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# LA ROMANA & BAYAHIBE

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**Dominican Republic**  
**Has it all**

# Welcome to La Romana

Along Dominican Republic's Southeastern Coast lie vast sugar cane fields surrounding some of the Caribbean's most beautiful resorts and beaches of La Romana and Bayahibe. These areas boast a combination of picturesque beaches, chic accommodations and desirable attractions.

Founded in the early 19th century, La Romana was originally a sugar-producing region that was also developed as a commercial port for the transport of sugarcane and wood. Today, with its brilliant waters, tropical forests and an excellent range of activities, La Romana provides the ideal destination for families, honeymooners, divers and golfers alike.

Within La Romana is Casa de Campo, a Leading Hotel of the World and one of the most luxurious and complete resorts in the Caribbean. Here, golf enthusiasts can play golf on four magnificent courses: Teeth of the Dog, Dye Fore, The Links and La Romana Country Club. Nearby, La Estancia Golf Course is another option. Additionally, the resort boasts a marina with internationally renowned boutiques and restaurants that serve haute cuisine, as well as Altos de Chavón, a beautiful replica of a 16th century artists' village overlooking the Chavón River.

Nearby, the local resort area of Bayahibe was founded as a fishing village in 1874 and is now known as a favorite destination for the beach and sun. This ecotourism-rich destination is located just 25 minutes east of La Romana and allows visitors to enjoy a tour of the surrounding nature and absorb the history of the authentic fishing village. The Bayahibe region is also home to the country's national flower, the beautifully exotic Bayahibe Rose.

The following guide to La Romana and Bayahibe includes descriptions of the amazing attractions, golf courses, beaches and more that await you.

*Cover photo: Playa Dominicus Lighthouse*



Bayahibe



La Estancia Golf Course

# Facts

La Romana and Bayahibe, located on the Southeast Coast of Dominican Republic, are known for their exquisite beaches and luxurious resorts, as well as one of the world's top golf destinations. Dominican Republic occupies the eastern two-thirds of the large island of Hispaniola, which it shares with the Republic of Haiti, and is the second largest country in the Caribbean, comprising an area of 19,279 square miles (48,442 square kilometers). The country has a population of 9.5 million and enjoys sunny tropical weather year-round. The average year-round temperatures are 78° to 88° F (25° to 31° C). The cooler season is November through April, while it is warmest from May through October.

**CAPITAL CITY:** Dominican Republic's historic and sophisticated capital city, Santo Domingo, is the oldest city of the New World and was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1990.

**LANGUAGE:** Spanish is the official language, however, you'll be surprised by the fact that the majority of employees in hotels and tourist destinations speak relatively good English, French, German and Italian.

**CURRENCY:** The Dominican peso (RD\$) is the official currency.

**GETTING HERE:** Dominican Republic currently has eight international airports throughout the country, including: La Romana International Airport (LRM), Punta Cana International Airport (PUJ), Gregorio Luperón International Airport (POP) in Puerto Plata, El Cibao International Airport (STI) in Santiago, Las Americas International Airport (SDQ) in Santo Domingo, and El Catey International Airport (AZS) in Samaná. Maritime ports that regularly receive cruise ships include: Casa de Campo Port in La Romana, Santo Domingo Port (Don Diego and Sans Souci terminals) and Samaná Bay facilities.

**DOCUMENTATION:** For most visitors, a valid passport along with a US\$10 Tourist Card (available at the airport) is required to enter the country. Any person, no matter their nationality, can enter with a Tourist Card if they are legal resident or if they have one of the following valid visas in their passport: United States, Canada, United Kingdom or Schengen. For a list of countries that can enter Dominican Republic with or without a visa, please visit: [www.GoDominicanRepublic.com/en/entry-requirements](http://www.GoDominicanRepublic.com/en/entry-requirements).

**TIME:** The local time zone is Eastern Caribbean Time (GMT -0400). Dominican Republic does not observe daylight savings time.

