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1. More than six million people arrived to the Dominican Republic in 2015

The proportion of Germans increased by 7.78 percent compared to 2014

Frankfurt / Berlin. ITB 2016. The diversity the Dominican Republic has to offer has become very popular: in 2015, a total of 6.1 million arrivals were recorded on this Caribbean island, of which 5.6 million were tourists – that is, 8.92 percent up on the previous year.

Compared to 2014 the proportion of Germans increased by 7.78 percent in 2015. Whereas in 2014, a total of 230,318 tourists from the Federal Republic visited the Dominican Republic, in 2015 248,248 German tourists came here. Furthermore, a new record was established in November last year: compared to the same period in the previous year, 19.8 percent more German tourists visited the Caribbean island.

In January 2016 a total of 519,977 tourists were recorded in the Dominican Republic, 36,995 more than in the same month last year – which means an increase of 7.7 percent.

The Tourism Minister of the Dominican Republic, Francisco Javier García, announced recently that last year the tourist industry had brought 5.5 billion Euros into the economy of the Dominican Republic. Over the last 35 years, the country has become the number one destination in the whole of the Caribbean – in 1980 just 383,000 tourists were recorded, bringing in 159 million Euros.

Average occupancy in Dominican hotels increased from 74.8 percent in 2014 to 75.5 percent in 2015, according to the national hotel and tourism association ASONAHORES. The regions most visited were La Romana with 84.78 percent and Punta Cana with 82.8 percent. Especially in the northern region of Samaná the tourist industry has seen very positive development: in 2014, 73.8 percent of all hotels were occupied, while in 2015 occupancy was 78.7 percent.

This long-haul destination with its 600 kilometres of dream beaches, 255 days of sunshine per year and an average temperature of 27 degrees Celsius is a unique holiday paradise. Tourists in the Dominican Republic can look forward to a wide range of cultural events, which offer them the chance to get to know the history of the country, its music, its countryside and its people better, in addition to the host of options for active holidaymakers and nature lovers.

Petra Cruz-Deyerling, Director for Europe of the Dominican Republic Tourist Board is pleased about the increasing number of arrivals from Germany: "These numbers prove that the work of the Tourism Ministry is going in the right direction and they are the best incentive for the future. We will continue to expand our tourist offer and infrastructures so that we can give European visitors a better understanding of the many different facets of our country".



2. Dominican Republic: 21 blue flags for the best beaches in the Caribbean and Latin America

Frankfurt / Berlin. ITB 2016. It's no secret that the Dominican Republic is particularly popular for its idyllic, sustainably-run beaches. This has now been internationally recognised: with a total of 21 blue flags, the Dominican Republic can be proud of having the largest number of these quality certificates in all of the Caribbean and Latin America. For the 2015 / 2016 season the blue flags with the eco-label are flying along the Dominican coast, a symbol of cleanliness and security for holidaymakers.

For millions of tourists, their dream holiday comes true in the Dominican Republic year after year. This is largely thanks to its breathtaking beaches, for example La Laguna Dominicus, Playa Nueva Romana Bahía Príncipe, Cabeza de Toro be Live PC and Playa Dorada III, and now they have been rewarded with this well-known eco-label. Behind this achievement stand top tourism brands such as Meliá Hotels International, Bahía Príncipe, Iberostar, Hard Rock or Barceló, who have stood up for sustainable tourism and made sure that the following principles are upheld: water quality, environmental information, education and management as well as safety and services. Travellers who are spending the precious days of their holidays along the 1,600 km-long coastline of the Dominican Republic are the ones who benefit from all this.

Worldwide more than 3,300 beaches and marinas in 36 countries have been awarded the blue flag – from Europe to Africa, from New Zealand and Canada to the Caribbean. An international jury decides who will be given the award. This is made up of members of the FEE (Foundation for Environmental Education), UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme), the WTO (World Tourism Organisation) and the EU plus the European Union for Coastal Conservation.

Participation in the certification process is voluntary, and is directed and supervised by the IDARD (the institute for environmental law of the Dominican Republic).

For tourists, this eco-label promises yet another perfect beach holiday.



3. Dominican Republic Named Best Golf Destination in Latin America and the Caribbean 2016

Frankfurt / Berlin. ITB 2016. The International Association of Golf Tour Operators (IAGTO) has named Dominican Republic "Best Golf Destination of Latin America and the Caribbean 2016," in recognition of the 28 internationally renowned courses that the country calls its own. This is the third time that Dominican Republic has been recognized by IAGTO as an exceptional destination for the sport, with its magnificent golf courses bordering the Caribbean Sea where golfers can enjoy both facilities of the highest calibre and a warm climate that allows for a unique and challenging play experience.

"Dominican Republic is delighted to receive this award once again from such a prestigious organization," said Isabel Vasquez, director of the Dominican Republic Ministry of Tourism (MITUR) for the Iberian Peninsula. "This award speaks to our unrelenting commitment to provide both the infrastructure and first class services in our hotels and golf courses in order to maintain the loyalty and happiness of those who choose to visit us, allowing us to reinforce our position as the Golf Capital of the Caribbean with 28 internationally-recognized courses – the largest offerings in all of Latin America and the Caribbean."

Golf tourism contributes over 200 million dollars a year to the Dominican Republic Economy, a figure that is projected to increase in 2016, according to a study by the International Association of Golf Tour Operators subsidiary North America (IAGTO North America). In 2014 the growth of this niche market was 10%, of arrival to the country, totalling around 140,000 golfers who visited the Dominican Republic to play golf.

According to Magaly Toribio, Marketing Advisor of the Ministry of Tourism, "The average golf tourist spending exceeds US\$240 per day, on holiday packages. While "All inclusive" tourist spends around US\$ 128. She said that investment in tourism promotion is US\$50M annually, of which more than US\$2M is spent on promoting golf.

Easy access is also a key, thanks to six international gateways that all have courses close by, so golfers can get a round of golf in both on the day they arrive and the day they leave if the flight times allow. New roads have dramatically reduced travel times between key resorts as well as with the capital, such as Santo Domingo, Punta Cana and La Romana, so golfers can now comfortably combine playing courses in different areas without having to change hotels.

Dominican Republic, the undisputed “It” destination for golf, is widely known as having the most magnificent golf courses in the Caribbean and Latin America. The country boasts a growing list of world-class designer golf courses by some of golf’s most acclaimed course architects including Pete Dye, P.B. Dye, Jack Nicklaus, Robert Trent Jones Sr., Gary Player, Tom Fazio, Nick Faldo, Nick Price and Greg Norman. In fact, nine of the country’s golf courses are included in Golfweek Magazine’s 2010 list of the top 50 courses in the Caribbean and Latin America.

Dominican Republic is the second largest country in the Caribbean and also one of the most ecologically diverse nations in the world. Stunning vistas, including waves crashing over dramatic coastlines, coconut palm groves, lush, sun-kissed fairways, gentle mountains and exotic nature set the scene for uniquely designed and distinct golf courses. Sports champions and golf enthusiasts alike cannot resist playing the island’s challenging courses blessed with clear blue skies, azure seas and constant beautiful weather.

Whether you are a professional golfer or a beginner, it’s easy to play golf in Dominican Republic since most clubs provide clinics, lessons with some of the most elite players and offer a variety of golf vacation packages. These packages cater to both the serious and the recreational player, and often include accommodations, meals and drinks, as well as green fees and cart rentals. And, you don’t need to worry about packing your golf clubs as each course provides affordable club rentals.

Play golf year-round in the Dominican Republic. Temperatures range from a high of 91°F (33 degrees Celsius) in August to around 62°F (17 degrees Celsius) on winter mornings, although average daily temperatures between summer and winter generally fluctuate less than 10 degrees. Even in the quieter summer months, weather forecasts typically call for partly sunny skies, but with a chance of a shower usually in the late afternoon. Wait 10 minutes or so and you can usually continue your round in bright sunshine again.



4. Dominican Republic Amber Cove is the Caribbean's newest cruise port

Frankfurt / Berlin. ITB 2016. Cruise fans now have somewhere new to go in the Caribbean. Amber Cove, a new port development along the north coast of the Dominican Republic, opened 06 October for the first of what is expected to be more than 100 cruise calls a year.

