



Welcome to
PUERTO RICO

Sightseeing



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	Loiza	AB/10	Peñuelas	AE/4	Toa Baja	AB/7
Arecibo	AB/4	Coamo	AD/8	Hatillo	AB/3	Luquillo	AB/11	Ponce	AE/5	Trujillo Alto	AB/9
Arroyo	AE/8	Comerio	AD/7	Hormigueros	AD/1	Manatí	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.

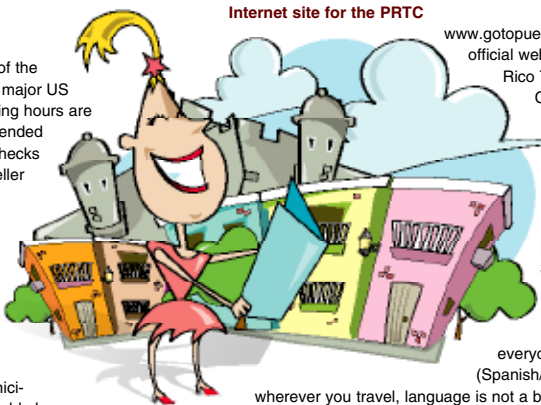
Immigration

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 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.

TRAVEL & SPORTS® MASTERGUIDE™

Publisher:
Travel & Sports, Inc.
Boulder Colorado USA

Website:
www.travelandsports.com

Editorial Support:
Permanent Press, Inc.
edit@travelandsports.com

Graphic Design:
Tommy de Armas -
aTommy.Co.
tommy@greenheads.com

Spanish Translation/Review:
Coursey Translations

Spanish Review:
Backroom Productions

English Review:
The Write Proof

Photographic Support:
Ocean Imaging
oceanimaging.com
Efra Visuals

Illustrations:
JAB Designs & Illustrations

Sales
El Nuevo Día - Linda Stockton
Cel. 787-409-5565
Tel. 787-641-8000
lstockton@elnuevodia.com

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Old San Juan Walking Tour

BY: STAFF DEC2006-JAN2007



you will get lots of information on the history and architecture of El Morro.

When you depart El Morro, you are heading to La Casita (which, by the way, is downhill). Walk down the street with Plaza de Beneficencia on your left. At the southwest corner of the plaza is the entrance to Casa Blanca, the original home of the Ponce de León family. The entrance to Casa Blanca faces San Sebastián St. Walk down San Sebastián to Cristo St.; the Plaza San José (with the statue of Ponce de León) is on your left. Turn right on to Cristo St. and walk to the beautiful, small, tree-lined Plaza de la Catedral. In front of this plaza is the historic Catedral de San Juan (construction started in 1540).

THE SHORTCUT

If you are running out of time, take the street on the south side of the plaza (the Catedral is on the east) and walk downhill past La Fortaleza and through the Puerta de San Juan. Turn left and follow Paseo de La Princesa, past the Raíces fountain and the La Princesa building (the executive office of the Puerto Rico Tourism Company). Go to the end of the Paseo, and walk to the water on your right. La Casita will be in front of you.

THE FULL TOUR

From the Plaza de la Catedral, continue down Cristo Street one more block to San Francisco Street and take a left. A block down San Francisco is the Plaza de Armas. This is the original main city square as evidenced by the Casa del Ayuntamiento (City Hall). Retrace your steps to Cristo Street, and turn left. You will find yourself in one of the major shopping areas of Old San Juan. When you reach the part where the street is blocked off, turn right and walk to La Fortaleza (the executive mansion for the Governor of Puerto Rico). Tours are available in both English and Spanish. Go back to Cristo Street and turn right. At the very end of the street is the Capilla del Cristo and (on your right) the Parque de las Palomas. Go left around the Capilla del Cristo and you are now on Tetuán St. Continue down Tetuán until you reach San Justo street (your 3rd right). Turn right on San Justo and walk to the water. La Casita is on your left.