**ELECTRICITY:** Operates at 110 Volts/60 Hertz, the same as North America.

**TAXES:** Dominican hotels and restaurants collect 26 percent of their published prices (16 percent sales tax + 10 percent service charges).

**MEDICAL PRECAUTIONS:** Travelers visiting the country are advised to drink only bottled water. Also, because of the strength of the Caribbean sun, it is recommended that vacationers drink water throughout the day to avoid dehydration.

**DRINKING AGE:** The legal drinking age in the country is 18-years old.

**HOTELS:** For information about Dominican Republic hotels and accommodations in the La Romana region, visit La Romana – Bayahibe Hotel Association: [www.exploreларomana.com](http://www.exploreларomana.com), the Association of Hotels and Tourism: [www.Asonahores.com](http://www.Asonahores.com), and [www.GoDominicanRepublic.com/en/hotels](http://www.GoDominicanRepublic.com/en/hotels).

*Playa Dominicus*



Altos de Chavón



## Attractions

Casa de Campo Marina



**ALTOS DE CHAVÓN** – La Romana’s hidden gem is Altos de Chavón, a replica of a 16th century European artists’ village that relishes among cobblestone streets, and coral block and terra cotta buildings. Offering magnificent scenic views of the Chavón River, Altos de Chavón was constructed by the imagination of Roberto Copa, a former Paramount Studios set designer, and Charles Bluhdorn, an American industrialist. Today, Altos de Chavón is a cultural center, home to artists’ studios, craft workshops and art galleries where nearly 600 students from around the world compete to enter its intense, two-year programs in pottery, art, fashion, design and other crafts. The Center’s School of Design is associated with Parsons in New York, where students migrate to complete their studies. In the heart of the village are a Grecian-style amphitheater and the Church of St. Stanislaus. Masses are held weekly at the church, and the amphitheater is a popular venue for concerts, events and more. [www.CasadeCampo.com.do](http://www.CasadeCampo.com.do)

**CASA DE CAMPO MARINA** – Casa de Campo Marina is one of the most complete and prestigious in the Caribbean and is located where the Chavón River meets the Caribbean Sea, within the confines of the Casa de Campo Resort. Designed by the Italian architect Gianfranco Fini, Casa de Campo Marina consists of 105 units, including villas and town-house type apartments. The Marina recently expanded to accommodate up to 350 yachts from 50 to 250 feet LOA. Designed to international specifications, the marina was inspired by the old seaside villages of the Mediterranean. It is equipped to provide a full range of services, accommodate large and small vessels and offers a range of top-notch facilities. [www.MarinaCasadeCampo.com](http://www.MarinaCasadeCampo.com)

**PADRE NUESTRO ARCHEOLOGY TRAIL** – Padre Nuestro Archeology Trail allows visitors to delight in the incredible natural beauty of this area. Located in the National Park of the East, the trail leads to unique flora and fauna, so you can appreciate the tropical vegetation along the 1.25 mile (2 kilometer) route. The route even includes areas once populated by the Taino Indians.

**CUEVA DE LAS MARAVILLAS** – The “Cave of Wonders” is located between San Pedro de Macorís and La Romana. The fascinating cave system contains hundreds of well-preserved pictographs, petroglyphs and engravings from the Taino Indians who once inhabited it thousands of years before. The dwelling is easily accessible to visitors with its excellent lighting system, ramps, a footpath and a modern elevator. It is home to the most important sample of rock art and features amazing rock formations such as stalactites, stalagmites, and columns. The Cave of Wonders is open Tuesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.



Parque Nacional del Este



**CASINO DOMINICUS** – Visitors can enjoy a night of Las Vegas-style gambling with a Caribbean twist at Casino Dominicus, located between Bayahibe and La Romana. The casino opened in 2007 and was constructed with the inspiration of its natural setting, with a touch of European elegance and charm.

