitors, however, should not drink any of the local water and should stay with bottled water or other beverages. Sunburn and sun poisoning are a great risk. Use at least SPF30 sunblock.



Language

The official language of the Dominican Republic is Spanish. You will find some Spanish-English bilingual locals especially in Santo Domingo and tourist areas.



Time zone

Dominican Republic is 4 hours behind of GMT



A Travel Pro Knows - Overview

What to Pack

What to bring when traveling to Dominican Republic depends on when you are going.

- Bathing suit – for the pool or the beach
- Camera – to capture those memories
- Golf clubs – if you plan to play on one of the numerous golf courses in the area
- Mosquito repellent – if you plan to go to jungle or rainforest locales
- Passport
- Power Converters/Adapters – if your customers are visiting from outside North America, they may need power converters. For customers from the US, Canada or Mexico, no power converters are needed.
- Sunglasses – all year
- Sunscreen – all year
- Lots of money – all year





The following are some questions that you can use to help make recommendations on the Dominican Republic.

- Is this your first trip to Dominican Republic?
- If this is not, find out which areas of the country they've visited before.
- What is your budget for your hotel stay?
- Are you looking for an 'all inclusive' resort?
- What amenities would you like?
- What activities are you interested in?
- The activities can help you determine the best area of the country to recommend.
- Is this for a special occasion like a honeymoon or anniversary?
- If yes, find out if they are interested in an 'adults only' property?
- Are there any children traveling with you?
- Dominican Republic is a very family-friendly destination.



Geography

The Dominican Republic is situated on the eastern part of the second-largest island in the Greater Antilles, Hispaniola. It shares the island roughly at a 2:1 ratio with Haiti. The country's area is reported variously as 48,442 km² (by the embassy in the United States) and 48,730 km² (by the U.S. CIA), making it the second largest country in the Antilles, after Cuba. The country's capital and greatest metropolitan area, Santo Domingo, is located on the southern coast.



Culture & Social Conventions

Dominicans are kind and peaceful people. Attempts at speaking Spanish are a good sign of respect for the local people. Be polite, show respect, and do your best to speak the language, and you will be treated with kindness.

Avoid talking about Haiti. Although relations have improved, many Dominicans, particularly of the older generations, harbor resentment towards Haitians.

Greetings

Man greeting Man - Men shake hands when greeting one another and maintain direct eye contact. At a first meeting a warm handshake will suffice and is sometimes combined with slight touches on the arms and/or elbows. Handshakes may linger a bit. Good friends and family will engage in a firm hug which may be combined with a few slaps on the back.

Woman greeting Woman - At a first meeting, women generally shake hands. Friends and close acquaintances kiss each other once on the cheek.

Man greeting Woman - At a first meeting a regular handshake will do. Friends, family and close acquaintances usually share a light kiss on the cheek.

Gift Giving - Gifts are not usually brought to a first meeting. If invited to a Dominican's house, it is appropriate to bring flowers (avoid black and purple as they are funeral colors), wine, spirits, or chocolates. Make sure that gifts are nicely wrapped and they are usually to be opened right away.

Communications Style

Dominicans tend to be quite open and direct in conversations. Asking personal questions during a first meeting, like how many children you have, how old you are, etc., is quite common.

Until you get to know someone better, it is best to avoid talking about politics, religion, and relations with Haiti.

Humor and laughter play a big role in communicating. Dominicans tend to be quite happy people.



Food & Drink

Tipping:

Restaurants will add 10% gratuity to the bill, it is customary to give a bit more – up to an additional 10%. Tips should be given to taxi drivers, hotel maids (even at all inclusive resorts), and bell men.

A trip to Dominican Republic is not complete without experiencing some of the unique cuisine.

Here are a few items to try:

Dominicans enjoy an array of foods as colorful as the landscape, but simple in taste. Dominican cuisine stems from native Antillean and hearty Creole recipes and is prepared similar to the dishes of Central and South America with rice, fish and other seafoods, meats or vegetables. Light spices or coconut add depth and warm the soul.

Traditional Fare: Breakfast typically calls for a serving of "Mangu," a mix of plantains, cheese and bacon, which can be found at most hotel and resort restaurants, a must-try for all visitors.

"La Bandera Dominicana," or the Dominican flag meal, is eaten by nearly everyone at lunch time.

The most important meal of the day, La Bandera consists of rice, beans, meat, vegetables and fried plantains to ensure energy throughout the afternoon and evening.

"Sancocho," a Spanish-style stew usually served with rice, whose ingredients include various roots, green plantains, avocado and typically chicken or beef, although it sometimes includes a combination of seven meats (Sancocho prieto). Goat meat, a staple in many Dominican homes, may also be used in this recipe.

Other favorite Dominican dishes include:

- "chicharrones de pollo" (diced chunks of deep fried chicken)
- "monfogo" (plantain based dish)
- "ropo vieja" (seasoned and fried shredded beef served with rice and a side salad)
- "pastelitos" (meat-or -cheese filled pastry turnovers).

Desserts : A proper Dominican meal is not complete without dessert. In a land abundant with sugar cane, most desserts are exceptionally sweet. Cakes, puddings, caramel-dipped fruits and creams are common.



Economy & Industry - Overview

The Dominican Republic has long been viewed primarily as an exporter of sugar, coffee, and tobacco, but in recent years the service sector has overtaken agriculture as the economy's largest employer, due to growth in telecommunications, tourism, and free trade zones.

The economy is highly dependent upon the US, the destination for nearly 60% of exports. Remittances from the US amount to about a 10th of GDP, equivalent to almost half of exports and three-quarters of tourism receipts. The country suffers from marked income inequality; the poorest half of the population receives less than one-fifth of GDP, while the richest 10% enjoys nearly 40% of GDP.

High unemployment and underemployment remains an important long-term challenge. The Central America-Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR) came into force in March 2007, boosting investment and exports and reducing losses to the Asian garment industry.

The growth of the Dominican Republic's economy rebounded in 2010-11 from the global recession, and remains one of the fastest growing in the region.

Industries:

tourism, sugar processing, ferronickel and gold mining, textiles, cement, tobacco



Getting There and Around

Getting There by Air

The airport your customer flies into depends on where in the Dominican Republic they are staying

Staying in	Fly into
Santo Domingo	Santo Domingo (SDQ)
Puerto Plata	Puerto Plata (POP)
Punta Cana	Punta Cana (PUJ)
La Romana	La Romana (LRM), Puerto Plata (PUJ) or Santo Domingo (SDQ)

The Dominican Republic is a popular destination for people living on the East Coast of the US because there are a lot of non-stop flights from locations like:

Atlanta; Charlotte; Cincinnati; Manchester NH; Miami; JF Kennedy (NYC); Newark; Orlando; Philadelphia; St. Louis

Getting To and From the Airport

Rental Cars - Most customers will probably not rent a car while in Dominican Republic. If they decide to rent a car, there are several car rental companies to choose from.

Orbitz & CheapTickets offers the following:

Santo Domingo – Europcar, Alamo, National, Hertz, Budget, Payless, Avis

Puerto Plata – U-Save, Europcar, Alamo, National, Hertz, Budget, Avis

Punta Cana – EuropCar, Alamo, National, Budget, Avis

Taxi

Taxi service is available the airports.

Customers should check at the airport for details and rates.

Rates generally depend on the distance you are travelling rather than metered service such as found in the US.

Always ask how much it will cost before and the currency (US dollars, Euros, or Dominican Pesos).

Shuttle Service offered by OWW

Orbitz.com and CheapTickets.com offer airport shuttle service as an activity that can be purchased standalone or added to an existing reservation.



Getting There and Around

The best way to get around Dominican Republic is by car. Orbitz & CheapTickets, as previously mentioned, offers a variety of car vendors available at the airports in Dominican Republic.

My Search

ORBITZ CARS

- ✓ Widest selection
- ✓ Short booking path
- ✓ Taxes & fees included
- ✓ Discounts

[Learn More](#)

Find cars by:

	Alamo	Budget	National	Hertz	AVIS
Company	Alamo	Budget	National	Hertz	Avis
Type	Off terminal	In terminal	In terminal	In terminal	In terminal
Price					
Economy	\$286/wk total \$323	\$286/wk total \$365	\$306/wk total \$387	\$316/wk total \$399	\$316/wk total \$400
Compact	\$296/wk total \$333	\$296/wk total \$377	\$316/wk total \$398	\$326/wk total \$411	\$326/wk total \$412
Midsize	\$310/wk total \$348	\$310/wk total \$393	\$330/wk total \$415	\$340/wk total \$427	\$340/wk total \$428
Standard	\$316/wk total \$354	\$316/wk total \$400	\$336/wk total \$422	\$346/wk total \$434	\$346/wk total \$435
Full Size	\$316/wk total \$354	\$316/wk total \$400	\$336/wk total \$422	\$346/wk total \$434	\$346/wk total \$435
Premium	\$510/wk total \$557		\$510/wk total \$624	\$510/wk total \$625	
Luxury	\$537/wk total \$586	\$465/wk total \$573	\$537/wk total \$656	\$537/wk total \$656	\$537/wk total \$657

Car + Hotel deals for Honolulu



Points of Interest Map

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC



Santo Domingo

Puerto Plata

La Romana

Punta Cana



Santo Domingo



Santo Domingo is one of the Caribbean's most vibrant cities. Founded by Bartholomeo Columbus, brother of Christopher, in 1496. It's the oldest city in the New World and the capital of the Dominican Republic.

The city today still reflects its long history - French, Haitian, and especially Spanish.

Don't miss:

The 12-block Colonial Zone where Cortés, Ponce de León, and, of course, Columbus himself walked.

Allow at least a day to capture some of the highlights of the old city such as its Alcazar and its Catedral Santa Maria la Menor.

Shopping bazaars with such "hot" items as hand-wrapped cigars, local handicrafts, jewelry made of larimar or amber,

La Romana



La Romana has become one of the most popular tourist destinations in the country because of the beautiful beaches and the tourism infrastructure that has been put in place.

Altos De Chavón River View: it is a replica of a 17th century Mediterranean village located just minutes from La Romana. Here you'll find artists' studios, craft-shops, galleries, restaurants and bars to satisfy all types of visitors. Take in a show at their 5000 seat amphitheater that still attracts big name artists.

Altos de Chavón is one of those must-visit locations on a trip to La Romana All Inclusive Resorts.



Puerto Plata



Puerto Plata appeals to a mass-market crowd that prefers less-expensive all-inclusives. More accommodations of this kind continue to pop up on this coast, and yet many are still booked solid almost year-round. An unfortunate byproduct of the all-inclusive trend is that several excellent restaurants have been forced to close; in fact, the most popular dining choice along the coast now is Pizza Hut.

