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USA



TRAVEL USA



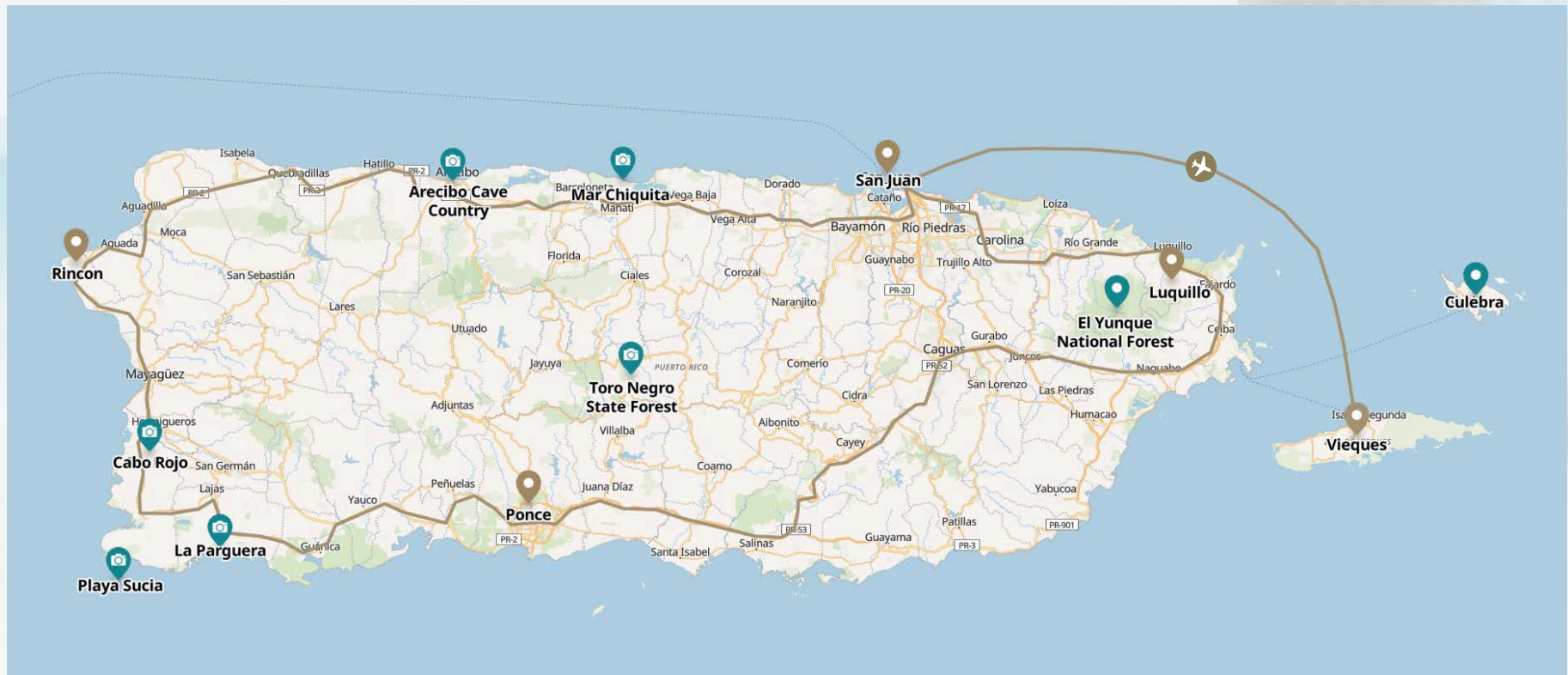
Puerto Rico

13 days / 12 nights from NZ \$4,475 pp

Discover Puerto Rico



Discover Puerto Rico on a 13-day journey combining colourful Spanish colonial history, tropical rainforest, mountain scenery, Caribbean beaches and a culture unlike anywhere else in the USA. Begin with three nights in the heart of historic Old San Juan before collecting your rental car and setting off to explore the island. Follow the north coast through limestone country to Rincon and Puerto Rico's laid-back surfing coast, then continue via the spectacular landscapes of Cabo Rojo to Ponce, the Pearl of the South. Cross the mountainous interior to Luquillo, your base for exploring El Yunque National Forest, the beaches of the east coast and nearby Culebra, with its turquoise water, coral reefs and superb snorkelling. Finally, return your rental car and take the short flight out to Vieques for two nights of beautiful beaches, wild horses and the extraordinary Mosquito Bay. From cobblestone streets and mountain roads to rainforest and Caribbean islands, Puerto Rico is made for exploring.



