

Chapter 1 : Marriage and family - Dominicans

Whole families often live together, including the extended family. Each child, cousin, niece, or nephew is cared for equally. If one's nephew is in trouble, the aunt or uncle would take care of it as if the child was theirs.

Our Students from Dominican Republic Country Information The geography of the Dominican Republic is the most diverse in the Caribbean, ranging from desert plains to rainforest valleys to 10,000-foot high mountains to white sand beaches. Santo Domingo is the oldest city in the Americas. However, the true charm and beauty of the Dominican Republic is reflected in its people. Lifestyle and Family Most Dominicans consider the family to be the basic element of society. Families are very close, and they stay close. It is not unusual to find grandparents living at home, fully integrated in the life of the family. A majority of young people stay living with their parents, even after entering college or becoming financially independent. They usually will not leave the home until they get married, and even then, they will try to remain close to their parents geographically. Dominican families are very conservative and protective of their children. It is not common for children to receive house keys. Most of the time when they go out at night parents wait up for them to return home. AFSers coming from the Dominican Republic may not have the modern facilities, comforts and latest gadgets to which we have become accustomed. Not many houses have air conditioning, electric dishwashers, microwave ovens, and so on. Teen Life and Sports Dominican teens devote most of their time during the week to homework. On weekends teenagers enjoy getting together with friends, going to movies or dancing, relaxing in local cafes, or just hanging out in the town square. Diet The basic meal consists of rice and beans prepared in many different ways, seasoned but not spicy. Other staples of the Dominican diet are meat, plantains, tubers, juice and cheese. Many dishes are fried in vegetable oil. In the Dominican Republic, the whole family customarily eats the same food at meals together. Many imported foods are available, but they are expensive. Language and Religion Spanish is the primary language in the Dominican Republic. The majority of the population is Roman Catholic.

Expats living in the Dominican Republic may find it hard at times to understand the locals, even if they have a basic knowledge of Spanish. Dominicanese and Dominicanisms (the local variety of Spanish with Dominican elements) can prove somewhat of a challenge for foreigners.

The Dominican Republic became a nation on 27 February when a group of revolutionaries seized power from the Haitian rulers of the island of Hispaniola. A few years later the city of Santo Domingo became the Spanish capital of the New World, and because of its location in the trade winds, it was the gateway to the Caribbean. France gained a foothold on the western end of the island, which became prosperous, and by Spain ceded the entire island to France. By the black African slaves in the western portion of the island now Haiti rebelled against the French and ruled the entire island. French troops eventually reclaimed the island, but were able to occupy only the western end. In a small group of Spanish-speaking Dominican intellectuals from Santo Domingo organized a secret society called La Trinitaria to overthrow the Haitian rule. The society was established by Juan Pablo Duarte, the son of a wealthy Dominican family. After the overthrow, Pedro Santana, one of the leaders in the revolution, became the first president of the Dominican Republic. The complex heritage of Arawak, Spanish, African, and French traditions, plus an early independence, set the Dominican Republic apart from other Caribbean islands. Independence was won before slavery was abolished in the Spanish Caribbean and a century before the decolonization of the other islands. The Dominicans consider themselves more Latin American than Caribbean. In addition, they retain close ties with the United States, which occupied the island in the early twentieth century. The national community is struggling to build a democracy against a corrupt and authoritarian political elite. The Dominican Republic is located on the eastern two-thirds of the island of Hispaniola and is 18, square miles 48, square kilometers , about twice the size of New Hampshire. The western portion of the island is occupied by the republic of Haiti. Hispaniola is near the center of the West Indies, a group of islands that extend from Florida to Venezuela. The mountains of the Dominican Republic divide the country into northern, central, and southwestern regions. The central region is dominated by the Cordillera Central central range which ends at the Caribbean Sea. The highest point in the Caribbean is Pico Duarte, which reaches an elevation of over 10, feet 3, meters and has alpine forests near the summit. The Caribbean coastal plain includes a series of limestone terraces that gradually rise to a height of about feet meters and has sugarcane plantations. Lake Enriquillo is a saltwater lake that lies feet 46 meters below sea level and is inhabited by unique fauna, including crocodiles, huge iguanas, and flamingos. The diverse geography of the country includes miles 1, kilometers of coastline with beautiful white-sand beaches and rocky cliffs and Dominican Republic warm water, all of which are attractive to tourists. The most significant river in the country, with a drainage basin of 2, square miles 7, square kilometers , is Yaque del Norte, which starts at Pico Duarte and empties into the Bahía de Monte Cristi on the northwest coast. The weather is mostly tropical, especially along the southern and eastern coasts. The time and magnitude of the rainy season varies in different parts of the country, but generally occurs in late spring and early fall. The capital, Santo Domingo, was the first permanent European settlement in the New World and was established by Spain in The Colonial Zone of Santo Domingo is one of the great treasures of Spanish America today, with many original buildings intact and restored. The population of the Dominican Republic is about 8. Seventy-three percent of the population is mixed race—combinations of descendants of Spaniards and other Europeans, West African slaves, and natives. Sixteen percent is Caucasian and 11 percent is black, which includes a Haitian minority. Dominicans have migrated from rural areas to the cities. The capital, Santo Domingo, has over 2. Estimates of the birth rate range from seventeen per thousand to twenty-five per thousand estimated. The death rate estimate varies from one per thousand in to five per thousand estimated. The infant mortality rate is quite high at thirty-six deaths per thousand live births estimated. Nevertheless, the total fertility rate is three children born per woman estimated. The net migration rate is minus four migrants per thousand estimated. Spanish is the official language and is universally spoken. Dominicans pride themselves on the purity of their Spanish and it is considered by some to be the most classical Castilian

