

## Practical Information for Punta Cana, Dominican Republic



### Visa

The Dominican Republic requires visitors to purchase a tourist card, which costs either US \$10 or EUR€0. This can be done at the airport upon arrival, or online before travelling, at this website: <https://www.dgii.gov.do/Tturistaweb/Order-en>. For a smooth arrival into the country, we recommend purchasing the tourist card online before your departure to the Dominican Republic. There is also a US \$20 fee for leaving the country, but this is usually included in the air fare. The following travellers are exempt from purchasing the tourist card: Residents and Visa holders of the Dominican Republic, Dominican nationals, as well as foreigners arriving from Argentina, Chile, South Korea, Ecuador, Israel, Japan, Peru and Uruguay. For more information, please see: <http://www.dgii.gov.do/tarjetaTuristica/EN/about/Paginas/default.aspx>.

### Location

The Dominican Republic is located in the Caribbean, and takes up the eastern two-thirds of the island of Hispaniola, which it shares with Haiti. The island is located between the Caribbean Sea and the North Atlantic Ocean. The country's size is 48,320 sq km, with 1,288 km of coastline. Nearby islands include

Puerto Rico, Turks and Caicos Islands, Jamaica, and Cuba.

### Language

The official language is Spanish. English is widely spoken, and many tourist sector employees will be fluent in Italian, French, German, Russian and other languages as needed.

### Currency

The local currency is the Dominican peso (RD\$200). It comes in denominations of 1, 5, 10 and 25 peso coins and in 20, 50, 100, 200, 500, 1,000 and 2,000 notes. Dollars and euros can be readily exchanged in banks and authorized exchange offices across the country. It is a good idea to extract cash upon arrival at the airport for taxi services. US Dollars are commonly accepted alongside the Dominican pesos.

1 US Dollar = 45.05 pesos

1 euro = 50.07 pesos

Rates as of 4 September 2015

### Water

It is strongly advised to drink only bottled water during your stay in Punta Cana, as well as use it to brush your teeth. Bottled water is widely available, and resorts do use filtered water to cook food with.

Avoid swallowing any water while taking showers and be sure to wash your hands before eating.

### Health

The temperature in the Dominican Republic is very warm year round, averaging 25-30C (77-85F). The evenings can be slightly chillier and windy. In order to avoid illness, frequently apply sunscreen, stay in the shade, and drink 2-3 litres of water per day to prevent dehydration. Staying in all-inclusive resorts can lead to over-eating and increased alcohol consumption, so it is advised to eat and drink in moderation. Prescription drugs are expensive, so if there is any medicine that you take regularly, bring it with you.

### Electricity

In the Dominican Republic, electric outlets are 110 volts. If you are coming from countries other than the United States and Canada, it is recommended to take a converter with you.

### Emergency Contacts

In case of emergency: dial 911

Police: 809-686-8227

Medical Centre of Punta Cana: 809-552-1506 open 24/7 for emergencies.

## Practical Information for Punta Cana, Dominican Republic - continued



### Time Zone

Punta Cana is four hours behind of the Coordinated Universal Time: (UTC -4)

### Tipping

Restaurant bills already include a ten percent tip. It is customary to give an additional 10% for good service. Most people do not tip taxi drivers, however if you feel so inclined for good service, a tip will certainly be appreciated.

### Attire

Considering the warm, humid climate of the Dominican Republic, it is important to wear comfortable clothing. While you are required to wear business attire for the meetings and conference, it is smart to wear loose, light-colored cotton clothing when going outdoors. The high humidity can cause floors to become slippery, so please take care while walking around the resort; appropriate shoes with non-slip soles are recommended.

### Transportation

IDAC is offering free transportation services between the airport and your hotel. Please indicate on your registration if you would like to take advantage of this service. Another option is to use the recommended services of OTIUM.

Otium International has airport booths at both Airport Terminals. You can book your airport transfers in advance by contacting: [gruposincentivos@otiumtour.com](mailto:gruposincentivos@otiumtour.com)

Alternatively, taxis are available just outside the Customs area. All taxis operate with standard rates and most drivers carry a copy of these. Clarify your destination and the price in advance. You pay upon arrival at your destination. You can book your airport transfers in advance with Dominican Airport Transfers ([www.dominicanaairporttransfers.com](http://www.dominicanaairporttransfers.com)). You can get an instant quote and book online on their web site. Taxi drivers accept US dollars, pesos.

### Safety

The Dominican Republic has a Specialized Touristic Security Corp, called Cestur. With special training for assisting tourists, Cestur is a joint initiative under the Ministry of Defense working in collaboration with the National Police and the Ministry of Tourism. Cestur offices are located in most tourist destinations. If you are the victim of a crime, Cestur can help you get to a police station so that you may file a police report and seek further assistance. Tel: 809 222-2123

### Group Check-in

There will be a specific CANSO group check-in area for delegates who are staying at the Melia Caribe Tropical during the conference. This check-in area is located close to the Caribe Reception Bar.

### Contact details event staff:

Amanda Tamul  
Conference Manager  
Mobile: +31 (6) 29 712 1678  
Email: [amanda.tamul@canso.org](mailto:amanda.tamul@canso.org)

For urgencies and where there is no response from the aforementioned number: +31 (0) 23 568 5380

### Dress Code:

**Sunday 18 October**  
Joint Welcome Reception  
*Smart Casual*

**Monday 19 October**  
CANSO Latin America & Caribbean Conference  
*Business Formal*

**Monday 19 October**  
Joint Dinner and Safety Award  
*Casual; 'White Party' attire*

**Tuesday 20 - Friday 23 October**  
CANSO Latin America & Caribbean Conference  
*Business Casual*