

SHORE EXCURSIONS

Amber Cove, Dominican Republic

EASY PUERTO PLATA



From \$29.95
Duration: 2 ½ Hours
Activity Level: Easy

DETAILS:

What You Will Visit: Puerto Plata – Known for its sparkling beaches and rich history, Puerto Plata was discovered by Christopher Columbus in the 1490s. Columbus designed the town and established it as La Isabela, the first settlement in the Americas. In 1540, Fuerte de San Felipe, the first fort in the New World, was built, and today it anchors the city and stands as one of the oldest colonial period fortresses in the region. Puerto Plata's city center displays historic buildings, cultural museums, a seaside promenade, sparkling beaches, and plenty of restaurants and shopping.

What You Will See Along The Way: Travel along coastal roads for the beautiful beaches of Puerto Plata. Then continue into the city center for views of the imposing San Felipe Fortress, the oldest standing structure in Puerto Plata and San Felipe Cathedral, a lovely, two steeple church with stained-glass windows. Delight in the candy-colored Victorian homes you see and in the lively local color of the bustling squares.

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MOUNTAIN VIEWS & CITY SIGHTS:



From \$49.95
Duration: 3 ½ Hours
Activity Level: Moderate

DETAILS:

What You Will Visit:

- **Mount Isabel de Torres / Christ the Redeemer / Botanical Gardens (by safari-vehicle)** – Venture to the top of Puerto Plata's highest mountain, Isabel de Torres, at 2,600 feet (792.5 meters), via safari vehicle and take in the panoramic vistas and the massive, iconic, landmark statue of Christ. A lush botanical garden is home to over 594 species of plants and abundant birdlife singing in this picturesque setting with captivating views.
- **Puerto Plata City Center** – Known for its sparkling beaches and rich history, Puerto Plata was discovered by Christopher Columbus in the 1490s. Columbus designed the town and established it as La Isabela, the first settlement in the Americas. In 1540, Fuerte de San Felipe, the first fort in the New World, was built, and today it anchors the city and stands as one of the oldest colonial-period fortresses in the region. Puerto Plata's city center displays historical buildings, cultural museums, a seaside promenade, sparkling beaches, and plenty of restaurants and shopping.
- **Plaza Independencia** – This charming central park is the heart of Puerto Plata. Constructed as a tribute to General Gregorio Luperon, it charms with Victorian-style design, landscaped gardens, and leafy trees. Stroll the cobblestone pathways and admire the historical buildings that surround the plaza, including the St. Philip the Apostle Cathedral and the City Council.

What You Will See Along The Way: From your air-conditioned vehicle, take rural roads to the top of Mount Isabel de Torres, then travel into Puerto Plata's city center for views of the imposing San Felipe Fortress, the oldest

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standing structure in Puerto Plata, and San Felipe Cathedral, a lovely, two-steeple church with stained-glass windows. Delight in the candy-colored Victorian homes you see and in the lively local color of the bustling squares.

NOTES: Wear comfortable walking shoes.

MEDICAL RESTRICTIONS: No guests with walking difficulties, back or neck injuries, pregnant women.

HERITAGE PUERTO PLATA WITH LUNCH



From \$59.95

Duration: 5 ½ Hours

Activity Level: Moderate

DETAILS:

What You Will Visit:

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- **Brugal Rum Factory** – Beginning in 1888, Don Andrés Brugal Montaner created distinctively different rum, and five generations later, the Brugals remain maestros roneros — master rum makers — crafting a uniquely dry and complex rum. From sugarcane to bottle, a tour of the distillery reveals the fine ingredients, unique methods of distillation, and casks used to age the rum, creating a premium portfolio of Brugal rums with a distinctive Dominican flavor.

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- **San Felipe Fortress** – Constructed In 1541 by the Spaniards to protect against invasion by pirates and other intruders, imposing San Felipe Fortress is the oldest standing structure in Puerto Plata. Tour the remains of its dramatic colonial architecture and peruse the museum, which displays artifacts from the city's history.