spoken in Latin America. Nevertheless, Dominican Spanish has a distinctive accent and incorporates numerous African and Taino native expressions. For example, small rural houses are now called bohios, after the rectangular houses of the Tainos. A large number of place-names as well as social and cultural terms are inherited from the Tainos. Some English is spoken in Santo Domingo, particularly within the tourist industry. Some Creole is spoken near the Haitian border and in the sugarcane villages, where many Haitian workers live. The colors and shapes used in the national flag symbolize patriotism and national pride. The flag has a large white cross, a symbol of salvation, that divides it into four quarters. Two quarters are red and two are blue. The blue sections represent liberty, while the red sections symbolize the blood of the heroes who died to preserve it. In the center of the cross is the Dominican coat of arms. A recent national symbol, constructed in 1994, is the Columbus Lighthouse. It is an enormous cross, flat on the ground, facing the sky and bursting with lights, and was built as a tourist attraction. The physical remains of Columbus have been moved to the lighthouse although Spain and Cuba also claim to have them. The lighthouse burns so brightly it can be seen from Puerto Rico, but, ironically, it is situated in the midst of a poor neighborhood where the people live without water or electricity and with unpaved, dusty streets and uncollected garbage. A wall was built around the lighthouse to protect the visitors from the neighborhood. Some Dominicans call it the Wall of Shame and argue that the country needs basic services, such as dependable electricity and transportation, not expensive monuments to Columbus. In addition, Dominicans have mixed feelings about Columbus and superstitiously refer to him only as the Great Admiral, believing that to say his name will bring about bad luck.

