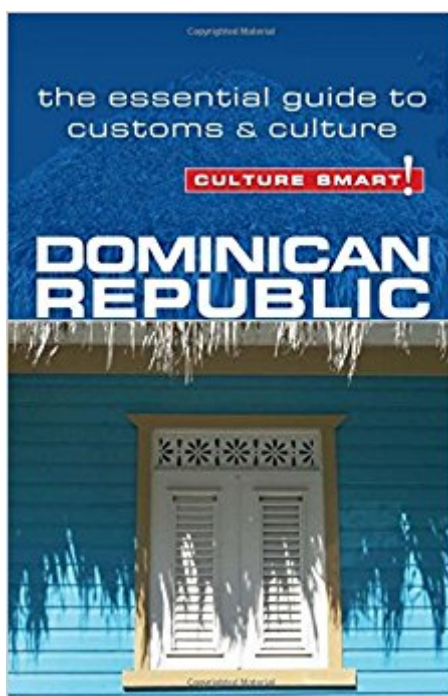


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# Dominican Republic - Culture Smart!: The Essential Guide To Customs & Culture



## Synopsis

Occupying the eastern two-thirds of island of Hispaniola, the Dominican Republic has something for almost everyone – except perhaps obsessive perfectionists. If you can relax and go with the flow you will experience a land of great environmental diversity with a rich and varied culture, a turbulent history, some infuriating idiosyncrasies, and a people whose friendliness is legendary. The Dominicans are flamboyant, irrepressible, generous, headstrong, and resilient. Their culture is a distinctive mix of an easygoing Caribbean nature coupled with Latino verve and showmanship. For those who choose to break out of the confines of all-inclusive tourist resorts, *Culture Smart!* Dominican Republic offers a tantalizing insight into this warm, vital, and intriguing people. It takes you on a journey from the unspoiled coastline to the agricultural interior, to the imposing mountains and to the hamlets where time appears to have stood still. It then catapults you into the twenty-first century, through poverty and opulence, to the hustle and bustle of the large cities and the lifestyles of the luxury coastal tourist resorts. It offers practical advice on what to expect and to how to behave in a Dominican home, or in social and work settings. The authors of this book, both long-term residents in the Dominican Republic, have provided a unique roadmap to the interesting and challenging experiences that await you in this beautiful, varied, and complex country.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

*Culture Smart!* has come to the rescue of hapless travellers, *Sunday Times Travel* - ...the perfect introduction to the weird, wonderful and downright odd quirks and customs of various countries,

Global Travel - ...full of fascinating, as well as common sense, tips to help you avoid embarrassing faux pas, Observer - ...as useful as they are entertaining, Easy Jet Magazine - ...offer glimpses into the psyche of a faraway world, New York Times.

Ginnie Bedggood graduated in History from Queen Mary College, University of London, and post-graduated in Public and Social Administration from the LSE, Southampton University, and Brunel University. She worked as a probation officer in Soho, London, in the 1960s and spent seventeen years as a social work academic at Buckinghamshire Chilterns University College, before moving to the Dominican Republic. She has been living in Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic since 1992. She is the author of *Quisqueya: Mad Dogs and English Couple*, a narrative that charts the early adjustment to her new surroundings. Ilana Benady was born in Gibraltar, and studied and lived in the UK for more than fifteen years, graduating in Politics and Social Anthropology from the University of Kent at Canterbury. Her work at the Oxfam headquarters in Oxford took her to the Dominican Republic in 1996. This set off a chain of events that culminated in her moving there in 1999 and marrying Dominican photographer Pedro Guzmán. After several years in the capital, Santo Domingo, they now live in Punta Cana on the east coast with their son Lucas. Ilana is the co-author of *Aunt Clara's Dominican Cookbook and 100 Traditional Dominican Recipes*.

I was born and raised in the Dominican Republic, but I've been living in the USA for some time now and I was looking for a book that I could recommend to foreigners interested in visiting or moving to my country of origin. This book has a lot of information on our culture and customs, but honestly you could find most of it for free on the Internet. You should only buy this book if you are in a hurry and don't want to spend the time searching on the web or if you would like to have that information handy. But if you're not in a hurry please save the money and spend one hour searching on the web. Besides that, please take with a huge gulping of salt the brief historical information provided. The authors twice claim that baseball was introduced by invading US Marines, which is such an egregious mistake that you have to wonder how well researched is the rest of the book. Baseball was introduced by Cubans fleeing war in their island in the 1880-1890s and the country oldest baseball club (the Licey Tigers) was founded in 1907, nine years before the 1916 US invasion. If you care about the history that helps to provide context on why the Dominican people are who they are today, stay away from this book.

Dominican Republic Culture Smart is a great resource for anyone wanting to learn about the culture

and the people of this unique and wonderful Caribbean nation. I have lived in the Dominican Republic for over 22 years and find this book to be very accurate in its description of the Dominican nation, people and culture. For both tourists wanting to know more about the Dominican Republic and foreigners who come to live and work in the country, this book is an excellent tool. The authors communicate great understanding of the Dominican culture and also show great respect for the Dominican people. The book is extremely practical too helping the reader to understand a variety of cultural situations such as visiting in homes, family life, using public transportation, food, etc. It is extremely well written and enjoyable to read. It is like having a conversation with a good friend with excellent cultural insights. I highly recommend this very interesting and practical book.

Written by two British expats, both long term residents of the Dominican Republic, this guide will unravel such mysteries as the meaning of "manana" and offer explanations of its origins. More than just a ordinary travel guide, this book will give you the needed insights to feel at home in the culture because even if you do speak Spanish, the ways to the native folk can be hard to understand. Written in very readable (if British, which may give US readers some pause but does not detract from the usefulness) prose, and accompanied by first hand experiences as illustrations, this is the ESSENTIAL guide for anyone coming here for more than a week at an all inclusive, or planning to move here. (I have lived here for seven years and use this book as the text for my English class)

As a native of the Dominican Republic and more recently an American Dominican this read was accurate in every way! Well done indeed! Highly recommended for travellers and Dominican Americans raised by Dominican parents. This book gives a deeper understanding of every facets of Dominican lives.

I'm leaving for the DR in a week on a 17d trip and wanted to get some insight as to the lay of the land & what to expect. I've only flipped through it a few times but already I find it useful and the language translation with key phrases is a great thing to have. I'll be back packing solo so I'm happy to know how to negotiate a motoconcho ride before I get on and remember to get on from the left side so you don't end up with an exhaust pipe burn on your leg!

I would have saved myself a bit (a lot?) of aggravation and embarrassment if I had read this before beginning my trips to the DR. Every culture is different and the more you know, (obviously) the

better. An intelligent and informed observation at the Dominican culture.

Pretty good for what it is, but I was looking for a different kind of guidebook -- more historical and topographical, and it didn't really fit the bill.

This book is perfect for anyone who has traveled (or plans to) travel to the Dominican Republic. Inside these pages you'll learn about the customs and culture of the country, as only someone who has lived there for decades can reveal. I bought it for my Kindle, and recommend it! This one will never be deleted.

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