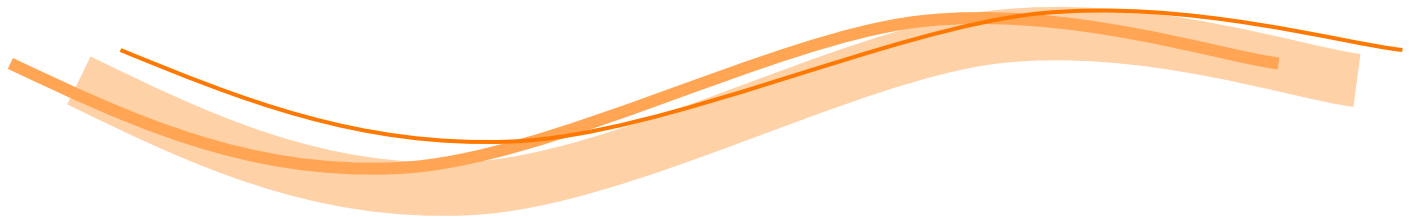




PUNTA CANA- DOMINICAN REPUBLIC





<p>AIR CANADA VACATIONS</p>	<p>Air Canada Vacations believe that a holiday should be an experience to remember. That everyone deserves to get away from time to time. That each and every one of us is unique, and so are our ideas of a dream holiday. They understand the significance of the perfect getaway and, as a result, they tailor their packages to meet your needs.</p> <p>Backed by 25 years of solid experience, Air Canada Vacations is a leading provider of flexible, best-value leisure, cruise, golf and custom tour packages and excursions at the highest standards to popular destinations for Canadians in the Caribbean, Asia, Central and South America and U.S.A.</p> <p>Choose from a variety of package options, most featuring round-trip airfare, quality accommodation (aboard major cruise lines and at the best brand name resorts-most of which are all-inclusive), return airport transfers at destination, private tours (Asia & South America), Aeroplan® Miles as well as safe, reliable service aboard Air Canada-ranked Best Airline in North America by Skytrax as part of a worldwide survey.</p> <p>Choose from flexible, best-value package options to hundreds of resorts-many all-inclusive-located in some 30 of the most popular, sizzling, tropical Sun destinations scattered throughout the Caribbean, Latin America and Hawaii.</p>
<p>Winter 2007/2008</p>	<p>This winter, Air Canada Vacations offers Air & Hotel packages to 30 destinations in and around the Caribbean serviced by 350 flights per week. Choose from hundreds of resorts—many all-inclusive; and to complement the perfect package be sure to opt for a variety of tours and excursions available to book upon arrival through an Air Canada Vacations representative.</p>
<p>Aeroplan</p>	<p>Earn Aeroplan Miles for travel based on class of travel and distance flown – up to 5,500 per passenger. Redeem Aeroplan Miles towards your next vacation with Air Canada Vacations</p>
<p>Early Booking Bonus</p>	<p>Book early and save! Book and pay in full by October 15, 2007 and save \$100 per couple for travel from November 1st 2007 and completed by June 30th, 2008...or save \$200 per couple for departures in January 2008. That's extra savings on top of the Early Booking Bonuses offered by the hotels. Save up to \$2300 in combinable Air Canada Vacations and hotelier early booking discounts. See their new Sun Dreambook brochure 2007/8 for details.</p>
<p>Executive Class Service</p>	<p>Executive Class Service starts at \$299 and features include: priority check-in; priority baggage handling and delivery; access to Air Canada</p>

