

#	Task	Helpful Resources
1	<p>Although many people speak "some" English here, your transition will be much easier if you know the basic words and phrases. Therefore it is highly recommended you take Spanish language classes or order a good Language program, and / or portable translator. Then study, study, study! Remember, don't get upset because they don't speak English, you are in their country now. Most locals will be very happy to assist if you are making an effort to communicate in their language. Once you are settled in, you may want to continue working with Spanish courses or a private tutor here</p>	<p>U.S. Institute of Languages: <a href="http://www.spanishprograms.com">http://www.spanishprograms.com</a></p> <p>Rosetta Stone: Order direct from my website via Amazon <a href="http://www.puntacanarealestatedr.com/useful_travel_products.html">http://www.puntacanarealestatedr.com/useful_travel_products.html</a> under the Spanish Learning Software" link.</p> <p><b>If you have already decided to move here, below is an excellent language school designed especially for English speaking expats and want to learn Spanish, French or Russian fast!</b></p> <p><b><i>Pilotage International Language Schools</i></b> - Certified and non-profit organization with offices in the U.S. and abroad. <b><i>Elaine Sanger, Executive Director</i></b>/ Ave. Estados Unidos in Plaza Tres Center, Local 20 (next to the Caribe Supermercado) in Bavaro/ Toll Free 1-888-217-4122 / 1-888-217-4122 (message) Office: 809-552-1205/ Cell: 829-420-5745 <a href="mailto:esanger@pilotage.org">esanger@pilotage.org</a> / <a href="http://www.pilotage.org">www.pilotage.org</a> / <b><i>Specializing in Spanish and English classes (beginner to expert levels). Also teach French and Russian. See my homepage for more information</i></b> <a href="http://reliablerealtydr.com/">http://reliablerealtydr.com/</a></p>
2	<p>Research various websites and sources, and then prioritize the best Dominican Republic location for you and / or your family. DR may be an Island, but it is a very large Island and several roads are narrow, under construction, or slow moving (see Distance Chart under "maps" tab). Your location should be prioritized by your preference of; security level, lifestyle, culture, cost of living, housing costs], schools, proximity to Santo Domingo (hub of the DR) shopping amenities, the beaches, business- employment opportunities, etc...</p>	<p><b>link to Distance chart</b>  <a href="http://www.puntacanarealestatedr.com/images_maps/distance_chart.pdf">http://www.puntacanarealestatedr.com/images_maps/distance_chart.pdf</a></p>
3	<p>Also check out the "About Dominican Republic tab" for information about DR's history, climate, the President, Govt./ politics, Global trade agreements, Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth over the past 5 years!, foreign policies, stability, economic conditions, infrastructure (roads, utilities, services, and technology), medical facilities, Domestic &amp; Intl. shipping costs - (including tariffs, taxes, and duties).</p>	<p><b><a href="#">Radio Broadcast Feb. 2014 - Maria Williams discusses Punta Cana Real Estate and other current and important topics.</a></b></p> <p><b>link to About DR tab-</b>  <a href="http://www.puntacanarealestatedr.com/about_dr.html">http://www.puntacanarealestatedr.com/about_dr.html</a></p>
4	<p>Make a list of pros and con's for each area of consideration. Then call or email your questions or concerns to me... Maria at Reliable Realty DR.</p>	<p>Maria Williams, Reliable Realty DR, <a href="mailto:mariaw@reliablerealtydr.com">mariaw@reliablerealtydr.com</a></p>

5 Learn and agree to accept the local customs and culture: Remember many developing countries are still in the early stages of infrastructure. For example in 1995 Punta Cana, was nothing but tropical jungles, natural and beautiful beaches, a few locally owned businesses, and a couple resorts. Considering many parts of the DR did not even have phone lines in 1998, this should be a strong indicator of the rapid growth taking place now as communication technology is practically everywhere. Service related businesses and processes are slower, and differ greatly from business to business as many are just now computerizing years of data. **TIP:** Be patient and remember that they are working hard to catch up to U.S. standards. BESIDES... isn't a slower living pace one of the reasons you decided to relocate here anyway?

6 Narrow your list down to 2-3 top areas then VISIT THEM!

7 Order your passport (any U.S. Post office), or make sure your passport(s) are current and will be valid for the required length of time. **TIP:** Make copies of your passports. **DO NOT CARRY YOUR ORIGINAL PASSPORT WITH YOU. KEEP IT IN A SAFE PLACE. IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO REPLACE.** With the exception of opening a new bank account here, or for other legal documentation verification, copies are readily accepted almost everywhere.

8 If you already have a passport (or once yours arrives) it is highly advisable to apply for your DR provincial residency right away. Your chosen DR legal attorney or Dominican consulting service can provide a list of the documentation required. The cost is approx. \$1200 - \$1500 (ave.) per person and the benefits are definitely worth the time. With a good and responsive attorney here. Residency validation may only take 2-4 months. If a much lower price is quoted, please be wary. Cheaper rates could take up to 10 months to receive (if at all) Primary documentation will consist of: Copies of your passports; possibly a Letter of Reference and Certificate of Health (if pre-existing condition); Original birth certificates; Original Marriage license (if applicable), and a Background Check (to assure you have no felonies). You can get this from the Sherriff's department in the State or Province you reside in now. Once these documents are received; you will also need to pass a medical exam performed in the capital of Santo Domingo to assure you do not have aids, Hepatitis, as well as a clean drug test, you will also have photos taken for your "Cedula". **TIP:** If you are planning to set up residency while here, double check with your selected attorney here, as to which documents are required before you come as laws may change on requirements. Upon a clean medical exam, and \_ deposit to the attorney, you will be given a temporary receipt showing you are in application for residency (or a Cedula).

