

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

República Dominicana

Area: 48,442 sq. km
Population: 5,835,000
Capital: Santo Domingo

Head of State: Salvador Jorge Blanc (President)

The Dominican Republic comprises the National District (Distrito Nacional) of Santo Domingo and 26 provinces divided into 115 cantons (*cantones*). The provinces (main towns in brackets) are:

La Altagracia (Higüey)	Salcedo (Salcedo)
Azua (Azua de Compostela)	Samaná (Santa Barbara de Samaná)
Bahoruco (Neiba)	San Cristóbal (San Cristobal)
Barahona (Barahona)	San Juan (San Juan)
Dajabón (Dajabón)	San Pedro de Macorís (SP Macoris)
Duarte (San Francisco de Macoris)	Sánchez Ramirez (Cotui)
Españillat (Moca)	Santiago (Santiago de Caballeros)
La Estrelleta (Elias Pina)	Santiago Rodríguez (Santiago Rodriguez)
Independencia (Jimani)	El Seibo (Santa Cruz del Seibo)
María Trinidad Sánchez (Nagua)	Valverde (Valverde)
Montecristi (Montecristi)	La Vega (Concepción de la Vega)
Pedernales (Pedernales)	
Peravia (Bani)	
Puerto Plata (Puerto Plata)	
La Romana (La Romana)	

INTRODUCTION

A Municipal Police force existed in Santo Domingo from 1844 and in other towns from 1847; these forces eventually covered the respective provinces. A National Police force was established in March 1936 which absorbed the municipal forces.

ORGANIZATION

Headed by a Major General of Police, the Dominican National Police (Policía Nacional Dominicana) comprises five territorial zones – Central, Eastern, Northern, Northeastern and Southern – and several operational departments (departamentos), including Criminal Investigation (Investigaciones Criminales), Traffic and Highways (Transito y Carreteras), Radio Patrol (Radio Patrulla), Narcotics (Narcoticos) and Secret Service (Servicio Secreto). The Criminal Investigation Department (Departamento de Investigaciones Criminales, DIC) includes the Homicide Squad (Escuadron contra Homicidios) and the combined Identification Office and Laboratory (Gabinete de Identificación y Laboratorio). Total personnel strength is about 10,000.

The ports of entry are policed by the Customs and Harbour Services (Servicios Policiales de Aduanas y Puertos).

There are two paramilitary/riot control units, the Cavalry Squadron (Escuadron de Caballería) and the Machine Gun Department (Departamento de Ametralladoras). Bank security duties are the responsibility of the Special Bank Guard Corps (Cuerpo de Policía Especial de los Bancos del Estado). The Sappers' Corps (Cuerpo de Zapadores) performs fire-fighting and civil defence duties.

Cuartel General de la Policía Nacional, Palacio de la Policía Nacional, L Navarro, Santo Domingo (682 – 2151)

Departamento de Investigaciones Criminales, St Domingo (689 – 9241)

Escuadron contra Homicidios, P Henriquez Urena, Santo Domingo (682 – 2151)

Departamento de Ametralladoras, Santo Domingo (689 – 9355)

Escuadron de Caballeria, Independencia, Santo Domingo (533 – 1762)

Servicio Secreto, Santo Domingo (682 – 0274)

PRIVATE SECURITY

There is one private security company:

Wackenhut Dominicana SA, Avenida Abraham Lincoln 115, Santo Domingo (566 – 5881)