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Old San Juan / Authentic Flavours of San Juan Food Tour / Casa BACARDÍ Mixology Class / Mar Chiquita / Arecibo Cave Country / Rincon & Puerto Rico's Surf Coast / Cabo Rojo & Playa Sucia / Historic Ponce / Toro Negro State Forest / El Yunque National Forest / Luquillo Beach & Kiosks / Culebra / Flamenco Beach / Caribbean Snorkelling / Vieques / Mosquito Bioluminescent Bay





San Juan, Puerto Rico

Day 1: Welcome to Puerto Rico - Your Old San Juan Base

Welcome to Puerto Rico! Arrive at San Juan's Luis Muñoz Marín International Airport and transfer to your hotel in the heart of Old San Juan for the next three nights. There's deliberately no formal sightseeing planned today, but one of the advantages of staying here is that Puerto Rico begins the moment you step outside your hotel. Take an easy wander through the colourful streets and plazas, get your bearings and soak up the atmosphere without worrying about ticking anything off the sightseeing list. Later, find somewhere nearby for your first Puerto Rican dinner. The island's cuisine draws on Spanish, African and Taíno influences, with local favourites including mofongo, arroz con gandules, tostones, roast pork and freshly caught seafood. For now, simply enjoy the warm Caribbean evening and the character of your historic surroundings - tomorrow you'll explore Old San Juan properly.

Overnight: Old San Juan - CasaBlanca Hotel or similar



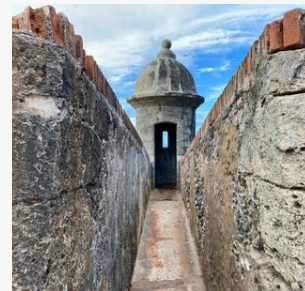
Fortaleza Street



Historic District



Castillo San Felipe del Morro



Castillo San Felipe del Morro

Day 2: Discover Old San Juan - History, Food & Colour

With your hotel right in Old San Juan, today is designed to be explored largely on foot. Begin around Plaza Colón and the Puerto Rico Capitol before making your way to Castillo San Felipe del Morro, the magnificent Spanish fortress guarding the entrance to San Juan Bay. Continue beside the old city walls to the historic San Juan Gate, Calle del Cristo, La Fortaleza and colourful Fortaleza Street. This afternoon, join your included Authentic Flavours of San Juan Food Tour, combining a guided walk through the historic district with tastings of Puerto Rican favourites and stories explaining the island's culinary traditions and culture. With enough food to form a substantial meal, it's sightseeing and an early dinner rolled into one experience. Afterwards, continue exploring at your own pace, perhaps browsing the local shops, galleries and boutiques or walking Paseo de la Princesa beneath the old city walls before strolling back to your hotel.

Overnight: Old San Juan - CasaBlanca Hotel or similar

Key Highlights:

Plaza Colón / Puerto Rico Capitol / El Morro / San Juan Gate / Calle del Cristo / La Fortaleza / Fortaleza Street / Authentic Flavours of San Juan Food Tour



Puerto Rico Capitol

Day 3: San Juan - Rum, Beaches & Modern San Juan

Having explored the historic city yesterday, today reveals a completely different side of San Juan. Make your own way across to Casa BACARDÍ in Cataño, where your included Mixology Class combines the story of one of the world's best-known rum brands with a hands-on introduction to classic rum cocktails. Enjoy a welcome cocktail before joining a BACARDÍ mixologist to learn the techniques behind creating your own Caribbean favourites. Afterwards, head towards San Juan's modern coastal neighbourhoods and spend some time around Condado Lagoon, walk the beachfront or continue to Isla Verde for a swim and a few hours beside the Caribbean blue waters. Later, return to Old San Juan and enjoy your final evening within walking distance of its restaurants, bars and atmospheric plazas. Tomorrow morning you swap colourful city streets for the open road and begin exploring the rest of Puerto Rico.