Developed by cruise giant Carnival Corp. at a cost of \$85 million, the 25-acre complex near the town of Puerto Plata is being billed as one of the biggest Caribbean port projects of the past decade and features a large area of bars, restaurants. Amber Cove also have a sprawling pool area with a swim-up bar, water slides, zip lines and private cabanas that also are quickly coming together.

The complex's main role is to be a gateway to the region's many historic sites, beaches and adventure activities. Nearly half of the site's acreage is devoted to a massive transportation hub where cruisers will find taxis and buses to take them to area attractions. More than 40 organized shore excursions are available from the port, and Carnival executives say they expect an unusually high percentage of cruisers to sign up for the outings.

Long a tourist destination with resorts and timeshare developments, the area around Puerto Plata offers a wide array of attractions including beaches, golf courses, and wild areas that can be explored by horseback and ATV. It's also home to one of the first Spanish forts in the Americas; one of the best-known rum distilleries in the Dominican Republic; a marine adventure park where visitors can swim with dolphins and sharks; and a museum dedicated to amber, which is mined in the region (hence the name Amber Cove).

The government of the Dominican Republic worked closely with Carnival Corp. to prepare for an expected cruise boom to the region over the coming years. In a private tour of improvements under way around Puerto Plata's historic district, the country's vice minister of tourism, Julio Almonte, showed journalists upgrades in the works to a waterfront area that connects the historic Fortaleza San Felipe to the town's central square. The

government also is widening the road from Amber Cove to Puerto Plata to make transportation to the historic district more efficient.

The north coast of the Dominican Republic hasn't seen cruise ships since the 1980s, when the typical passenger vessel was much smaller than today. The main port for the region, in Puerto Plata, isn't big enough to accommodate today's larger vessels.

Located on a mountain-ringed bay about six miles from Puerto Plata, Amber Cove features a 1,280-foot pier with a channel dredged to 36 feet that is capable of handling two of the largest ships in the Carnival Corp. fleet at once and can even handle vessels as large as those in Royal Caribbean's Oasis class -- the world's biggest cruise ships.

Amber Cove is expected to draw 350,000 cruisers in its first year in operation from such Carnival Corp. brands as Carnival, Holland America, Princess and Costa. It'll also be the destination for bi-weekly "social impact" cruises to the Dominican Republic from Miami planned by Carnival Corp.'s new fathom brand. The trips start in April.

The first ship to arrive at Amber Cove, on the 6th October, was the 2,754-passenger Carnival Victory. Located just 679 miles southeast of Miami, Amber Cove will fit into a wide range of Caribbean itineraries, including shorter-than-seven-night sailings from Florida.



5. Dominican Republic Hotel News Round-up

Frankfurt / Berlin. ITB 2016.

Aman Unveils a new destination

Aman announce the launch of Amanera, scheduled to open in the Dominican Republic 23 November 2015. Located on a sublime cliff top overlooking the crescent-shaped Playa Grande beach, Amanera is surrounded by verdant jungle and framed by the island's dramatic Cordillera Septentrional mountain range. The resort will become the first golf-integrated Aman, sited alongside the undulating fairways and challenging greens of the lauded Playa Grande Golf Course, a track distinguished by having the highest number of Oceanside holes in the Western hemisphere.

The Dominican Republic's bucolic north coast, playfully known as the 'Green Coast' owing to its lush, wildly varied landscape and its exuberant mix of local culture and history, is home to stretches of virgin rainforest and raw coastline that remain relatively uncrowded and unspoiled—awaiting exploration by a new generation of pioneers. For further information and reservations please visit: www.amanresorts.com/amanera

Nickelodeon Hotels coming soon to the Dominican Republic

The Karisma Hotels & Resorts and Viacom International Media Networks signed an agreement to open a Nickelodeon Hotel in the fall of 2016 in the Dominican Republic. The Nickelodeon hotels are family-oriented facilities featuring such unforgettable Nickelodeon characters like SpongeBob, Dora and the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.

The hotel will be built in Punta Cana, on the country's easternmost region. The Punta Cana international airport handled more than 2.9 million tourists in 2014. The Viacom International Media Networks is a division of Viacom Inc. (NASDAQ: VIAB, VIA).

Its multimedia entertainment brands are some of the world's popular companies, including MTV, Nickelodeon, Comedy Central, BET, Paramount Channel, among others. The

“Nickelodeon” portfolio includes worldwide television programming and production, special events, consumer products, digital offerings, recreation, books and movies, to name a few.

Viva Wyndham V Samaná

Viva Wyndham Resorts Opening First-of-Its-Kind All-Inclusive Property in Las Terrenas, Dominican Republic V Samaná Adults-Only brings Hip, Modern, Elegance to All-Inclusive Category. Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic: Viva Wyndham Resorts today announced that its newest property, V Samaná, in Las Terrenas, Dominican Republic, will be the first in its category to combine hip elegance and a relaxed, yet active and modern vibrant ambiance in an all-inclusive setting. The new adults-only beachfront resort will open in November 2015. The concept was developed in collaboration with Prohotel International, Inc. “V Samaná will appeal to the growing number of modern, style-conscious travelers for whom atmosphere, attitude and experience are inseparable,” said Ettore Colussi, President of Viva Wyndham Resorts. “We are elevating the Viva Resorts all-inclusive experience.”

All 144 rooms at V Samaná will feature ocean or garden views, and 48 will be “Vibe Rooms,” with ocean views and private plunge pools. Outstanding features will include a “living wall” vertical garden in the reception area, fresh-to-table-and-spa on-site vegetable and herb gardens, and a market-style dining experience, offering various individual food specialty stations. Guests will be able to sip on brand name liquors and will have unlimited access to the hotel’s a la carte restaurants (no reservations required). For further information: <http://vivaresorts.com/dominican-republic/viva-wyndham-samana/welcome//>

Welcome to Viva Wyndham V Heavens & Resort

This hotel will have a soft opening 15 December, 2015 thru April 30, 2016, then will reopen 01 December 2016 with no closing date. The property will have 190 rooms, including Junior Suites ‘Amnesia, Superior ‘Nirvana’ and Standard ‘Bliss’ accommodations. Located on the North coast of the Dominican Republic in the gated hotel complex of Playa Dorada in Puerto Plata, approximately 15 minutes away from Puerto Plata International Airport. Viva Wyndham V Heavens is an adult only all-inclusive resort targeted to guests 18 years and older, underlining prime beach, exclusive location and great service in a lively atmosphere. for further information: <http://www.vheavensresort.com/>

Samana gets a new Bahia Principe Hotel

The Bahia Principe Hotels & Resorts chain announced that it will soon open its 12th hotel in the Dominican Republic. The new beachfront 149-room “Luxury Bahia Principe Samana Don Pablo Collection,” an adults-only facility, will open on November 1.

Guests will enjoy the hotel’s swimming pool, four bars, three restaurants and 24-hour room service. Other activities includes whale watching tours, kite-surfing, and diving.

HODELPA Hotel Chain Opens Wellness Centre in its Facility in Santiago

The local hotel chain recently opened a Wellness Center at its Hodelpa Garden Court facility in Santiago, the country's second largest city. The Center will provide special services to guests who require special medical attention during their stay at the hotel, either because they are undergoing medical procedures or because they require special care because of physical limitations.

The hotel has designated 12 rooms for these special guests, and is equipped to provide exclusive and individual services to guests with special medical needs. The rooms include the necessary furnishing and equipment needed in a regular hospital room, but designed with all the comforts of a hotel suite.

In-house medical personnel will follow-up on the patients required treatment and recovery. The dietary demands of the patient-guest are also taken very seriously. The special diets required by patients will be prepared by the medical staff, and prepared by the hotel's professional chefs. For more privacy, there is a private entrance that is used by guests who demand total privacy when entering the facility.

Puntacana Group Begins Construction of Impressive Resort in Country's Southwest Region

The Puntacana Group recently began construction on the Puntarena Resort, a 15 million square meter tourism complex that will feature hotels, villas and apartments. The complex will be situated in Peravia Province, some 90 minutes southwest of the capital city of Santo Domingo.

