Frequently Asked Questions
To facilitate visits to the Dominican Republic, here are answers to some return of frequently asked questions.

What documents do I need to go to the Dominican Republic?
To enter the country require a valid passport. Also you need a tourist card of US $ 10 that can be purchased on arrival at the airport. For some countries require a visa. The connection http://godominicanrepublic.com/p/travel_information/entry_requirements contains the full list of countries for which you do not need a visa or tourist card, or whose nationals can travel to the Dominican Republic only if in possession of a tourist card or a visa.

What are the fees for entry and exit?
Most tourists need only purchase a tourist card issued upon arrival at the airport. The cost of tourist card is 10 USD, and its validity is 30 days. The exit fee is 20 USD; However, in general this is already included in the cost of air travel. To find out if you need a visa, visit the section on practical information for the traveler on this Web site.

What happens if I decide to stay in the country for more than 30 days?
To extend the period of stay up to 90 days is only required to pay 22 USD at the airport. Additional fees are required for longer stays.

What are the rules in force for traveling with kids in tow?
Minors of foreign nationality have to pay only when they leave the country.

Minors of Dominican nationality
For children under age traveling with both parents there is no problem and does not require any special permission. However, for children traveling with only one parent you must have permission of the other parent.
For children who leave the country, you must have legal authorization or written permission. The act must be notarized, authenticated by the Ministry of Justice of the Republic and then forwarded to the Department of Immigration, which is issuing the permit upon payment of the charges laid.
The requirements for entry and exit with minor in tow in the Dominican Republic can be found at http://www.migracion.gov.do/per_menores.html

What is the current exchange rate?
The exchange rate against foreign currencies fluctuates daily based on the market. To control the exchange rate, you can apply directly to banks and exchange offices; Furthermore, the Central Bank publishes this information on a daily basis (on weekdays). Alternatively, you can obtain this information directly to www.bancentral.gov.do
To help you calculate 1 euro = 50 pesos

How much is the tax on purchases?
ITBIS taxes (Tax on transfer of industrialized goods and services) are equal to 16 percent and are applied to all purchases made. In restaurants, bars and hotels can be added a further 10 percent for the service.
It is advisable to change money at the airport?
Except for immediate needs such as paying a taxi, it is advisable to change money at their destination, because here you can find better exchange rates than those charged at the airport. However, this difference is usually small; Therefore, if you do not want to change large amounts of money, you can use the services available at the airport.

The businesses accept dollars or Euros?
Most businesses accept payment in US dollars and euro, including restaurants, bars and major shopping centers and stores.

I do not speak Spanish; this can be a problem?
The Dominican people are very welcoming and usually, if you do not understand a language, it lends itself to help tourists finding someone who can do it. At the majority of tourist destinations, such as hotels, restaurants and resorts, it is easy to find staff who can speak English and other languages such as French, Italian, German, Portuguese and Russian.

Can I use my cell phone?
Yes, provided it is a GSM device. To do this, you need only activate it in the Dominican Republic. Otherwise, the unit will operate in roaming rates vary depending on the operator. Alternatively you can buy a phone with a local number at one of the many phone services such as Claro-Codetel, Orange, Tricom or Viva. The cost of a device of this type is about 40 USD in addition to the price of phone cards.

What is the area code of the Dominican Republic?
In the village there are three prefixes. Most phones use the prefix 809, while others use the prefixes 829 or 849. Italy add +1 at the beginning, as for the United States.

Should I rent a car?
In some destinations, the availability of a car facilitates the visit to the town to see. For example, during a trip on the northern coast of the country from Montecristi and Puerto Plata Cabrera, or to the beaches of Samaná, renting a car allows you to stop in the many sights along the way. It is advisable to rent a car for traveling along the east coast, so you can explore this popular tourist area which includes La Romana, Bavaro, Punta Cana and Cap Cana. The pristine south-east of the Dominican Republic is one of the most beautiful and unspoiled country. By hiring a car you can see the spectacular beauty and nature of Barahona, Pedernales and the great attractions of Bahia de las Aguilas and dell’Hoyo de Pelempito. All these destinations are surrounded by beaches and attractions whose visit is facilitated by the availability of a car. However, for the city of Santo Domingo and Santiago rental is not necessary due to inward transport services very efficient. Taxis can be called by telephone by contacting the central taxi (see the phone), and most offer a fixed rate of around 5 USD for most destinations in the city.

My driver’s license is valid in the Dominican Republic?
Yes, but with a limited validity of 90 days.