Most of the hotels are not actually in Puerto Plata itself but in a tourist zone called Playa Dorada, which consists of major hotels, a scattering of secluded condominiums and villas, a Robert Trent Jones, Jr.-designed golf course, and a riding stable.

Although this was the first custom-built tourist haven in the Dominican Republic, the beaches are not the greatest. They're relatively narrow, and subject to hurricane erosion. The beach is shared with the residents of at least nine hotels, all jostling for position. However, if they enjoy beige sand that's rarely too hot to walk on, and a never-ending array of watersports kiosks, chaise lounges, and loudspeakers projecting merengue music, they'll be happy here. One important note: It rains a lot in Puerto Plata during the winter. If your customers want guaranteed sun, go to Punta Cana or the beaches on the southern coast.



Sales Tips: Although most tourists to Puerto Plata are quite content to stay firmly put at their beachside all-inclusive resort, if they do want to explore other beaches check out Cabarete, about 19 miles east of Puerto Plata. It's famous for having nearly two miles of sand and is a world-renowned windsurfing capital.

Although swimsuits and shorts are fine for the beach areas, casual slacks and sundresses are more culturally appropriate in the city.

The fair-skinned or sun-adverse will enjoy Guarapitao Beach, just to the west of Puerto Plata, with its plentiful shade.



Punta Cana



Image: Dreams Resort Punta Cana

Punta Cana is the name of a region in the easternmost tip of the Dominican Republic. Covering approximately 1,100 acres, the region is home to a coastline of sandy white beaches and to a "town" of the same name.

Located in the province of La Altagracia and population estimated at 100,000, the region borders the Atlantic Ocean to the east. To the north, it borders Bávaro and El Cortecito beaches.

Despite the area being fairly deserted, the proximity of Punta Cana to other major resort areas such as Bávaro and Uvero Alto make the town one of the top Caribbean destinations.

Peak Season: Peak season in Punta Cana tends to run from December to April. Prices in both airfare and hotel increase dramatically during these times, while dropping in the summer and early fall months.

The resorts are low-rise and beautiful. The grounds are lush and tropical with foliage, lagoons and palm trees along with peacocks, ducks, parrots and other wildlife that stroll the resorts' grounds. The majority of the resorts are very large and spread out – like small cities. This means lots of walking.

Some resorts have golf carts and trams to accommodate guests' needs. Punta Cana has so many great resorts that will meet every expectation: golf, scuba, fishing, windsailing, yachting, fine dining, relaxation, spas, children's programs and more.



Landmarks and Attractions

Playa del Macao



The gorgeous Dominican Republic beaches at Playa del Macao are perfectly suited for catching some rays or for enjoying some of the area's best surfing.

With nice strings of waves routinely rolling to shore, the chances of landing a killer tube are very good.

There is even a shipwreck nearby where scuba diving classes are regularly held. For an enchanting time, visit the small fishing village of El Macao for a taste of the Dominican Republic's past.

Lago Enriquillo



Lago Enriquillo is a huge salt-water lake that is also home to one of the area's largest wild reserves and bird sanctuaries.

A natural beauty of unspoiled splendor, visitors will be able to see colorful flamingos, lazy iguanas, captivating crocodiles and many other fascinating creatures in their own habitat.



Landmarks and Attractions

Eastern National Park



Eastern National Park, also known as Parque Nacional del Este, is one of the largest marine parks in the Caribbean and home to 112 different bird species.

It's also a prime ecosystem for hundreds of other creatures. There are many local caves where visitors can take in early cave drawings and the offshore coral reef system offers a gorgeous place to dive.

The park is also home to a few very remote beaches for the perfect romantic getaway.

Basilica de Nuestra Senora



One of the finest displays of modern Christian architecture, the Basilica de Nuestra Senora is a beloved church and an impressive sight.

Every year on January 21, a pilgrimage across the country makes its way to attend Mass here.



Landmarks and Attractions

Museum of the Royal Houses



This epic museum in Santa Domingo was at one time the colonial administrative center for all of the Spanish West Indies. Today, it exists as a museum dedicated to preserving many of the artifacts and items from that time in history

First Cathedral of America



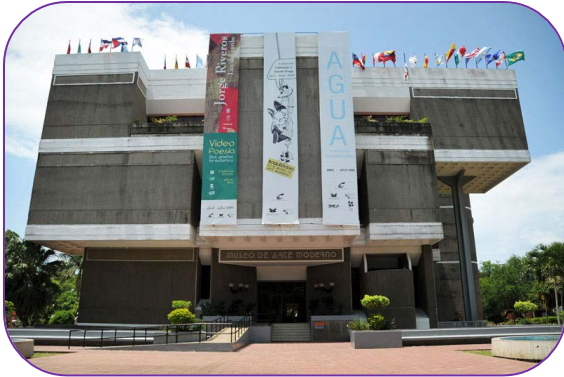
Located in Santa Domingo, the Catedral Primada de America is the oldest cathedral in the Americas. Built between 1514 and 1544, the cathedral radiates gothic ambiance throughout its Renaissance-styled decor.

The church is also known as the Cathedral of Santa Maria and it was once the resting place of Christopher Columbus.



Landmarks and Attractions

Plaza De la Cultura



The Plaza De la Cultura is a park in Santa Domingo that is filled with various museums and art galleries. For a cultural slice of the Dominican Republic, this is the place to go. Many of the local heritage houses have been renovated and now serve as delightful restaurants.

Amber Museum



Amber is the designated gem of the Dominican Republic and the Amber Museum, located in Puerto Plata, is the best place to see some truly magnificent specimens. Set in an old Victorian-style house, the museum also has a gift shop where you can pick up a necklace or other pieces of fine jewelry crafted from true, golden Amber.



Landmarks and Attractions

Mount Isabel de Torres



Located in Puerto Plata, a visit to Mount Isabel de Torres provides some spectacular sights. Have your camera ready as your trip begins with a cable car ride to the top.

Once at the top, you can expect an incredible view of the Dominican Republic geography, stand in the shadow of the huge statue of Christ and enjoy a heavenly botanical garden full of blooming flowers. There's even a restaurant should hunger strike.

Altos de Chavon



Altos de Chavon is a replica of a 16th century Spanish village. Scenically located atop the cliffs overlooking the Chavon River, the village is home to numerous art galleries, shops and an archeological museum.



Hotels – Puerto Plata

Riu Bachata All Inclusive****

Riu Bachata is a modern resort with a friendly, relaxed atmosphere. This luxury resort is located on the shores of beautiful Maimon Bay in a quiet location, surrounded by stunning mountainside scenery just outside of Puerto Plata - right on the beach.

An all-inclusive resort, featuring in-room liquor dispensers for your convenience, at no extra charge.

The 610 bungalow-style guestrooms are surrounded by 12 acres of tropical gardens. Enjoy two swimming pools (including a children's pool, Jacuzzi, or stretch out on the beach in a relaxing sun lounge).

There are many activities, such as beach volleyball, tennis, windsurfing, sailing, kayaking, snorkeling, and more.

There is also a nearby spa, casino gaming, and shopping on the resort's 'Caribbean Street.'

Rates from \$112



Sales Tips: This all-inclusive resort includes all meals, drinks, and most activities, and has something to offer every vacationer. Guests may also make use of the exchange program with Riu Merengue and Riu Mambo sister properties. Family-friendly.



Hotels – Puerto Plata

VH - Gran Ventana Beach Resort - All Inclusive ****

Accented with rich colors and an exquisite mix of Victorian and Caribbean architecture, the Gran Ventana Beach Resort offers a savvy all-inclusive choice in Puerto Plata. With premier service, location and value, singles, couples, families and groups will delight in all this beach resort has to offer.

The Gran Ventana graces the golden sands and aquamarine shores of Playa Dorada, offering picturesque views of the Caribbean Sea directly from the lobby. Consisting of 506 spacious guest rooms and suites, this first-class resort sets the tone for any occasion offering a wealth of onsite amenities and activities.

Following amenities are included in the rates: all meals, snacks and beverages including beer, wine and cocktails, weekly manager's cocktail party, one children's pool, one adult pool with a swim-up bar and an additional pool and bar located in resort's "quiet" wing, nightly live music and entertainment, beach access, chaise lounges and towels for pool and beach use, tennis court, fully-equipped fitness center and sauna, kid's club, and much more



Rates from \$111



Selling Point: Free honeymoon package available for all newlyweds with valid wedding certificate upon arrival, valid only within three months of date of issuance.

Selling Point: Family-friendly.



Hotels – Puerto Plata

BlueBay Villas Doradas - Only Adults All Inclusive****

This exclusive, 24 hour all inclusive resort was completely refurbished in 2007, providing facilities and rooms of the highest quality. The hotel, which is only for adults over 18 years old, is an ideal place for couples to relax or enjoy their honeymoon or wedding. Its location- literally on the beach next to the 18-hole Playa Dorada golf course- makes it a favorite among golfers & sun-lovers alike.

Rooms and suites are equipped to the highest standard, in keeping with the quality of the resort and its recent refurbishment. On-site facilities include 3 pools, 3 tennis courts, a volleyball court, a gym, a spa with Jacuzzi, sauna and beauty treatment and Wi-Fi Internet access. The hotel's restaurants are renowned for the quality of their international cuisine, which-among others-include specialist seafood and Oriental dishes.

Rates from \$137



Selling Point: *especially popular for couples either getting married, recently married or just looking for an excuse to chill out and relax -maybe one spouse enjoys the golf course while the other relaxes in the hotel spa*

Selling Point: *Golfers are also regular visitors enjoying the 18-hole Playa Dorada course adjacent to the hotel. The course was recently ranked 53rd amongst the top 100 golf courses in the world.*



Hotels – Puerto Plata

Lifestyle Tropical Beach Resort & Spa - All Inclusive****

Stretching along 1.5 miles of golden sands at Cofresi Beach, the jewel of the Amber Coast, lays the Lifestyle Tropical, the essence of a true tropical beachfront resort experience. The buildings are low rise Mediterranean style, amid Caribbean style thatched roofs and cobblestone walkways, comfortably blending with the surrounding mountain ranges and the sparkling silvery hues of the ocean.

This resort is all you want in a vacation, from sunning and snorkeling, to tennis or jogging. Fantastic food, unlimited drinks, an exciting disco and bars, and best of all, the friendliest service in the world. All meals, drinks, and non-motorized watersports included.

Note: FAMILY SUPERIOR GARDENVIEW CATEGORY - Maximum of 2 adults and 2 kids from 0-12 years old or 2 adults and 1 kid in this room category. In case of a 3rd adult arriving at the property, client must pay the hotel rate upon arrival; and will be subject to book an extra room. Hotel will request age verification for children.