The Puntacana Group is the owner and operator of Punta Cana's international airport in the country's eastern region and the Puntacana Resort & Club, which began in 1969. The new complex will offer guests top-rated hotels, villas, apartment complexes and excellent golf facilities.

The project will feature seven kilometers of beaches, and will include all important services to satisfy the demands of national and international tourists. The project's initial phase consists of the development of two million square meters, featuring hotels, beachfront residences, luxury apartments, recreational areas, restaurants, bars and a marina, among other attractions.

Puntarena is located in a privileged region that registers the lowest rainfall index in the country. Its year-round dry and sunny climate, topped with pristine white-sand beaches, offer all the necessary conditions for the development of a perfect tourist destination.

Onyx Punta Cana will open in November 2016

The AMResorts chain of hotels, a subsidiary of the Apple Leisure Group, announced that it will open the Onyx Punta Cana in November 2016. The 500-room all-inclusive facility, overlooking the Caribbean Sea, will cater mainly to family-oriented visitors.

Other features are restaurants, 24-hour room service, swimming pool and beach, spa and bars offering local and international drinks. The all-inclusive, adults-only, Onyx Punta Cana is being built next to the Breathless Punta Cana Hotel. Both hotels are owned by the Spanish Martinon Group and managed by the American hotel chain AMResorts.

Excellence Group Luxury Hotels & Resorts: announce plans to begin construction of their second Excellence property along the tranquil shores of Punta Cana, Dominican Republic - Excellence El Carmen Resort. This All-Inclusive Luxury resort will open its doors to guests before the end of 2016. Excellence El Carmen will be the second adult-only Excellence Resort in Punta Cana, at just 30 minutes from the international airport, with 452 suites ranging from junior suites starting at a generous 800 square feet to upper suites that go up to a luxuriously expansive 2,000 square feet of living space, with breathtaking romantic ocean views and direct beach access.

"Excellence El Carmen's facilities will include 12 restaurants, 10 bars, a world class Miile Spa, and the renowned quality service that guests have come to expect from any Excellence Resort," states Excellence Group's VP of Sales and Marketing, Mr Domingo Aznar. Excellence El Carmen in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic will open before the end of 2016.

Breathtaking Las Galeras Beach to Feature an Adults-Only Hotel

The Amhsa Marina Hotels & Resorts announced the construction of a 140-room all-inclusive hotel in Las Galeras Beach, on the country's scenic northeast region. The US\$20 million facility will be built in Samana Province. Amhsa Marina will also invest US\$5 million to refurbish the Casa Marina Beach & Reef Hotel in Sosua, situated outside Puerto Plata, the north coast's most important city.

Luis Lopez, president of the hotel chain made the announcement during the Dominican Annual Tourism Exchange (DATE 2015), held from April 28-30 at the Barcelo Bavaro Convention Centre, in the country's eastern region. Lopez said the new hotel will be only for adults and that guests will have access to all the facilities of the nearby Grand Paradise Samana Hotel, which is also operated by the Amhsa Marina chain.

New Cap Cana Resort - AISol Hotels and Resorts is opening its newest property in the Dominican Republic, AISol Tiara Cap Cana is slated to opened 1 June, and is a boutique hotel in the heart of one of the country's toniest neighbourhoods.

The 112-suite beachfront property is adjacent to the Marina Cap Cana. All of the accommodations are located on the ground floor. "What sets Tiara apart in our resort portfolio is its modern take on luxury in an intimate atmosphere with a distinctive personality," said Carlos Del Pino, managing director at AISol Hotels and Resorts. "At Tiara, we wanted to create a truly social hotel for mingling, entertainment and serendipitous encounters for a memorable vacation.". The property will include menus created by executive chef Israel Gata, including Mexican eatery Xoxolati, Caribya Beach Grill and pan-Asian restaurant Blue Lotus. The resort will also include the Caribbean's only BABOR Signature Spa.

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Multi-Million Dollar Investment in New Punta Cana Hotel

The Spanish Martinon Group will begin the construction of the US\$85 million hotel in

May. The 502-room facility will be built in Punta Cana's Uvero Alto section, on the country's easternmost region. It will invest \$ 85 million to build a luxury complex of 502 rooms in Uvero Alto. According to information providedby Martinon, the project will create over 700 new jobs in the country's tourism sector. Through its investments in the Dominican Republic, the group

has created more than four thousand direct jobs through its five hotels. The group has been in the Dominican Republic since 2007. The Martinon Group was started in the 1980s with the opening of its first project at the Puerto deogan, situated southwest of the Canary Islands in Spain.

GANSEVOORT HOTEL GROUP DEBUT OCEANFRONT RESORT IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Slated for a final grand opening in December 2015, Gansevoort Dominican Republic is the second island outpost of the widely successful Gansevoort brand, and marks the arrival of the first true luxury lifestyle resort in the island's northern province of Puerto Plata. In true Gansevoort fashion, the one-stop destination offers guests impeccable style, service and amenities, including:

A multi-national culinary program devoted to fine dining. Already open is the Mediterranean-inspired Baia Lounge, which fuses distinct island flavors with locally-sourced ingredients—90% of which are organic. A second, Pan-Asian restaurant is set to open on property this fall.

Inclusive packages that marry the hotel's signature luxury environment with Puerto Plata's adventurous spirit. The "All Fun + Family" and "VIP Adventure" packages allow guests to embark on unique adventures to a local monkey jungle and nearby rum and cigar factories.

Re-modeling in Sosua

The hotel chain also announced a US\$5 million investment in the reconstruction and redecoration of the Casa Marina Beach & Reef in Sosua, Puerto Plata, on the country's north coast. Lopez explained that some of the improvements to the Casa Marina Beach & Reef Hotel include the construction of a Lobby Bar and a shopping plaza, as well as major improvements in the hotel's restaurants."

The Amhsa Marina Hotels & Resorts is a Dominican hotel chain, with 28 years of experience in the tourism industry. The hotel operates the following all-inclusive facilities: the Grand Paradise Playa Dorada in Playa Dorada, in Puerto Plata; the Casa Marina Beach & Reef in Sosua; and the Grand

Paradise Samana in the northeast province of Samana. For more formation: www.amhsamarina.com.

Eden Roc at Cap Cana - Set for completion in December, the team at Solaya Hotels & Resorts excitedly announced that Eden Roc at Cap Cana, in Punta Cana, will expand to 52 luxurious suites, which will be located in the surrounding areas of the Caletón Beach Club, through a private third-party partnership. Additionally, facilities enhancements will take place at Caletón Beach Club which will include:

- Complete renovation and construction of the roofs

- Complete renovation of the common areas

- A Full Service Spa and Wellness Centre, including a fully-equipped Gym

- New concept and renovation of The Grill Restaurant with a "Terrace Lounge"

- A "Cigar Lounge"

- Construction of a conference and business centre for members of the Club

- Complete renovation of the pool area to convert into an infinity pool

- Renovation of the Beach Bar

- Construction of specialty luxury shops @ **Eden Roc at Cap Cana**

www.edenroccapcana.com



6. Aman Resorts with Amanera, Dominican Republic

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SETTING

Amanera is Amans first resort in Dominican Republic and the first golf-integrated Aman. The distance to the international airport of Puerto Plata is about one hour. Located on sublime cliff-side position overlooking crescent-shaped Playa Grande beach, Amanera is surrounded by verdant jungle and backed by the island's dramatic Cordillera Septentrional mountain range. Designed by John Heah, Amanera offers extensive dining, spa and recreational facilities, 24 Casitas and one Casa.

Amanera draws its name from the Sanskrit-derived word for 'peace' and era, the word for 'water' in Talno, the language of the Taino people that once lived on the island of Hispaniola.

