

# Dominican Republic Fireside Chat



# History

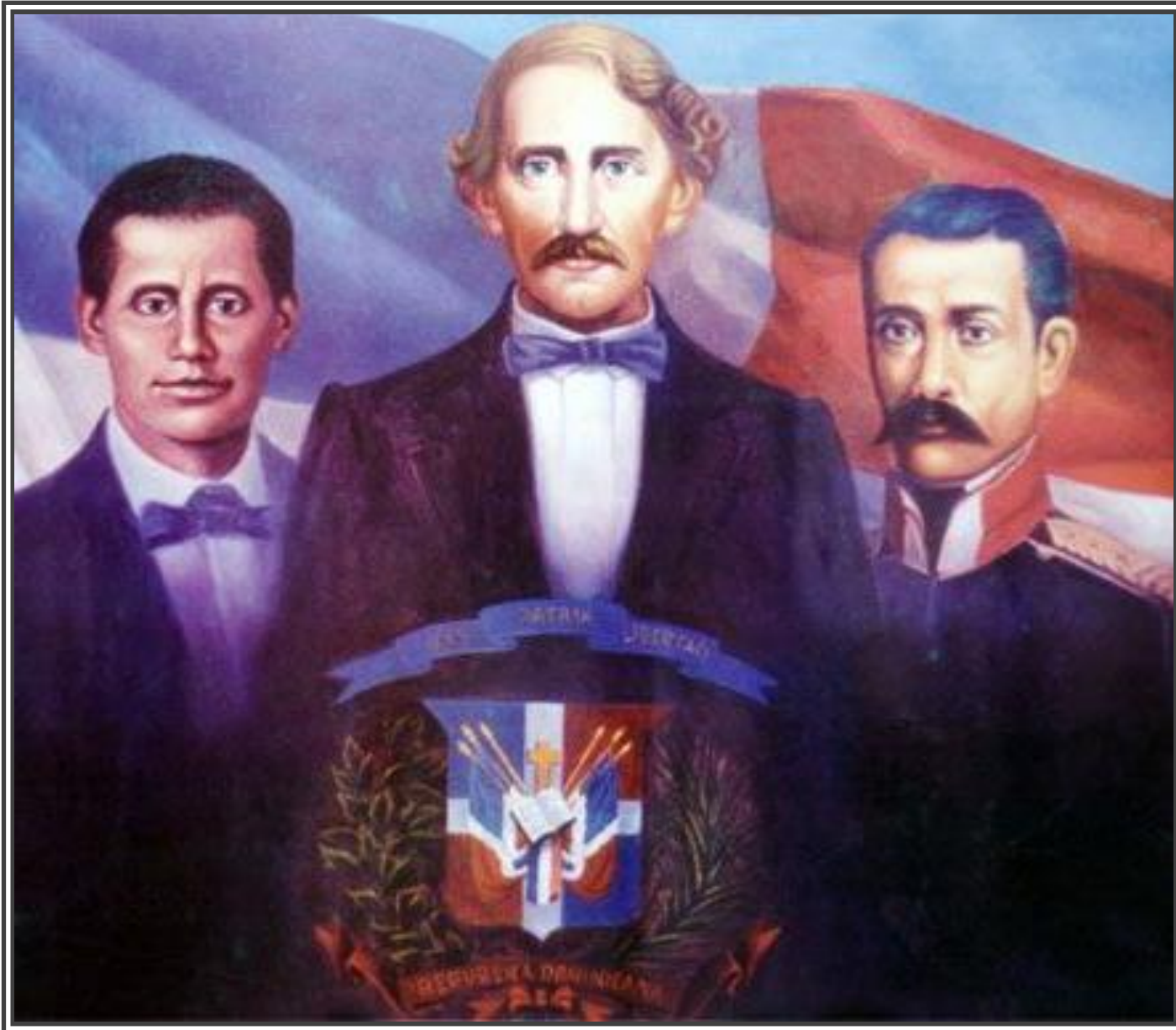
- Christopher Columbus first arrived to La Hispaniola on December 6<sup>th</sup> 1492.
- Eventually indigenous population significantly decreased due to diseases they did not have protection for, brought by the colonizers.
- African slaves were introduced to the island to do hard work.
- The island was desired by colonizers because of the gold they found.
- Spain and France came to agreements to take sides of the island for each other.