Rates from \$113



Selling Point: Family-friendly.



Hotels – Puerto Plata

The Bungalows - All Inclusive*****

Discover the luxurious experience of The Bungalows. Step into an unforgettable, All Inclusive, vacation in paradise. Relax in Caribbean bliss, sip cocktails by the sea, and enjoy 24-hour private concierge services.

The Bungalows is a surreal, 5-star, all-inclusive resort. Our Elite spa, and specialty cuisine deliver above and beyond your wildest dreams. Come escape with us, don't worry... the real world will still be waiting when you return.

The Spa, is a state-of-the-art, 17,000 square-foot spa and fitness center that offers a menu of exclusive spa treatments and luxury Kerstin Florian products for your mind, body and soul.

NOTE: Rate includes the following:
Accommodations as selected, 24-hour Room service, Superior Liquors and Signature Drinks, 24-hour Personal Concierge Service, iHome Audio System, Full in-room Mini Bar Service, Flat screen TV, Custom Pillow Top Mattresses, Daily and Nightly Live Performances, Private Pool by The Bungalows, The Bungalows beach, Non-Motorized water sports, Introductory Scuba lessons, Three tennis courts, Open air jacuzzi and Superior Personal Care Products.



Rates from \$303



Hotels – Santo Domingo

BQ Santo Domingo Hotel ***

Conveniently located in the heart of Santo Domingo, capital city of Dominican Republic. Walking distance to main business areas, shopping malls, hospitals, restaurants and night life in the surrounding. 30 Minutes away from Las Americas International Airport (SDQ).

An 8 story building with 137 spacious guest rooms, including 22 suites and 4 penthouse, kitchenette, Jacuzzi and complimentary internet access are available. Oasis lounge located at the 8th floor with the best view in Santo Domingo along with a variety of drinks and music. Relax in the refreshing outdoor pool located at same floor; enjoy a book or a beautiful sunny day.

Rates from \$60



Selling Point: Enjoy convenient, quick access to the Bella Vista Shopping mall with all kind of services such as: Movies, food courts, supermarket, pharmacies, beauty salon and much more.



Hotels – Santo Domingo

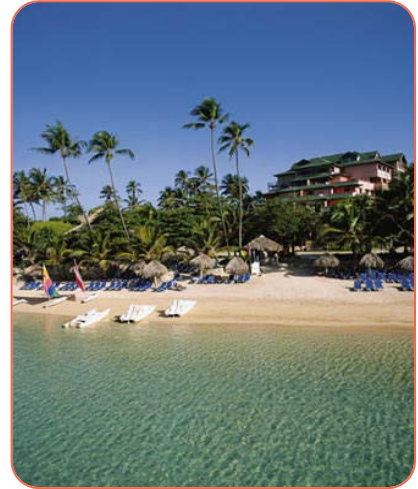
Coral Costa Caribe - All Inclusive***

Located in Juan Dolio, on the Caribbean coast and an easy 20 minute drive from Las Americas International Airport, this 400 room resort is defined by its exuberant vegetation and design which allows various graceful buildings to dot a landscape of tropical flowers and trees, all bordering a palm-laced beach.

The beach and pool/decks provide shaded areas for those who are sun shy, as well as plenty of sun swept shore. The Costa Caribe has a beautiful free flow fresh water pool for the family to enjoy; we also have a pool especially for the kids. At the Costa Caribe Coral, in addition to a full program of non-motorized water sports, there are a host of land activities including mini golf, tennis, badminton, basketball, beach volleyball, billiards and table games, treasure hunts, and manager's cocktail party. Spanish lessons are also offered.

NOTE: Family guest room note maximum of 2 adults and 2 kids from 0-12 years old or 2 adults and 1 kid in this room category. In case of a 3rd adult arriving at the property, client must pay the hotel rate upon arrival; and will be subject to book an extra room. Hotel will request age verification for children.

Rates from \$92



Selling Point: Family-friendly.



Hotels – Santo Domingo

InterContinental V Centenario Santo Domingo ****

Overlooking the Caribbean Sea, V Centenario Inter-Continental Santo Domingo is a favorite for tourists. It is also within easy reach of the commercial and financial center of the city making it also ideally placed for the business traveler.

The interesting architecture and cool, comfortable interior emphasize calm and relaxation. Subtle colors, undemanding, elegant design and intelligent lighting create the epitome of understated luxury.

New restaurant openings with fusion style cuisines, Mediterranean, Spanish, South American, Japanese and other international flavors. Great variety of bars and clubs all around the Colonial Zone and the Commercial District. Dancing out traditional 'Merengue', taking in some of our gorgeous sun, swimming in the Caribbean Sea, drinking one of the popular local drinks and enjoy all that the greatest place on earth has to offer.

TIPS: Always bring sun protection, light clothing, carry your sneakers. Although the city is very secure for visits we recommend always taking the Hotel's taxis. Be advised to always be prepared for the 10% tip that is paid in all restaurants and shops.



Rates from \$125



Selling Point: Close to the Colonial Zone and Commercial district.



Hotels – Santo Domingo

Oasis Hamaca - All Inclusive****

Enjoy the beach next to the city at this All Inclusive Resort. The Oasis Hamaca features 617 spectacular rooms, is located just 10 minutes from Las Americas International Airport and 30 minutes from Santo Domingo, the Dominican Republic's cosmopolitan capital city. Relax and enjoy white sands and warm azure waters.

The Oasis Hamaca is adorned with five free-flowing pools, three for the adults and two specially designed for the children, and a large Jacuzzi. The adult pools come complete with swim-up bars and lots of lounge chairs to soak in the sun.

The resort features 4 restaurants and 7 bars, serving 24 hours unlimited domestic and selected international cocktails and beverages.

The full activities program includes aerobics, badminton, basketball, beach soccer, beach volleyball, mini-golf, tennis courts, games room, treasure hunt, manager's cocktail party, table games, pools, dance classes and aerobics. Spanish lessons are offered, as well.



Rates from \$142

Selling Point: Guests can pamper themselves at the Kin Ha Spa offering a great variety of services, ranging from aromatherapy, facials, body treatments, wraps and massages to a complete beauty parlor selection, such as waxing, nails, manicure and pedicure.



Selling Point: Supervised activities program for children in Kids Club. Includes games, crafts, cultural and recreational activities. Open from 09:30 a.m. to Noon and from 2:30 till 5:00 PM.



Hotels – Punta Cana

Caleton Club & Villas*****

Caleton Club & Villas a Luxury Retreat at Cap Cana promises to be the perfect paradise to spend unforgettable vacations, combining its excellent location, facilities and service; created with the objective of combining the marvelous beaches of the Dominican Republic with the most prestigious service that has ever been offered as ultimate service, where its guests will receive personalized first class attention, premium food and beverages.

In addition to sun, beach and total relaxation, this Boutique hotel offers the opportunity to enjoy a great variety of activities during the day as well as night. It is aimed for the most discriminating guest whether it's families, singles, couples, friends or groups.

Just 10 minutes away of Punta Cana's International Airport, 1 and a half hours from the La Romana International Airport and 3 and a half hours from the Las Americas International Airport in Santo Domingo, Punta Cana is a destination accessible to travelers from around the world.

Rates from \$480



Selling Points: Great for luxury travelers and golfers (surrounded by the Jack Nicklaus designed Punta Espada Golf Course).



Hotels – Punta Cana

Paradisus Palma Real Resort - All Inclusive*****

Enter the world of Paradisus Palma Real Resort and enjoy the first fascinating sight to our magnificent Plaza Colonial and its sparkling fountains in front of the breathtaking Caribbean ocean. A glorious view you never forget.

Feel home in our oversized suites equipped with Jacuzzi for romantic moments with your partner, entertain yourself with your favorite movie or music taking pleasure from our minibar and 24 hours room service. For dining, guests may take a culinary tour through ten remarkable dining experiences and enjoy international drinks in eleven bars

Note: Family category note maximum of 2 adults and 2 kids from 0-12 years old or 2 adults and 1 kid in this room category. In case of a 3rd adult arriving at the property, client must pay the hotel rate upon arrival; and will be subject to book an extra room. Hotel will request age verification for children.

Rates from \$293



Selling Points: Member of 'Leading Hotels of the World'

Selling Points: The Reserve is a new boutique resort within a resort, designed for those whose stay in a luxury suite is as important as sun, sea and sand. The Reserve includes three pools and a la carte restaurants, YHI Spa and health club, spectacular Swim up Suites with direct access to the pool and Family Concierge Suites. The Family Concierge service will fulfill all your families' needs from little gifts like Kids beach kit, all day assistance from a Concierge, walkie talkie for all day communication and many more exclusive Family concierge services



Hotels – Punta Cana

Melia Caribe Tropical All Inclusive****


The All Inclusive Resort Melia Caribe Tropical sets the standard for family oriented, golf lovers, and couples that want to relax and enjoy all about the spectacular Punta Cana. The hotel offers 1,044 rooms all, surrounded by palm trees and lush vegetation. The surroundings have exuberant gardens and lakes. Located on Bavaro Beach, with white sand and one of the most beautiful beaches in the world, only 20 minutes from the airport.

Melia Caribe Tropical presents an unbeatable gastronomic offer: 9 a la Carte restaurants and 4 buffets, 9 bars, Baby and Kids Club, teenagers and adults daily activities programs, preference Tee Times in the Cocotal Golf Course, 2 Spa, 7 pools, 2 live shows every night, Casino, business centre, convention rooms, and more.

Note: Family category note maximum of 2 adults and 2 kids from 0-12 years old or 2 adults and 1 kid in this room category. In case of a 3rd adult arriving at the property, client must pay the hotel rate upon arrival; and will be subject to book an extra room. Hotel will request age verification for children

Rates from \$158



 **Selling Point:** Select the "Royal Service" room type for five-star pampering service which includes private check-in/out, room services (limited), a pillow menu for perfect sleep, a private Royal Service lounge offering complementary Internet access, coffee, beverages, and hors d'oeuvres thought the day. In addition, the Royal Club suites give you access to the 'Gabi Club', presenting a private pool, restaurant, and private beach area (transfer provided).



Hotels – Punta Cana

Excellence Punta Cana Luxury Adults Only - All Inclusive***

Excellence Punta Cana surrounds guests with luxury. Guests will be secluded among palms on a perfect white sand beach. Here, everything is taken care of and nothing is left out. So guests are free to create those moments they dream of... and memories they'll have forever. The all-adult, all suite world is situated on a beautiful beach in a palm grove on the east coast of the Dominican Republic, convenient to both Punta Cana International Airport and La Romana International Airport.

