

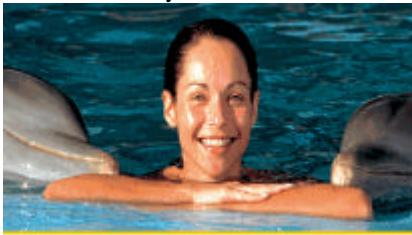


# swimming with dolphins!

Background Information on "Manati Park Bavaro" in the Dominican Republic

## DREAM and REALITY

Advertisement by Manati Park:



**A Dream:** Fun event in a happy world

Reality picture: © Helene O'Barry



**BUT The Bitter Truth:** CAPTIVITY & SLAVERY

### The Slogan of „Manati Park“ sounds nice:

„Manati Park is nature. Nature is Manati Park. Manati Park works to protect what is ours: our Flora, our Fauna ... which belongs to us all.”

### BUT:

Unfortunately the truth does not match that rose tinted picture, as Manati Park has been in the centre of massive international criticism already since 1999 because of it's unacceptable holding conditions. Five bottlenose dolphins are confined in this facility in small chlorinated tanks, alarmingly inadequate for dolphins that normally swim more than 40 miles a day in the wild. The dolphins are forced to participate in swim-with-dolphins programs three times a day seven days a week. They are forced to pose for pictures outside the water in the scorching sun and their slavers allow 200 customers per day to cling to their pectoral fins while they have to circle around the pool in often dirty water.

More than 7.600 outraged tourists already officially protested, tour operators and hotels stopped co-operation with that establishment and international media aired shocking reports - even showing a dolphin attacking a child in the pool because he was so overworked and distressed. Such incidents of course are held back by Manati Park from the public.

Manati Park was opened in 1995. Documents show an import of six dolphins from Cuba and two dolphins that have been captured in local waters. The current status is reported with five dolphins of Cuban origin, which means that at least three animals have disappeared or died in that facility, among them the two dolphins caught in local waters.

It is important to know that the Dominican Republic ratified several national and international Agreements and is thereby obliged to adopt co-operative measures to ensure the total protection of this endangered species. Protection of nature is exactly what Manati Park is claiming to do – but in the light of illegal captures and dead dolphins in that park the reality is far away from the promotional goal. Therefore also the United Nations Environment Programme investigates now.

In July 2002 Manati Park used an old permit issued in 1995 and captured eight bottlenose dolphins in national waters. These captures clearly violate the national Dominican Republic Law 64-00 Article 175 - promulgated on August 18, 2000 - which prohibits the capture of protected species. A separate article in this law in particular states that permits are not valid if they are contrary to the principles of the Law. In addition it is especially shocking to realise the environmental crime, since the capture of these dolphins was done in a specifically protected area - a national park – the Parque Nacional del Este. Where these dolphins are is still unknown to the public since their August capture and as Manati Park officially lacks the proper facility to house these animals we must be prepared for the worst: Kept secretly in a hidden tank in the backyard, exported or even dead!

A national and international protest movement has been organised to free the dolphins. It is supported by the joint community groups of Bayahibe (City council, church, environmental groups, etc.) intellectuals, scientists and lawyers from the Dominican Academy of Science and of course, representatives of local protection societies. As a tourist in the Bavaro Region you have to be aware, that there is great local anger against that tourist facility and now even a lawsuit is pending against Manati park as well as against the state concerning the illegal capture of these dolphins. The civil society of the Dominican Republic deserves all our respect and support in the struggle for the freedom of these dolphins.

Please help to protect these magnificent creatures and feel the responsibility to care – we only can intensively warn from a visit to Manati Park Bavaro and kindly ask you to widely spread this alert also among other tourists in the Dominican Republic. Please support the local communities and the international struggle to finally end the suffering of these dolphins at Manati Park Bavaro and join us and the thousands of other tourists in demanding freedom for the dolphins.



**MOST IMPORTANT: NO VISIT TO MANATI PARK – THE PLACE OF THE DOLPHIN SLAVERY!**

**PLEASE HELP TO DISTRIBUTE THE FOLLOWING TOURIST ALERT AND THE LIST OF RECOMMENDED HOTELS**  
- also feel free to make double sided copies and distribute them along the beaches and in the hotels –  
YOU WANT TO SPEND YOUR HOLIDAYS IN PUNTA CANA - BAVARO / DOMINICAN REPUBLIC ?

