

**PUNTA RUSIA**

This north coast beachfront village has a real end-of-the-road feel. A sandy offshore island and mangroves are easily reachable and seafood shacks line a small, calm bay.

**ROUTE 16**

Take this road that snakes through rolling, green hills from San José de las Matas to the border at Dajabon. Detour south to Loma Nalga de Maco for mountain streams and tropical forests.

**RESERVO CIENTIFICA VALLE NUEVO**

You'll need a 4WD to access this remote park with the coldest temps in the country. Situated on a high plain, fresh mountain air and beautiful vistas await.

**CACHÓTE**

Bathed in cloud forest – rare for a sun-drenched tropical island – these remote cabins are reached by 25km of impressively bad road that fords the same river a dozen times.

**BAHÍA DE LAS ÁGUILAS**

Reached via a near-deserted one-lane highway, a pot-holed secondary road and a spectacular boat ride, the DR's most beautiful beach is as much about the journey as the destination.

**CORDILLERA SEPTENTRIONAL**

In this dramatic mountain range, Rtes 25 and 233 wind past coursing rivers, jungle-clad escarpments and placid rural settlements. Stop in a village to appreciate Dominican warmth and hospitality.

**CABRERA**

This low-key village is a good base to explore a handful of gorgeous beaches and a freshwater lagoon off the highway between the tourist enclaves of the central North Coast and Peninsula de Samana.

**EL CABITO**

This rustic restaurant literally hangs over the northeastern edge of the country. Consider the jaw-dropping views your just rewards for tackling the wicked unpaved road that leads here.

**PLAYA LIMÓN**

North of Punta Cana, this far-flung beach is the antithesis of the resorts. Pass colorful *colonias* (settlements) and sugar plantations to discover these coconut tree-lined sands.

**LOS PATOS**

Stock up with gas and cash before you set out south of Barahona on the stunning drive to Paraiso. You'll probably find this *balneario* (swimming hole) and polished-stone beach free of other tourists.