Overnight: Old San Juan - CasaBlanca Hotel or similar

Key Highlights:

Casa BACARDÍ Mixology Class / Puerto Rican Rum / Condado Lagoon / Isla Verde Beach / Modern San Juan



Mixology Class



Condado Lagoon



Casa BACARDÍ



Modern San Juan

Day 4: San Juan to Rincon - Puerto Rico's North Coast (approx. 200 km)

Make your own way back to San Juan Airport this morning to collect your Alamo rental car and begin your road trip west along Puerto Rico's Atlantic coast. Stop first at beautiful Mar Chiquita near Manatí, a natural pool protected by dramatic limestone formations with a narrow opening to the ocean. Continue into Arecibo's remarkable landscape and choose between two very different cave experiences. Cueva Ventana rewards visitors with an enormous natural window overlooking the Río Grande de Arecibo valley, while coastal Cueva del Indio combines sea cliffs, caves and ancient Taíno petroglyphs. Continue west to Aguadilla and colourful Crash Boat Beach, with its clear water and distinctive pier, before turning south towards Rincon. Check into your hotel for two nights and finish your first driving day watching the sun disappear over Puerto Rico's western horizon.

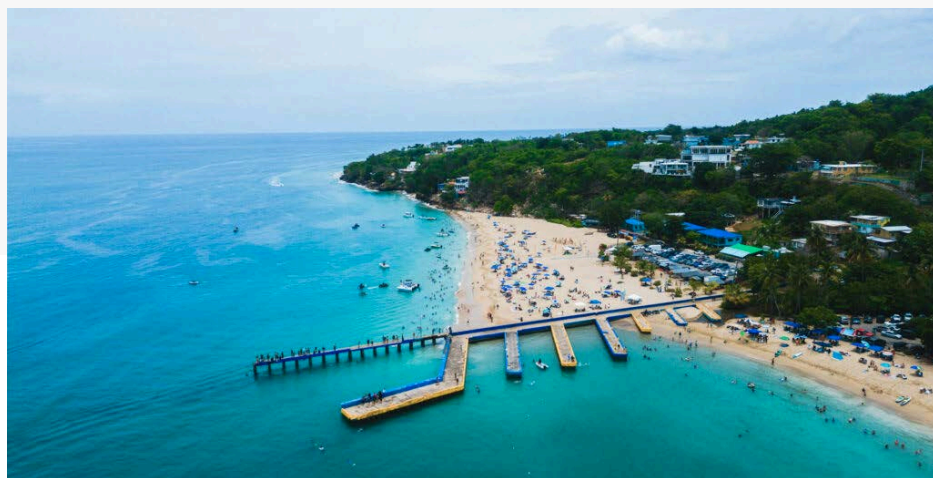
Overnight: Rincon - Rincon of the Seas - Grand Caribbean Hotel or similar

Key Highlights:

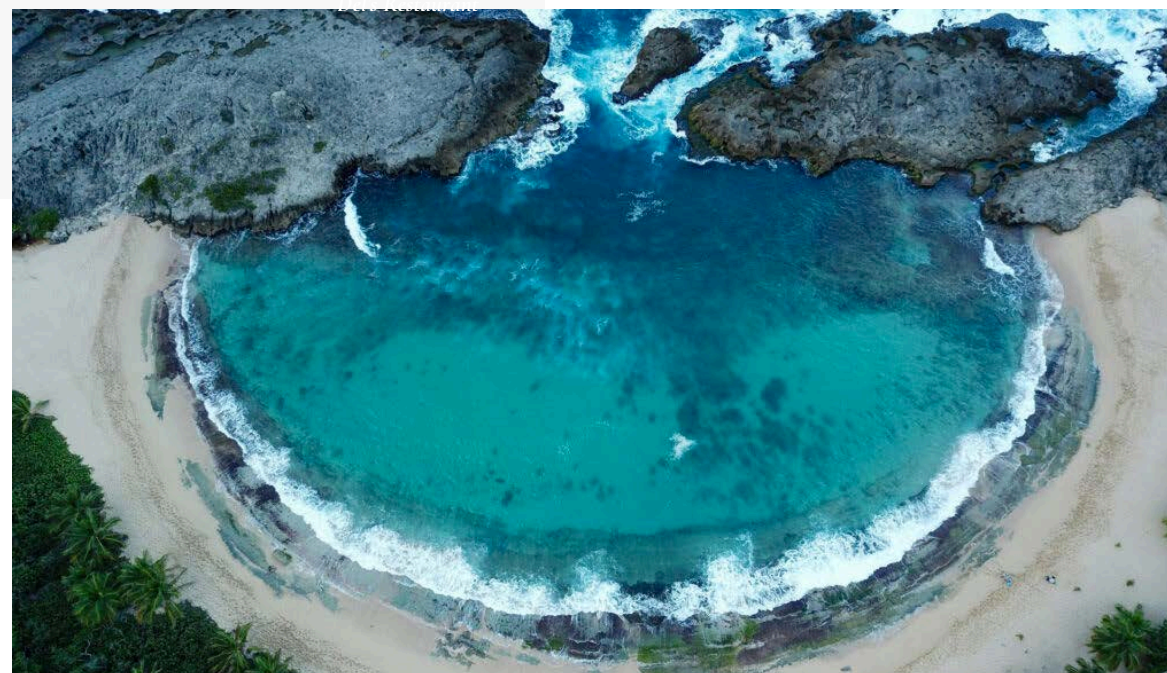
Mar Chiquita / Cueva Ventana or Cueva del Indio / Crash Boat Beach /
West Coast Sunset



