



## Season 2 Episode 3: Regions in Dominican Republic

En este episodio, regresa Kesia Sosa para compartirnos sobre las regiones de la República Dominicana. Ella explica un poco sobre la actividad económica de cada zona de República Dominicana y los lugares turísticos.

In this episode, Kesia Sosa comes back to talk about the regions of the Dominican Republic. She explains a little bit about the economic activity of each zone of the Dominican Republic and the touristic places.

Time	Speaker	Transcript
00:14 – 00:21	Tamara	Hola, bienvenidos al Podcast Dominican Spanish 101, I'm joined today, as always, by Kesia. Qué lo qué, Kesia.  <i>Hello, welcome to the Dominican Spanish 101 Podcast, I'm joined today, as always, by Kesia. Qué lo qué, Kesia.</i>
00:21 – 00:26	Kesia	Tranquila. ¿Y tú? Qué lo qué contigo.  <i>Relax. What about you? what with you.</i>
00:27 – 00:30	Tamara	Todo tranquilo, en casa, como todo mundo.  <i>All fine, at home, like everyone else.</i>
00:30 – 00:30	Kesia	Oh, yeah!
00:31 – 01:12	Tamara	Porque seguimos con el virus. Pero bueno, hoy vamos a hablar sobre las regiones de la República Dominicana porque yo sé que tenemos oyentes que, no sé si han visitado a la República Dominicana, pero, me imagino que ellos estaban en Punta Cana, Santo Domingo, pero quiero saber un poquito más sobre el país, sobre las diferentes regiones entre el país, y lo que pase en cada región, ¿no? Entonces, Kesia, ¿puedes compartir cuáles son las

		<p>regiones de la República Dominicana en general? Y después vamos a hablar un poquito más sobre cada uno.</p> <p>Because we are still with the virus. But well, today we are going to talk about the regions of the Dominican Republic because I know we have listeners who, I don't know if they have visited the Dominican Republic, but, I imagine they were in Punta Cana, Santo Domingo, but I want to know a little bit more about the country, about the different regions among the country, and what happens in each region, right? So, Kesia, can you share what are the regions of the Dominican Republic in general? And then we're going to talk a little bit more about each one.</p>
00:13 – 01:31	Kesia	<p>Yeah, muy bien. Me parece interesante lo que mencionas de Punta Cana, porque he hablado con algunos estudiantes que me dicen “Ah, sí, yo he visitado el Caribe. Sí, nunca he ido a República Dominicana, pero yo fui a un lugar que se llama Punta Cana.” And I’m like... Yeah...</p> <p>Yeah, very good. I find it interesting what you mention about Punta Cana, because I've talked to some students who tell me, "Oh, yeah, I've been to the Caribbean. Yeah, I've never been to the Dominican Republic, but I went to a place called Punta Cana." And I'm like... Yeah...</p>
01:33 – 01:35	Tamara	<p>Ellos no saben.</p> <p>They don't know.</p>
01:36 – 01:39	Kesia	<p>Yeap... You were here! “No way!” and I’m like “Yeah”.</p>
01:40 – 02:00	Tamara	<p>Eso es gracioso. Es como cuando... <i>It's like when we go to, what is it? In Mexico... Cancún. A lot of people say “Oh, I went to Cancún” and I say “You haven't been to Mexico, you're in the tourist area, you weren't in the country really.”</i></p> <p>It's funny. It's like when...</p>
02:00 – 02:47	Kesia	<p>I know, but I don't blame them because we do the same thing in the United States, you know, we Dominicans say <i>Nueva York</i>, and <i>Nueva York</i> is the United States, so, you can ask somebody. Have you been to the United States? And they would say “No, no, yo</p>

