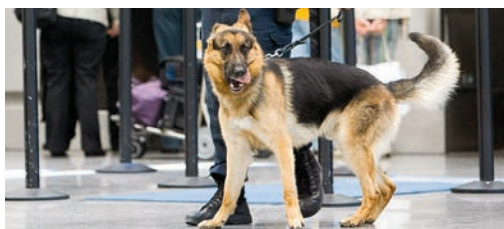


AIR TRAVEL

The TSA Is Using Detector Dogs More, Which Is Actually a Good Idea

If detector dogs can reduce my wait-time in line and allows the TSA to screen more passengers with fewer workers, I'm all for them.

See B8



FARM TO FORK

Savoring Sactown

The call of California's capital is tastier than that of the Gold Rush era.

See B4

# TRAVEL

THE EPOCH TIMES

ALL PHOTOS BY JANNA GRABER

## Escape the Winter Cold in Punta Cana

**The Dominican Republic is just a 3.5-hour flight from Newark, New Jersey. Those few hours can make a world of difference.**

(Top) The lovely Saona Island. (Bottom) the Saltos Azules pool at Scape Park, a natural adventure theme park at Cap Cana.

JANNA GRABER

“Hop out,” the boat captain says. Our speedboat has stopped and is bobbing about on a crystal blue sea. In the distance, I see a white sand beach lined with palm trees, but we’re at least half a mile from shore.

“Trust me,” he says. “You can stand up here.”

I nod and slip over the side of boat. Sure enough, the water comes up to my shoulders. We’re on a sandbank in the middle of the sea, and colorful starfish dot the soft sand beneath our feet. The boat captain turns on some music as my friends jump into the sea beside me. A crew member offers us cups of rum and Coke, which we sip, relaxing in the warm water.

Right now, the cold weather back home seems very far away. Yet the Dominican Republic is just a 3.5-hour flight from Newark, N.J. Those few hours can make a world of difference.

Punta Cana, a resort region located on the easternmost tip of the Dominican Republic, draws visitors from all over the world. Many come for the warm weather, the miles of beautiful beach and clear waters.

Continued on B2

