



Residencial Casa Linda  
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC VACATION VILLAS

—•— DOMINICAN REPUBLIC —•—  
**VACATION GUIDE**

— ABOUT —  
**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

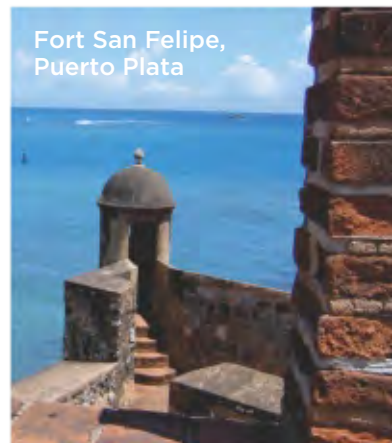


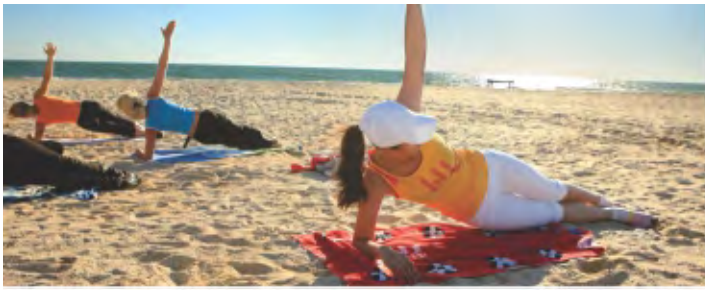
Dominican Republic is a destination like no other with astounding nature, intriguing history and rich culture. Be fascinated by diverse landscapes featuring towering mountains, lush rain forests and over 1,000 kilometers of pristine coastline and incredible beaches.

This was the first permanent Spanish settlement in the Americas or the "New World," with the arrival of Christopher Columbus on his first voyage in 1492. The country overflows with fascinating history, museums and exciting cultural experiences like music, art and festivals, plus uniquely Dominican specialties such as cigars, rum, chocolate, coffee, meringue, amber and larimar. The DR is the second-largest Caribbean nation (after Cuba), with 48,445 square kilometres. This island nation is also the #1 tourist destination in the Caribbean.

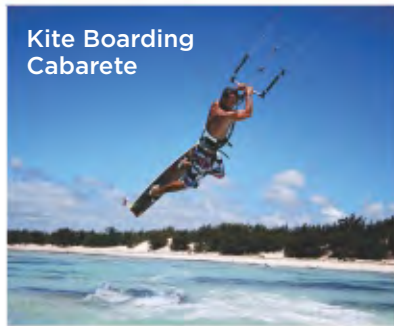
Aside from historic firsts, the Dominican Republic ranks among the most diverse Caribbean countries in geography, nature, and people. Its landscape ranges from the highest peak in the region, Pico Duarte, to the lowest body of water, Lago Enriquillo. A whopping 6,000 species of flora and 7,000 species of fauna include cacti flowers, endemic hawks, and humpback whales.

Contemporary urban cities like Santo Domingo and Santiago mix with small, rural villages from days gone by. Vacationers are captured by the charm and friendliness of its people, the beauty of its landscapes, and the incredible tropical weather that is always warm and pleasant. There is so much to explore on the island.





Sosua Beach



Kite Boarding Cabarete



Playa Grande Beach

### WEATHER:

Incredible year-round tropical temperatures (average 28°C or 86°F) make the DR a haven for vacationers. Say no to snow!

