



THE CARIBBEAN
Bible.

THE CARIBBEAN / DESTINATION GUIDE

Dominican Republic

Your island guide.



Meg von Haartman / Unsplash

Long beaches.
More than a resort holiday.

BEACHES · EXPERIENCES · STAYS · LOCAL KNOW-HOW

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START HERE

An island, at your pace.

An east-coast companion centred on Punta Cana, Cap Cana and Bayahibe. We also explain when La Romana, Santo Domingo or Samaná should become a separate part of the trip.

Start with the price key, choose a base, then build days around nearby places. The recommendations are editorial selections for different travel styles. Leave time for the island between bookings.

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KEEP A COPY OFFLINE

Price key: page 3. Emergency contacts: page 20. Check the safety notes on page 19 before exploring. Contents and numbered source references are clickable.

This guide follows the destination scope used on The Caribbean Bible website. It is researched travel guidance, not a claim of personal inspection or guaranteed availability.

01 / PRICE OVERVIEW

Price overview

Use the dollar symbols to compare expected spending within each category. They are planning estimates, not live quotations.

\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
BUDGET	MODEST	MIDRANGE	PREMIUM	LUXURY

A free-to-enter beach can still cost money for chairs, shade, parking or lunch. Ranges show different ways to visit, such as independent access versus a guided tour. The symbols do not represent fixed US-dollar bands or a quality score.

Compare like with like

Stays: an entry room or accommodation category per night. Season, occupancy, meal plan and room type can change the tier.

Food: an ordinary meal with a soft drink, excluding alcohol and tasting menus.

Beaches: basic access and a chair where relevant, excluding meals or premium cabanas.

Experiences: an adult ticket or standard outing; private guiding and transfers can change the total.

Shopping: the scale of a likely purchase; browsing is generally free.

MONEY ON THIS TRIP

The local currency is the Dominican peso, DOP or RD\$. Many tourism businesses also quote US dollars. Confirm the currency before paying and check whether taxes, service charges and transfers are included. Carry some pesos for ordinary purchases outside the resort; exchange rates and card fees vary. [03]

Before paying: ask which currency is being quoted, and whether taxes, service charges, transport, deposits and equipment are included. Use the final total for your exact dates when comparing offers.

02 / BEFORE YOU GO

Before you go

Prepare the official paperwork and the first transfer before leaving home.

The e-ticket is free

Complete the official e-ticket for entry and departure at eticket.migracion.gob.do. It covers immigration, customs and health information. The arrival form can be completed up to seven days ahead; save the required QR codes offline and make sure the details match your documents.

[01] [02]

Documents for every traveller

Check passport validity, visa eligibility and any transit-country requirements for each nationality in your party. Carry your accommodation address and onward or return booking. An arrival form does not replace a visa. Follow the entry permission actually granted at the border.

[01]

Insurance and first night

Cover treatment, evacuation and the activities you intend to book. Save the insurer's assistance number offline. Send your driver the airport code, flight number and exact accommodation address. Keep arrival day light and retain a payment method for unexpected costs.

[05]

Use the official links. Recheck requirements before departure, particularly when your party uses different passports.

Check the airport code

Punta Cana (PUJ) suits the eastern resort areas. La Romana (LRM) and Santo Domingo (SDQ) are different airports with different transfers. Send the full hotel name and flight number to your driver and confirm the pickup instructions before leaving home.

[04]

Children and consent

Check the destination's rules when a child travels alone, with one parent or with another adult. Ask the airline what originals are needed. Pack relevant consent and custody documents where required, plus copies stored separately; matching surnames alone do not establish permission.

[01]

Pack the useful essentials

Bring sun protection, suitable footwear, prescribed medicine in original packaging, a charger, adaptor and refillable bottle. Add insect repellent and a small first-aid kit. Keep essential medicine and documents in hand luggage, and leave a little spare room for local purchases.

03 / CHOOSE YOUR BASE

Choose your base

This guide’s main recommendations are in the east. The country’s other coasts and capital need their own travel time.

