

# PUERTO RICO

AN EASY GUIDE TO EPIC ADVENTURES

1

ISSUE  
2017

Explore San  
Juan, Culebra  
Island, Rio  
Grande

Local Secrets  
and Information



# ABOUT ME



**Ufuoma**  
**[www.theufuoma.com](http://www.theufuoma.com)**

Travel Blogger & Working  
Professional

**Traveler Since**  
2005

**Age**  
25

**Interests and Activities**

Travel, Photography, Global Business,  
Sports, Art

## WHO AM I?

I am a Nigerian girl who now lives and works in Canada. I love to travel and I have found that combining a global business career and traveling to experience new cultures and places has been so rewarding. I started theufuoma.com to inspire young people to travel and live life fully. When I am not traveling, I am stalking new places to travel to or working in a multinational organization in Canada full-time.

## WHAT I KNOW ABOUT TRAVEL?

"I haven't been everywhere but it is on my list." That pretty much sums up my enthusiasm for traveling the world. My adventures have taken me to some awesome countries in South America, Europe, Africa and North America and I still can't get enough. I believe that my major strength as a traveler is the ability to make the best of any trip, regardless of time or money constraints. I am able to find off-the-beat locations and I am always up for an adventure.





## OVERVIEW

Planning to visit Puerto Rico soon? Whether it is just dreamy ideas you have in your head or concrete plans you are already making, this guide is for you. With great tips and things to do, this guide contains information that will make your travel to Puerto Rico worthwhile and will save you the stress of tons and tons of time spent on the internet. Consider this, your one-stop guide for an epic adventure in Puerto Rico.



# LOCAL PERKS AND KNOWLEDGE

Puerto Rico is a United States territory and this means that you can enter Puerto Rico if you are a United States citizen or you hold a valid United States visa. The currency used in Puerto Rico is the dollar. When in Puerto Rico, make sure to hold some cash with you as some vendors only accept cash but this is only a small percentage as most of the city is card friendly.

There is so much culture and history in Puerto Rico. The food, the people and the music. It is a great destination all year round but be mindful of the swift weather changes. One minute it is blazing hot, the next minute it is raining but the rain only lasts a few minutes before the sun comes out again. Be sure to have raincoats or umbrellas as well as sunglasses and hats especially in December.

One thing I really loved about Puerto Rico and a stand-out feature for me was the fusion between Spanish and American influences. The product is often times a rich authentic vibe that's both new and fresh and leaves you wanting to explore. So go on, explore but not after reading this guide.

Enjoy,

Ufuoma



# BEFORE YOU GO

## I. WHAT TO TAKE

Sunscreens, Bikinis, Shorts, Hats and other tropical weather friendly clothing. Umbrellas, Rain shoes for when it rains unexpectedly. Hiking shoes for El Yunque Rainforest. Comfortable flat shoes and sandals for exploring the city by foot. Driver's license if you need to rent a car. Cash and credit card. Dollar is the currency. Bug spray because there are a lot of bugs in Puerto Rico. Of course, Camera to capture the awesome memories.

## II. GETTING AROUND

Public transportation in Puerto Rico is not very efficient. However, there are many other ways to get around town. When in San Juan, taxis and Ubers are the best bet, with Uber being the better option as they are cheaper and quicker. If venturing out of San Juan, for example, to El Yunque Rainforest and Fajardo, make sure to rent a car from Enterprise-Rent-a-Car. A Regular car costs about \$45 and it is by far the best option compared to tours of \$200 with little or no flexibility.

## III. MONEY AND TIPPING

Credit cards are accepted in most places but be sure to carry spare cash for a few street vendors who sell tasty street food or for payment of tolls when venturing outside San Juan. For currency exchanges, it is best to go to the mall or certified and safer locations. Avoid exchanging money on the streets. Puerto Ricans like to be tipped (who doesn't?) and they deserve it because most of the service you experience will be great service. Say thank you with a good tip.



## **IV. SAFETY AND SECURITY**

Puerto Rico is a relatively safe country but just like every other country you visit, you should take precaution especially as a tourist. First, you do not have to wear it on your sleeve that you are a tourist. Be confident even when you feel lost and avoid dark spots and areas with sketchy wifi connections. In general, use your good judgement and keep the lines of communication open with your loved ones at home.

## **V. USEFUL PHONE NUMBER, WEBSITES AND LOCAL APPS**

Puerto Rico Tourism Company: +1 787-721-2400

Enterprise-Rent-A-Car:+1 844-794-8599

Emergency number: 911

Head of police department: (787) 343-2020

## **VI. Local Notes**

Even though Puerto Rico is a spanish-speaking country, a good number of the locals speak English so navigating the city shouldn't be a problem. Pack your bags and go off to Puerto Rico. Immerse yourself in its unique culture and speak to the locals, eat amazing food and indulge in epic adventures. Have fun and enjoy your time there.





