



Catalogue of touristic products responsible with biodiversity in Central America and Dominican Republic



Maintream Protection of Biodiversity into Tourism!

Tourism with responsibility towards biodiversity

Maintream and promote the protection of biological diversity as an important aspect of sustainability into tourism offers is one of the objectives of the project „Business and Biodiversity in Central America and Dominican Republic: contribution of tourism sector for the restoration and protection of the marine and coastal biodiversity of the Caribbean Sea“. This initiative addresses the whole sector from packages of sun-and-beach tourism until specialized nature tours. The touristic offers presented in this catalogue, have carried out the Biodiversity Check Tourism and are implementing measures for the conservation of ecosystems and species through a biodiversity action plan.

Business and Biodiversity in Central America and the Dominican Republic:

The contribution of tourism sector to the restoration and protection of coastal and marine Biodiversity in the Caribbean



Ladies and Gentlemen,

In this folder, we present to you tourist offers in the Dominican Republic and Honduras, which have a special relation to biological diversity. These offers were developed within the framework of the project „Business and Biological Diversity in Central America and the Dominican Republic: Contribution of the Tourism Sector to the Restoration and Protection of Biological Diversity“ of the European Union, the German Society for Economic Cooperation GIZ and other partners.

The Global Nature Fund promotes these offers to ensure that European tourists may take home some information about nature and people from their countries of destination, in addition to their memories of beach and sun.

The tours offered, will lead tourists in the destination countries to very special experiences in nature and will promote the sensitisation of the guests to this topic. The hotels introduced here, have carried out a Biodiversity Check and are implementing concrete measures to promote biological diversity. Here, too, special experiences are guaranteed! All offers fulfil important requirements for the preservation of biological diversity and thus form a credible offer even for discerning visitors.

We would like to motivate you to have a look at these offers and to check whether they fit into the tourist offer of your agency.

Details on the project, the biodiversity check and minimum requirements and all offers can be found in the folder.

Please contact us for further information.

Yours sincerely

Dr. Thomas Schaefer
Global Nature Fund

Contact:

Global Nature Fund
Fritz-Reichle-Ring 4
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E-Mail: schaefer@globalnature.org
Tel: **49 7732 9995-89



Business and Biodiversity

in Central America and the Dominican Republic:

Tourism companies in the Dominican Republic and Honduras that have carried out a Biodiversity Check as part of the project and are preparing or implementing a Biodiversity Action Plan BAP.



Name of Hotel/ Accommodation	Country	Comment
Casa Bonita	Dominican Republic	BAP implemented
Casa de Campo	Dominican Republic	
Chalet Tropical	Dominican Republic	BAP implemented
Clave Verde	Dominican Republic	BAP implemented
Dominican Tree House	Dominican Republic	
El Morro	Dominican Republic	BAP implemented
Four Points by Sheraton	Dominican Republic	
Hotel Altocerro	Dominican Republic	BAP implemented
Hotel Billini	Dominican Republic	
Hotel Pinar Dorado	Dominican Republic	
Paraiso Caño Hondo	Dominican Republic	
Rancho Baiguarte	Dominican Republic	BAP in preparaton
Rancho Don Rey	Dominican Republic	
Restaurante La Fábrica Contemporánea	Dominican Republic	
Vecchia Caserma	Dominican Republic	
Xeliter Vista Mare	Dominican Republic	
Cabañas del Bosque	Honduras	BC Convoy Atlantida
Cangrejal Tours	Honduras	BC Convoy Atlantida
Chocolate Oro Maya	Honduras	BC Convoy Atlantida
Grand Hotel Roatán	Honduras	BAP in preparaton
Hotel Las Hamacas	Honduras	
Hotel Parrot Tree	Honduras	
Hotel Quinta Real	Honduras	
Hotel Río Rafting	Honduras	BC Convoy Atlantida
Hotel Telamar	Honduras	BAP in preparaton
Juan Pablo II	Honduras	BC Convoy Atlantida
La Villa de Soledad	Honduras	BC Convoy Atlantida
Larecoturh -	Honduras	BC Convoy Atlantida
Reservaciones La Ceiba		
Moskitia Eco-Aventuras	Honduras	BC Convoy Atlantida
Omega Tours Rafting	Honduras	BC Convoy Atlantida
Sendero La Relumbrosa.	Honduras	BC Convoy Atlantida
Xocolatl	Honduras	BC Convoy Atlantida
Posada de Don Rodrigo	Guatemala	



The Biodiversity Check for companies in the tourism industry



Relevance of biodiversity for the tourism sector

The loss of biodiversity and climate change are among the greatest and most important challenges of our time. The current rate of species extinction due to anthropogenic causes is 1000 times higher than naturally. Many resources and services vital to human life are produced on the basis of biodiversity and come from already threatened ecosystems.

Companies use these ecosystem services and natural resources in different ways and thus have an impact on nature. Therefore, even if only economic aspects are considered, companies depend on the conservation of biodiversity, as further loss represents a potential risk for the future of many companies. At the same time, a proactive approach to biodiversity conservation can offer new business opportunities.

There is a particularly close link between the tourism sector and biodiversity: Intact natural landscapes and biodiversity are not "assets" of a company, but valuable, limited and basic resources for the main business of the tourism industry. Businesses have many direct and indirect opportunities to reduce their negative impacts on biodiversity and promote its conservation.

The main causes of biodiversity loss are:

- degradation and destruction of ecosystems
- overuse of natural resources
- climate change
- emissions
- invasive alien species

Objectives and procedure of the Biodiversity Check:

The aims of the Biodiversity Check are to enable companies to enter the field of biodiversity management:

- to demonstrate the relationships between companies and biodiversity
- to demonstrate the importance of biodiversity for the company
- identify the company's impact on biodiversity (direct and indirect)
- define possible measures to reduce impacts and protect biodiversity
- motivate the company to integrate biodiversity into the business management system

The Biodiversity Check is a practical tool to take the first steps towards integrating biodiversity into business management. This check enables the company to analyse its current situation with regard to the potential effects and risks of biodiversity. In addition, the Biodiversity Check Basic provides initial recommendations on objectives and measures that could be part of a Biodiversity Action Plan - integrated into the business framework of the company (e.g. an environmental management system or a quality management system).