Surfing at Rincon



Crash Boat Beach



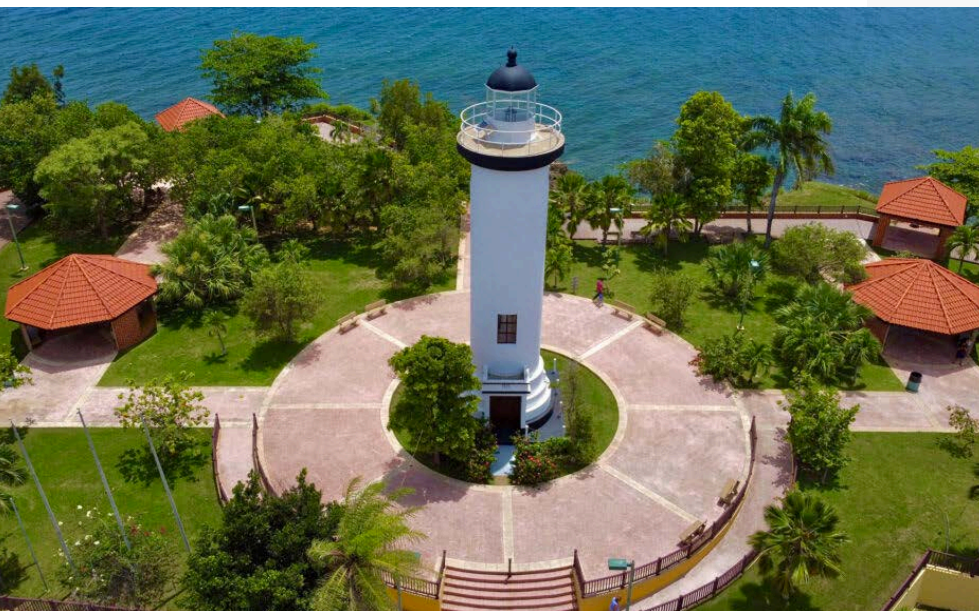
Mar Chiquita Natural Pool



Rincon Surf Beach



Tres Palmas Marine Reserve



Punta Higuero Lighthouse

Day 5: Discover Rincon - Surf, Beaches & Island Time

Slow the pace today and enjoy Puerto Rico's famous surfing coast. Rincon sits where the Atlantic meets the Caribbean and has grown from a quiet fishing community into the island's surfing capital. Head towards María's and Domes beaches to watch local and visiting surfers tackle the waves or perhaps give surfing a go yourself. Nearby Punta Higuero Lighthouse provides sweeping views along the coastline, while Tres Palmas Marine Reserve offers excellent snorkelling and another glimpse of the marine environment that makes this corner of Puerto Rico special. Depending on the season, migrating humpback whales can sometimes be spotted offshore. There's deliberately no long sightseeing list today - Rincon is somewhere to slow down. Find a beach, enjoy a leisurely lunch, explore the town's cafés and beach bars and spend the afternoon swimming, relaxing or simply enjoying Puerto Rico's laid-back west coast.