At Excellence Punta Cana, dining is truly international, with a total of eight irresistible restaurant options: Italian, French, Mediterranean, Asian/Japanese, Mexican, plus restaurants for steak, lobster, and a pizzeria. Ten different bars complete the experience.

Available activities include: scuba diving and deep-sea fishing, a friendly game of bocce, water polo, beach football, squash, tennis, archery or billiards, horseback rides along the beach (extra fees may apply for some listed activities).



Rates from \$173



Selling Point: Perfect for a romantic vacation or honeymoon.



Hotels – La Romana

Oasis Canoa - All Inclusive***

The Oasis Canoa is an "all inclusive" resort, features 532 spectacular rooms partially modified in 2008. Located in Bayahibe, set on a palm-fringed, white sand beach with calm turquoise waters, just 20 minutes from La Romana International Airport and 10 minutes from the famous artists village, in Altos de Chavon.

The resort features 5 restaurants and 4 bars, serving 24 hours unlimited domestic and selected international cocktails and beverages. With the top dive sites nearby and at a short boat ride from Saona Island and located within walking distance from the Eastern National Park, home of the biggest archaeological site from the islands first inhabitants, the Taino Indians.

The Oasis Canoa has a spectacular big pool with a swim-up pool bar and warm Jacuzzi; also for the littlest one, a wonderful children pool and a Kids Club. The Complex, also offers archery, mini golf, tennis courts, badminton, basketball, beach volleyball, soccer, manager's cocktail parties, pool and beach parties, Latin and Merengue dance classes, and Spanish lessons. The Kin Ha Spa is our in-house resort-concept Spa, oriented towards the needs and wishes of our guests, offering a great variety of services, ranging from aromatherapy, facials, body treatments, wraps and massages to a complete beauty parlor selection, such as waxing, nails, manicure and pedicure.



Rates from \$133



Selling Points: Great location for divers, and nature enthusiasts.

Selling Points: Family friendly



Hotels – La Romana

Dreams La Romana Resort & Spa - All Inclusive ****

Dreams Resorts & Spas offer couples, friends and families endless vacation fun in opulent surroundings. Relax in sumptuous suites with spectacular views. Delight in our world-class spas while your youngsters stay enthralled at the supervised Explorer's Club. Dine in our many international gourmet restaurants. Enjoy fun activities and invigorating nightly entertainment.

This opulent resort features a health club, gourmet a la carte restaurants, swimming pool including a children's pool and Jacuzzi, 24-hour unlimited luxury, room service, concierge services, tennis court, state-of-the-art fitness center, full-service spa, sauna, Internet service, disco, weekly beach dinner and party, big screen movies on the beach, water sports center.

Note: Family garden view category note maximum of 2 adults and 2 kids from 0-12 years old or 2 adults and 1 kid in this room category. In case of a 3rd adult arriving at the property, client must pay the hotel rate upon arrival; and will be subject to book an extra room. Hotel will request age verification for children.

Rates from \$177



Selling Points: An Explorer's Club for kids and Core Zone for teenagers 13-17 years old, and international evening shows.



Hotels – La Romana

Casa de Campo*****

Casa de Campo is a lush Caribbean retreat where action, relaxation and pampering service combine for an exceptional leisure experience. Located on the southeastern coast of the Dominican Republic, the resort offers fabulous international dining and an unbelievable variety of recreational activities and sports unmatched in the Caribbean. The perfect choice for family vacations, romantic holidays and golf outings. Tennis courts, golf courses, fitness center, spa, shops and a bank in the main complex. Complimentary activities include bingo and merengue lessons by the pool. For-fee activities include moonlight riverboat cruises on the Chavon River, sunset catamaran cruises from the marina, cooking and arts classes, and a archeological lecture/tour of caves containing indigenous people's artifacts.

Note: Family rooms note maximum of 2 adults and 2 kids from 0-12 years old or 2 adults and 1 kid in this room category. In case of a 3rd adult arriving at the property, client must pay the hotel rate upon arrival; and will be subject to book an extra room. Hotel will request age verification for children.

Rates from \$177



Selling Point: *Optional inclusive plan featuring full American breakfast, lunch and dinner daily and unlimited drinks (excluding bottled drinks & mini-bar) is also available.*

Selling Point: *Children's camp for 12 years and under (fee applies). Also a complimentary children's/teens center offers computer games, Internet-connected computers, a large-screen television, pool tables, board games, CDs, karaoke, and outdoor volleyball.*



Traveler Types

Dominican Republic attracts a variety of people. The following categories will help you identify your customer with a type of traveler and, therefore, make better recommendations for places to stay and things to do.

[Families](#)

[Weddings & Honeymooners](#)

[Couples/Romance](#)

[Outdoor](#)

[Golfers](#)

[Art, Baseball and Culture](#)

[Spa](#)

[Singles / Nightlife](#)

[Beach Lovers](#)



Traveler Types - Families

Dominican Republic is a top, year-round family destination. Families are drawn to Dominican Republic for many reasons including the warm weather, the history of the Island, and calm blue water lapping against wide-open sand beaches.

Families traveling to Dominican Republic:

- Often look for accommodations that offer suites or adjoining rooms to accommodate the entire family
- Value resorts that offer on-site activities catering to children and adults. Resorts that offer special clubs and activities specifically designed for kids are often a good selling point.
- Want to stay in a region that has many family-friendly activities close by.

Families today can mean many things: a single mother with her children, grandparents with their children and grandchildren, even family reunions. It is important to qualify the customer to determine each customer's unique family type by asking:

How many people are traveling?

Are you traveling for a special occasion?

Are any of the kids over 18?

Are there specific activities you and your family enjoy? Say snorkeling or nature walks?

Family Vacation Ideas

Although the Dominican Republic boasts an assortment of spectacular beaches, the island is much more than white sand, turquoise water and tropical weather. While the mountain paths and rapid waves of the northern coast allow for a more adventurous experience, the relatively secluded areas of the south make for a low-key retreat.

Children of all ages will be entertained by the many activities the island has to offer. From nature excursions and water sports to horseback riding and mountain biking, the diversity of the land and overall affordability makes the country a fantastic destination for a family getaway.

[Animal Parks & Aquariums](#)

[Tours](#)

[Horseback Riding](#)

[Mountain Biking](#)

[Whale Watching](#)

[Whitewater Rafting & Kayaking](#)



Families – Animal Parks & Aquarium



Acuario Nacional, Santo Domingo

The National Aquarium offers visitors a glimpse of the Caribbean's diverse, colorful sea life. The aquarium's Plexiglas tunnel surrounds spectators with water, sharks, rays and conger eels. A variety of colorful fish swim throughout the tunnel, while exhibits explain different types of marine environments.

Ocean World, Puerto Plata

Website: www.oceanworld.net

This large marine theme park offers interactive experiences:

- swimming with bottlenose dolphins
- feeding stingrays
- exploring an artificial reef
- the world's first shark interaction pool
- swimming just inches from tigers (safely separated by glass)
- rainforest complete with waterfalls



Manati Park, Bavaro, Punta Cana

Website: www.manatipark.com

Manati Theme Park focuses on nature, animals and the history of the Dominican Republic. This park is a huge hit with kids.



Families – Tours



Islabon Jungle River Tour (Near Puerto Plato)

Located about three miles east of Cabarete, the Islabon Jungle River Tour allows kids to explore the Islabon river area by boat and walk through jungle trails to a mini zoo that includes iguanas, snakes, turtles, ravens and North American crocodiles

Fun-Fun Cave

Website: www.cuevafunfun.net

Guests start the tour by riding horseback through Los Haitises National Park. At the banks of Fun Fun Cave, participants descend on a rope with a free fall of more than 60 feet into the cave. In the cave, people can explore colorful tunnels, gigantic corridors and mystical underground rivers.

Note: This tour requires a pickup and travel approximately 2.5 hours from most resort areas.



Monster Truck Safari

(Near both Puerto Plata and Punta Cana) This full-day adventure tour allows participants to experience the diversity and beauty of the Dominican countryside in a fun, comfortable and safe environment. Available online on Orbitz & CheapTickets.

Insider's Tip: Many tourists enjoy bringing small gifts with them on the Monster Truck Safari for distribution to Dominican children in remote villages. These gifts may include pens, crayons, clothing and small toys.



Families – Horseback Riding & Mountain Biking

Horseback Riding

One of the most popular vacation excursions for families in the Dominican Republic is horseback riding.

- Tamed Creole horses for slow rides, suited for children
- Variety of rides including along the beach, on flat field areas, or in the more mountainous terrain
 - Iguana Mama - www.iguanamama.com
 - Rancho Baiguate - www.ranchobaiguate.com

Mountain Biking

Mountain biking can be done all over the island, with most in the northern mountain range (Cordillera Septentrional) and the central mountain range (Cordillera Central).

- Trails vary from beginner to challenging
- Unpaved roads and mule trails provide excellent setting for mountain biking.
 - Iguana Mama - www.iguanamama.com
 - Rancho Baiguate - www.ranchobaiguate.com



Families – Whale Watching and Whitewater Rafting & Kayaking

Whale Watching

When: Between January 15th and March 25th

Where: Samana Bay region, located on the east coast

What: Thousands of humpback whales.

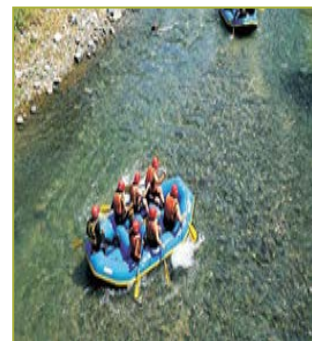
- Whale Samana (809-538-2494), www.whalesamana.com
- Iguana Mama (809-571-0908), www.iguanamama.com



Whitewater Rafting and Kayaking

With the Caribbean's highest mountains & longest rivers, the DR is a great place for whitewater rafting & kayaking. Rafting is best in the fall and winter, just after the rainy season.

- Rancho Baiguete (809-574-4940), www.ranchobaiguete.com
- Colonial Tour Rafting (809-688-5285), rafting, waterfall
- Iguana Mama (809-571-0908), www.iguanamama.com
- Rancho Jarabacoa (809-222-3202), rafting or kayaking



Romantic Getaways

The Dominican Republic is gaining popularity as a romantic destination. We love it for the beaches (the southeast coast has some of the nicest in the Caribbean), new all-inclusive resorts, and safe vacations full of sun, warmth and good value for your budget.

Romance travelers are often looking for a memorable, even a once in a lifetime, experience. Since the Romance Traveler will always have an attachment to that special destination, you want to be sure you help match the vacation package to the customer's desired experience.