The Biodiversity Check offers:

- an analysis that corresponds to current environmental management systems (analysis of the current situation)
- the first step towards integrating biodiversity into a company's (environmental) management
- confidential

Who has already implemented the Biodiversity Check?

Global Nature Fund and partners developed the Biodiversity Check in 2008 and since adapted to various industries and corporate situations. To date, around 85 tourism companies, hotels and tour operators in the Dominican Republic, Honduras, Thailand and Germany, as well as a major European tour operator, have implemented the Biodiversity Check.

The Biodiversity Check is:

- no label or certificate
- no detailed analysis of the entire company and its relationship to biodiversity (Environmental Impact Study)
- no commitment on the part of the company to continue the study

The Biodiversity Check follows the development of an environmental management system. The process follows an established structure in close cooperation with the responsible persons in the company. The different units or departments of the company and their actual or potential impact on biodiversity are analysed taking into account the five main causes of loss mentioned above. The result of the check is a Biodiversity Action Plan that lists practicable actions, identifies priorities and proposes a timetable. This is discussed with the company and, if necessary, further steps are defined.

The following areas are analysed:

- Strategy/Management/Employee Management
- Real estate, assets and real estate
- Purchasing/supply chain
- Leisure activities
- Transport
- Marketing and communication

Who carries out the Biodiversity Check?

In Europe, Central America and the Caribbean you find trained people who can carry out the Biodiversity Check. Contact person for interested parties:

Europe:

Global Nature Fund
Dr. Thomas Schaefer
schaefer@globalnature.org

Central America and the Caribbean:

Society for International Cooperation GIZ
Svenja Paulino
svenja.paulino@giz.de



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Implementado por



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Criteria for tourism offers responsible for biodiversity and supportive within the framework of the project



The provider guarantees in principle:

- the offer complies with the applicable environmental and social legislation
- in the company, tourists can learn more about the natural resources of the area, habitats, flora and fauna and the greatest threats to biological diversity

In order to avoid and reduce negative impacts on the environment and biodiversity, the provider undertakes to do so,

- define environmental goals and implement them through good environmental management
- to properly dispose of all waste and waste water
- ensure continuous improvement in the reduction of waste, water consumption and energy consumption
- respect closed seasons, e.g. of marine animals, and do not buy and process endangered and protected species
- not to sell any handicrafts of protected and/or endangered species and not to tolerate their sale in the environment of the company
- not to advertise products and services that have a negative impact on nature and do not respect animal welfare
- whenever possible, to purchase and use sustainably produced products from the region, as well as biodegradable products (cleaning agents, garden products, etc.)
- train employees on environmental issues

As a contribution to the restoration and protection of the biological diversity of the destination, the supplier undertakes to do so;

- to inform and sensitize its customers to environmental issues in connection with the destination and its tourist offer
- to contribute with direct measures to the protection of biological diversity: e.g. with projects for the protection of biological diversity, environmental education, offering only products/services with little or no environmental impact



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Business and Biodiversity in Central America and the Dominican Republic:

The contribution of tourism sector to the restoration and protection of coastal and marine biodiversity in the Caribbean



Capsule:

In three Caribbean countries – Dominican Republic, Haiti and Honduras – with measures for sustainable tourism, we want to set the basis for the protection of biodiversity and ecosystem services important for the tourism sector. With this project, we want to sustainably develop tourism and the economic potential in these countries and save the means of livelihood for future generations. At the same time, we implement concepts for mangrove and coral reef protection as important tourist attractions and create new, biodiversity-friendly touristic offers.

Project duration: January 2017 to December 2019

Financing partners:

- European Commission via Europe Aid
- German Cooperation GIZ

Support by the European tourism sector:

In the course of the project 50 touristic businesses in the project countries will implement a biodiversity management system and create 20 new touristic offers with the aim of a sustainable use of biodiversity. These activities need to be fostered by the European demand. We want to invite and motivate 10 European tour operators offering tours to the region to include the newly established journeys with special reference to biodiversity into their travel offer. For these purposes, we provide the tour operators with verified information and local contacts and thereby facilitate the access to such touristic offers. A visit to the project areas and tourism offers can also be organized.

Project targets:

- protection and restoration of coral reefs and mangrove forests along the coast of the DR, transfer of technical knowledge to Haiti and Honduras
- improved protection of the environment and biodiversity in hotels and leisure offers
- creation of sustainable tourist offers with special reference to biodiversity protection
- taking into account the conservation of biodiversity in relevant supply chains (agriculture and fishery) of the tourism sector
- establishment of a financial instrument for the tourism sector to support the protection of ecosystems and biodiversity in the Caribbean Sea and coast
- multi-actor involvement for biodiversity protection and fostering the exchange between these
- dissemination of the project results and conclusions in other Central American countries

What do we want to achieve?

