



Casa de Colon, circa 1510, home of Christopher Columbus' son, in Santo Domingo.

The only nearby place to visit outside the resort is probably Baya Hibe, where you can sit and watch the sun go down while drinking beer and eating fresh seafood in an open-sided local bar.

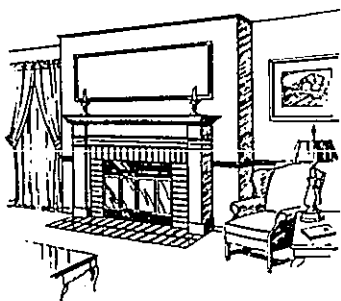
A van leaves Casa de Campo daily, however, for the city of Santo Domingo, a treasure for history lovers. You can walk through the restored streets to Casa de Colon, built by Christopher Columbus' son in 1510; wander the museum rooms of Casa Reales, which is full of 16th-century furniture, sailing ship artifacts and other wonderful things.

You can photograph the Tower of Homage and the centuries-old cathedral, which claims to have Christopher Columbus' bones. Many places claim them, but this is the most likely site. You will find the young boys of Santo Domingo begging to clean your shoes or show you the town; they are in the plaza outside the cathedral, polite but persistent.

You will also find excellent amber shops, interesting art galleries and tiny restaurants where they will remember how to serve a food lover.

The Dominican Republic is full of friendly people. They like Americans there. The government works hard to make the streets safe. It is an entirely different travel experience than you will find next door in the unfortunate country of Haiti, poorest nation in the western world and recommended to only the hardest travelers.

For more information on the Dominican Republic, contact your travel agent or the Dominican Tourist Information Center, 485 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022.



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