

The Natural Beauty Of The Dominican Republic

13 Days Santo Domingo - Jarabacoa - Punta Rucia – Cabarete - Rio San Juan - National Park "Los Haitises"

Discover the most beautiful parts of the Dominican Republic that most tourists will never see. Journey through the heart of the island with waterfalls, lakes and mountains; and don't worry you will not miss the magnificent beaches on this trip either. One of the highlights of this adventurous trip is a one night stay in the remote and pristine National Park "Los Haitises".

Day 1: Santo Domingo

You will be picked up from the airport and taken to hotel Hodelpa Caribe Colonial in the Colonial Zone of Santo Domingo. Welcome beverage and informational session about the country and the forthcoming trip at the office of DOMINICAN EXPERT. Take the rest of the day to explore the streets of the colonial city, restaurants, bars and shops on your own.

Meals included: None

Accommodation: Hodelpa Caribe Colonial ***(*), Superior Room

Day 2: Santo Domingo

The capital of the Dominican Republic combines modernity with an emerging economy and the historical center of the city, the "Zona Colonial" making this a very special place. During a private, two-hour guided tour through the "Zona Colonial", you will follow the footsteps of Columbus and will (among other things) see the oldest cathedral of the New World, castles, ruins and the residence of Columbus's son, Don Diego. You will also visit a cigar manufacturer, where you can see the production of the popular Dominican cigars. After lunch, you might want to take a bus or taxi to get to know other places outside the old town of Santo Domingo. One of the options would be a visit to the fascinating "Los Tres Ojos" (Three Eyes), which is part of a collapsed cave system beneath the city. The evening will be available for you to explore the vibrant nightlife of Santo Domingo.

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation: Hodelpa Caribe Colonial***(*), Superior Room

Day 3: Santo Domingo - Jarabacoa

Enjoy a drive through the beautiful mountains, attaining an altitude of 900 meters (2953 feet) above sea level. Here you will see the Cibao plateau, where you will drive past cocoa, coffee, banana, rice and tobacco plantations. You will continue your journey to the Hotel Rancho Baiguata in Jarabacoa, nestled at the foot of the mountains and surrounded by majestic beauty. The Dominicans call it "The City of Eternal Spring" because of its consistently pleasant year-round temperatures. Upon arrival at Rancho Baiguata a typical Dominican lunch is served. The afternoon is at your free disposal. In the evening a hearty Dominican dinner awaits you in a relaxed and charming setting.

Driving time: 2 ½ hours

Meals included: Breakfast, lunch and dinner

Accommodation: Rancho Baiguata***, Master Room

Day 4: Jarabacoa - Punta Rucia

After breakfast you can visit the Butterfly Garden on the premises of the Rancho Baiguata. You will continue your trip to the city of Santiago where you will see the famous Monument of Santiago. It was designed in 1944 by the architect Henry Gazon Bona. After the fall of the Dictator Trujillo, it was given the name of "Monument to the Heroes of the Revolution", which it

retains to this day. From there, you will follow the Hispaniola coast northwest, arriving at the small idyllic fishing town of Punta Rucia. At the Punta Rucia Lodge you can relax and enjoy the evening with a nice tropical drink on a beautiful beach.

Driving time: 3 hours

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation: Punta Rucia Lodge****, Standard Room

Day 5:Punta Rucia - Fort San Felipe – Cabarete

In the morning a fishing boat will be ready and waiting to take you to a small island with a surface area of only 200 square meters of white sand. The greatest natural pageantry however takes place under the water where the coral reefs provide a magnet for vast varieties of colorful fish and other marine life. Snorkeling in this spectacular natural habitat is an unforgettable experience (boat will provide fins, masks and snorkels). The return trip through the mangroves of the National Park takes you back to the Punta Rucia Lodge. Afterwards, you will follow the road to Cabarete, one of the most popular tourist places to surf. On the way you will stop to visit Fort San Felipe in Puerto Plata. Christopher Columbus arrived in this area on his first voyage documented January 12th, 1493 and founded the town of Puerto Plata (Port Silver). However it was often victimized by pirate raids causing King Felipe II of Spain to command that a fort be built in 1541 to protect this strategic city. In the late afternoon you arrive at your hotel, which is located directly on the beach of Cabarete, a well-known place for kite- and windsurfing. Enjoy the rest of the day having a stroll through the city or on the mile long beach of Cabarete.

Driving time: 2 hours

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation: Veleró Beach Resort***, Standard Room

Day 6: Cabarete – Río San Juan/ Cabrera

After breakfast your journey takes you down the coast to Playa Grande, one of the most beautiful beaches of the island. There you can enjoy a delicious lunch of lobster, fish or chicken. The route leads you to your next accommodation in Río San Juan or Cabrera.

