



Palmera Destination Services

Groups & Incentive Guide

**Dominican Republic
2011**



The Dominican Republic (DR)





The Dominican Republic



The Dominican Republic (The DR) is located in the Caribbean between Cuba and Puerto Rico and occupies the eastern two-thirds of the island of *Hispañola*, with Haiti occupying the western portion. With 48,730 square kilometers, Hispañola is the second largest island in the Caribbean surpassed only by Cuba. Situated in the heart of the region between North and South America, the country is bathed by the Caribbean Sea on the south coast and the Atlantic Ocean to the north. The island was originally created when a volcano erupted in the ocean millions of years ago. There are, however, no volcanoes on the island.

The earth holds many splendid treasures; one of them is the national stone *Larimar* – the Dominican turquoise, which is found in the mountains of the Dominican Republic.

The Dominican Republic is a land of contrasts with towering mountains and rocky cliffs, rain forests, fertile valleys, cacti-studded deserts, 1,288 kilometers (800 miles) of coastline and about 300 kilometers (185 miles) of prime beaches. The country is crossed by four rugged mountain ranges bisecting northwest to southeast. The largest is the *Cordillera Central* with *Pico Duarte*, the tallest point in the Caribbean, rising over 3,175 meters (10,417 feet).

Three large fertile valleys rest between the ranges. *Lake Enriquillo* in the southwest is the lowest point in the Caribbean falling 46 meters (150 feet) below sea level and the only salt water lake in the world inhabited by crocodiles.

The Dominican Republic is surrounded by a rich animal wildlife. The Atlantic and Caribbean oceans surrounding the island of Hispañola are filled with fish, sea turtles and coral reefs and more which make snorkelling or diving activities an absolute must.

From January till March around 3,000 humpback whales find their way to the north coast of the Dominican Republic. The coast of *Samaná* towards the north east is considered the best place in the world to see these majestic creatures. The total population of the Dominican Republic is approximately 9,365,818 (July 2007 est.) with the largest number living in the capitol of Santo Domingo.



Tourism in the DR

In the past few years, the Dominican Republic has unquestionably become one of the most popular and fastest growing tourist destinations in the Caribbean with more than 20 daily direct flights from major US and European cities. There are now approximately 75,000 hotel rooms across the island making the Dominican Republic the largest destination in the Caribbean.

The east coast of the Dominican Republic (from Punta Cana in the south to Macao and Uvero Alto in the north), which includes approx. 35 kilometres (22 miles) of coast line and more than 45 resorts, has become a very popular tourist destination. More than 4 million tourists from all over the world come to the Dominican Republic each year enjoy some of the best beaches in the world (including Bávaro beach, Punta Cana beach and Juanillo Bay) and some of the most luxurious resorts in the Caribbean (including Paradisus Palma Real, The Reserve at the Paradisus Palma Real, Tortuga Bay Hotel and the Sanctuary Cap Cana Golf & Spa).

Getting to the DR is easy! With the most sea and air connections than any other Caribbean destination, the Dominican Republic is easily accessible from practically any part of the world.

Every week more than 50 airline companies fly to Punta Cana Airport on the south east coast, more than 30 airline companies fly to Las Americas International Airport in the capitol of Santo Domingo, 15 airline companies fly to La Romana International Airport close to Casa de Campo on the south coast, and 15 airline companies fly to the newest international airport El Catey International Airport in Samaná on the north coast.



Major airline companies include American Airlines, Delta, Air Canada, Air Transat, Air France, British Airways, Condor, Continental Airlines, Copa Airlines, Sunwing, United Airlines, US Airways and many more.



Destination: Punta Cana



The most popular tourist destination within the Dominican Republic is without a doubt **Punta Cana**. This area has the largest concentration of all inclusive resorts and some of the most beautiful beaches in the world! In recent years, the resorts in Punta Cana have focused more on attracting and catering to large company, incentive or leisure groups, golf tournaments, conventions, weddings and other events. For conventions, many of the resorts offer modern meeting facilities and convention space, as well as a full range of services including wireless internet, audio-visual equipment and assistance, banquet services, and more.

For group dinners or cocktail parties, the beach provides the most spectacular setting and events can be held inside the resorts for convenience. However, there are also a number of off-property locations including private beaches/beach clubs, fantastic restaurants, caves, etc., which are sure to create a fantastic, Caribbean atmosphere for a memorable event.

Destination weddings have become very popular in Punta Cana where a variety of exotic and spectacular settings that range from tropical gardens to beaches are available. Combined with the affordability of the destination and the wide variety of entertainment and activities, Punta Cana is the ideal place for destination weddings, bachelorette parties and honeymoons.

For leisure groups Punta Cana offers a wide variety of daytime activities. The most popular activities include catamaran/snorkelling excursions, canopy / zip lines, ATVs, helicopter, golf and much more.