# Island past division

- Island structure at the arrival of colonizers.
- Called Ayiti (“land of high mountains”).
- Once Christopher Columbus arrived, he used the name “La hispaniola”.





# Founding Fathers

- Juan Pablo Duarte.
- Matias Ramon Mella.
- Francisco del Rosario Sanchez.





# Island actual division

- 1 island, 2 countries (Dominican Republic and Haiti).
- 31 provinces and 1 national district.
- Provinces are divided into municipalities, then neighborhoods.



# Size Comparison



**Dominican Republic** is about 202 times smaller than **United States**. **United States** is approximately 9,833,517 sq km, while **Dominican Republic** is approximately 48,670 sq km, making **Dominican Republic** 0.49% the size of **United States**.



# National Palace & Congress



National Palace of the Dominican Republic.



Congress of the Dominican Republic.



# Political Parties



Dominican Liberty Party



Modern Revolutionary Party







# Currency

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- 1 US Dollar = 57.30 Dominican pesos.



# Transportation



Highways connect all of the provinces of the country.



Public cars and motorcycles are very common in public transportation.



Santo Domingo Metro started on February 2008.





Buses, known as  
“guagua” in Dominican  
Republic.





# Society

- Total population: about 10.6 million on the last census (2018).
- Around 70% of the population identifies as mixed, normally Mestizo (indian and white mix) and mulatto (black and white mix). The mixed ethnicity is followed by the black, and finally white.
- The official spoken language is Spanish in the whole country.
- Official religion is Catholicism, other popular one is Protestant or Evangelical.





# Dance

Merengue, Bachata and Salsa



# Cuisine



Common breakfast called "Mangú".  
Consisting of:  
Mashed plantains, onions, fried egg, fried cheese and salami.



Common lunch called "Dominican flag".  
Consisting of:  
Rice, red beans, chicken and salad.



Common dessert called "Sweet beans".



Common dessert called "Rice with milk".



# Cuisine



Common lunch called "Sheet Cakes".

Consisting of:

Meat or chicken, some groceries and banana leaves.



Common lunch called "Sancocho".



Common lunch or dinner called "Dofish with fried plantains".

Consisting of:

Fried plantains, fried fish and salad.





# Sports

Baseball is the most common sport in Dominican Republic.

Followed by Basketball and Volleyball.

We have players that has been in the MLB and played for different US teams like Red Sox and Yankees.



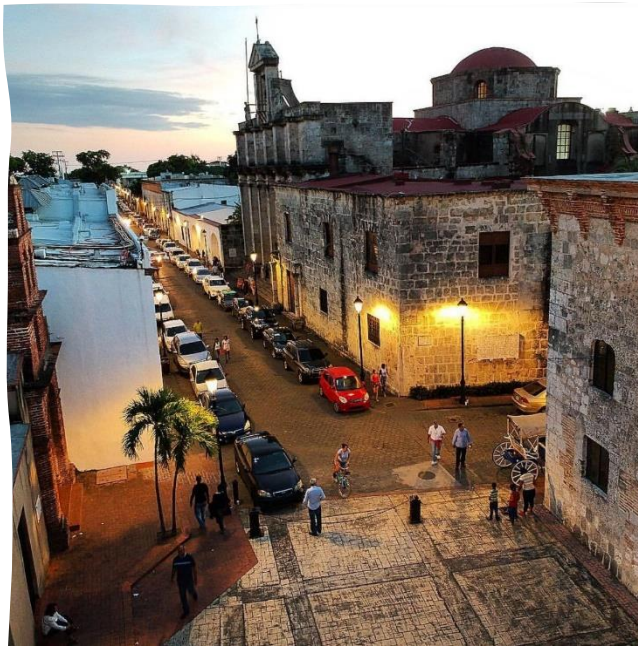




# Dominoes

Is a recreational game commonly played by families and friends anywhere in the country.