AREA	A GOOD FIT FOR	PLAN AROUND
Bávaro / Punta Cana	A wide choice of beach hotels and independent excursions.	The exact resort area, beach access and transfer distances.
Cap Cana	A more planned resort setting and Juanillo-area stays.	Access controls, restaurant reservations and transport outside the complex.
Uvero Alto	A resort-focused holiday north of the main strip.	Longer transfers and variable Atlantic beach conditions.
Bayahibe / Dominicus	Caribbean-coast beach days and Saona departures.	Choose village convenience or a resort beach setting.
La Romana	Casa de Campo, Altos de Chavón and regional culture.	The actual beach and transport arrangements of your property.
Samaná / Santo Domingo	Separate nature or city stays on a longer trip.	These are distinct regions, not nearby Punta Cana beach suburbs.

Our planning pick: one eastern base for 5–8 nights, or split Punta Cana and Bayahibe if both settings matter. Add Samaná or Santo Domingo only with proper transfer and overnight time.

04 / SIX BEACHES TO KNOW

Six beaches to know

Compare the Atlantic-facing Punta Cana area with the Caribbean coast around Bayahibe. Seaweed and surf vary by beach and day.

PUNTA CANA

Bávaro Beach

A long resort-area beach with many possible access and activity points. Choose a section near your base and confirm any chair or beach-club arrangement. Check current seaweed and surf reports with the property rather than expecting every stretch to look the same.

\$-\$\$\$ · [14]

CAP CANA

Juanillo Beach

A Cap Cana beach option where access and beach-club arrangements need checking in advance. Confirm whether a reservation, spend requirement or entry procedure applies to your visit. A beautiful photo does not establish unrestricted access to every facility.

\$\$-\$\$\$\$ · [17]

BAYAHIBE VILLAGE

Bayahibe beach

Combine a local shore visit with time in the village. Boat departures can make some areas busy, so identify the swimming space and keep clear of traffic. It is a different experience from spending the day on a hotel's organised beach.

\$-\$\$\$ · [16]

Ask about recent sargassum conditions at the exact beach and what management is in place. A seasonal pattern cannot guarantee a seaweed-free stay.

PRICE LEVELS: \$ budget to \$\$\$\$\$ luxury, within each category. See page 3.

ATLANTIC SCENERY

Macao Beach

A more open Atlantic beach associated with surfing. Enjoy the scenery and use a qualified instructor if trying a lesson. Do not treat breaking waves as a family swimming area; ask about the safest part of the shore for the conditions.

\$-\$\$\$ · [14]

PUNTACANA RESORT

Playa Blanca

A beach-day choice within Puntacana Resort, with food and water activities nearby. Confirm visitor access and any reservation or minimum-spend arrangements. It works well as one planned outing rather than an unannounced drive through a private resort entrance.

\$\$-\$\$\$\$ · [26]

DOMINICUS

Dominicus Beach

A Caribbean-coast option near Bayahibe with resort areas and public access. Choose the entry point and facilities before arriving. Conditions can still change; check the actual swimming area and keep children close rather than relying on the coast's calmer reputation.

\$-\$\$\$ · [15]

05 / ON AND AROUND THE WATER

On and around the water

Bayahibe is a useful departure point for island trips. From Punta Cana, include the road transfer when comparing excursion length.

FROM BAYAHIBE

Saona Island

Choose an authorised excursion with a clear route, group size and return time. Ask how much of the day is road transfer, boat travel and actual beach time. Keep protected areas clean and do not lift starfish or other wildlife for photographs.

\$\$\$ · [16]

SCAPE PARK

Hoyo Azul

A freshwater cenote within Scape Park in Cap Cana. Check which park package includes it, the walking route and swimming requirements. Follow site instructions and be prepared to enjoy the view if entering the water does not suit your group.

\$\$\$-\$\$\$\$ · [18]

FROM YOUR CHOSEN COAST

A guided reef outing

Choose a licensed operator near your base and describe your swimming experience. Compare reef time with party time, boat transfers and included equipment. Do not book only on price; suitable flotation and supervision matter more than a long drinks list.

\$\$\$ · [14]

Choose the operator, conditions and return arrangements before the photograph. Ask about lifejackets, boarding, shade, toilets, group size and the weather cancellation policy.

