

# Dominican Republic Independence Day

## Friendly people, tropical beauty await

**BETSAIRA CABRERA RAFUL**  
CONSUL GENERAL OF DOMINICAN  
REPUBLIC



To commemorate the 177th anniversary of Dominican Republic's independence day on Feb. 27, our Consulate General in Japan extends its warmest regards to the great people of Japan, especially their imperial majesties, the imperial family, the government and our fellow compatriots here.

2020 was an extremely hard year for the whole world but both of our countries have maintained excellent cooperation. So in 2021, we are proud to call each other friends, strengthening even more the ties between the Dominican Republic and Japan. So today, we would like to share some features of our nation.

To think about the Dominican Republic is to immediately imagine pictures

of endless white-sand beaches under a perpetual sun, and they are real. There is no doubt the Dominican Republic has many of the most amazing beaches in the world. More than 750 miles of coastline and about 5 million tourists each year are testament to that.

If you mix our beautiful nature with a culture characterized by music and dance, as in merengue, bachata and folkloric, you will have sweet smiley people treating you warmly as relatives all the time.

Founding father Juan Pablo Duarte designed our flag, which is the only one in the world to have an image of the holy Bible on it. It reads, "And the truth shall make you free."

As a tourist destination, the Dominican Republic also offers world-class resorts and golf courses. It has recently been distinguished as the Capital of the Gastronomic Culture of the Caribbean, highlighting the exotic and delicious Caribbean foods you can enjoy.

The landmark of Santo Domingo's Colonial Zone is the Cathedral of Santa

Maria la Menor, the oldest in the Americas, built between 1512 and 1540.

Visitors also have plenty of opportunities to go scuba diving to enjoy our beautiful coral reefs, hiking, biking, horseback riding, and many more experiences to delight your senses.

Every year off the northeastern coast, in the Bay of Samana, humpback whales can be seen migrating from the North Atlantic to warm Dominican waters. They stay until March before returning to their summer environs.

The lowest elevation in the Caribbean is Lake Enriquillo, a hypersaline lake covering 375 sq. kilometers. A diverse and interesting wildlife population inhabits the lake and its surroundings, among them beautiful pink flamingos.

The Dominican Republic is also home to the highest elevation in the region. At 3,087 meters, Pico Duarte welcomes over 3,000 climbers a year who make the ascent to experience its incredible beauty.

The palmchat is the national bird, and like Dominicans, palmchats are known to be joyful, noisy, social and love singing.



Above: An aerial view of Cayo Levantado Beach; Below: A humpback whale breaches in Samana, Dominican Republic. GETTY IMAGES



*This content was compiled in collaboration with the Consulate General. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper.*



Congratulations  
to the People  
of  
the Dominican Republic  
on the Occasion  
of  
Their National Day



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