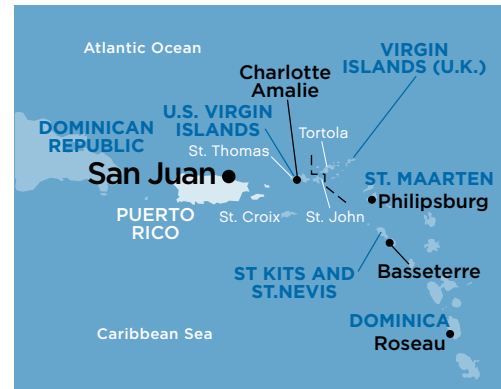




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# SAN JUAN

## Port Guide



### SAN JUAN at a glance

**Founded:** 1521, just 13 years after Juan Ponce de León founded the original settlement called Caparra.

**Region:** San Juan is located along the northern coast of Puerto Rico, which is situated between the Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean.

**Population:** 420,326 (est. 2009)

**Climate:** San Juan enjoys an average temperature of 80°F although 90°F or higher temperatures are often felt during the summer. In winter months, the average temperature is 71°F. Rainfall is well distributed throughout the year, but the months of January, February, and March are the driest.

**Language:** Spanish. English is widely spoken.

**Some useful words:**  
 Yes..... Sí  
 No..... No  
 Please..... Por favor  
 Thank you..... Gracias  
 Excuse me..... Perdón

**Currency:** U.S. Dollar (USD)



Fort San Cristobal

## THE BEST OF SAN JUAN

Don't miss out on the top Points of Interest in this port — Book a Princess Excursion and experience them for yourself!

- 1 Old San Juan**  
This is a 465-year-old neighborhood is a charming residential and commercial district. The streets are paved with blue cobblestones and features restored Spanish-colonial buildings.
- 2 Fort San Cristobal**  
Built by the Spanish to defend San Juan from land invaders, this is the largest fortification constructed by Spain in the New World. At its completion in 1783, it surrounded the city of San Juan.
- 3 El Morro de San Felipe**  
This 16th-century citadel is a maze of tunnels, dungeons, barracks, outposts and ramps. Named after King Phillip of Spain, this six-level fortress guarded the bay from sea invaders.
- 4 Casa Bacardi**  
Home to the Bacardi family's extensive rum distillery, the visitor center has a fascinating tour with videos and olfactory exhibits as well as a museum and replica of their very first distillery.
- 5 El Yunque National Rainforest**  
This region is made up of five different forests, including a cloud forest and a dwarf forest that is home to miniature trees as well as the island's rare tree frog.
- 6 Condado Beach**  
This peninsula of golden sand is a great venue to swim and sunbathe. Located just near the plaza, you can also shop or grab a bite to eat at the many cafes and hotels lining the strip.
- 7 Cultural & Botanical Gardens of Caguas**  
Puerto Rico has a perfect climate for growing some of the prettiest flowers and plants imaginable. The large park has many paths that let you meander.
- 8 Outdoor Adventure**  
Canopy ziplining, rainforest hiking, horseback riding, and kayaking are waiting for you.

Explore San Juan with a Princess Shore Excursion. Visit the Tour Office for more information.

# SAN JUAN

## Island of enchantment

Centuries ago, it was the first port of call for Spanish ships arriving in the colonial Americas. Today, San Juan is a historic jewel that showcases colonial architecture, impressive fortresses, spacious plazas, picturesque scenery, and an abundance of cultural delights.

### Colonial treasures

In 1508, while en route to the New World in search of the Fountain of Youth, Juan Ponce de León arrived in Puerto Rico after hearing stories about a land rich with gold. Although he never did find gold or a youth-restoring elixir, the Spanish Crown recognized the island as a strategic position in the Caribbean and appointed Ponce de León the island's first governor. Just a year later, he founded the island's first capital, Caparra. After his death in 1521, the capital was moved to what is known today as San Juan Bautista.

With the conquest of the Aztec and Inca Empires, San Juan became a major departure point for Spanish ships hauling gold and silver back to Europe. So it wasn't long before the village became a target of foreign powers, pirates and privateers, and a network of fortifications had to be built.

El Morro is a six-level fort that's a stunning maze of tunnels, dungeons, barracks, outposts and ramps. Built between 1540 and 1589, El Morro rises 140 feet above the sea and offers spectacular views of San Juan Bay. The 74-acre site was designated a National Historic Site and has the distinction of being the largest fortification in the Caribbean.



Old Town San Juan

Castillo de San Cristóbal sits at the entrance to the Old City. Built between 1634 and 1771, San Cristóbal was one of the largest defenses ever built in the Americas. Projecting 150 feet above water, its intricate modular design was intended to intimidate invaders. This strategic masterpiece is now a UNESCO World Heritage and National Historic Site.

To get a feel of what life was like 465 years ago, just take a walk through Old San Juan. This seven-block area boasts over 400 carefully restored 16th and 17th-century Spanish colonial buildings. Just imagine Ponce de León walking on these same cobblestone streets, brilliantly paved with adoque, a blue stone that's cast from furnace slag.

### A world apart

Did you know that 100 billion gallons of rain fall here each year? This lush environment creates a world filled with plants of incredible proportions and variety. To see a real rainforest, you have to visit El Yunque National Forest. This is the only rainforest which is part of the U.S. National forest department.

### Succulent Caribbean cuisine

Puerto Rican cooking is a multi-cultural event. Spanish, Cuban, Mexican, African, Taíno, and American flavors all mingle to create a one-of-a-kind cuisine. Most dishes incorporate adobo, a savory blend of herbs and spices that give many of the native foods their distinctive taste and color.