Couples looking to plan a romantic getaway in a Dominican Republic all-inclusive resort will probably want to consider La Romana, Punta Cana, or Puerto Plata.

Identifying Customer

A customer interested in a romantic package will often use certain keywords, which will help you identify their travel motivation.

You may hear romance travelers use phrases such as:

- Wife/husband/ boyfriend/girlfriend/significant other
- Special occasion
- Honeymoon
- Wedding
- Anniversary
- Couples
- Pampering



Romantic Getaways – Weddings & Honeymoons

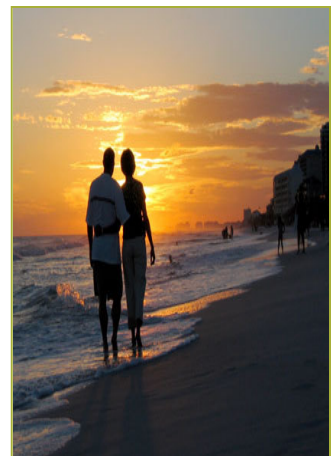
Tropical weather, warm people and affordable luxuries make the Dominican Republic the perfect setting for a romantic vacation destination.

The beautiful palm-lined beaches, dramatic mountains and landscapes are ideal for weddings and honeymoons alike. Extravagant or intimate, exciting or relaxed, the country offers an immense variety of accommodations and options to satisfy every style and budget.

For those planning to get married or honeymoon in the Dominican Republic, there are an array of fantastic locations from which to choose.

- Playa Dorada, on the country's North Coast near Puerto Plata, is the site of many resorts which offer beautiful settings for wedding ceremonies and impressive ballrooms for receptions.
- The quiet beaches of Bayahibe and La Romana on the Southeast Coast allow for a very private, romantic ceremony.
- On the easternmost tip of the country lies the tropical paradise of Punta Cana, a perfect wedding spot for the nature enthusiast.

Accommodations range from extravagant resorts to quiet inns.



Outdoor Recreationalists - Nature Enthusiasts - Adventure Seekers

The Dominican Republic is one of the few countries in the Caribbean with nine ecological zones. This diversity plays a major role in making eco and adventure tourism in the country so remarkable and exciting.

The Dominican Republic has the highest and lowest sea level points in the Caribbean with Pico Duarte at 10,128 feet above and Lake Enriquillo at 144 feet below. In between these elevations is a playground of environments from tropical rainforest to arid desert. These areas are matched with adventures and activities designed to get adrenaline rushing, hearts racing and senses bursting.

Outdoor Recreation - Indicators

A customer who is interested in encountering nature on vacation may give you certain clues about the experience he or she desires, such as:

- We want to go for a hike.
- We like to go whitewater rafting or kayaking.
- Are there any good places to go horseback riding?
- My children want to go surfing?
- I understand the Dominican Republic has a lot of interesting terrain. Are there any helicopter tours that allow us to see it all?

There are several professional tour companies that offer a variety of activities in the Dominican Republic. Some of these companies offer competitive tours, depending on the location, while others specialize in a particular area, such as rock climbing.

- [Bird-watching](#)
- [Camping](#)
- [Canyoning and Cascading](#)
- [Caving](#)
- [Four-Wheeling](#)
- [Glass-Bottom Boats](#)
- [Helicopter Tours](#)
- [Hiking](#)
- [Horseback Riding](#)
- [Island Exploring](#)
- [Jeep Safaris and Expeditions](#)
- [Kayaking](#)
- [Kiteboarding](#)
- [Monster Trucks and Off-Road Runners](#)
- [Mountain Biking](#)
- [Mountain Climbing on Pico Duarte](#)
- [Rock Climbing](#)
- [Scuba Diving](#)
- [Snorkeling](#)
- [Snuba Diving](#)
- [Sport Fishing](#)
- [Surfing](#)
- [Waterfalls](#)
- [Whale Watching](#)
- [White-Water Rafting](#)
- [Windsurfing](#)



Outdoor Recreation - Bird-watching

The Dominican Republic is a haven for birdwatchers:

- Over 300 species of brightly colored birds that call the island home either permanently or as a migration layover.
- 27 species are only found on the island of Hispaniola.
- Another 15 species are either endangered or threatened -- including the bay-breasted cuckoo, LaSelle thrush and Hispaniolan crossbill.

The Southwestern Region is very popular with birders because it combines a semi-desert zone with coast, lagoons, islands, lakes and cliffs, providing a diverse habitat for a large variety of birds. More than 130 species are located in the Jaragua National Park alone.



Outdoor Recreation - Camping

There are no official campgrounds in the Dominican Republic. However, for those looking for a more rugged camping adventure, the country presents some unique opportunities for camping in its national parks and on a few uninhabited islands. The following are three of the most popular areas for a more primal experience:

Pico Duarte in the central mountains

Tent camping is allowed just about anywhere in Armando Bermudez National Park. It is here that visitors can find Pico Duarte. The Dominican Republic asks that campers try to use pre-existing sites. Rustic cabins are available in the Valley de Tetero and along its main trail. A park permit, which costs approximately \$5, and a local guide are required by the national parks office. Both are available at the Armando Bermudez National Park entrance.

Cayo Levantado on the Samana Peninsula

Camping is allowed on the remote side of the island, which is accessible by a \$40 roundtrip ferry ride from the main port of Samana. Permission to camp is required from authorities located at the port. A permit fee of \$5 will be charged. Victoria Marina can also provide permits and transportation to the island.

Isla Catalina near La Romana

This small island off the coast of La Romana has just a couple of pavilions and a restaurant, giving visitors the feeling of being on a near-deserted island. Far from the main dock is an area of virgin beach where camping is allowed. A permit must be obtained from the national parks office in Bayahibe, where shuttle boats to the island can also be hired.



Outdoor Recreation – Canyoning/ Cascading & Rock Climbing

Canyoning is a blend of hiking, swimming, rock climbing, jumping and repelling and usually ends with a dip in a cool mountain pool. On the North coast, tours or guides operate out of Cabarete.

A highlight for canyoners is the Jimenoa River area of the central region. Starting at the headwaters of the river, participants descend through canyons and end at Jimenoa falls. The riverbed winds down along the virgin woods that blanket this colossal mountain range.

Cascading is a variant that uses little equipment and requires the partaker to "cascade" by making multiple jumps with at least one through a waterfall and into the pool at its bottom. The Salto de Jimenoa waterfall is a recommended spot but the pinnacle cascading course is Damajagua, near Puerto Plata. This series of falls has 28 water jumps if the entire journey is completed.



Rock Climbing

The Dominican Republic is considered to be one of the world's best rock climbing destinations among those who know the rope. With four mountain ranges, the country provides a great landscape for adrenaline.

One of the best spots is Playa El Fronton, which is easily accessible by boat from Las Galeras. Climbers hire a boat for around \$30 that will take them to a drop-off point and wait until their return. Other popular areas for rock climbing are Parque Mirador del Este near Santo Domingo and Barahona in the southwest region.



Outdoor Recreation - Caving

There are hundreds of caves spread throughout the Dominican Republic, the majority of which are located in the country's numerous national parks.

Many tour companies offer caving excursions. Tours out of Punta Cana ride horseback through Los Haitises National Park to the mouth of [Fun Fun Cave](#). Participants start the tour by descending on a rope with a free fall of more than 60 feet into the cave. Once in the dwelling, people can explore colorful tunnels and mystical underground rivers.



Nature Enthusiasts – Four-wheeling/ATVs & Monster Truck/Off-Road Runner Tours

Four-wheeling/ATVs

Cruising on the rough roads of the Dominican countryside, the ATVs set course through tropical woods and rushing rivers. Riders are sure to get wet if not from the river, then by a visit to Baiguata and Jimenoa waterfalls on the Jarabacoa tour.

For those heading out of Punta Cana, the half-day adventure begins in Macao village and continues along the beach of the same name. Riders may want to jump in the ocean to cool down or lounge on the seven miles of unspoiled beach. The Puerto Plata tour explores the slopes of Isabel de Torres mountain with a stop at a river for swimming. Several areas are visited including sugar cane plantations and a semi-desert beach called "Bergantín" for a second chance to swim.



Monster Truck Safari

(Near both Puerto Plata and Punta Cana) This full-day adventure tour allows participants to experience the diversity and beauty of the Dominican countryside in a fun, comfortable and safe environment. Available online on Orbitz & CheapTickets.

Insider's Tip: Many tourists enjoy bringing small gifts with them on the Monster Truck Safari for distribution to Dominican children in remote villages. These gifts may include pens, crayons, clothing and small toys.



Outdoor Recreation – Mountain Biking & Mountain Climbing

Mountain Biking

Mountain biking is one of the quietest and most exhilarating ways to see the DR. The bikes allow tourists to reach places not accessible to most visitors. Several tour companies, such as Iguana Mama, offer one-day to multi-day tours out of Cabarete.

Mountain Climbing on Pico Duarte

Climbing Pico Duarte is not for the weak. With a peak reaching 10,128 feet above sea level, the mountain is the highest in the Caribbean. As part of the "Dominican Alps," the climb is strenuous but achievable, especially with the assistance of a guide and a mule to carry packs up the mountain. While the guide is required, the mule is optional though highly recommended. Both can be arranged at the village of La Cienaga just outside the Armando Bermudez National Park. The walk to the top of the mountain and back usually takes three days from the village.



Outdoor Recreation – Glass-bottom Boats & Whale Watching

Glass-bottom Boats

Available by an official tour operator, this is the fastest way to reach the reefs for snorkeling. It's also a great way to see the reefs if tourists prefer to stay dry. Visitors can expect to pay approximately \$15 per person. Glass bottom boats can also be arranged in Punta Cana through the hotels.

Whale watching

From January through March, Samana Bay is nearly taken over by humpback whales. For centuries, thousands of these humungous mammals make an annual trip to spend winter in the warm waters of the Dominican Republic. Tours from Samana Bay are available during this time and most offer a 99 percent sighting rate.



Outdoor Recreation – Helicopter Tours

The Dominican Republic's coastlines are some of the most beautiful in the Caribbean thanks to an expansive coral system, unending beaches and lush jungle forests. And there's no better way to see it than by air. Helicopter tours from 10, 20 and 30 minutes are available throughout the country and some operators will create a personalized experience.



Outdoor Recreation – Hiking & Horseback Riding

Hiking

Abundant trails line the countryside of the Dominican Republic with the most famous leading to Pico Duarte. Most paths are located within the national parks system and require permits from the government in order to be explored. Some trails also request that a certifiable guide accompany hikers. Guides can often be secured near the entrances of the national parks. The most popular trails can be found at Jarabacoa, Constanza, Parque Nacional Monte Cristi, Pico Isabel del Torres, Punta Bonita, Parque Nacional del Este, San Rafael and Parque Nacional Bahoruco.

