



Dominican Republic

POP 10,649,000 / 

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Best Places to Eat

- Las Palmas (p411)
- El Monte Azul (p413)
- Passion by Martín Berasategui (p407)
- Ñam Ñam (p407)
- Pat'e Palo (p398)

Best Places to Sleep

- Hostal Nicolás de Ovando (p397)
- Natura Cabañas (p419)
- Casa El Paraíso (p413)
- Eco del Mar (p402)
- Zoetry Agua (p406)

Why Go?

The Dominican Republic is defined by its hundreds of miles of coastline – some with picturesque white-sand beaches shaded by rows of palm trees, other parts lined dramatically with rocky cliffs. The sea is the common denominator across remote fishing villages, sun-soaked and indulgent tourist playgrounds, charming small towns and the capital Santo Domingo – the Caribbean's largest and the site of so many New World firsts.

Beyond the capital, much of the DR is distinctly rural. Further inland are vistas reminiscent of the European Alps: four of the Caribbean's five highest peaks rise above the fertile lowlands surrounding Santiago. Remote deserts extend through the southwest, giving the DR a complexity not found on other islands. The country's past is writ large in the diversity of its people, and in the beautifully restored monasteries and cobblestone streets where conquistadors once roamed.

When to Go

Dec–Feb Peak tourist season, with higher prices and crowded beaches.

Feb Great weather, and you can enjoy Carnival and the whales in Samaná.

Nov You'll miss the whales, but catch baseball season.



Dominican Republic Highlights

- 1 Zona Colonial** (p392) Taking a walk through history in Santo Domingo.
- 2 Bávaro and Punta Cana** (p403) Basking on idyllic beaches of soft, white sand and aquamarine waters.
- 3 Península de Samaná** (p409) Watching 30-ton humpbacks breaching on a whale-watching trip.
- 4 Cabarete** (p416) Kitesurfing the year-round offshore breezes in Cabarete
- 5 Las Galeras** (p412) Relaxing into a sleepy fishing village in this remote paradise.
- 6 Las Terrenas** (p413) Meandering in this cosmopolitan beachfront town.
- 7 Jarabacoa** (p422) Rafting the turbulent Río Yaque del Norte.
- 8 Pico Duarte** (p423) Scaling the country's highest mountain and taking in views of both the Atlantic and the Caribbean.