

## San Juan

San Juan, Spanish for St John, is a historic city on the island of Puerto Rico, a US territory.

### History

Before the Europeans began to arrive in 1493, the original inhabitants were the Taino. In 1508 Ponce de Leon founded the original settlement called "Caparra". The city of San Juan was founded by Spanish colonists in 1521.

Puerto Rico remained in Spanish hands until 1898, when it was ceded to the US at the conclusion of the Spanish-American War.

### Culture

San Juan is host to numerous annual festivals and celebrations, some are: Feast of Saint John, San Sebastián Street Festival, Puerto Rico Heineken JazzFest, Casals Festivals, Puerto Rico Comic Con, San Juan Fashion Week, and the Puerto Rican Music Festival.

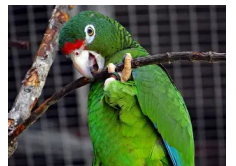
### Food

- Alcapurria - Popular street food made with grated green bananas or taro root, stuffed with meat, and fried.
- Bistec encebollado - adobo-spiced marinated beef with onion.
- Arroz y habichuelas - traditional rice and beans dish, flavored with bacon, ham, sofrito, tomato purée, spices, and olives.
- Pernil - roasted pork shoulder seasoned in adobo mojado marinade.
- Tostones - side dish made with unripe, hard plantains, sliced, fried, and deep-fried until golden.
- Mofongo - made from fried unripe plantains, with added ingredients like lobster, prawns, garlic, chicken, or bacon. It's a staple here, with its roots in African cuisine.



### Animals

Species endemic to Puerto Rico are: Common Coquí (small tree frog with a loud call), Puerto Rican Amazon (parrot), Puerto Rican Vireo (small bird), Puerto Rican Emerald (hummingbird) and the Puerto Rican Spindalis; the official bird of Puerto Rico.



### Business

Tourism is the key industry, but the city's economy also relies on the manufacturing of chemicals like bleach and house cleaning products, pharmaceuticals, rum, fertilizers, electric tools, electronic devices, plastics, and textiles.

**Driving** - You are in the US!

**Internet** - Widespread, most businesses offer free access with a purchase.

**Cell Service** - Widespread 5G

**Currency** - USD

**Language** - English is spoken, Spanish frequently heard.

### What to see and do?

Popular attractions within walking distance of the port:

- Map below - the city is small, everything is walkable!
- Castillo San Cristobal
- El Morro
- Paseo de la Princesa - waterfront walkway to El Morro from the port area.

Excursion or transportation needed attractions:

- El Yunque National Forest - lush rainforest offering hiking, waterfalls, and diverse wildlife.

# Old San Juan



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2 mi. NW of Cataño ferry terminal  
 See Metro Area Map

FERRY ROUTE:  
 SAN JUAN—CATANO /  
 CATANO—SAN JUAN

MAP LOCATION M1-A