You start at La Casita, the main Information Center for the Puerto Rico Tourism Company in Old San Juan. The center is located just west of Pier 1, right on the waterfront. If you are looking for the most current information on any part of Puerto Rico, including Old San Juan, this is the place. As you walk along, remember to check the map and the directory for more sites and information.

That said, from La Casita, walk along the waterfront (east) with the cruise ship docks on your right. Walk past the Sheraton Old San Juan Hotel and take a left. Walk up the street 2 blocks and through the Plaza de Colón (the water is at your back). Across the street from, and north of, the plaza is the Castillo de San Cristóbal. This fort is one of the two major fortifications of Puerto Rico (the other being El Morro). A tour of Castillo San Cristóbal is highly recommended (you receive an excellent map with your admission). There are a number of levels and tunnels to explore and this is great fun for the kids.

Continue your walk on Norzagaray Street, on the north edge of the fort, to El Morro (which you can see in the distance). You will find Plaza del Quinto Centenario (the two-tiered plaza with the giant obelisk) on your left before you reach El Morro. To your right, outside the City Wall, is the Cementerio de Santa María Magdalena (look for the red dome). The entrance to Castillo San Felipe del Morro (El Morro) is just ahead. As you enter El Morro itself, take a good look at the fortifications. This is a very complex and elaborate design. You can tour El Morro with one of the excellent guides or use the map you received with your admission for a self-guided tour. Either way,



DEAN

Kid Stuff

BY: STAFF FEB-MAR 2007



FRAZIER NIVENS

Kids can find plenty of stuff to do in Puerto Rico. Here are some suggestions to get your family started.

Puerto Rico's ocean and sunny beaches offer ample opportunities to build sandcastles and test the waves. For a memorable family ocean activity, take a sailboat to the offshore islets east of Fajardo. The boats sail to places where conditions are optimum for slipping on snorkeling gear and viewing the elaborate corals and iridescent fish found in our tropical waters. These outings include snorkeling instruction and a generous buffet lunch. Some island operators offer "snuba," a cross between snorkeling and scuba diving, a great compromise for adventurous teens and their more cautious parents.

Ocean kayaking has become very popular. Monserrate Beach in Luquillo and several other public beaches have kayak rentals, and you can also find rentals in most major coastal destinations. Natural channels through mangrove forest in Fajardo and La Parguera make for a memorable kayaking adventure. At night, don't miss kayaking or boating across the bioluminescent lagoons in Fajardo, Vieques, and La Parguera. Truly magical! Surfing enthusiasts head for northwestern Puerto Rico. The large waves here are for the experienced, but beginners can find pockets of calm water and surfing instructors. Brisk trade winds make for excellent sail boarding and kite boarding in Isabela and other coastal regions. You can also find operators for these sports in the San Juan metropolitan area.

Puerto Rico has many historical sites, and the good news for kids is that most of them offer a maximum of scrambling and exploring and a minimum of lecturing. The fortresses of El Morro and San Cristóbal in Old San Juan feature fascinating mazes of thick walls, steep ramps, vaulted rooms, courtyards, batteries, towers, moats, tunnels and trenches. There are also cannons and, for the youngest climbers, pyramids of cannonballs. If you want to go farther back in time, visit the Indian ceremonial centers at Tibes

north of Ponce and Caguana in the mountains near Utuado. Taino Indians used these sites for special ceremonies, and both places feature spacious grounds, rectangular rock-rimmed courtyards, native vegetation, and small museums.

A hike through tropical rain forest will fascinate most kids. The Caribbean National Forest, nicknamed El Yunque, has the best hiking on the island, with short interpretive paths, longer maintained trails, and primitive pathways. There is an orientation center at El Portal as well as observation towers, covered picnic areas, and a host of streams, rivers and wading pools. For a different sort of nature adventure, head to the northcentral karst region, where porous limestone terrain has been carved into haystack hills, sinkholes, and an immense series of underground river caves. At Río Camuy Cave Park, children enjoy the trolley ride and gentle walk through a well-lit cave to view the Camuy river far below. Adventurous teens might consider an excursion into the caves or along river canyons: contact an experienced cave tour operator for this adventure. At the nearby Arecibo Observatory, a 600-ton telescope platform hovers over a 20-acre dish set in a sinkhole. A kid-friendly visitor center explains the workings of the universe, and the views from the deck are fabulous.

