



North Coast

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Otra Cosa (p152)
- ➔ Mares Restaurant (p133)
- ➔ Castle Club (p151)
- ➔ Beach Shack Seafood Grill (p154)
- ➔ Baia Lounge (p142)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Casa Colonial Beach & Spa (p136)
- ➔ Casita Mariposa (p158)
- ➔ Swell Surf Camp (p149)
- ➔ El Morro Eco Adventure Hotel (p159)
- ➔ Casa Veintiuno (p141)

Why Go?

From east to west on the Dominican Republic's north coast, you'll find world-class beaches, some of the best water sports in the country and out-of-the-way locales evocative of timeless rural life. This long coastal corridor stretching from Monte Cristi and the Haitian border in the west to Cabrera in the east has enclaves of condo-dwelling expat communities that have endowed some towns with a cosmopolitan air. There are forested hills, dry desert scrub, and jungly nature preserves. There are waterfalls to climb, sleepy little Dominican towns where it's possible to escape and mile after mile of sandy beaches. In the middle is Puerto Plata's international airport; nearby is the city itself and where most of the coast's all-inclusive resorts are located. Independent travelers will find plenty of accommodations to suit a variety of tastes and several good places to base themselves for explorations further afield, especially to Cabarete, where you can kitesurf, surf or just plain bodysurf.

When to Go

- ➔ Winds on the north coast pick up from late December to March, making this an ideal time to try surfing and kitesurfing; check out some of the best exponents in the Master of the Ocean competition in the last week of February.
- ➔ Puerto Plata's week-long June Cultural Festival brings the party to this coastal city's streets, while a jazz festival takes over Sosúa and Cabarete on the last weekend of October.
- ➔ The north is generally wetter from October to January and spectacularly sunny from June to September.

North Coast Highlights

- 1 Learning how to kitesurf into some great grub while dining on the beach in **Cabarete** (p143), and afterwards digging your toes into the sand, and your fork **Damajagua** (p135)
- 2 Jumping and sliding down the thrilling **27 Waterfalls of Damajagua** (p135)
- 3 Worshipping the sun as the waves roll onto beautiful **Playa Grande** (p154)
- 4 Going to school to learn how to **kitesurf** (p143) or **windsurf** (p146) from the pros

- 5 Exploring the underwater marine life around **Sosúa** (p139)

- 6 Finding tranquility in the typical small-town Dominican atmosphere of **Rio San Juan** (p153)