CASITAS

Each Casita (76 sqm) is demonstrating a raw, organic design which complements its natural setting. Capturing the essence of a relaxed, Caribbean feel with a contemporary flair, each offers beautifully handcrafted living spaces, which echo the warmth of the country itself. Each of the Casitas enjoys unobstructed ocean vistas from an expansive terrace. 13 Casitas feature their own 10-metre private swimming pools The two-bedroomed 'Bay View Casa' (225 sqm) enjoys the resort's finest cliff-side position with panoramic views of the ocean and Playa Grande beach

RESTAURANT - BEACH CLUB - CHILDREN'S CLUB

The resort's main lodge, the 'Casa Grande', has been constructed in such a way that it appears to 'float' above a three-tiered water feature and offers sweeping ocean, golf course and jungle views at every turn. A discreet reception, serene library, and cigar bar all branch off the Casa Grande, which also leads to Amanera's signature restaurant The menu represents the best of Caribbean, Mexican and Italian cuisine. The **Beach Club of Amanera** is tucked into a sandy cove directly on Playa Grande beach and offers casual, feet-in-the-

sand durring. Open throughout the day, the Club de Playa also offers a separate but nearby **children's club** providing creative activities and outdoor adventure.

GOLF

Spread over 370 acres of picturesque coastline, the world-class **Playa Grande Golf Course** was originally designed by celebrated architect Robert Trent Jones, Sr. With respect for the legacy created by his father, acclaimed golf designer Rees Jones has gloriously revived the Playa Grande Golf Course to enhance the golfing experience; with 10 holes playing directly on ocean cliffs, it stands as the course with the most holes on the ocean in the Western hemisphere. This 7,085-yard course stretch es along the coastline and the multiple bays formed by the rugged cliffs make each hole - and its views - unique. Guests of Amanera can enjoy golf lessons with Pro Julio Santos, best golfer of Dominican Republic.

SPA & SPORTS

The Aman Spa offers treatments that adopt a holistic approach to wellness through relaxation and movement The extensive treatment menu includes massages, facials, scrubs and wraps, as weil as a number of signature Spa Journeys. These incorporate the Aman range of chemical-free products with a nod at traditional energybased shamanic healing. Amanera's holistic programmes include guided meditation, yoga, pilates and energy healing, as weil as nutrition and detox consultations. A fully equipped fitness centre is also available to guests.

Rates 2016

Overnight from 950 US\$ (approx. 850 €) plus taxes and fees.

Address: Amanera; Auto. 5 Carretera Rio San Juan - Cabrera, Rio San Juan, Dominican Republic CP. 33300, Email: amanera@amanresorts.com, www.amanera.com

Aman reservations (operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week):

08001813421 (toll-free from Germany) or 00 800 2255 2626 (toll-free from Switzerland) Switchboard Tel (65) 6715 8855 Fax (65) 6887 3338
E-Mail: reservations@amanresorts.com; Internet: www.aman.com

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7. Hard Rock International announces Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Santo Domingo

Frankfurt / Berlin. ITB 2016. Hard Rock International – owner of one of the world's most recognized brands – reveals plans for its second hotel and casino in the Dominican Republic, Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Santo Domingo, located in the heart of the capital city. In collaboration with All Inclusive Collection, the full service hotel, estimated to open in late 2017, will feature 400 hotel rooms and suites and a state of the art casino.

“The Dominican Republic is the region's most visited country and continues to be the top performing destination in the Caribbean. In fact, the country received 19% of the record number of 26.3 million visitors to the Caribbean region in 2014,” said [Nelson Parker](#), vice president of casino development, Hard Rock International. “The decision to bring a full service hotel and the brand's second Caribbean casino to the Dominican Republic is a testament to the country's remarkable strength in tourism.”

“We've had overwhelming success with our resort in Punta Cana, and are thrilled to continue our collaboration with Hard Rock International and introduce Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Santo Domingo,” said Enrique MARTIN DEL CAMPO, vice president of Global Sales for All Inclusive Collection. “The vibrant atmosphere of the destination, matched with our luxury offerings and unique amenities, will make for an unforgettable and fun experience for all travelers.”

Located in the heart of the city, the property will be home to a 23,000 sq. ft. casino, screening room, and a nightclub opening up to the main pool. The ultra-modern casino will feature two bars – including Hard Rock's signature Center Bar – a race and sports book, high limit slots, 400 slot machines and 40 table games, offering Hard Rock guests a world-class gaming experience to remember. A private gaming room on the exclusive suite floor will be available for guests with select access.

Ideal for groups and weddings, Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Santo Domingo will include 23,000 sq. ft. of meeting space. Additionally, the property will feature a Rock Star Suite and a Rock Royalty Level floor. Unlike past collaborations between Hard Rock International and All Inclusive Collection, this hotel will not be all-inclusive.

The property will also provide many brand exclusive offerings, including a world famous Rock Shop – home to Hard Rock’s legendary merchandise – Rock Spa’s groundbreaking Rhythm & Motion treatments and the Body Rock gym. The Lobby Bar, located on the 4th floor, will offer guests signature cocktails, while the refreshing pool features a bar and grill, as well as plush cabanas. Along with a myriad of restaurants and bars – including a cigar lounge and a celebrity-chef specialty restaurant – hotel guests will enjoy convenient access to Santo Domingo’s main shopping center Blue Mall, home to the Hard Rock Cafe Santo Domingo. In addition, guests will enjoy access to historically significant sites, the National Aquarium and beautiful botanical gardens and parks in the surrounding area.

Nelson Parker went on to state that “With seven international airports, 28 golf courses and more than 1,000 miles of beaches, it’s easy to understand how the Dominican Republic maintains an average year-round hotel occupancy of 87%. Capital city Santo Domingo, a UNESCO world heritage site, has long been a tourist favorite. The city’s historic Colonial Zone is undergoing extensive renovations, which will add even more appeal for visitors. Also, a recently finished new highway between Punta Cana and Santo Domingo cuts travel time between the two destinations from four hours to two.

Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Santo Domingo will entice travelers and applaud rock-n-roll through exclusive brand wide programs, including the interactive Sound Of Your Stay® amenity program – free for hotel guests – allowing for hands-on music experiences, in-room guitar jam sessions and playlist download upon check-in and in-room delivery of professional DJ equipment. In addition, Hard Rock boasts on-site VIBE managers, who keep a pulse on the feeling, atmosphere and energy at each hotel.

Internationally recognized as a world-class entertainment and lifestyle brand, Hard Rock properties offer stylish and contemporary design, unparalleled service and the thread that unites them all – music. Hard Rock’s current Hotel and Casino portfolio is located in the world’s most enviable resort destinations, as well as urban gateway cities. The dynamic properties cater to the evolving and distinctive needs of today’s cosmopolitan, modern travelers, who seek a reprieve from traditional, predictable properties, whether for business or leisure travel, and who connect with the authentic and powerful Hard Rock vibe.

For more information or to book a stay at any of the Hard Rock Hotels & Casinos, please visit www.hardrockhotels.com.



8. New Destination Juan Dolio, Emotions By Hodelpa & Sensations

Frankfurt / Berlin. ITB 2016. This is the first all-inclusive deluxe hotel in Juan Dolio operated by HODELPA hotel chain, that also has establishments in Santo Domingo and is leader in the Santiago de los Caballeros` hotel business.

Being strategically located in the touristic area close to Santo Domingo makes it an attractive destiny for the residents of the Capital city and nearby places, that are the main market for internal tourism. Also, it is located only 20 minutes away from the International Airport of Las Americas and 40 minutes away from the city of Santo Domingo.

It has 293 rooms in its first phase of construction divided in Superior, Deluxe (for families) and For Adults-Only categories. For the most demanding guests we have the Essentia Club section, located in a private setting with oceanfront rooms, private pool, VIP Club and personalized attention according to the Hodelpa Hotels style.

As for the Food and Beverage part we offer a wide gastronomy such as: AMICI (Italian cuisine), OAK (Wine and cheeses), PITAHAYA (Organic food), OLA LOLA (Beach bar), BIGARO (Grilled seafood), ERGOS (Buffet meals), OREGANO (Dominican fusion), ONE (Coffee shop), MILWAUKEE (Beer house) and TIKI TIKI (Pool bar).

EMOTIONS has among its facilities a beach club, water sports, pools, gym, spa, tennis court, climbing wall, bow and arrow, batting cage, kids club, meeting center and weddings and events services.

White sands, warm and placid turquoise waters together with the most beautiful sunsets of the coast will accompany your vacations in the most impressive Resort of Juan Dolio, Dominican Republic.