- creation of coral gardens to restore coral reefs in DR and Haiti, transfer of technical knowledge to Honduras
- preservation of the coral reefs as hotspots of biodiversity, as well as protection against flooding and other negative impacts of climate change
- strengthening the resilience of coral ecosystems against global warming
- awareness raising in the tourism sector and coastal communities for the value of coral reefs and their biocoenosis



- establishment of a participatory monitoring system of coral reefs in the DR
- protection of threatened species: i.a. reduction of invasive alien fish species, protection of marine turtles, cataloguing of whales
- protection of mangroves in the northern part of DR (Montecristi): management plan and measures
- strengthen environmental and biodiversity management in the tourism sector (At least 50 tourism companies implement a biodiversity management system. We will develop a practical handbook.)
- 20 touristic offers focusing on the sustainable use of biodiversity will be newly established
- at least 10 tour operators in the EU offer products from the region that set an example for the protection of biodiversity
- increasing the demand for these offers
- securing a solid position on the international market
- further education for local fishermen to increase their income by means of touristic offers and monitoring of coral reefs
- workshops for banana and other tropical fruit farmers: measures to reduce negative impacts and improve the protection of biodiversity
- three regional working groups on tourism and biodiversity will be established
- action plans for the protection of regional biodiversity
- relevant stakeholders will be involved and committed to implement action plans
- the development of a national ecolabel for tourism offers in DR, as well as a marketing strategy for labelled products will be supported

Project partners

- Cooperacion Alemana (GIZ) Costa Rica y Republica Dominicana (Coordination)
- Counterpart International
- Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE)
- Fundacion Grupo Punta Cana
- Global Nature Fund

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Implementado por



“OJOS INDÍGENAS” Tourism connected with nature

Tour Operator: Punta Cana Group Foundation

Location: Punta Cana, Dominican Republic



Keywords: *Ecological walkabout, observation of endemic species, swimming in crystalline water*

Short description:

The Ojos Indígenas private sanctuary is one of the few of its kind in the Dominican Republic. Here tourists can experience typical forests of the Dominican Republic in the transition between humid coastal forest and tropical rain forest. On 1500 ha, visitors will find a unique landscape with numerous crystal clear lagoons, some of which are even open for swimming. A signposted tour of 2 km length leads through the area. During the tour endemic reptile species like the rhinoceros iguana (in extinction care), forest snakes (non-toxic), chicotas (freshwater turtles) can be observed. Level of difficulty: low

Highlights: What makes this tour unique?

- this is a private nature reserve that promotes ecotourism and offers maximum protection for the biodiversity of the area
- visitors can swim in crystalline water in a calcareous collapse dolines



Itinerary/hours:

- Tuesday and Friday 8:30 am - 16:00 pm
- Reserve closes at 17:00

Prices:

\$50 w/w

\$10 p/p as special fees for hotel guests from 4 points, Tortuga Bay and Westin Punta Cana

Service includes:

- entrance fee to the reserve

That does not include:

- snack or lunch
- transport

What do visitors need to know?

- minors must be accompanied by adults to have access
- visitors must respect the regulations of the nature reserve

What should visitors bring?

- comfortable clothing
- sun cream, sunglasses, hat or cap for the sun
- insect repellent (biodegradable packaging)
- water
- swimsuit, towel



Reservation forms:

E-mail: fgpc@puntacana.com

Telephones: 809-959-9221

Address: Puntacana Resort & Club, Punta Cana.

Website: <http://www.puntacana.org/>

Additional comments:

The tour operator Side by Side also offers this service to its customers.

The tour guides are trained to offer the tour in Spanish and English.

CURRENT STATUS OF THE TOURISM PRODUCT: IN OPERATION

Cancellation policy:

The tour does not require an advance payment.

If you have made a reservation, you must cancel 24 hours in advance.

Claims and civil liability (liability):

The Foundation has liability insurance in its institutions.

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Implementado por



CORAL REEF RESTAURATION DIVE

Tour Operator: Punta Cana Group Foundation

Location: Punta Cana, Dominican Republic



Keywords: *Dive experience in the Foundations Coral Reef conservation and restauration projects*

Short description:

Specific offer for certified SCUBA diving practitioners, the tour includes a number of procedures and underwater experiences. The SCUBA Observation Diving is a journey into another world full of life, colour and discovery. The tour offers the opportunity to enjoy these underwater paradises, creating unforgettable memories and legacies. Above that, the participant can acquire theoretical and practical knowledge in the restoration of Caribbean coral reefs, live water dives and the opportunity to work directly on the conservation and cultivation of coral. In exchange with other divers and biologists, the tourist leads to a unique experience for the logbook or to attract the attention of everyone in the office or bar.

An important point is certification to carry out conservation and coral planting activities in other diving centers that offer this type of program.

Level of difficulty: high

Highlights: What makes this tour unique?

- speciality diving certification program
- German and 6 other languages spoken
- certification valid worldwide
- work with the marine research center of Fundación Grupo Punta Cana



Itinerary/hours:

Monday to Sunday, Groups of maximum 4 divers, every 2 days

Prices:

US\$ 250 p/p

Service includes:

- boat transport to the reef
- diving equipment
- water
- master dive

That does not include:

- snack or lunch
- transport

What do visitors need to know?

- visitors need PADI scuba open water certification
- visitors need Scuba Diving Carnet
- Blue Vision Divers will contact the divers directly

What should visitors bring?

- Blue Adventures will provide a list of equipment and necessary personal items.



Reservation forms:

Blue Vision Divers

+1 (809) 455-0833 or +1 (829) 764-1829

<http://bluevisionadventures.net/>

Additional comments:

The tour operator Side by Side also offers this service to its customers.

IS THE CURRENT PRODUCT FOR TOURISM: IN OPERATION

Cancellation policy:

24 hours in advance

Additional Contact:

Fundación Grupo Punta Cana

Post: fgpc@puntacana.com

Telephone: 809-959-9221

Adresse: Puntacana Resort & Club, Punta Cana

Website: www.puntacana.org/

Claims and civil liability (liability):

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DISCOVERING MARINE RESTORATION IN PUNTA CANA

Tour Operator: Punta Cana Group Foundation

Location: Punta Cana, Dominican Republic



Keywords: *Marine Innovation Center, coral reefs restoration, practical experience*

Short description:

On this tour the visitors can learn about the techniques of coral restoration carried out by the Punta Cana Group Foundation. Punta Cana has an over 20 km long barrier reef that accompanies the white sandy beaches. As part of the tourist development of the area, the Punta Cana Group and its foundation work actively on the conservation and restoration of coral reefs.

In the Marine Innovation Center, visitors can get to know the laboratories that reproduce coral species in the Punta Cana reefs.