LA ROMANA AREA

Catalina Island

Compare a beach-and-snorkel trip with a dive-focused outing; they are not interchangeable experiences. Ask about the exact departure port and sea conditions. Bring only what you need and confirm secure storage while you are in the water.

\$\$\$ · [16]

PUNTACANA RESORT

Ojos Indígenas reserve

A protected forest and freshwater-lagoon experience within Puntacana Resort. Confirm current visitor access, booking and permitted swimming areas directly with the reserve. Choose the guided programme that fits your interests; this is managed conservation land rather than a public swimming hole.

\$\$-\$\$\$ · [19]

AN EASY SEA EVENING

A coastal sunset sail

A shorter boat outing can suit a group that wants time at the hotel as well. Check the atmosphere, passenger numbers and actual route. Arrange the return transfer and confirm the weather policy before paying a non-refundable deposit.

\$\$\$ · [14]

PRICE LEVELS: \$ budget to \$\$\$\$\$ luxury, within each category. See page 3.

06 / BEYOND THE BEACH

Beyond the beach

Leave the resort for a purposeful outing: a local product, a cultural site or a little time with the landscape.

LA ROMANA

Altos de Chavón

Explore the recreated village above the river and include its archaeological museum when open. It is a modern cultural complex, not an untouched medieval settlement. Check visitor access, steps and exhibitions, and allow time to understand the island's Indigenous history.

\$\$\$ · [20] [28]

MUNDO AUTÉNTICO

Chocomuseo

A Punta Cana stop to learn about cacao and compare a short visit with a hands-on workshop. Ask what the ticket includes and which ingredients are used. This can be a useful shorter outing when a full excursion day would be too much.

\$-\$\$ · [22]

PUNTACANA VILLAGE

The Wallz art stop

Look for the local mural project in the Puntacana Village commercial area. Combine a daylight visit with a café or ordinary shopping rather than creating a long transfer just for photographs. Respect the surrounding businesses and people using the space.

\$ · [24]

These are suggestions for separate outings. Compare the map, opening arrangements and your group's energy before combining them into one day.

HIGÜEY

Higüey basilica

A visit to the Basilica of Our Lady of La Altagracia adds a different perspective to an eastern holiday. Dress respectfully and avoid interrupting worship. Use a planned daytime route or guide if you want the religious and local history explained.

\$-\$\$\$ · [21]

INLAND ADVENTURE

Anamuya ziplines

Choose a recognised operator and read the activity's age, height, weight and health requirements before reserving. Ask about transport, training and the weather policy. A canopy adventure is a physical outing, so leave recovery time afterwards.

\$\$\$ · [23]

VILLAGE LIFE

A slower Bayahibe visit

Walk the village in daylight, enjoy a local meal and watch the harbour without obstructing working boats. It can be the gentler alternative to another all-day excursion. Ask a local guide for context if you want more than a beach-and-lunch stop.

\$-\$\$\$ · [16]

07 / A TABLE FOR EVERY MOOD

A table for every mood

A shortlist for local flavour, an easy lunch and a meal worth planning around.

BÁVARO

Jellyfish

A Bávaro-area restaurant option for a beach-facing meal. Check reservations, current menus and whether an event changes access on your date. Confirm transport and the final bill; a casual-looking coastal setting does not necessarily mean a budget dinner.

\$\$\$\$-\$\$\$\$ · [25]

PUNTACANA RESORT

Playa Blanca restaurant

Useful when you want lunch and a managed beach setting in one outing. Confirm the current access and spending arrangements, especially as an outside visitor. Ask which beach facilities are included rather than assuming a meal purchases the whole package.

\$\$\$ · [26]

BÁVARO

Soles

A more informal Bávaro beach-area stop to consider for food and an easy afternoon. Check the current service and event schedule before making it an evening plan. Ask about seating, shade and the bill's currency when arriving.

\$-\$-\$\$\$ · [25]

PUNTACANA RESORT

La Yola

A marina restaurant within Puntacana Resort for an evening worth planning around. Book access and a table in advance if visiting from outside. Allow time for the meal and arrange a non-drinking driver instead of improvising the return.

