



Welcome to  
**PUERTO RICO**

Horseback Riding



Adjuntas	AD/4	Canóvanas	AB/9	Florida	AB/5	La Parguera	AE/2	Naguabo	AC/11	San Lorenzo	AD/9
Aguada	AB/1	Carolina	AB/9	Guánica	AE/3	Lajas	AE/2	Naranjito	AC/7	San Sebastián	AC/2
Aguadilla	AB/1	Cataño	AB/8	Guayama	AE/8	Las Marías	AC/3	Ocean Park	BC/11	Santa Isabel	AE/6
Aguas Buenas	AC/8	Cayey	AD/8	Guayama	AE/4	Las Piedras	AC/2	Orocovis	AC/6	Santurce	BE/9
Aibonito	AD/7	Ceiba	AC/11	Guaynabo	AB/8	Loiza	AD/10	Patillas	AE/9	Toa Alta	AB/7
Añasco	AC/1	Cidra	AC/6	Guarabo	AC/9	Luquillo	AB/10	Peñuelas	AE/4	Toa Baja	AB/7
Arecibo	AB/4	Coamo	AD/8	Hatillo	AB/3	Manatí	AB/11	Ponce	AE/5	Trujillo Alto	AB/9
Arroyo	AE/8	Comerio	AD/7	Hormigueros	AD/1	Maricao	AB/6	Quebradillas	AE/3	Utuado	AC/4
Barceloneta	AB/5	Humacao	AD/10	Humacao	AD/10	Maricao	AD/2	Rincón	AC/1	Vega Alta	AB/7
Barranquitas	AD/7	Condado	AA/2	Isabela	BC/14	Maunabo	AE/10	Rio Grande	AB/10	Vega Baja	AB/6
Bayamón	AB/8	Corozal	BA/7	Isla Verde	AC/5	Mayagüez	AD/1	Sabana Grande	AD/3	Viejo San Juan	CA/1
Boquerón	AE/1	Culebra	AC/13	Jayuya	AC/5	Miramar	BC/6	Salinas	AE/7	Vieques	AD/13
Cabo Rojo	AD/1	Dorado	AB/7	Joyuda	AD/1	Moca	AB/2	San Germán	AD/2	Villaalba	AD/6
Caguas	AC/9	El Combate	AE/1	Juana Díaz	AE/6	Mona	AD/1	San Juan	AB/8	Yabucoa	AE/10
Camuy	AB/3	Fajardo	AC/11	Juncos	AC/9	Morovis	AC/6	San Juan Metro	AB/8	Yauco	AE/3

### QUICK FACTS

#### Information

##### Banking and Currency

Puerto Rico is a Commonwealth of the US and uses the US dollar. Most major US banks have branches here. Banking hours are 8:30-2:30 (though some have extended hours). Credit cards & travelers checks are widely accepted. Automatic teller machines are easy to find.

##### Electricity

A modern electrical grid following US standards: 110 volt AC.

##### Emergencies: Dial 911

##### Events

Puerto Rico has a long history of cultural events built around the Patron Saint Festival in each municipality. In addition, a number of world-class events as well as local celebrations are held throughout the year.

##### Ferry Service

Ferries run between Old San Juan and Cataño, Cataño and Hato Rey, Fajardo and Culebra, Fajardo and Vieques, Vieques and Culebra. Check the area directories for the schedules.

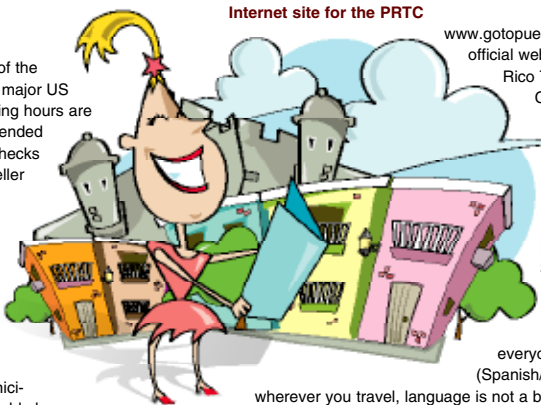
##### Immigration

There are no passports or visas required for US citizens. For citizens of other countries, call your local US Embassy to determine entry requirements.

##### Information Centers & Brochures

800-866-7827

Call toll free for bilingual information and free brochures. Check this planner or the website for the list of the PRTC offices world-wide. Daily 8am-midnight.



