

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC - COUNTRY FACT SHEET

➤ GENERAL INFORMATION

Climate & Weather	The average temperature in Santo Domingo varies little, because the tropical trades winds help mitigate the heat and humidity throughout the year.	Time Zone	UTC - 4 hours.
Language	Spanish.	Currency	Dominican Peso.
Religion	Mostly Catholic.	International Dialing Code	+1 809
Population	9,900,000 approx.	Internet Domain	.do
Political System	Republic.	Emergency Numbers	911
Electricity	110-120 volts.	Capital City	Santo Domingo.
What documents required to open a local Bank Account? Can this be done prior to arrival?	<p>Common documents required are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A copy of the identification page of the Passport • Copy of the work contract. • Contact information • Work Visa <p>No, typically this has to be completed in person at the local bank.</p>	Please confirm how salaries are paid? (eg monthly directly into a Bank Account)	Monthly to a bank account.

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Culture/Business Culture	The Dominican Republic has an informal business culture, in which networking and personal contacts are very important. Business relationships are largely based on trust. Appointments should be made in advance, and it is important to arrive on time, although Dominicans may arrive a little late.
Health care/medical treatment	Public and private healthcare is available. Private is recommended as public is bureaucratic and has longer wait times.
Education	Please note that public schools are not recommended in Argentina, therefore children of expats will usually attend a private school. Most major cities will offer excellent international and bilingual schools.
Utilities	Utilities are usually not included as part of the rent. Costs vary based on family size and usage. In order to obtain services, local documentation and proof of residence is required.
Food & Drink	Dominicans call their cuisine comida criolla, which is a blend of Spanish, African and Taino elements, with variants across the island. Dishes usually include rice and beans.
Leisure/Entertainment/Sport	There are several malls, resorts, and sports activities available in the major cities.
Security	Walking and driving in expat areas is mainly secure. If foreigners decide to go outside these, the recommendations is to use precaution, avoid flashy jewelry and avoid walking while talking on a cell phone.
Driving	All foreigners who have a valid driver license issued in their country of origin will be able to drive in the Dominican Republic for a period of 90 days from the last date they entered the country. Once this period ends, foreigners will have to obtain local license.
Public Transport	The country has three national highways, which connect every major town. There are bus companies and the Santo Domingo Metro, the first mass transit system in the country. The metro is currently the largest in the Caribbean region by length and number of stations.

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Taking Pets	Most times vaccine certificates and letters from the vet are necessary. It's best to check with each airline on detailed information about flying with a pet.
Expat Groups	There are expats groups especially online but the best place to know other expats is to take Spanish classes in specialized schools.
Cost of Living	Cost of living will depend on one's lifestyle which can be costly or inexpensive.
<p>How much is 1 litre milk:</p> <p>A loaf of bread:</p> <p>1 litre of petrol:</p>	<p>- \$57 RD/liter of milk</p> <p>- \$48 RD/ loaf of bread</p> <p>- \$60 RD/liter of petrol</p>

➤ HOUSING AND TENANCY INFORMATION

Do expats tend to live in specific areas/ compounds or standalone properties throughout the city?	Yes. Arroyo Hondo, Los Rios, Los Prados, Las Praderas, Urb. Fernandez, Julieta Morales, Quiqueya, El Millon, Mirador Norte, La Julia, Ciudad Universitaria, Gazcue, Miramar, Costa Azul.
How long does it take between finding and securing a property?	It depends upon negotiations with the landlord, lease review time needed to approve the contract and how payments are managed. The average time to secure a property is 2 to 3 weeks.
How many days face to face home search package without any unforeseen problems are required for	<p>Single 2 - 3 days</p> <p>Couple 3 - 4 days</p> <p>Family 4 - 5 days</p>
Please advise availability of Furnished and Unfurnished properties and please advise what is normally included in Furnished and Unfurnished (eg. Carpets, curtains etc)	Both furnished and unfurnished properties can be found. Furnished properties will include all furniture and appliances.
What is the length of a normal tenancy agreement?	12 months.

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When are rental payments due?	Monthly <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Quarterly <input type="checkbox"/> Yearly <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Explain when other:
What is normally the term to give notice?	30 days.
What are usually the tenancy renewal terms?	30 day's notice and sign a new lease addendum
What break clauses are generally available e.g. business/diplomatic, and what time scale can notice be given eg. 2 months after 6 months	Diplomatic clause = 30 day's notice and no penalty.
Is a deposit paid and how much will this be? Who holds the deposit and how is this protected?	Yes, one month of rent. It is held by the landlord.
In what name can the tenancy agreement go? Eg. Individual, company	Individual usually. Very few landlords will accept the company to be tenant but they can sign as guarantors.
When a property has been found – does a holding deposit has to be paid and how much? Will this secure the property	No, we don't recommend this as it may not be returned if the negotiation is cancelled for any reason.
What information does a tenant or occupier need to provide before being able to secure the property eg. References, employer's reference, ID copies	Employer references, official id copy, and copy of work contract or employment letter.
Can properties be taken and rent paid at any time of the month or only on the 1st of the month?	Any time of the month, the most common is the 1st and 15th of the month.
Are rents paid in currency of the country	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Is short term accommodation available?	Yes however pet friendly options are difficult to find.
During tenancy who normally manages the property?	Tenant
Are there any broker/government/agency fees to be paid	The realtor commission but it is paid by the owner.

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Any other cost that client should be aware of when taking on a property? Such as tenancy preparation charges, government and service charges

Services/utilities charges. These are paid directly by tenant to the provider.

Are tenancy agreements in English?

No, but it can be translated for an additional fee.

➤ OTHER SERVICES

Is Rental furniture available?

Yes, it is available.

Is there any information you wish to share with us?