

# Geography

**Location:** Caribbean, eastern two-thirds of the island of Hispaniola, between the Caribbean Sea and the North Atlantic Ocean, east of Haiti

**Map references:** Central America and the Caribbean

**Area:**

*total area:* 48,730 sq km

*land area:* 48,380 sq km

*comparative area:* slightly more than twice the size of New Hampshire

**Land boundaries:** total 275 km, Haiti 275 km

**Coastline:** 1,288 km

**Maritime claims:**

*contiguous zone:* 24 nm

*continental shelf:* 200 nm or to the edge of the continental margin

*exclusive economic zone:* 200 nm

*territorial sea:* 6 nm

**International disputes:** none

**Climate:** tropical maritime; little seasonal temperature variation; seasonal variation in rainfall

**Terrain:** rugged highlands and mountains with fertile valleys interspersed

**Natural resources:** nickel, bauxite, gold, silver

**Land use:**

*arable land:* 23%

*permanent crops:* 7%

*meadows and pastures:* 43%

*forest and woodland:* 13%

*other:* 14%

**Irrigated land:** 2,250 sq km (1989)

**Environment:**

*current issues:* water shortages; soil eroding into the sea damages coral reefs; deforestation

*natural hazards:* occasional hurricanes (July to October)

*international agreements:* party to - Endangered Species, Marine Dumping, Marine Life Conservation, Nuclear Test Ban, Ozone Layer Protection; signed, but not ratified - Biodiversity, Climate Change, Law of the Sea

**Note:** shares island of Hispaniola with Haiti (eastern two-thirds is the Dominican Republic, western one-third is Haiti)