**Corbal Inversiones, C.X.A - Attorney and Notary - Lic. Yina (Gina) M. Cordero Balubuena - Yina speaks English and has over 13 years experience. She is one of the first attorney's in Punta Cana, with offices in both Punta Cana and Santo Domingo. Yina's specialty is real estate, and residency, however she also handles all other legal matters. Office: 829-520-8884 / Cell: 809-299-9870 / Telefax: 809-221-0857 [corbal02@yahoo.com](mailto:corbal02@yahoo.com)**

Guzman Ariza Law Firm: <http://www.drlawyer.com/>

**Ascot Advisory**

<http://www.ascot-advisory.com>  
[info@ascot-advisory.com](mailto:info@ascot-advisory.com)

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Designate a trusted Contact person in your country. Someone you can trust to manage your assets there. It is advisable to legally assign a Power of Attorney (POA). This contact will be very helpful in transferring money, paying debts at home (if any), as well as a U.S. address which is needed if ordering online to be shipped to your P.O. Box here

Mail Boxes Etc (MBE) ph: 1-809-552-6399 fx:1- 809-552-0520  
Located in the Palma Real Shopping Center (Mall)- Bavaro/ Punta Cana  
[bavaro@mbe.com.do](mailto:bavaro@mbe.com.do)

Also **DHL, UPS, Metro Pac**

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Find a reputable in-country consultant/residency expert, attorney, travel guide or RESPONSIVE, RELIABLE, KNOWLEDGABLE, AND REPUTABLE real estate agency and book your travel to visit these professionals first-hand. If you are uncertain about buying yet and want to get a feel for the area and housing options, RELIABLE REALTY DR does offer an assessment tour of the El Cortecito/ Bavaro area along with several properties at a minimal cost. If you do decide to purchase, this cost will be applied toward your purchase price.

Maria Williams, Reliable Realty DR, [mariaw@reliablerealtydr.com](mailto:mariaw@reliablerealtydr.com)

Judy And Maria's Travel <http://www.judyandmariatravel.com/>

**Ascot Advisory** <http://www.ascot-advisory.com / info@ascot-advisory.com>

**ONCE YOU ARE CERTAIN OF YOUR DOMINICAN REPUBLIC DESTINATION**

**Helpful Resources**

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Meet with your own tax advisor, banker, and financial advisor for your best options (which may mean keeping recourses in both your Naturalized country and the DR). **TIP:** Keep in mind; they don't want you to move because they may loose your consistent business. Share your chosen DR advisor contact information with your home country advisors and visa versa.

12 Medical providers, Dental Care and Hospitals in the Punta Cana area are some of the best in the world and health insurance works nearly the same as in the U.S. Research international Health insurance options - Find out when your insurance expires through your current provider (employer) and plan accordingly so there are no insurance gaps. Compare international Health Insurance options/ costs/ coverage's. Average cost for 2 healthy adults is about \$2200.00 a year. Insurance coverage purchased through a Dominican company is approximate 20% less than obtaining from an International expatriate agency, but may be limited to medical expenses incurred outside the DR, or limit your ability to obtain care in your home country for serious conditions or long-term care.  
**NOTE:** Canadians must return to Canada every 6 months in order to maintain government sponsored health coverage in Canada.

<http://www.healthcareinternational.com/>

<http://www.expatriate-insurance.com>

<http://www.international-medical-insurance.com>

<http://www.insurancepickle.com/international-travel/international-health-insurance.shtml>

Hospitan Hospital / [www.hospitan.es](http://www.hospitan.es)

13 Research the cost of living as much as you can before visiting the country. Make sure your resources are current as many areas in the Dominican Republic are developing so quickly, recourses over 2 years may not be current or applicable any longer. . I.e. (housing, schools, gas, utilities, food, clothing, vehicles, furniture, appliances, home accessories, personal products, maid service, professional services, electronics, cell phone and internet service providers, etc.) **TIP:** delivery of mail is not common in many areas, and your monthly service invoices (or FACTURA) may be hand delivered to your new residence and you will be required to pay the FACTURA at the company in person.

[SEE MERCHANT DIRECTORY](#)

14 If you are confident in your move, research properties for purchase or rent Make sure you locate a reputable real estate company (and agent) and inquire about various listings including costs, location, pictures, etc. Make sure you communicate with your agent several times prior to your arrival. Keep in mind, there is no formal MLS (Multiple Listing Service) in the DR, so be patient with your DR agent as unlike readily available listing information in the States, your agent here will have to do much more leg work to find the right listings for you. So Plan ahead or plan on taking more than 1 or 2 trips to the DR. **TIP:** Once you establish your location and an agent you trust who is responsive to your particular questions, please don't waste his, her or YOUR valuable time by working with a multiple agents, as most all listings are non-exclusive, in other words most listings are represented by every agency for around the same price Therefore, sticking with an agent you TRUST and has GOOD COMMUNICATION SKILLS are the key factors here in securing the best property for your needs

[SEE FOR SALE AND RENTAL LISTINGS](#)

[PROPERTY NEEDS](#)

Maria Williams, Reliable Realty DR, [mariaw@reliablerealtydr.com](mailto:mariaw@reliablerealtydr.com)

[Radio Broadcast Feb. 2014- Maria Williams discusses Punta Cana Real Estate and other current and important topics.](#)