LOCAL SECRETS





# Flamenco Beach



## See and Do

Cll 1, Culebra, 00775, Puerto Rico (787) 644-6300

If you do not go anywhere in Puerto Rico, go to Flamenco Beach. It is one of the most beautiful beaches in the world. Note that Flamenco beach is not in the popular San Juan. pan. You will have to access it by ferry or by air. If by Ferry, catch an early one at gam from Fajardo to Culebra and enjoy the amazing view. The ferry terminal now sells a return ticket which costs about \$13 per person. If you usually experience sea sickness, make sure to get a pressure band. There are a couple of bars and nice places to get great Puerto Rican food at Flamenco beach so leave your food at home.

### RATING



Make Your Trip

### CATEGORY

Beautiful

Outdoor

Nature

### NEED TO KNOW

Beach

### WHAT I LOVE ABOUT IT HERE

Beautiful beach, Great Scenery, Serene





# Viejo san juan

## RATING



Make Your Trip

## CATEGORY

- Walks
- City
- Views

## NEED TO KNOW

- Historical
- Sight seeing
- Architecture



## See and Do

Paseo De La Princesa Calle Shurmberg, San Juan, 00901, Puerto Rico

Old San Juan is best explored by foot. There are a lot of city tours but I'll say ditch them and explore on your own terms. If you want to learn about the history of the places you come across, there are several maps with great information at every historic site. So, who needs the expensive city tours anyway? Don't forget to fuel up from time to time by stopping by the great restaurants in Old San Juan. Did I mention, it is best to start exploring this part of town in the early hours of the day, say, 9 am.

## WHAT I LOVE ABOUT IT HERE

Vibrant Colors and Cobblestones





# Garita Castillo de San Cristóbal



## See and Do

6 Calle San Justo, San Juan, 00901, Puerto Rico

Castillo de san Cristobal is a sight to see. This fort was built by Spain to protect against land based attacks on the city of San Juan. Go early in the day as it gets pretty crowded later on. Avoid expensive tours as much as possible as it is very enjoyable finding these treasures yourself and still having freedom to explore at your own pace.

### WHAT I LOVE ABOUT IT HERE

Beautiful View and Great Architecture

### RATING



Make Your Trip

### CATEGORY

Tours

Views

Interesting

### NEED TO KNOW

Architecture

Historical

Sight seeing





# Castillo san felipe del Morro

## RATING



Make Your Trip

## CATEGORY

Authentic

Interesting

Views

## NEED TO KNOW

Sight seeing

Architecture

Historical



## See and Do

Old San Juan (787) 639-7844

Better experienced by foot.

## WHAT I LOVE ABOUT IT HERE

Great historic views





# El Yunque National Forest - El Portal Visitor Center



## See and Do

PR-191, Río Grande, 00745, Puerto Rico (787) 888-1880

If you are coming to Rio Grande from San Juan, you need a car as that is the only way to get to La Coca falls and La Mina falls. After parking your car, you will now proceed to hike about 4 km. You need to have very comfortable shoes, preferably, water shoes as it can rain anytime, plus, it is a rainforest so wet, slippery grounds. Bring a bug repellent as well. Enjoy the amazing views and bask in the beauty of nature.

### WHAT I LOVE ABOUT IT HERE

Great views and waterfalls

### RATING



Make Your Trip

### CATEGORY

- Outdoor
- Forest
- Adventure

### NEED TO KNOW

- Hiking
- Rainforest
- Sight seeing





# La Coca Falls

## RATING



Good Detour

## CATEGORY

Adventure

Forest

Views

## NEED TO KNOW

Historical

Hiking

Sight seeing



## See and Do

PR-191, Río Grande 00745, Puerto Rico

Get ready for a healthy dose of nature, waterfalls and chirping birds. Make sure to set out early as the rainforest closes at 6pm. Try to leave mid-afternoon too to avoid traffic heading back home. Whatever you do, have a lot of fun and bask in the beauty of nature.

## WHAT I LOVE ABOUT IT HERE

Stunning Waterfall, nature overload





# La Mina Falls

## RATING



Make Your Trip

## CATEGORY

Nature

Views

Outdoor

## NEED TO KNOW

Hiking



## See and Do

Rio Grande, Puerto Rico

The hike leading up to La Mina Falls is totally worth it. Be careful though, the rocks are very slippery and should be ventured slowly. Remove your shoes before proceeding to the water and the falls and do not forget to take beautiful pictures to relive the memories. Enjoy nature at its finest.