#### Internet site for the PRTC

[www.gotopuertorico.com](http://www.gotopuertorico.com) is the official website of the Puerto Rico Tourism Company.

Check for special offers and more information on Puerto Rico.

#### Languages: Spanish & English

Puerto Rico is a Spanish-speaking country. In the major tourist areas most everyone is bilingual (Spanish/English). However, wherever you travel, language is not a barrier.

#### Population

The population of Puerto Rico is 3.5 million with 1.4 million living in the San Juan Metropolitan Area.

#### Puerto Rico Tourism Company

787-721-2400

The Puerto Rico Tourism Company (PRTC) is the official government agency responsible for promoting travel and tourism to Puerto Rico.

#### Special-Needs Travelers

All the hotels have facilities for travelers with special needs. Some operators, such as tour operators, offer unique services for the special-needs traveler (which are part of their description). The Sea Without Barriers area of Luquillo Beach is designed for use by those with special needs and seniors.

#### Taxes and Tipping

A hotel tax is added to your bill. The tax for hotels with casinos: 11%. Paradores: 7%, all other accommodations: 9%. The standard tip is 15%. Sales Tax purchases 7%.

#### Telephone Service (Area 787 & 939)

A modern, reliable US-style telephone service. Numbers with area code 800, 888, 877 or 866 are toll free from Puerto Rico or the US. Most hotel systems are compatible with dial-up modems. Some properties have high-speed Internet connections. Puerto Rico has area codes: 787 and 939. To call outside San Juan Metro from the metro area, dial 1, the area code and then the number.

#### Time of Day

787-728-9595

Atlantic Standard Time (AST): the same as Eastern Standard Time (EST) +1 hour. Daylight savings time is not observed. May to October: AST = EST, November to April: AST = EST+1.

#### Tours and Trolleys

Quite often, you will be able to arrange a free tour of local attractions and sights through the mayor's office or tourism office of the local municipality. This is particularly true of the smaller communities on the Island. You will also find that a number of the municipalities offer a trolley service (either scheduled or by appointment) that will take you by all the local attractions and sights. If you want to get the inside story from locals, this is a good place to start.

#### Weather

787-253-4586

Puerto Rico enjoys an average temperature of 82°F (28°C) from November to May. The average beach temperatures are 80°F in summer and 76°F in the winter. The mountains tend to be 20° colder in the winter. Call this number for current weather report.

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# Horseback Riding

BY: STAFF FEB-MAR 2007



PALOMINOS - FAJARDO

FRAZIER NIVENS

**R**iding along a tropical beach, with the sea on one side and coconut palms on the other, ranks among the best of adventures. Nothing can top it, except perhaps riding through a tropical rain forest, with a stream on one side and tall bamboo plumes on the other. Puerto Rico offers both adventures, and most riding centers use horses that provide a surprisingly comfortable ride.

Some of the first horses brought by Spaniards to the New World stopped in Puerto Rico before heading on to places like Mexico and Peru. The mountain region of Jayuya was reputed to have one of this hemisphere's first horse farms. These early horses had a smooth gait that was appreciated by soldiers who had to aim their weapons while riding and by landowners who had to spend the day in the saddle, traveling over the island's hilly terrain. Over the centuries, the horses were bred and trained to refine their gait, and they became known as *paso fino*, "fine step" in English. When they walk, only one foot rises in the air at a time, and on a hard surface their rhythmic four-beat step has the sound of a metronome set on a very fast speed. Riders feel as if the horses are scarcely moving up and down.

*Paso Finos* are highly prized by their owners. Priced from \$10,000 on up, they are bred on genteel farms, particularly in the Guayama/Ponce and Isabela regions. Numerous *paso fino* competitions take place throughout the island. Riders dress elegantly in Panama hats, sports jackets and white pants, and the horses, usually black, chestnut, bay or roan in color, sport a glossy coat. Microphones placed under hard-surfaced runways amplify the sound of the hooves, and in one competition riders carry full glasses of champagne to demonstrate the smoothness of the ride.

Most island riding centers feature horses with the comfortable four-beat

step of the *paso fino*. If you prefer mountains, one of the nicest centers is Hacienda Madrigal (787-739-3453). Located on 500 mountaintop acres in the town of Cidra, the estate has views that extend for miles in all directions. The rides, led by expert guides, last either one or two hours and meander past streams, lush forest, wide panoramas, and cattle pastures. At the end of the trail, a restaurant-with-a-view serves up everything from snacks to full course meals. In Luquillo, Hacienda Carabalí (787-889-5820) expertly matches up horse and rider for one- and two-hour excursions along lush hills and streams at the base of El Yunque Forest.