**LIVING UNDERWATER MUSEUMS** – Fascinating Underwater Archaeological Reserves are located in front of the coast of the Bayahibe hotel zone. Shipwrecked galleons dating back to the early 18th century have been recreated here to portray how they looked when originally discovered by marine biologists. Both snorkelers and scuba divers frequent the museums.

**CAPTAIN KIDD SHIPWRECK** – The Cara Merchant Pirate Ship, the ship Captain William Kidd commandeered and then abandoned in 1699 as he raced to New York in an attempt to clear his name of piracy charges, was discovered off Catalina Island in 2008. Since, the National Geographic Channel has created a documentary titled, “Shipwreck, Captain Kidd” on the discovery and study of the Cara Merchant pirate ship. The discovery has

been created into a “living museum” and is also available as a scientific field resource for students and professionals in the underwater archaeology, marine biology, and ecology and geology fields.

**DEEP SEA FISHING** – The waters surrounding La Romana are some of the best spots in the world for deep sea fishing for Marlin, Tuna and Dorado, and attract professional anglers from around the world. Tournaments are held each year including The Marlin Azul, or Blue Marlin Classic and the Dorado and Bonito tournament. High season for blue marlin is in the summer. While chances of catching marlin are slim in the winter, the waters are filled with plenty of mahi-mahi, barracuda, and sailfish.

**DIVING AND SNORKELING** – Some of the best diving in the Caribbean can be found along the shores of La Romana. In combination with its spectacular clear blue warm waters, La Romana’s undersea world offers incredible ocean adventures with ancient shipwrecks, underwater caverns and stunning coral reefs. Divers visiting the region will have the opportunity to experience one of the greatest examples of marine biodiversity found in the Caribbean, encountering more than 120 species of tropical fish and a variety of marine animals. La Romana’s dive sites are filled with underwater archaeological reserves of Guadalupe and Guaraguao where divers can view shipwrecks and archaeological artifacts. These underwater museum sites are easily accessible to both snorkelers and scuba divers.

**PARQUE NACIONAL DEL ESTE** – Home to more than 500 flora species, 300 types of birds, and long stretches of beaches and underwater wonders, the National Park of the East is one of the most visited and protected areas in the country. While here, visitors can hike, discover ancient Taino ruins, take part in bird watching excursions and dive coral reefs populated with manatees, bottle-nose dolphins and other sea creatures.

**SHOPPING** – Visitors to La Romana have various shopping options, whether they are seeking locally made crafts and distinctive Dominican food, or the island’s latest fashions. El Artístico, approximately 2 miles (3 kilometers) west of La Romana, is known for selling Dominican art, jewelry and Dominican icons made from pounded metal and bright colors. Casa de Campo also houses more than 45 retail stores with resort apparel, native jewelry, original art and ceramics, fine cigars and more. Guests can visit shops throughout the Marina, Altos de Chavón, and throughout the towns of La Romana and Bayahibe.



# Beaches



Recognized for their exceptionally fine sand and pristine waters, La Romana and Bayahibe comprise some of the most beautiful beaches in the Caribbean. The beaches within the Bayahibe hotel zone are internationally recognized as certified Blue Flag beaches, which guarantee high quality clean coastal waters and beaches along with proper environmental management and safety measures.

**ISLA SAONA** – The beaches on Saona Island are some of the most beautiful white sand beaches in the Caribbean. Saona Island is a very popular area of the National Park of the East and is home to 112 species of birds, along with turtles, bottle-nose dolphins, whales and manatees around the island waters. It is complete with facilities such as bathrooms, showers and picnic tables for visitors.

**PLAYA MINITAS** – Within Casa de Campo is Playa Minitas, the resort's private beach, which includes a roped off area for swimming and an array of water sports including snorkeling, kayaking, windsurfing, paddleboats and more. The family friendly beach also allows kids to play beachside games and sports at the "La Palapa" beach hut.