The tour starts with a visit to the natural pool, where visitors can see techniques to measure and replant corals. The visit is interesting for everyone who want to learn about biodiversity conservation measures.

Level of difficulty: low

Highlights: What makes this tour unique?

- the country's first Marine Innovation Center
- the tour is a supplement to family holidays and promotes environmental education



Itinerary/hours:

Monday to Friday from 9:00 am to 17:00 pm

Prices:

The tour costs \$10 per person including the educational trip.

Visitors interested in coral cultivation, can contact the institute to arrange another package.

Service includes:

- educational trip on the subject of coral cultivation

That does not include:

- snack or lunch
- transport

What do visitors need to know?

- maximum and minimum number of persons: 5 to 10
- the institute owns boats with a capacity of 50 people

What should visitors bring?

- comfortable clothing
- sun cream, sunglasses, hat or cap for the sun
- insect repellent (biodegradable)
- water



Reservation forms:

Write to us at the following e-mail

Mail: fgpc@puntacana.com

Phone: 809-959-9221

Adresse: Puntacana Resort & Club, Punta Cana.

Website: <http://www.puntacana.org/>

Additional comments:

The guides are trained to offer the tour in Spanish and English.

CURRENT STATUS OF THE TOURISM PRODUCT: IN OPERATION

Cancellation policy:

The tour does not require an advance payment.

If you have made a reservation, you must cancel 24 hours in advance.

Claims and civil liability (liability)

The Foundation has liability insurance in its institutions.

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BIRD WATCHING FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

Tour Operator: Punta Cana Group Foundation

Location: Punta Cana, Dominican Republic



Keywords: *Bird watching, Marine Research Center, walkabout to orchard*

Short description:

The Punta Cana Foundation offers a range of ecological tourist activities for the whole family to complement a holiday on the paradisiacal sandy beaches of the Dominican Republic. Guests have access to four ecological tours within the Punta Cana Resort & Club: a visit to the Ojos Indígenas private sanctuary, the bird tower, the marine research centre and the foundation's orchard.

The bird tower is easily accessible and the tour begins at the foundation's „orchard“. After 220 meters visitors reach the 4-storey tower, which offers photos and information about birds. The treetops invite to a moment of silence, while visitors can observe numerous native and partly endemic birds.

Level of difficulty: low

Highlights: What makes this tour unique?

- possibility to observe more than 100 bird species
- 12 bird species are endemic to this area
- observation of butterflies in the open air



Itinerary/hours:

Tuesday and Friday 8:30 am - 10:00 am

Prices:

This tour can be booked as a supplement to a visit to the Ojos Indígenas Reserve for an additional \$15.

There is also the opportunity to make the Tour individually and with the assistance of an expert guide at a cost of \$25.

Service includes:

- binoculars
- bird watching tower at various altitudes
- safety talk and instructions
- 220 m tour of the foundation's territory

That does not include:

- snack or lunch
- transport

What do visitors need to know?

- maximum and minimum capacity of persons: minimum 1 maximum 10

What should visitors bring?

- comfortable clothing
- sun cream, sunglasses, hat or cap for the sun
- insect repellent (biodegradable)
- water



Reservation forms:

E-mail: fgpc@puntacana.com

Telephones: 809-959-9221

Address: Puntacana Resort & Club, Punta Cana.

Website: <http://www.puntacana.org/>

Additional comments:

The tour operator Side by Side also offers this service to its customers.

The tour guides offer the tour in Spanish and English.

CURRENT STATUS OF THE TOURISM PRODUCT: IN OPERATION

Cancellation policy:

The tour must be paid on arrival; You can cancel 24 hours in advance by telephone;

Credit Union does not require advances, so there are no refund policies.

If you approach Cayo La Farola on your own boat, visitors must observe the tour guide's cancellation policy.

Claims and civil liability (liability):

The Foundation has liability insurance in its institutions.

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WHALEWATCHING SUSTAINABLY:

Cayo la Farola/Samaná

Tour Operator: Cayo La Farola Ecotours. Cooperativa Espíritu Santo. CEBSE

Location: Samaná, Dominican Republic



Keywords: *Whale watching, nature trail, beach and snorkeling in an artificial coral reef*

Short description:

The destination of the excursion is a small rock island Cayo La Farola in the middle of the marine mammal protection area in the bay of Samaná. An observation tower offers a wide view of the sea. From January to March, visitors can observe humpback whales here. Dolphins live in the area all year round and manatees graze here. An educational trail on the history of the island and its importance for biodiversity provides further information. Due to wind conditions the tours start early in the morning. Groups of 5 to 20 people can choose different tours and packages.

TOUR 1 Ecological trail Cayo La Farola (1 hour 30 minutes):

Walk along the path and the observation tower (recommended for people who want to observe whales and birds from land, being in contact with nature but without having to be on a boat or in water.).
Level of difficulty: low

TOUR 2 Adding an underwater experience:

Includes an underwater snorkel option through the hull of a sunken boat and the coral gardens ending with a swim in the crystal clear water of the nearby beach.
Difficulty: medium

Cayo La Farola by own vessel:

Visitors can access the island with own boat and choose one of the previous options.

Highlights: What makes the tour unique?

- from January to March, visitors can watch humpback whales, dolphins and manatees from the whale watching tower
- snorkeling on the submarine path, visitors receive information on the techniques of coral restoration and underwater garden maintenance; a biologist will assist you
- this offer benefits the local community and promotes responsible tourism

Itinerary/hours:

Monday to Sunday 9:00 am - 13:00 hrs

Prices:

TOUR 1: \$30 (P/P)

TOUR 2: \$75 (P/P)

Cayo La Farola by its own means:

TOUR 1: \$18 (W/W)

TOUR 2: \$53 (W/W)



Service includes:

- boat transfer from the port of the municipality of Carenero
- life jackets
- safety interview and instructions
- access to the observation tower
- snorkeling: mask, fins
- entrance fee to the protected area (Ministry of the Environment of the Dominican Republic)

That does not include:

- snack or lunch (a snack can be provided for an additional cost)
- drinks

What do visitors need to know?