Is it safe to drink the tap water in the hotel?
No, because the tap water is not purified. It is therefore recommended to always drink bottled water.
What are the common foods that I should try?
The Dominican food is unique and delicious. At breakfast, visitors should try the popular “Mangú” (green plantains boiled and mashed) with eggs, fried cheese or salami, while for lunch you can enjoy rice, red beans, meat and “tostones” (mashed and fried green plantains). Other dishes to try for dinner are pork skin, the “locrio de pollo” (rice with chicken Dominican), shrimp stew, the “mofongo” (mashed plantains with fish or meat), fish with coconut, crab and shellfish stew, roasted or stewed goat with boiled cassava and a “sancocho” (stew) accompanied by avocado. Of course, they also try the cassava bread and “queso de hoja”, a type of cheese yarn.
The Dominicans delicious desserts include grated coconut, sweet beans, sour milk dessert, sweets with oranges, dessert of milk (papaya) and pineapple, and guava syrup sauce and cashews. The tropical fruit juices include natural passion fruit, guava, pineapple, oranges, strawberries, mango, mandarin and papaya juice with milk.
We recommend that you do not forget to try the juice of sugar cane produced in numerous crops all over the country. The hundreds of crops and coconut groves of the country producing the famous Dominican coconut, which yields a juice, a pulp and milk a delicious and refreshing highly appreciated by those who try them.

To address people, I have to use the “you” or “you”?
Although times are changing, it is advisable to maintain a formal approach instead confidential and it is always better to use the more formal “you” (usted) with people who do not know. Men you can contact using “Don” or “señor” (Mr.), while for women it is possible to use “doña” or “Señora” (lady).
The confidence is very common and accepted, as the Dominicans are very open and sociable. The term “amigo” (friend) is used frequently. We must not however be surprised if you feel apostrophe with “mi amor” (my love) or “cariño” (expensive), because in speaking some Dominicans jump directly to the limits of informality.

The country is safe?
The Dominican Republic is one of the countries where it takes the least number of crimes in the region. However, you should always take appropriate precautions, just as you would do in the new country or visit any major city in the world.

For a visit as a tourist, what clothes should I wear?
The Dominican Republic is located in the tropical zone of the Caribbean and is characterized by sunny weather all year round. We therefore recommend that you bring light clothing for warm climates.
However, for visitors staying in the resort is advisable to bring some more formal head in anticipation of situations that may require a little ‘more than elegance, such as a dinner in fancy restaurants. In addition, those who program trips that include visits to churches and some types of monuments or museums must remember that you can not access it by wearing shorts or very short skirts.
For visits during the winter between December and February, it is advisable to bring a light coat or jacket, as the night temperature may drop slightly.

What are the dimensions of the Dominican Republic than in Puerto Rico or Jamaica?
Located in the Caribbean, the Dominican Republic has an area of over 77,700 km square, five times greater than that of Puerto Rico and four times that of Jamaica. For its size and variety of the territory, the Dominican Republic offers tourists a greater diversity, with a large number of beaches, mountains, prehistoric caves, deserts, lakes, islands, rivers and numerous waterfalls. That’s why we say that the Dominican Republic “has everything”.

www.rakma.com
What is the local climate? When is the rainy season?
The Dominican Republic is surrounded by nearly 1,600 kilometers of coastline that form its limits north, east and south, and has a tropical climate. The normal temperatures are 25-27 °C, and can drop to 19-23 °C during the winter.
The rainy season varies depending on the area of the country. To the south it can rain regularly and sporadically during the months of May and June and September to November. To the north, the rains are more frequent in the winter months ranging from December to February.

What is the hurricane season?
The hurricane season in the Atlantic begins June 1 and lasts until November 30. In the Dominican Republic, this period coincides with the summer and early autumn, with sunny weather with some cloud and occasional showers of passage that tend to occur in the late afternoon or at night.

At what age is allowed to drink alcohol?
In the Dominican Republic you can consume alcoholic beverages after 18 years of age.

It is worth visiting the capital?
The capital of the Dominican Republic is an important city to visit. Santo Domingo is the first city founded in the Americas and has been named American Capital of Culture for 2010. Its Ciudad Colonial is a site that is part of the Cultural Heritage of Humanity, and you can find the best food and the most active life Night Caribbean. Visitors have access to an excellent transportation by bus, and for less than 10 USD, you can reach the capital from Punta Cana and Puerto Plata.

