

HELPFUL HINTS WHEN TRAVELING TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Travel Documents:

ALL persons (including US citizens) traveling by air between the United States and the Caribbean (which includes the Dominican Republic), will be **required** to have a valid passport. Your airline ticket name must match the name on your passport.

Registering travel with the U.S. Embassy in the DR

In preparation for your departure we encourage you to enroll in the Smart Travelers Enrollment Program (STEP). By enrolling with the U.S. Department of State you, will be registered with the U.S. Embassy in Santo Domingo and will be notified in case of any national emergencies or disasters in the Dominican Republic. The link is copied below:

<https://step.state.gov/step/>

Entry into the Dominican Republic:

A tourist card must be purchased and filled out when you enter the airport in the Dominican Republic. The tourist card counter is the first area you will see when you enter all the D.R. airports. This is first before going through immigration, and then customs. The cost is **\$10 U.S. dollars CASH**.

On the blue immigration form you will be given on the airplane, fill in the address for the ILAC Center in Santiago:

ILAC
Kilometro 7.5 Carretera Duarte
Licey al Medio, Santiago, R.D.
Phone: 809-736-0774

Exit out of the Dominican Republic:

Effective April 2015, you will be required to pay **2500 pesos** or **US \$62.00 CASH** if your stay exceeds 30 days (fee charged by the Dominican immigration service). Note: there is no exit fee if your stay is less than 30 days. The fee is collected at the ticket counter if it wasn't part of your ticket. Always be prepared to pay this fee in cash.

Packing:

You may carry on one personal item (purse, briefcase, laptop computer, or small book-bag style backpack). Large hiking or camping style backpacks count as checked luggage. Other items allowed beyond the restriction include: coats or wraps, books or newspapers, small bags of food that are consumable (no liquids), and assistive devices such as wheelchairs, walkers, oxygen, etc. When packing, avoid using cardboard boxes in place of suitcases or trunks. Customs Officials never fail to examine carefully the contents of a cardboard box.

Bring in your carry-on luggage:

There are often unexpected events that may cause you to miss a flight, and you will have to spend the night in one of the connecting airports' cities. Also, there is the likelihood that your luggage won't accompany you to the Dominican Republic if there isn't enough time to transfer it from one plane to another or if the plane exceeds its weight capacity. Therefore, we recommend that you bring your toiletries (following the travel

guidelines implemented for bringing liquids on board) and 2-3 outfits in your carry-on luggage to help you with these unexpected events.

In addition, **bring this document in your carry-on** so that you have the enclosed important phone numbers and the ILAC Center's address.

Baggage at Airport:

You may be asked to open your luggage for inspection at customs (do not lock your luggage). If anything is taken from your luggage, let them have it. We (the ILAC office in Santiago) will try to get anything back in the following days. Your things might have been taken because they needed additional information or paperwork (i.e. donated meds, equipment).

Changing U.S. Dollars to Dominican Pesos:

The ILAC Center will direct you to the closest reliable money exchange center. Another option to get pesos is by using the local ATM machines which are quite reliable. If you are planning on using your ATM card, please inform your bank about your trip prior to going to the Dominican Republic.

Making Long-Distance Phone Calls and Internet Availability:

Most of the U.S. phone cards and 1-800 numbers **DO NOT** function in the Dominican Republic. You may purchase local phone cards when you arrive to the Dominican Republic. Internet/e-mail is available at the Center for limited use to let you notify family you arrived safely. You may also want to use an online program to call home that is set up in all of the computers at the ILAC Center. The link for this program is www.skype.com.

If your flight is delayed, or you miss your connections:

In the event your flight is delayed more than two hours or you miss your connections, please try to call the ILAC Center in Santiago or have someone in the U.S. try to call to relay the information. This is especially important if ILAC is picking you or you group up at the airport. After regular office hours and weekends, the main number (809-736-0774 or 402-671-6437), is forwarded to the guard. He does not speak English. If you do not speak Spanish, keep talking in English, asking to speak to an **American**. In Spanish, you could try to say "Puedo hablar con los Americanos, por favor?" (Can I please speak with the Americans?) "Me llamo _____." (My name is _____.)

EMERGENCY NUMBERS:

Andrea Montoya
ILAC Director, Creighton University

D.R. Office: 1-829-467-5995
U.S. Office: 1-402-280-1894 or 1-800-343-3645

Jacque Marte
Program Coordinator
D.R. Cell Phone: (809) 490 - 7994

U.S. Office: (402) 280 – 3356
D.R. Office: (809) 736 – 0774

Radalme Peña, Executive Director

1-809-841-0108 or 1-809-736-0774

ILAC Office (Omaha)

1-402-280-3179 or 1-800-343-3645

For more information, check the Department of State's website –

http://travel.state.gov/travel/dominican_republic.html