\$\$\$\$ · [26]

BÁVARO

Huracán Café

A Bávaro beach-area option to compare for lunch or dinner. Verify normal restaurant service on the date you want, since coastal venues can host private events. Choose the menu and atmosphere that suit your group rather than booking from photographs alone.

\$\$\$ · [25]

FOR AN EVERYDAY DOMINICAN MEAL

A local comedor

Ask a trusted local contact for a currently recommended daytime comedor near your route. Try a freshly prepared Dominican lunch and confirm the price in pesos before ordering. Explain dietary needs directly; a daily menu may have limited substitutions.

\$-\$\$\$ · [04]

Ask about allergens, the day's availability and the full bill. Service charges and tips are not interchangeable; check the receipt before adding more. Arrange a non-drinking driver for evenings out.

PRICE LEVELS: \$ budget to \$\$\$\$\$ luxury, within each category. See page 3.

08 / STAYS WITH A SENSE OF PLACE

Stays with a sense of place

Six editorial choices for different budgets and holiday styles. Price levels are estimates for an entry room or accommodation category.

PUNTACANA VILLAGE · VALUE

Four Points Puntacana

A practical hotel in Puntacana Village near the airport, worth comparing for a shorter stay or a moderate budget. It is not a beachfront resort. Confirm beach transport, opening hours and inclusions before deciding whether its location fits the whole holiday.

\$\$-\$\$\$ · [31]

DOMINICUS · FAMILY RESORT

Dreams Dominicus

A Bayahibe-area all-inclusive choice on the Dominicus coast. It can suit a family wanting resort time and a separate island excursion. Compare connecting-room possibilities, children's facilities and the cost of transfers for your selected airport.

\$\$\$\$ · [29]

LA ROMANA · SPACE AND ACTIVITIES

Casa de Campo

A large La Romana resort with rooms, villas, a marina and golf. Choose the part of the property and the accommodation category carefully. Distances inside the resort and the available transport matter as much as the list of facilities.

\$\$\$\$\$ · [28]

Compare identical dates, room categories, meal plans and cancellation terms. Photos may show premium rooms or facilities that cost extra. Confirm the route to the beach and the total payable before booking.

CAP CANA · FAMILY RESORT

Dreams Cap Cana

A family-oriented all-inclusive option in the Juanillo area. Compare the actual room category, club upgrades and age-specific facilities. Ask which restaurants and activities require reservations or extra payment rather than treating the all-inclusive label as unlimited access to everything.

\$\$\$\$ · [30]

PUNTACANA RESORT · LUXURY

Tortuga Bay

A high-end Puntacana Resort choice for a quieter, more spacious stay. Review your exact accommodation, meal arrangements and transport inclusions. It is a deliberate luxury choice rather than a substitute for comparing the resort's other hotels on headline price.

\$\$\$\$\$ · [27]

UVERO ALTO · ADULTS ONLY

W Punta Cana

An adults-only all-inclusive resort in the Uvero Alto area. Consider it for a contemporary resort-led holiday and compare the actual room, dining and activity inclusions. Its northern location deserves a realistic transfer plan for outings elsewhere in the east.

\$\$\$\$\$ · [32]

PRICE LEVELS: \$ budget to \$\$\$\$\$ luxury, within each category. See page 3.

09 / BRING HOME A LITTLE COLOUR

Bring home a little colour

Browse for local craft, useful holiday purchases and something with a story.

PUNTA CANA

BlueMall Puntacana

A convenient mall option for established shops, food and practical purchases. It is distinct from the BlueMall in Santo Domingo. Compare prices and guarantees for branded goods, and confirm transport rather than assuming your hotel's shuttle serves every shopping centre.

\$\$-\$\$\$\$ · [17] [31]

BÁVARO

El Cortecito shops

A Bávaro-area option for souvenirs and casual browsing. Ask where a product was made and agree the currency before paying. Polite refusal is enough if an offer does not suit you; avoid rushed purchases under pressure.

\$-\$\$\$ · [17]

BUY WITH PROVENANCE

Larimar and amber

Use a reputable retailer, ask for a clear description of the stone and keep a detailed receipt. Colour alone cannot establish authenticity. For an expensive purchase, seek independent assurance rather than relying on an informal beach seller's claim.