- each of the options involves water contact, there is no dock for boarding
- comfortable footwear is required for the walk
- the tour starts with a short boat trip of approx. 15 minutes

What should visitors bring?

- comfortable clothing, hiking boots
- sunglasses, hat, sun cream
- insect repellent (biodegradable packaging)
- water

Reservation forms:

Espíritu Santo Cooperative Office

Los Cacaos Beach. Samaná. Dominican Republic

Emely Hernández (Spanish-English)

Phone: 001 829 328 0518

Mártires Hernández (Don Noli) (Spanish)

Phone: 001 829 674 3990

Additional comments:

The tour is not exclusively offered by the Espiritu Santo Cooperative.

Excursions can be arranged with other tour operators.

At the moment the tour guides only speak Spanish.

CURRENT STATUS OF THE TOURISM PRODUCT: active

Cancellation policy:

The tour must be paid on arrival, please cancel 24 hours in advance.

Visitors with their own boat must follow the tour guide's cancellation policy.

Claims and civil liability (liability):

The operator has liability insurance in its institutions.

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KAYAK TOUR:

Ecotourism in the cultural and natural history of Los Haitises National Park

Tour Operator: San Lorenzo Cooperative, CEBSE

Location: Parque Nacional Los Haitises, República Dominicana



Keywords: *Boat tour, kayaking in mangrove channels, potholing and bird watching, reptiles and marine species*

Short description:

Los Haitises National Park is considered the most beautiful of the whole island of Hispaniola. The park can only be visited on guided tours. With canoe, visitors can benefit from a quiet and trouble-free locomotion and, therefore, especially exclusive observations in the national park. The tour starts at the harbour of the small fishing village Sánchez, west of Samaná Bay. From here, visitors travel in boat across the bay, past bird cliffs, karst caves and landscapes such as that of the film „Pirates of the Caribbean“. The canoe tour starts at the park ranger's station through narrow canals, through rocks and caves with vestiges of Taino Indian culture and through fascinating mangrove forests. Attentive visitors can observe numerous animals and tropical plants.

Level of difficulty: medium.



Highlights: What makes this tour unique?

- the tour is offered by a group of fishermen who carry out alternative activities to reduce the impact of their fishing on the biodiversity of the area
- los Haitises National Park is the oldest in the Dominican Republic and has an excellent representation of the country's protected areas
- there are several caves created by water erosion - visitors can see images created by the Tainos can be

Itinerary/hours:

Monday to Sunday 8:00 am - 14:00 pm

Prices:

The approximate price of this tour is \$400, depending on the route.

Tour operators may contact the organiser to arrange a preferred route.

Service includes:

- transport from the Sanchez dock
- kayak, helmet, life jacket
- two tour guides
- refreshments and water

That does not include:

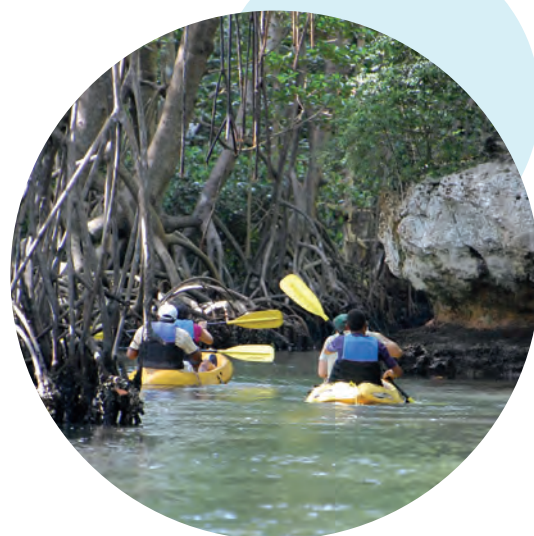
Lunch (can be arranged for an additional cost)

What do visitors need to know?

- this is a sport tour where you have access to a kayak that can be used individually or in pairs
- the tour starts with a 30 minute boat ride
- there are mosquitoes
- bats live in the caves

What should visitors bring?

- comfortable clothing and shoes, sun cream, sunglasses, hat or cap for the sun
- insect repellent (biodegradable)
- water and food



Reservation forms:

Co-operative office San Lorenzo:

Iris Manuel Boyer

Phone: 809 463 9557

E-mail: isiboyer@yahoo.com

<https://www.facebook.com/Kayakhaitises/>

Additional comments:

The guides speak only Spanish.

The tour is for groups of 8 to 10 people.

The tour is currently offered by two other companies with different packages:

AMILKA TOURS:

The tour starts at a private dock in Las Garitas.

There is a restaurant and a boat for groups of more than 10 people. Contact: Pelagia, Tel. 809 392 2461.

MOTO MARINA TOURS:

The tour starts in Santa Barbara, includes lunch and has English and German speaking guides.

Contact: Phone: 809 538 2302/ motomarina@yahoo.com

CURRENT STATUS OF THE TOURISM PRODUCT: IN OPERATION

Cancellation policy:

Please cancel 24 hours in advance.

Claims and civil liability (liability):

The operator has liability insurance in its institutions.

Publication for: Global Nature Fund, GNF

Germany | Fritz-Reichle-Ring 4 – 78315 Radolfzell | T +49 7732 9995-89 | schaefer@globalnature.org

Author: GNF

Design: maucherdesign, Radolfzell

Date: March, 2019

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Implementado por



SENDERO LAS GARITAS: A walking trail through the biodiversity of the mangroves

Tour Operator: Juan Pablo Duarte Cooperative. CEBSE

Location: Samaná, Dominican Republic



Keywords: *Walk along the beach, footpath on piles in mangrove swamp, know biodiversity of the area*

Short description:

The families of the cooperative Juan Pablo Duarte constructed the trail „Las Garitas“. The visit of a mangrove forest is an exciting experience, which inspired the community to build a 900-meter long pedestrian bridge on mangroves to educate children and tourists about the importance of mangroves for the Samaná area. The tour is a unique opportunity for tourists to learn more about the biodiversity of the Samaná region. Visitors follow the coastal landscape for 45 minutes and can observe up to 60 bird species, 8 shell species and 10 crayfish species. The local schools are responsible for the maintenance of the path in order to promote environmental education.