Horseback Riding

Many tours include horseback riding as a part of the transportation to reach points of interest. But for equestrians seeking a longer, more concentrated time with a horse, the northern mountain range of the Dominican Republic can provide an ideal arena. Several companies have one-day tours using the strong Creole mountain breed of horse that will take riders over the mountains, through rivers and dense jungles and will stop along the way for waterfall and cave exploration.



Outdoor Recreation – Island Exploring

Isla Saona

The most popular section of Parque Nacional del Este, Isla Saona has been described as a "Robinson Crusoe" fantasy come true. Several tour operators have trips out of Punta Cana, Santo Domingo, La Romana and Bayahibe. Full-day tours to the island are available out of Puerto Plata and include a 40-minute flight to La Romana with a stop at the Mediterranean-styled village of Altos de Chavon.

Isla Catalina

Tours to Isla Catalina, a six-square mile island found in the Parque Nacional del Este, leave the port of La Romana by speed boat. Many of the tours also visit Altos de Chavon at Casa de Campo and Isla Saona. Tours to the area from Punta Cana travel via boat along the coastline.

Cayo Leventado

The six-square mile raised coral key is known as "Bacardi Island" having served as the backdrop for the company's advertising campaign in the 1970s. Located in the Bay of Samana, the island features rich vegetation, fishing and snorkeling. Tours can be arranged out of Samana and Puerto Plata.

Cayo Arena

Also known as Cayo Paraiso, it's one of the driest zones of the DR. Tours travel to the small fishing village of Punta Rusia and from there a boat is taken to the island. Colorful mangroves greet visitors as they disembark from the launch. This is a prime area for a chance to see a manatee - a mammal that inhabits the island. Other activities include sun worshipping on the sand and snorkeling or scuba diving among the network of 250 coral reefs. Tours are available out of Puerto Plata.



Outdoor Recreation – Jeep Safaris

Jeep Safaris and Expeditions place visitors behind the wheel of their own four-by-four Jeep or "fun truck" on the rustic roads of the DR. This is the best way to find secluded beaches and learn about local customs while being surrounded by lush vegetation. Tours are out of Samana, Punta Cana and Puerto Plata and often include horseback riding as an option.



Outdoor Recreation – Kayaking & Whitewater Rafting

Whitewater Rafting

White water flows from the mountains through canyons and jungle and out to sea. The hottest white water rafting location is on the Yaque del Norte in the central mountain area. This is the largest river in the DR and has exhilarating class III to V rapids (using the universal scale of I to VI) including a 12-foot drop named "Mike Tyson." Most tours will only allow adults and children over 12 years of age who are in good health.

Kayaking

Like whitewater rafting, kayaking is most popular in the central region along the Yaque del Norte and Jimenoa rivers near Jarabacoa. Both waterways provide a mix of white water with sharp turns and precipitous drops. Intermediate kayakers will enjoy the challenge of class III and IV rapids, while those with more experience can tackle the advanced sections of class V rapids.



Outdoor Recreation – Kiteboarding – Sandboarding - Surfing - Windsurfing

The Dominican Republic is known as the kiteboarding capital of the world among those who travel the water sports circuit. In fact, the Kiteboarding World Cup has been held in the Dominican Republic town of Cabarete the past four years.

In this area on the North Coast, the perfect blend of wind, water and waves create incomparable kiteboarding and windsurfing conditions. Windsurfers also flock to the wind and make an annual pilgrimage to Cabarete for the annual World Cup Windsurfing Competition held every June.

Hotels that cater to kiteboarders and windsurfers are dotted along the golden beaches of Cabarete's &Kite Beach. The opportunity to mingle with some the world's greatest athletes and hear tales of catching the perfect wind are around every corner.

The southern coastal waters just west of Santo Domingo are also speckled with the bright colored sails of windsurf boards. But, these are not the only boards to be found in the Dominican Republic. Surf boards also hit the waves in search of the perfect point break and ride on the barrels.



Outdoor Recreation – Kiteboarding, Sandboarding, Surfing & Windsurfing

Kiteboarding

One of the fastest growing water sports, this surfing-like activity uses a huge kite to capture the wind as participants balance on a board. Kiteboarding rentals are available up and down Kite Beach in Cabarete, considered the sport's world capital. Visitors looking to try the sport can easily find experienced kiteboarders offering instruction. A variety of techniques are used at the schools including radio helmets during instruction so immediate feedback is provided to the student for quicker learning and more time on the board.



Sandboarding

Another new sport appearing on the horizon is sandboarding. Requiring a modified snowboard, the sport uses sand as its platform. Two areas in the Dominican Republic are quickly becoming known to sandboarding enthusiasts. One locale is the yellow sand of the Bani Dunes area located in the southwest region about one to two hours west of Santo Domingo. The other area nearby is Las Salinas with approximately 10-square miles of virgin dunes.



Outdoor Recreation – Kiteboarding – Sandboarding - Surfing & Windsurfing

Surfing

Just a five minute car ride outside of Cabarete is Playa Encuentro, a beach known throughout the country for great surfing conditions. Boards and lessons are available through a variety of tour companies in Cabarete. Each provides the board, instruction and transportation to and from Cabarete.

Additional surfing spots include Playas Grande and Preciosa beach just east of Rio San Juan and Playa Boba north of Nagua. These are challenging spots and are recommended for experienced surfers because most do not have a lifeguard.

Several surf camps lasting from one day to two weeks are popping up on the lush north coast. Cabarete's Surf Camp, also known as Ali's Surf Camp, is one of the best known and even offers surf accommodations from cottages to apartments.

www.cabaretesurfcamp.com



Windsurfing

Cabarete of the north coast is considered the world capital of windsurfing. It draws many competitions in the World Cup Windsurfing Competition held every June. Equipment is available for rental through most hotels in the area and lessons can be had through a variety of vendors. Two of the main providers in Cabarete are the Carib Bic Center, which has been providing instruction and boards for nearly 20 years, and Iguana Mama. For those starting out, the calmer waters of the south are an excellent training ground.



Outdoor Recreation – Scuba Diving - Snorkeling & Snuba

The Dominican Republic's underwater world offers exceptional reef diving and snorkeling, incredibly clear waters and a variety of colorful marine life.

In fact, the country is often listed as one of the top diving locations in the Caribbean. Visitors can explore centuries-old shipwrecks on the country's north coast, or take advantage of the warm, protected waters of the south.

While the Dominican Republic is a haven for experienced divers, most all-inclusive hotels offer lessons and certification for those interested in learning more about the activity.

What is Snuba? If you're not familiar with Snuba, it is a blend of snorkeling and scuba where the swimmer uses swimfins, a diving mask, weights, and diving regulator as in scuba diving. The air, however, instead of coming from tanks strapped to the diver's back, comes through a long hose from tanks on pontoon rafts on the surface. Snuba often serves as a form of introductory diving, in the presence of a professional, insured guide, and following a half-hour lesson.



Outdoor Recreation – Waterfalls

There are many great locations for waterfalls within the Dominican Republic.

Salto de Jimenoa

Located in Jarabacoa National Park, this 131-foot waterfall is reached by a hiking trail and narrow suspension bridge. The cold water of the Yaque del Norte cascades into the pool below. Lush vegetation surrounds the rocky canyon area. On weekends, a snack bar is open for visitors.

Salto Aqua Blanca

Located in Jarabacoa National Park, this 492-foot waterfall is one of the highest in the Caribbean. Tours are offered through a variety of area operators.

El Limon

Found in the Samana area near the town of El Limon, this stunning waterfall is accessible by horse. The ride takes two and one-half hours round trip and visitors can expect to pay \$12. Most excursion outfits will prepare lunch for an additional nominal fee. As the falls come into sight, the horses are tethered at a small station where drinks are provided before making the rest of the trek on foot to the swimming hole at the base of the thundering and picturesque El Limon falls.

Damajagua Falls a.k.a. Cascades of Imbert

Also known as the "seven falls," this is a series of 27 cascades near Puerto Plata. The currents can be strong so it is not recommended for children or weak swimmers. Swim, climb up narrow limestone canyons then jump or water-slide down. Water shoes are suggested because of the slippery conditions.



Outdoor Recreation – Sport Fishing

Most fishing enthusiasts and vacationers to the Dominican Republic aren't aware that the country is one of the best hideouts for dozens of species of sought-after fish. For those who are not looking to become legendary anglers but would like to fight a marlin or reel-in a toothy barracuda, several charters are available throughout the country.

Deep sea fishing arrangements may be made at most resorts throughout the DR. In addition, there are several charters that have fished these waters for decades and know which species are running when and where.



Golfers

A favorite golfing destination of former Presidents Bill Clinton and George H. Bush, the Dominican Republic has become one of the hottest spots to tee-off in the Caribbean, if not the world. Here golfers will find 19 courses with oceanfront fairways and dogleg lefts around swaying coconut palms. They'll also find courses designed by legends such as Pete Dye, P.B. Dye, Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer, Robert Trent Jones, Gary Player, Tom Fazio and Nick Faldo.

Visitors to the Dominican Republic needn't worry about packing golf clubs or even knowing how to golf, for that matter. Each course offers affordable club rentals and internationally recognized golf pros for lessons. Regardless of handicap, the courses of the Dominican Republic promise a challenging and unique experience.



Art - Baseball - Culture

The spirit and charm of the Dominican Republic is captured in its music, food, and national pastimes. Known for its professional winter baseball, handcrafted cigars, and annual music festivals, the culture of the Dominican Republic is never stodgy, or boring. It's always an artful and colorful expression of life.

Even the museums and archeological sites are vibrant, bringing the daring history of the Dominican Republic alive with antique treasures, dazzling jewels, and the cavernous time capsules left to us by a long lost culture. In the Dominican Republic, culture really means adventure.

- [Museums & Archaeology](#)
- [Food & Drink](#)
- [Music & Dance](#)
- [Baseball](#)

Identifying the customer

You may need to ask probing questions to find out if a particular customer is interested in culture and the arts, as they will have other interests as well. Some possible phrases you may hear when talking with a customer interested in Dominican Republican culture and arts include:

We want to learn about the culture or history of Dominican Republic.

I'd like to have some other things to do if it's raining and we can't go to the beach.

We don't just want to sit on a beach all day for a week, what else is there to do?

I hear that the Dominican Republic is known for its baseball. Are there any games we can see while we're there?



