

Dominican Republic

Destination Guide

ARRIVING IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

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At least 72 hours before the trip, visit this site to fill out a form for arrival and another one for departure. This needs to be done for every passenger. The system will generate two QR codes for each person. Print or make a screenshot of the QR code and keep it on hand until arrival. These QR codes will be scanned as passengers go through Customs. The new form combines the Traveler's Health Affidavit, Customs Declaration and International Embarkation/Disembarkation forms

2) You will deplane using a set of steps and walk outside before entering the airport terminal. Please advise airline personnel if you will require mobility assistance.

3) A random 3% to 15% of passengers, and all those who present symptoms, will perform a quick COVID-19 breath test upon arrival.

4) All passengers will need to perform a temperature check.

5) Next, the Immigration line. Have your passport and Code in hand, answer any questions from the officer.

6) Claim all of your checked bags.

7) Take all of your belongings to the Customs line. Your bags may be x-rayed or selected for additional inspection.

FINDING YOUR HOTEL TRANSFER

After clearing Customs, you'll enter the arrivals hall. FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS IN YOUR TRAVEL DOCUMENTS TO LOCATE YOUR TRANSFER COMPANY, whose representative will be wearing the proper uniform and have your name on the reservation list. Ignore any timeshare representatives who may try to ask questions or get you to follow them.

CURRENCY

US Dollars are widely accepted for small purchases in tourist areas and at most resorts. If required, you can obtain Dominican pesos from an ATM or exchange bureau. Always verify which currency a vendor is using for a transaction, and know the exchange rate. A credit card is often the safest bet.

LANGUAGE

Spanish is the primary language, but staff in tourist areas and at resort front desks often speak at least a little English. A friendly smile, patient attitude, and hand gestures can often bridge the gap. Learning a few basic Spanish phrases or using an app like Google Translate may be helpful.

TIMESHARE / VACATION CLUB

At the airport or resort you may be offered discounted tours, promotional items, or other "freebies" that are most likely connected with a timeshare or vacation club company. Their presentations often take up considerable time and can be high-pressure sales pitches. Firmly say no if you do not wish to be approached about this. If you do attend, USE EXTREME CAUTION before entering into a contractual agreement in a foreign country.

DRESS CODE

Your resort may have a dress code for restaurants. Most will require a bathing suit cover-up or shirt for midday meals. Dinner dress codes vary by resort and restaurant. Some may require collared shirts or closed-toed shoes for men, and flip-flops, shorts, or tank tops may be prohibited. Ask your Travel Specialist if you have questions about your resort's policies.

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STAYING HEALTHY

WATER – Do not drink or otherwise consume tap water. The resort will provide bottled water for drinking, and you may wish to use it for brushing your teeth. Use extra caution if eating or drinking outside of your resort.

SUN – Be sure to apply plenty of sunscreen in a higher SPF than normal, even on cloudy days. The sun in the tropics is more intense and can be reflected by the water and sand.

BUGS – Insects are common in the tropics. Consider using bug spray to ward off mosquitoes and no-see-ums, and bring along some anti-itch cream. Keep your balcony door closed and do not leave food in your hotel room.

RETURN TRANSFER TO THE AIRPORT

Your transfer company will confirm your pick-up time a day or two before your departure, via a phone call to your room or by requesting you to stop at their lobby desk.

Once you receive your scheduled pick-up time, compare it to your flight's departure time. Make sure to have adequate time for the drive to the airport, airline check in, and security screening. (Lines often move slowly, especially at peak travel times!) If you are not comfortable with the time scheduled, contact your transfer company.

The night before checkout, contact the bell staff to schedule assistance with your luggage for the next day.

Arrive in the hotel lobby at least 20 minutes before your scheduled pick-up time to complete your checkout.

RETURNING TO THE U.S.

1) You may be given immigration forms to fill out during your flight. Keep a pen, your passports, travel documents, and receipts from anything you purchased during your trip easily accessible from your seat.

