

LA ROMANA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

ARRIVE: TUESDAY 06 JANUARY 0800
DEPART: TUESDAY 06 JANUARY 1800
ON-SHIPTIME: TUESDAY 06 JANUARY 1700

DMR01 SANTO DOMINGO CITY TOUR WITH LUNCH (0830-1630 Tuesday, 06 January) **Minimum 18/Maximum 200 (PRICE: \$99.00)**

Journey five centuries back in time to the historical Colonial Zone, declared a World Cultural Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1990. Witness first hand the collision of the old and the new worlds, where modern buildings share the streets with ancient ruins. Visit the First Cathedral of the Americas at Plaza de Colon, and stroll El Conde, a pedestrian walkway of shops and restaurants. Visit the National Pantheon and explore the Alcazar Museum, former home to Christopher Columbus's son, Diego. The Alcazar Museum features an excellent collection of lifestyle relics from the 1500s. Enjoy plenty of time to explore the Colonial Zone on your own terms after a filling Dominican meal at one of the city's best restaurants. Before returning to the port, there is time to explore the Mercado Colonial featuring many Dominican and Haitian handicrafts. Please note the transfer between the port at La Romana and the Colonial Zone of Santo Domingo is 1 hour 45 minutes.



DMR02 HIGUEY & BAYAHIBE CULTURAL EXPERIENCE (0830-1230 Tuesday, 06 January) **Minimum 18/Maximum 200 (PRICE: \$52.00)**



Higuey, "America's Holy Land," was founded in 1494 by Jamaica's conqueror, Juan de Esquivel, and settled by the Spanish Conquistador, Juan Ponce de León. The city is home to one of the most impressive and recognized structures in the Dominican Republic, the Basilica de Nuestra Señora de la Altigracia. Built by a French architect between 1947–1971, the basilica has become the Mecca for pilgrims who journey from across the country seeking health or spiritual well-being. It is truly a grandiose sight inside the basilica, with its high, vaulted ceilings, and colorful stained glass windows illuminated by the Caribbean sun.

Leaving the town of Higuey, we head towards the town of San Rafael de Yuma, where we visit the old home of the Ponce de León, conquistador and first governor of Higuey. The house, which is more of a fort and stronghold, is the base from which Ponce de León set out to conquer Puerto Rico and Southern Florida in 1508 before spending the rest of his life searching for the fountain of youth in vain.

Before heading back to the ship, we will visit the picturesque fishing town of Bayahibe. This untouched village has changed little since it was founded and possesses a natural beauty and tranquility that is unmatched. Visit the site where remains of one of the oldest known civilizations in the western hemisphere were found, dating back to around 2,000 BC. We will stop at a typical house to try the various fruits that the island has to offer. In town, you will find plenty of souvenirs and some of the most gracious people you will ever meet.

DMR03 SUGAR CANE, ORCHIDS & CIGARS (0830-1200 Tuesday, 06 January) Minimum 18/Maximum 108 (\$63.00)

Our backcountry land expedition begins on an open air Safari truck as we depart from the pier on the ultimate sightseeing and cultural experience. You will experience the essence of everyday rural Dominican life. Stop and taste freshly-cut sugar cane right from the field. Learn about the traditional ways of living and working in a remote Batey Village and the products derived from sugarcane. After crossing a small humi-forest, we arrive at Costa Nursery, home the country's largest collection of cactus and orchids in the country. Experience the day-to-day lifestyle of the Dominicans as we drive through the streets of La Romana and its Central Park, with a population of approximately 200,000. Visit a local cigar factory and see first-hand how cigars are made and why they are amongst the best in the world. On your return journey to the pier, visit an arts and crafts shop where you can browse and purchase local souvenirs made with amber or larimar, stones unique to the Dominican Republic.



DMR04 SAN PEDRO DISCOVERY (0830-1230 Tuesday, 06 January) Minimum 18/Maximum 200 (PRICE: \$66.00)

On the southern side of the Dominican Republic, halfway between Santo Domingo and La Romana, lies a city rich with culture and history, San Pedro de Macoris. Leaving the port of La Romana, we take a pleasant 30-minute ride in an air-conditioned bus to La Cueva de Las Maravillas (Cave of Wonders). This immense cave includes over 800 meters of underground labyrinths, 240 of which have been developed for tourist activity with a lighting system that highlights its many astounding geological formations. In addition to the stalactites and stalagmites that fill the cave, the underwater pool found in one of the caverns is beautiful and crystal clear. Perhaps the most important feature of the cave is the Taino paintings from pre-Colombian times, preserved in almost perfect condition. This collection of indigenous artwork is, in fact, one of the most complete and interesting in the Caribbean.