WHILE VISITING	Helpful Resources
<p>15 You may be required to officially sign some of the legal documents you initiated in person with your DR legal consultant/ attorney <b>TIP:</b> If you are satisfied with this DR attorney, you may want to secure real estate documentation OR power of attorney services with them as before your trip back home as well. <b>TIP 2:</b> All real estate transactions in the DR require Dominican attorney services as all contracts vary. The cost is approximately 1% - 2% of your purchase price (more if setting up a Dominican Corporation – or for multiple or complex real estate transactions). All real estate documents must be in Spanish, but upon request (and possibly a modest fee) can be provided in English before you sign the purchase or rental agreements. This is a complimentary translation only and not the legal contract.</p>	<p><u><a href="#">PUNTA CANA PROPERTY LISTINGS</a></u></p> <p>Maria Williams, Reliable Realty DR, <a href="mailto:mariaw@reliablerealtydr.com">mariaw@reliablerealtydr.com</a></p>
<p>16 You may be required to officially sign some of the legal documents you initiated in person with your DR legal consultant/ attorney <b>TIP:</b> If you are satisfied with this DR attorney, you may want to secure real estate documentation services with them as before your trip back as well. <b>TIP 2:</b> All real estate in the DR requires attorney services as all contracts vary. The cost is approximately 1% of your purchase price (more if setting up a Dominican Corporation – or for multiple or complex real estate transactions). All real estate documents must be in Spanish, but upon request, can be provided in English before you sign the purchase or rental agreements. There is an additional cost for this service. All these cost can be quoted up front</p>	<p>Maria Williams, Reliable Realty DR, <a href="mailto:mariaw@reliablerealtydr.com">mariaw@reliablerealtydr.com</a></p>

17 Make sure you personally meet with a reputable **Bank AND a Home, Auto, Life Insurance provider**. If you are confident about your area of choice, you should consider setting up a Bank account while you in the DR - Deposit the minimal amount required for now (\$500.00 U.S).. Make sure you understand how to wire money from you home country to your new DR Bank account. Your DR Bank representative should go over this with you. This will make your relocation arrangements easier when you get back home. **TIP:** For bank accounts, it is important that in addition to your passports, you bring a **Personal Letter of Good Standing hand typed and signed by your local banker who knows you. It must include his or her direct contact information.** Some banks here also require your most current bank statement(s) from your local bank(s). SEE THE PDF LINK TO THE RIGHT FOR THE ACTUAL REQUIREMENTS

18 ATMs are readily found here, so make sure your card is current and active and your bank (and credit card companies) at home is aware of your move. It is advisable to give them your U.S. address and let them know your secondary residence. You'll want to also set up ATM access for your new DR acct. **TIP:** Make sure it works before you go back home to complete your final moving arrangements. All cash dispensed from the ATM machines here will be in pesos.

19 Although the Peso is the Currency in the Dominican Republic, the U.S. dollar is widely accepted most everywhere. However, change will probably be given back in Pesos at a lower exchange rate. Therefore, research exchange rates before you come, and learn the conversions. Once you arrive, exchange your desired amount through a larger and more reputable bank (or CAMBIO), your dollar will go much further this way. It is also a good idea to carry larger denominations of cash in the form of traveler's checks. Just make sure you have less than \$10,000 USD on you or you will have to declare any overage with customs

20 Your DR attorney or overseas banking can recommend other transfer alternatives for you. And/ or your POA at home can wire money to you upon your request. ATM machines are in many locations, but are often very busy and some may not be working **TIP:** ATM's located near banks or large resorts or hotels are good choices

#### [PDF of Bank Requirements](#)

**Popular Bank: Thania Rochell-Branch Manager - Bavaro Shopping Plaza**

**Office: 809-552-9100 / 809-697-1187/ Fax: 809-552-0652/ [trochell@bpd.com.do](mailto:trochell@bpd.com.do) / <http://www.bancopopular.com.do>**

**Scotia Bank: Ricardo Sharpe - Branch Manager - Plaza Brisas de Bavaro - Office: 809-552-1500 ext. 23 / Cell: 809 567-7268 / 809-554-2522 / Fax: 809-5521504 ext. 1511 / [www.do.scotiabank.com](http://www.do.scotiabank.com) / [juancarlos.batista@scotiabank.com](mailto:juancarlos.batista@scotiabank.com) / [drinfo@scotiabank.com](mailto:drinfo@scotiabank.com)**

**BHD Bank -Wendy Diaz / 809-552-0953 ext. 4121 <http://www.bhd.com.do/> [wdiaz@bhd.com.do](mailto:wdiaz@bhd.com.do)**

#### **HOME-AUTO-LIFE INSURANCE PROVIDER**

**Manuel O. Matos, Brea & Asociados: ALL- Home, Car, Life, Boat / Fernando Otero (or ask for Milka ) Office: 809-532-0606 office/ Cell: 809-820-2035 cell - *Please tell them Todd or Maria Williams from Reliable Realty DR referred you for prompter service.* [fotero@momatos.com](mailto:fotero@momatos.com) / [www.momatos.com](http://www.momatos.com)**

[Popular Bank](#), [Scotia Bank](#), and [BHD Bank](#)

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Set up a Pay Pal account before moving. This is one of the easiest ways to transfer smaller sums of money back and forth and limits you from having to provide your credit card information over the internet or open international phone line when ordering products or services online. In addition, since your Pay Pal account is typically connected with your U.S. Bank account, money can be transferred both ways as well.

<http://www.paypal.com>

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While visiting... go to a larger grocery store and record (write down) the Prices and availability on all personal / business needs you feel you will need, including food and personal hygiene / health products. This is a good way to see what is, and is NOT available in your location of choice. Costs are typically more affordable in non-tourist areas (like the actual Bavaro area). For even more affordable purchases, many expats buy bulk once a month to save costs and travel to either **Iberia** in Higüey (40 minute drive from Punta Cana/ Bavaro) or **Jumbo** in La Romana (2 hour drive from Punta Cana/ Bavaro). These 2 stores are large supermarkets similar to Costco, Sam's Club or Wal-Mart in the States. Prices are much closer to U.S. prices here and locals and expats can save approx. 25% by buying bulk. Jumbo in La Romana is conveniently located along the town's main road of Avenida Libertad; Highway 3 in La Romana. **TIP:** Watch and ask the locals where they shop, they usually know where to find the best prices – however, don't expect visual perfection and organization in these shops.

