

PUERTO RICO 2026

The Beginner's Guide to the Island of Enchantment



[TAP TO EXPLORE](#)

LEVEL 1: WHERE IN THE WORLD IS PUERTO RICO?



What is it?

Puerto Rico is a tropical island in the Caribbean, located between the Dominican Republic and the Virgin Islands.

The Big Twist: Even though it is in the Caribbean, it is a U.S. Territory. This means Puerto Ricans are U.S. citizens.



Currency: U.S. Dollar (\$)

No math needed!



Language: Spanish & English

About 20% of locals speak fluent English, but tourism areas are bilingual.



Weather: Eternal Summer

Average 70°F-85°F year-round.



Did You Know?

We call ourselves 'Boricua'—a unique name honoring our Island heritage and vibrant spirit.



THE 2026 TRAVEL CHECKLIST: BORING STUFF MADE EASY



GREEN LIGHT: GOOD TO GO



Passports: U.S. citizens and permanent residents do NOT need a passport.



Cell Phones: Your U.S. phone plan works here (AT&T, T-Mobile, Verizon) with no roaming charges.



Water: Tap water is safe to drink (federal standards apply).



RED LIGHT: WATCH OUT



Real ID Alert: As of May 7, 2025, you need a REAL ID-compliant driver's license (look for the star!) to fly domestically. If you don't have one, you WILL need a passport.



The USDA Inspection: When flying home, your bags must be scanned at the airport. You cannot bring back pork products, fresh fruits, or certain plants.



Customs: No customs arrival process for domestic flights. Just grab your bag and go!

MISSION 1: TIME TRAVEL IN OLD SAN JUAN



Activity 1: The Blue Streets

Wander the colorful streets of Old San Juan. The ground is paved with unique blue cobblestones originally used as weight on Spanish ships!

Look for:

- Pastel houses, balconies with flowers, and the famous cats of the cobblestones.



Activity 2: The Giant Forts

Explore Castillo San Felipe del Morro (El Morro), a 6-level fortress built in 1539 to stop pirates and invaders.

Fun Fact: The grassy field in front is the best place on the island to fly a kite!

Pro Tip: Admission is about \$10 and covers both El Morro and San Cristóbal.



MISSION 2: INTO THE JUNGLE AT EL YUNQUE

The Basics:

El Yunque is the **ONLY** tropical rainforest in the U.S. National Forest System. Just 45 minutes from San Juan.

What to See:



1. **Waterfalls:** Visit La Mina Falls (a swimming hole) or La Coca Falls.



2. **The View:** Climb Yokahú Tower for a panoramic look over the green canopy to the ocean.

Listen Closely:



Ko-Kee!

If you hear a "Ko-Kee" sound, that is the Coquí frog, a tiny native tree frog and the symbol of Puerto Rico.

2026 Update!



The reservation system has ended. Entry is first-come, first-served.

Insider Tip: Arrive before 10:00 AM to get a parking spot!



MISSION 3: THE MAGIC GLOWING WATER



The Science (Simplified):

Puerto Rico has three “Bioluminescent Bays.” The water is full of microscopic organisms (dinoflagellates) that light up like neon blue glow-sticks when the water is disturbed.

Mosquito Bay (Vieques Island)

Officially the brightest in the world. Requires a ferry or flight to get there.



Laguna Grande (Fajardo)

The easiest to visit from San Juan. You kayak through a mangrove channel to see the glow.



Pro Tip: Check the Lunar Calendar. The glow is best seen during a New Moon (darkest sky). Avoid Full Moon nights!



MISSION 4: BEACH BUMMING (CITY VS. ISLAND)



The City Choice: Isla Verde



Located right in the metro area near the airport. Great for people-watching, water sports, and grabbing lunch at a nearby kiosk.



The Paradise Choice: Flamenco Beach (Culebra)



Requires a ferry or small plane to reach. Ranked one of the most beautiful beaches in the world. Famous for the 'Painted Tank' on the sand.



