

Hotspot Guide
Dominican Republic
A Sample of what's on Offer
Hot Spot
Introduction



Fast Facts:

- **Location:** Caribbean, eastern two-thirds of the island of Hispaniola, between the Caribbean Sea and the North Atlantic Ocean, east of Haiti
- **Capital City:** Roseau
- **Climate:** The Dominican Republic primarily has a tropical climate, with local rather than seasonal variations in temperature
- **Average Temperature:** The average annual temperature is 25C (77F).
- **Total Land Area:** 48,482 square kilo meters
- **Official Language:** Spanish
- **Total Population:** 9 million
- **Population Density:** 18,792/km2
- **Major Religion:** Christianity
- **Currency:** Dominican peso (DOP). £1 = DOP 64
- **GDP:** 45,597 USD million
- **GNI per capita:** 3,790US\$
- **Inflation:** 12%
- **Annual Growth:** 4.20%
- **Main Exports:** Bananas, soap, bay oil, vegetables, grapefruit, oranges
- **Main Sources of Income:** Taxes and Tourism
- **Unemployment:** 23%
- **Population Below Poverty Line:** 30%
- **Literacy:** 94%
- **Life Expectancy:** 73.39 %
- **Time Zone:** GMT -4
- **Internet Domain:** .do
- **International Dialling Code:** +1 767



Geography

- The Dominican Republic is situated on the eastern part of the second-largest island in the Greater Antilles, Hispaniola.
- It shares the island roughly at a 2:1 ratio with Haiti. The whole country measures an area of 48,442 km²(or 48,730 km²,¹ or 48,921 km making it the second largest country in the Antilles, after Cuba.
- There are many small offshore islands. The two largest islands near shore are Saona, in the southeast, and Beata, in the southwest.
- The country's mainland has four important mountain ranges.



Economy

- The Dominican Republic, the biggest economy in the Caribbean and Central America is a lower middle-income developing country primarily dependent on agriculture, trade, and services, especially tourism.
- Tourism accounts for more than \$1 billion in annual earnings.
- Free Trade Zone earnings and tourism are the fastest-growing export sectors.

- The Dominican Republic's most important trading partner is the United States (75% of export revenues). Other markets include Canada, Western Europe, and Japan.
- The country exports free-trade-zone manufactured products (garments, medical devices, etc.), nickel, sugar, coffee.



Politics

- **Government of the Dominican Republic** takes place in a framework of a representative democracy, whereby the President of the Dominican Republic is both head of state and head of government, and of a multi-party system.
- Executive power is exercised by the government. Legislative power is vested in the two chambers of the National Congress.

Why Invest in Dominican Republic ?

The growth of the tourism industry has assisted in bridging the gap between the rich and poor, providing increased job opportunities, adding to the growth of the country's economic situation. Providing investors with an affordable Caribbean market displaying some of the strongest growth rates of the region, the Dominican Republic enables an ideal location for excellent returns.

- No restrictions on foreign ownership
- Stable democratic government
- Growing economic environment
- High touristic growth
- Excellent return potential
- Active infrastructure improvement and growth
- Large influx of international investments
- Good capital growth returns
- Strong rental potential
- Affordably priced high-end Caribbean market

A Brief Guide to Purchasing Property in Dominican Republic

- **Secure processes have been designed to enable buyer confidence in the Dominican Republic property market.**
- The buying process is straight forward, with no restrictions to foreign buyers and processes that are similar to other world markets.
- While taxes may be considered high, there are many exemptions and options available to buyers for reducing costs.



Property Market

- **The new government** has made some positive changes. The infrastructure problems are receiving top priority.
- Land ownership restrictions have been eliminated. Now anyone can own property virtually anywhere **in the "D.R."** and there are no real estate taxes. For the first time in twenty years the government has allocated millions to promote this beautiful country.
- **"International Living" has started a series of articles entitled, "Affordable Caribbean"** and is promoting tours there. **The "D.R." economy is booming.** Its only a matter of time before prices increase to parity with other Caribbean isles

Fees and taxes:

- **Property Taxes**
Properties held in the name of an individual are subject to an annual property tax ("IPI") of 1% of government-appraised value in excess of RD\$5,000,000 pesos except for unbuilt lots or farms outside city limits and properties whose owner is 65 years old or older, who has registered it in his or her name for more than 15 years and has no other property.

Hot Spots:

Santo Domingo

- Is the oldest city in the New World, where the settlement of all the Americas began.
- See the first cathedral, the first hospital. Spanish colonial architecture from 1600s.
- No other city in the Caribbean has a greater variety of restaurants and night life.
- Santo Domingo has great shopping. Major chains from all around the world have opened branches here. Discount stores offer great prices on designer brands..