Internationally renowned cigar manufacturer Agio Cigars is our next stop. This cigar factory, maker of various brands including the Balmoral Cigars, is famous for its exquisite hand-rolled cigars. It is amazing to watch the speed with which the Dominican cigar-rollers work. From the cigar factory we take a scenic tour through the city of San Pedro de Macoris. The city was founded in the early 19th century by European immigrants. The town exploded in growth in the early 1900s as a result of skyrocketing sugar prices. The economic boom created a beautiful city of neoclassic and Victorian style filled with palatial homes and princely mansions denoting the cultural refinement of its first immigrants. During the short 30-minute drive back to the ship, there is a stop at the Columbus Plaza for souvenir shopping. Here you will find cigars, rum and Dominican artistry, as well as the precious amber and larimar stones, unique to the island.

DMR05 CATALINA ISLAND SNORKELING & BEACH EXPERIENCE (0900-1230 Tuesday, 06 January) Minimum 25/Maximum 60 (PRICE: \$70.00)

Grab a welcoming glass of "Catalina Punch" and voyage with us to the beautiful Catalina Island, located in the Natioinal Park of the East. Jump ship with snorkel in hand at "La Pared" to explore the undersea life before arriving at the white sand beaches of the Island, or learn how to dance the merengue from the crew. Enjoy a fruit snack, open bar, Latin music and an array of beach activities from volleyball to napping in the shade of palm tree. It's a fantastic and relaxing Caribbean experience.

DMR06 MARAVILLAS CAVE & LA ROMANA PANORAMA (0900-1200 Tuesday, 06 January)
Minimum 18/Maximum 150 (PRICE: \$52.00)

Leaving the Tourist Cruise Port of La Romana, we take a pleasant 30-minute ride in air-conditioned bus to La Cueva de Las Maravillas (Cave of Wonders). This immense cave includes over 800 meters of underground labyrinths, 240 of which have been developed for tourist activity with a lighting system that highlights its many astounding geological formations. In addition to the stalactites and stalagmites that fill the cave, the underwater pool found in one of the caverns is beautiful and crystal clear. Perhaps the most important feature of the cave is the Native Taino paintings left behind from pre-Colombian times and preserved in almost perfect condition. This collection of indigenous artwork is, in fact, one of the most complete and interesting in the Caribbean. Leaving the caves, we board the buses for a short 30-minute drive back to the cruise ship port. On the way, we stop at the Columbus Plaza for souvenir shopping, where you will be sure to find cigars, rum and Dominican artistry as well as the precious amber and larimar stones, unique to the island.

DMR07 ALTOS DE CHAVON VILLAGE: HISTORY & BEAUTY (0900-1145) Tuesday, 06 January)
Minimum 15/Maximum 250 (PRICE: \$37.00)



Beginning in 1976, Dominican artisans and craftsmen including woodworkers, stonecutters and iron-smiths, created the architectural landscape that emerged as Altos de Chavon. Built to resemble a Mediterranean village from the 16th century, the project was inspired by Charles Bludhorn, Chairman of Gulf & Western Corporation, as a birthday gift for his daughter, Dominique, who administers the village today. The overall design of this cluster of more than twenty carved-stone buildings was created by Roberto Coppa, a set designer who has served for director-producers such as Fellini and De Laurentis. Today this cultural village

embodies 500 years of the island's finest traditions of crafts and art. Since 1981 more than 200 artists have lived and worked at Altos de Chavon in their Artist-in-Residence program. Enjoy the grandeur of days gone by as you walk through the cobblestone streets and take in the luxurious craftsmanship of yesteryear. Quaint shops, exclusive boutiques, art galleries and an archeological museum are just a sampling of the world that awaits you atop the picturesque cliffs of Casa de Campo.

DMR08 KAYAKING ON THE CHAVON RIVER (1300-1630 Tuesday, 06 January) Minimum 12/Maximum 30 (PRICE: \$78.00)

Enjoy a tranquil journey below Casa de Campo on the waters of the Chavón River surrounded by the natural beauty and nature of the Dominican countryside. What better way to enjoy nature than quietly paddling along in your own kayak? Included is all equipment, instruction, safety helmet, lifejacket, round trip transportation and a complimentary soft drink or beverage.

DMR09 CATAMARAN SAIL & SNORKELING IN NATIONAL PARK OF THE EAST (1300-1645) Minimum 20/Maximum 70 (PRICE: \$59.00)

Air conditioned coaches chauffeur us to our 82-foot catamaran where we embark on our short journey into the crystal blue waters off Catalina Island in the National Park of the East. Enjoy spacious decks, shaded lounge areas and the Dominican rhythms of merengue music before our two snorkeling stops. This is the perfect tour for exploring undersea life or simply catching some rays in the Caribbean sun. Please note that life jackets are mandatory for snorkeling and alcohol is only served after snorkeling has finished.