Summer and winter vary only slightly; the DR enjoys a steady climate, with no extreme highs or lows. There are no large predator animals or snakes, and the north coast of the DR does not experience hurricanes. **This is one of the most idyllic environments on Earth.**

### The sunniest months



JULY	19 days
SEPTEMBER	18 days
JUNE	17 days

### The warmest months



JULY	92°F or 33°C
AUGUST	92°F or 33°C
SEPTEMBER	91°F or 32°C

### Warmest Ocean Temperature



AUGUST	84°F or 29°C
SEPTEMBER	84°F or 29°C
OCTOBER	84°F or 29°C

### Coldest Months:



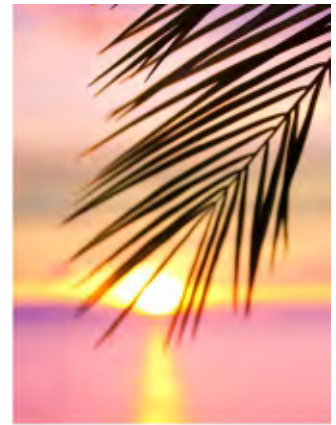
DECEMBER	82°F or 28°C
JANUARY	82°F or 28°C
FEBRUARY	82°F or 28°C

### Rainiest Months:



NOVEMBER	241 mm/12 days
DECEMBER	246 mm/11 days
APRIL/MAY	167 mm/12 days

—●— **IMPORTANT INFO** —●—  
**TO KNOW BEFORE YOU GO**



**Island life...sounds idyllic doesn't it?** It is actually. But like travelling anywhere else, the more information you have, the better your trip will be. Here's some great tips - if you have questions, please contact our travel planner at 1-844-830-1611 or [travelplanner@casalindacity.com](mailto:travelplanner@casalindacity.com). We're here to help!



**Entry Requirements.** If you are coming from Europe or North America, you will need a passport that is valid for the duration of your stay.

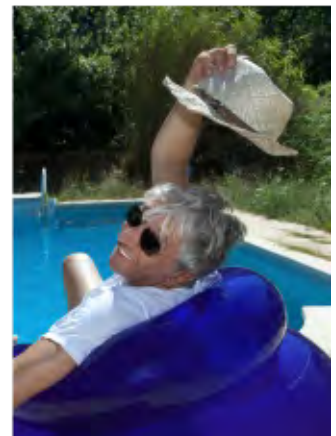
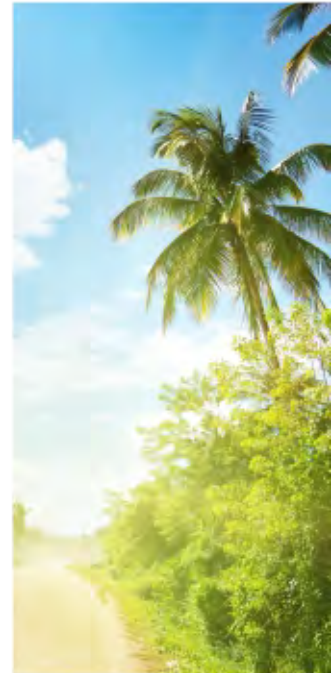
**Passport Pic**

Speaking of passports, it's a great idea to use your phone to take a picture of the photo page of everyone's passport who is traveling with you. You will often need a copy in the DR (using a credit card, renting a car, money exchange). We suggest you have a photocopy in your wallet and a copy in every suitcase as well.

**Embassy:** In case of a lost or stolen passport (always keep it in the safe in your villa), it's a good idea to have the phone number to your country's embassy stored as a contact in your phone.

**Tourist Card**

Upon arrival at the airport you may be asked to pay \$10 US; however, this fee is often included in the price of your airline ticket. There is no fee for departing provided you have been in the country for 30 days or less.



### Currency:

The currency is the peso, but US dollars are accepted almost everywhere. Don't exchange in your home country or at any airport! You will get much better exchange rates in Sosua and Cabarete. Any local DR bank will exchange at good rates (have a copy of your passport with you) or you can even do it at many money exchanges in town. You will be given DR Pesos. To see current exchange rates, please visit XE Currency.

### Payment Methods On Your Trip

Cash is the preferred method of payments here with the DR Peso being the currency of choice. Many businesses will accept US dollars; however, the exchange rate is not great at restaurants and stores. Best to convert as above.

### Credit Cards

Most US or Canadian banks no longer require you to tell them that you will use your credit card out of the country; however, it's advisable to call them to make sure your card will work in the Dominican Republic. Credit cards are accepted in the DR at restaurants and shopping; however, check with the merchant first.