History and Ethnic Relations
Emergence of the Nation. The Taino were the native people of the Dominican Republic who greeted Columbus. They were a peaceful subgroup of Arawaks who had their origins in the tropical forests of South America. Columbus encountered an island populated by at least 200,000 Tainos living in permanent villages and subsisting on agriculture. The houses were made of wood with thatch roofs, and several families lived together in the same house. Most people used hammocks to sleep in, and goods were stored in baskets hung from the roof and walls. The houses were irregularly arranged around a central plaza, where the larger home of the chief was situated. Villages were arranged into districts, each ruled by one chief, and in turn the districts were grouped into regional chiefdoms headed by the most prominent district chief. There were only two classes of villagers, which chroniclers equated with nobility and commoners. There were no slaves. Instead of simply slashing and burning the forest to make a clearing for agriculture as is common in the Amazon, the Tainos made permanent fields to cultivate root crops. They retarded erosion and improved the drainage, which permitted more lengthy storage of mature tubers. The Tainos mined gold and beat the nuggets into small plates. Then the gold was either inlaid in wooden objects or overlaid on clothing or ornaments. A more nomadic and warlike group of Arawaks called the Caribs was present on a small portion of the island and are said to have shot arrows at Columbus upon his arrival. Both alienated the Spanish by demanding that they work, and they also disrupted the native agriculture by forcing each Indian to dig up a set amount of gold instead of allowing farming. By many natives had died, and those that rebelled were harshly punished. Food was in short supply and the population of natives was greatly diminished. It was a natural destination for ships following the easterly trade winds from Europe and the Lesser Antilles and remained the Spanish capital of the New World for the next fifty years, when a change in sailing routes made Havana the preferred port. When Columbus returned to Santo Domingo for the third time, he was faced with a revolt by the colonists. To placate the rebels, he distributed not only land but also native communities. Spanish settlers could legally force their Indians to work without wages in a kind of semislavery called *encomienda*, a system that rapidly caused the demise of the Taino Indians because of the harsh forced-labor practices and the diseases the Spanish brought with them. The Spanish imported African slaves to work in the mines and established a strict two-class social system based on race and state domination. The Spanish abandoned Hispaniola for more economically promising areas such as Cuba and Mexico, but the Spanish institutions of government, economy, and society have persisted in the Dominican Republic. The island became the hiding place for many pirates and was captured for ransom by British admiral Sir Francis Drake. For nearly two hundred years Hispaniola remained in a state of disorganization and depression. In 1795 Spain handed over the western third of Hispaniola to the French, and that portion began to prosper by producing sugar and cotton in an economy

based on slavery. By Spain gave the rest of the island, where most people were barely surviving on subsistence farming, to the French. By the eastern part of Hispaniola reverted back to Spanish rule. In the black armies of Haiti invaded and gained control of the entire island, which they maintained until On 27 February , Juan Pablo Duarte, the leader of the Dominican independence movement, entered Santo Domingo and declared the eastern two-thirds of Hispaniola an independent nation. He named it the Dominican Republic. The first of the strong-armed leaders called caudillos, Pedro Santana, became president. The emerging nation struggled, going in and out of political and economic chaos. Using the Monroe Doctrine to counter what the United States considered potential European intervention, the United States invaded the Dominican Republic in and occupied it until During the period of U. A new military security force, the Guardia Nacional, was trained by the U. Marines to be a counterinsurgency force. In , Rafael Trujillo, who had risen to a position of leadership in the Guardia, used it to acquire and consolidate power. From to , Trujillo ran the Dominican Republic as his own personal possession, in what has been called the first truly totalitarian state in the hemisphere. He typified the caudillismo that has shaped Dominican society. After Trujillo was assassinated in , his son fled the country and a democratic election was held. Ultimately, the Dominican military with the help of twenty-three thousand U.

Chapter 3 : 10 Things to Do with Kids in the Dominican Republic - MiniTime

I have traveled to Dominican Republic and of course I interact with the rest of my Dominican family, but this just brings me closer to my fam., country and people. I loved it! ~Jen.