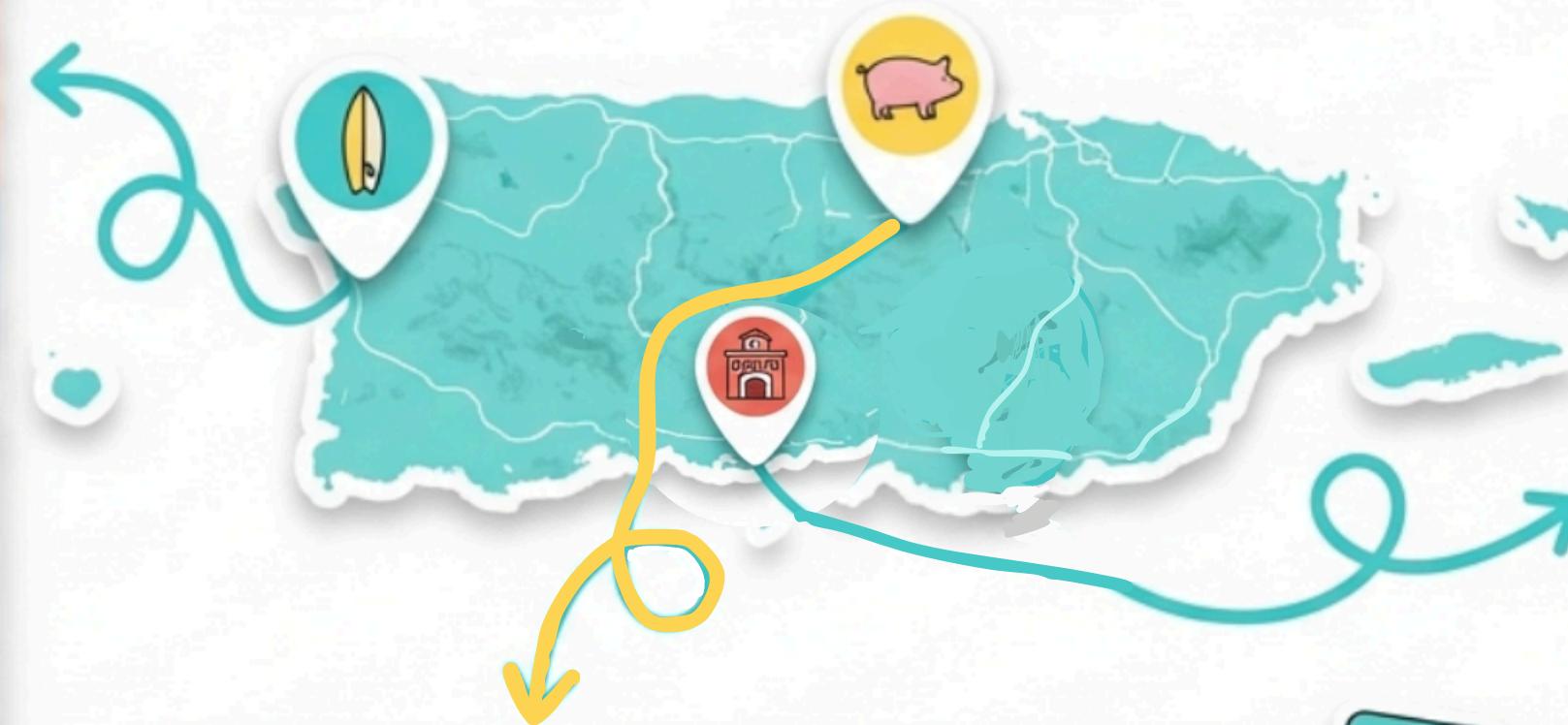
Insider Tip: The sun is strong! Apply reef-safe sunscreen every 2 hours.

MISSION 5: ROAD TRIP! WEST, SOUTH, AND CENTRAL



The West: Rincón

The 'Surf Capital.' Known for laid-back vibes, stunning sunsets, and the 'Road to Happiness.'



The Mountains: Guavate

'The Pork Highway.' A winding mountain road lined with lechoneras serving slow-roasted pork. A weekend tradition!



The South: Ponce

"The Pearl of the South." Visit the Parque de Bombas, a famous red-and-black firehouse in the town square.



TASTE TEST: EAT LIKE A LOCAL



Must-Eat #1: Mofongo (The Superstar)

What is it? Green plantains fried and mashed with garlic, olive oil, and pork cracklings. Usually topped with shrimp, steak, or chicken.