Caribbe Supermercado- (Bavaro/ Punta Cana)

Iberia (Higüey) – 40 minutes from Bavaro/ Punta Cana)

Jumbo (La Romana) – 2 \_ drive from Bavaro/ Punta Cana- Similar to a Wal-Mart

NOTE: A Jumbo is planned for Bavaro / Punta Cana in 2011

*Just ask for directions when you get here*

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Visit a local car dealership, furniture, electronic, and appliance stores to determine if buying (used/ or new) is more economical than shipping these high ticket and heavy items here. If considering Punta Cana, a 40 minute drive west to Higüey is more affordable (away from the tourist prices). If you have nerves of steel, Santiago or the Capital of Santo Domingo have the best prices as they are located near the intl. shipping ports. **TIP:** Santo Domingo is very large with just about every top international corporation. However, it is not advisable to drive through Santo Domingo on your first trip (unless you're from New York). Better to take the bus, or pay a taxi cab driver who speaks relatively good English to take you around first. Or when you locate a reputable dealership, you can order a vehicle from them and have them make arrangements for their hired help to deliver it to you for around \$100. The driver will take the public transportation back to Santo Domingo and you may need to drop him off at the bus stop and pay for his bus ticket (about \$20) after he delivers your vehicle. **TIP 2:** Be wary of used vehicles as good mechanics are rare

[Driving in the Dominican Republic](#)

**Furniture companies in Punta Cana:**

**Unicane Bavaro** - [www.unicanebavaro.com](http://www.unicanebavaro.com) (Emilio) 809-468-4833/ 809-984-3200 cell

**Ilumel:** Punta Cana Shopping Mall, 809-732-7337 / Blvd. Turistico del Este Punta Cana / <http://www.ilumel.com/web/site.php?lng=en>

**Bamblue Deco** - Gina Belzunce / 809-913-3111/ [bamblue-deco@hotmail.com](mailto:bamblue-deco@hotmail.com)

**Iron Clad Muebles** - Ricardo and Tammy de Haas / 829-790-0842 [tammyouwendyk@hotmail.com](mailto:tammyouwendyk@hotmail.com)

Set up an EPS - Postal P.O. box address). Mail Boxes Etc. UPS, DSL or Metro Pack are examples of a few companies here. Check with them before you leave to find out where they are located and there costs details. Although costs based on weight are pre-paid in your country, once it arrives in the DR, there is also the cost for duties based on weight and value when you pick up your package, as well as the EPS providers service fees per package). Shipping packages can be expensive. **TIP:** Many of these intl. P.O. boxes coming from the states show Miami addresses. Remember your mail will be processed through Miami but the EPS account # listed references an intl. shipping indicator. So, make sure all packages have a customs declaration describing contents and value. Your packages will be opened by the DR custom officials and 97% of the time (if you are abiding by DR's common sense shipping guidelines), everything will be in tact and arrive in a timely manner (1-2 weeks). Make sure your friends and family know to provide description and value before shipping pkg. to you. Also make sure used items show garage sale prices and new items show "sale" prices to keep your end cost lower.

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Mail Boxes Etc (MBE) ph: 1-809-552-6399 fx:1- 809-552-0520  
Located in the Palma Real Shopping Center (Mall)- Bavaro/ Punta Cana  
[bavaro@mbe.com.do](mailto:bavaro@mbe.com.do)

Also available: **DHL, UPS, Metro Pac**

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If possible, set up a phone and fax number (or service provider) while you're in the DR, as well as a voice over internet protocol provider, yahoo messaging/ or SKYPE acct.

[Yahoo messaging](#)

[Facebook](#)

[SKYPE](#)

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Cell phones: Unless you have an outstanding international plan at home you can carry over, you will need to purchase a cell phone and service within the country. Or if you don't use your cell much, you can buy inexpensive (basic, but decent) cell phone for about \$30 and just buy "ORANGE" or "CLARO" minutes (SOLD EVERYWHERE). The primary provider here is Codotel, who provide impressive and affordable discount package plans for WiFi, laptops and cell phones

**Codotel-** 809-549-0448/ <https://www.codotel.com.do>

**Orange-** <http://www.orange.com.do>

**Verizon:** <https://www22.verizon.com/about/international/english>



**27** **INTERNET/ WiFi** are readily available here via several internet cafes and restaurants. However, if you must have your own internet connection from your new home, there are 2 options: 1) you can purchase a plug-in mini satellite. For this option, you will need to complete an application and sign an 18 mo. contract in person (actual passport required). If you do not have proof of residency, in order to be accepted, you must also provide proof of income/ or a letter from your new employer here (if applicable) validating your employment and approx. projected income. So, if you are still receiving income from your home country, be sure to bring proof.]

Another option is to have a mini satellite installed in your condo. The internet company will first need to come out to see if this is possible as many developments are so new they do not yet have satellite reception in the area. Or sometimes, the concrete is so thick, a reception cannot be achieved. Top floor condos are much easier to achieve satellite reception.

**28** Meet with a knowledgeable U.S. tax advisor - preferably one who specializes in U.S. and oversea accounts to discuss your best options based on your financial abilities and goals. Your overseas attorney of choice may provide these services or can refer someone who does.