Weddings can be expensive and so some people choose to have smaller gatherings or just marry in civil court. In the past only a Catholic Church priest could marry a couple. In the past anyone wanting to marry outside of the Catholic faith had to marry in a Civil Court of Judges Chamber before the large ceremony so they can have all the legal documents. Then have a church wedding. Bridesmaids and large wedding parties are not the norm here. Having a cute little ring bearer and flower girl is. Many times they dress the same as the bride and groom, in smaller scale. Having "padrinos and madrinas" godparents of the wedding is very traditional. The godparents are usually the mother of the groom and the father of the bride and their role is to serve as witnesses. Along with the couple, the godparents also sign the marriage certificate. Another tradition is to have a child usually a boy carry the "arras" or coins on a silver tray. The boy would have 13 coins they are usually 10 cents coins that at some point during the ceremony will be passed to the priest. The priest will pass them to the groom and he in turn will pass them to the bride. This exchange signifies that the couple pledges to provide for each other and that material goods are to be shared equally. The whole thing is very symbolic and is quite romantic. In addition to the flower girl, the ring bearer and the coins bearer, we also have a child that carries a fancy white bible. The mother of the groom with the groom escorting her enters the church first. The mother of the bride then enters escorted by the father of the groom. The wedding party enters next including the children, usually entering in pairs. Another Dominican tradition is to have what is called a "ceremonia cantada" meaning that every piece of music was actually sung, instead of being just instrumental. It used to be that Dominican wedding receptions consisted mostly of cake and champagne, along with light appetizers at best. Today, sit down dinners are the style. There is also the usual bridal shower. Never take a gift with you to the wedding ceremony or reception. So you can sit where you would like. At the end of the liturgy, a large number of people go to the altar. These are witnesses, and there could be dozens. Asking someone to be a witness is a way of honoring them as a special guest. Many family members and friends will be included. The newly married couple will be the first to exit the church. Do not try to greet them outside. Instead, proceed directly to the reception. The bride and her father have the first dance. Then the entire wedding party and family enter the dance floor. After this then the guests can start dancing. Most newlywed couples will stay until the end of their party, which could last til 3 AM or later. They are never the first to leave. So if you want to leave do not hesitate to leave before the bride and groom. Any time after the meal is socially acceptable, although you are likely to miss quite a party. There is no tradition about the Groom not seeing the Bride before the wedding. This is when most of the wedding party photographs are taken. Many families follow on with a series of memorial masses held for nine 9 consecutive days. This is known as los nueve dias, novenario, or la vela. When and where they will be held will be announced. It is not necessary to go to these masses unless you were a close friend of the person or family, especially if you attended the funeral. One is never expected to attend all the masses unless you want to do so. If you were not able to attend the funeral you should go to one of the masses. You might choose to go to the last one that usually will be announced in the press. This marks the end of the mourning period ceremonies. The nine days of mourning usually consist of three days of grieving crying and reminiscing. The last 3 days are for release accepting and separating. To "cumplir" is to act in accordance with the standard social procedures. A person will go to a funeral whether or not it is his desire; it is his duty. To "cumplir" is important in this society. It signifies respect and caring. Many of the poorer people are only laid out for 1 day in the home. This is because of the heat and fast decomposition of the body. Also, the caskets usually have a window for viewing. Maybe this is to keep the smell in and bugs out. Flowers are not expected. Only good friends and family are expected at the burial. Dominicans show much respect for their dead. A funeral is an event that will gather people together, including family members, who may not have seen each other for a number of years. Inside the chapel it is sedated but outside, there will be a lot more liveliness almost reminiscent of a normal social occasion.

Chapter 4 : Dominican Family Structure by Lauren Brown on Prezi

Dominican Republic Table of Contents. The family was the fundamental social unit. It provided a bulwark in the midst of political upheavals and economic reversals.

This is useful for anyone researching the culture, customs, manners, etiquette, values and wanting to understand the people better. You may be going to the Dominican Republic on business, for a visit or even hosting colleagues or clients in your own country. Remember this is only a very basic level introduction and is not meant to stereotype all Dominican people you may meet! Facts and Statistics Location: Even though the people linked to the tourist trade generally speak English, knowing some Spanish is a great advantage. As in all countries, each region has its charm and accentuates its expressions in a peculiar way, identifying the speaker from the first words uttered in his conversation. The individual derives a social network and assistance in times of need from the extended family, which generally encompasses three generations. When possible, the extended family lives together or within the same vicinity. Loyalty to the family comes before any other social relationship, even business. Nepotism is considered a good thing, since it implies employing people one knows and trusts, which is of primary importance. The oldest male in the extended family makes decisions affecting the balance of the family. Dominican Hospitality Dominicans pride themselves on their hospitality. When someone visits, Dominicans go out of their way to make guests feel welcome and comfortable House guests are treated royally and Dominicans attempt to cater to their every desire. Appearances Matter In Dominican society appearance is very important. People are extremely fashion conscious and believe that clothes indicate social standing and success. They take great pride in wearing good fabrics and clothes of the best standard they can afford. Designer labels, particularly those from the USA, are looked upon favourably. Class in the Dominican Republic Racial and economic issues determine social stratification in the Dominican Republic. The upper class are descended from the European settlers and have lighter skin than the lower class who are darker skinned and descended from African slaves or Haitians. The middle class is comprised of mulattoes who are of mixed African and European ancestry and form the majority of the population. Social class determines access to power and position, although in the large cities, the lines of demarcation often blur slightly. Status is defined more by family background than by absolute wealth. There is little social mobility. For most people religious practice is limited and formalistic. Popular religious practices are far removed from Roman Catholic orthodoxy. People respect the advice of their local priest, or their bishop, with regard to religious matters; however, they often reject the advice of clergy on other matters on the assumption that priests had little understanding of secular affairs. Maintaining eye contact is crucial as it indicates interest. When shaking hands, use the appropriate greeting for the time of day - "buenos dias", "buenas noches", or "buenas tardes". Avoid gifts that are black or purple. They are considered mourning colours. Gifts are opened when received. Dress well - Dominicans take pride in their appearance and judge others on their clothing. Although punctuality is considered a good thing, guests are not expected to arrive on time for social occasions. Arriving between 15 and 30 minutes later than the stipulated time is considered on time. Often several generations live in the same house. Show deference to the family elders. Watch your table manners! Wait for the host or hostess to tell you where to sit. There may be a seating plan. Meals are generally served family style or buffet style. Guests are served first. The host says "buen provecho" "enjoy" or "have a good meal" as an invitation to start eating. Always keep your hands visible when eating, but do not rest your elbows on the table. You may leave a small amount of food on your plate when you have finished eating. When you have finished eating, place your knife and fork across your plate with the prongs facing down and the handles facing to the right. This is a country where knowing the right person is often more important than what you know. Doing favours and collecting favours owed is a highly developed art form. Name-dropping is commonplace and nepotism does not have the negative connotation it has in many other countries. Trust is crucial to developing relationships. It is important that you treat business colleagues with respect and not do anything to cause them loss of face. Dress conservatively but well. Senior positions in business are predominately held by the upper class; therefore, it is important that you pay attention to the hierarchy and