What else? Several water parks offer seasonal diversions with slides, wave pools and other aquatic fun. The major parks are Speed and Splash in Ponce, Las Cascadas in Aguadilla, and Olympic Village in Salinas. Aguadilla also hosts the island's only year-round ice skating rink. In Mayagüez, visit the island's only major zoological park, the Juan A. Rivero Zoo. Horseback riding is popular with all age groups, and most golf courses welcome children at their driving ranges. For clothes-crazy teens there are two outlet malls, in Canóvanas and Barceloneta, and several outlet stores in Old San Juan. The island's modern, air-conditioned malls have stores galore, food courts, restaurants and theater complexes offering the latest movies, usually in English with Spanish sub-titles. The mall at Plaza Las Américas also features a bowling/entertainment complex.

For more information about these sites, check out entries elsewhere in this website.



DEAN

Sightseeing

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Amigos Tours 787-826-6418
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 San Juan Metro (AB/8)

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Tour Co-op of Puerto Rico 787-762-7475
 St.190 K.m 2.1 Barrio Sabana Abajo Carolina, PR, San Juan Metro (AB/8)

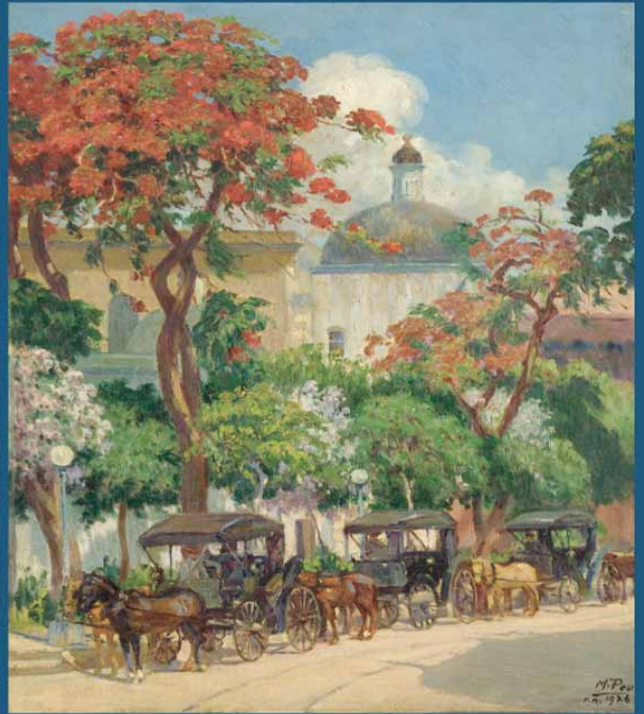
United Tour Guides of Puerto Rico 787-723-5578
 Paseo Covadonga #54 oficina 212, San Juan Metro (AB/8)



José Campeche. *Gobernador Don Ramón de Castro*; óleo sobre tela. Colección Municipio de San Juan / Museo de San Juan



Francisco Oller. *Hacienda Aurora*; óleo sobre madera. Colección Museo de Arte de Ponce. Fundación Luis A. Ferré, Inc.



Miguel Pou. *Los coches de Ponce*; óleo sobre tela. Colección Museo de Arte de Ponce. Fundación Luis A. Ferré, Inc.

Mi Puerto Rico

GRANDES MAESTROS DE LA PINTURA EN LA ISLA, 1780-1952

Museo de Arte de Ponce
29 de abril - 29 de julio de 2007



2325 Ave. Las Américas, Ponce, Puerto Rico 00717-0776
tels. 787 848-0505 / 787 840-1510 www.museoarteponce.org

Para costos de admisión favor de comunicarse con los respectivos museos.

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Info: 787-788-8400 / 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
DISTILLERY TOUR

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