Overnight: Rincon - Rincon of the Seas - Grand Caribbean Hotel or similar

Key Highlights:

Rincon / María's Beach / Domes Beach / Surf Culture / Punta Higuero Lighthouse / Tres Palmas Marine Reserve



Rincon Beach

Day 6: Rincon to Ponce - Puerto Rico's Wild Southwest (approx. 145 km)

Leave Rincon and follow Puerto Rico's west coast south towards Cabo Rojo, where the landscape becomes wilder and more dramatic. Make your way to La Playuela - better known as Playa Sucia - a beautiful crescent of sand surrounded by protected coastal scenery. Nearby, walk towards Los Morrillos Lighthouse and the limestone sea cliffs for sweeping views across the Caribbean. Continue along the south coast to La Parguera, a relaxed waterfront community surrounded by mangroves, small cays and calm Caribbean water. La Parguera is also home to one of Puerto Rico's three bioluminescent bays; while swimming in its glowing waters is possible, we've saved your bioluminescent experience for spectacular Mosquito Bay on Vieques. After lunch or a wander along the waterfront, continue east to Ponce. Check into your hotel for two nights and enjoy a relaxed evening in Puerto Rico's historic southern city.

Overnight: Ponce - Hilton Ponce Golf & Casino Resort or similar



Playa Sucia

Key Highlights:

*Cabo Rojo / Playa Sucia / Los Morrillos Lighthouse / Sea Cliffs /
La Parguera / Caribbean South Coast*



Cabo Rojo



Los Morrillos Lighthouse



Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe



Plaza Las Delicias

Day 7: Discover Ponce - The Pearl of the South

Today belongs entirely to Ponce, Puerto Rico's elegant second city and cultural heart of the south. Begin at Plaza Las Delicias, the handsome central square where the distinctive red-and-black Parque de Bombas, a beautifully preserved former fire station, sits alongside the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe, one of the city's most important historic churches. Explore the surrounding streets before heading uphill to Castillo Serrallés, the impressive former mansion of the family behind Puerto Rico's Don Q rum. Its Spanish Revival architecture, gardens and exhibits provide an insight into the island's sugar and rum industries. Nearby, the Cruceta del Vigía, a towering cross-shaped observation landmark, offers panoramic views across the city towards the Caribbean. Art lovers can also check current opening arrangements at the renowned Museo de Arte de Ponce, celebrated for its collection of European and Puerto Rican art. Leave some time to enjoy the city itself, perhaps stopping for coffee or lunch around the historic centre before choosing a local restaurant for your final evening in the Pearl of the South.

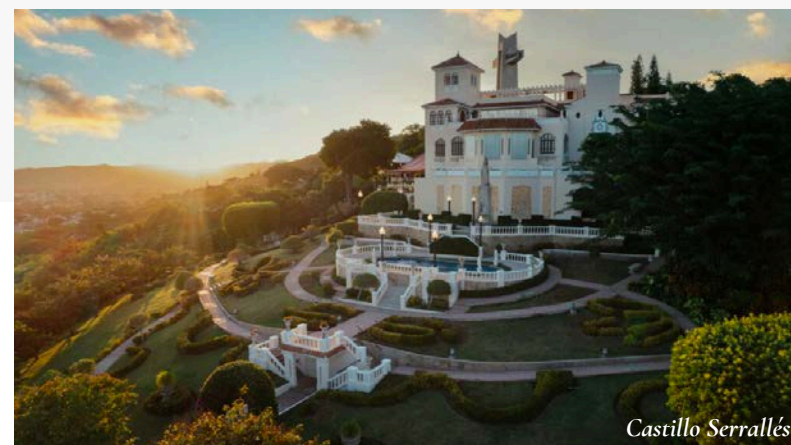
Overnight: Ponce - Hilton Ponce Golf & Casino Resort or similar

Key Highlights:

Plaza Las Delicias / Parque de Bombas / Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe / Castillo Serrallés / Cruceta del Vigía / Ponce