\$\$-\$\$\$\$ · [33]

Browsing is usually free. Price levels refer to purchases, which vary widely. Ask who made an item, keep receipts and check your home country's customs rules before buying food, alcohol or natural materials.

NEAR PUJ

Puntacana Village

Browse the commercial area and pair the visit with food or the local mural project. This can work well for useful purchases without a full shopping excursion. Check the exact shop hours and keep the walk comfortable in the midday heat.

\$-\$\$\$ · [24] [31]

EDIBLE LOCAL GIFTS

Chocomuseo gifts

Compare clearly labelled chocolate and cacao products after the visit. Ask about ingredients, storage in the heat and packing. Keep hand-luggage liquid rules and your home country's food-import rules in mind when selecting sauces or drinks.

\$-\$\$ · [22]

A MAKER'S STORY

Dominican art and craft

Look for small paintings, ceramics, textiles or other work with an identifiable maker. Ask about local production and how the item should be packed. A carefully chosen piece can connect to the trip without filling a suitcase with generic souvenirs.

\$\$-\$\$\$\$ · [33]

10 / EVERYDAY ISLAND ESSENTIALS

Everyday island essentials

The small details that make a holiday run more smoothly.

CARDS AND CASH

Pay in a currency you understand

Keep small peso notes for local purchases and tips where appropriate. Ask whether a price marked “\$” means USD or DOP. Use an established exchange service or bank ATM and compare card-terminal conversion with your bank’s terms. Keep receipts for important payments.

[03]

STAY CONNECTED

Mobile data and calling

The Dominican Republic uses +1 with area codes including 809, 829 and 849. Check roaming, or compare a compatible local SIM or eSIM. Save your hotel, transport provider and Politur contact offline. A data-only plan may not include ordinary phone calls.

[04]

MEET THE DESTINATION

Language and local rhythm

Spanish is the main language; English is common in tourist businesses but not universal elsewhere. Save the hotel address in Spanish and learn a greeting. Use a translation app offline where useful, especially for food allergies, directions or a pharmacy conversation.

[04]

BEFORE YOUR FIRST OUTING

Download your maps

We suggest MAPS.ME for offline maps. On Wi-Fi, download your destination, save the hotel and airport, then test a route with mobile data off. Check entrances with your host; an app’s shortcut is not proof of a safe or open road.

[34]

KNOW YOUR ACCOMMODATION

Water and electricity

Use bottled drinking water, as recommended by the tourism ministry, and ask about safe water for any special medical need. Bring an adaptor and check socket shape and appliance voltage labels at your property. A plug adaptor is not a voltage converter.

[04]

MAKE THE FIRST DAY EASY

Shopping for everyday things

Buy water and groceries near your base before a long excursion. Confirm shop and pharmacy opening hours around weekends and public holidays. Pack snacks for children and people with dietary needs. Small notes are useful when an independent vendor cannot accept your card.

11 / GETTING AROUND, YOUR WAY

Getting around, your way

A prebooked transfer and selected excursions can be enough for a resort stay. Independent travel needs more attention to roads and pickup arrangements.

FOR AIRPORT DAYS

Prebooked transfers

Choose a recognised company or hotel-arranged vehicle and confirm the driver's identification process. Agree the airport, terminal, hotel and waiting policy. Do not follow an unsolicited driver merely because they know the name of a large resort.

CHECK ACCESS AS WELL AS COVERAGE

Transport apps

An app's availability does not settle where a driver can collect you at an airport or hotel. Confirm the actual meeting place and local access arrangements. Keep a prearranged alternative if a remote return or timed airport connection matters.

[10]

FOR MEALS AND LOCAL OUTINGS

Licensed taxis

Confirm the fare, currency and return booking before leaving. Ask the hotel for the authorised pickup point, particularly inside a controlled resort complex. Keep a known dispatcher or driver's contact for an evening return.

[10]

CHOOSE FOR THE WHOLE JOURNEY

A car or private driver

A driver can simplify unfamiliar roads and several regional stops. If renting, check cover, licence requirements and the route carefully. Motorbike taxis are not a good default for a visitor seeking a straightforward insured transfer.