Driving time: 1 hour

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation: North Coast Sportfishing B&B **, Standard Room or Las Puertas del Paraíso **, Standard Room

Day 7:Río San Juan/ Cabrera – Samaná – National Park "Los Haitises"

After breakfast next to the pool you'll want to learn more about this part of the island. The friendly owners of the accommodation will tell you where to find the hotspots of the area. For example Laguna Du Du, a crystal clear freshwater lagoon where people can swim in a cave, jump into the water from a 12 meter (39 feet) high cliff or scuba dive through the caves. In the afternoon the journey continues west to the Samaná Peninsula. This part of the scenery includes rivers, lush landscapes, banana plantations, rice fields and beautiful beaches. Upon arrival you will leave the car behind and travel by boat crossing the Samaná Bay to a paradisiacal nature place, the Paraíso Caño Hondo in the National Park "Los Haitises".

Driving time: 2 hours Boat travel time: 1 hour

Meals included: Breakfast, dinner

Accommodation: Hotel Paraíso Caño Hondo***, Standard Room

Day 8:National Park "Los Haitises" / CayoLevantado (Bacardi-Island) – Las Terrenas

In the morning the boat takes you on a tour through the National Park "Los Haitises". Cruising through secluded islands, bays and rock formations you will visit the "Las Lineas" and the "San Gabriel" cave. In the caves you can find painting and carvings of the Tainos, the original inhabitants of the Dominican Republic. On your tour you will see an incredible variety of birds. Afterwards, your boat will take you to the white beach paradise island of CayoLevantado, also called "Bacardi Island". Here you have time to enjoy a typical Dominican lunch and swim in the crystal clear water. The boat will drop you off at Samaná harbor and you will continue your roundtrip. After a short drive you reach Las Terrenas, your last stop of the trip. The small town is a lively fishing village known for its wonderful beaches and its numerous shops, restaurants and bars.

Driving time: 40 minutes

Meals included: Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Accommodation: Grand Bahía Príncipe El Portillo****, Double Room (Junior Suite for triple occupancy)

Days 9 to 13:Las Terrenas (5 nights)

You will spend the last 4 days of vacation in the All-inclusive Bahia Principe El Portillo****. This is a dream spot where you can lay back and relax, enjoy the Caribbean flair and reminisce about all the many exciting activities of the past week. Las Terrenas is truly one of the best spots on the island. Meals included: All-inclusive Accommodation: Grand Bahia Principe El Portillo****, Double Room (Junior Suite for triple occupancy)

Day 13: Las Terrenas - Santo Domingo

Today you will drive along a well-developed freeway across the island directly to the international airport "Las Americas" Santo Domingo.

Driving time: 2 hours

Meals included: Breakfast

End of the program

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Dates	26-December 2018 - 25-March 2019	26-March 2019 - 26-April 2019 29-June 2019 - 13-September 2019	27-April 2019 - 28-June 2019 14-September 2019 - 24-October 2019	25-October 2019 - 25-December 2019
1/2 Double	\$ 2.780	\$ 2.527	\$ 2.622	\$ 2.158
Single	\$ 4.749	\$ 4.370	\$ 4.438	\$ 3.821
Triple	\$ 2.394	\$ 2.154	\$ 2.401	\$ 1.952
Child (2-10 yrs)	\$ 1.158	\$ 1.031	\$ 641	\$ 1.357

Prices

Prices according to arrival date, rates in USD, per person, including all taxes and service charges The price for one child applies when travelling with 2 adults. Prices are only valid for German speaking market, Italy, France and Eastern Europe (except Russia). Prices for other markets on request.

Included in program:

- ✓ Rental vehicle with unlimited mileage and full insurance coverage (Please see details below)
- ✓ All overnight accommodations at hotels mentioned in the program
- ✓ All meals mentioned in the itinerary as "Meals included"
- ✓ Private Guided-Walking-Tour (2 hours) through the Zona Colonial in Santo Domingo
- ✓ Eco-trail on Rancho Baiguete incl. a visit of the Butterfly Garden
- ✓ Excursion by boat to Cayo Arena - All transfers by boat on day 7 & 8
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- ✓ Private excursion by boat through Los Haitises National Park and to CayoLevantado
- ✓ Transfer from the airport "Las Américas" (Santo Domingo) to the hotel in the old town of Santo Domingo
- ✓ Welcome drink
- ✓ Map of the Dominican Republic with route clearly marked
- ✓ Travel documentation with useful tips and information about Culture, Country & People

Rental Car

Double: Kia Picanto or similar

Single: Kia Picanto or similar

Triple: Kia Rio or similar

(Pick up in the morning of day 3 in the city of Santo Domingo; drop off day 13 (time as desired) at the airport in Santo Domingo)

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(ADA-25/07/2019)