Cruceta del Vigía

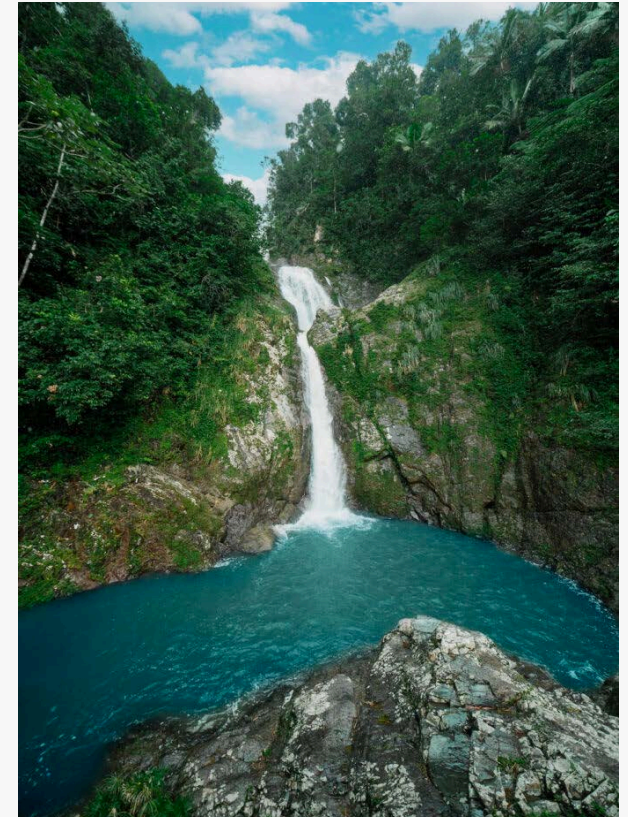


Castillo Serrallés

Day 8: Ponce to Luquillo - Across Puerto Rico's Mountain Interior (approx. 170 km)

Leave Ponce this morning and turn north into Puerto Rico's mountainous interior, swapping the Caribbean coast for winding roads, cooler air and densely forested scenery. Make your way into the Cordillera Central, following scenic mountain roads towards Toro Negro State Forest, one of the island's highest and most dramatic forest reserves. Stop to enjoy the mountain scenery and, conditions permitting, choose a short walk or simply take in the views before continuing east through Puerto Rico's central highlands. Today is as much about the journey as the destination, so allow plenty of time for the drive and scenic stops along the way. Eventually descend from the mountains towards the northeast coast and Luquillo, your base for the next three nights. Check in and enjoy a relaxed evening - tomorrow you'll explore nearby El Yunque National Forest.

Overnight: Luquillo - Sunrise Beach Inn or similar



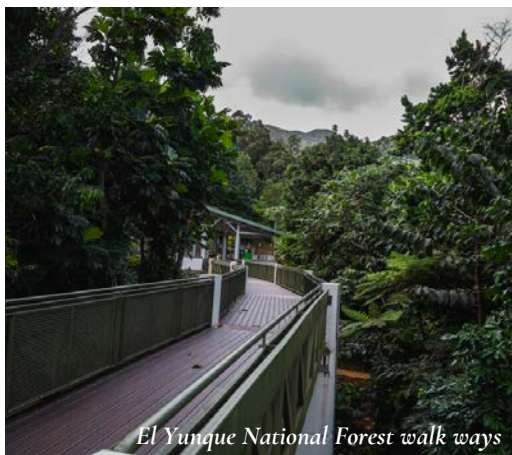
Toro Negro State Forest

Key Highlights:

*Cordillera Central / Mountain Roads / Toro Negro State Forest /
Scenic Cross-Island Drive*



Luquillo



El Yunque National Forest walk ways



El Portal de El Yunque Visitor Center



Luquillo Beach

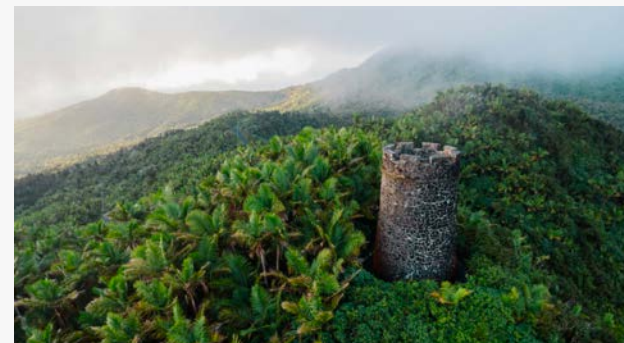
Day 9: Explore El Yunque - Puerto Rico's Tropical Rainforest