Highlights: What makes this tour unique?

- only mangrove trail in the country and is bordered by the sea
- perfect for children to visualize the biodiversity of a mangrove forest without having to invade it
- suitable for the whole family
- managed locally by school children



Itinerary/hours:

For bird watching, it is recommended to do the walk early in the morning or prior so sunset. The walk is open to the public throughout the day.

Prices:

The tour aims to raise awareness of the importance of protecting mangroves and coastlines.

The tour can be included in a day visit of Samaná Bay without additional costs.

A donation of 5 US\$ per person to the schools managing the trail is expected to cover maintenance costs.

Service includes:

- access to the trail
- local tour guide
- a visit to one of the local schools responsible for maintaining the trail can be arranged in advance

That does not include:

- snack or lunch (a snack can be organised for an extra charge)
- drinks

What do visitors need to know?

- carry little luggage with you to be comfortable
- currently there are no toilets and no drinking water on the way
- you can bring food on the way
- there is no tolerance for plastic waste



What should visitors bring?

- comfortable clothing
- sun cream, sunglasses, hat or cap for the sun
- insect repellent
- water
- hiking boots

Reservation forms:

Juan Pablo Duarte Cooperative Office

Sanchez, Samaná

Jesus Galvan

Telephone: 809 762 0586

jesusgalan852@gmail.com

Additional comments:

This tour is not exclusively offered by the Juan Pablo Duarte Cooperative.

Excursions can be arranged with other tour operators

At the moment the tour guides only speak Spanish

The tour can be done either individually or in group

There is no limit to the number of people per group

CURRENT STATUS OF THE TOURISM PRODUCT: ACTIVE

Cancellation policy:

There are no cancellation guidelines.

Claims and civil liability (liability):

The operator has liability insurance in its institutions.

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Implementado por



El Morro Eco Adventure Hotel

Location: Montecristi, Dominican Republic

Keywords: *Discover mangroves, reefs, and the silence of tropical nights*

Name of hotel

Short product description

El Morro Eco Adventure Hotel

The small hotel El Morro Eco Adventure is located in the sunny northwest of the Dominican Republic. Quiet and surrounded by nature, with sea views and close to one of the most beautiful beaches of the Dominican Republic, it is an ideal starting point to explore the national parks and protected areas of the area. A good restaurant offers local dishes.

Company name

Adresse C/

Manager/Contact

Responsible for Marketing/Contact

Location and map

Vismara Properties

El Morro Montecristi, Republica Dominicana

Laura García Petit

Laura García Petit



Number of rooms

Price range for travel agencies

Own leisure activities/
in the surroundings

Date of Biodiversity Check

Consultants

Objectives with respect

to the protection of biodiversity

Activities for the protection of
the environment/biodiversity
carried out

Environmental and/or sustainable tourism certificates

Environmental/Sustainable

Tourism Awards

Other important aspects

Website

Double 6, triple 6

US\$100 / US\$120

Open All year round

Boat trip through the mangroves
and natural pools; Snorkeling, coral reef diving

12 / April / 2018

Thomas Schaefer GNF, Starlina Guerrero GIZ

To offer tourist services and activities

always remaining faithful to the environment and actively contributing
the sustainable development of the community.

Respect the bans for marine biodiversity;

use responsible suppliers,

use of low consumption light bulbs; El Morro encourages customers
to save energy.

Participated in Biodiversity Check
Tourism, has Biodiversity Action
Plan

www.elmorro.com.do



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Implementado por



SPECTACULAR BIRD WATCHING in the nature reserve and snorkeling in the Underwater National Park

Tour Operator: Galleon Divers. Counterpart International

Location: Montecristi, Dominican republic



Keywords: *Boat trip. Observation of birds, reptiles and marine species. Snorkeling. Beach. Walk around the island*

Short description:

The tour includes an excursion to a small sandy island in the „Keys of the Seven Brothers“ wildlife reserve 10 km off the coast, where visitors can observe large colonies of various species of terns and gannets, especially during the breeding season. The opportunity to get very close to the birds it makes it ideal for photography.

The tour can be completed with a snorkeling trip to the most beautiful reefs of the Caribbean in the underwater protected area Montecristi. The tour starts early in the morning with a 30 minute boat ride from the main pier of Montecristi as wind conditions require. During the trip you can see the other „Keys of the Seven Brothers“ and Haiti and watch seabirds fishing.

Water and fruits are provided.

Level of difficulty: medium.



Highlights: What makes this tour unique?

- „Cayos 7 Hermanos“ is one of the most representative tourist attractions of Montecristi.
- For bird lovers, a visit to the Cayo Tuna is an excellent opportunity to observe birds.
- The tour offers the opportunity to snorkel in an untouched reef.

Itinerary/hours:

Monday to Sunday from 7:00 to 13:00

Prices:

US\$275 p/p (minimum group of 5 people)

Service includes:

- boat transport to Cayo Tuna
- life jacket
- travel guide
- water
- fruits
- snorkeling equipment

That does not include:

- lunch

What do visitors need to know?

- this tour requires a good physical condition
- a constant supply of water is required

What should visitors bring?

- comfortable clothing
- swimsuits, towel
- sun cream, sunglasses, hat or cap for the sun
- insect repellent (biodegradable packaging)



Reservation forms:

Galleon Divers office.

Robinson Jimenez

Phone: 809 654 3924

Additional comments:

Currently, the guides speak only Spanish.

CURRENT STATUS OF THE TOURISM PRODUCT: IN OPERATION

Cancellation policy:

To book this tour you have to pay 50% in advance.

In case of cancellation, the money will be refunded 48 hours in advance.