Art - Baseball - Culture – Museums - Archaeology

The Dominican Republic has a rich and storied history that traces back over 8,000 years to the arrival of the Taino Indians. Following the island's discovery by Christopher Columbus in 1492, the Republic had epic interaction with the Spanish, French, Haitians and Africans. It's no wonder, then, how the Dominican Republic came to boast such an impressive collection of personal and cultural relics from centuries past.

The country has done a magnificent job of maintaining and preserving these artifacts as well as the historical structures in which they're housed. Visiting the Dominican Republic's major cities, especially Santo Domingo, tourists can easily become engrossed in the historical legends that accompany some of the oldest museums and archeological sites in the New World.

The Dominican Republic also has a unique collection of natural rocks and gems that can only be found on the island. Near Barahona, a turquoise-blue pectolite stone known as larimar has been cultivated from the volcanic rock that once formed the island. The country's most popular gem, amber, is the result of tree sap that hardened millions of years ago, sometimes capturing small plants, animals and insects inside. These two geological imprints are used in jewelry, sometimes together and other times in single pieces.

The country's museums and archeological sites intrigue adults and provide a historical lesson for children. From jewelry to religious artifacts, castles to caves, each venue showcases a vastly different aspect of the island's colorful heritage.



Art - Baseball - Culture – Museums - Archaeology

Museums in Santo Domingo

- Museo de las Casas Reales (Museum of the Royal Houses)
 - Once the 16th century governor's Supreme Court, this museum documents Santo Domingo's rich history with tapestries, maps and other artifacts from 1492 to 1821.
- Alcázar de Colón (Castle of Columbus)
 - This palace, including artifacts from the Columbus family, was built in the 1500's by Christopher's son, Diego and his wife.
 - Insider's tip: Following a tour of Alcazar de Colon, venture out onto the Alcazar strip of restaurants and shops to enjoy delicious local fare and atmosphere.
- Museo Del Hombre Dominicano (Museum of the Dominican Man)
 - Set in the Plaza de la Cultura, this museum is reputed to have the country's best collection of pre-Columbian artifacts including jewelry, religious pieces and sculptures. A favorite exhibit explains the effects of African slavery with displays of voodoo artifacts and carnival costumes.
- Museo Nacional de Historia y Geografía (Museum of History and Geography)
 - This museum contains a thorough collection of artifacts that contributed to the country's historical timeline. Displays highlight the DR's first inhabitants, American occupation and interaction with Haiti.
- Museo de Larimar (Museum of Larimar)
 - This new museum explains the island's mining and jewelry industry. Exhibits demonstrate the extraction, shaping and jewelry-making processes of larimar.
- Museo de la Familia Dominicana del Siglo XIX (Museum of the Dominican Family of the 19th Century)
 - Built in 1503, this colonial mansion exhibits artifacts and personal belongings of a 19th century well-to-do Santo Domingo family. While its contents are intriguing, the best part of the museum is the house itself, which has the only double Gothic window in North or South America.



Art - Baseball - Culture – Museums - Archaeology

Museums throughout the rest of the Dominican Republic

- Amber Museum
 - This two-story Victorian museum located in Puerto Plata is thought to contain a collection of the world's most transparent amber. Well-preserved plants, insects and animals that were captured in prehistoric tree sap are on display.
 - Insider's tip - The Amber Museum contains the famous amber mosquito seen in the box-office hit, Jurassic Park.
- La Isabela Museum
 - A new museum and educational center focusing on Christopher Columbus discovery of Hispaniola in 1492 are in the works and will be housed at La Isabela. The seaside village is the site of adventurer's first settlement in the new world.
- Jewish Museum
 - Located in Sosua, this museum is a tribute to the 700 Jewish refugees taken in by former president Rafael Trujillo in 1938 during the Nazi occupation of Germany. Exhibits showcase photos and personal memorabilia of the settlers and the dairy manufacturing facilities they developed in town.
- Altos de Chavon Regional Museum of Archaeology
 - Located on the Chavon River, this museum boasts a collection of more than 3,000 artifacts from the native Taino Indians who once inhabited the region. You can find it within Casa de Campo in La Romana.

Archaeology

Other than the museums, the Taino Indian sites throughout the country provide insight into pre-Columbian life on the island of Hispaniola.

Caves played an important role in the lives of the Taino Indians. In fact, their creation myth is centered around a cave located on the island. Stories of the Taino interaction with various plants, animals, spirits and each other can be seen in the elaborate pictographs and stone carvings within the structures. Other Taino artifacts are housed at museums and even an excavated burial ground at a local beach.



Art - Baseball - Culture – Music- Dance

Passing through the streets of the Dominican Republic visitors are sure to notice the handmade posters that hang from telephone poles promoting an upcoming merengue or bachata night at a nearby venue. A way of life on the island, Dominicans view dancing as an art and take pride in sharing their native movements with others. Other types of dance music can be heard in the country, but are not as popular as their beloved merengue and bachata counterparts.

Merengue

- The country's national dance, traditional merengue groups are comprised of a three-piece band including a melodeon (accordion-like instrument), a guira (a scraped percussion piece) and a tambora (double-headed drum); however, it has expanded to incorporate other instruments such as the saxophone, trumpets, violin, flute and piano. Its tempo is characterized by an aggressive beat, requiring its dancers to swing their hips in rapid, fluid motions and make sure their feet follow suit. Its music has become so popular, in fact, that it is honored with two regional festivals each year.

Bachata

- A much slower dance than the merengue, bachata emerged in the rural areas of the island during the 1960s. It was derived from bolero, a music genre native to Cuba, and is compared to country or R&B music of the United States. Originally popular with the poor or lower classes, bachata is characterized by guitar-based melodies rather than large bands.

Music Festivals

Travelers from across the globe journey to the Dominican Republic each year, joining local attendees, for annual music festivals after falling in love with the addictive rhythms.

- Santo Domingo Merengue Festival
- Puerto Plata Merengue Festival
- [Dominican Republic Jazz Festival](#)



Art, Baseball & Culture – Food & Drink

Beverages

Rum

The Dominican brands of rum (Brugal, Bermúdez, and Barcelo), have become popular across the globe and are considered some of the world's best.

- Bermudez, the eldest of the Dominican rum distilleries, was established in 1852.
- Brugal, established in 1888, is located just east of Puerto Plata and produces more than 1.5 million liters of white and dark rum each year. Tours are offered Monday through Friday and admission is free.
- Barcelo, established in Santo Domingo in 1930, is said to be best-liked by locals. The plant manufactures 40 thousand liters of rum per day.



Beer

Brewed in Santo Domingo, Presidente is the DR's most popular beer and is served at just about every establishment in the country. Presidente beer is a popular souvenir for tourists.

Coffee

The DR's position in the tropics, rainfall levels, and fertile soil make it an ideal location for growing organic coffee beans that provide great taste and a rich aroma. The coffee trade in the DR dates back over 250 years, giving its growers a deep-rooted tradition to continue. The DR has more than 60,000 growers who together export nearly one million bags of coffee per year.



Art, Baseball & Culture - Baseball

Whether it's little, minor or major league, baseball has been dominating the U.S. sports industry for decades. However, before legends like Babe Ruth and Jackie Robinson appeared in the spotlight, the Caribbean was flooded with pro-level players batting, throwing, catching and running the bases.

Baseball was introduced in 1866 to Cuba and migrated to other Caribbean locations afterwards.

With the rich baseball history and top talent that the country provides, it's no surprise that American Major League Baseball (MLB) is drafting Dominican players left and right. To the Dominican people, baseball is not only a sport, but a way of life. Players here put heart and soul into the sport. While some players advance professionally into the United States, others continue to compete in the Dominican Republic, and countless more play for fun. But regardless of where the Dominicans play baseball, the sport will always be an admirable and historical part of the country's culture.

True fans of the game may find a game and see some future Major League Baseball stars before they become famous in the US.



Spa



Dominican Republic's unsurpassed beauty and laid-back atmosphere give everyone visiting a chance to take a deep breath, relax, and slow down. A great way to transition from regular life to vacation is taking advantage of the amazing spa facilities and treatments available at most large resorts, from manicures and pedicures to massages.

Some phrases you may hear from customers who want a spa experience in Dominican Republic may include:

- My husband and I want to get massages; neither of us have never had one and our friend said getting one at the same time is divine.
- My daughter and I are planning an entire morning at a spa while my husband plays golf.

Most of the resorts in the Dominican Republic offer spa services.

Your customers may want to stay at spa resorts in the Dominican Republic such as:

- Punta Cana Area
 - Sivoy Punta Cana (Punta Cana)
 - Barcelo Punta Cana (Punta Cana)
 - Grand Punta Cana by Occidental (Punta Cana)
 - Paradisus Punta Cana (Punta Cana)
 - Melia Caribe Tropical (Punta Cana)
 - Grand Palladium Bávaro Resort and Spa (Playa Bávaro, Higuey)
 - Ocean Bavaro Spa & Beach Resort (Playa Bávaro, Higuey)
- Puerto Plata Area
 - Grand Oasis Marien Resort All Inclusive (Puerto Plata)
 - Sun Village Resort & Spa (Puerto Plata)
 - Punta Cana Resort & Club (Puerto Plata)
- La Romana Area
 - Casa De Campo (La Romana)
 - Oasis Canoa Resort All Inclusive (Carretera Bayahibe, La Romana)
 - Dreams La Romana Resort & Spa All Inclusive (Playa Bayahibe, La Romana)



Singles / Nightlife

Dominican Republic offers the perfect vacation for single travelers. With beautiful beaches, an active nightlife, and a vast array of sports and activities, Dominican Republic attracts a number of single travelers.

Some signals you may hear that the customer you are speaking with is traveling alone or with other singles are:

- I want to stay somewhere close to things to do during the day, and at night.
- My friends and I are going to have some fun and meet some people.
- Are there any good clubs in Dominican Republic?
- Do you know how late the bars and clubs are open?

The Dominican Republic offers an array of nightlife options where you can drink, socialize, dance, gamble, or celebrate the various festivals taking place throughout the country.

- There are large nightclubs where thousands of both tourists, foreigners and Dominicans can be found bumping and grinding to live bands or DJ's, into the wee hours of the night.
- Most hotels and restaurants offer casual bar/lounge settings within their establishment that offer a wide range of local and international drink selections and play internationally recognized music.
- Casinos can be found in most of the larger tourism destinations and cities throughout the country and usually provide gamblers free drinks while they take part in Blackjack, Roulette, and Poker.



Beach Lovers



A beach lover is someone whose primary interest in Dominican Republic is to lie on the beach, soak up the sun, and relax. Two thirds of the Dominican Republic coastline is home to some of the most pristine beaches in the world. The beach resorts in [Puerto Plata](#), [Punta Cana](#) and [La Romana](#) provide the beach lover opportunities to relax on the beach, snorkel, and soak up the sun.