What You Will See Along The Way: Travel along coastal roads for the beautiful beaches of Puerto Plata. Then continue into the city center from views of the imposing San Felipe Fortress, the oldest standing structure in Puerto Plata and San Felipe Cathedral, a lovely, two steeple church with stained-glass windows. Delight in the candy-colored Victorian homes you see and in the lively local color of the bustling squares.

Photo Opportunity: San Felipe Cathedral – A lovely, two steeple church with stained-glass windows and an inner sanctuary with ceiling murals, the cathedral harkens back to the early days of the city's faith life.

Shopping: Gift shops and souvenir stores can be found throughout Puerto Plata, and local vendors selling handicrafts abound. Keep an eye out for amber and blue larimar jewelry, ceramics, and wood carvings.

DISCOVER SANTIAGO CITY & DOMINICAN CIGAR CRAFTING WITH LUNCH



From \$69.95
Duration: 6 Hours
Activity Level: Moderate

DETAILS:

What You Will Visit:

- **Santiago** – Santiago de los Caballeros, dubbed "the heart of the Dominican Republic," is the second-largest city in the Dominican Republic and one of its political, cultural, and financial centers. Founded in 1495 during the first wave of European colonization of the New World, this picturesque city along the Yaque del Norte River showcases a fashionable city center and a vibrant arts and cultural scene.

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- **La Aurora Cigar Factory** – The oldest cigar factory in the Dominican Republic has been producing high-quality cigars for more than a century, using Dominican grown leaves from the same fields in the Cibao Valley region for more than three generations. A fascinating living museum, it displays the complex process of tobacco planting, cultivation and harvesting through to cigar making. Watch skilled workers follow traditional methods as they roll cigars by hand, and learn about the factory's two premium brands, La Aurora and León Jimenes.
- **Centro León Cultural Center** – A crystal dome at the center of this modern museum floods the exhibition halls of the Centro León Cultural Center with light. This impressive museum houses exhibits on the island's biodiversity, its Taino history and an extensive gallery collection that traces the progression of Dominican art through the 20th century. In addition, you'll find a beautiful sculpture garden and aviary.

Photo Opportunity: The hilltop Monument to the Heroes of the Restoration stands an impressive eight stories high. Originally built by dictator Rafael Trujillo in the 1940s for himself, it has been rededicated to honor the heroes of the Dominican Restoration War (1863-1865) that fought for independence against Spain. Large bronze statues of heroic generals overlooking Santiago surround the massive, white structure.

Shopping:

- At La Aurora Cigar Factory, purchase a box of this prestigious brand of cigar produced as souvenirs.
- The gift shop at the Centro León Cultural Center sells an excellent collection of books focusing on Dominican culture, art, history, and cuisine.

Lunch: Lunch is served at a local restaurant.

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BEST OF AMBER COVE: CULTURAL DELIGHTS IN PUERTO PLATA WITH LUNCH



From \$69.95
Duration: 5 ¾ Hours
Activity Level: Moderate

DETAILS:

What You Will Visit:

- **Puerto Plata** – Known for its sparkling beaches and rich history, Puerto Plata was discovered by Christopher Columbus in the 1490s. Columbus designed the town and established it as La Isabela, the first settlement in the Americas. In 1540, Fuerte de San Felipe, the first fort in the New World, was built, and today it anchors the city and stands as one of the oldest colonial period fortresses in the region. Puerto Plata's city center displays historic buildings, cultural museums, a seaside promenade, sparkling beaches, and plenty of restaurants and shopping.
- **Don Fernando's Ranch** – At the ranch, a groomed pathway leads you through plantations of different kinds of local fruits-coffee, cacao, bananas, mangos, and sugar cane, as well as a variety of exotic flowers and plants. Learn about the process of growing and harvesting Dominican coffee and cacao and the process to distill rum.

What You Will See Along The Way: The landmarks of Puerto Plata are on display as you drive along the Malecón (waterfront) to see San Felipe Fortress. You will also pass the San Felipe Cathedral and Independence Square. Picturesque, rural roads lead you to Don Fernando's Ranch.