The tour can be cancelled due to severe weather conditions.

Claims and civil liability (liability):

The operator has liability insurance in its institutions.

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Implementado por



EXPEDITION AND ADVENTURE: Montecristi, a paradise for bird watching in different habitats

Tour Operator: Galleon Divers. Counterpart International

Location: Montecristi, Dominican Republic



Keywords: *Birdwatching, mangroves, saltworks, desert vegetation, wetland*

Short description:

Offer for adventurers and ornithology fans. Montecristi is one of the most rewarding areas for bird watching in the Dominican Republic and in the whole Caribbean. In various national parks and protected areas with mangroves, desert vegetation, salt lakes and freshwaters, up to 110 bird species can be observed depending on season, 13 of which are endemic to the area.

Level of difficulty: low



Highlights: What makes this tour unique?

- Montecristi is the most diverse birdwatching destination in the Dominican Republic
- visitors can experience many different types of habitats
- it is not a mass tourism destination, so you can enjoy the seclusion and nature and approach Dominican way of life

Itinerary/hours:

Monday to Sunday 7:00 am - 17:00 pm

Prices:

TOUR 1: \$200 per day p/p. Minimum 5 persons

TOUR 2: \$50 per day p/p. Minimum 5 persons

Service includes:

The service is offered in two packages:

TOUR 1 (3 days):

- all inclusive
- transport from airport to hotel
- accommodation for two nights
- meals
- tour guide for 3 tours (1 full day tour)

TOUR 2 (1 day):

- transport to the tour area by 4x4 Jeep
- fruit and water during the tour

That does not include:

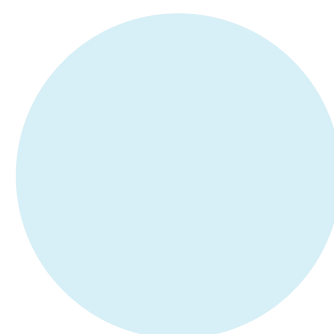
- lunch for Tour 2 (can be arranged, additional costs)

What do visitors need to know?

- tours requires a good physical condition
- in Montecristi the sun shines 365 days a year, so sun protection and water consumption are necessary
- there is no air condition during the trip

What should visitors bring?

- comfortable and camouflage clothing
- sun cream, sunglasses, hat or cap for the sun
- insect repellent (biodegradable packaging)
- rubber boots
- shoes for walking and getting wet



Reservation forms:

Galleon Divers office

Robinson Jimenez

Phone: 809 654 3924

Additional comments:

Currently the guides speak only Spanish.

CURRENT STATUS OF THE TOURISM PRODUCT: IN OPERATION

Cancellation policy:

To book this tour pay 50% in advance.

In case of cancellation, the money will be refunded 48 hours in advance.

The tour may be cancelled due to weather conditions.

Claims and civil liability (liability):

The operator has liability insurance in its institutions.

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Implementado por



KAYAK TOUR IN THE MANGROVES OF MONTECRISTI

Tour Operator: Galleon Divers. Counterpart International

Location: Montecristi, Dominican Republic



Keywords: Sport, nature and exuberant fauna open space aboard a kayak

Short description:

Kayak tour through the lush mangroves of the Montecristi National Park, one of the most important mangrove forests of the Dominican Republic. Visitors can watch up to 138 bird species, including 13 endemic species. In three hours (about 5 kilometres), visitors can experience the peace and beauty of the mangroves of Montecristi. The route starts at Montecristi beach and follows canals and channels in the middle of the mangroves with different mangrove species. The guides know the secret canals where flocks of birds come to. In the middle of the route you can rest on a platform and swim and snorkel in a natural pool in the middle of the mangrove system. The tour is a perfect experience for sports and nature lovers.

Level of difficulty: medium

Highlights: What makes this tour unique?

- it is the only kayak tour in this area
- the tour was developed by the organizer as part of a project to support the fishing families of the region
- this initiative offers fishermen new employment opportunities to help relieve the ecosystem



Itinerary/hours:

Monday to Sunday from 7:00 am to 17:00 pm

Prices:

US\$35 p/p (group of at least 5 people)

Service includes:

- kayak
- life jacket
- travel guide
- water
- fruits

That does not include:

- lunch

What do visitors need to know?

- this tour requires a good physical condition
- a permanently healthy consumption of water is required

What should visitors bring?

- comfortable clothing
- sun cream, sunglasses, hat or cap for the sun
- insect repellent (biodegradable)
- light luggage



Reservation forms:

Co-operative office San Lorenzo:

Iris Manuel Boyer

Phone: 809 463 9557

E-mail: isiboyer@yahoo.com

<https://www.facebook.com/Kayakhaitises/>

Additional comments:

Currently the guides speak only Spanish.

CURRENT STATUS OF THE TOURISM PRODUCT: IN OPERATION

Cancellation policy:

To book this tour, pay 50% in advance.

In case of cancellation the money will be refunded 48 hours in advance.

The tour can be cancelled due to weather conditions.

Claims and civil liability (liability):

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Implementado por



Enjoy biodiversity in paradise Roatan:

CAYOS COCHINOS

Tour Operator: Cámara de Turismo de la Ceiba

Location: Atlantida, Honduras



Keywords: *Sea turtle watching, beach and artificial reef snorkeling*

Short description:

The small island Cayos Cochinos is located in the Caribbean Sea north of the Honduras' coast. It offers various touristic opportunities, which guarantee high quality experiences and the protection of natural resources. Tourists can hike, snorkel, dive, sunbathe, and enjoy the beach and cultural experiences. Transfer to the keys start in the morning to facilitate the sea transfer to the key.

Groups of 5 to 20 people can book different packages:

TOUR 1 Ecological trail in Cayo Mayor:

30 minutes to 1-hour walkabout in search of the "pink boa".

TOUR 2 Underwater experience in the coral reefs of the archipelago:

Cayo Mayor offers snorkeling spots with different levels for beginners, intermediate and advanced snorkelers.