9. New flight connections to the Dominican Republic

Frankfurt / Berlin. ITB 2016. Holidaymakers and business travellers from Germany wanting to fly to the Dominican Republic can now look forward to new connections. Direct flights to Puerto Plata will be increased in the winter season from three to seven. The destination will be served on Saturdays by Eurowings, thus adding a further destination on this Caribbean island to their schedules. Air Berlin will be offering the new routes Düsseldorf – Puerto Plata and Munich – Puerto Plata in their schedules.

Between November 2015 and April 2016, a total of 19 flights will depart every week from Düsseldorf, Frankfurt and Munich for Punta Cana. Since 7th November 2015 the German airline Eurowings has offered three flights a week from Cologne/Bonn. Flights on this route are on Saturday, Monday and Thursday. Condor and Air Berlin increase the frequency of their flights from Munich from two flights a week to five flights a week.

Passengers wanting to fly to the capital Santo Domingo can choose from five flights from Frankfurt with Condor. This means that their options have expanded by two flights.

According to the winter timetable a total of eleven direct flights will depart from Düsseldorf, Frankfurt, Cologne/Bonn and Munich for La Romana.

Further flight connections from Germany are offered by Air France via Paris, by Air Europe and Iberia via Madrid and by Continental Airlines via Miami.

Flight connections from Austria are offered by Condor, Air France via Germany and France (some of them feeder flights) and by Iberia via Spain.

From 11th May 2016, travellers can also fly from Switzerland with the company Edelweiss, with flights every Wednesday from Zurich to Punta Cana. From 1st June 2016, the options include a direct flight every Saturday.

The variety offered by the Dominican Republic is becoming increasingly popular: the number of tourists increased in September by 16.7 percent - which means 47,161 more travellers than over the same period of the previous year. This sets a new record. Compared to 2014, the proportion of German tourists only has increased by 13.96 per cent. Whereas in September 2014, a total of 14,810 Germans visited the Dominican Republic, this year in the same month the number came to 16,878 visitors.

In the ranking of European holiday makers, German tourists are listed right at the top. A total of 170,379 visitors from the Federal Republic have so far travelled to the famous Caribbean island, followed by France and Spain with 167,845 and 128,052 travellers respectively (as of September 2015).

"The increase in the number of tourists from the Federal Republic of Germany is due to cooperation with airlines and tour operators, as well as to the organisation of joint campaigns," says Petra Cruz-Deyerling, Director for Europe of the Dominican Republic Tourist Board. She adds: "Furthermore, we have organised an image campaign to capture new target groups such as golfers, MICE tourists and nature lovers."



10. Towards the Caribbean sun with Edelweiss

Swiss airline doubles the frequency of its flights to the Dominican Republic

Frankfurt / Berlin. ITB 2016. Edelweiss has got some good news in store for all fans of the Dominican Republic: with the start of the 2016 summer schedules, the Swiss leisure airline is going to double the frequency of its flights to the Caribbean island. While the Zurich (ZRH) – Punta Cana (PUJ) route will run every Wednesday up to 11th of May, the airline will fly to the Caribbean sun twice a week from 1st June (on Wednesdays and on Saturdays).

Petra Cruz-Deyerling, Director for Europe of the Dominican Republic Tourist Board, is pleased about the successful cooperation with well-known airlines and foresees an 30 percent increase in bookings from Switzerland for the coming year.

With the start of the 2015 / 2016 winter schedules on 28th October, flights will depart every Wednesday at 13:10 h from Zurich and land in Punta Cana at 18:30 h local time. The return flight is also on a Wednesday, leaving Punta Cana at 20:10 h and arriving in Zurich at 10:15 h. On the 14th, 21st and 28th May, the flights will be on the Saturday.

About Edelweiss

Edelweiss is a member of the Lufthansa Group and a sister company of Swiss International Air Lines. This leading Swiss leisure airline flies to the most beautiful dream destinations worldwide. The slogan "Towards the sun" stands both for the 40 destinations in over 20 countries served by Edelweiss and for the warm welcome passengers are given on board.



11. Whale whisperer campaign wins Gold medal at the FOX awards 2015

Frankfurt / Berlin. ITB 2016. Every year between mid-January and mid-March, an extraordinary natural spectacle takes place in the Los Haitises National Park on the Samaná Peninsula in the north-east of the Dominican Republic. This is the time when thousands of humpback whales from the Arctic come here to mate and give birth. Since 2010, the Tourist Board of the Dominican Republic has chosen the "Whale whisperer" of the year. For four weeks, the person chosen supports the nature conservation organisation CEBSE in the bay of Samaná in the protection of the whales, and shares his or her experience on a daily basis with the community. The whale whisperer project is celebrating its fifth anniversary and the figures show that it's a huge success: over 10,000 whale whisperer fans on facebook (www.facebook.com/Walfluesterer) and 28,000 visits to the blog (www.walfluesterer.de). The integrated online project has earned yet more recognition: at the FOX Awards 2015, the "Whale whisperer" was given the gold award in the "tourism / integrated concept / extern" category.

"The whale whisperer makes an important contribution to the protection of humpback whales in the bay of Samaná. He or she advertises the region in the source markets and also publicises sustainable whale watching. The prestigious prize at the FOX Awards is further proof that our work and its importance are recognised and acknowledged abroad - "This fills us with pride," declares Petra Cruz-Deyerling, Director for Europe of the Dominican Republic Tourist Board.

The FOX AWARD

The GOLD FOX AWARD is a award for a marketing concept which shows above-average performance under all criteria and can therefore be considered an inspirational example.

Five years of whale whisperers: Awards

This year, this nature conservation project celebrates its fifth birthday. The integral online project was a huge success in 2014. The whale whisperer won gold in the "social media" category of the Best of Corporate Publishing Awards. Furthermore, it won the silver medal at the FOX Awards in the tourism category. The 2014 / 2015 whale whisperer campaign won the silver medal in the "social media" category at the Best of Corporate Award contest.

The project

Starting in 2010, the Tourist Board of the Dominican Republic chooses a "whale whisperer" every year. The sponsors of this project are the German tour operator Meier's Weltreisen and the Centre for the Conservation and Ecodevelopment of Samaná Bay and its Surroundings (CEBSE). From August 2015, ambitious nature conservationists can once again apply for this dream job on a Caribbean island on the website www.walfluesterer.de. From February 2016 onwards, big, important tasks are waiting for the whale whisperer: the winner of this contest will take part in a four-week work experience placement with the non-governmental nature conservation organisation CEBSE in the Dominican Republic, during which he or she will have a variety of tasks, ranging from taking tourists on boat trips to office work and keeping the whale whisper blog up to date. Such a selfless effort will of course be rewarded: the tour operator Meier's Weltreisen sponsors the journey (flight, luxury hotel, transfer), so that the whale whisperer incurs no expenses.

The whale whisperer will lend humpback whales his or her voice! Everybody who follows the activities of the whale whisperer on facebook or www.walfluesterer.de and who "shares" "comments" or "likes" makes a small contribution to the conservation of humpback whales.

Why did the Dominican Republic Tourist Board create the whale whisperer project?

Because it supports the nature conservation organisation CEBSE: this organisation takes care of about 3,000 humpback whales which come every year between January and March to the Dominican Republic to give birth and to mate. The shallow waters offers mother whales and their newborn calves protection from shark attacks. The centre of whale activities is the bay of the Samaná Peninsula. Here you can watch up to 200 whales at a time. The whales and their sensational leaps and water fountains as part of their courtship behaviour have found many admirers over the last years. Visitors can watch this fascinating spectacle from boats. The whale whisperer will become a whale watcher for a month and write about all his or her adventures in a blog and on facebook.

About the CEBSE

The CEBSE (in English: Centre for the Conservation and Ecodevelopment of Samaná Bay and its Surroundings) was founded in 1991. As a nonprofit organisation it promotes the conservation and the sustainable use of natural and cultural resources in the Samaná region. CEBSE has the task of giving advice on environmental matters to anybody involved in tourism, for example agencies who organise whale watching trips for tourists.



12. Dominican Republic – the meetings and incentive paradise

Frankfurt / Berlin. ITB 2016. The Dominican Republic is the place to be if you are thinking of organising that special meeting or incentive trip. From lavish resorts and stunning hotels to well-equipped convention centres and matchless historic venues, the Dominican Republic offers unique opportunities for meetings in paradise. Delegates will also enjoy an array of sandy beaches, dazzling landscapes, lush green forests, exotic cuisine and a remarkable variety of art and entertainment options.