		<p><i>nunca he ido para allá, yo fui a Nueva York una vez.” I’m like “You were in the States.” But let’s talk a little bit about that.</i></p> <p>Entonces, el país tiene 3 regiones principales, el norte, el sur y el este. Entonces, el norte is better known as El Cibao, and is that area...</p> <p>So, the country has 3 main regions, the north, the south and the east. So, the north is better known as El Cibao, and is that area...</p>
02:47 – 02:48	Tamara	<p>El famoso Cibao.</p> <p>The famous Cibao.</p>
02:48 – 04:19	Kesia	<p>Yeah, <i>el famoso Cibao, el valle del Cibao</i>, because it’s actually like a valley, there’s a big mountain, regions of mountains that divide the country and then the Cibao is a valley. So, this is probably 40% of the national territory, and I would say probably the second place with the biggest population in the country, other than the capital, of course, Santo Domingo, but we’ll talk about that later. Here the economy is on farming, agriculture and industries, you know, there’s 2 reasons of course everywhere in the island, you have the north Puerto Plata, Cabarete, Sosúa, that’s very famous because there’s a lot of hotels there, tourist. The center of el Cibao, which is Santiago, La Vega, San Francisco, more about farming, industries you know, it’s like around the mountains, so, it’s a different field than the beach, like, for me, people ask me sometimes “<i>oh, ¿tú vives cerca de la playa?</i>” I’m like “No, no, la playa está lejos.” Is not far from Santiago, it’s probably 45 minutes about from Santiago, but I feel like I don’t live close to the beach, that’s how <i>Cibaeños</i> feels.</p>
04:22 – 04:31	Tamara	<p>For me, no, if I had a beach 45 minutes away I would say I live, I wouldn’t say I live on the beach, I would say I live close to the beach.</p>
04:32 – 05:23	Kesia	<p><i>No, para mí está lejos.</i> But you know, it’s the mindset also, right? The things that are put in a different way, but people are very friendly here, I’m going to say this and probably the Dominicans listen to me, they won’t like it, but, we are known as the “<i>campesinos</i>” of the country. For the way we talk, also for the way</p>

		<p>we are, people are so friendly here, like, if you come and nobody knows you, they will open their doors for you and then come inside, you need food, you want water... You know, people are very nice here. So, we are known as the <i>campesinos</i> of the island, but I'm okay with it, I don't mind. When they say that, it's like, you guys are friendly, you're different but you're nice.</p> <p>No, for me it's too far away.</p>
05:24 – 05:45	Tamara	<p>Entonces, <i>speak</i> un poquito sobre la palabra campesino, porque me imagino que es como alguien que vive en el campo, que aquí es cómo <i>country bumpkin or something like that, we would say here</i>, pero ¿campesino sólo significa eso? Que es una persona que vive en el campo, en un área fuera de la ciudad.</p> <p>So, talk a little bit about the word <i>campesino</i>, because I imagine it's like someone who lives in the countryside, which here is like <i>country bumpkin or something like that, we would say here</i>, but does <i>campesino</i> just mean that? That it's a person who lives in the countryside, in an area outside the city.</p>
05:46 – 06:28	Kesia	<p><i>Exacto. Sí.</i> And you know here, well, I would say most of the country is like a <i>campo</i>, many trees, many mountains, you know, you have some areas here with buildings and nice restaurants and all that, but, everywhere you look, you see campo, but then when people say <i>campesino</i> sometimes, it also means that you lack education, or you know, you speak different, dress differently, like I said at the beginning, probably some Dominican public don't like, I'm a Cibaino but I'm not a <i>campesino</i>. But not necessarily means that.</p> <p>Exactly, yes.</p>
06:30 – 07:38	Tamara	<p>So, that's similar, in Dominican Republic is north but here in the U.S is the south that shares that way, so, somebody is from south, there's a different accent, they speak differently, people who live more like in the northern states would think people in the south don't sound intelligent, there's stigma attached to it, so south is very similar, is like this idea of if you're from this place, you lack some resources and culture, like you had this, I don't know, because it's a different way of speaking, or different lifestyle people would say they're not that intelligent or whatever like that. So, yeah, it's</p>

