

Dominican Republic News Update

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Sent Items

I thought you might be interested in the latest developments regarding the Dominican Republic.

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A Top Tourism Destination

- In 2017, the Dominican Republic saw a record number of visitors (6.8 million tourists), accounting for 21% of Caribbean travel, which is nearly a 4% increase from 2016.
- The first quarter of 2018 has shown even more promise, with 7.7% growth year-on-year from 2017.
- The Dominican Republic was voted as one of the top 10 places for retirees and expats, coming in second place, just after Portugal. The island nation provides a low cost of living, friendly and hospitable people, beautiful scenery, sophisticated restaurants, a laid-back beach-town vibe, as well as, cosmopolitan centers.
- The Dominican Republic has eased the visitor entry process for those traveling by air. The \$10 tourist entry fee will now be included in the price of the airline ticket and will reduce travelers' wait time at the airport.
- The Grand Fiesta Americana Punta Cana Los Corales is a new \$130 million all-inclusive resort with 558 guest rooms, focusing on beach activities like, snorkeling and paddle boarding.
- Barcelo Hotel Group hosts some of the finest all-inclusive resorts in the Dominican Republic and offers a wide array of adventures all over the island from the colonial city of Santo Domingo, a UNESCO World Heritage site, to a Bavaro Runner tour, which includes a safari jeep style ride through jungles, sugarcane plantations, and tobacco farms to see how cigars are made, to boat trips to Saona Island for snorkeling and beach activities.
- The Dominican Republic has seen a large increase in voluntourism, where travelers can give back and uplift the spirit of the community by participating in clean-up activities that help the island recover after recent hurricanes.
- The Dominican Republic has been lauded as an ideal place to work and live. Not only is it the best-connected Caribbean destination with 8 international airports, the entry regulations are simple, and it has a helpful business infrastructure with modern convention centers and meeting rooms, and internationally certified Destination Management Companies with professional programs. All of this plus their famous hospitality, cultural offerings, beautiful scenery, friendly multilingual staff, gastronomy, favorable weather, and offering of numerous luxury hotels and resorts, make the Dominican Republic the ideal location.

<http://www.godominicanrepublic.com/meetings-industry/why-dr/>

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-05-11/caribbean-volunteering-how-to-give-back-on-your-next-vacation>

<https://www.travelpulse.com/news/destinations/dominican-republic-eases-visitor-entry-process.html>

<https://money.usnews.com/money/blogs/on-retirement/articles/2018-05-31/the-10-best-places-to-retire-overseas-in-2018>

<http://www.travelweekly.com/Caribbean-Travel/Uncharted-adventures-Dominican-Republic>

The Dominican Republic Works to Enhance Bi-lateral Relations

- The Minister of Tourism for the Dominican Republic, Francisco Javier Garcia, visited Japan to strengthen ties in cooperation and promote the flow of tourists between the two countries.
- The Dominican Republic has set a goal of hosting 10 million tourists by 2022.
- Queen Letizia of Spain visited the Dominican Republic, where she was briefed on a myriad of different topics like their new water distribution program, the Centre for Comprehensive Care for Disability which helps children with intellectual disabilities, the organic banana cooperative, and the prevention of adolescent pregnancy and prevention of early weddings programs.
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Chamber of Commerce of the Dominican Republic signed an agreement to promote trade, culture, and integration activities with Central America to boost business activities, commercial promotion, business missions, and technical workshops between the country and that sub region.
- The agreement between the Dominican Republic and Central America will contribute to the diversification of goods and services, the internationalization of companies, and facilitate trade in the region.
- The Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico signed training agreements for agricultural technicians in both countries, which will set a new precedent for commercial contracts and business investments between the two countries. The commission has discussed cooperation in the production of greenhouses, rice, coffee, and bananas.
- The Dominican Republic's Board of Civil Aviation signed a bilateral Air Services Agreement with the Federative Republic of Brazil which will formally establish air-commercial relations between both nations, as well as, open new avenues of growth, investment, and development through aviation and contributes to the "open skies" approach.
- Dominican Republic FM Vargas proposed the creation of a joint council of trade and investment with Italy, which would deepen the economic exchange between both nations. Italian FM Alfano highlighted the Dominican Republic's sustained growth in its economy and its great investment climate.

