

## Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic



Puerto Plata may be best known for the first aerial tramway of the Caribbean. Guests can ride up to the Pico Isabel de Torres, a 2600-foot high mountain within the city. The Teleférico cable car was inaugurated in 1975 and continues to be the port's top tourist attraction. These cars have glass walls, giving visitors panoramic views of the city descending from the hill. You can see the local landscape, including a garden of 215 different flora of the country, gift shops, and a Dominican food restaurant.

### History

The native Taíno people inhabited the island prior to the arrival of Spanish colonists in the early 16th century. In 1844 the island became a republic. The republic was ruled by a dictatorship until 1963, after a few years of political disturbance, the country is now ruled by a democracy.

### Unique Foods

- Tostones - deep-fried plantains
- Sancocho - hearty meat and root vegetable stew made of beef, pork, chicken, yucca, yam, potatoes
- Mangú - mashed green plantains, topped with sauteed red onions in vinegar sauce.
- La bandera Dominicana - eaten for lunch, a plate of rice and beans, with stewed chicken or beef and a side potato or pasta salad, as well as the occasional slice of fried sweet plantain.
- Chicharrón - fried pork rinds
- Morir soñando - milkshake made of orange and condensed milk.
- Pasteles en Hoja - a version of tamales; plantain dough stuffed with meats or vegetables, wrapped in a green plantain leaf.



### Culture

Museo del Ámbar. Aldo Costa, founded in 1982 utilizing the Villa Bentz, a 1918 hotel, built by the Spanish architect Marín Gallart and Cantú.

Pico Isabel de Torres, a 2,425 ft-high mountain, the highest point of Puerto Plata, there is a botanical garden and a replica of Christ the Redeemer (the famous statue in Rio de Janeiro).

### Animals

Ocean World adventure park is located on the reefs of the Beach of Cofresí, on the north coast. Its distinguishing feature is the largest man made dolphin habitat in the world. The investment on this project is valued at more than 45 million dollars. It includes a yacht marina, the permanent residence of 19 dolphins, beaches, and forests, fishbowls, exotic birds, a casino, and Malayan tigers.

Bats make up 90% of the mammal species living in the Dominican Republic.

Lake Enriquillo is home to the largest population of American crocodiles.



### Business

San Felipe de Puerto Plata is prominent in agribusiness and tourism, it is the major contributor of economic growth for the entire country. Other income and economic development include port management, sea vessel production, fishing, and textiles.

The port has a huge impact on the economy; it receives cruise ships as well as freighters; exporting merchandise, such as farm products and manufactured products in the duty-free zones of the region.

## Language

Spanish is the official language. English is spoken in the port area. French is the mandatory second language taught in schools.

## Currency

Is the Dominican Peso. 1 US Dollar = 60 Dominican Pesos. Vendors near the port will take US dollars and handle the conversion math. Major credit cards accepted in many locations.

## Cell Service

Widespread, fairly reliable cell service.

## Internet

Taino Bay has free wifi, however it can be slow. Amber Cove has wifi available at the Cruise Center at \$8 a day.

## Drive

On the right hand side of the road.

## Guided Excursions

AMBER COVE-TAINO BAY 7 Damajagua Waterfalls + Locale Food

From \$60

<https://www.viator.com/tours/Dominican-Republic/Super-Fun-27-Water-Falls/d32-327203P2?pid=P00002881&uid=U00204439&mcid=58086&currency=USD>

AMBER COVE-TAINO BAY Super Buggy Tour

From \$130

<https://www.viator.com/tours/Dominican-Republic/Puerto-Plata-Super-Buggy-Tour/d32-327203P4?pid=P00002881&uid=U00204439&mcid=58086&currency=USD>

Waterfalls & Buggies

From \$140

<https://www.viator.com/tours/Puerto-Plata/cruise-ship-12-waterfalls-of-damajagua/d795-196740P1?pid=P00002881&uid=U00204439&mcid=58086&currency=USD>

Puerto Plata City Tours

From \$55

<https://www.viator.com/tours/Puerto-Plata/Best-of-Puerto-Plata-City-Tour/d795-268563P2?pid=P00002881&uid=U00204439&mcid=58086&currency=USD>

AMBER COVE-TAINO BAY Horses Beach Ride & City Sightseeing

From \$95

<https://www.viator.com/tours/Dominican-Republic/Puerto-Plata-Best-Horse-Ride-and-City-Sightseeing/d32-327203P6?pid=P00002881&uid=U00204439&mcid=58086&currency=USD>

ATV Adventure

From \$60

<https://www.viator.com/tours/Puerto-Plata/ATV-Adventure-plus-Pool-Zip-Line-and-Lunch/d795-41676P17?pid=P00002881&uid=U00204439&mcid=58086&currency=USD>

## Touring on your own



Taino Bay is a gated cruise port, only available to cruise ship guests. Inside it has an expansive complimentary pool, complimentary lazy river, animals, shows, shopping, bars, and dining options. More info here: [Taino Bay, Puerto Plata](#)