**THINK TWICE BEFORE YOU BOOK** and consult this **List of Fame and Shame:**

### **A) THE GOOD**

These Hotels have terminated business with Manati Park and registered their protest against the illegal capture of dolphins as well as their support of the demand to close the Manati Park dolphin facilities. **WE RECOMMEND:**

**Riu Melao**  
**Riu Naiboa**  
**Riu Palace Macao**  
**Riu Taino**  
**LTI Punta Cana Beach Resort**

**We applaud also the**  
**Community of Bayahibe and the**  
**Community of Boca de Chavón**  
**for their proactive stand against Manati Park**  
**and their nature conservation efforts.**

### **B) THE BAD**

**WE CAN NOT RECOMMEND:**

a) These Hotels have expressed their understanding for the terrible situation or registered their protest against Manati Park, but they continue themselves or allow within their premises business as usual with Manati Park (this is based on clear and proven reports by our independent investigators).

**Iberostar Bavaro**  
**Iberostar Dominicana**  
**Iberostar Punta Cana**  
**Bavaro Princess All Suites & Resort**  
**Occidental Flamenco Bavaro**  
**Fiesta Bavaro**  
**Fiesta Beach/Palace Resort**  
**Fiesta Dominican Hotel**  
**H10 Bavaro Resort**  
**Barcelo Villas de Bavaro**  
**Barcelo Bavaro Village**

**Barcelo Bavaro Ocean Village**  
**Barcelo Bavaro Palace**  
**Barcelo Bavaro Beach**  
**Barcelo Bavaro Casino**  
**Barcelo Bavaro Garden**  
**Barcelo Bavaro Golf**  
**Natura Park Resort**  
**Allegro Resort Bavaro**  
**Melia Caribe**  
**Melia Tropical**

b) The management of these hotels is ignorant, their activities unclear and they have not responded at all.

**Secrets Excellence Resort Punta Cana**  
**Hodelpa Caribe Club**  
**Carabela Bavaro Beach Resort**

**Catalonia Bavaro Resort**  
**Club Med**  
**Punta Cana Beach Resort**

### **C) THE UGLY**

**WE WOULD NEVER LET THOSE HOTELS HAVE OUR TOURIST DOLLARS:**

These Hotels have not registered any protest against Manati Park, continue to have business with Manati Park or even support their activities.

**Sirenis Tropical & Cocotal Beach Resort**  
**Breezes Punta Cana Spa & Casino Beach Resort**

### **D) THE DEADLY (PROTEST AGAINST AND AVOID THEM WHEREVER YOU FIND THEM !)**

... and it is a SCANDAL that European taxpayers money was misused by the EU to finance them.

Manati Park Bavaro  
President & Manager: Sr. Jose Miguel Moreno Nigorra  
Ctra. Manati, s/n Bavaro/Higüey  
Republica Dominicana  
Tel. 001-809-221 94 44  
Fax. 001-809-221 92 82  
e-mail: manatipark@codetel.net.do

Manati Park mother company:  
Inversiones Arrecife  
President: Sr. Jose Miguel Moreno Nigorra,  
resides at: Plaza Espana 1, Atico A  
07002 Palma de Mallorca /SPAIN  
Tel. 0034-971-712 185  
Fax. 0034-971-726 947

### **UNCLEAR**

We do up to now have no feedback for the following hotels and would ask tourists for reporting if they notice advertisement for Manati Park in those hotels, which clearly have expressed their intent to stop any cooperation with Manati Park. (Please send any credible information and updates to: [FreeManatiDolphins@ecoterra.net](mailto:FreeManatiDolphins@ecoterra.net) !):

**Paradisus Punta Cana**  
**Sunscape Punta Cana Grand**

This list might change over time since more and more Hotels stop to have any affiliation with Manati Park.

**WE WISH YOU A PLEASANT STAY IN THE**  
**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AND MANY**  
**IMPRESSIVE MOMENTS IN THE FREE**  
**NATURE OF THIS BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY!**



**ECOTERRA Intl. [www.ecoterra.net](http://www.ecoterra.net)**

**see also: [www.ecop.onfo](http://www.ecop.onfo)**  
**(Pls support the struggle and our tasks !)**