As an example of the sort of facilities on offer, three luxury boutique hotels in the Dominican Republic have recently been certified by the Elite International Meeting organization as being excellent facilities to hold meetings and conventions for senior executives or small groups - the "Casa Colonial" in Playa Dorada, Puerto Plata; the "Sivory" and "Tortuga Bay" in Punta Cana.

The "Casa Colonial" Beach and Spa Resort sits right on the beach, has 50 spacious suites and meeting facilities covering a 2,723 square foot area. It is ideal for executive meetings of up to 50 people. It is a member of Small Luxury Hotels of The World organization and offers a modern conference hall with seating for 75 guests. The facility is situated near a Robert Trent Jones golf course and features a spa.

The "Sivory Punta Cana" is also on the beach and offers an intimate and secluded ambience. The facility offers 55 luxurious suites and a 2,200 square foot meeting area. Additional facilities include the Aquarea Spa and Wellness Center, three restaurants and a sophisticated wine cellar offering eight thousand bottles representing 250 brands. It is the ideal meeting place for groups of 25, but it can easily accommodate meetings of up to 50 people.

"Tortuga Bay" is located in the exclusive Punta Cana Resort & Club compound. It has fifteen villas, all situated along the majestic Caribbean Sea and decorated by famed Dominican designer Oscar de la Renta, feature 30 rooms, a business center and a 1,200 square foot meeting hall. The resort offers two golf courses and a worldclass Six Senses Spa. Other amenities: a fitness center, kids club, ecology walking trail, horses, water sports, fishing and a nearby shopping center.

Dominican Republic has over 1,000 miles of stunning coastline and beaches which are widely celebrated as being among the world's best. Also a favourite golfing destination, the Dominican Republic is fast becoming the golf mecca of the Caribbean, with courses offering dramatic coastal views and year-round warm weather. The Dominican Republic was recently named "Golf Destination of the Year for the Caribbean and Latin America" by the International Association of Golf Tour Operators (IAGTO) at its annual award ceremony for the golf tourism industry.

From the north to the south, meeting delegates will find exciting sports, effervescent nightlife and festivals, magnificent national parks and world-class accommodations. In addition to golf, other outdoor activities like snorkelling, kite boarding, boating or cascading down waterfalls are other thrilling ways to experience the natural beauty of the island.

Exceptional value is another plus. The Dominican Republic's world-class resorts and hotels offer expansive meeting venues and restaurants that are very affordable compared to rates in the U.S., Canada and other Caribbean countries.

Dominican Republic's lush tropical country offers a fantastic combination of environments to capture your group's imagination and refresh the soul. With the new direct non-stop BA flights from London to Punta Cana this October and eight international airports, this paradise destination has never been easier to explore.

So bring your group to this breathtaking island sanctuary and create meetings that will be remembered for a lifetime.



13. Activities and places to visit in the Dominican Republic

Frankfurt / Berlin. ITB 2016. The Dominican Republic features a stunning array of sandy beaches, dazzling green landscapes, mountains studded with waterfalls, exotic cuisine and a remarkable variety of arts and entertainment options that attract international travellers, sport stars and celebrities alike.

The Dominican Republic is one of the few countries in the region that has nine distinct ecological zones. This natural diversity provides an unequalled opportunity for visitors to take part in exciting and extraordinary adventure tourism and ecotourism. Over 25 percent of the country has been protected in the form of National Parks, Reserves, and Marine Sanctuaries, granting unimaginable access to such beautifully preserved land.

These beautiful ecosystems are protected areas within a conservation plan that boasts 83 distinct areas, including 19 national parks, 15 natural reserves, six scientific reserves, 32 natural monuments, two marine sanctuaries and nine areas of protected islands with panoramic views. The Destination also have an array of ecolodges, The Historic Colonial City of Santo Domingo is a must not forgetting the Unesco Biosphere reserve.

In the Caribbean, the Dominican Republic has the highest and lowest points above and below sea level. Duarte Peak rises two miles (3,187 meters) within the Cordillera Central Mountain chain, while Lake Enriquillo is 45 yards (42 meters) below sea level, which has great influence on the salinity of the latter. Both in the upper reaches of the country, as well in the plains, there are a large variety of areas where nature expresses itself in different and extreme forms, from luscious tropical forests through to arid deserts.

Each area offers multiple adventure and ecotourism activities that will enliven the senses. Thrilling adventures include mountain-climbing, horseback-riding, river rafting, trekking or hiking destinations such as Jarabacoa and Constanza; or destinations of untouched beaches and geological depressions, lagoons, dunes and desert areas, such as Pedernales, Bahoruco, Bani, Azua and Barahona; or resorts for diving, windsurfing and kite boarding, jeep safaris, waterfalls and observation of humpback whales, such as on the northeast coast, Puerto Plata, Cabarete and Samaná. For more information, visit: www.ranchobaiguate.com, www.constanza.com.do and www.odt.org.do

National Parks

Whilst the most popular activity for most visitors to the Dominican Republic is soaking up rays on one of the many white-sand beaches that circle the coast, there are lots of activities on offer for those who want a break from the sun. Chief amongst them is a visit to the many National Parks which gives visitors the opportunity to experience firsthand vegetation and animals unique to the island.

- **Los Haitises National Park**
- **Jaragua National Park**
- **National Park Isla Cabritos**
- **Armando Bermudez National Park**
- **Jose Del Carmen Ramirez National Park**
- **Sierra del Bahoruco National Park**
- **Parque Nacional del Este**
- **Monte Cristi National Park**
- **Parque Historico La Isabela**
- **Isabel de Torres National Park**

Cabarete (Puerto Plata)

Cabarete's nightlife is legendary. Great restaurants, bars, clubs, shops, cafés and lounges are everywhere, and most of them are right on the beach, which really is the only way to live.

Santo Domingo

Follow Columbus' footsteps down the cobblestone streets of the oldest city in the "New World." Visit the famous palace, the first cathedral, the first hospital and, when you're ready, settle into one of the fantastic restaurants and sit back to watch this city of three million go about its business.

Tour to Cayo Levantado, Samana

Located at the entrance of the Samana Bay, Cayo Levantado is an island of just one square kilometre of tropical Caribbean. It is a perfect place to escape one day and contemplate and enjoy its beautiful turquoise waters, two beaches of white sand, as well as being ideal for swimming or snorkelling practice.

Whale watching in Samana

From December to early March, the North Atlantic population of humpback whales migrates into the Bay of Samana to calve or mate. There are many tours to go out and be with the whales but please make sure to choose a tour guide who follows the guidelines put in place to protect the whales.

Bavaro Runners

Explore all the hidden treasures that this wonderful country has to offer. Visit coffee and cocoa plantations; eat fresh tropical fruit picked from the trees. See a typical home and how the local people live. Enjoy a delicious lunch in our beachfront ranch and relax. Finish the day horseback riding.

Diving

The Dominican Republic offers an incredible array of diving and water-sports attractions, with vast eco-friendly activities including the island's enviable selection of snorkelling and scuba diving sites. Visitors to Dominican Republic can explore century's old shipwrecks on the country's north coast, or take advantage of warm, protected waters of the south. While the Dominican Republic is a haven for experienced divers, most all-inclusive resorts also offer lessons and certification for those interested in learning more about the activity.

Dining Out / Gastronomy

Dining out is one of the best ways of really getting to know what the Dominican Republic is all about. Dominican cuisine is heavily influenced by Spanish cooking, with added touches of Caribbean herbs and spices. Many restaurants, including those in hotels, will feature several typical Dominican dishes. For those who prefer something a little stronger, the Dominican Republic makes its own beer, Presidente, and rum. Brugal is the largest rum producer in the Dominican Republic. Native coffee is very strong.

Spas

Whether you are after a massage or facial, or to relax the mind and de-stress the body, the Dominican Republic has a spa resort to suit. Luxury spas where visitors can relax, be pampered and recharge their batteries are a must-have feature of top hotels around the world, and no less so in the Dominican Republic where many resorts have upscale spa facilities. There are spas to suit all moods and pockets, and many offer spa packages, with several treatments, to provide the ultimate in pampering.

