



Travel and Tourism Services

A Top Export Prospect for Dominican Republic

September 2014

Overview

More than 238,000 Dominicans visited the United States in 2013, making the DR our 28th largest source of tourists worldwide.

Travel to the United States from the Caribbean region as a whole continued to be very dynamic. According to a report on "Top Countries Generating Travel to the United States" prepared by the U.S. Department of Commerce, ITA, Office of Travel and Tourism Industries, 1.2 million travelers from the Caribbean visited the U.S. in 2013, which represents a 2.1 percent decrease when compared to the same period of 2012.

During the period of Jan-Dec. 2013, arrivals from the Dominican Republic totaled 238,134. This represents a 2.1 percent decrease over 2012. The number of visitors from other Caribbean countries were as follows for the period of Jan.-Dec. 2013: The Bahamas - 206,206 (down 8.4 percent); from Jamaica - 168,283 (up 0.8 percent); Trinidad and Tobago - 134,567 (down 7 percent). The statistical information we have for Haiti and Barbados is of the period Jan.-Dec. 2012: Haiti - 67,899 (up 2.7 percent); and Barbados - 41,554 visitors (up 1.3 percent).

Dominicans are traveling to the United States primarily to visit friends/relatives, spend leisure time, and for business purposes. The top U.S. travel destinations include: Florida (Orlando/Miami), California (Los Angeles/San Francisco), New York (New York City), and New Jersey (Newark). These U.S. cities correspond to the most inbound flights from the Dominican Republic. The following destinations are also increasing in popularity among the Dominicans to travel for both leisure and business, in particular to visit trade shows: Las Vegas, Chicago, Los Angeles*, San Francisco*, New York, Orlando, Washington DC, and Dallas. *Also for business travel en-route to Asia.

Sub-Sector Best Prospects

- Wholesale of travel products and services
- Transportation services (air travel and ground transportation)
- Car rentals
- Hotel industry - Lodging
- Attractions / theme parks

Opportunities

Along with the Visit USA Committee, the Commercial Service in Santo Domingo is working on several events and activities to promote U.S. destinations in the Dominican Republic, promoting U.S. travel industry shows in the U.S. such as the IPW for travel agents and tourism press. The Committee also organizes training sessions for travel agencies.

The U.S. Commercial Service also has an active schedule of trade shows and is constantly inviting the Dominican business community to participate in these international trade fairs held in the U.S. These delegations to the trade shows promote business and the U.S. as a tourism destination.

Web Resources

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