### Getting Around

When arriving at Puerto Plata airport (POP), you will see a large sign as you exit the baggage area that lists prices to various hotels & developments. All prices are fixed, so when getting into a cab, ask the driver to quote the price and make sure it's the posted rate. It is \$30/US to get back and forth to Casa Linda. We can also arrange for your airport pick up/drop off.

**Rental cars:** If you rent a vehicle be sure and make a copy of your driver's license and keep it in your wallet. As with medical insurance, check with your credit card company to see if vehicle insurance is also included



Pier Giorgio Restaurant, Sosua



Cabarete Beach Dining



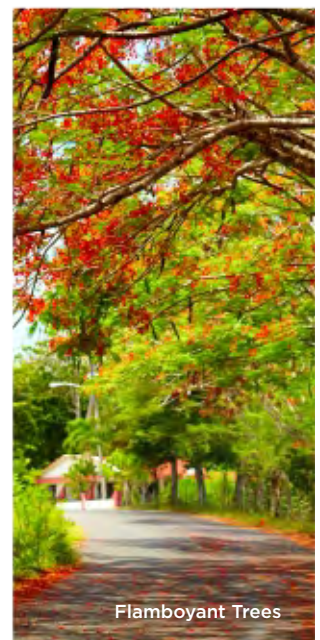
Kiteboarding & Windsurfing Cabarete



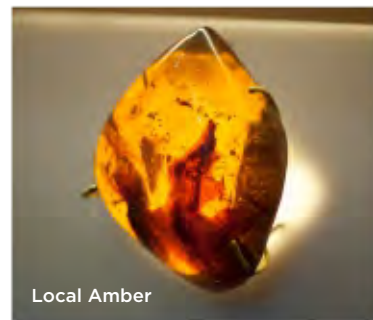
Playa Alicia, Sosua



Catamaran Tour



Flamboyant Trees



Local Amber



Local Countryside

with your credit card. Don't rent a car at the airport! Prices are always much higher – you can do much better if you book a car in town. If you stay with Casa Linda, we can have a car waiting for you at the airport, or on your driveway when you arrive. ***If you don't want to rent a car, you have use of our free shuttle bus which goes to Sosua and Cabarete several times per day, every day.***

Help on the Road: The Dominican Republic has its own version of AMA called MOPC. You will see these white pick up trucks with flashing lights everywhere you go. If you break down, have a flat tire, etc., they are there to assist.

## Medical

**Travel Insurance:** Check with your credit card company, many cards offer travel medical coverage as a perk – you may not need to buy any at all; however, you will likely have to book your trip using that card for the coverage to be effective. Many times your airline will offer medical insurance when you book your flight. Banks also offer medical

insurance now, and often at cheaper prices too.

**Hospitals:** There are several great local hospitals (one less than 5-minutes away from Casa Linda), each with English speaking doctors. They all accept international travel insurance.

**Prescriptions:** It's a great idea to take a photo of all your prescription meds. That way if you lose them or run out, you can simply show the photo to the pharmacist to get a refill. For glasses, it's advisable to bring an extra pair. If they break or are lost, it will take up to two weeks for replacements.

**Eye Glasses:** Should you break your glasses, there are two places to get glasses made in Puerto Plata. A photo of your prescription will be handy.

**Vaccinations:** The north coast is a safe zone and most people choose not to get travel vaccinations. It is a personal choice.



## Safety

The DR is a safe country; however, like anywhere in the world, there are places you shouldn't go. Tourist areas are safe, even at night; however, the same caution you would use at home should be used here. The Dominican Republic thrives on tourism and has a vested interest in ensuring the safety of visitors. We even have a tourist police force: Cestur. If you have a problem, they are there to help. You will see them patrolling tourist areas and driving in their colorful trucks. If you are not in a hotel, it is a good idea to rent in a gated community. This extra measure of security protects your valuables and offers you a level of service not found in stand alone villas or condos.

