

Gringo Times



Kiteboarding Aerial Acrobatics

Photo by Eric Hertsens

will usually be 10-20 pesos, less than US\$1, and you can always test your bartering skills!

The town has so far kept its Caribbean flavour, and has not been spoiled by hoards of tourists looking for the next Costa del Sol. If you are looking for a lively place to spend a couple of weeks or maybe longer, Cabarete has a lot to offer. You are not forced to go kiteboarding, but if you've ever fancied a go, here is the best place to try it! There are quite a few good instructors teaching both kiteboarding and windsurfing, and beginners are welcomed. For the more advanced, some schools offer training by world-class instructors on the advanced techniques.

If you want a change of activities there are local companies offering mountain biking, hiking, rock-climbing, kayaking, horse-back riding, canyoning, white-water rafting, scuba diving and golf.

The winter season is typically the busiest, from November to March, when the Dominican Republic has plenty of sunshine compared to the cold wintry days in Europe and North America. The conditions for kiteboarding do vary from month to month, but Cabarete consistently has over 250 good kiteboarding days a year, so whenever you come, you shouldn't miss out.

Even if you don't come here to stay on the beach, Cabarete makes an ideal base to explore other nearby towns and cities. 10 minutes away is the tourist town of Sosua, and 40 minutes away is the main city of the North Coast,

Puerto Plata. Visiting each of these places, you will notice quite a difference in atmosphere, as Puerto Plata is very much a Dominican working city as opposed to Cabarete with its upfront international sports and entertainment scene. If you want to travel a bit further, the second largest city, Santiago is less than one and a half hours away by car.

More and more companies are showing an interest in investing in Cabarete with real-estate and tourism developments. The Dominican Secretary of State of Tourism, Félix Jiménez recently announced that more low cost houses are soon to be built to provide for the thousands of hotel and tourism workers the area requires.

The Secretary of State of the Interior and Police for the Dominican Republic, Franklin Almeyda Rancier has also promised to liberate the late night restrictions for Cabarete, in agreement with Jiménez, meaning that Cabarete will be the place for those wishing to party that little bit later!



Dining on the beach



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