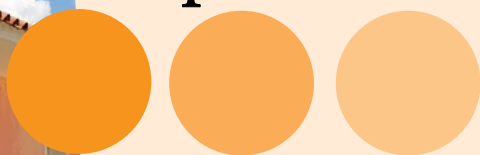






# Dominican Republic



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.

Symbolizing both limits and escapes, the sea is the common denominator across fishing villages, where the shoreline is used for mooring boats, indulgent tourist playgrounds, small towns, and cities such as Santo Domingo – the Caribbean’s largest and the site of 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 around Santiago. Remote deserts extend through the southwest, giving the DR a complexity not found on other islands. The country’s roller-coaster past is writ large in the diversity of its ethnicities, not to mention the physical design of its towns and cities.