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	Maple Leaf Lounges; meal options onboard; free advance seat selection; guaranteed window or aisle seat; larger reclining seats; exclusive restrooms; free premium-brand drinks.
Check-in	With Air Canada Vacations, you can save time before you even get to the airport: within 24 hours of departure, you can use Web Check-in at www.aircanada.com from your own computer to check-in for your flight and print your own Boarding Pass. Or you can use the self-service Express Check-in Kiosks available at major airports across Canada – they are easy to use and eliminate long line ups at the check-in counter.
In-flight Entertainment	Free in-flight entertainment and headsets are available on all flights and many now also feature seat-back personal audio and video on demand.
To Find Out More...	Ask your Travel Agent for a Air Canada Vacations Sun Dreambook or call 1-866-529-2079 Visit the website at www.aircanadavacations.com
Groups	Air Canada Vacations offer special group rates for bookings of ten or more passengers.
Children	There's a whole range of special deals for kids in their new brochure, ranging from free meals to free stays. Many of the featured resorts have kids clubs, babysitting and supervised activities.
Romance	Some resorts feature free wedding packages. There are many intimate hideaways for couples and spa resorts designed to replenish mind, body and soul.
Awards	<p>Skytrax is the world's most comprehensive choice of Airline and Airport passenger opinions, featuring more than 500 airlines and 525 airports. The results of 14 million passengers have made Air Canada North America's Best Airline in North America for 2007.</p> <p>Recipient of the 2006 Consumers' Choice Award for Business Excellence in the category of Best Travel Wholesaler in three major markets-Montreal (2nd consecutive year), Calgary and Ottawa (3rd consecutive year)-Air Canada Vacations delivers unparalleled customer support to its clientele before, during and after travel.</p> <p>Air Canada Vacations has also been honoured with the coveted 2005 Sears Partners in Progress award and declared #1 by Sandals in several award categories.</p> <p>Air Canada was voted Best Airline in North America both as part of a 2005 worldwide survey, and for the second time in three years in a 2002 Official Airline Guide (OAG) survey of the world's most frequent air travelers. Air Canada also ranks as the World's Safest Airline in an independent analysis by air safety consultants of more than 500 airlines using ten management and environment criteria.</p>

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Hurricane Policy	General Hurricane Policy As part of its commitment to its customers and to ensure the well-being and safety of all concerned, Air Canada Vacations offers a flexible policy relative to adverse weather conditions before and during travel. In the event of a Hurricane, Air Canada Vacations carefully assesses each situation on a case-by-case basis before rendering a well-informed decision based on the category and severity of the storm. If the case warrants, affected travelers may opt to Travel as Planned or Change Travel Dates and/or Destination.
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SOL MELIA HOTELS & RESORTS	<p>Sol Meliá is the Spanish hotel and resort chain founded by Gabriel Escarrer Juliá in 1956 in Palma on the Mediterranean island of Mallorca in Spain. It is the leading Spanish hotel chain in both the city and resort markets, the third largest hotel chain in Europe, and the twelfth largest hotel chain in the world.</p> <p>Sol Meliá is also the world leader in resort hotels and number one in the ranking in Latin America and the Caribbean. The company provides almost 350 hotels with 85,000 rooms in 30 countries on 4 continents under its Meliá Hotels, TRYP Hotels, Sol Hotels and Paradisus Resorts brands.</p>
Key Facts	<p>Number of hotels: 318 Number of rooms: 77,893 Global presence: 27 countries on 4 continents. Personnel: 32,634 employees. Positioning: Largest resort hotel chain in the world Largest hotel chain in Spain in both the city and resort hotel markets Leading hotel chain in Latin America and the Caribbean</p>
History	<p>Founded in 1956. At only 21 years of age, Gabriel Escarrer Juliá began to lease and operate his first hotel: the Altair Hotel in Palma de Majorca (Spain). First European hotel company certified with ISO 9002 The Sol Melia Group now comprises four major brands: Meliá, TRYP, Sol and Paradisus.</p>
Paradisus	<p>Paradisus' luxury five-star all-inclusive hotels are renowned worldwide. With superb locations, in exotic, privileged destinations, they blend carefully into the surrounding countryside surprising you day after day with something new. Characterized by their original styles of architecture and unique settings, the Paradisus 'eco-resorts' also stand out from the rest for their wide range of cuisine and extensive, professionally organized programs of entertainment.</p>
Melia	<p>Meliá Hotels & Resorts, and their sister Gran Meliá Hotels and Meliá Boutique Hotels, include Sol Meliá's range of first class city hotels and leisure resorts located all over the world. The enormous prestige earned by Meliá Hotels & Resorts world-wide confirms the success of a product designed to satisfy the most discerning guests. Luxury, highly personalized service and magnificent locations in first class cities and resorts, are just some of the many attractions of the 4* and 5* Meliá hotels & resorts. If you want to feel at home, or even better, you can't go wrong with Meliá.</p>
Tryp	<p>Tryp Hotels - When you're traveling on business, you're probably looking for the type of hotel that provides just about everything you need: excellent value for money, functional and modern facilities and very comfortable rooms. If the hotel also helps you out with your work by</p>

