

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC LUXURY

Where to Stay in the Dominican Republic for Every Budget

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Promising gorgeous stretches of white sand, sunny and warm weather throughout the year, and reasonable rates, the Dominican Republic is a popular beach getaway for travelers from multiple countries -- the most common being the U.S., Canada, and Germany. Flights are convenient (just over two hours from Miami), and locals are generally warm and friendly to tourists, although petty theft is common. There's a lot to love about this Caribbean destination, from the widespread merengue and bachata music playing in clubs, to the colonial history and architecture that dominate its capital. In order to help you experience the country for yourself, we've rounded up the top destinations within the D.R., and picked a place to stay for every budget -- whether you want a cheap but charming boutique or full-on luxury resort.

Punta Cana



Travelers who want the picturesque white-sand beaches that are considered some of the best in the Caribbean should head to Punta Cana, which sits at the easternmost part of the country. The area is home to dozens of mega-resorts -- from family-friendly all-inclusive properties to jaw-dropping luxury options -- and fortunately, all buildings have to be shorter than palm trees. Punta Cana receives some of the least amount of rainfall in the D.R. and most hotels have excellent high-level security, but this is not the best spot for water sports and some hotels are a long drive over poor roads from the airport.

- Budget: Karibo Punta Cana offers an excellent value with modern rooms and kitchen-equipped
 apartments, a large 24-hour pool, free Wi-Fi, and a cocktail bar. Although the beach isn't within
 walking distance, a free shuttle is provided.
- Mid-Range: Offering an upscale experience at three-pearl prices, Alsol Del Mar is an intimate
 all-inclusive property with a small beach, oceanfront pool, and stylish condos with kitchenettes
 (some also have private hot tubs).
- Luxury: The kid-friendly, five-pearl Reserve at Paradisus Palma Real is surprisingly serene and
 offers all the expected amenities. If money is no object, the 30-room Tortuga Bay was designed
 by Oscar de la Renta and blows away other properties with its outstanding service and elegant
 facilities.