**BAYAHIBE** – Bayahibe lies southeast of La Romana and offers several top-rated beach strips without the crowds. The area is frequented by cruise ship passengers and offers pristine white-sand and tranquility, as well as great diving.

**PLAYA DOMINICUS** – The first beach in the Caribbean to receive Blue Flag certification, Playa Dominicus is most popular for diving with the lush reefs nearby and no undertow. Swimmers can relax at nearby restaurants and enjoy a little shopping at the surrounding huts selling souvenirs.

**PALMILLA** – A secluded beach in Parque Nacional del Este, Palmilla is a Caribbean paradise where you can swim, snorkel and more. You can get there by renting a boat in nearby Bayahibe or La Romana.

**ISLA CATALINA** – The small island greets beachgoers and cruise ship visitors with white-sand beaches surrounded by the crystal clear blue waters of the Caribbean Sea. Catalina Island offers numerous water sports, specifically diving and snorkeling. The area is known for its coral reefs and now delights divers with a "Living Museum of the Sea" following the discovery of Captain Kidd's shipwreck 70 feet (21 meters) off the island's coast.

**CATALINITA** – Catalinita Island is a tiny isle off the eastern shore of the National Park of the East. Situated in the Catuano Channel as an attractive sandbar, Catalinita Island is characterized by its crystal waters, rich biodiversity and abundance of marine life. The reef environment makes this island a popular destination for divers and snorkelers.



# LA ROMANA & BAYAHIBE

KEY		
● Resort Town	☀ Beach	🪂 Zipline
● City and Town	🏖 Blue Flag Beach	--- Foot Trail
■ Point of Interest	🚤 Sailing	--- Park Boundaries
🛣 Expressway	🚣 Diving/Snorkeling	⚾ Baseball
✈ International Airport	🚢 Shipwreck	🎪 Carnival
✈ Domestic Airport	🌳 Protected Area/Park	🎰 Casino
🚢 Cruise Port	🌿 Mangroves	🏌 Golf Course
⚓ Marina	🚶 Hiking	🚬 Cigar Tourism
🚤 Boat Launch	🕒 Cave	🏨 Hotel area

Playa Dominicus



## Events

Dye Fore, Casa de Campo



**PROCIGAR FESTIVAL** – Hundreds of people from the U.S., Asia, Europe and the Americas attend the annual Procigar Festival in La Romana. The event is organized in February by the Association of Cigar Producers of the Dominican Republic and includes events at Casa de Campo, tours of the Tabacalera de Garcia factory, a golf tournament and beach excursions. [www.Procigar.org](http://www.Procigar.org)

**CASA DE CAMPO SPRING SHOOTOUT** – Every April the Casa de Campo Spring Shootout takes place at Casa de Campo's famous Pete Dye-designed courses. The 54-hole stroke play tournament includes net and gross divisions and the net and gross winners in each flight compete in a shootout. Packages typically include accommodations in deluxe or elite rooms, daily meals, unlimited drinks and restaurants. [www.CasadeCampo.com.do/golf-tournaments](http://www.CasadeCampo.com.do/golf-tournaments)

**CARIBBEAN GOLF CLASSIC** – The Caribbean Golf Association and the Dominican Golf Federation (FEDOGOLF) host the Caribbean Classic at Casa de Campo. The classic is an individual and team event competed by teams of unlimited number of players. Golfers play 18 holes a day and play at Casa de Campo's Teeth of the Dog, Links and DyeFore. Players are divided into flights based on handicap and sex. The men compete for the Robert Greil trophy and the women compete for the Jodi Munn Barrow trophy.