show appropriate deference and respect to those in positions of authority. Dominicans can be direct communicators and are not afraid to say what they feel. **Business Meeting Etiquette** Business appointments are required and can often be scheduled on short notice; however, it is best to make them 2 to 3 weeks in advance by telephone, email or fax. Arrive on time for meetings. Dominicans strive for punctuality, but they do not always achieve their goal. The first meeting is often quite formal. Small talk helps establish a rapport. Do not immediately begin discussing business. Have all written material available in both English and Spanish. Meetings are often interrupted and several people may speak at the same time. Be careful with facial expression and bodily movements - gestures are context sensitive and do not always translate well between countries. **Business Negotiation Etiquette** Expect small talk before getting down to business since Dominicans want to get to know people before doing business. It will take several meetings to come to an agreement. Negotiation and time for consultation are important. Relationships are viewed as more important than business documents. Negotiations and decisions take a long time. Hierarchy is important, although not always apparent. Defer to the person with the most authority, as they are most likely the decision maker. There are often long bureaucratic delays in reaching decisions. If you try to rush the process, you will be thought both rude and aggressive. Avoid high-pressure sales tactics. Dominicans are skilled negotiators and drive hard bargains. **Dress Etiquette** Appropriate business attire is expected. Men should wear good quality, conservative, dark coloured business suits. Women should wear stylish suits or dresses. They should dress elegantly, including make-up and jewellery. **Business Cards** Business cards are exchanged during introductions without formal ritual. Have one side of your business card translated into Spanish. Present your business card with the Spanish side facing the recipient. Treat business cards with respect. When you receive a card, place it in a business card case to show that you will treat the person with respect.

The Dominican Republic experienced one of the world's highest urbanization rates in the late 20th century: in roughly 1/4 of all Dominicans lived in cities. For most of its history, the Dominican Republic was rural. Urban expansion began in the s. Santo Domingo almost doubled its.

Dominicans Dominicans - Marriage and Family Marriage. Three different types of marital union can be found among Dominicans: Church and civil marriage are most prevalent among the upper classes of Dominican society, whereas consensual unions predominate among the poor. These patterns of marriage in Dominican society can be traced back to the Spanish-colonial and slave periods. Among the Spanish settlers that came to Hispaniola, there was a strong ethic of family solidarity, and the father was the dominant figure in the family structure. Among the slaves, however, families were frequently broken up, and marriages were often not allowed. There was also an established pattern of informal unions between Spanish-colonial settlers and African slave women. Reflections of these practices are present today in the range of skin tones and marriage practices among Dominicans. There are also contemporary reasons for the strong class and racial basis of the different types of marital union. One reason is the high cost of church and civil-marriage ceremonies in the Dominican Republic. Another is that, as throughout the Caribbean, early pregnancies result from consensual relationships. Both sexes initially tend to form a series of consensual unions, each resulting in more children. The extended family, composed of three or more generations, is the predominant domestic unit among the Dominican elite. Within this extended-family structure, the oldest man holds authority, makes public decisions on all family matters, and is responsible for the welfare of the rest of the family. The eldest married woman commands her household, delivers the decisions in the private sphere, and is a source of love and moral support for the family. The practice of consensual unions, more prevalent among the Dominican lower classes, creates a much more loosely structured domestic unit. Given that the father often does not live in the household, parental authority and responsibility fall to the mother. In this situation, the eldest woman becomes the center of both public and private authority and the main breadwinner, in contrast to the patriarchal public authority among the elite. The result of this pattern is that a lower-class household often becomes a kind of extended matrilineal family, with the matriarch at the head and her unmarried children, married daughters, and grandchildren constituting the household. Comment about this article, ask questions, or add new information about this topic:

Chapter 6 : Live in the Dominican Republic - International Living

The Dominican Republic is eighth on the list of countries in the world most vulnerable to natural disasters, according to the report entitled 'Global Climate Risk Index', published by German Watch ().

Learn more about the Dominican Republic and other countries in our daily postcard e-letter. Your email address International Living Magazine If money were no object, what would your dream retirement look like? Each month, we delve into the details you need to take action. We share our contacts. We lay out the pluses and minuses. And we keep you up-to-date on the latest developments in the best overseas havens. With 1, miles of coastline and some of the most beautiful beaches in the world, it is easy to understand why. Whether you come to live in the Dominican Republic full-time, or just come for the winter months, you will enjoy beaches and mountains, a tropical climate, good internet and cable TV, good healthcare, and you will be welcomed by a community of fun and friendly people. Many people comment on the fact that due to the size of the Dominican Republic about 19, square miles it has a wide range of varying scenery from beaches, mountains, deserts, and rainforests. There are acres of sugar cane fields, beautiful lakes, stunning mountain views, the Caribbean Sea to the south, and the Atlantic Ocean to the north. You can go hiking, trekking, scuba diving, and snorkeling. There are a wide range of restaurants and places to eat, from freshly cooked whole fish on the beach, to barbecued suckling pig. There are restaurants from every nationality throughout the country, as well as the famous Dominican street food, including fried chicken and empanadas. Wherever you go you will hear music, which will normally be bachata, meringue, or salsa. There is music on the local buses, in the shops and supermarkets, and bars. Also, given the size of the island, you have a wide choice of where to live. Caribbean Sea or Atlantic Ocean? Much will depend on what is important to you. There you will find amazing beaches, fabulous food ranging from lobster on the beach to upscale restaurants, French bakeries and supermarkets, and a perfect expat lifestyle. If you speak Spanish and prefer to integrate more with the Dominican people, you could go to the beautiful southwest near Barahona, where the mountains descend into the sea and you can sit and eat fish next to a crystal clear river as it flows into the Caribbean. Home to one of the most interesting ecological parts of the country, with iguanas, crocodiles, flamingos, and a wide range of bird life, Barahona is one of the more remote areas of the country, with limited healthcare, and no international supermarkets or schools. But it is slowly becoming more popular with expats due to its exceptional beauty. Living in the Dominican Republic is a total change from the fast paced life in North America and Europe.

Chapter 7 : Dominican Republic - Language, Culture , Customs and Etiquette

Dominican Republic - Daily life: The Dominican people share religious, linguistic, and historical traditions, but their society remains largely fragmented and individualistic, and their day-to-day experiences are commensurate to differences between their socioeconomic classes, ethnic groupings, and physical settings, among other factors.