**Codetel Telecommunications Center:** Just outside the Las Americas (or Punta Cana International Airport. 809-549-0448 <https://www.codetel.com.do/> (in Spanish only)

**Internet Connection / Installation**

**TriCom:** (Ask for Johnny De La Cruz who speaks English) / Office: 809-646-0365 Arena Gordo - Riu Plaza Larimar, Local no. 5, Frusia/ Bavaro/ [www.wifitel.net.do](http://www.wifitel.net.do)

**Ascot Advisory**

<http://www.ascot-advisory.com> [info@ascot-advisory.com](mailto:info@ascot-advisory.com)

**Tax Services (in the US)**

**(Specialty Expat CPA- Accountant) -**

**Faviola Solorzano/ Senior Tax Consultant**

[faviola@expatcpa.com](mailto:faviola@expatcpa.com)

Orange, CA 92868

Office: (714) 939-7670

Direct: (714) 939-2087

Fax: (714) 939-1032

[www.expatcpa.com/](http://www.expatcpa.com/)

**PREPARING FOR THE BIG MOVE**

**29** If you have decided to sell your home, find a reputable, established real estate agency. To assure a quicker sale, agree to the going commission rate (don't haggle). Find an agent who specializes in advertising and marketing and who has NO MORE than 12 personal listings; this way you can be assured to get more personal service and more marketing dollars working towards a quicker sale. Don't list for less than 3 mos – this is not enough time to market your property effectively

**30** Have a Pre-garage sale to include items you can live without until the BIG MOVE/ SALE

**31** Create project calendar (to include the applicable actual moving tasks expressed below. **TIP:** Don't forget to include all those luncheons and going away parties

**Helpful Resources**

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If you haven't already done so, research and apply for provincial residency or the best Visa alternative for you. And, if required, obtain your health certification (typically only good for 6-mos to 1 year so plan accordingly).  
**SEE TASK 8 FOR MORE DETAILS**

*Corbal Inversiones, C.X.A - Attorney and Notary - Lic. Yina (Gina) M. Cordero Balubueva - Yina speaks English and has over 13 years experience. She is one of the first attorney's in Punta Cana, with offices in both Punta Cana and Santo Domingo. Yina's specialty is real estate, and residency, however she also handles all other legal matters. Office: 829-520-8884 / Cell: 809-299-9870 / Telefax: 809-221-0857 [corbal02@yahoo.com](mailto:corbal02@yahoo.com)*

Guzman Ariza Law Firm: <http://www.drlawyer.com/>

Ascot Advisory <http://www.ascot-advisory.com/> / [info@ascot-advisory.com](mailto:info@ascot-advisory.com)

Collect all legal documents needed for both establishing residency and setting up a bank account or mortgage loan which you will provide to either your attorney or bank representative here (depending on your relocation goals).

i.e.

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1) Marriage License (must be authenticated showing you are still married to the same person); 2) Criminal background check(s); 3) Personal letter of Good Standing with your bank(s) along with Financial statements; 4) Source of income; 5) letter of references from current or former employers; 6) Birth Certificates; 7) Health Certification; 8) COPY of Deeds to your properties (may be required for Visas); 9) Your last 2 years of tax records and/or proof you do not owe any taxes in your home country. **TIP:** Some of these documents expire every 6 mos. so plan accordingly

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Locate the specific Secretary of State office that will provide "**Apostil Seals**" - this is a gold sticky seal that is the internationally accepted notary. (not all Secretary of State locations provide this service- so call ahead) Only costs about \$1.50 per document. **TIP:** Make sure your documents are notarized locally first before getting an international apostil seal/ notary.

<http://entrepreneurs.about.com/od/generalresources/a/secretarystate.htm>

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If you have a pet, see TRAVELING WITH A PET items 69-76 below.

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Visit your local bank and arrange your accounts in a way to best serve your needs overseas **TIP:** Depending on your needs, you may want to consider setting up separate intl. Business AND a personal account. Keep all for all moving expenses for tax purposes). **TIP 2** Also let your bank know your U.S. address (Power of Attorney) and that the DR is your **secondary** residence. U.S. Banks get a bit nervous when you tell them you are moving out of the country. It is always best to have a U.S. address, especially when using your U.S. credit card for ordering products online.

37 If you plan to retain money in your country, make sure you have banking online access. Also Learn how to wire money back and forth. Many Banks and Financial institutions can set up this acct. for you. **TIP:** Have your banker personally show you how to transfer money online if you don't already know how. Wire transfers can be expensive (\$45 minimum) – so setting up a PayPal account might be another option.

38 Make sure your laptop (highly recommend you get one) has all the latest upgrades. Some common software programs may vary slightly in the DR and may not be compatible with your system if you are using local/ community PC's as well. **TIP:** bring a surge protector. Electrical currents in the DR are sometime irregular.

39 This is a good time to purchase headset microphone and webcam (if your laptop does not already have these built in). You can also subscribe to SKYPE and make very inexpensive or FREE (computer to computer) calls internationally.

[SKYPE](#)

40 Pre-purchase special makeup, personal and health products, pet foods and other items you could not find on your initial tour of the area. I.e. VELCRO, meat tenderizer, greeting cards, sheet sets, etc. that are more expensive or not easy to find in Punta Cana / Bavaro yet. However, most everything can be purchased at Iberia in Higüey or Jumbo in La Romana.

## YOUR MEDICAL NEEDS

## Helpful Resources

41 In your research, you may discover that the DR actually has pretty decent health services. Some Hospitals are better than others as many of the doctors and most dentists have been educated/ trained in the U.S.; YET, costs are much less. I.e. to cap a tooth runs about \$25.00, same with complete cleaning. Another advantage is the Pharmacies (FARMACIA'S) typically do not require a prescription for general antibiotics and costs are very low. Medical red tape common to the states is virtually non-existent.

42 By now you should have applied for international health insurance... If not, compare international Health insurance options/ costs/ coverage's - Find out when your insurance expires through your current provider (employer) and plan accordingly so there are no insurance gaps. Insurance coverage purchased through a Dominican company is typically 25%- 30% less than obtaining from an International expatriate agency, but may be limited to medical expenses incurred outside the DR.