**VIVA REGATTA** – The Viva Regatta, held at the Viva Wyndham Dominicanus Beach, annually attracts world-class sailboats from local and international sailing associations who compete in the event. The Regatta features various categories, including Laser Standard, Laser Radial, Sunfish and Windsurf, among others. The Regatta is organized by the Dominican Sailing Federation. Prizes for the top three in each category are awarded. [www.vivaresorts.com](http://www.vivaresorts.com)

**INTERNATIONAL TENNIS TOURNAMENT** – Local and international amateur and professional tennis players meet every September at Casa de Campo's country club style La Terraza tennis courts to compete in the Casa de Campo Cup. The event, which typically includes nearly 250 participants, includes activities such as practice, doubles and singles tournaments, an awards ceremony and a reception. [www.CasadeCampo.com.do/tennis](http://www.CasadeCampo.com.do/tennis)

**CASA DE CAMPO GOLF OPEN** – The Dominican Golf Federation (FEDOGOLF) hosts the Annual Dominican Republic International



Golf Open in September, typically welcoming more than 200 players from around the globe. The event caters to amateur golfers as well as the more elite crowd. [www.Fedogolf.org.do](http://www.Fedogolf.org.do)

**BASEBALL** – In December and January, Dominican Major League Baseball greets join their local teams to close the regular season and commence league season finals. The action is located in La Romana at Estadio Francisco Micheli, home to Los Toros del Este. The regular season opens in the middle of October and runs through the first week of February when the winner of the Winter Professional Baseball Championship gets to represent the country in the Caribbean Series. Every year the Caribbean series rotates among Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Mexico and Venezuela. [www.lidom.com.do](http://www.lidom.com.do)

**CASA DE CAMPO POLO TOURNAMENT** – The Master Tournament is an annual event held at the world-class Casa de Campo Resort. The country's top polo players gather every spring for the event, which is sanctioned by the International Polo Federation. [www.CasadeCampo.com.do](http://www.CasadeCampo.com.do)

**CONCERTS IN ALTOS DE CHAVÓN** – The amphitheater can house nearly 5,000 people and is a popular venue for concerts, music videos and private celebrations. Past concerts have included acts such as Gloria Estefan, Sting, Shakira, Marc Anthony and more. Visitors are in for a treat during the winter months when Kandela, the Caribbean musical review, is performed here each week. [www.CasadeCampo.com.do/altos-de-chavon](http://www.CasadeCampo.com.do/altos-de-chavon)

For an updated list of events in the country visit:  
[www.godominicanrepublic.com/en/events](http://www.godominicanrepublic.com/en/events)



Estadio Francisco Micheli



Casa de Campo Polo



Altos de Chavón

Palmilla



## Excursions

Los 3 Ojos, Santo Domingo



**SAONA ISLAND** – Saona Island, separated from dry land by the Catuano Channel, is the most popular excursion taken by tourists visiting the La Romana area. Part of the National Park of the East and voted as one of the Caribbean’s Top Dream Beaches by *Caribbean Travel & Life*, Saona Island’s unspoiled beaches, lush palms and turquoise water make it one of Dominican Republic’s most enchanted regions. Boat tours depart from neighboring town Bayahibe.

**CATALINA ISLAND** – A small island 6 square miles (15.6 square kilometers) wide, Catalina Island is completely surrounded by a marine coral reef nature preserve that attracts thousands of diving and snorkeling enthusiasts. Catalina Island also boasts the shipwreck of Captain William Kidd, a famous pirate, close offshore. The island itself is home to lush mangrove swamps, sandy dunes and verdant reefs, and is sometimes a docking destination for cruise ships.

**HORSEBACK RIDING** – Several hotels in La Romana and Bayahibe feature horseback riding excursions that take tourists into the hillsides and to seldom-visited beaches.

**SANTO DOMINGO CITY TOUR** – Experience a journey through history and natural splendor on a tour of the oldest city in the Americas. Santo Domingo, the first capital of the New World, maintains the first cathedral, the first paved street and the first court in the region. The day-long tour will explore the colonial architecture such as the Alcazar de Colón, Cathedral of Santa Maria La Menor, as well as a visit to the mysterious series of underground caves, Los Tres Ojos.