		the same, we would say country, “they’re acting country” or being southern sometimes is used as, it’s almost like offensive, so, I understand <i>campesinos</i> is probably something like that, like saying somebody is country. Like “You’re country” and it’s the accent, so, how is that reflected to the way people talk, because out here is people in the south have, it’s like someone in the south you can tell where he’s from most of the time by the accent if they have like a heavy accent, so, if it’s the same thing if you’re from el Cibao.
07:39 – 08:43	Kesia	<i>Sí</i> . We tend to use the “l” and we substitute letter “L” and “R” in most of our words for the letter “l”, so, for example: A common one, instead of saying “ <i>por qué</i> ” a Cibaino would say “ <i>poi que</i> ” or instead of saying “ <i>caminar</i> ” a cibaño would say “ <i>caminaí</i> ”, so we would substitute those letters for the letter “l” and right away you can tell “oh, he’s from the Cibao.” And also, even though for “ <i>extranjeros</i> ” Dominicans in general are loud, but I would say the <i>cibaños</i> they speak with a low voice, you have to look at their lips and try to figure out what they’re saying because, you know, we say all the words together, we cut the “s”, we add the “l” and then we speak with a low voice. So, it could be challenging to understand a <i>Cibaño</i> sometimes.
08:44 – 08:54	Tamara	And are there any famous artists or entertainers or anyone, I guess, popular that comes from El Cibao in particular?
08:55 – 09:38	Kesia	Do you know Fefita La Grande? She grew up in Cibao. But not only entertainers, I would say, and that’s a good question because even though <i>cibaños</i> are the <i>campesinos</i> , we have a funny accent in the country, but most of the <i>bachatas</i> and the <i>merengues</i> like Perico Ripiao style are written with this <i>campesino</i> voice, you know, with a <i>Cibaño</i> language. So, if you’re listening to a <i>bachata</i> , that’s how we talk, that’s how we normally talk, I don’t know, like, a <i>bachata</i> from any... Except for Romeo, is not as <i>campesino</i> in his songs, but...
09:40 – 09:41	Tamara	He’s from <i>Nueva York</i> .
09:42 – 10:00	Kesia	Yeah, most of the <i>bachateros</i> are, even if they’re not from el Cibao, it could be somebody from the capital or the east and they would still use that <i>cibaño</i> accent for their songs, but I think it is funnier.

10:01 – 10:06	Tamara	That's interesting. Okay, so, I'm trying to get some artist, what about Luis Vargas?
10:06 – 10:07	Kesia	Yes, from el Cibao.
10:08 – 10:39	Tamara	So, you know, we're going, in a future episode, we're going to talk more about music, we are going to come often the bachata attention, now, but that's interesting, though, I think that, you know, you have artist there are not from there but they are like adapting the way they talk to that, when they're seen, because I think if someone wanted to do that here would sound really strange, like someone from Boston was to record a country western song, instead of talking with the country accent we would go, so, that's interesting, that doesn't offend people that are from el Cibao, they are not like "oh, that guy is not from here."
10:40 – 10:42	Kesia	No. Not at all.
10:45 – 11:08	Tamara	That's another cultural difference, because here everybody would be "What?!" people would be just offended, just like we talked about before, people just be offended, like "why are you trying to make fun of me? Mocking me." So, that's interesting. So, it sounds more like is a way of acknowledging, like "hey, this is a better way..." Not a better way, but just artistically it works better to kind of bring that flavor to verses like using a different way of speaking.
11:08 – 11:51	Kesia	Yeah. And I think because the accent of the Cibao is so particular, you know, and the way we speak, like probably you could have, let's say I'm in New York, I am surrounded by other Spanish speakers, you could tell I am from D.R because my <i>Cibaeño</i> accent, probably if I speak like with a "L" like people from the capital, you might confuse me with a <i>Puertorriqueño</i> , but if you hear that "l" sound, you're like "oh, yeah, she's Dominican." So, probably that's what they try to do with the bachata and the <i>Perico Ripiao</i> , you know, to make it sound like very authentic Dominican, and they do that. People don't get offended here because of that.
11:51 – 12:22	Tamara	So, let's talk about the south, because that's where the capital is, right? And I think a lot of people are also familiar with the south, even if like, Punta Cana in the east people don't think most about that being part of D.R but Santo Domingo is definitively people think

		about when you think about Dominican Republic, so, talk a little bit about, so then you mentioned talking with the “L”, right? The accents talk a little bit more of the south and the capital region.
12:23 – 13:59	Kesia	Sí. So, the capital is by the south, but they do have that “L” they use the “L” instead of the “R” that they use in the rest of the south, so, in the capital instead of, I’m going to use the same words, “ <i>por qué</i> ” in Cibao we would say “ <i>poi qué</i> ” but then in the capital is “ <i>pol qué</i> ”, or for “ <i>aceite</i> ” they would say “ <i>acelte</i> ”, they would take the “I” instead use the “L”, you know, so, that’s for the capital. Not for the rest of the south. The rest of the south would have a different accent that uses the “R”, so, they would say “ <i>acerte</i> ” instead of “ <i>acelte</i> ” or “ <i>aceite</i> ”. So, the capital has a lot of influence from... I would say, because is the capital of the country, so you have people coming from different countries to do business and they have that influence in their language, like I said before, it sounds a little bit like <i>Puertorriqueño</i> sometimes, they listen a lot to reggaeton and that kind of music in the capital, more than in the Cibao, like if you go in public transportation they’re always playing reggaeton, but when you’re public transportation in the Cibao, they’re always playing merengue or bachata, so, they have that influence in their language, they use a lot of words in English and Spanish, you know, it’s its own thing, the capital, even though is part of the south of the country.
14:01 – 14:20	Tamara	So, what are the famous areas in the capital, that’s because I think the people usually visit, like, zona colonial, different places like that. Different beaches and things like that, we would dedicate an episode just to beaches, we’ll talk about this later too. What are some of the places that people have to visit in the south if they come to the country.
14:21 – 15:20	Kesia	You mentioned <i>zona colonial</i> , that’s like one of my favorite places in the country, because you have all those buildings from before, taking over the island, and it’s beautiful and it’s right in front of the ocean, at night it has a view so nice the feeling, you have nice little restaurants, you eat outside and they’re many museums, so you get to know a lot about the history of D.R if you like that. Then you also have <i>El Malecón</i> , of course. In the capital you have different