William Carpenter Updated October 6, 2017 It is home to a diverse natural landscape that includes white-sand beaches, fertile plains and breathtaking mountain ranges that reach elevations over 10,000 feet, the highest in the region. The Dominican Republic is also home to a growing population of expatriates, who live in cities throughout the country. While the Dominican Republic is not the cheapest retirement destination in the world, it does provide excellent value for money compared to most other destinations in the Caribbean. Where to Live Comfortable and affordable housing is available around the country. The capital, Santo Domingo, delivers a fast-paced urban lifestyle with easy access to services, health care, cultural attractions, shopping and everything else a modern city provides. Many expatriates prefer to get away from heavily touristed areas by settling in smaller towns dotting the coastline. Inland destinations include the bustling city of Santiago de los Caballeros near the north coast and the cooler highland cities of Jarabacoa and Constanza, which are located in the center of the country at 1,000 and 3,000 feet of elevation, respectively. Rent and Utilities While inexpensive housing is available across the country, rents tend to spike in tourist centers. That said, prices are almost always much more reasonable in surrounding neighborhoods, so spend some time searching for a better deal nearby. Careful apartment hunting can have a big impact on your monthly expenses. To save some money, seek out better deals available in outlying neighborhoods. For inexpensive coastal living, Puerto Plata and nearby towns are very good options. Punta Cana, at the southern tip of the island, is more expensive. This is based on moderate electricity use, so budget more if you expect to make regular use of the air conditioner. As of 2017, electricity outages are somewhat common in the Dominican Republic. Some expatriates invest in gas-powered generators to provide power during outages. Prepaid cell phone service costs about 17 cents per minute on average, not including plan-based discounts or promotional deals. Food Locally produced food in grocery stores and markets is generally inexpensive in the Dominican Republic. Familiar staple foods such as rice, eggs, corn, beans, potatoes and chicken feature prominently in local cuisine and are cheap across the country. As a relatively small island nation, the Dominican Republic imports many of the consumer packaged goods on its shelves. All kinds of international food products, including cheeses, meats, beer and chocolate, are available in cities and tourist centers. Imported food is generally quite expensive, so stick to local-brand products whenever available. However, first-rate care is limited to private hospitals in bigger cities such as Santo Domingo and Santiago de los Caballeros. Private clinics offering high-quality care are available in many of the popular expatriate and tourist centers, but they do not provide the full range of medical services typically found in hospitals. Expatriates generally avoid the publicly operated hospitals and clinics located around the country. While doctor visits and other health care services are generally very cheap in the Dominican Republic, most expatriates carry health insurance while living in the country. Other Expenses Household cleaning items, personal hygiene products and other common goods are generally inexpensive in the Dominican Republic. However, imported products, such as deodorant and contact lens solution, for example, range closer to U.S. prices. If you regularly purchase cosmetics, contact lenses, clothes and other products, you may need a bigger budget in this area. Motorcycle taxis, known as motoconchos, are ubiquitous in most cities and towns. Traditional taxis also wait at designated stops around many cities. Taxi fares must be negotiated. Trading Center Want to learn how to invest? Get a free 10 week email series that will teach you how to start investing. Delivered twice a week, straight to your inbox.

Chapter 8 : Family Life in the Dominican Republic in the s by alexis wilson on Prezi

The Dominican Republic includes the highest and lowest elevations in the West Indies. Its major mountain ranges and elongated, fertile valleys mainly extend from northwest to southeast. The Cordillera Oriental forms the country's less-rugged eastern spine, separating a narrow coastal plain to the.

