

Friends of the Dominican Republic



50TH Anniversary Update

January 8, 2012

Update #1

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BIENVENIDOS!!!

We look forward to seeing you in Santo Domingo during our 50th Anniversary Celebration! Thank you for your registration and for supporting our efforts to include more current volunteers and Dominican colleagues in our program.

You can check our website to see who has [REGISTERED](#) so far.

This update provides additional information and clarification about various aspects of the 50TH Anniversary Conference.

Let us know if you have any questions or need more information!

Kathryn Hanowell, President, Friends of the Dominican Republic, president@fotdr.org

John Evans, Chair, Celebration Planning

Committee, treasurer@fotdr.org

THINGS WE WANT YOU TO KNOW:

- **Hotel reservations** the weekend before the conference are tight because of the Caribbean baseball championship (Serie del Caribe).
- **Taxis** from the airport run \$35-\$45 dollars. We are working on possible group transportation and will advise if we are successful in finding a lower cost alternative to taxis. Minimally, we expect to help you identify each other in the airport so you can share a taxi.
- Our **agenda** is very active but still with time to relax and visit each other. See the [Agenda](#) at the FDR website.
- The Thursday evening **Ambassador's Reception** will now be at the Ambassador's residence and is solely to recognize Peace Corps.
- **Activities for non - attendees:** We will have a hospitality table at which small groups can find information and join others for sojourns (some guided) in and around the capital during our meeting times. See [Day Trips](#) the anniversary website at www.fotdr.org and go to anniversary Day Trips.
- **Meals:**
 - We will have a list of recommended cafes and restaurants as part of your packet. You might use these to take a volunteer to dinner on Wednesday evening.
 - The Jaragua's breakfast buffet is included in your room at the Jaragua. Non guests can pay.
- **Pre and Post Conference Excursions:** You can still register for these until January 9th. We now have adequate participation for
 - Pre Conference: Tour de Chocolate/Tesoro del Este (El Seibo area)
 - Post Conference: East Bayahibe
 - Post Conference Norte: 27 Charcos, La Isabela, Puerto Plata
 - Post Conference: Samana / Las Galeras
 - Post Conference: Sierra de Bahoruco Bird Watching

Go to our website www.fotdr.org to see details on these pre and post conference organized excursions, as well as the Saturday and Sunday post conference day trips.

AHEAD OF TIME:

Your Guests:

We must have a complete head count for each meal or social event, so please make sure

- We know the number and *names of guests and the events you wish them to attend with you. Email this information to treasurer@fotdr.org*
- If not paid through your registration form, pay for your guests at the conference as soon as possible
- Make sure that you have an entry ticket for them by the day before the event, for sure!
- (You will receive entry tickets for your pre-registered paid and named guests in your registration packet)

Dominicans to invite to our opening reception:

Please send us the names and contact information you have for Dominicans you believe we should invite to the opening reception, such as agency people or others who helped Peace Corps do its work.... treasurer@fotdr.org

Special Needs:

Notify us of any special dietary or physical limitations you may need help with

HOTEL RESERVATIONS:

Making a hotel reservation-- Marriott Jaragua and others: Our special rates at the Jaragua end after January 9. ***You may still be able to book there at lower rates through Expedia or another online booking service. You can try the number below to see what is available at lower rates.***

For the Jaragua, we recommend you call the US/International Marriott booking number **1-800-228-9290** for reservations. The group number is CDPCDPA but it may or may not get you a good rate after January 9. Also, look for rates at Expedia or another on-line booking service.

COMING EARLIER or STAYING LATER

Following are suggestions for moderately priced hotels in the Zona

Colonial if you do not have a Jaragua booking before or after the anniversary dates. These are small, safe, comfortable hotels right in the heart of the interesting and tourist friendly Zona Colonial.

HOTEL PALACIO-- This charming, European owned hotel is in an old colonial residence half block up from El Conde (now a pedestrian only street) and two blocks from the Cathedral Plaza. [Hotel Palacio](#)

HOTEL MERCURE-- The Mercure is a quality hotel on a corner of El Conde, just one block from the Cathedral Plaza. It has a popular restaurant with a little terrace right on El Conde. [Hotel Mercure](#)

For more luxury, find online the Hostal Nicolas de Ovando on Calle Las Damas or its smaller and less expensive sister hotel, the Hotel Frances

QUALITY HOTEL AEROPUERTO--If you are coming in late on Monday, February 6, consider staying at the airport hotel on the Autopista Las Americas your first night. [Quality Aeropuerto](#)

Please do consider the Jaragua for the actual conference dates as we depend on our registrants there to fulfill our contract for the facilities' use..

Contact John Evans at treasurer@fotdr.org if you would like assistance resolving any room reservation problems.

THINGS TO BRING:

- For our ***In Memoriam*** area: A picture with name and a note about your Volunteer or Dominican Friends and colleagues who have passed away.
- A completed ***history questionnaire*** <http://goo.gl/u0BJT> to include in the PCDR volunteers' history mapping project...***or*** complete your history questionnaire online at your leisure at <http://50th.fotdr.org/> Then select <<SHARE YOUR STORY >>
 - Bring history photos or special documents with you to the conference
- The ***Embassy Reception*** on Thursday evening is a more formal affair but a dressy shirt such as a traditional guayabera, aka "chacabana" shirt is perfectly acceptable.

- If you are taking **a pre or post organized excursion**, we will email you any special things to bring for it...hiking shoes, mosquito repellent, etc. Water bottles: There is a reliable potable water producer/seller near the hotel on the side of Hermanos Villar Restaurant. You can buy or fill water bottles there.

Vamos a celebrar!

Most of all, come prepared to enjoy the companionship of friends and colleagues and to renew your connection to Quisqueya.

And again, let us know if you have questions, concerns or need more information.



Try it FREE today.

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