Golf

The Dominican Republic golf courses have consistently been recognised as having courses of the highest quality in the Region. In fact, Golfweek voted 5 of the golf courses in the Dominican Republic as being within the top 30 a couple year ago. Most have been designed by legends such as Pete Dye, Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer, Robert Trent Jones, Gary Player, Tom Fazio and Nick Faldo. Link to the golfing in the Dominican Republic: <http://www.godominicanrepublic.com/rd/images/files/DR%20GOLF-Brochure.pdf>

Weddings and Honeymoons

Tropical weather, warm people and affordable luxuries make the Dominican Republic the perfect idyllic setting for a romantic wedding and honeymoon destination. With miles of beautiful palm-lined beaches as well as dramatic mountains and landscapes, the country is ideal for weddings and honeymoons alike, allowing newlyweds to kick off their shoes and unwind in the sun. Extravagant or intimate, exciting or relaxed, the country offers an immense variety of accommodations and options to satisfy every style and budget.

The diversity of the country means couples can have a wedding in one place and then move to a different location for the honeymoon. So, for instance they could get married in the resort of Playa Dorado, on the north coast, and honeymoon at La Romana or Samána.

Dominicana Moda

Dominicana Moda has become the most advertised event in the history of Dominican Republic. The vision was to present to the world the talent of the Dominican Republic designers who are known for their fashion. The week dedicated to Fashion includes 5 full days of shows, with around 5 daily parades, presenting designs from the best known local and international designers, is held the 3 week in October annually.

Since its inception the event has had a spirit of social responsibility called "Fashion for Help", so that part of the income goes to more than 40 charities in the country, which is the ideology of the project, and the event spend much of the proceeds to fund humanitarian work carried out by various foundations to the neediest children in the Dominican Republic such as:

- Safe the Children Dominican Republic
- Child Home
- Aids for Aids Dominican
- Foundation helps the malnourished child

- The Merced Foundation shoeshine boys
- Friends Foundation Childhood Cancer
- Foundation joined hands by autism

Zip Lines

A true adrenaline rush not recommended for the faint hearted! Feel the wind rushing past you as you soar from platform to platform like a true jungle king. Set against the lush tropical mountain forests of Punta Cana this will be a truly unforgettable experience!

Outback Safari in Punta Cana

Explore mountains, sugar cane and cocoa bean plantations, discover the art of fine cigar making and visit a typical Dominican home. Finish the adventure in a secluded beach for some boogie boarding and snacks.

Monster Truck Safari

Experience the carefree Dominican Republic way of life on board the tallest trucks on the island!

These guided tours depart daily from Puerto Plata and Punta Cana Resorts through Dominican Republic country side, a full day out with professional guides. You'll be on top of the world, 15 feet high, discovering the unspoiled Dominican Republic country side in these fantastic 8X8 all terrain trucks made especially for your comfort and safety.

Annual Carnival

Carnival is held annually every Sunday from the last week in January to the end of February the most popular carnival characters take to the streets of La Vega, where they display their colourful and elaborate costumes. Thousands of national and international visitors enjoy the very popular parades. Because of its importance, the La Vega carnival has been declared as a "National Folklore" symbol.

The important regional carnivals are the ones held in the following cities: Santo Domingo. La Vega, Azua, Cotuí, Montecristi, Puerto Plata, Salcedo, San Pedro de Macoris, Santiago, San Juan and Santo Domingo. Thousands of national and international visitors enjoy the very popular parades.

SNAPSHOT OF THINGS TO DO IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Whether you enjoy dancing with the devils at Carnival celebrations in Santo Domingo, La Vega, Punta Cana or Santiago, dancing the night away at Merengue festivals or watching the world renowned humpback whales while they migrate, this amazing country has it all. Pack your bags and make your dreams come true in the Dominican Republic.

CASCADING

Hike and climb spectacular waterfalls

WHITE WATER RAFTING

Travel to the central region of the island up to the challenging Rio Yaque del Norte

ZIP LINING

This adventure will take your breath away

KITESURFING LESSONS

One of the most exciting water sports

DEEP SEA FISHING

Try your hand at catching Blue Marlin, Bonefish, Grouper, Kingfish, Tuna and more

OCEAN WORLD ADVENTURE PARK

Dolphin encounters, dolphin swims, sea lion, shark and stingray encounters, tiger grotto and more.

Tour to Cayo Levantado, Samana

Located at the entrance of the Samana Bay, Cayo Levantado is an island of just one square kilometre of tropical Caribbean. It is a perfect place to escape one day and contemplate and enjoy its beautiful turquoise waters, two beaches of white sand, as well as being ideal for swimming or snorkelling practice.

The tour to Cayo Levantado is offered by boats from Samana and several points along the coast. Once on the island, the natives offer typical food, beverages and water activities accompanied by music from the region.

The island is also known as Bacardi Island because there are palm trees that appear in advertisements for the well-known brand of rum. Move through Cayo Levantado from end to end take only fifteen minutes and contemplate the beautiful vegetation and stunning scenery that since there you can see make it a favourite place for visitors.

Cabarete (Puerto Plata)

Cabarete's nightlife is legendary. Great restaurants, bars, clubs, shops, cafés and lounges are everywhere, and most of them are right on the beach, which really is the only way to live.

Santo Domingo

Follow Columbus' footsteps down the cobblestone streets of the oldest city in the "New World." Visit the famous palace, the first cathedral, the first hospital and, when you're ready, settle into one of the fantastic restaurants and sit back to watch this city of three million go about its business.

Whale Watching in Samana

From December to early March, the North Atlantic population of humpback whales migrates into the Bay of Samana to calve or mate. There are many tours to go out and be with the whales but please make sure to choose a tour guide who follows the guidelines put in place to protect the whales. A truly remarkable experience.



14. Regions of the Dominican Republic

Frankfurt / Berlin. ITB 2016.

Santo Domingo

This is the largest, most animated, cosmopolitan and people-friendly city in the Caribbean and Central America. Avoid peak hour traffic, and you are in a metropolis that has it all.

Every first time traveler is advised to leave the comfort of their resort and, for at least a day, visit the Colonial City, recognized by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. The Colonial City is a very walkable grid of 16 short streets with jewels of 16th to early 20th century architecture. Cobblestone lanes and iron street lamps lead to the many small museums, shops, hotels, restaurants and bars that are tucked away on every street. The Chu Chu Colonial offers a 45-minute trip around the city to help newcomers get their bearings.

In the city, marvel at the lushness of the Botanical Gardens. Walk over to the Malecón and watch the people and the sea views.

Shopping is big at the malls in Santo Domingo. Look for Dominican shops to buy a linen guayabera, leather handbag or original designed clothing. Eyeball gorgeous men and women at one of the better gyms. Then relax and smoke a good cigar at one of the open terrace-restaurants at Plaza de España or Av. Gustavo Mejia Ricart. The city is yours.

Las Americas International Airport (SDQ) is the main port of entry, half an hour east of the city. Cruise ship passengers arriving to Santo Domingo by sea are 10 minutes from the leading attraction of the Colonial City.

Punta Cana

Punta Cana is the land of rest and relaxation. Where the Atlantic meets the Caribbean, large resorts offer all the comforts of modern living right on the beach. Punta Cana is a golfer's destination, with 11 courses located all along the strip.

Most of the resorts cater to families and have developed miniature entertainment parks for children. Families have it easy at the big all-inclusives with activities, meals and drinks

included. Dream weddings are also held here, with the best photographic memories against a backdrop of silky-fine white sand and beaches with coconut palms. Everyone gets a vacation.

Punta Cana International Airport (PUJ) is the best-connected airport in the Caribbean and Central America, with flights from 26 countries. Now its brand new highway puts tourists less than an hour away from the attractions of La Romana, and two and a half hours from Santo Domingo.

Samaná

Samaná is a natural treasure. Wild, verdant, with coves, bays, waterfalls, mountains and awe-inspiring views – there is lots to explore. It is known for its wading and body-boarding beaches, nature trekking and whale-watching.