<https://acento.com.do/2018/economia/8570969-ministerio-turismo-promovera-la-republica-dominicana-japon/>

<http://royalcentral.co.uk/europe/spain/queen-letizia-starts-co-operation-trip-to-the-dominican-republic-and-haiti-103285>

<https://acento.com.do/2018/economia/8570790-cancilleria-centrocamara-impulsaran-comercio-republica-dominicana-centroamerica/>

<https://acento.com.do/2018/economia/8567544-republica-dominicana-puerto-rico-establecen-acuerdos-agropecuarios/>

<https://acento.com.do/2018/actualidad/8565274-autoridades-aviacion-civil-republica-dominicana-brasil-firman-convenio-relaciones-comerciales/>

<https://acento.com.do/2018/economia/8562116-canciller-republica-dominicana-propone-italia-consejo-conjunto-comercio-e-inversion/>

The Dominican Republic Establishes Diplomatic Relations with China

- The Dominican Republic and China announced the establishment of diplomatic relations, which meant a dissolution of ties with Taiwan.
- Former President Fernandez, stated, "the Dominican Republic, for years, maintained diplomatic relations with the Republic of Taiwan, which I must say was a very generous count with us and very supportive, for which we appreciate all the assistance and all the help they gave us."
- Former President Fernandez, continued, "there is a reality in world geopolitics and that China is already the second largest world economy and is projected for 2050 as the world's leading economy. The Dominican Republic cannot ignore that."

<https://acento.com.do/2018/actualidad/8566854-leonel-affirma-republica-dominicana-estado-soberano-dcfine-politica-exterior/>

The Dominican Republic Makes Strides in Renewable Energy & Environmental Initiatives

- The Dominican Institute of Civil Aviation and the Civil Aviation Authority of Panama signed an agreement to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from aviation, and to promote the International Civil Aviation Organization.
- Barrick Gold Corporation announced Pueblo Viejo Mine that it is converting to natural gas, which will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 260,000 tons a year.
- Two renewable energy developers advanced financing plans to increase solar and wind-powered plants in the Dominican Republic. GES will increase their solar capacity from 30 MW to 69 MW.

<http://www.latinfinance.com/web-articles/2018/5/domrep-solar-wind-opportunities-take-shape>

Ⓢ <http://www.nasdaq.com/press-releases/least-bank-announces-conversion-of-pueblo-viejo-power-plant-to-natural-gas-20180514-00397>

<https://acento.com.do/2018/actualidad/8570410-republica-dominicana-panama-acuerdan-reducir-emisiones-co2-causadas-aviacion/>

The Dominican Republic is Committed to Economic Growth in 2018

- The Dominican Republic receives more than \$4.7 million in foreign currency each week as a result of banana exports, about \$240 million a year, with majority being exported to Europe.
- Flycana, the first LLC in the Caribbean, will be an airline based in the Dominican Republic that offers lower cost and more direct routes to increase the number of tourists visiting the island.

to foster and support these initiatives, through business development initiatives, and through private academia, which provides training, business advice, networking, and technical assistance.

- Dominican Minister of Industry, Commerce and Mipymes has noted that the best sectors to invest in are commerce and industry, an area that has accumulated 23.9% of the total. He also cited that tourism, agro-industry, energy, film production, telecommunications, mining and services are great investment opportunities in the Dominican Republic.

<http://atwonline.com/airlines/dominican-republic-lee-flyciana-set-2023-launch>

<http://www.freshplaza.com/article/195496/Dominican-Republic-95-percent-of-the-bananas-are-exported-from-Manzanillo>

<https://acento.com.do/2018/economia/8570978-pequena-empresa-genera-9-millones-empleos-republica-dominicana-centroamerica/>

<https://acento.com.do/2018/economia/8563427-comercio-e-industria-captaron-239-inversion-republica-dominicana-2010-2016/>

The Dominican Republic Improves Safety & Quality of Life for Its Citizens

- Santiago de los Caballeros is still struggling to recover from hurricanes Maria and Irma but authorities are taking measures to mitigate the damage from future storms. The city will be working on an evacuation route, better preparing government buildings and hospitals to be used as shelters, and will be improving infrastructure and transportation.
- The Dominican Red Cross and Save the Children took part in a training course on psychosocial support techniques to face grief and loss resulting from Zika.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-dominican-santiago-resilience/dominican-republic-city-prepares-for-hurricane-season-after-2017-devastation-idUSKCN1I011M>

<https://reliefweb.int/report/world/psychosocial-support-key-zika-response>

All the best,

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