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	providing spacious meeting rooms and the latest in modern technology, while also letting you visit some of the most beautiful cities at the weekend, then here's what you've been looking for: a TRYP hotel.
Sol	Sol Hotels - After months of waiting, today's the day: holiday time! You've been dreaming about it so long and everything has got to be perfect. Not even the tiniest problem is allowed. Only a hotel with the experience of the Sol brand behind it can guarantee you a great holiday. If you've still not tried it, do it now and choose from amongst the more than 100 Sol hotels all over the world.

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DESTINATION INFO	Punta Cana, Dominican Republic
Location	The Dominican Republic (capital: Santo Domingo) is located in the Caribbean, on the eastern two-thirds of the island of Hispaniola, east of Haiti. The Punta Cana area features deep water, strong tides, few reefs, tiny hamlets, large resorts and faces the Canal de la Mona and Puerto Rico The countryside around Punta Cana is full of sugar cane, little villages, Cordillera Oriental, orange groves, people on horses.
Geography	19,000 sq miles, 2/3 of Hispaniola, Greater Antilles, twixt Cuba and Puerto Rico, 600 mls SE of Florida Pico Duarte: 10,319 ft; not climbed until 1944, 3 day hike, \$240 plus 4 mules; Lago Enriquillo – 135 ft below sea level The Three DR's: (Moon Pub): Tourist DR: beaches, people, history, sun; Hidden DR: surprises, explore; Wild DR: peaks, deserts, caves, islands
Name	Hispaniola was named "Little Spain" by Columbus
Population	9.2 million
Language	Spanish, but English is widely spoken in resort areas
Currency	Pesos, US Dollars and DR Pesos. The Canadian Dollar currently buys 31 pesos (18 August, 2007)
Tipping	10%
Government	Representative democracy with Presidents elected for a 4 year term Although the DR has long been viewed primarily as an exporter of sugar, coffee, and tobacco, in recent years the service sector has overtaken agriculture as the economy's largest employer due to growth in tourism
Documentation	Canadians traveling to the Dominican Republic require a valid Canadian passport or an original copy of your birth certificate and valid government issued photo ID (such as a driver's license). You will also require tourist card which will be provided on the aircraft during your southbound flight. Minors (under the age of 18) being nationals of Canada in addition to the above documentation requirements must: if traveling as an unaccompanied minor or with an adult other than a parent or legal guardian must hold a permit issued by the Consulate of Dominican Republic in Canada or the Director General's Office of Immigration in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic to leave the country of Dominican Republic. Baptismal Certificates are not acceptable as a birth certificate, nor are birth certificates issued in Quebec prior to January 1, 1994. Please contact the Consulate of Dominican Republic for more information.
Time zone	One hour ahead of EST
Health	Stick to bottled water. Consult your doctor about Malaria and Dengue Fever – very unlikely threat to tourists but you may want to additionally protect yourself anyway

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Safety tips	Be careful of pickpockets in Santo Domingo and lock valuables in your hotel safe: carry only a reasonable amount of cash or (better yet) one or two credit cards, and avoid dark deserted places just like you would at home.
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CLIMATE	
General climate	Average high of 28 degrees to 30 degrees all year round
Today's weather	32 degrees Centigrade and mostly sunny for 18 August 2007
Best time to visit	Any time is good but the winter months are a great escape from the icy blast up north!