<http://www.healthcareinternational.com/>

<http://www.expatriate-insurance.com>

<http://www.international-medical-insurance.com>

<http://www.insurancepickle.com/international-travel/international-health-insurance.shtml>

Local company here

43 Visit your doctor and get a physical and immunizations recommended for the Dominican Republic. Make sure Gynecological, mammograms; PSA tests are up to date, including your Hep2 vaccinations. Assuming your new international insurance is set up (or will be set up soon), Inform them of your travels and new insurance info. Make sure you have a designated person on your HIPPA authorization form who can obtain your complete medical records at home if needed. Update to your new US postal address. If your international insurance requires additional information for pre-existing (not active) conditions... make sure your doctor personally writes a letter explaining how long your condition has been dormant. Make sure you get a copy of your physical as it may be required as part of the Visa requirements

44 Stock up on eye glasses, contacts, prescriptions, and other medical needs. Bring a 3 month supply ON YOUR PERSON. **If you're in between insurance companies**, your current insurance provider may allow up to 3 month prescription called ... "A Vacation override". This is only temporary until your new international insurance is in place.

**ONCE YOU HAVE A SOLID OFFER ON YOUR HOME**  
(assuming you need to sell your home to support your relocation)

45 If you haven't already done so, make sure you have assigned a trusted Power of Attorney (POA). Get permission to use their address as your U.S. secondary address. Give them proper instructions for banking, investment or payment of U.S. debts. Receipt of U.S. income, etc. Add them to your bank acct(s).

46 Keep your driver's license current – If your driver's license is due to expire soon, check with your secretary of State offices before you leave on how you can apply for a new license abroad. It is not advisable to tell them you are permanently moving here. Also check your expiration of your passport and change the address pertaining to these documents to your to your POA's address (if applicable). Keep your voters card active as well. Your driver's license in the DR is only good for 6 months after your arrival, unless accompanied with your temporary proof of provincial residency. Once you receive your Cedula (Dominican Republic Resident I.D), you can take a driver's test here. The cost is around 6000 pesos or around \$175.00 U.S. and requires a 10 question (or so) exam in Spanish. So brush up on your Spanish during your first 6 months here as well.

47 File a change of address with your local post office. Use your U.S. secondary address rather than your P.O. Box number here so you are not charged huge sums for junk mail. Costs ave. about \$4.00 per lb. on incoming mail (plus the cost to ship within the U.S.

48 Make sure all utilities are paid in full to the last day of your move, and give them your POA's address for any lingering mailings

**Helpful Resources**

49 Purchase a portable memory stick or "Passport"-USB devise, with a minimum of at least 2MG's) and upload all hard drive files you intend to use and keep. Keep a 2<sup>nd</sup> set with your POA as a backup. **TIP:** The cost is more than double for these devises in the DR... so; get one with substantial MG space.

50 Set up accounts with online services for products or services not yet readily available here. Save these websites in your favorites, and then create a cheat sheet for login info. and passwords and keep in a very safe place. **TIP:** Don't forget in addition to the standard shipping & handling costs from the states (i.e. weight, insurance & taxes; when you pick up your package you will have to pay for duties (based on value) and weight, plus service charges from your intermediary mail service in the DR.

<http://www.drugstore.com/>

## PRE-PLANNING TIPS FOR STAYING IN TOUCH W/ FAMILY & FRIENDS

## Helpful Resources

51 As mentioned in item # 21, set up a Pay Pal account. This works best for sending or receiving smaller amounts of money back home, and works well if your friends and family have an acct. so you can send cash to them for birthday or special occasions. Also a safer way to order/ pay for online products than using your credit card number.

<http://www.paypal.com>

52 Make sure you have set up a FREE Yahoo messaging or SKYPE service. (Computer to computer or computer to phone voice over) SKYPE international phone rates from the U.S. to DR. only run .17 cents a minute and the calls from the DR to the U.S are only .02 cents a minute. Most calls are typically very clear, assuming the speed of your internet service here is decent. **TIP:** You must have either a built-in or portable microphone to use this service from your laptop. You can buy both a headset microphone and webcam for less than \$50 either in both the DR and the U.S.

[Yahoo messaging](#)

[SKYPE](#)

53 At your Going-Away Party... Create a Guest book and collect most current addresses, phone numbers and email address. Make it fun by adding an area of fondest or funniest moments. Have them sign a cloth poster or cotton memorabilia blanket. **TIP:** After the party, be sure to update your guests contact information and add to your email account address book, your Yahoo messaging and/ or SKYPE contact info. as well.

[View Sample](#)

54

Set up a Website, Blog site and especially a Facebook account and disburse this information to all your friends, and family. A good time to do this is at your party. **TIP:** Make several copies of your favorite tropical picture of yourself and/ or your family, and then make labels with all your new contact info. and affix on the back of each picture. Be sure to include: your new cell numbers, Email address, website, blogsite, yahoo messenger, and /or SKYPE info, Facebook, and/ or My Space info. MOST important for mailing purposes is to pass along your EPS or Mail Box etc. shipping info. **TIP1:** Your actual physical address is not important for mailing purposes... as in MANY areas of the DR (like Punta Cana) there is no formal mailing system. Set up yet because this area grew too fast. **TIP2:** Facebook is the best way to keep in touch with friends and family and allows you an opportunity to upload all your Caribbean pictures to one area so everyone you care about can see where you live and what you're doing on a regular basis. This also saves tons of time (and memory space) when sending photos to individuals online.