# Tourism

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Zona colonial:

- Declared by UNESCO as World Heritage.
- More than 300 historic monuments.
- Famous movies have filmed scenes in this place, The Godfather for example.

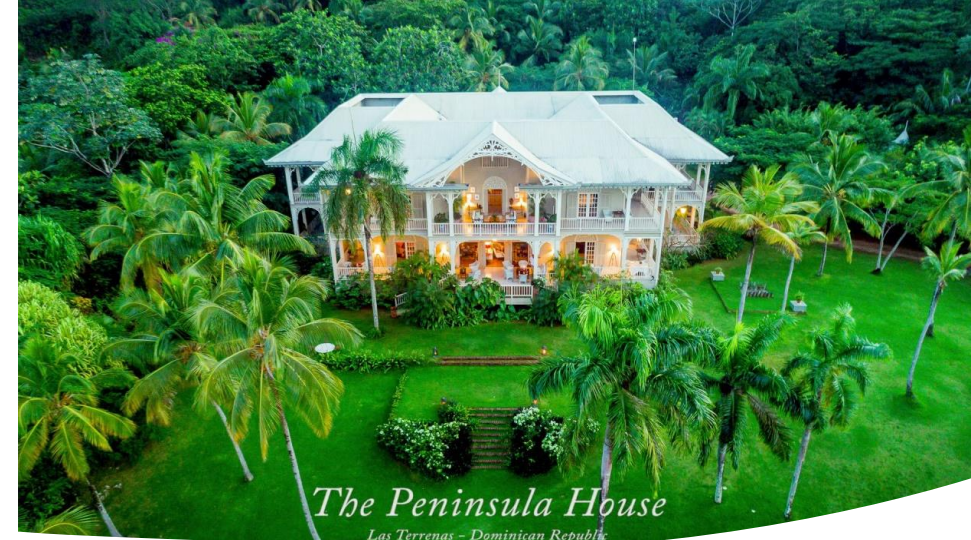
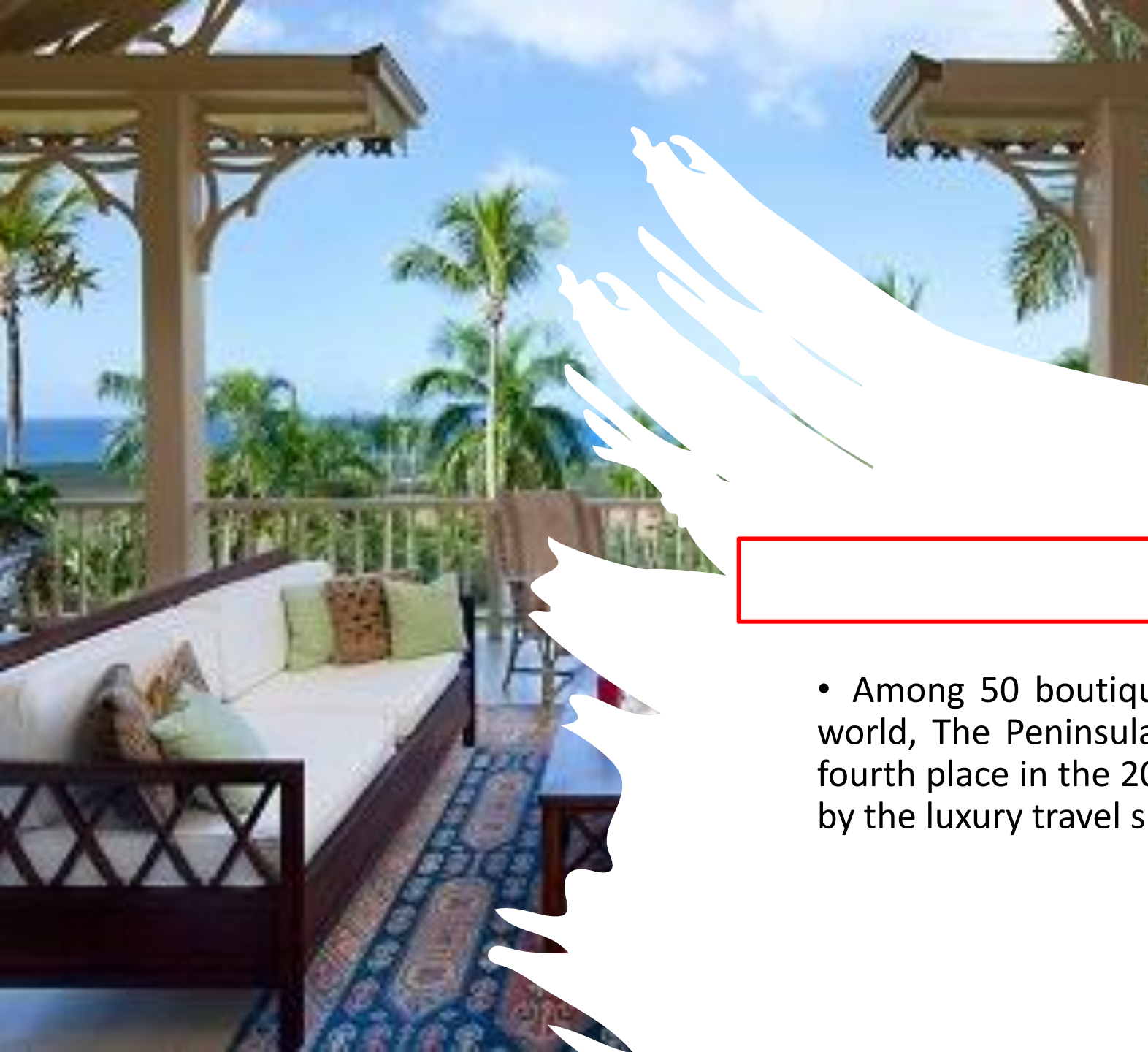