GETTING THERE	Air Canada has four flights a week to Punta Cana next winter
Flying time	4.5 hour flight with Air Canada, departure tax: \$20 US (Oct 2006) A departure tax of US\$20 is assessed and is paid in U.S. currency.
Cities	The town of Higüey: in 1494 Conquistador Juan de Esquivel founded this town known as the "cradle of Spanish civilization in the New World"; In 1502-08 Ponce de Leon was the local Governor. There is a huge cathedral, the tallest carillon in the Americas, and nearby has become the site of pilgrimages where Columbus fought Tainos and the Virgin Mary is reported to have appeared.
Distances	Punta Cana is about 4 hours from Santo Domingo, capital of the DR
Ferries	You can catch boats across to the idyllic island of Saona, off the south coast of the DR
Car Rental	Car rental agencies are found at all major airports and cities; Jeeps and motorcycles may also be rented. If you want to tour along the coast, you can rent a car on-site at the car-rental desks of all the major resorts.
Buses	In addition to Taxis, both private and public (gua-guas), the Dominican Republic is fortunate to have two excellent bus lines, Metro and Caribe Tours and a host of private busses that service most cities
Taxis	Most taxi fares, including those connecting the airport with most of the major hotels, range from \$25 for up to four passengers. Your hotel can summon a cab for you.

ACCOMMODATION TYPES	The Dominican Republic has all styles of accommodation from the basic to the luxurious five star vacation resorts such as the Paradissus resorts of the Sol Melia group.
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TARGET GROUPS	
Kids	Manatí Park is an amusing theme park located in Bávaro-Punta Cana, an incredible landscape of wonderful gardens overflowing with orchids and tropical plants. Here families are able to experience nature, coming into contact with the fauna and flora of the Dominican Republic. During your stay in Manatí Park, you will be able to enjoy varied shows,

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	restaurants, local crafts and souvenir shops. Furthermore, kids have the opportunity of swimming alongside dolphins, an unforgettable experience
Teens	Soft adventure excursions, great sports facilities at the resorts
Romance	Lush tropical forests, rolling mountains and long deserted beaches – perfect!
Honeymoons & Weddings	Special packages are available at the Paradisus Punta Cana Resort – see www.aircanadavacations.com
Seniors	Endless beaches, excellent resorts and accessible tours to the countryside make this an excellent choice for the older vacationer

UNIQUES	Usually starting in January and lasting until late March, Samana's humpback whales return every year to these tropical waters. Tours originate from Samana and Las Galeras (and several bayside locations in between) and from Las Terrenas.
Surprising	Los Altos de Chavon village: oddball 16th century Italian style confection on hilltop, crafts, workshops, Taino Art Museum, great views, shopping, restaurants
History	History: 900-1492 – native Tainos people lived in a tropical idyll; Caribs – cannibals – began to supplant them. Explored and claimed by Christopher Columbus on his first voyage in 1492, the island of Hispaniola became a springboard for Spanish conquest of the Caribbean and the American mainland. In 1697, Spain recognized French dominion over the western third of the island, which in 1804 became Haiti. The remainder of the island, by then known as Santo Domingo, sought to gain its own independence in 1821, but was conquered and ruled by the Haitians for 22 years; it finally attained independence as the Dominican Republic in 1844. In 1861, the Dominicans voluntarily returned to the Spanish Empire, but two years later they launched a war that restored independence in 1865. A legacy of unsettled, mostly non-representative rule followed, capped by the dictatorship of Rafael Leonidas Trujillo from 1930-1961 Columbus described the island thus to Ferdinand and Isabella: “This is the fairest land under Heaven”...
Books	Frommer’s Caribbean 2007
1000 Places to see before you die	Casa de Campo near La Romana – one of the worlds best golf and sporting destinations
Must Sees	The town of Higüey: in 1494 Conquistador Juan de Esquivel founded this town known as the “cradle of Spanish civilization in the New World”; In 1502-08 Ponce de Leon was the local Governor. There is a huge cathedral, the tallest carillon in the Americas, and nearby has become the site of pilgrimages where Columbus fought Tainos and the Virgin Mary is reported to have appeared