Share on Facebook Share on Twitter Share on Google The decision to quit our jobs, rent out our two homes, sell our cars, and give our children most of our furniture so we could relocate to the Dominican Republic puzzled and stunned our family and friends. Perhaps my wife Katherine and I are becoming real adventurous or, maybe, as some have suggested, we have simply lost our minds. Whatever the reason, the die has been cast. Since August , we have been making the Dominican Republic our home and teaching English our occupation. Certainly it has not been a perfect transition, but any difficulties have been offset by the Caribbean breezes, the almost constant blue skies, and the genuine warmth of the Dominican people. Like many before us, we were lured to this beautiful island by frequent vacations to the tropical paradise of Punta Cana. We could easily see ourselves enjoying our later years in such a setting. However, when we made our move, we decided to base ourselves in Santo Domingo, at least to start. We felt that the capital city, the cultural and business center of this country, would be the ideal location for getting the lay of the land and exploring all the options this country offers for retirement living. The DR is unique in its geography for this part of the world. The central part of the island has lovely mountains, scenic rivers, and many waterfalls. And all of these natural attractions are only a short drive away from white-water rafting, kiteboarding, fishing excursions, and afternoons enjoying ice-cold Presidente beer beneath a coconut tree. Before the Dominican Republic, my wife and I lived in South Carolina, where we were blessed with a favorable climate. We had to endure the occasional thunderstorm, some snow once every few years, and a hurricane every decade or so. Here in the DR the weather has been the best I have ever experienced. No need to watch the weather report. Practically every morning brings blue skies and that glorious Caribbean breeze. Daytime temperatures are 75 to 80 degrees year-round. No need to bring your winter clothes. In the rainy season, we have evening showers several times a week and a brief daytime shower once or twice a week. It makes it easy to plan outdoor activities or to go for a long walk or pleasant jog. We love the convenience of the colmados, the neighborhood corner stores found on almost every block. Not only do they stock almost anything you might need, but they will deliver it right to your front door for no extra charge. Should you need one more egg while cooking, have a sudden craving for chocolate ice cream, or have unexpected company and realize you need another bottle of rum or a few more beers, all you have to do is pick up the phone and in a few short minutes your order is at your door. Many of the other stores and restaurants here, including U. Some of our family and friends have worried about our safety, and my wife and I realize that our lack of Spanish fluency could make us easy targets for being taken advantage of. We have been treated with nothing but kindness and consideration. They go out of their way to help us any way possible. This move would have been a lot more difficult a few decades ago. Our biggest misgiving in pursuing this adventure was knowing how much we would miss family and friends. This has been eased by the technology now available in the DR. We also have many affordable package options for cable TV and internet service, all with good selections of the major U. When we want to watch a movie out, we can walk to theater complexes to see an American movie shown in English. Currently we are renting. We enjoy the sea breezes from our comfortable Dominican rocking chairs every day. These breezes are not only a great pleasure but mean we only have to use air conditioning in our bedroom at night. We have beautiful marble floors, crown molding, and wonderful woodwork throughout our home. No need for a car here, as public transportation and taxi services are readily available and quite affordable. Being from South Carolina we were stunned and thrilled to find a Krispy Kreme Doughnuts a block-and-a-half away. No, not all is perfect in paradise. Santo Domingo is not a quiet, relaxing place to call home. The Dominican Republic offers those kinds of places, both at the beach and in the mountains. Traffic is heavy and traffic laws merely advisory in nature. The sounds of motorbikes, honking horns, and street vendors may be too much for some. Our ability to ignore loud noise has proven an advantage living here. And, for the first time ever, I can

play my own music at whatever volume I choose without worrying about disturbing anyone. Hopefully my Dominican neighbors are enjoying my Carolina beach music and the sounds of Memphis, New Orleans, and Nashville. No one has complained! Really, we have never been happier.

Chapter 9 : Our Students from Dominican Republic | AFS-USA

The practice of abortion is illegal in all cases in the Dominican Republic, a ban that includes conceptions following rape, incest, and situations where the health of the mother is in danger, even if life-threatening.

Read our guide on living in the Dominican Republic for info on healthcare, education, transport, cultural life, and more. Also in this article: You should be prepared to pay for a private insurance plan since the public healthcare system is not efficient enough. Hurricanes, tropical diseases, and crime can be threats to your general safety, but these dangers can all be avoided if you take a few precautions. People and Local Customs Currently, there are about Family values, religion, and hospitality are the cornerstones of life in the Caribbean country, thus, it is not rare that three generations of the same family live under one and the same roof, with the oldest man making the important decisions affecting the entire family. Dominicans often go out of their way to treat their guests royally and to make them feel particularly welcome. In return, you should be a respectful guest in order not to upset your hosts while living in the Dominican Republic. So, before starting your expat life in the Dominican Republic, you should brush up on your Spanish language skills, even if your business partners speak English. Expats living in the Dominican Republic may find it hard at times to understand the locals, even if they have a basic knowledge of Spanish. Dominicanese and Dominicanisms the local variety of Spanish with Dominican elements can prove somewhat of a challenge for foreigners. Nevertheless, it can also be great fun to learn these new words and phrases. Local Food Culture Dominican cuisine is heavily influenced by its Spanish roots but includes a touch of local Caribbean spices and herbs. Coconuts also play a dominant role in Dominican cuisine. Pescado con coco, fish stewed in coconut and tomato sauce, is a particularly prominent dish. At the same time, rice is king in traditional Dominican kitchens. These little restaurants are family-run businesses, often part of the home, where a good meal costs around DOP As an expat, you could take the opportunity here to talk to Dominican people, learn a few new things, and get to know what life is like for them! We do our best to keep this article up to date. However, we cannot guarantee that the information provided is always current or complete.