During my stay, I will be able to see a baseball game?
In the Dominican Republic, baseball stadiums are called “play” and are located in major cities: Santo Domingo (Quisqueya Stadium), Santiago (Cibao Stadium), La Romana (Micheli Stadium Francisco), San Pedro de Macoris (Stadium Tetelo Vargas) and San Francisco de Macoris (Julián Javier Stadium).
Our winter season of baseball begins in mid-October and ends with the proclamation of the champion team at the end of January. The winners then go on to represent the Dominican Republic in the Caribbean Series, during which they are confronted with Puerto Rico, Mexico and Venezuela. For more information on Dominican baseball, visit www.lidom.com

I have many questions to ask, who should I contact before you leave?
The Secretariat for Tourism has 22 offices in foreign countries, including the United States, Canada, Puerto Rico, South America and Europe, where you can submit your own questions. More information is available on the Internet at http://www.drl.com/forums, where there are nearly 700,000 questions and answers in English on a variety of topics and a search engine.

How can I get to the Dominican Republic?
In the Dominican Republic there are eight international airports, three major seaports and numerous marinas for boats and yachts of all sizes, as well as smaller airports for private planes. For the characteristics of large island by the views so different and with eight international airports in the Dominican Republic it is important to choose the arrival airport closest to the final destination of the stay.
In fact, traveling overland from one airport to another can be very time consuming. For example, to go from the Punta Cana to Puerto Plata it can take up to eight hours. However, a possible alternative may be to arrive at an airport on a coast, for example, on the north coast, to explore the area, then travel by car to another area of the island, for example, on the east coast, for the second half permanence.
An example of this kind of stay may precede the arrival at the Airport Gregorio Luperon in Puerto Plata on the north and the departure from the International Airport of Punta Cana on the east coast, to have the opportunity to visit two different destinations in one trip.

**Approximate flight times from some cities to airports in the Dominican Republic:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>3 hours 30</td>
<td>Miami</td>
<td>1 hour 50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlanta</td>
<td>2 hours and 50</td>
<td>London</td>
<td>8 hours 45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montreal</td>
<td>4 hours and 15</td>
<td>Toronto</td>
<td>4 hours and 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Juan</td>
<td>35 minutes</td>
<td>Madrid</td>
<td>7 hours 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rome</td>
<td>9 hours and 45</td>
<td>Paris</td>
<td>8 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milan</td>
<td>9 hours and 30</td>
<td>Prague</td>
<td>10 hours and 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moscow</td>
<td>11 hours and 30</td>
<td>St. Petersburg</td>
<td>1 hour and 45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caracas</td>
<td>2 hours</td>
<td>Bogota</td>
<td>2 hours and 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lima</td>
<td>4 hours</td>
<td>Buenos Aires</td>
<td>8 hours</td>
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**International airports:**

**Santo Domingo:**
- Las Americas International Airport (SDQ): 30 minutes from the capital and very close to the tourist areas of Boca Chica and Juan Dolio.
- Joaquin Balaguer International Airport (SLI) also located in Santo Domingo and sometimes called La Isabela, mainly used for domestic flights.

**Punta Cana:**
- Punta Cana International Airport (PUJ): only 10 minutes from the areas of Punta Cana and Cap Cana, and 30 minutes from Bavaro, El Cortecito, Arena Gorda, Macao and Uvero Alto.

**Puerto Plata:**
- Gregorio Luperon International Airport (POP): only 20 minutes from the city of Puerto Plata on the north coast. Tourist destinations in the vicinity include Playa Dorada, Sosua, Cabarete, Cofresi and Playa Grande.

**La Romana:**
- La Romana International Airport (LRM): just 10 minutes from the resort of Casa de Campo on the Southeast Coast and only 20 minutes from Bayahibe.

**Samana:**
- El Catey International Airport (AZS): only 30 minutes from the town of Samana and 45 minutes from the destinations of Las Terrenas and Portillo on the famous north-eastern coast of the Dominican Republic.

**Santiago:**
- El Cibao International Airport (STI): 15 minutes from the bustling city of Santiago in the Central Region, offers easy access to nearby La Vega, Jarabacoa, Constanza, San Francisco de Macoris and Moca.

**Other airports which mainly domestic flights:**
- El Portillo (EPS), Arroyo Barril (ABA) in Samaná on the northeast coast.
- Constanza (COZ), located in the Central Region.
- Maria Montez (BRX) in Barahona and Cabo Rojo (CBJ) in Pedernales on the southwest coast.
**Ports for cruise ships:**
In the Dominican Republic there are three ports for berthing of cruise ships:
- The Port of Santo Domingo, which includes the brand new terminal landing of Don Diego and Sans Souci.
- A new port for cruise ships and tourist at the resort of Casa de Campo in La Romana.
- Facilities able to receive passengers transported from cruise ships docked at the island of Catalina on the South Coast and Samaná Bay on the northeastern coast.

At the disposal of visitors there are other marinas, including: Casa de Campo, the marina in Cap Cana (the largest in the Caribbean), the marina resort of Punta Cana and marinas of Ocean World and in Luperon Puerto Plata.