Today, explore El Yunque National Forest at your own pace using your rental car to discover the only tropical rainforest in the U.S. National Forest System. Begin at El Portal de El Yunque Visitor Center for an introduction to the forest and to help plan your day. Continue along scenic PR-191, stopping at La Coca Falls before climbing Yokahú Observation Tower for views across the rainforest towards Puerto Rico's northeast coast. Choose a short walking trail or simply enjoy the viewpoints and mountain scenery from the road. For something more adventurous, the Luquillo area offers zip-lining through the tropical landscape, while nearby Las Paylas has natural rock waterslides and swimming holes to discover. Afterwards, return to Luquillo Beach for some time beside the Caribbean before visiting the colourful Luquillo Kiosks for dinner and a taste of authentic local Puerto Rican food and culture.

Overnight: Luquillo - Sunrise Beach Inn or similar

Key Highlights:

El Yunque National Forest / Scenic PR-191 / La Coca Falls / Yokahú Tower / Las Paylas Option / Luquillo Kiosks



Yokahú Observation Tower

Day 10: Culebra - Caribbean Snorkelling & Flamenco Beach

It's an early start today, but well worth it for your included full-day excursion to beautiful Culebra. Make the short drive from Luquillo to Fajardo, arriving by 8.00am, and join your boat for the journey across to an island renowned for crystal-clear turquoise water, white-sand beaches and an outstanding marine environment. Spend time snorkelling at Playa Carlos Rosario, where coral reefs provide habitat for colourful tropical fish and marine life, before continuing to spectacular Flamenco Beach, regarded as one of Puerto Rico's most beautiful beaches. Swim in the warm Caribbean water, relax on the sand and enjoy the laid-back island surroundings. Lunch, snacks, refreshments and snorkelling equipment are all included, so everything is taken care of for the day. After a memorable day on and around Culebra, cruise back to Fajardo later this afternoon and return to Luquillo for your final evening before tomorrow's island escape to Vieques.

Overnight: Luquillo - Sunrise Beach Inn or similar

Key Highlights:

*Culebra / Playa Carlos Rosario / Guided Snorkelling / Coral Reefs
& Marine Life / Flamenco Beach / Lunch & Refreshments*



Culebra Island



Flamenco Beach

Day 11: Luquillo to Vieques - From Road Trip to Island Escape (approx. 50 km plus short flight)

Enjoy a leisurely start before leaving Luquillo and driving back towards San Juan. Return your Alamo rental car at Luis Muñoz Marín International Airport, bringing the self-drive portion of your journey to an end. From here, board your **Cape Air** flight to Vieques (not included), a short flight across to the island and the final chapter of your Puerto Rican adventure. On arrival at Vieques Airport, take a local taxi to your accommodation and settle in for the next two nights. Spend the remainder of the day around **Esperanza**, a relaxed south-coast community overlooking the Caribbean. Walk along the waterfront **Malecon**, browse the local shops or find a waterside bar or restaurant and simply watch island life unfold. After a week on the road, enjoy the change of pace and relaxed island atmosphere before discovering the extraordinary natural side of Vieques tomorrow.

Overnight: Esperanza (Vieques) - Hacienda Tamarindo or similar

Key Highlights:

Cape Air Flight to Vieques / Esperanza / Malecon / Island Life



Esperanza Restaurant



Vieques

Day 12: Vieques - Wild Horses & Mosquito Bay

Spend your final full day exploring one of Puerto Rico's most distinctive islands. Much of Vieques is protected within the **Vieques National Wildlife Refuge**, while free-roaming horses remain part of everyday island life. Use local transport or hire a Jeep for the day and seek out some of the island's beautiful coastline. **La Chiva** offers clear turquoise water, **Sun Bay** is ideal for an easy swim, while **Playa Negra** provides something completely different with its distinctive dark sand. After sunset comes one of the highlights of your entire journey - your included **Mosquito Bay Bioluminescent Kayak Tour**. Travel with your guides to the bay before paddling onto the dark water in a clear-bottom kayak. As microscopic organisms react to movement, flashes of light appear around your paddle and beneath the kayak, creating one of Puerto Rico's most extraordinary natural experiences.