**TABACALERA DE GARCIA** – Visit the Tabacalera de Garcia, in La Romana, makers of the finest Dominican cigars: Montecristo, Romeo & Juliet, H. Upmann, Don Diego, Santa Damiana, VegaFina, and Onyx amongst others. The largest handmade cigar factory in the world, here you will see the proud handwork of the cigar industry’s most experienced craftsmen and women. Their Cigar Shop carries the best selection and prices of premium Dominican cigars. Tours are offered by appointment Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. [www.TabacaleraDeGarcia.com](http://www.TabacaleraDeGarcia.com)

Check with your hotel reception or representative for available tours.

Teeth of the Dog



## Golf

La Romana is the ideal destination for golf lovers who seek upscale golf amid breathtaking scenery, offering four championship Pete Dye golf courses and more.

### CASA DE CAMPO RESORT: DYE FORE

[www.CasadeCampo.com.do](http://www.CasadeCampo.com.do)

### CASA DE CAMPO RESORT: TEETH OF THE DOG

[www.CasadeCampo.com.do](http://www.CasadeCampo.com.do)

### CASA DE CAMPO RESORT: THE LINKS

[www.CasadeCampo.com.do](http://www.CasadeCampo.com.do)

### LA ROMANA COUNTRY CLUB

[www.CasadeCampo.com.do](http://www.CasadeCampo.com.do)

### LA ESTANCIA GOLF RESORT: LA ESTANCIA GOLF COURSE

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

## Local Transportation

As the second largest country in the Caribbean, Dominican Republic offers a wide range of activities which can be a short or long distance away from one another. Many options exist for traveling on well-maintained highways to nearby attractions and also to more distantly located excursions.

**BUS COMPANIES** – Air conditioned motor coaches and vans arranged by local tour operators are available from most hotels. Also, daily service is available between La Romana / Bayahibe and Santo Domingo via public bus transportation. Check with your hotel or tour operator for more information.

**CAR RENTALS** – Car rental offices and facilities can be found at the local airports. Renters must be 25 with a valid driver's license.

**AIRPORT** – La Romana International Airport (LRM), located just 10 minutes from the town of La Romana and 25 minutes from Bayahibe, opened in December 2000 and consists of a single terminal with four modern gates in the style of an old sugar mill.

**CRUISES** – Hundreds of cruise ships dock at the picturesque Port of La Romana. With so much to do and see, the cruise port accommodates up to 24 tour buses and features a modern platform and harbor terminal, with a capacity for two large cruise ships. The port includes two docking platforms, a passenger terminal and ample parking facilities. [www.CentralRomana.com.do](http://www.CentralRomana.com.do)

**GROUND TRANSPORTATION** – Taxis are available at most hotels and tour operators are more than willing to provide additional options for getting around. Visitors should also check with their hotel for any recommendations

### TABLE OF DISTANCES:

La Romana to –	
Bayahibe	20 minutes
Catalina Island (by boat)	30 minutes
Juan Dolio	1 hour 10 minutes
Boca Chica	1 hour 20 minutes
Punta Cana	1 ½ hours
Santo Domingo	2 hours
Samaná	3 hours
Jarabacoa	4 hours
Santiago	4 hours
Barahona	5 hours
Puerto Plata	5 ½ hours
Bayahibe to –	
La Romana	20 minutes
Saona Island (by boat)	45 minutes
Punta Cana	1 hour 10 minutes
Other destinations	Add 20 minutes to times posted above

Note: Times may vary according to traffic conditions.



# Dominican Republic



KEY	
<span style="color: red;">●</span>	City and Town
<span style="color: blue;">■</span>	Point of Interest
	Cruise Port
	International Airport
	Domestic Airport
	Beach
	Protected Area/Park
	Golf Course
	Whales
	Highest Peak

# Dominican Republic Ministry of Tourism

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# Dominican Republic Has it all

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



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