### Some general rules:

- Be aware of your surroundings
- Don't do things you wouldn't do in your home country
- If you feel unsafe somewhere, leave
- Protect your valuables

## Eating Out and In

**Restaurants:** The Sosua and Cabarete area have incredible restaurants that offer the flavours of the world. You can expect three types of restaurants here:

- Local Dominican places where you can buy chicken at the side of the road with rice and beans (it is really good!);
- Beach side or town restaurants with low to mid prices. Any type of food can be found, and
- Fine or high end dining for that special night out.

**Tipping** is generally 10% of the bill. Check your bill - often tips are included in the amount.

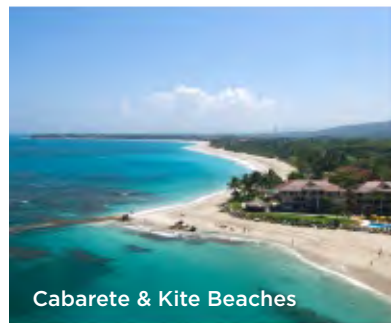
**Groceries:** We have a similar selection here to North America but with some Spanish and local brands mixed in. We have small local supermarket as well as large big box grocery stores. Depending on where you're from, you'll probably find prices similar to the US or Canada. Milk is sold in tetra packs (like



Paradise Island (Cayo Arena) Excursion



Sosua Fireworks



Cabarete & Kite Beaches



Grocery Store, Sosua





orange/apple juice) and doesn't have to be refrigerated until it's opened. Eggs are also not refrigerated (this is perfectly okay due to the way they are packaged).

**Tax:** You may notice "ITIBS" on your restaurant bill or something you purchase. This is part of DR sales tax.

**Beer and Alcohol:** A rule here is that if it's locally made, it's cheap. Presidente Beer, Barcelo and all brands of rum are lower. Imported liquors tend to cost a bit more than in North America.

### **Water is not potable**

You can safely brush your teeth with the local tap water, but it's not safe to drink. Bottled water is always provided. Restaurants serve bottled water and bagged ice. Some villas in Casa Linda have UV water treatment systems, making the tap water drinkable.

### **What To Bring:**

The DR is a tropical climate. Bring cotton and light coloured clothes for coolness. In the winter months, you may need a light sweater in the evenings on the beach. It's always advisable to dress to stay cool.

If you forget something, there is an onsite mini-market

and there are several full size grocery stores located nearby. Clothing stores are also just a short car ride away.

### **Tours and Excursions**

It is often cheaper to book directly from the tour operator instead of at your hotel or rental manager. Many hotels upcharge almost 50% and tell you it's not safe to leave your resort; however, this is usually just a ploy to keep you buying from their vendors and going with their tours.

**Insurance:** It's important to know that your excursion is reputable and insured (in case of accident or injury).

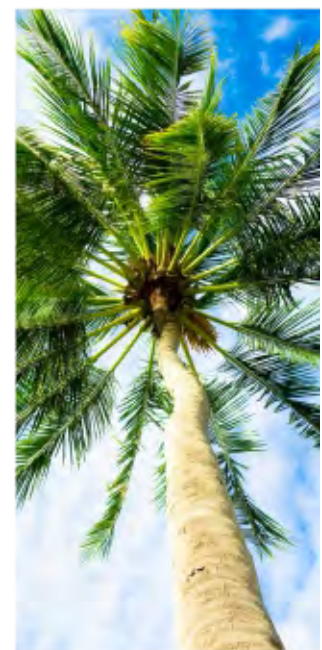
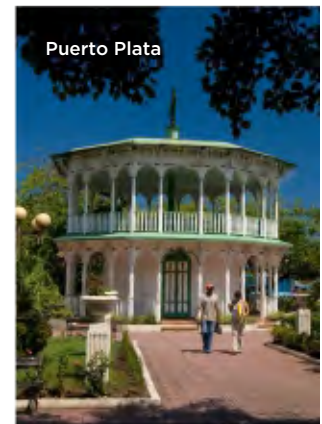
**Souvenirs:** Haggle! Never pay retail with vendors. Start at 1/2 price and work up.