Overnight: Esperanza (Vieques) - Hacienda Tamarindo or similar

Key Highlights:

Vieques National Wildlife Refuge / Wild Horses / La Chiva / Sun Bay / Playa Negra / Mosquito Bay / Bioluminescent Kayaking



Vieques Sun Bay



Vieques National Wildlife Refuge



Mosquito Bay Bioluminescent Kayak Tour

Day 13: Farewell Puerto Rico - Continue Your USA Adventure

Your Puerto Rican adventure comes to an end today. Transfer to Vieques Airport and take the short flight back to San Juan's Luis Muñoz Marín International Airport, allowing a comfortable connection before continuing to the U.S. mainland or beginning your journey home. Over the past 13 days you've experienced an extraordinary variety of Puerto Rico - Spanish colonial history, Atlantic caves and beaches, a laid-back surfing coast, dramatic Caribbean sea cliffs, elegant Ponce, winding mountain roads and tropical rainforest. You've discovered the island through its food and rum, snorkelled the clear waters surrounding Culebra and finished on Vieques with one of nature's most remarkable after-dark displays. Puerto Rico works equally well as a destination in its own right or as part of a wider USA holiday. Like all Travel USA itineraries, Explore Puerto Rico is a starting point - we can tailor the pace, accommodation and experiences around you.



San Juan



Your Journey, Your Way

Our Discover Puerto Rico itinerary is a suggested journey around the island, combining colourful history, Caribbean beaches, tropical rainforest, mountain scenery, local culture and the open road. It is fully customisable to suit your travel style, interests and pace - whether adding extra nights, spending longer on Vieques or extending your stay elsewhere in Puerto Rico. With Travel USA, every journey can be tailored from scratch, with flexibility around accommodation, sightseeing, length of stay, rental vehicle and travel arrangements to suit preferences, budgets and travel goals.

Best Time to Travel

Puerto Rico can be explored year-round, with warm tropical temperatures throughout the year. December through April is peak season, with January particularly popular for its warm Caribbean weather and generally drier conditions, so booking ahead is recommended. May through November is warmer and more humid, with a greater chance of rainfall but also fewer crowds and good value. The Atlantic hurricane season also falls within this period, with conditions varying from year to year. Travel USA can recommend the best time to suit your travel plans.

Accommodation

Travel USA has selected accommodation with location and the journey in mind. CasaBlanca Hotel places you in the heart of colourful Old San Juan, while Rincon of the Seas provides a relaxed beachfront base in Rincón. Hilton Ponce Golf & Casino Resort offers a Caribbean waterfront setting, while Luquillo Sunrise Beach Inn provides ocean views and easy access to El Yunque, Luquillo Beach and the Kiosks. Finally, Hacienda Tamarindo provides a peaceful island retreat on Vieques, with beautiful Caribbean views and easy access to Esperanza and Mosquito Bay. As with every Travel USA itinerary, accommodation can be customised to suit individual preferences, travel style and budget.

What's Included?

- Airport arrival transfer in San Juan
- 3 nights' accommodation in Old San Juan
- Authentic Flavours of San Juan Food Tour
- Casa BACARDÍ Mixology Class
- 9-day Alamo Car Rental in a Standard SUV
- 2 nights' accommodation in Rincon
- 2 nights' accommodation in Ponce
- 3 nights' accommodation in Luquillo
- Full-day Culebra Boat & Snorkelling Tour with lunch & refreshments
- 2 nights' accommodation in Vieques
- Mosquito Bay Bioluminescent Kayak Tour
- Travel USA Planning Assistance

Pricing:

All of our pricing is based on dynamic rates meaning we will provide you with the best of the day at the time of booking. Our suggested itinerary has been created using fully refundable rates. Final pricing will depend on factors like month of travel, how early you book, availability and whether you choose non-refundable or fully refundable rates.

NZ\$ pricing for our 13 day / 12 night package

- From \$4,475 - \$4,795 per person depending on the month of travel

Terms & Conditions apply - [CLICK HERE](#) or go to www.travelusa.co.nz for more details

Please note: Flights between San Juan and Vieques are not included in the package price. There are several flights available each day, and Travel USA will manage the recommended flight arrangements as part of your itinerary planning to ensure they fit with your travel plans.

This is a suggested itinerary based on our recommendations. There are no fixed departure dates or schedules so you can customise the itinerary to suit your personal preferences and needs. Contact us with your proposed dates and we will create a personalised travel package just for you.



Castillo Serralles, Ponce