TOURS 3:

The Cayos Cochinos Foundation offers an educational and leisure tourism program at the Estación Científica in Cayo Menor. Visitors get involved in activities such as preparing beaches as nesting sites for sea turtles. Tourists learn first-hand about the importance of coral conservation.

Highlights: What makes this tour unique?

- visitors can observe the hawksbill turtle in its feeding and breeding areas
- experts can guide through the nesting sites and give information
- visitors can see unique species such as the pink boa and the jamo in the wild
- visitors can enjoy the coral reefs and marine biodiversity still in good condition
- "Garífuna" culture, intangible "Heritage of Humanity" by UNESCO:
on the keys, visitors can learn about the history, language, typical gastronomy and dances

Itinerary/hours:

Monday to Sunday 8:00 am. - 13:30 hrs

Prices:

TOUR 1 and 2: \$45 (P/P)

TOUR 3: \$150-250 (W/W)

Service includes:

- transport from mainland to La Ceiba, Corozal, Sambo Creek, Nueva Armenia, Rio Esteban
- access to scientific stations with an initiated information centre where films about marine protected areas are presented by travel guides
- lifeguard, safety interview and instructions
- visit of the terrestrial path
- snorkeling: snorkeling, mask, fins
- entrance fee to the protected area (Honduran Forest Protection Institute)
- accommodation in rustic huts in the communities of East End and Chachahuat and in the research station

That does not include:

- snack or lunch (a snack can be organised for an extra charge)
- drinks



What do visitors need to know?

- transfer starts from the mainland to the Cayos and takes approximately 25-30 minutes; transfer from „La Ceiba“ takes about 45 minutes

What should visitors bring?

- comfortable clothing and boots
- sun cream, sunglasses, at or cap for the sun
- insect repellent
- water

Reservation forms:

Tourist Options, La Ceiba, Honduras

La Ceiba, 31101

(504)9982-7534

hondurastouristoptions@gmail.com

Cayos Tour, Sambo Creek, Atlantida, Honduras

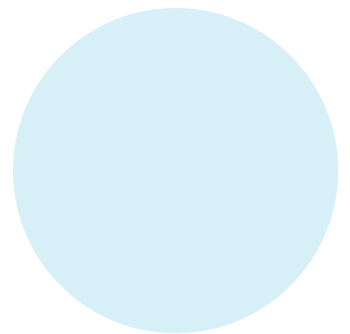
info@cayostour.com

websites:

www.cayoscochinos.hn

www.hondurastouristoptions.com

cayostour.com/es/viaje-cayos-cochinos.html



Cancellation policy:

Tours can be cancelled 24 hours in advance.

Claims and civil liability (liability):

The operator has liability insurance in its institutions.

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Implementado por



TOUR IN THE CANGREJAL RIVER BASIN

Tour Operator: Cámara de Turismo de La Ceiba (CTLC)

Location: La Ceiba, Atlantida, Honduras



Keywords: *Cangrejal River Basin, Mountain Trekking, Kayaking and River Rafting*

Short description:

The beauty of the Cangrejal River Canyon offers special experiences for nature lovers. In the small canyon you can enjoy the mountain air, the scent of the jungle with its impressive trees and exotic flowers, the sound of the waters of the Cangrejal River, the birds and wildlife that inhabit this important ecological sanctuary. In the Cangrejal River Canyon visitors get to know and explore the exotic vegetation of the Pico Bonito National Park, swim in the crystal clear and fresh waters of the Cangrejal River, see waterfalls, birds, insects and flowers and also learn about the communities along the track. Visitors can see up to 210 species of birds, 9 species of fish and a great variety of exotic butterflies. You can also enjoy the incomparable view of the imposing Pico Bonito Mountain. Several options can be arranged, accompanied by tour guides and local and community businesses:

1. Hike through the mountains: This tour is an excellent option for tourists who want to learn about the biodiversity of the area.
2. Descent of the basin by kayak or rafting
3. Visit of the most beautiful panoramic viewpoints



Highlights: What makes this tour unique?

- five main trails (Guaruma, Relumbrosa, Pico Bonito, Omega Tours, among others)
- perfect for children to visualize biodiversity in an incomparable place without having a noticeable impact on the area
- suitable for the whole family
- managed solely by community entities (Offering Tours)

Itinerary/hours:

It is recommended to coordinate the visit early in the morning for bird watching.

The trails are open all day and part of the night for visitors who want to venture out at night.

Prices:

Service includes:

- access to trails with local guides
- rafting, kayak
- birdwatching river snorkel

That does not include:

- snack or lunch (a snack can be arranged for an additional cost)
- drinks
- transportation

What do visitors need to know?

- carry a torch to walk comfortably
- currently the trail does not have toilets or drinking water
- you can bring food for a snack on the trail
- there is zero tolerance for plastic waste



What should visitors bring?

- comfortable clothing and boots
- sun cream, sunglasses, at or cap for the sun
- insect repellent
- water

Reservation forms:

Omega Tours: 9745-6810

Moskitia EcoAventuras: 9929-7532

Cangrejal Tours: 9760-2348

**Web: hondurastravel.com
cangrejalriver.com**

Cancellation policy:

There are no cancellation policies.

Claims and civil liability (liability):

The Foundation has liability insurance in its institutions.

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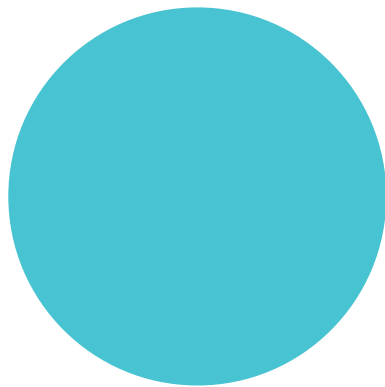
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Implementado por





Business and Biodiversity
in Central America and
Dominican Republic;
the contribution of tourism sector
for the restoration and
protection of biodiversity.

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