### **Miscellaneous**

- The legal drinking age is 18
- Mosquitos: while they aren't a big problem, they can carry dengue fever. If they tend to bite you, it's wise to wear repellent. It's available in all stores.



- WiFi is available in most public places and restaurants. Casa Linda offers free WiFi in all rental villas.
- Electricity: The Dominican Republic uses standard North American style electricity, 110 VAC, so no adapters are required.
- Sunblock! Tans are great but the tropical sun is hot! A sunburn is no fun.
- Sunglasses: don't forget to bring yours! You'll be glad you did.
- Cable TV and Local Calls: All rental villas are equipped with Cable TV with a wide variety of channels as well as phones for local calling
- Cell Phones: If you bring a cell phone there are several options for their use. You can purchase a travel plan from your own carrier for talk, text and data or you can buy a short term plan from one of the 2 major carriers locally (Claro or Altice (formerly Orange))
- Manana Manana: Dominicans are very relaxed in terms of time. While airport pickups or excursions are on time, sometimes everything else can be a little...late.
- If you buy a painting - it's totally okay to roll it up and put it in your suitcase. Be careful buying wood souvenirs, sometimes customs won't let wood products into your home country.
- Local souvenirs include amber, larimar and mamajuana! Larimar is a beautiful blue stone that can only be found in the DR and amber is found all over the north coast. Look for both in affordable, stunning jewellery. Mamajuana is a local drink made of honey, rum and local herbs. It's drank as a liqueur and is very good!





Residencial Casa Linda  
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC QUALITY HOMES

ABOUT THE  
MAGICAL NORTH COAST  
— OF THE —  
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC



## CABARETE

Cabarete is a cosmopolitan beach village with a bohemian flare. Its coral reef protected bay is dotted with diverse restaurants, as well as quaint shops; water sports abound.

Many local events are held along the beach, and nighttime is especially pretty as restaurants light up the night and bring tables onto the sand for starlight dining. Cabarete is well known as a kite and windsurfing haven and hosts the world championships each year. Try your hand! There are many kite and windsurfing schools along the beach.

Other activities include stand up paddle boarding, enjoying lunch or dinner at great restaurants, exploring the local caves or protected lagoon, taking a tour or excursion, or simply relaxing on the beautiful beach.

This little town has grown up to be an active community with modern services, shopping, medical facilities, and community events.

Population: 14,600 (2010)

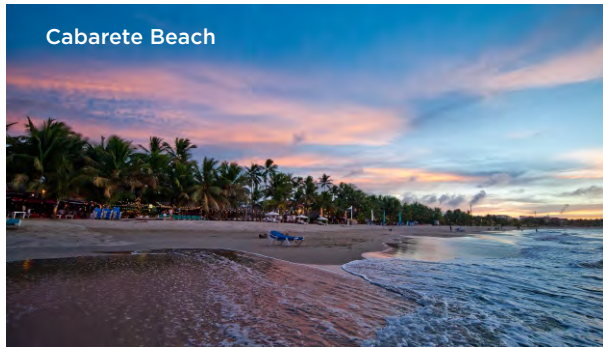
## SOSUA

Enjoy a leisurely walk around town, shop, snorkel, take a dive, go fish, head out on a catamaran. Soak up the sun! Sosua has it all!

Expat centred Sosua offers one of the most beautiful beaches on the island with powdery sand and crystal clear blue water. Vendors and restaurants run parallel to the beach and are available for shopping, food, drinks, and even on the beach service! Also in town is Playa



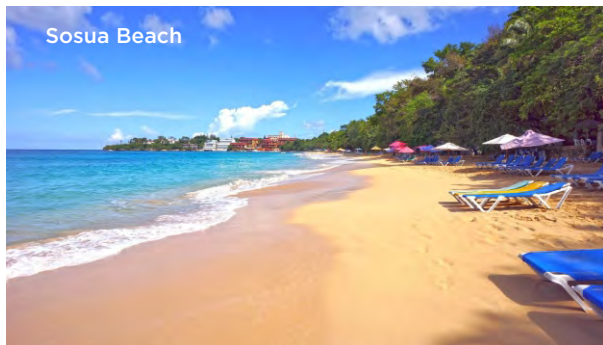
Fort San Felipe, Puerto Plata



Cabarete Beach



Casa Linda Vacation Villa



Sosua Beach

## — THE NORTH — OR AMBER COAST



This area of the Dominican Republic is arguably the prettiest part of the island. Lush mountains to the south slope towards the sea offering incredible views. Coral reefs offshore give us protected weather: a near perfect climate with no hurricanes. We have incredible beaches, each one a little different. Truly, a paradise to simply enjoy life.