Snack Attack (Fritters):

Empanadillas: Turnovers filled with beef/chicken.

Alcapurrias: Fried root vegetables stuffed with meat.



Must-Eat #2: Lechón Asado

What is it? Whole pig, seasoned and slow-roasted over wood coals. The skin (cuerito) is crispy like a chip!



Did You Know?

The Piña Colada was invented in San Juan! Try one at Barrachina or the Caribe Hilton.

RHYTHM OF THE NIGHT: SALSA & STREET PARTIES



The Spot: La Placita de Santurce

Daytime: A historic market selling fruits and vegetables.

Nighttime: Transforms into the island's biggest street party! Restaurants and bars open up, and people dance salsa in the street.

Mark Your Calendar:



The 30th Annual World Salsa Congress

July 31 - August 1, 2026

Watch the world's best dancers compete!



The Music:

Puerto Rico is famous for Salsa and Reggaetón.

WHY VISIT IN 2026? THE BIG EVENTS EVENTS

JANUARY



Jan 15–18: San Sebastián Street Festival

The massive end-of-holiday party in Old San Juan. Parades, music, and artisans.



MARCH



March 5–17: World Baseball Classic

San Juan hosts "Pool A" at Hiram Bithorn Stadium. Watch teams from Puerto Rico, Cuba, Canada, and more. The energy is electric!



JULY



July 2026: ArteYUNQUE

A special art exhibition called "RÍO" inside the El Yunque rainforest visitor center.



New Hotels: Look for the new Hilton Dual-Brand in the Convention District opening in 2026.

INSIDER TOOLKIT: GETTING AROUND

TRANSPORT MODE



Uber vs. Rental Car

- Stay in San Juan?
Use Uber (\$8-\$15
for most trips).
- Leaving the City?
Rent a car. Essential
for the Rainforest,
Pork Highway, or
West Coast.



Book a Ride

Compare Prices,
Book Instantly, No
Parking Hassles.

THE SIGN GAME



The 'Spanglish' Road Signs

This is a unique quirk!

 Speed Limits = Miles
Per Hour (MPH)

 Distance Signs =
Kilometers (Km)

Don't Panic: Just follow
the numbers on your
speedometer.

See Sign Guide

PUBLIC TRANSIT



Public Transit: The bus
(AMA) and train are limited.
Not recommended for short
tourist trips.

View Map (Limited)

INSIDER TOOLKIT: HOW TO ACT LIKE A LOCAL



The Magic Phrase: 'Buen Provecho'

(Bwen Pro-Veh-Cho)

Meaning: "Enjoy your meal."

When to use: When you walk into a restaurant or pass someone eating. Locals say it constantly!



Island Time:

Things move slower here. Relax. Don't rush the waiter. You are on vacation!



Tipping:

Same as the U.S. mainland. Standard is 15%-20% for servers.



Greetings:

A friendly 'Buenos Días' (Good Morning) goes a long way.

THE PERFECT 3-DAY BEGINNER ITINERARY

DAY 1



Day 1: The History Walk

- Morning: El Morro Fortress & Old San Juan streets.
- Lunch: Try a 'Mallorca' sandwich.
- Sunset: Paseo de la Princesa promenade.



DAY 2



Day 2: Beach & City

- Morning: Relax at Isla Verde Beach.
- Afternoon: Explore Santurce art murals.
- Dinner: Mofongo at a local spot like 'Bebo's Cafe'.



DAY 3



Day 3: The Jungle

- Morning: Guided tour to El Yunque Rainforest (Waterfalls & Tower).
- Evening: Relax or try the Bio Bay (if you have energy!).



READY FOR TAKEOFF?

Final Checklist:

- ID Packed? (Real ID or Passport)
- Sunscreen? (Reef Safe)
- Appetite? (Ready for Mofongo)



Safety Note: Puerto Rico is generally safe for tourists. Use common sense, stay in lit areas at night, and keep valuables secure.

“When you visit, you’ll find the Boricua spirit in yourself, too.” – Discover Puerto Rico

**START PLANNING YOUR 2026
ADVENTURE TODAY!**





¡NOS VEMOS EN LA ISLA DEL ENCANTO!



www.DoinPR.com



San Juan, PR



1(939)492-2328



Info@DoinPR.com