It is for independent travelers, and thousands of Europeans have come as tourists and stayed, setting up businesses that give Samana its cosmopolitan vibe. Samaná City is the provincial capital; Las Galeras is the base for visiting the famous Playa Rincón beach; and Las Terrenas is the main tourist center, but still retains an easygoing beach town feel, with some great shops, restaurants and bars.

Samaná has its own international airport at El Catey (AZS). Cruise ships arrive mainly in the winter season docking offshore near Cayo Levantado.

Puerto Plata

The silver clouds atop Mt. Isabel de Torres, the towering mountain behind Puerto Plata, gave the city its name. Today tourists ride the cable car to get to the top of the mountain, visit its botanical gardens and take in the sweeping views of the port city.

The city boasts the largest collection of still-standing 19th century Victorian-style houses in the Caribbean. Its San Felipe Fort is one of the oldest military colonial period fortresses in the region, dating back to 1577.

Puerto Plata is the province where the remains of the first European settlement in the Americas are located. Admiral Christopher Columbus' famous three ships made landfall here in 1492, naming it La Isabela.

But today Puerto Plata is better known for its Atlantic coastline with more than 62 miles (100 km) of beaches, coastal villages and hotels. The beach towns of Sosua and Cabarete, world famous for its windsurfing and kiteboarding, are less than half an hour away.

The popular Ocean World Adventure Park is on the outskirts of the city. Damajagua Falls, Disney's Splash Mountain ride but for real, is just a 30-minute ride south.

The main port of entry is the Gregorio Luperón International Airport (POP) and the Ocean World Marina is a full-service facility.

La Romana

One of the country's top visitor destinations, La Romana is defined by sugar cane, golf, beaches and diving. To arrive, tourists drive past sprawling sugar cane fields.

In the 1970s, the largest sugar mill in the Americas diversified and opened the resort of Casa de Campo, famous for its world class golf and the artists' village of Altos de Chavón, featuring galleries and shops. While golf put La Romana on the tourism map, most visitors today come for the beaches and the comfort of its resorts.

Bayahibe is the gateway to Saona Island in the National Park of the East, the most visited natural attraction in the country. It is the land of the rare Bayahibe Rose, a cactus-shrub that in 2011 was named the National Flower.

Santiago

Christopher Columbus named Santiago de los Treinta Caballeros after the 30 Spanish aristocrats who founded the city in 1495 and formed the original community. Santiago was traditionally the country's main agricultural hub – and even today, Santiago is still the first place cigar aficionados should visit. The tradition of fine cigars remains strong, with most of the larger cigar plantations and factories located in the area. The Dominican Republic's second largest city, Santiago has evolved into a modern, cosmopolitan center for culture, industry and services.

Learn all about Caribbean and Dominican culture and art at Centro León, one of the region's most active museums and cultural centers.

Santiago's Hospital Metropolitano has a reputation for high quality health care at relatively low prices.

A university city that boasts a vibrant nightlife, Santiago has more than 100 discos, bars and lounges – most located in its downtown area. Dance the night away. Santiago is also home to the Aguilas.

Jarabacoa

An easily accessible mountain resort area, Jarabacoa sits at an altitude of 1,736 feet (529 meters) and is a favorite with Santo Domingo residents seeking the cooler temperatures and mental relaxation provided by the panoramic views. It is ideal for adventure seekers with the best river rafting in the Caribbean, as well as mountain biking, canyoning, paragliding, rappelling and mountain trail horse riding. Jarabacoa is also the most popular gateway for excursions to the highest peak in the Caribbean, Pico Duarte.

Large ranches cater to local and international tourists. While it has a good number of small hotels, Jarabacoa is mostly a vacation home destination. As a result, the town supermarkets are well stocked, and restaurants and prices are good.

Boca Chica

On weekends Boca Chica caters to Santo Domingo city residents who come for the shallow turquoise-colored waters. Boca Chica is the place to eat fried fish or seafood with a view at one of the many beachside restaurants. On weekdays, tourists can practically have the beach and town to themselves. There are three beach areas: Boca Chica (swimming, dining and night life), Andrés (sailors and sport fishers), La Caleta (divers).

Over the years singles tourism has settled in, but Boca Chica's three all-inclusive resorts are heavily into conference and sports tourism. Tourists staying there get to enjoy a beach, proximity to Las Americas International Airport, are half an hour from the Colonial City, and are close enough to good golfing in Juan Dolio and La Romana.

Boca Chica is conveniently close to the Mirador del Este park sports venues, diving at La Caleta Underwater Park, sailing and fishing installations and the beach volleyball courts.

Juan Dolio

Guayacanes and Juan Dolio are beach towns that mainly cater to residents driving in from Santo Domingo on the weekends for the beach, attracted by the very good restaurants and good golf. Two large residential communities, Metro and Guavaberry, plus a handful of recently constructed apartments, and its hotels keep the community alive during weekdays.

Juan Dolio is also an option for visitors wanting to make side trips to see Santo Domingo and La Romana attractions, both around an hour west or east. Las Americas International (SDQ) is the recommended port of entry for those headed to Juan Dolio hotels.

Barahona

This is the Far West of the Dominican Republic, a place that stands out for its panoramic scenery, surfing beaches, biodiversity, forests and birdwatching. The inland provinces of Bahoruco and Independencia and coastal Barahona make up this destination in the southwest. While places may appear to be close to each other on the map, this is in fact a very large area covering around 3,000 square miles (around 7,500 km²) requiring several days to see its spread out attractions.

Most visitors will arrive by land but charter flights can also be arranged into the María Montez International Airport (BRX).

Constanza

People visit this valley for the scenic mountain views and the cool temperatures that range from around 41-77°F (5-25°C) year round. At an average elevation of almost 4,000 feet (around 1,200 meters), Constanza is often called the Switzerland of the Caribbean. In the winter (December to March) Constanza can be chilly, with temperatures dropping into single digits at night, but warming up nicely during the days. Summertime temperatures are pleasant and even mid-day activities are not too warm. Constanza is the geographic center of the country. Surrounded by nature, it is bordered by four large national parks. Visits to farms are organized by the many small hotels in this prime agricultural area. A domestic airport serves this destination.

La Vega

La Vega has gained its place in the book of tourism for the colors and sights of its Sunday carnivals in February. It is the capital of the province where the mountain vacation destinations of Jarabacoa and Constanza are located. It is also center for the veneration of the patron virgin of the Dominican Republic, Our Lady of Mercedes. But before you head into the surrounding mountains, take time to get to experience this hospitable city.

The Cibao International Airport (STI) is the closest airport for those headed to La Vega.

Bonao

Midway between Santiago and Santo Domingo, Bonao is often considered just a stop for a meal but its natural beauty high in the hills and the local art make it more of a destination. The Blanco River ecotouristic trails and Jima waterfalls are easy to access. Its outstanding Cándido Bidó and Tiburcio museums are open all year round and visiting the Bonao Carnival during the month of February is particularly enticing.

Montecristi

Travelers driving the 70 miles (115 km) from the city of Santiago to Montecristi will find an unpretentious town offering history, nature and some of the best snorkeling and diving adventures in the country. Few people know that this seemingly laid-back city, founded by Nicolás de Ovando in 1501, and named San Fernando de Montecristi after King Ferdinand of Spain, is where the country's first aqueduct, railroad and telephones were installed.

In its heyday, the northwestern port of Montecristi was a magnet for immigrants from Europe, the US and South America who worked with Dominicans to set up businesses to export wood and agricultural products that were grown in the region. Montecristi even can boast that a native son, Juan Isidro Jimenez, was the President of the Dominican Republic in 1899 and 1911. The iconic symbol of Montecristi is the towering mesa, El Morro, which rises abruptly from the sea.

Pedernales

Pedernales is for explorers. Highlights of a visit are the uphill drive to see the low valley known as the Hoyo de Pelempito and a visit to Bahía de las Águilas, a beach still unchanged since pre-Columbian times. This coastal province borders with Haiti. It is usually bundled together with visits to the attractions in Barahona, Bahoruco and Independencia province route of the southwest. Figure around two hours to drive in from the city of Barahona that is 84 miles (135 km) away. The María Montez International Airport (BRX) and the Cabo Rojo domestic airport in Pedernales serve the area.