

## La Romana, Dominican Republic



Once a sleepy sugar cane town, La Romana is now a popular resort destination with sprawling hotel complexes and intimate villas, perfect for the ultimate Caribbean vacation. Connections to La Romana are made on the ground after flying into Punta Cana, or Santo Domingo. The hotels are 20-90 minutes from the airports.

Sugar-white beaches as far as the eye can see, and rich natural beauty pulls visitors to this perfectly situated Caribbean gem. The principle draw in La Romana are the luxuriously soft, white-sand beaches, some say the best in all of the Caribbean. Here visitors can wipe away the hours by the serenely hypnotizing surf, gently caressing the whitewashed sands. Active travelers can take comfort knowing the area is also pulsing with activity, anchored largely by water fun. Banana boat rides, sport fishing, mesmerizing snorkeling, horseback riding, and golf are just a few of the activities in La Romana. Several world championship golf courses will keep the linkster happy, with acres of beautiful waterfront fairways waiting to be discovered.

### Package Includes:

- Choice of accommodations
- Hotel taxes
- Roundtrip transfers between airport and hotel
- Luggage handling at hotel
- Maid and bellman gratuities
- Assistance of a local destination representative

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## Frequently Asked Questions

### Who should go?

#### Beach Lovers

La Romana's miles of powder soft, white sand beaches are some of the finest anywhere. There's no better place to sink into the sand and absorb the warm rays of the sun than in La Romana. Perfectly calm, turquoise blue waters nicely complement La Romana's ideal beaches, and add to the exquisite atmosphere.

#### Golfers

La Romana is home to several world-class golf courses, including the Casa de Campo, the course deemed "the finest golf resort in the world," by Golf magazine. Undulating fairways and crisp, rolling greens accent the perfect blue waters of the Caribbean, making this a golf Mecca for linksters worldwide.

#### Honeymooners

Luxurious accommodations set along the softest sand beaches anywhere make La Romana the perfect destination for lovers. There's no better place to unwind with your loved one than on pristine sand beaches and frolicking in the tides of the warm sapphire waters.

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### What's the climate like?

Winter      Spring      Summer      Autumn

<b>Average High</b>	85° F	85° F	90° F	89° F
<b>Average Low</b>	67° F	67° F	73° F	72° F
<b>Average Rainfall</b>	7.0"	4.2"	2.9"	5.0"

Water temperature ranges from 83°F in the summer to 78°F in the winter.

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## How do I get around town?

### Transfers

Transfers from the airport to your hotel are included with your air and hotel package. La Romana hotels are located approximately 2 hours from the Punta Cana airport and 40 minutes from the Santo Domingo airport.

### Taxi

Taxis are an easy way to get around La Romana, and from the airports at Punta Cana, or Santo Domingo. Independent drivers operate most taxis and a typical ride around La Romana usually costs around \$2.50 - \$5. Prices are to be negotiated, or course.

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## What kinds of dining and nightlife are available?

Like most things in La Romana, the cuisine is centered on the ocean, with several delightful seafood restaurants, serving up fresh catches daily. There are, however, many other style cookeries as well. Mexican, Italian, French, and Middle Eastern restaurants are just a few of the other places to grab a bite.

- **Casa de Rio**  
This is one of the most romantic restaurants in the La Romana area, located in the basement of a 16th-century castle, complete with massive stone stairways, turrets, and brick arches. Casa de Rio serves up some of the best seafood on the south coast.
- **Don Quijote**  
Located outside of Casa de Campo, Don Quijote offers a nice blend of seafood, Creole, and International dishes.
- **El Sombrero**  
If you're in the mood for spicy food, El Sombrero is the place. Traditional Mexican cuisine and tasty margaritas are the draw here.
- **Lago Grill**  
Lago has one of the best-stocked breakfast buffets in the entire Dominican. A delightful fresh juice bar complements other morning favorites.
- **Shish Kabob**  
Close to the center of town, this Middle Eastern restaurant specializes in a host of traditional kabobs, as well as other ethnic favorites like baba ghanoush and eggplant dishes.

Most of the nightlife in and around La Romana is centered on the resorts, where discos pump dance music including salsa, merengue, and pop music. Casinos invite those looking for games of chance. At the Coral Canoa nightclub, you can purchase a "disco pass," entitling you to entry to the club, and unlimited drinks all night.

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## Where should I go shopping?

The majority of shopping in the La Romana area centers on the quaint artisan markets. El Artístico, in the north of town features a unique selection of arts and crafts. Yina Bambu Shop on the way into town has the best selection of Dominican handicrafts and jewelry.

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## When are the local events?

### Kandela Show

Monthly. Kandela tropical music and dance show at the beautiful Altos de Chavón amphitheater.

### Concerts

Various. The gorgeous 5,000-seat, open-air amphitheater in Altos de Chavón comes alive with diverse talents from all over the world. Notable past performers include: Frank Sinatra, Carlos Santana, Dizzy Gillespie, Shakira, and Julio Iglesias.

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## What are my sports and recreation options?

## Fishing

The waters outside of La Romana are known for their abundance of fish. Several of the largest snook ever recorded were caught in the waters off La Romana.

## Golf

La Romana is home to some of the best golf courses in the Caribbean. The Teeth of the Dog course has several holes that skirt the ocean, as well as rugged natural terrain, creating picturesque backdrops that rival courses the world over. Classic Scottish-style courses can also be found, driving home La Romana's reputation for exquisite golf.

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## Travel tidbits

### Altos de Chavón

An artist colony and recreation of a medieval European village is the main attraction in La Romana. Narrow, cobble-covered alleyways lined with lanterns and shuttered limestone walls yield several good Mediterranean-style restaurants, a number of quaint shops featuring the diverse craftwork of local artisans, and 3 galleries. There is also the amphitheater, hosting several world-famous singers and songwriters throughout the year.

### Estadio Francisco Micheli

This 10,000-person stadium is home to 2 professional teams, the Dominican baseball team Azucareros del Este and a basketball team. The stadium is the ideal place to grab a seat and watch some up-and-coming athletes on their home turf. Who knows, you may spot a player who will wind up on a professional sports team in the United States. The Dominican Republic is home to several star Major League Baseball players.

### Parque Nacional del Este

Translated, "The National Park of the East," is comprised of more than 300 acres of forestland, and is one of the largest parks in the Caribbean. Winding trails, cliffs, sandy beach enclaves, ruins, and mangrove estuaries make exploring this Dominican hideaway a thrilling experience, with one treasure unfolding after the other.

## Good to Know

Airport Name:	Punta Cana Airport Las Américas International Airport (Santo Domingo)
3-letter Code:	PUJ (Punta Cana) SDQ (Santo Domingo)
Best Weather:	January - April
Best Values:	January
Currency:	Dominican Peso (RD\$). When the \$ figure stands alone, chances are that the price is being stated in U.S. Dollars. Be sure to verify.
Language:	Spanish, but at the hotels, much of the staff will speak some English.
Time Zone:	During the winter, La Romana is 2 hours ahead of Central Standard Time.
Proof of Citizenship:	Government legislation requires all people traveling via air to and from the United States and Canada to have a valid passport. For details on passports, visas, and health requirements, see <a href="#">Entry Requirements</a> .
Tipping:	Hotels in Punta Cana are all-inclusive where tipping is not necessary. Restaurants outside of hotels add a 10% service charge to your check. Most people usually add 5% to 10% more, especially if the service has been good.
Dress:	More formal in the evening than other beach destinations. During the day, though, everyone is in his or her swimsuit.