## Punta Cana

Punta Cana is the preferred place of the tourists to spend their time on vacations. Also, a lot of weddings are celebrated there.





## Samaná

- Among 50 boutique hotels cataloged as the best in the world, The Peninsula Hotel in Las Terreras, Samaná, won fourth place in the 2020 Readers' Choice Awards carried out by the luxury travel specialist magazine Condé Nast Traveler.





# Other places to explore

- Balneario La Plaza
- Cola de Pato
- Río Partido
- Loma de Blanco



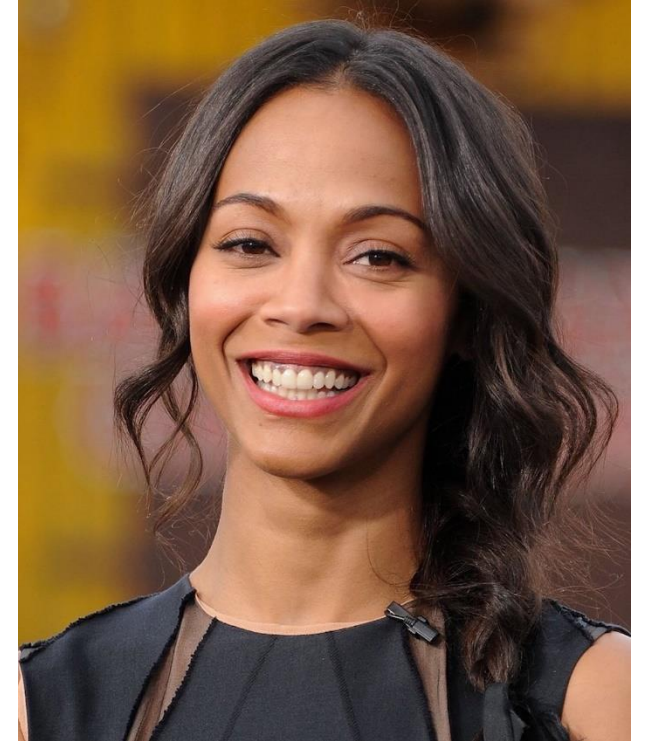
# Recognized Dominicans



Amelia Vega.  
Miss Universe 2003.



David Ortiz: Important baseball player.



Zoe Saldana  
Recognized actress from the film  
Avatar and also Marvel Universe



Juan Luis Guerra  
One of the most important  
singers of Merengue.





# Dominican Carnival

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Thank you!