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SPORTS ACTIVITIES	Baseball season runs Oct to Feb. There are 6 pro teams in the DR. "Its more than just a game, it is almost our way of life"; famous local baseball players include Pedro Martinez, Sammy Sosa, Alex Rodriguez
Golf	Cocotal Golf Club, designed by Jose Pepe Gancedo, is a Par 72, 27-hole golf course in Punta Cana. Guests staying with Air Canada Vacations at the Paradisus Punta Cana Resort enjoy free unlimited green fees. Carts cost \$30 per person /per day, and rentals cost \$40 for 18 holes
Fishing	Marlin, sailfish, benito, tarpon, dorado, snook
Horse riding	Rancho RN-23, Arena Gorda (tel. 809/747-7356 or -7538) supervises as many as 125 horses that are stabled at three separate "ranches," each within a reasonable distance of one another. For \$60 an hour, you'll be guided on equestrian tours through groves of coconut palms near the beach and, in most cases, onto the beach itself. To reach it, you'll follow some clearly marked signs 3km (2 miles) through some of the wildest terrain left in Punta Cana, down winding sandy paths to a series of palm groves, site of these stables.
Hiking	Great beach walks for gentle hikes or for those who want the ultimate challenge, it is possible to arrange hiking trips up to the summit of Pico Duarte at over 10,000 feet above sea level!
Cycling	The coast road is good biking terrain
Diving	Excellent diving is available from the hotel in Punta Cana and there are many other excellent diving opportunities around the coastline, especially Isla Saona

CULTURE	
Arts	Dominican paintings are primitive, colourful and affordable
Music	Dominican Republic Jazz Festival will be held 26 - 30 Oct 2007 in Cabarete The Dominican Republic is world-renowned for merengue - and as a country with a deep appreciation for music, it is no surprise that the annual Dominican Republic Jazz Festival consistently attracts a line-up of high quality jazz performers.
Films	Cayo Levantado is the original Bacardi Island photographed in the 1970s rum campaign
Museums	At the southern end of the Plaza Espana in Santo Domingo is the Museo de las Casas Reales, built between 1503 and 1520, was the administrative centre of the West Indies, housing the Royal Court, Treasury and Office of the Governor. Inside, the museum's rather hodgepodge collection includes a few Taíno artefacts, Spanish navigational instruments, and an armoury donated by Trujillo with examples of weaponry used here since Columbus. Opposite the Casas Reales is the Alcazar de Colón, the fortified palace of the Columbus family, built by Diego from 1511 to 1515.

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Festivals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Carnival: late Feb – Diablo Conjuelo costumes, singing, dancing, every weekend in Feb - Merengue festivals: July in Santo Domingo – musical blowout; Oct in Pto Plata on the Malecon - Las Nochas de Vela: the night of the prayer festival Jan 21 mix of Catholic and African religious festivities
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ATTRACTIONS	
Beaches	Punta Cana's 32km of white sands, set against a backdrop of swaying palm trees, are unrivaled in the Caribbean, and that's the chief reason to come here.
Wildlife	<p>La Reserva Cientifica Lagunas Reconda y Limon on the Atlantic coast features freshwater lagoons, mangroves, birds, turtles nesting.</p> <p>Whales: 2500 of the 6000 world population of humpbacks breed and give birth in the north of the DR in December to March on the Silver Bank; 50ft long, 60 tons.</p> <p>The hutia is an endemic mammal, nocturnal, 30cms long, it lives in caves.</p> <p>The solenodon is the Caribbean's only insectivorous mammal and is almost extinct.</p>
Parks	Los Haitises National Park – 1200 square kilometers of limestone hills and mangroves. Guided tours to explore the many small islands and caves of the park are offered from Samana, Sanchez, Sabana de la Mar. Pre-Colombian pictograms cover the walls of some of the caves 16 national parks and 67 protected areas showcase caimans in SW; birds: flamingos, parrots; sea turtles, whales and more.
Castles/Forts	In Santo Domingo, the First City of the Americas: Santa Maria Cathedral the first church started in 1514, 1544; Calle de las Damas 1502 was the first street; Alcazar de Colombus – Castle of Columbus – was Columbus' home.