		activities you can do, <i>El Malecón</i> , basically just sits down and listen to music and eat street food, you know, like <i>perrocaliente</i> , we call it “hog do”, which is the English version “ <i>Dame un hog do ahí</i> ”. How would you say that word?
15:21 – 15:22	Tamara	Hot dog?
15:22 – 15:27	Kesia	Yeah. You say that here and people would be like “what?!” “ <i>Dameun hog do</i> ” and they’ll give you what you want.
15:28 – 15:29	Tamara	That’s hilarious.
15:31 – 15:36	Kesia	Yeah. So, you have Boca Chica in the capital, have you heard about Boca Chica?
15:37 – 15:41	Tamara	Sí, fui a Boca Chica la última vez que visité la isla.  <a href="#">Yes, I went to Boca Chica the last time I visited the island.</a>
15:42 – 16:03	Kesia	That’s a famous area in the capital as well. You know, by the beach, but you also have all those tiny little restaurants they sell fish, seafood and all that, and there’s like loud music, there’s a little bit of culture there, like is not like going to Punta Cana where you have only the tourist, but Boca Chica you get a little bit of everything, you know, you have the tourist, you have the Dominicans too.
16:05 – 16:11	Tamara	We can, we talked about beaches out, I’m going to tell you my story about what happened on the beach in Boca Chica.
16:12 – 16:12	Kesia	Okay.
16:13 – 16:15	Tamara	A little bit of everything, I’m going to save that for another episode.
16:15 – 17:13	Kesia	But then going to the south, is more rural, and is not as populated as the east and north, so, you, like when you go in the road, there are a lot of fields, many fields, you have an area that is San Juan and it’s also a valley and that’s where we grow most of, many of grains like <i>habichuelas</i> , <i>guandules</i> , <i>maíz</i> , you know. It grows in that area and also you have some interesting places for tourists that are not very populated, you know, like I love it because you go and enjoy nature, some very nice beaches that we’re going to talk about later, that are not as, you know, populated, very cool. I can mention in the south, <i>El Lago Enriquillo</i> , I don’t know if you had heard about it.



17:14 – 17:14	Tamara	No.
17:15 -17:44	Kesia	El <i>lago Enriquillo</i> is like the lowest point in the country, it's like 40 meters under the sea level, and it's very, very salty water, extremely salty water, is full of crocodiles and... Yeah, they seem to be nice, trust me, I am scared of all creatures and I was...
17:45 – 17:49	Tamara	Crocodiles? I don't believe it. <i>No puedo creer.</i>
17:50 – 18:02	Kesia	Well, you shouldn't go there by yourself, you should always have a guide, you know, somebody that knows the area, they know which time is better to go, when they're not that hungry.
18:04 – 18:06	Tamara	Somebody who knows the friendly crocodiles.
18:08 – 18:36	Kesia	Yeah, this is crocodile Juanito, you know. But it's a beautiful area, like, I love it to take pictures and yeah, it's a nice area to go to visit and to get to know, it's like the biggest lake in the Caribbean, so. It's like a big piece of ocean in the middle of land. Very nice.
18:36 – 18:41	Tamara	Yeah, I was almost convinced until you mentioned the crocodiles, I think I'll save that one, I'm not that adventurous.
18:43 – 18:50	Kesia	I shouldn't probably call them crocodiles, it's another word, we say " <i>iguanas</i> " I don't know the word in English for that.
18:51 –18:51	Tamara	¿Iguanas?
18:52 – 18:52	Kesia	Ujum.
18:53 – 18:57	Tamara	¡Ah! Iguanas son diferentes. We just call them iguanas.  <i>Oh! Iguanas are different. We just call them iguanas.</i>
18:58 – 19:05	Kesia	Yeah? They're crocodiles too, because there are many iguanas, there are more iguanas than crocodiles, I would say.
19:07 – 19:10	Tamara	Okay, those are too very different.
19:11 – 19:11	Kesia	Yeah.
19:13 – 19:14	Tamara	Very different animals.
19:15 – 19:17	Kesia	I should do my homework with wild animals.