Mail Boxes Etc (MBE) ph: 1-809-552-6399 fx:1- 809-552-0520  
 Located in the Palma Real Shopping Center (Mall)- Bavaro/ Punta Cana  
[bavaro@mbe.com.do](mailto:bavaro@mbe.com.do)

Also available: **DHL, UPS, Metro Pac**

## GETTING READY FOR THE BIG LIQUIDATION SALE AND GOING AWAY PARTY

## Helpful Resources

55

Create an inventory binder- book for the furnishings and home décor and accessory items you plan to sell and categorize inventory pages by room (description and price). Print a copy of this inventory list and individually cut out the description and price of each item, then affix directly to the item where it is displayed. Use your original inventory sheet to record purchases/ actual accepted price. Who purchased/ date, etc.

56

Create a Bon-Voyage invite and mail to all your close family, friends and co-workers. If you have personal belongings you need to sell first, let them know about the exclusive "by invite only" pre-liquidation sale that will be part of the party (trust me they'll have fun and you'll get rid of most everything if reasonably priced).

57

Collect and price all the remaining items you are not going to keep. I.e. knick-knacks, books, clothing, odds and ends from storage closets, the garage or the basement. Do not clutter the inside of the house with these items. Instead move these items out in the garage or outside for a HUGE MOVING SALE- Place a large sign in the garage indicating other LARGER TICKET ITEMS ARE ALSO FOR SALE FOR SERIOUS INQUIRIES, then list the prices on the sheet. , this will reduce traffic and wear and tear on your recently sold home. Place the newspaper ad(s) in the paper 3 days prior and run for a minimum of 3 days.

58 Privately Sell, Donate, store or bequeath all remaining items ASAP! Get receiptss for filing taxes later

59 Consider storing, selling, or giving away most of your CD's and instead upload them to your computer or iPod.

## SHIPPING

60 Sort items to be SOLD, STORED, DONATED or SHIPPED. Buy several inexpensive plastic totes in various sizes with lids. Then label (number) each tote. **TIP:** Items you may want to consider shipping that are hard to find or expensive here: I.e. greeting cards, favorite board games, wash clothes, Crystal light, digital camera, Exercise mat - *no carpet here*, Velcro, expensive items include sporting goods.. I.e. baseball mitts bats, balls, volleyball, soccer balls, tennis racquets and balls, specialty tools bed sheets & bedspreads, toilet paper holder, paper towel holder, and UB memory sticks, or anything else you could not find on your initial trip to the DR.

61 NOW Re-sort and get rid of 1/2 the stuff- trust me on this one! You'll see what I mean when you get to items 62-66

62 Obtain estimates FROM YOUR IN COUNTRY SHIPPER, AND FROM A DR SHIPPING AND MOVING PROVIDER AS WELL AS FURNISHING, APPLIANCE, etc. QUOTES FROM YOUR ASSISTANT IN THE DR (If you don't have one, contact Maria Williams, Reliable Realty DR, [mariaw@reliablerealtydr.com](mailto:mariaw@reliablerealtydr.com), however, this research and documentation takes time and will cost a service fee. By now you should have determined if it is more cost effective to ship your furnishings, vehicles and appliances or to purchase them in the DR.

63 DUTIES/taxes: If you already have your proof of residency documents, duties will be reduced or eliminated (based on value) OR, if you have applied for residency and are waiting for the final documentation, make sure your attorney provides you with a receipt for this to avoid or reduce the cost of duties. The cost is very substantial as duties could cost as much as 50% of your declared value.

## Helpful Resources

**See Domestic and International contact info. Below**  
**[Also, click here for more information](#)**

64 If you are planning to ship your vehicle, double check to make sure your vehicle meets your countries requirements. Many countries only allow vehicles 2 years or less in age for entry. **TIP:** Cars are about 40% more expensive in the DR – however, this is still often a better alternative than the cost and headache of shipping your vehicle overseas. Make sure if you do decide to ship using a container (car, furniture, large items) you secure services with an experienced international provider knowledgeable about shipping the DR. Get a quote from your Domestic and Intl shipping companies first, and then add 20% to that to calculate which way is more cost effective.

[http://www.ehow.com/how\\_4457523\\_ship-car-dominican-republic.html](http://www.ehow.com/how_4457523_ship-car-dominican-republic.html)

65 Ever since 911, local airports, like Punta Cana, will not accept "PERSONAL EFFECTS" shipments anymore. All shipments must now go through customs in Santo Domingo (the Capital). Make sure your domestic shipping provider adds the cost of door to door delivery to your new personal residence after they have cleared customs. Also add instructions to your packing list to call you 2-3 hours before the estimated time of arrival to assure you are there to receive your goods. If you will be residing in a gated community, It's also a good idea to let your property manager/ security guards know about the shipment so the driver can gain access clearance.

66 **Approx. Domestic Shipping costs:** If you are only shipping personal belongings (NOT including... furniture, appliance, vehicles, etc) try to limit your shipment to a 42 x 42" skid with stackable totes, no higher than 42" and no more than 600 lbs. each. (Including the weight of the skid and packaging materials). Estimated **Domestic only** costs for 600 lbs. will be around \$2,500 per skid. This includes insurance and delivery from Santo Domingo to your chosen location, but DOES NOT INCLUDE INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING COSTS – See below. **TIP:** Make sure you label USED items as such! The higher the stated value, the higher you pay

**Logenix International** Geoff Speck/ Tel: 703-256-4885  
Fax: 703-256-2834  
Direct: 703-256-5272  
Email: [gspeck@logenix-intl.com](mailto:gspeck@logenix-intl.com)  
<http://www.logenix-intl.com>

67 **Approx. International Shipping Costs:** To include, Customs, duties, gift fees, and applicable taxes). Unfortunately your domestic shipping costs are not complete... As mentioned, if you cannot provide residency documentation, you are now required to pay these fees as well. The cost could be as much as 50% or more -and is based on your declared value. i.e. 2 skids = 1200 lbs, with a value of \$5,000 could cost another \$2,500 for a total domestic to final destination cost of \$7,500 for 2 skids. This means you're paying \$2,500 more than your personal effects are worth. **TIP:** Don't over value, but don't undervalue too much either as the border inspectors will re-evaluate your packing list and contents and determine if your values are legit!!!