2) After deplaning, you will enter the Immigration line. Have your passport and completed forms in hand, answer any questions from the officer. **NOTE:** Some airports now offer automated kiosks to enter your passport information, have your photo taken, and print a receipt to present to the Customs officer.

3) Go to the luggage carousel and claim all of your checked bags.

4) Take all of your luggage to the Customs line. You may be asked questions about what you are bringing back into the country, and your belongings may be subject to search.

5) For connecting flights or to reach the final airport exit, you may need to pass your checked luggage back to the airline. This is usually done at a counter outside of the Customs area.

6) **DUTY FREE REMINDER:** If you have to pass another security checkpoint before proceeding to the next gate or to the airport exit, you will not be able to carry your liquid duty-free purchases with you. These need to be placed in your checked bags before handing them over to the airline.

Dominican Republic | COVID - 19 Updates

INFORMATION UPDATED AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2020: <https://www.godominicanrepublic.com/newsroom/coronavirus/>

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

ALL TRAVEL DATES

Aligning with the launch of the Responsible Tourism Recovery Plan on September 15, travelers no longer need to provide a negative PCR or COVID-19 test upon arrival.

Instead, airports and other ports of entry will perform a quick, aleatory breath test to between 3% and 15% of passengers, and all those who present symptoms, upon arrival. Passengers under the age of five and crew members are exempt from this procedure.

All passengers will also need to perform a temperature check.

Passengers who present symptoms or whose test results are positive will be isolated and attended at authorized locations.

Prior to departure, travelers should confirm with their airline provider and airport of origin regarding any testing or other related requirements for inbound flights to the Dominican Republic, or necessary requirements needed upon arrival to their country of origin.

FREE HEALTH COVERAGE PLAN:

ARRIVALS BEFORE MARCH 31, 2021

All international tourists arriving on commercial flights and staying at a hotel will be granted during the check-in process a temporary, free health coverage plan that provides coverage for emergencies in the event of an infection or exposure to COVID-19 while in-country.

The coverage includes medical attention by specialists, medical transfers, transfer of a relative, penalty for airfare changes, lodging for prolonged stays and more.

This insurance will be provided at no cost to visitors arriving on or before March 31, 2021 and will be 100% paid for by the Dominican government. In order to obtain coverage of the health plan the tourist must enter the country exclusively by air and only applies for guests staying at a hotel. For more information or to receive assistance while in the country in the event of exposure, please contact the Seguros Reservas Assistance Line by dialing +1 809 476 3232 so that a representative can determine the appropriate course of action on a case by case basis.

E-TICKET

ALL TRAVEL DATES

As of November 29, 2020, all foreign and Dominican passengers entering or leaving Dominican Republic must complete the electronic entry and exit form, which combines the Traveler's Health Affidavit, Customs Declaration and International Embarkation/ Disembarkation forms. As of February 1, 2021, the use of digital forms will be mandatory; no paper forms will be accepted.

The form can be accessed through the following link: <https://eticket.migracion.gob.do>.

Passengers will need to fill out a form for arrival and another one for departure and the system will generate two QR codes. Dominican airports have free internet access, so that passengers who did not fill out the form before flying can do so when they arrive in the country.

To save time during the arrival procedure, we recommend filling out the form 72 hours before the trip, printing or making a screenshot of the QR code and keeping it on hand until arrival, where it will be scanned by the authorities when passengers go through Customs. The QR code will not be scanned during departure, but it is a confirmation that the form was completed correctly.

If passengers need to make any changes to the form, they must fill it out a new form.

Currently <https://eticket.migracion.gob.do/> is presenting some technical difficulties to complete the forms using Apple devices (smartphones and tablets) and the Safari and Internet Explorer search engines, among others. The authorities are constantly working to improve the system and hope to solve this issue as soon as possible. As of now, we advise passengers who own Apple devices to complete it using a computer and to use another browser, such as Google Chrome. Currently the system works correctly using Android devices. For additional information and to watch an instructional video, please visit: <https://viajerodigital.mitur.gob.do/>