For foreign buyers, the north offers excellent infrastructure with great restaurants, shopping, hospitals, schools, and banking. We appreciate a low cost of living and taxation. You'll find everything you're used to having back home, except cold, snow and gray skies.

Whatever you want to do, it's here. You'll never be bored.



Alicia - yet another lovely beach for tourists and residents.

Sosua also offers big box grocery shopping, a modern hospital and a huge variety of restaurants.

The history of this seaside town is very unique. In the early 1940's many Jewish settlers arrived here to escape the persecution of war. The refugees settled in the east part of Sosua known as El Batey and formed the successful Sosua Dairy co-operative (Productos Sosua), which exists to this day. There is a small Jewish museum detailing the history of the refugees.

Population: 49,593 (2010)



## PUERTO PLATA

Founded in the early 1500's, Puerto Plata was designed by Christopher Columbus and his brother, Bartolome.

Named for the silvery hues of its natural harbor, the city is surrounded by mountains. Visitors can enjoy the only aerial tramway in the Caribbean and ride to the top of Pico Isabel de Torres, a 793 metre high mountain. The top features a botanical garden.

Another must stop is the Fortaleza San Felipe, a historic Spanish fortress used to protect the city from pirates in the mid 1500's. Today it is used as a museum.

The north coast is also called the amber coast. Check out the amber museum and see this ancient tree sap that has hardened into a semiprecious stone. Guided tours are available. Enjoy your day listening to merengue, the ever present music of the DR, as you stroll about the city. Be sure to stop on the Malecon (ocean drive) for a Presidente Beer!

Population: 118,496 (2010)



# MAPS

## Dominican Republic



## Caribbean



## AIRPORTS & TRAVEL:

### Dominican Republic

On Map	City Served	Province	IATA	Airport Name
#1	Puerto Plata, Sosua, Cabarete	Puerto Plata	POP	Gregorio Luperon International Airport
#2	Samana, Las Terrenes	Samana	AZS	Samana El Catey International Airport
#3	Santiago de los Caballeros	Santiago	STI	Cibao International Airport
#4	Punta Cana, Higuey	La Altagracia	PUJ	Punta Cana International Airport
#5	Barahona	Barahona	BRX	Maria Montez International Airport
#6	La Romana	La Romana	LRM	La Romana International Airport
#7	Santo Domingo	Distrito Nacional	JBQ	La Isabela International Airport
#8	Santo Domingo	Distrito Nacional	SDQ	Las Americas JFPG International Airport



All major airlines fly into Dominican Republic, making it an easy place to get to - and also a convenient place to travel from. You can get all around the world by using DR as a home base.

Puerto Plata (POP) airport is only 10 minutes to Sosua & 20 minutes to Cabarete.

### FLIGHT TIMES:

DR to Canada: 3.5 hours from the Toronto area, some direct charter flights from Western Canada: 6 hours direct. DR to US: 1.5 hours to Miami; 3 hours to New York. DR to Europe: London 8.5 hours, Rome 9 hours, Moscow 11.5 hours, Madrid 7.5 hour

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

Canadian, American, and EU citizens require a valid passport that is valid until the date of expected departure.



— THINGS TO DO —

## ACTIVITIES

Activities on the north coast are limited only by your imagination. From lazy beach or pool days, historical city tours, to wild outdoor adventures, we offer over 30 tours and excursions.

Do something different everyday: explore a pristine beach, zipline through a jungle forest, slide down nature's water-slide, catch an ocean fish or snorkel in an underwater wonderland.

