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Dominican Republic News Update

RB Rebecca Benn
Fri 7/13/2018 2:13 PM

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

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The Dominican Republic Tops Summer Destination Charts

- Mastercard's "Top Cities Where People Go to Play, Not Work" ranked Punta Cana, Dominican Republic as the number one travel destination for leisure, with nearly 2.9 million tourists visiting between January and May 2018, a 5.9% increase from the same months in 2017.
- The majority of visitors between January and May 2018 came from North America (61%), Europe (23%), and South America (12%).
- The Dominican Republic has rebounded from last year's hurricanes, with a large increase in bookings of 53% since the beginning of the year.
- In May, the Dominican Republic saw a 7% year-on-year increase in visitors.
- The Florida-Caribbean Cruise Association projects that the Dominican Republic will receive more than 2 million cruise passengers annually by 2020.
- The Dominican Republic's cruise industry grew 37% in 2017, after receiving 1.2 million visitors. This growth has had a large economic impact on the tourism industry.
- Family bookings to the Dominican Republic are up more than 150% from last year.

<http://www.navelweekly.co.uk/articles/306508/caribbean-bookings-rebound-following-hurricane-impact>

<https://www.lonelyplanet.com/news/2018/06/13/visitors-travelling-for-leisure/>

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<https://acento.com.do/2018/economia/8574250-republica-dominicana-podria-recibir-2-millones-cruceros-al-ano-partir-2020/>

<https://acento.com.do/2018/economia/8573419-republica-dominicana-la-fcca-acuerdan-aumentar-ilegada-cruceros-al-pais/>

The Dominican Economy is One of the Strongest in the Region

- The Dominican Republic is one of the strongest economies in Latin America and the Caribbean due to its political and economic stability, and its strong social and educational policies.
- Micro, small, and medium-sized companies (MSMEs) make up more than 90% of the Dominican Republic's business framework, generating more than 9 million jobs, boosting productive activities, supporting development, and contributing to the social stability of the country.
- The government has worked hard to foster, support, and accompany MSMEs through well-planned long-term strategies, establishing synergies, and creating public-private partnerships.
- The government of the Dominican Republic has implemented Agenda 2030, which plans to increase economic growth through sustainable development projects. The Agenda's goals are to eradicate poverty and societal discrimination by 2030.
- The Dominican Republic is currently exporting 4 million boxes of mangos a year, accounting for \$20 million in revenue, putting it in the top 20 mango exporting countries in the world.
- The Dominican Republic seeks to increase its banana exports by opening markets in Brazil, Chile, and Uruguay. Currently, it exports 400 banana vans weekly, which contributes more than \$300 million to the national economy, and accounts for 30,000 jobs.
- The Dominican Republic is now the largest worldwide exporter of fine cigars, exporting more than 6,000 million units and contributing \$846 million to the local economy in 2017.
- The Dominican government has instituted a more efficient tax system, which will mitigate losses from fraud, fiscal evasion and bad management, allowing the government to be even more profitable, and contributing to government initiatives.

<http://www.freshplaza.com/article/197192-The-Dominican-Republic-plans-to-double-mango-exports>

<https://acento.com.do/2018/economia/8581607-republica-dominicana-busca-nuevos-mercados-la-exportacion-banano/>

<https://acento.com.do/2018/economia/8575920-republica-dominicana-principal-exportador-cigarros-finos-nivel-mundial/>

<https://acento.com.do/2018/economia/8573132-destacan-avances-en-republica-dominicana-en-objetivos-desarrollo-sostenible/>

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

The Dominican Republic Advances Status Within International Community

- The UN General Assembly has elected the Dominican Republic to a two-year term on its Security Council, after winning support of 184 of the 193 UN member states. The Security Council is tasked with the maintenance of world peace and security, and is the most powerful body in the UN.
- The Government of the Dominican Republic appointed commercial managers in 17 Dominican Republic embassies around the globe, for the purpose of promoting exports, attracting foreign investment and increasing international cooperation.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-un-election/germany-belgium-south-africa-dominican-republic-indonesia-elected-to-u-n-security-council-idUSKCN1J4258>

<https://acento.com.do/2018/actualidad/8573734-fin-republica-dominicana-elegida-miembro-del-consejo-seguridad-la-onu/>

<https://acento.com.do/2018/economia/8577944-republica-dominicana-designa-primeros-17-encargados-comerciales-sedes-diplomaticas/>

<https://www.tmf-group.com/en/news-insights/articles/2018/june/tax-changes-in-the-dominican-republic/>

The Dominican Republic Prioritizes Health, Safety & Standard of Living

- The Dominican Attorney General's office will train 32 prosecutors to raise awareness on human trafficking and sexual exploitation. These prosecutors will then train at least 12,600 student leaders on how to avoid being a victim of trafficking.
- Due to new government initiatives, convictions for sex trafficking and child pornography in the Dominican Republic grew 58% last year.
- The Dominican Health Ministry is working with UNICEF to implement programs to reduce maternal and neonatal deaths, maternal transfer of HIV, and reduce the rate of congenital syphilis.

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sanitation and water emergencies.

- CEDIMAT surgeons performed the first successful pediatric kidney transplant with laparoscopic extraction in the Dominican Republic, saving the life of an eleven-year-old boy. This procedure on a child opens the program to future possibilities, which will reduce the incidence of children with chronic renal failure in the country and contribute to their quality of life.
- The Adventist Development and Relief Agency recently completed construction of a boat dock to help family-owned fishing businesses after the original dock was destroyed by Hurricane Irma. ADRA has also rebuilt dozens of homes, boosted the local economy, and assisted 133 families with water and food vouchers in the aftermath of the hurricane.

<http://www.laht.com/article.asp?ArticleId=2459792&CategoryId=14092>

<https://www.adventistreview.org/church-news/story/6239-in-dominican-republic-fishing-community-gets-help-from-adra>

<https://acento.com.do/2018/actualidad/8581321-salud-publica-republica-dominicana-contara-unicef-reforzar-programas-sanitarios/>

<https://acento.com.do/2018/salud/8578658-exito-empieza-cedimat-primer-programa-trasplante-renal-pediatrico-republica-dominicana/>

The Dominican Republic Continues Efforts for Environmental Preservation

- The Dominican Republic has joined the UN Environment “Clean Seas” campaign, which uses taxes, bans, and technological innovation to restrict production and consumption of plastic bags to reduce their impact on oceans and marine life.
- A new 48 MW wind park is being installed in Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic, the fifth installation by Vestas which will increase renewable energy resources.

<http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/latestnews/Several-Cbean-countries-look-to-restrict-production-use-of-plastic-bags?profile=1228>

<https://globe.newswire.com/news-release/2018/06/30/1532098/0/en/Vestas-to-supply-and-install-48-MW-wind-park-in-the-Dominican-Republic.html>

All the best,

Rebecca Benn

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