WHAT I LOVE ABOUT IT HERE

The view is marvelous





# Yokahu Observation Tower



## See and Do

El Yunque National Forest, Puerto Rico +1 787-888-1880

An observation tower for an amazing view of the rainforest. it is free to get in but donations for maintenance are welcome. Take the stairs all the way up and the views are totally breathtaking.

### WHAT I LOVE ABOUT IT HERE

Epic Views

### RATING



Make Your Trip

### CATEGORY

Views

Outdoor

Beautiful

### NEED TO KNOW

Historical

Sight seeing

Architecture





# Casa Bacardí

## RATING



Good Detour

## CATEGORY

- Chill
- Happy hour
- Tours

## NEED TO KNOW

- Cocktails
- Rum
- Mixology



## Drink

Unnamed Road, Toa Baja, Cataño 00949, Puerto Rico (787) 788-8400

You know the brand Bacardi right? Well, they have a home in Puerto Rico with a huge factory and of course, plenty of rum. This is a great way to unwind on your trip. Book a tour online at [www.visitbacardi.com/tours](http://www.visitbacardi.com/tours) before you go there to avoid any disappointments as spots sell out fast. You must book online within three hours of the day of your visit or you will have to leave availability to chance. There are different tours and they involve drinking so it is best to take a taxi/uber there if you plan to have one too many drinks.

WHAT I LOVE ABOUT IT HERE

Mixology class, Great tasting rum, History





# Fajardo Ferry Terminal

## RATING



Make Your Trip

## CATEGORY

Getting around

Running Routes

## NEED TO KNOW

Get Here Early



## Offbeat Secret

PR-195, Fajardo, 00738, Puerto Rico

You have to come here early and wait in line for tickets to Culebra. The early ferry leaves at 9am and this is the most reliable one. Make sure to buy a return ticket so you are not stranded in Culebra.

## WHAT I LOVE ABOUT IT HERE

Takes you to Culebra Island





# The Wave Hotel

## RATING



Make Your Trip

## CATEGORY

- Great service
- View
- Internet

## NEED TO KNOW

- Hotel
- Boutique hotel



## Sleep

76 Av. Condado, San Juan, 00907, Puerto Rico  
(787) 721-9010

This hotel is located in Condado, the heart of San Juan. It is a great central location and there is everything you will need for a comfortable stay there. There is a Walmart and CVS pharmacy close by if you need to pick up any toiletries and the Condado beach is just behind the hotel. The staff are super helpful and will give you good advice on touring the city. The rooftop hot tubs are also worthy of mention. End your day of exploration by relaxing in these hot tubs with a wine in hand and the best city views.

## WHAT I LOVE ABOUT IT HERE

Central Location, Great service, Hot tubs





# Barrachina



## Eat

104 Calle Fortaleza, San Juan, 00901, Puerto Rico (787) 725-7912

Did you know the first ever Pina Colada was made in Puerto Rico? Well, now you do. What's best, it was made in this restaurant. You should go there and have some of the best Pina Colada ever.

### WHAT I LOVE ABOUT IT HERE

Famous Pina Colada started here

### RATING



Make Your Trip

### CATEGORY

Buzzing

Upscale

Atmosphere

### NEED TO KNOW

Restaurant

Bar

Food





# Ben & Jerry's

## RATING



Good Detour

## CATEGORY

Intimate

Buzzing

Trendy

## NEED TO KNOW

Restaurant



## Eat

Ave Ramirez de Arellano Estacion Tren Urbano, Guaynabo, PR 00966, Puerto Rico  
(787) 793-3659

Ben and Jerry's is a popular ice cream brand but this one in San Juan is unique as it has been designed to fit the culture with great San Juan art and music. Perfect for a little break while touring Old San Juan.

## WHAT I LOVE ABOUT IT HERE

Ice cream with a twist





# Cocina Abierta



Eat

Cll Caribe, San Juan, 00907, Puerto Rico (787) 946-1333

This place was glamorous yet intimate and the food tasted amazing. You will need a reservation to book a spot so be sure to do it well in advance by either phone call or via [opentable.com](https://www.opentable.com)

## WHAT I LOVE ABOUT IT HERE

Great food, classy environment

## RATING



Make Your Trip

## CATEGORY

Fine Service

Classic

Glamorous

## NEED TO KNOW

Restaurant





# Euforia Salón



## Offbeat Secret

PR-693, Dorado, 00646, Puerto Rico (787) 796-7913

Enjoy a relaxing massage session from Euforia. You will be asked to fill a form prior to the beginning of the session to determine your threshold and how firm they need to be with your body. In general, enjoy the serene environment and soothing music. Massages usually last 90 minutes.