Palmera Destination Services

Palmera Destination Services is a full service DMC (Destination Management Company) based in Punta Cana, the Dominican Republic. Palmera has been operating since 2000; specializing groups & incentives and providing high quality services that are customized to fit the specific needs and requirements of our clients.

Palmera is owned by Mr. Anders Bogebjerg and Mrs. Rawnie Bogebjerg Hansen (both from Denmark) who took over the company in 2005 from its previous, Dominican owner. Together with a dynamic, international team, Palmera makes sure your visit to the Dominican Republic is an experience you will cherish for a lifetime.

Our mission is to provide the best destination services for our clients and to ensure that our services are personal and of the highest standard.



Our philosophy: We believe that the most important aspect of any person's vacation or business trip is that everything works smoothly in the planning phase and especially on the destination - from the moment of arrival to the departure. Our success lies in working hard to make sure our clients' vacation or business trip is a success. The key to a wonderful and memorable vacation or a successful business trip is to have a DMC working not only *for* you to make sure things fall into place, but also to have a DMC who works *with* you and understands your needs.



In this picture: Anders & Rawnie, April 2009



Palmera Transfer Services



Palmera transfers are always private. Our policy is “one-stop-transportation” taking you straight from the airport to your resort.

Our transportation services include (photos from top left to right): **Luxury VIP transfers in a GMC Yukon XL or Chevrolet Suburban** with maximum capacity of 5 persons including luggage - **Standard transfers in a mini van** with maximum capacity of 6 persons including luggage – **Standard transfers in a medium sized bus** with maximum capacity of 15-20 persons including luggage – **Standard transfers in a large bus** with maximum capacity of 55-58 persons including luggage.

Meet & Greet is always included in our transfers.

Beverages for arrival transfers can be included at an additional cost – bottled water, soft drinks and/or *Presidente* beer.



Palmera TOURS (Half or Full Day)



Tours are a great way to discover the destination. For tourists visiting Punta Cana, there are a wide selection of tours available – either half day or full day – which will allow them to see and experience the Dominican Republic by land, sea and air.

Popular tours include:

Monster Truck Safari (top left picture)

Deep Sea Fishing (top right picture)

Marinarium – Marine Park & Aquarium (middle left picture)

Swimming with dolphins (middle right picture)

Canopy / Zip Lines (bottom left picture)

Helicopter tours (bottom right picture)



Other tours include:

Bucaneros Speedboats

Saona Island

Santo Domingo City Tour

Horseback Riding

Reef Explorer

Bavaro Trackers ATVs and more...





Palmera GOLF



Golfers coming to the Dominican Republic will soon find themselves in golf heaven! The destination is quickly becoming one of the best golf destinations in the world.

With such spectacular ocean side courses such as **Dye Fore** (Pete Dye design/top left picture), the legendary **Teeth of the Dog** (Pete Dye design/top right picture), **The Faldo Legacy Course at Roco Ki** (Nick Faldo Signature/middle left picture), **La Cana** (P. B. Dye design/middle right picture), **Punta Espada** (Jack Nicklaus Signature/bottom left picture)* and **Corales** (Tom Fazio design/bottom right) it is easy to be blown away.

Golfing with Palmera is easy! We include roundtrip transportation, 9 or 18-hole greenfees and golf cart in our standard golf packages. For some golf courses we also include range balls, beverages on the course/in the club house, snacks/lunch on the course/in the club house and caddies (\$).

* Home of the PGA Champions Tour / The Cap Cana Championship in 2008, 2009 and 2010 and shown on The Golf Channel.



Palmera Golf TOURNAMENTS



Palmera offers professional tournament planning and management including:

- Promotion
- Sign up / Registration management
- Starters
- Live scoring
- Rule officials
- Photography
- Prize ceremony and more.

Palmera hosts two annual golf tournaments for amateurs:

- Punta Cana Open (October/November)
- Punta Cana Spring Classic (March/April)

...and we are working on arranging a number of Pro-Am tournament starting in 2010.



Palmera Hospitality Service



Palmera hospitality service includes professional, friendly representatives who speak English and Spanish as a minimum. Other languages spoken include German, French, Danish, Swedish and Dutch.

Our representatives are knowledgeable about the Dominican Republic and can assist your group with information and answering questions about the area, reservations for golf and excursions, welcome briefings and more.



Palmera Events



Palmera offers professional event planning and management for all types of events such as:

- Weddings
- Conventions / meetings
- Golf tournaments
- Team building events
- Private dinners (e.g. outside the resorts)
- Beach parties
- Birthday parties and more



All types of events will be personalized and customized to fit the needs and wishes of the client(s).

Our team will see your event through from the first planning phase until the event has been successfully completed.





Contact Information



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