OTHER ACTIVITIES	
Shopping	<p>Whether it's primitive native paintings, wood or whalebone carvings, island jewelry, precious amber, Dominican cigars or even a holiday T-shirt, you'll find it all in the many boutiques and specialty shops throughout the area:</p> <p>Amber, cigars, larimar (a bluish semi-precious gem), rum, rocking chairs, colourful art.</p> <p>Cigars brands include Santiago, Cibao Valley, Davidoff, Churchill</p>
Nightlife	There are nightly shows at the major resorts
Casinos	At the Paradisus Punta Cana Resort

CUISINE	
Food	Comida Creolla – creole cuisine blends Spanish, African, Indian and

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	Caribbean influences; plantains, cassava, tropical fruits, mango, papaya, seafood, rice and beans; pastelitos: meat or cheese pastry turnovers; chimichurris: pork sandwiches hot off the spit; sancocho: national dish, sausage, pork, chicken, beef, goat, veg, herbs, spices in stew
Wine	Local beers are good - Quisqueya, El Presidente Rum is available everywhere, especially Brugal Extra Viejo
Restaurants	<p>Capitan Cook, Punta Cana: the allure here is the ultrafresh seafood that's simply but superbly grilled to order. A battery of smoldering outdoor grills lies near the entrance to a dining area whose tables are positioned beneath palm-frond gazebos overlooking a superb beach. Some guests don't bother to consult a menu, but order their meal based on whatever is sputtering over coals or displayed on ice as they enter. Platters of grilled fish or shellfish, chicken, pork chops, or steaks are accompanied by salad, baked potatoes, or french fries. As an alternative try a heaping platter of paella. The shrimp and grilled calamari are superb. Beer is the perfect accompaniment for anything served here, perhaps preceded by a rum-based cocktail.</p> <p>Chez Palace, Punta Cana: This is the showcase restaurant of one of the biggest resort complexes in the Dominican Republic. If you're not staying at one of the Barcelo hotels, you'll have to make reservations in advance. The decor is cool and stylish, as though it were imported from a chic resort in the south of Spain. A formally dressed staff serves superb dishes that include salmon mousse in a prawn sauce, tartar of tenderloin, grilled red snapper, grouper with mustard sauce, and filet mignon with truffles and foie gras. The set-price menu offers many different choices. In the same complex you can also dine at the Buffet Caribe, open daily 7am to 10:30pm, costing \$20 per person for a buffet lunch or dinner.</p>

MORE INFO	DR Tourism Office: 514-499-1918
Brochures	Air Canada Vacations Sun Dreambook 2007-2008 brochure available at travel agents
Websites	www.aircanadavacations.com www.solmelia.com http://www.chrisrobinsontravelshow.ca/travelarticles/TA_Dominican.pdf

HOTEL PRIZE PARTNER	Paradisus Punta Cana Resort Prices start at \$1879 per person for 7 nights with Air Canada Vacations
Location	30 minutes from Punta Cana Airport in the far east of the Dominican Republic, directly situated on a great beach
Facilities	Casino; Fitness Centre; 4 pools; Spa
Accommodation	542 rooms

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Activities	Golf, table tennis, beach volleyball, bicycles, horseback riding, tennis, intro to scuba, snorkeling, kayaking, catamaran sailing, windsurfing, sunfish sailing, canoeing
Restaurants	11 restaurants including 9 a la carte featuring Chinese, Spanish, Mexican, French, Japanese and Seafood
AIRLINE PRIZE PARTNER	Air Canada
Flight details	Four flights a week from Toronto to Punta Cana, Dominican Republic on Saturdays, Sundays, Mondays and Tuesdays
CURRENT DEALS	Great Early Booking Bonuses for next winter – see the Air Canada Vacations brochure for details

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