### WHAT I LOVE ABOUT IT HERE

Great atmosphere for a great massage

### RATING



Good Detour

### CATEGORY

### NEED TO KNOW

Underrated

Relaxation





# Verde Mesa

## RATING



Good Detour

## CATEGORY

Classic

Buzzing

Lounge food

## NEED TO KNOW

Bar

Restaurant

Food



## Eat

107 Calle Tetuan Esq San Jose, San Juan, 00901, Puerto Rico (787) 390-4662

The ambience here is top-notch and it is the perfect way to end your vacation in Puerto Rico. The food is equally amazing and it is such fine service too. Highly recommended.

## WHAT I LOVE ABOUT IT HERE

Great Puerto Rican Food, Nice Ambience



# ITINERARY



## DAY 1

### Day 1: Welcome to San Juan, Puerto Rico

Regardless of how you arrived in Puerto Rico, by air or ferry, you must be a little exhausted. If you arrived in the morning, a great breakfast or brunch is well worth your time. If you came in later in the day, settle into your hotel (or wherever you will be calling home for the next few days) and head over to a local restaurant for dinner. Today is the best time to try the famous Mofongo dish, why wait any longer? You are here now.




# ITINERARY



## DAY 2

### Explore Old San Juan day

You have rested well and now have a taste (literally) of Puerto Rico. Now, it is time to explore Old San Juan. The beauty of Old San Juan is, there are so many beautiful architectures and sights to see. Every corner holds a treasure of its own and it should not be missed. Major sights to see include; El Morro and San Cristobal. A \$10 ticket gives you admission to both places all through the day. Go for it, in comfortable shoes too, as there are so many beautiful sights to see that will leave you simply, wowed. Get ready to learn about Puerto Rico's rich history.





# MORNING

## Viejo san juan

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### See and Do

Paseo De La  
Princesa Calle  
Shurmberg, San  
Juan, 00901, Puerto  
Rico

## Garita Castillo de San Cristóbal

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### See and Do

6 Calle San Justo,  
San Juan, 00901,  
Puerto Rico



# AFTERNOON

## Barrachina

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**Eat**

104 Calle Fortaleza,  
San Juan, 00901,  
Puerto Rico  
(787) 725-7912



## Castillo san felipe del Morro

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**See and Do**

Old San Juan  
(787) 639-7844





# EVENING

## Pikayo

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**Eat**

999 Ashford  
Avenue, San Juan





# ITINERARY

## DAY 3

### Rainforest and Hiking Activities

Time for some outdoor activities. Get your hiking shoes on, bug repellent spray and some comfortable swim wear as you will be indulging in one of the world's richest rainforest. There is going to be a lot of hiking and adventures so get ready for that. Do not forget to rent a car to drive to Rio Grande if you are coming from San Juan.



# MORNING

## El Yunque National Forest - El Portal Visitor Center

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### See and Do

PR-191, Río Grande,  
00745, Puerto Rico  
(787) 888-1880



# AFTERNOON

## La Mina Falls

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### See and Do

Rio Grande, Puerto Rico





# EVENING

## Cocina Abierta

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**Eat**

Cll Caribe, San  
Juan, 00907, Puerto  
Rico

(787) 946-1333





# ITINERARY

## DAY 4

### Beach Day

What's a visit to the Caribbean without a visit to a beautiful island? You guessed right; nothing at all. A great island to explore is Culebra Island, home to one of the best beaches in the world- Flamenco Beach. Head over there by taking a ferry from Fajardo which costs about \$13 both ways per person. Grab your sunscreen, beach clothes, a hat and head over to the island.



# MORNING

## Fajardo Ferry Terminal

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### Offbeat Secret

PR-195, Fajardo,  
00738, Puerto Rico

## Flamenco Beach

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### See and Do

Cl 1, Culebra,  
00775, Puerto Rico  
(787) 644-6300



# EVENING

## Oceano's Restaurant

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Eat

2 Cll Vendig,  
Condado, PR  
00907, United  
States





A photograph of the Bacardi Distillery building in Puerto Rico. The building is a tall, modern structure with a light-colored facade and large windows. The word "BACARDI" is prominently displayed on the upper part of the building. To the left of the building, there is a tall, red and white striped chimney. The sky is blue with some clouds. In the foreground, there is a landscaped area with green grass, a yellow curb, and some low-lying plants.

