



DAYS JUST AREN'T LONG ENOUGH TO DO ALL THE FUN THINGS THERE ARE TO DO HERE. WHETHER IT'S KITESURFING, SURFING OR PARTYING... THE CONDITIONS ARE ALWAYS GOOD! IT'S AN ISLAND OF ENDLESS SUMMER WHERE THE PEOPLE ALWAYS SMILE.

SUSI MAI, CABRINHA PRO RIDER AND CABARETE RESIDENT

CABARETE

THE LURE Christopher Columbus discovered the island of Hispaniola in 1492. The island is now separated into the Dominican Republic and Haiti, and on the north coast of the Dominican Republic is the kitesurfing haven of Cabarete. Open stretches of golden sandy beaches are combed by a regular cross-onshore wind and protected by an offshore reef. Non-kiting partners will not be left out as Cabarete is a great holiday destination with a wide range of activities and experiences to choose from. The unique atmosphere is fuelled by the Caribbean nightlife, mixing meringue and salsa rhythms with fruit-filled cocktails, helping you dance the night away.

THE SET-UP When the trade winds are in, there's no shortage of good riding and Cabarete offers several classic spots. Cabarete beach can get busy near to shore as advanced riders like to kite close to each other and there are beginners along the shoreline, but head up- or downwind and you'll have waves and open water all to yourself. There are also many other options. Take a trip directly east or upwind of Kite Beach and you'll find Cabarete Bay. La Policia is just upwind of the windsurfing zone on the main beach and is the perfect playground for advanced kitesurfers. Beginners can learn to fly kites here too as the conditions are perfect. Bozo Beach is situated downwind in Cabarete's main bay with a cross-onshore wind and flat to choppy water conditions. Bozo is suitable for all levels and the more advanced can venture 800 metres out to the reef to find a lovely breaking wave.

WIND WATER AND WEATHER The winds come cross-onshore from the right and are stronger in summer, but Cabarete is a year-round destination. The most reliable time is April through to September when the temperatures can top at just over 30°C / 86°F. Kite Beach's wind is solar driven, meaning that the best riding is generally later in the day with the wind cranking up after 4pm. This leaves riders plenty of time to catch some morning surf at Encuentro or

recuperate after a night of partying on the beach. Generally the day's heat rises and cool trade winds fill in, providing cross-onshore winds of 20 knots. These same trade winds push water on to a well-defined outer reef that kicks up chest- to head-high waves and protects the bay, making for flat water on the inside and rolling blue wave swells on the outside. You can find anything from flat or choppy water through to world class reef and shore-break starboard tack wave riding. The water temperature sits in the mid 20s all year / roughly 75°F.

GET AROUND Cabarete isn't as big as most people seem to imagine and car hire is optional.

ACCOMMODATION Go budget or go large. Bank breakers and modest shelter for steady savers; you've got all the options around here. Some beautiful spots. Hit up Sealane Cabarete (www.sealaneCabarete.com) and Kitebeach Hotel (www.kitebeachhotel.com).

FOOD AND DRINK Directly east or upwind of Kite Beach is Cabarete Bay, where you find a great quality and quantity of food to replenish your energy after a long day on the water. This beach is packed with great restaurants offering every type of food and beverage to suit all. In Cabarete there's always a party going on and if you keep your ears to the ground you're bound to find some of the best. There are three very lively bars on the beach where you can party until six in the morning

NO WIND With so many activities on offer Cabarete is the perfect destination for non-kiting partners and family members too. Choose from other watersports such as surfing, windsurfing and wakeboarding. There's also a host of excursions into the tropical countryside, as well as mountain biking and even taking a romantic horse ride or the full moon boat trip down the Yasica river.

AIRPORT Puerto Plata airport (POP) is a 25 minute drive from Cabarete and the transfer costs around US\$30 in a cab. Santo Domingo (SDQ) is a four hour drive and can cost US\$100 by cab.

AT A GLANCE >



CURRENCY:

CURRENCY: DOMINICAN PESO (DOP)
- £1 = DOP58 / €1 = DOP50 /
\$1 = DOP37

AVERAGE COSTS:

BEER: DOP47 / RESTAURANT MEAL:
DOP500 / ACCOMMODATION: DOP2,800 - 5,300 PER NIGHT.

WIND CHART:

PERCENTAGE OF DAYS WITH WIND
OVER FORCE 4/14 KNOTS:



CAPTION > Tucked-away spot
PHOTO > North Kiteboarding

SCHOOLS >

THE STARKITES boutique is at the entrance to Cabarete. Sociable and friendly, the manufacturer's pro riders hang out here. Watch some videos on their screen, find out some news or pick up some advice from them. The shop has a full selection of Starkites gear and accessories and there's gear for demo. Linked with Luxury Sea Lane apartments on Bozo beach as well as these schools in Cabarete, Starkites have the full service covered:

www.cns-cabarete.com
www.cabaretekiteschool.com
www.noworkteamcabarete.co
www.swellsurfcamp.com
www.force10kiteboarding.com
www.starkites.com

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