[12]

BOOK THE RETURN JOURNEY

Agree the pickup point, fare, currency, waiting time and number of passengers before setting off. Save the driver or dispatcher's contact, keep enough phone battery for the return and carry the accommodation address offline.

12 / DRIVE WITH LOCAL KNOWLEDGE

Drive with local knowledge

Drive on the right and expect mixed traffic. A familiar-looking main road does not remove the need for defensive driving.

Stay alert to mixed traffic

Allow space for motorcycles, pedestrians and vehicles stopping unexpectedly. Avoid tailgating and keep the route simple. Do not treat a posted travel time as a promise when passing through towns.

[12]

Choose daylight journeys

The tourism ministry advises against night driving. Plan unfamiliar routes for daylight and allow extra time for the return. A distant excursion should not end with a rushed late drive.

[03] [12]

Check licence and insurance

Confirm the rental firm's documents, age rules and permitted drivers. Read exclusions and excess, photograph the car and save roadside contacts. Keep the contract available for any official check.

Use proper roads

Stay on permitted, open routes and do not follow a beach or rural shortcut just because it appears offline. Heavy rain can affect access. Never drive into floodwater or around a closure.

Park and secure belongings

Use recognised parking, close windows and keep bags out of view before arrival. Retain control of keys and documents. Avoid handling the phone or exposing valuables at a traffic stop.

[10]

Belts and a sober driver

Arrange correctly sized child seats and check installation. Use seatbelts on every trip and put the phone away. Hire a driver for evenings involving alcohol or when the road plan feels beyond your comfort level.

AFTER A COLLISION

Stop and check for injuries. Call 911 where available, give your precise location and contact the rental company. Follow the dispatcher or police instructions about vehicle position and reporting. Keep the other vehicle details and incident reference. In remote areas, know the nearest local assistance contact before setting out. [06] [05]

13 / PLAN FOR THE SEASON

Plan for the season

Weather varies across a large country. This guide’s beach planning centres on the east and the Bayahibe coast.

PERIOD	WHAT TO EXPECT	HOW TO PLAN
December-April	Often a popular period for eastern beach holidays.	Book key rooms early; keep a rain alternative.
May-November	More heat and wet-weather variability in the east.	Plan outdoor starts early and check road and boat conditions.
June-November	Atlantic hurricane season.	Follow alerts and build flexibility into excursions.

Check the forecast that matters

Check the forecast for your actual coast and the marine conditions for the planned route. Samaná and the north coast do not share an identical rainfall pattern with Punta Cana or Bayahibe. During storm warnings, follow local instructions and ask operators about refunds or rescheduling. [13]

Have a useful alternative

Choose a chocolate visit, a nearby cultural stop or a relaxed meal when conditions allow safe travel. If roads or boats are affected, remain near your base rather than replacing one cancelled excursion with another distant trip.

Seasonal patterns are not a forecast. Ask operators about cancellation and rescheduling terms, and follow local warnings and closure instructions.

14 / FAMILIES, HEALTH AND ACCESS

Families, health and access

A comfortable trip starts with your group's needs, rather than a full timetable.

Choose the sea for today

Compare the actual beach, shade and pool arrangements at your property. Bayahibe's Caribbean setting may appeal, but conditions still need checking. A surf beach such as Macao requires different supervision and is not automatically suitable for a young child's swim.

[14]

Health needs before travel

Arrange treatment and evacuation cover and ask a clinician about your itinerary and personal needs. Protect against mosquito bites and use safe drinking water. The 911 system does not cover every remote area, so confirm local medical arrangements before a rural or long boat outing.

[05]

A realistic family outing

Choose a short chocolate activity or a managed nature visit with age-appropriate walking. For Saona, count the full road and boat journey before booking with small children. Ask about shade, toilets, lifejackets in children's sizes and safe boarding.

Ask precise access questions

Ask about the route from your room to the beach, lifts, steps, bathroom layout and adapted transport. Check whether a boat is boarded by a stable gangway, ladder or beach launch. A ground-floor room or a "family friendly" label does not confirm accessibility.

