



North Coast

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Best Places to Eat

- » Otra Cosa (p156)
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- » Beach barbecue (p158)

Best Places to Stay

- » Casa Colonial Beach & Spa (p141)
- » Natura Cabañas (p155)
- » Tubagua Plantation Eco-Village (p141)
- » Swell Surf Camp (p154)

Why Go?

From east to west on the DR'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's dry desert scrub, forested hills 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 surely want to explore the area, especially Cabarete, where you can kite-surf, surf or just plain bodysurf.

When to Go

Winds on the north coast pick up during the North American winter months, making this an ideal time to try out surfing and kitesurfing; check out the world's best, who compete in the Master of the Ocean competition the last week in February. Puerto Plata's week-long June Cultural Festival brings the party to this coastal city's streets, while a jazz festival takes over Cabarete's beach the last week in November. The north is generally wetter from October to January and spectacularly sunny from June to September.

North Coast Highlights

- 1** Jumping and sliding down the thrilling **27 Waterfalls of Damajagua** (p161)
- 2** Digging your toes into the sand and your fork into some great grub while dining on the beach in **Cabarete** (p149)
- 3** Finding tranquility in the typical small-town Dominican atmosphere of **Rio San Juan** (p158)
- 4** Worshipping the sun as the waves crash nearby on beautiful **Playa Grande** (p158)
- 5** Going to school to learn how to **kitesurf** (p150) or **windsurf** (p152) from the pros
- 6** Exploring the underwater marine life around **Sosúa** (p144)

