

## *Living in Santo Domingo*



Santo Domingo is a cosmopolitan city that offers attractive combinations for any passion or preference, from the Colonial Romanticism to the “glamour” of the modern world or the excitement of ecotourism adventures.

The Caribbean Summer days can be refreshed with a delicious “mabí”, a lemonade or a “fria” (frosted beer); and sweetened with a typical dessert. You may also choose to visit your favorite beach during the weekends. Orchestras play the rhythms of merengue, bachata or perico ripiao, delighting tourists and locals, who spend the nights at night clubs, discotheques, bars, casinos and hotels around the city.

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## *Important monuments and interesting sites*



Alcázar de Colón

- **Faro a Colón:** A lighthouse built in memory of Christopher Columbus. Av. España, Sans Souci.
- **Parque Natural “Los tres ojos”:** A 15 Mt. depth natural cave, with three subterranean lakes and a fourth lake, deeper. Av. Las Américas, East of Ozama River.

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- **Guacara Taína:** A nightclub with several dance floors. Av. Rómulo Betancourt No. 655.
- **Malecón:** This Avenue offers a beautiful view of the Caribbean Sea. It has movie houses, restaurants and other attractions alongside. Av. George Washington.
- **Botanical Garden:** Known as one of the most beautiful gardens in the Caribbean, a great place to take the family on Sundays. Av. República de Colombia, Los Ríos.



- **National Aquarium:** Av. España.

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- **Colonial Zone:** The first town in the New World. with dozens of important monuments:

- Catedral Primada de América
- Alcázar de Colón
- Plaza España
- Fortaleza Ozama
- Museo de Las Casas Reales
- Puerta del Conde
- Calle Las Damas
- Calle El Conde
- Calle de las Mercedes
- Parque Colón
- Panteón Nacional



- **Mercado Modelo:** the place to find traditional Dominican arts and crafts. Av. Mella.
- **Parque Nacional Submarino La Caleta:** A great place to practice scuba diving. 22 Kms. East of Santo Domingo.

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## *Housing*

In Santo Domingo the real estate market has multiple housing choices from modern apartments to houses located in good neighborhoods. Gazcue, Naco, Piantini, Mirador Sur, Los Cacigazgos, El Millon, Evaristo Morales, Julieta, Anacaona, La Castellana, Bella Vista, and Arroyo Hondo are some of the highly demanded neighborhoods by expatriates.

## *Shopping*

When going shopping you may choose from a wide range of big malls that gather in one place department stores, supermarkets, banks, restaurants, drugstores, movies and much more; offering imported goods from Europe, Latin America, USA, Asia and India among others. The so called “colmados”, are small grocery stores that can be found almost at every corner. Like drugstores and fast food restaurants, they offer an efficient delivery service.

Shopping schedules vary and are extended during holidays.

- Most supermarkets, malls and department stores open Mon-Sat from 8/9 a.m. to 9/10 p.m. and to 12 m. / 3:00 p.m. on Sundays.
- Smaller stores open at 10 a.m. and close at 7 p.m. Mon-Fri and on Saturdays 9:00a.m to 1:00 p.m and close on Sundays.
- Major financial institutions have established small branches in supermarkets and malls that open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mon-Sat and to 1:00 p.m. on Sundays.

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Some commercial centers in Santo Domingo city:

- **Acropolis Center.** Movie Theater, high end stores, restaurants and grills, financial institutions. Winston Churchill Ave.
- **Bella Vista Mall.** Stores, financial institutions, supermarket and more. Sarasota Ave., Bella Vista.
- **Diamond Mall.** Restaurants and fast foods, movie houses. Los Próceres Ave., Arroyo Hondo.
- **Plaza Central.** Stores (clothing, sports, nutrition, shoes, etc.) Movie houses, restaurants and fast foods, beauty centers, financial institutions. Winston Churchill Ave. and 27 de Febrero Ave.
- **Multicentro La Sirena.** Supermarket, drugstore, restaurants, clothing, financial institutions, electronics, books and more. Winston Churchill & San Vicente de Paul Ave.
- **Plaza Lama.** Supermarket, electronics, furniture, books, clothing, financial institutions and more. 27 de Febrero and Winston Churchill Ave.
- **Carrefour.** Largest supermarket in town plus furniture, appliances, clothing, financial institutions and more. Duarte Highway.
- **Americana Departamentos.** Home department store, financial institutions, and drugstore. John F. Kennedy Ave.
- **Centro Cuesta.** Books, furniture, supermarket. 27 de Febrero and Abraham Lincoln Ave.
- **Hache Departamentos.** Home department store. John F. Kennedy Ave.
- **Plaza Naco.** Specialty shops, Toys, financial institutions, restaurants, beauty centers, and more. Tiradentes Ave. .
- **Pricesmart.** Membership shopping supermarket. Charles Summer Ave.
- **Avenida Duarte.** Large stores and department stores.
- **Avenida Mella.** Mercado Modelo, large department stores, small typical stores, financial institutions.
- **El Conde:** A pedestrian street with many stores, typical shops, financial institutions. Restaurants, clothing, supermarket, and more. Colonial City.
- **Chinatown:** China and Asian products. Duarte Ave.

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## *Transportation*

Santo Domingo offers the widest variety of transportation means in the country. The best way to get around temporarily is by taxi or by renting a car.

You will eventually need  
your own vehicle  
to move around satisfactory.

### **Taxis**

The city has a very efficient and organized taxi system ruled by several mayor companies, which will send you a car on demand (by phone call). They have a standard rate of approx. RD\$150 to 180 (US\$5) within the city. If you want a car that is comfortable and in excellent conditions you must request it to the operator. You can even ask for a driver who speaks English. Large supermarkets and department stores have their own taxi system waiting outside for the passengers to aboard.

### **Rent-a-cars**

There are many rental-a-cars located conveniently throughout the city. The daily charger per vehicle is from US\$30.00 approx.

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## Public transportation

Public transportation on the contrary, may seem chaotic to foreigners.

- **Public Cars and guaguas**

These vehicles are usually in very bad condition. Each carro público boards seven passengers in spite of their weight and size and the Guaguas (busses) are very crowded. They are not clean and drivers are not always polite. However, public transportation is quick and easy and mostly cheap. The standard rate is RD\$15.00 - 25 a ride (US\$0.40 – 0.70 cents), although sometimes you have to catch two rides or more if you are heading to a far destination. If you decide to use public transportation, get someone you know to help you out or ask around for the routes. By standing in one of the mayor street sidewalks you will see old vehicles with the top painted in green and with some signs that specify the route they follow. The signs are not always in good conditions so they are hard to read.

- **OMSA**

The governmental transportation system. They have fixed stops on main avenues and cover large routes. Price is of approx RD\$10.00 (US\$0.35 cents) and when not crowded, the ride is acceptable. Nevertheless, when crowded, try to get near the front or back door or you will have to learn the art of pushing fast in order to get out.

- **Moto-conchos**

Motorcycles transporting passengers around the city. They are not safe and are usually involved in accidents. Avoid moto-conchos.

- **Metro**

Recently the government inaugurated the Metro de Santo Domingo, which covers a large route from la Feria to Villa Mella with several fixed stops.

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## Ports

There are overall 12 international ports conveniently located in areas that allow easy access to any geographic point in the country. Dominican ports handle commercial cargo from and to anywhere in the world.

*The multi-modal port of Caucedo and port of Rio Haina, in the surroundings of Santo Domingo, handle the greater annual volume of merchandise.*

Other important terminals are Boca Chica, Puerto Plata, San Pedro de Macorís, Cabo Rojo, Azua, Manzanillo, Barahona, and Samaná.

## Airports

Las Americas International Airport José Francisco Peña Gómez in Santo Domingo handles a great number of commercial flights. Local and multinational airlines offer flights that will get you anywhere in the world.

Besides, in the Dominican Republic there are seven international airports, strategically located in the main cities that support the volume of passengers and airfreights all over the national territory.

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## International Packers

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