A doctor or pharmacy

For urgent danger use the emergency numbers on page 20. For a non-emergency, ask your insurer or accommodation to identify a currently operating clinic and pharmacy. Call before travelling. Bring the generic medicine name and prescription; a foreign prescription may need local review.

[05]

Heat, food and hydration

Build shade and rest into the day, especially for children and older travellers. Discuss allergies directly with restaurants and carry needed medication. Ask about child-seat sizes before booking a transfer. Bring water on boat and road trips rather than relying on every stop having supplies.

For lost documents or cards, contact the relevant authority or bank through an official channel. Report theft, keep the report reference and contact your own country's consular service if a travel document needs replacing.

15 / THREE DAYS, THREE ISLAND MOODS

Three days, three island moods

Three full days on the ground. Add a light arrival and departure day; switch outdoor plans when conditions change.

Day 1 / Beach first, local rhythm second

From a Punta Cana-area base, enjoy the hotel's suitable beach or a prearranged nearby beach visit. Check conditions and leave room for rest. Choose one local meal or a quiet evening rather than immediately booking an all-day road excursion.

Day 2 / One inland or freshwater outing

Choose Hoyo Azul, the ecological reserve or a chocolate experience according to your group. Confirm access, physical requirements and transfers. Keep the afternoon flexible and plan dinner near the return point.

Day 3 / A regional contrast

Choose a carefully planned Higüey visit or a relaxed Bávaro-area day with shopping and food. If Saona is a priority, make it this day's main activity and accept the long transfer from Punta Cana; do not add another major excursion afterwards.

KEEP THE ROUTE REALISTIC

From Bayahibe, reverse the emphasis: keep beach and village days local and use its closer Saona departure points. You do not need to travel to Punta Cana merely to follow a sample itinerary.

16 / A WELL-PACED WEEK

A well-paced week

Seven full days, with room for one flexible day. The order is adaptable; allow extra time for airport and inter-island transfers.

01

Settle into the Punta Cana area

Keep the first full day close to the beach and learn the actual transport and access arrangements.

02

A local food and shopping day

Choose a Bávaro or Puntacana Village outing, with a relaxed meal and time out of the midday sun.

03

Freshwater or inland adventure

Choose one managed reserve, park or zipline activity that suits your group's ability.

04

A flexible beach day

Use this for rest or a weather change. Repeating a good beach is part of the holiday.

05

Move to Bayahibe if desired

Make the transfer the main event. An Altos de Chavón stop works only with sensible access and timing.

06

An island outing

Choose Saona or Catalina with a reputable operator, then leave the evening simple.

07

Village time and a final swim

Enjoy Bayahibe or Dominicus at your pace, with gifts and packing left unhurried.

The move on day five is optional: a one-base holiday is equally valid. Do not add Samaná or Santo Domingo without extra days and a separate transfer plan.

17 / WARNINGS WORTH KNOWING

Warnings worth knowing

Practical advice for a better-informed trip. Check current local guidance and conditions, especially before unfamiliar evening journeys.

AVOID FORM LOOKALIKES

Use the correct free form

The official e-ticket does not require an intermediary fee. Use the government portal and save the QR codes. Confirm entry and departure details carefully, particularly when flights change. A paid search result is not proof of an official service.

[02]

CHECK REGIONAL ADVICE

Keep the Haiti border separate

This eastern holiday route does not include the border region. Read current official regional advice before considering travel there; restrictions and security conditions can change. Do not improvise a cross-border excursion or assume a rental agreement permits it.

[11]

LOOK AFTER YOUR GROUP

Drinks, health and consent

Keep drinks in sight and use known transport. Choose reputable food and drink providers and seek medical help promptly if unwell. Discuss allergies directly. A package holiday does not remove the need to protect personal belongings and boundaries.

[05] [10]

Use current local advice for specific neighbourhoods and routes. Choose daylight exploration and a known guide when the area is unfamiliar.

PLAN EACH LOCAL JOURNEY

Safety beyond the resort

Ask about the exact street and return route before walking in unfamiliar areas. Use a known driver after dark, keep valuables out of view and be alert to snatch theft from motorcycles. Resort surroundings do not remove the need for ordinary personal safety.

