



North Coast

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Playa Dorada & Costa Dorada	152
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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Eze Bar & Restaurant (p170)
- ➔ Mares Restaurant (p151)
- ➔ Castle Club (p169)
- ➔ Restaurant Casa Veintiuno (p160)
- ➔ Taberna El Conde (p159)

Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ Casa Colonial Beach & Spa (p153)
- ➔ Punta Rucia Lodge (p176)
- ➔ Cabarete Surf Camp (p167)
- ➔ El Morro Eco Adventure Hotel (p178)
- ➔ Natura Cabañas (p168)

Why Go?

From east to west on the Dominican Republic's north coast, you'll find world-class beaches, water sports galore 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 Río San Juan 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 with laundry ubiquitously drying on clotheslines 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 accommodations of all stripes and several good places to base themselves for explorations further afield, especially Cabarete, where you can kitesurf, surf or just plain bodysurf.

When to Go

- ➔ Winds on the north coast pick up between December and 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 February.
- ➔ A jazz festival takes over Puerto Plata and Cabarete in October.

North Coast Highlights

- 1 Cabarete** (p161) Learning how to kitesurf or windsurf with the pros, and afterwards digging your toes into the sand, and feasting afterward on the beach.
- 2 Twenty-Seven Waterfalls of Damajagua** (p150) Jumping and sliding down the cataratas.
- 3 Playa Grande** (p173) Worshipping the sun or taking a surf lesson as the waves roll in.

- 4 Sosúa** (p155) Exploring the underwater marine life or going on a catamaran trip.
- 5 Río San Juan** (p171) Finding tranquility in the

typical small-town Dominican atmosphere.

6 Buen Hombre (p176) Learning to kitesurf in this seaside, end-of-the-road town.

- 7 Cayo Arena** (p178) Spending the day on a tiny sandbar, snorkeling in clear turquoise waters and drinking Brugal rum.