Attractions and Services from Orbitz

Orbitz Worldwide's Orbitz.com and CheapTickets.com brands provide customers with the ability to pre-purchase entrance to various attractions and services on the Web sites.

In general these activities include the following categories:

[Ground Transportation](#)

[Sight-seeing Tours and Cruises](#)

[Shows and Entertainment](#)

[Outdoor Activities](#)



Attractions and Services from Orbitz

Orbitz Worldwide's Orbitz.com and CheapTickets.com brands provide customers with the ability to pre-purchase entrance to various attractions and services on the Web sites.

Ground transportation

[Puerto Plata](#)

[Santo Domingo](#)

[La Romana](#)

[Sight-seeing Tours and Cruises](#)



Attractions and Services from Orbitz

Puerto Plata Roundtrip Ground Transportation

The VIP Travel Services resort representatives will be available to assist you at any time during your stay. Not only for any questions or situations you might have, but also for purchasing optional excursions or tours. Never accept imitations; always refer to a VIP Travel Services resort representative.

Duration

- POP Airport - Puerto Plata/Sosua/Playa Dorada Hotels: Aprox 20 Minutes
- POP Airport - Cabarete/Cofresi Hotels: Aprox 40 Minutes
- POP Airport - Rio San Juan Hotels: Aprox 1.5 Hours
- POP Airport - Samana Hotels: Aprox 3 Hours

Availability

No limitations

Location

You must print and bring your voucher with you as your proof of purchase. After customs and picking up your baggage, proceed outside of the baggage claim area. Look for a VIP Travel Services airport representative holding a welcome sign. At that time please present your voucher in exchange for transportation. If you do not see a representative, please contact your VIP Travel Services resort representative.

Inclusions

- Roundtrip transportation
- Taxes and Fees

Exclusions

Gratuities
Dates are subject to availability.



Attractions and Services from Orbitz

Santo Domingo Ground Transportation

The VIP Travel Services resort representatives will be available to assist you at any time during your stay. Not only for any questions or situations you might have, but also for purchasing optional excursions or tours. Never accept imitations; always refer to a VIP Travel Services resort representative.

Duration

- SDQ Airport - Juan Dolio/Boca Chica Hotels: Aprox 25 Minutes
- SDQ Airport - Santo Domingo Hotels: Aprox 1 Hour
- SDQ Airport - La Romana Hotels: Aprox 1.5 Hours
- SDQ Airport - Bayahibe Hotels: Aprox 2 Hours
- SDQ Airport - Bavaro, Uvero Alto, Samana and Puerto Plata Hotels: Aprox 3 Hours

Availability

No limitations

Location

You must print and bring your voucher with you as your proof of purchase. After customs and picking up your baggage, proceed outside of the baggage claim area. Look for a VIP Travel Services airport representative holding a welcome sign. Please present your voucher in exchange for transportation. VIP Travel Services resort representative

Inclusions

- Roundtrip transportation
- Taxes and Fees

Exclusions

Gratuities

Dates are subject to availability.



Attractions and Services from Orbitz

La Romana Ground Transportation

The VIP Travel Services resort representatives will be available to assist you at any time during your stay. Not only for any questions or situations you might have, but also for purchasing optional excursions or tours. Never accept imitations; always refer to a VIP Travel Services resort representative.

Duration

- LRM Airport - La Romana Hotels: Aprox 10 Minutes
- LRM Airport - Bayahibe Hotels: Aprox 25 Minutes
- LRM Airport - Juan Dolio, Boca Chica, Bavaro and Uvero Alto Hotels: Aprox 1.5 Hours

Availability

No limitations

Location

You must print and bring your voucher with you as your proof of purchase. After customs and picking up your baggage, proceed outside of the baggage claim area. Look for a VIP Travel Services airport representative holding a welcome sign. At that time please present your voucher in exchange for transportation service. Please contact your VIP Travel Services resort representative for more information on transportation.

Inclusions

- Roundtrip transportation
- Taxes and Fees

Exclusions

Gratuities

Dates are subject to availability.



Attractions and Services from Orbitz

Orbitz Worldwide offers quite a few sight-seeing tours and cruises in Dominican Republic.

Some of the varied offerings in Puerto Plata, Punta Cana include:

- Renova Spa Package - Dominican Republic
- [Ocean World Adventure Park](#)
- Puerto Plata: Monster Truck
- Puerto Plata: Outback Jeep Safari Adventure
- Puerto Plata: Freestyle Catamaran
- Magical Nights Excursion at Ocean World
- [Zip Lines Adventure](#)
- [Bavaro Runners Safari](#)
- [Bavaro Splash](#)
- [Caribbean Festival](#)
- [Dolphin Island](#)



Attractions and Services from Orbitz

Ocean World Adventure Park

Guests of Ocean World Adventure Park have the opportunity to feed exotic tropical birds, meet tigers, walk through a tropical rain forest, snorkel in our Tropical Reef Aquarium, observe Dolphin Show (twice a day), Shark Show (four times a day), Sea Lions Show (twice a Day), Tropical Bird Show (twice a Day)... plus the new Aquaglide giant water slide!

Ocean World Dolphin Swim

For many guests, the highlight of a visit to Ocean World Adventure Park is the rare opportunity to swim and play with beautiful Atlantic bottle nose dolphins. The Dolphin Swim experience begins with a brief orientation and educational program. Then you will enter the water for your introduction to dolphins. You will learn about dolphin behavior and discover how Ocean World Adventure Park trainers use hand signals and positive reinforcement to communicate with them. Taking the experience one step further, you encounter, kiss, hug, pet, and feed dolphins one on one in their environment.

Inclusions: *General Admission - Day Pass*

- Round trip bus transfer from nearby hotels
- Snorkeling in Tropical Reef Aquarium
- Tiger Grotto
- Rain forest and Bird Exhibit
- Usage of Dolphin Beach (lounges chairs are included)
- Observation of Sea Lion Show, Dolphin Show, Shark Show, Tropical Bird Show
- Observation of all interactive programs
- Free Lunch provided

Exclusions: *Ocean World Dolphin Swim*

Roundtrip bus transfer surcharges apply from hotels in the following areas: Sosua and Cabarete (US\$5), Luperon and Rio San Juan (US\$10)

Requirements: *Ocean World Adventure Dolphin Swim*

- Must be able to swim without assistance
- Life Jacket for going in the water (provided for you)
- A prior shower is required
- No jewelry
- No pregnant woman allowed
- No cameras or glass allowed



Attractions and Services from Orbitz

Zip Lines Adventure

Visit the first of the Dominican Republic's Zip-Line Tours, constructed by one of the most experienced Costa Rican Canopy Tour builders. The exhilarating adventure takes you flying across the magnificent Anamuya Lake. Your guides will show you the way, helping you to make the most of the adventure and unlocking the secrets of the Taino Anamuya Mountains. After a 45 minute drive onboard a safari truck, you will be entering a whole new dimension of entertainment. Our guides will teach you all you need to know about the ride and the equipment. The tour consists of 16 platforms and 12 Zip Lines, including the two longest lines in the Dominican Republic and even the Caribbean, stretched across the length of the mountain range throughout 2 miles. Most cables are calabered with its necessary speed to fly and enjoy. Zip from platform to platform and swing through the air with a privileged 'birds eye' view of the lush, tropical ancient Taino Mountains.

Duration

Half Day

Availability

Every day of the week

Inclusions

- Soft Drinks
- Water
- Fruits

Exclusions

Gratuity



Attractions and Services from Orbitz

Bavaro Runners Safari

A full day, all-inclusive guided mountain and beach safari adventure! Experience spectacular views and photo opportunities at every turn. With its pearly white beaches, crystal clear ocean, lush forests and rich culture, the perfect welcome for your holiday in Dominican Republic.

You will be picked up at your hotel in one of our comfortable trucks with experienced drivers and bilingual guides. Visit quaint farmer's homes in the countryside to experience the daily lifestyle and friendliness of the local people. Sample exotic Caribbean fruit and freshly country roasted coffee and cocoa. Visit one of our three sponsored schools (depending on the time of the year). Drive through the fields of Central Romana's largest sugar cane plantation in the country. Stop and taste freshly cut sugar cane. Visit our Bavaro Runners Mountain Ranch and enjoy a tasty Dominican lunch.

Horseback riding included. All beverages during the length of the safari including beer, water, rum and soft drinks are included. Our experienced and professional drivers and tour guides will make this trip your most memorable experience during your visit to the Dominican Republic.

Duration - Full Day

Availability

- From Punta Cana: Every day of the week
- From Bayahibe: 3-4 times par week

Inclusions

- Transportation
- All Activities
- Lunch
- Beer
- Water and Sodas

Exclusions

Gratuity



Attractions and Services from Orbitz

Bavaro Splash

Hold On! As the captain of your own speedboat, enjoy the thrilling ride across the deep-blue waters of Bavaro/Punta Cana. Enjoy the panoramic view of the palm-studded Bavaro coastline. A snorkel stop is included, so hand feed the tropical fish, touch the starfish and enjoy the beauty of the coral reef with it's enchanting under water sea life.

Don't miss the opportunity to explore the infinite Caribbean ocean which will make your vacation to the Dominican Republic a glorious experience.

Duration

Half Day

Availability

Every day of the week

Inclusions

- Snorkeling
- Soft Drinks
- Water

Exclusions

Gratuity



Attractions and Services from Orbitz

Caribbean Festival

Don't miss the most festive snorkeling excursion, off the shores of Bavaro, on board the "Caribbean Festival" catamaran. Enjoy the underwater world of the Dominican Republic. Snorkel in the open aquarium at the beautiful coral reef among the vast amount of splendid and most colorful marine species. Imagine swimming with the nurse sharks and a "hands on" experience swimming with the stingrays at "Stingray Bay". On board the catamaran join in the fun and dance our national dance, "merengue", sip a "Cuba libre" or "Mamajuana" and enjoy the show, a mini "Dominican Carnival".

Duration

Half day

Availability

Monday - Saturday

Inclusions

- Snacks
- Fruits
- Water
- Sodas
- Beer & Rum

Exclusions

Gratuity



Attractions and Services from Orbitz

Dolphin Island

Don't miss this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to swim with one of the most beautiful aquatic creatures there is! Now is your chance to realize your dream, an experience you will never forget.

Duration

Half Day

Availability

Every day of the week

Inclusions

- Soft Drinks
- Water

Exclusions

Gratuity



References

1. Dominican Republic, <http://www.about.com>, accessed 2010.
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3. Culture, <http://www.amadeus.net>, accessed January, 2010.