For beach riding, Tropical Trail Rides lies in the nature town of Isabela along Puerto Rico's northwestern coast. This center has long been known for its lovely coastal setting, set between the sea and limestone cliffs. The guided tours, offered at 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., last two hours and take riders through coastal forest to a miles-long secluded beach. At the midway point, the horses rest while riders explore caves and cliffs at the base of Punta Borinquen. In nearby Camuy, Potrerros Brisas del Mar (787-262-2229) offers rides of various lengths with dramatic sea views, and other activities are available at the site. The center is open on weekends and holidays, or during the week with prior reservation.

On the eastern end of the island, Rancho Buena Vista at Palmas del Mar in Humacao (787-479-7479) offers guided beach rides for all levels. Leisurely one-hour rides for beginners start at 10:00 a.m., 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. Faster-paced two-hour rides for those more advanced are held at 9:00 a.m. and include snacks and drink. There are also pony rides and a kids' trail for children, and private half-day rides that include a light lunch.

For more information about riding in Puerto Rico, contact the individual centers or ask the concierge at your hotel.

## Horseback Riding

### SPONSORS

**Hacienda Carabalí Riding** 787-889-5820  
Luquillo (AB/11) [www.haciendacarabali.com](http://www.haciendacarabali.com) Horseback ride on fine Paso Fino horses carefully matched to each rider's ability. An experienced trail guide leads visitors down the mountainside & across streams to bordering lowlands. The ride includes a beautiful river stop. Rt 992 Km 3.0

**Hacienda Madrigal** 787-739-3453  
Cidra (AD/8) [www.haciendamadrigalpr.com](http://www.haciendamadrigalpr.com) A family friendly environment in the majestic setting of our hill top estate. Experience a horseback ride at the edge of the sky. Rt 173 Km 2.8 (Cidra to Aguas Buenas)

**Rancho Buena Vista** 787-479-7479  
Humacao (AD/10) [www.ranchobuenavistapr.com](http://www.ranchobuenavistapr.com) Horseback riding along the beach on Paso Fino horses, visit us at [www.ranchobuenavistapr.com](http://www.ranchobuenavistapr.com). Available: Regular trail ride, Kids trail and "Pony" ride. For the seasoned rider our Advanced Ride, Ultimate Ride and "Cabalgata a la Criolla" Getaway. Palmas del Mar Resort (open to the public)

**Tropical Trail Rides** 787-872-9256  
Isabela (AA/2) [www.tropicaltrailrides.com](http://www.tropicaltrailrides.com) Horseback riding through tropical secluded beaches, tropical forests and cliff caves. Rt 4466 Km 1.8

### OTHERS

**Potreros Brisas del Mar** 787-262-2229  
Rt 485 Km 3.2, Camuy (AB/3)

# PUERTO RICO'S GREATEST ADVENTURES!



## Hacienda Carabali

600-ACRE ADVENTURE RANCH

- HORSEBACK RIDING • MOUNTAIN BIKING
- 4-TRACK EXTRAVAGANZA
- PUERTO RICO EAST GO-KARTS
- TRADEWINDS ECO-KAYAKING



LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL FAVORITES

**Bamboo Lounge**  
Restaurant

787-448-8139

Ph. **787-889-5820**

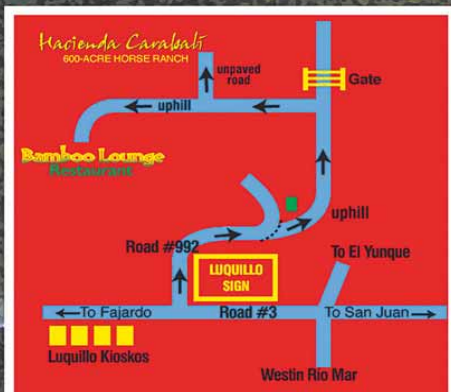
**787-690-3781**



**Road 992**  
**Km 4.0, Luquillo**

[www.haciendacarabali.com](http://www.haciendacarabali.com)  
e-mail: [haciendacarabali@yahoo.com](mailto:haciendacarabali@yahoo.com)

Transportation Available



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Info: 787-788-8400 / [www.casabacardi.org](http://www.casabacardi.org)

Route 165 km 6.2 Cataño, Puerto Rico. About a 20-minute drive from San Juan.  
Follow the adjacent road signs to the distillery.



YOUR DESTILERIA  
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