Of course, you can't think of Puerto Rico without thinking of rum, Puerto Rico's national drink. And when you think of rum you think Bacardi. The world's largest distillery is right here on

the island and offers tours that retrace the rum's history, its manufacture and the correct way to make a genuine mojito.

### Sun, sea and scenery

You can't help but notice the varying shades of blue water that greet you as you stroll San Juan's snow-white beaches. For those seeking utter relaxation, Puerto Rico offers a number of stunning seaside spots but Condado Beach is noted for its out-of-the-way location. Protected by a natural rock barrier, this secluded beauty features plenty of shade and a separate lagoon.

For adrenaline-pumping activities, San Juan offers exciting ziplining or hiking through the rainforest (with awe-inspiring views) but there's also peaceful kayaking, horseback riding, and more.

This island of enchantment is truly a tranquil haven for those seeking natural wonders. But it's also an adventurer's paradise bustling with fun and history. Either way, San Juan will beckon you to its shores over and over again.



## DID YOU KNOW?

### Local cuisine

Some of the most popular dishes include arroz con pollo (chicken with rice), mojo isleño (fried fish with a sauce made with olives and olive oil, onions, pimientos, capers, tomato sauce, vinegar, and garlic), and fresh fish and lobster. For dessert, try nisperos de batata, which are sweet-potato balls dusted with coconut, cloves and cinnamon.

### Rum's sweet beginnings

If it weren't for Columbus, Puerto Rico would not enjoy the reputation of being the world's leading rum producer. The explorer brought sugarcane, from which rum is distilled, to the Caribbean on his second voyage to the New World. In virtually no time it became the regional drink; however, today's rum bears little resemblance to the raw and grainy beverage consumed by the renegades and pirates of the Spanish Main.

### A historic makeover

In 1992, the El Morro fortress was restored to its historical form in honor of the 500th anniversary of Columbus' discovery of Puerto Rico.

### The taste of Puerto Rico in a glass

The piña colada (which means "strained pineapple" in Spanish) was invented in Old San Juan in 1954.

### What's cooking?

Sofrito, a potpourri of onions, garlic, coriander, and peppers browned in olive oil and colored with achiote gives the bright-yellow color to the island's rice, soups, and stews.

### Rest stop

The English settlers who established Jamestown first stopped in Puerto Rico for provisions before heading towards Virginia.

### Winter sports?

Puerto Rico has competed in the Winter Olympic Games six times in events such as luge, alpine skiing, biathlon, and bobsled.

### Catchy tune

The latin jazz artist, Tito Puente, is of Puerto Rican descent. His song, "Oye Commo Va" was a hit for Carlos Santana in 1970.

### National pride

The stripe-headed tanager is the national bird. The national flower is the Puerto Rican hibiscus. The silk-cotton tree is the national tree.

### Patriotic frogs

The tiny island frog called the coqui is the "unofficial national symbol" of Puerto Rico and figures prominently in Puerto Rico culture and heritage. When Puerto Ricans want to express their nationality, they say, "Soy de aquí como el coquí," which means, "I'm as Puerto Rican as a coquí."

### Not a native

The coconut tree was introduced to the island in 1542.

### Beautiful girls

Puerto Rico has won the Miss Universe pageant a record five times and was the first Latin American country to host the event.

### Play ball

Baseball is the national sport in Puerto Rico and its national baseball hero is major league baseball player Roberto Clemente who was the first Hispanic player to win a World Series as a starter (1960), win a league MVP award (1966) and win a World Series MVP award (1971).

### Awards grand slam

Puerto Rican born actress Rita Moreno is the first and only Hispanic (and one of the few performers) who has won an Emmy, a Grammy, an Oscar and a Tony.



Gate in Puerto Rico

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

**Shore Excursions:** Passengers will meet at a specific location for each shore excursion departure. Please refer to your tour ticket and the Princess Patter for the correct place and time. Your Shore Excursion staff or our Tour Operator will be at that location to assist you. It's recommended that you drink bottled water while in port.

**Docking:** Your ship docks at Pier 4, within walking distance of Old San Juan. Occasionally your ship will dock at the Pan American Pier, which is an approximately 10-15-minute taxi ride to Old San Juan about three miles away (not within walking distance). Old San Juan is within walking distance from Pier 4. If the ship is docked at the Pan American Pier, taxis are required to reach Old San Juan. SJU-100 offers guests a guided tour to see the sights and have some free time.

**Transportation:** Taxis are available at the pier. Fares will vary based on which pier the ship is docked. Taxi fare from the Pan American Pier to Old San Juan is approximately \$12 each way. A 10% tip is common.

**Beaches:** While there are no beaches near the pier, the resort area of Condado Beach and Isla Verde, where the majority of hotels are located, feature the best beaches in San Juan.

**Shopping:** San Juan is not a duty-free port. There are no bargains on electronics and perfumes. But San Juan has an excellent selection of jewelry and arts and crafts. There is no sales tax on any purchase. There are no customs limitations. Store hours are 9:00am to 6:00pm, Monday through Saturday.

**Tipping:** Suggested tipping is 15 to 20 percent for good service, but check your bill to see if a service fee may already be added.

**Banks:** Generally open from 8:00am to 4:00pm, Monday through Friday and from 8:00am to noon on Saturday.

**Post Office:** Old San Juan location is 100 Paseo de Colon. Hours are generally from Tuesday through Friday 8:00am to 4:00pm. Saturday hours are generally from 8:00am to 12:00pm.

**Emergency Numbers:** Emergency services - 911

**Tourist Information Office:** Old San Juan Tourism Office - Ochoa Building - right across from Pier 1 at the Cruise Ship Terminal waterfront.

**Princess Cruises Port Agent:** In case of an emergency while you are ashore, please contact:

**Continental Shipping Inc.**  
Tel: (787) 725-2532  
Tel: (787) 565-0924