Casa Linda has preferred pricing with tour operators. Ask our Travel Planner about booking.



### EXHILARATION & ADVENTURE

- **Monkey Jungle Ziplining:** an adventure for young and old with a 4,400 ft challenge course, 7 stations, 3 suspension bridges, and a decender into a cave! All proceeds to charity.
- **Twenty-Seven Waterfalls of Damajagua:** scale and hike a series of spectacular waterfalls. It's a natural water slide on the way down!
- **Canyoning & Safari:** Go on an outback Safari Adventure in a giant monster truck through the countryside & rivers.
- **River Rafting:** Maximum adventure! Hop on a raft and sail down the Yaque del Norte River (the longest in the Caribbean). Go through canyons and rapids – feel the adrenaline rush!
- **Fun City Go Karts:** - three great tracks in one location! Fun!





- **Kayak Adventure:** float down a lazy river to where it meets the ocean. Enjoy lunch at a great outdoor restaurant then paddle back.
- **Horseback Riding:** A great ride that includes a trip into the surf in the ocean or up the mountains.



## IT'S ALL ABOUT THE BEACH

- **Sosua Beach** - snorkel, go on the banana boat, glass bottom boat, or just soak up the sun with a Pina Colada from one of the local restaurants (who will serve you in your sun chair).
- **Cabarete Beach:** - try your hand at a watersport like wind surfing, have a beach side dinner, or shop in one of the quaint stores. An entire day and evening can be spent hanging out in Cabarete.
- **Playa Grande:** - take a tour of one of the largest and most beautiful beaches in the area. Local restaurants will bring your table to **the beach for fresh fish and lobster.**
- **Gri-Gri Lagoon and Playa Caletón:** - take a boat ride through the mangroves, see a bird cave and end up at Playa Caletón- a lovely local beach.



## HISTORY, CULTURE & FUN

- **Puerto Plata City Tour:** Amber Museum, gondola ride, Fort San Felipe and the old town square.
- **Colonial Zone Tour in Santo Domingo.** Explore the first city in the New World, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- **Santiago City Tour.** This inland city is also rich in history. A centre for agriculture and tobacco, Santiago is a working Caribbean city.
- **Casino:** Feel lucky? Ask us about a trip to two local casinos.





- **Buggy and Bike Adventures:** Get dirty! Dune buggies and four wheelers plow through the sugar cane.
- **Jungle Boat Safari:** Take a fun boat ride down the Yasica River to the Grill Boat restaurant where you will enjoy a special Dominican fish lunch.
- **Surf, Windsurf, & Kite Board Lessons:** Hands on introductory lessons.
- **Dudu (Blue) Lagoon:** - This "cenote" is an interesting ecosystem of a 700 metre tunnel that connects two freshwater lakes. Take a dip in either one or zipline in!
- **Xtreme Circus:** Try flying through the air on a trapeze or using aerial silks. From novice to expert, Xtreme Circus will get you flying!

## WATER & GETTING WET

- **Paradise Island:** A scenic speedboat ride takes you through mangroves and sparkling waters to Paradise Island. The snorkeling here offers some of the most beautiful coral reefs in the Caribbean.
- **Scuba/Snorkeling:** An underwater world awaits.
- **Catamaran:** Enjoy a day of sailing, snorkeling, lunch and rum drinks!
- **Ocean World Adventure Park:** From dolphins to sea lions to sharks! Ocean world offers great encounters and a look at marine life in the tropics.
- **Stand Up Paddle Boarding:** Relaxing, core revving fun through the river jungle!