[10]

CONDITIONS DECIDE THE ACTIVITY

Swimming and wildlife

Respect surf flags, currents and operator decisions. Do not handle starfish, stand on coral or chase marine life. Pick an activity for your swimming ability and decline jumps or boat conditions that feel inappropriate.

[14] [16]

PREPARE BEFORE GOING REMOTE

Know what help can reach you

Save 911 and Politur details, but check local contacts for remote trips where 911 coverage is limited. A tourist-police app needs a working connection and is not a substitute for an emergency call. Tell someone where you are going.

[05] [08]

18 / HELP WHEN YOU NEED IT.

Help when you need it.

Save these numbers offline, together with your accommodation, transport and insurance contacts.

SERVICE	NUMBER	USE
Emergency services	911	Police, fire or ambulance where covered.
Politur	+1 809 222 2026	Tourist-police contact; for urgent danger call 911.
Politur alternative	809 200 3500	Domestic assistance line; roaming may not connect.
Hospiten Bávaro	+1 809 686 1414	Hospital contact in the Punta Cana area.

When you call

Give the country or island, your exact location, a landmark, what happened and a callback number. Follow the dispatcher. If a short code fails on a roaming phone, ask someone nearby or your accommodation to call. Do not treat a hospital switchboard as an ambulance number. [06]

YOUR OWN ESSENTIAL CONTACTS

Accommodation / address: _____

Transport provider: _____

Insurance assistance: _____

Politur contacts: official directory; its website also links the Politur app. Published office hours apply to contacts; do not assume every desk line is a 24-hour emergency service. Hospital: Hospiten directory.

REFERENCE DESK

Sources & editorial notes

Tap a title to open its source. The numbered references beside recommendations connect to this list.

- 01 UK FCDO — Dominican Republic entry requirements
- 02 Dominican Migration — official free e-ticket
- 03 Dominican Tourism Ministry — travel tips
- 04 Dominican Tourism Ministry — practical questions
- 05 UK FCDO — Dominican Republic health
- 06 UK FCDO — emergency help
- 07 Politur — official tourist-police contacts
- 08 Politur — official assistance app
- 09 Hospiten — hospital contact directory
- 10 UK FCDO — safety and security
- 11 UK FCDO — regional risks
- 12 Dominican Tourism Ministry — driving and practical advice
- 13 UK FCDO — storm and natural-hazard advice
- 14 Dominican Tourism Ministry — Punta Cana
- 15 Dominican Tourism Ministry — Playa Dominicus
- 16 Dominican Tourism Ministry — Bayahibe
- 17 Dominican Tourism Ministry — Punta Cana activities
- 18 Dominican Tourism Ministry — Hoyo Azul
- 19 Puntacana Resort — reserve access and practical questions
- 20 Dominican Tourism Ministry — Altos de Chavón museum

REFERENCE DESK

Sources & editorial notes

Tap a title to open its source. The numbered references beside recommendations connect to this list.

- 21** Dominican Tourism Ministry — Higüey basilica
- 22** Dominican Tourism Ministry — Chocomuseo
- 23** Dominican Tourism Ministry — Anamuya ziplines
- 24** Puntacana Resort — local art and The Wallz
- 25** Dominican Tourism Ministry — Punta Cana dining
- 26** Puntacana Resort — restaurants
- 27** Tortuga Bay — official hotel information
- 28** Casa de Campo — official resort information
- 29** Hyatt — Dreams Dominicus La Romana
- 30** Hyatt — Dreams Cap Cana rooms and property
- 31** Marriott — Four Points Puntacana location and facilities
- 32** Marriott — W Punta Cana adult all-inclusive
- 33** Dominican Tourism Ministry — local products and crafts
- 34** MAPS.ME — official downloads and offline maps
- 35** Meg von Haartman / Unsplash — original cover photograph
- 36** Unsplash — photograph licence

About this edition

Research checked on 6 October 2026. Recommendations reflect published location, facilities and trip fit; we have not personally inspected the properties. Prices, access, entry rules and opening arrangements can change. Check the linked official information before travel.

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