**Mudanzas Del Caribe S,A**  
Hector Boya – Operations Manager  
Ph.1-809-548-6519 / Fax: 1-809-548-6385/ Cell -829-451-3565  
Email: [mdc\\_inbound@mudanzasdelcaribe.com](mailto:mdc_inbound@mudanzasdelcaribe.com)  
  
Web: <http://www.mudanzasdelcaribe.com>



**The Packing List:** Create a detailed packing list with values (as described above). If the items are used, garage sale or resale values should be used to avoid paying too much in duties. Pack new and used items separately and label as such on your packing list (NEW or USED). Title the packing list as: **PERSONAL EFFECTS**. Include your new ship to address your domestic shippers name, phone and email address. Also list your name, two phone #'s and email addresses. **TIP:** create a detailed description of your belongings then organize and assign to a specific (labeled) tote or box number which will correlate to the packing list **TIP:** Take pictures of contents (laid out) of each tote or box and notate this task was completed on your packing list. I.e. "Photos of inventory taken and recorded on ... DATE". This will avoid discrepancies (if any) later and if needed can be provided to the insurance provider if the shipment, in part or in whole does not arrive. **TIP 2 -** Electronics have the highest value and highest risk of not arriving.

68

[View Sample](#)

IF YOUR TRAVELING WITH A PET	Helpful Resources
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69 Order your Pet Travel Documents early and study procedures. (Best to order directly from the USDA (United States Dept. of Agriculture) and research travel and entry regulations for your specific country

[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import\\_export/animals/animal\\_exports\\_pets.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/animals/animal_exports_pets.shtml)

70 Only small pets can be transported as carry-on (see specific airline restrictions as they differ). Many airlines do not accept pets in the cargo or carry-on... so; please do your homework first. Typically American Airlines and Delta Airlines do allow provisions. There are currently NO quarantine requirements for dogs or cats... however, there are for other pets i.e. birds) So remember check with the USDA regarding specific quarantine restrictions for the area in the DR you have selected. Also, what you may categorize as a "pet" (ferret, bunny, guinea pig, bird, etc.) may actually fall under another agricultural classification and may require additional documentation to be allowed in the country.

Delta Airlines:

[http://www.delta.com/planning\\_reservations/special\\_travel\\_needs/pet\\_travel\\_information/index.jsp](http://www.delta.com/planning_reservations/special_travel_needs/pet_travel_information/index.jsp)

American Airlines:

<http://www.aa.com/aa/i18nForward.do?p=/travelInformation/specialAssistance/travelingWithPets.jsp>

71 Stock up on your pets favorite food (if not found in your area if choice) 6-mos supply then wean them into a local brand

72 If your pet is too large to ride in the cabin you will need to first confirm if your airline provides pet cargo services. Due to climate conditions, it may be too hot for your pet to travel in cargo on your specific travel date. Thus, it is often easier to secure this service with a specialized international pet carrier. You will be notified by the carrier once your pet has arrived.

<http://www.passportforpets.co.uk/>

<http://www.ipata.com/>

73	After receiving your pet travel docs from the USDA, make sure your pet has its check up and all the vaccinations required no more than 30 days from your estimated travel date. Make sure the Vet has experience with these forms. If not, order and send them directly to the USDA - don't forget the \$24 fee. Confirm all airline and entry requirements including possible Quarantine for pets consider "agricultural" only.	<a href="http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/animals/animal_exports_pets.shtml">http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/animals/animal_exports_pets.shtml</a>
74	Stock up on other pet items like flea shampoos, powders, and heart-worm medicines. Pack these; do not attempt to carry on board. NOTE, heartworm found the States are available here as well for about 35% of the cost in the U.S. So no need to bring an over-abundance of these with you.	
75	Check on re-entry to the US restrictions	
76	Book your flight once your approved pet travel docs. have arrived back from the USDA	
<b>OTHER TASKS OR RECOMENDATIONS</b>		<b>Helpful Resources</b>
77	If you have any rental properties, notify landlords or tenants of your departure and update any contractual services. You may need to also assign a POA	
78	Bring residency and other legal, financial, and health documents with you. Make copies of everything and leave with your trusted POA. Also back up on a USB. Purchase an expandable folder that will fit well in your carry-on.	
79	If you are not comfortable with your level of Spanish, consider in-country tutoring. Cost range anywhere from \$10 - \$25 per hour	<b><i>Pilotage International Language Schools</i></b> - Certified and non-profit organization with offices in the U.S. and abroad. <b><i>Elaine Sanger, Executive Director</i></b> / Ave. Estados Unidos in Plaza Tres Center, Local 20 (next to the Caribe Supermercado) in Bavaró/ Toll Free 1-888-217-4122 / 1-888-217-4122 (message) Office: 809-552-1205/ Cell: 829-420-5745 <a href="mailto:esanger@pilotage.org">esanger@pilotage.org</a> / <a href="http://www.pilotage.org">www.pilotage.org</a> / <b><i>Specializing in Spanish and English classes (beginner to expert levels). Also teach French and Russian. See my <a href="#">homepage</a> for more information.</i></b>

Note: This list is intended as a guide to help assist in your relocation processes and is not to be taken as legal advice. The creator and its affiliates are not responsible for any unintentional misrepresentation or outdated content. It is always advisable to seek legal advice versed in international affairs before making any changes to your current residency. The order or the content is not necessarily for everyone as circumstances, finances, and needs vary on a case by case basis.