## DOMINICAN REPUBLIC EXPERIENCES

- **Cocoa/Coffee Tours: Experience** Explore the Suriel organic cacao farm where beans are shade-grown under banyan and calabash trees.
- **Cigar Factory Tour** - learn how world famous Dominican cigars are made.
- **Whale Watching:** From January through March Samana is one of the best places to watch humpback whales in the world.
- **Bravissimo Show!** This nighttime Vegas style international celebration combines the best of Dominican and Latin songs with a musical tour bringing up the greatest hits of all times from around the world.
- **Samana/Bacardi Island:** See the Caribbean Sea and Atlantic Ocean in the same day. Coconut plantations, rice fields and soft white sand will astound you.
- **Baseball Game!** The DR is famous for its baseball and major league players. Take a bus ride to Santiago and watch the Aguilas play. If you love baseball, you will want to see this.
- **Dancing!** Learn to dance merengue and salsa in the true Latin way.

## SPORT & GETTING OUTDOORS

- **Deep Sea Fishing:** Come back with a whopper of a fish story!
- **Golf Packages:** there are three courses in the area to play.



WOULD YOU LIKE TO VISIT DOMINICAN REPUBLIC?

## NEXT STEPS....

**Don't leave your trip to chance. That's why we're here.**

Our travel planner offers **free vacation planning service**. Get a vacation tailor made for you! From the type of villa to rent to the activities that your family would most enjoy, we can make sure you get the best vacation ever.

**Your vacation, your way.**

Casa Linda villas offer all the comforts and service of an all inclusive resort, mixed with the privacy of a fully fitted villa with a private pool! Why share? Why be crowded? Why wonder about that "suspect" swim up bar.

### WE HAVE IT ALL:

- **Castaways restaurant** serving international fare that even delivers to your door!
- **Complimentary shuttle bus** – 7/days per week. This bus takes guests into Sosua and Cabarete and returns them to Casa Linda, all day long
- **VIP Beach Club** on Cabarete & Sosua Beachs
- **Dedicated Concierge & Travel Planner** for assistance, excursions, spas, and general information
- Kids waterpark under construction
- **Mini-market** for grocery essentials
- Housekeeping services
- Pool/garden service
- **24-hour gated security**
- Mini-golf, billiards and foosball
- Tennis, bocce ball and shuffleboard courts
- Laundry service (please request)
- In villa chef (please request)
- In villa massage, manicure, pedicure (please request)



**Residencial Casa Linda**  
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC VACATION VILLAS



This is your vacation,  
your way.

Maybe you love to cook and want to make a family meal and enjoy it pool-side? Maybe you want a chef to come to you? Or maybe you want to dine beachside? Whatever the holiday lifestyle you desire, you will find a **tailored vacation experience** at Casa Linda.

Your big daily concerns may look something like this:

- Should I relax by the pool or maybe go to the beach?
- Where *are* my sunglasses?
- Do I order a mohito or Presidente beer?
- Should the kids go to Ocean World or ziplining?
- Is it time to turn over and tan the other side yet?
- Shall we cook or go to the restaurant?
- Is my pool floaty deflating?
- Massage or pedicure...or both?

**Be sure to book an official Casa Linda vacation villa**

Casa Linda offers over 100 holiday homes. Be sure and book yours directly with us to get the best villa and onsite services only provided by us:

- Complimentary travel planning services, excursions booking and during holiday specialized assistance
- Free shuttle bus to local beaches, shopping and restaurants
- Discounts for onsite amenities like mini-golf, waterpark, tennis and more
- Restaurant specials, events, and discounts
- 24-hour onsite office
- Invites to special events, holidays and other fun activities
- Loyalty program to earn points for free travel

An official Casa Linda villa rental also means you are protected. We carry full insurance for accidents and are properly licensed with the Dominican Tourism Department.





Residencial Casa Linda  
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC VACATION VILLAS





# —•— ALL THAT'S MISSING —•— IS YOU!



Ask our dedicated Concierge/Travel Planner to help you create the perfect Dominican Republic vacation at Casa Linda Villas.

Whether you are a family with big or small kids; seniors; couples travelling together or on your own, we will work with you to create a personalized, tailored, affordable vacation...your way.

Contact us anytime, we look forward to meeting you.

[travelplanner@casalindacity.com](mailto:travelplanner@casalindacity.com)

[www.CasaLindaCity.com](http://www.CasaLindaCity.com)

Toll-free: 1-844-830-1611



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