# ITINERARY

## DAY 5

### What's your flavor? Drink and Unwind Day

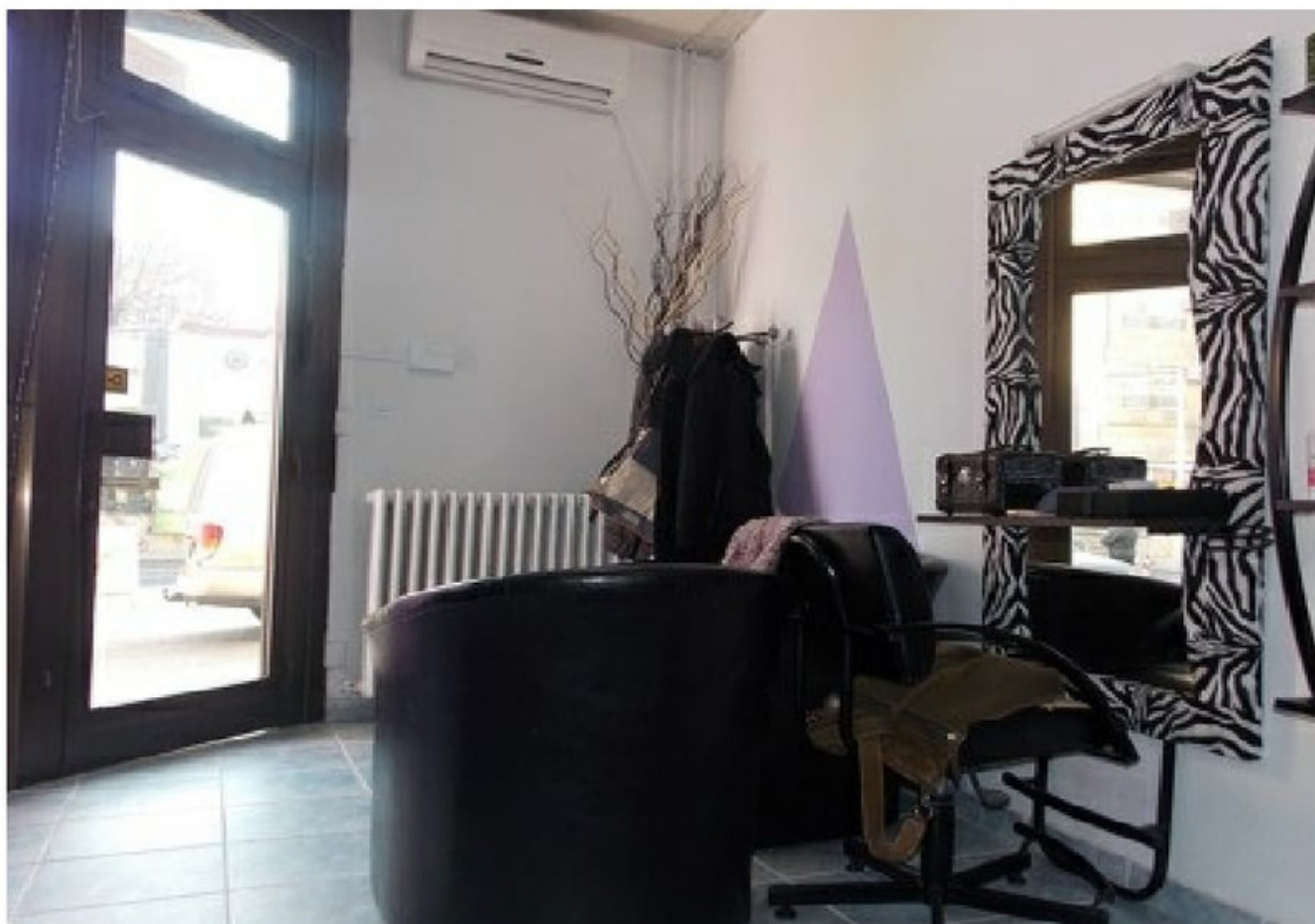
You've had a pretty adventurous time in Puerto Rico but today is the day to slow it all down and unwind. Start the day with a massage and head over to the Bacardi Distillery for drinks and cocktails. End the day with some more Puerto Rican food because there's simply no such thing as too much (Puerto Rican) food.



# MORNING

## Euforia Salón

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**Offbeat  
Secret**

PR-693, Dorado,  
00646, Puerto Rico  
(787) 796-7913



# AFTERNOON

## Casa Bacardí

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### Drink

Unnamed Road,  
Toa Baja, Cataño  
00949, Puerto Rico  
(787) 788-8400





# EVENING

## Verde Mesa

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**Eat**

107 Calle Tetuan  
Esq San Jose, San  
Juan, 00901, Puerto  
Rico

(787) 390-4662





# THANK YOU FOR READING



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