19:21 – 19:29	Tamara	Alright. So, the south is more rural, there's not as many people, but what about the east coast?
19:29 – 20:25	Kesia	There's a lot of mining in this area of the country, there's some called like <i>bauxita</i> , I don't know the word in English for that. That is a stone, a type of stone. There are mines of <i>bauxita</i> and <i>marmol</i> , which is <i>marmol</i> ... Are they <i>marmol</i> ? The stone? And also, <i>larimar</i> , I don't know if you heard about that stone, <i>the larimar</i> is color blue, it's a typical stone used in earrings and rings here in the D.R. You probably have if you go to a tourist shop you're going to see all these blue stones and that's where they come from. They come from this area. So, there are many caves, so it is a very different scenario. If you like that adventure feeling, I would say go to the south because there are many cool things you can do over there.
20:25 – 20:35	Tamara	And if you want to do the traditional tourist thing, you probably would end up in the east, right? At the resorts in Punta Cana.
20:35 – 21:18	Kesia	Yeah, Punta Cana, La Romana, yeah, definitively. So, tourists are the base of the economy in that area, although there's also a lot of farming in areas like El Seibo, there's a lot of farming and I would say that's the principle attraction. The beaches and the east are beautiful, the sand is beautiful, and they also... People are very friendly, they're very nice but they're more like... How would you say that? Direct? Straight forward over there? Yeah, so people, they have a different approach.
21:19 – 21:36	Tamara	So, would you say like in general, maybe in <i>el Seibo</i> , in the south people maybe more laid back, and like not as concern by time, maybe in Punta Cana things are little more, I don't know if is like the better word, like more western, because there's more tourism in there.
21:37 – 22:37	Kesia	Probably, yes, I would say so. People is nice, don't get me wrong, but they're different, they have like a different approach, like when they talk to you are more direct, but are still friendly and, yeah, you have all this tourist attraction like " <i>Las cuevas de las Maravillas</i> ", and there are many things you can do in Punta Cana, you know, like they have water parks and you can even go in those hot air balloons, you know, there are many activities you could do over

		there as a tourist. There's an airport, so that's why people get to Punta Cana at the airport, they stay at the Hotels a couple weeks, then they leave and they never get to know the rest of the island. So, that's why they say "Oh, I went to Punta Cana" But they don't know the rest of it, there's a whole different country outside of Punta Cana.
22:38 – 22:40	Tamara	Do cruise ships go over there too or is it just the airport there?
22:40 – 22:52	Kesia	<i>Sí.</i> So, cruises get to La Romana, and we also have a new one in Puerto Plata, not a new one, a couple of years already, but in Puerto Plata on the north.
22:52 – 23:07	Tamara	So, where would be the place that you would say, let's say somebody, let's say they only have a week in Dominican Republic and are going to visit, where is the place that you would say that they have to visit before they leave? Like number one place to go.
23:08 – 23:26	Kesia	I would say go to Santo Domingo, because you get a little bit of everything, you really want to get a feeling of D.R, the people, the culture, the food, the music, you need to get outside of the tourist areas, and you can do tourism as well in Santo Domingo, so.
23:26 – 24:09	Tamara	Okay, so, there you have it, the 3 regions of Dominican Republic, so hopefully now you know when you're planning your next trip or if you're talking to somebody and you hear their accent maybe now you know like "oh, are you from el Cibao?" And they might "Oh, how did you know?" So, now hopefully gets you a little bit inside into the country and if you want more details, don't forget you can always check on our Dominican Spanish 101 course, we're actually Kesia and I are going to give more detail about the different accents and the different regions and you get to actually see some of other pictures of some of the things we talk about today too, so, make sure you check out the course <a href="http://DominicanSpanish101.com">DominicanSpanish101.com</a> if you want more info. And that's it going to wrap it up for this episode, Gracias, Kesia.
24:10 – 24:10	Kesia	Un placer. <a href="#">A pleasure.</a>

## Links and Resources

- [Dominican Spanish 101 Course](#)
- [Dominican Spanish 101 Podcast](#)