

TRAVEL TIPS FOR PUERTO RICO



General Facts

Located at the gateway to the Caribbean, the island of Puerto Rico is 110 miles long and 35 miles wide. San Juan, the capital city is a unique juxtaposition of old and new - with modern business structures and services as well as traditional Puerto Rican and colonial Spanish flavors in Old San Juan. Puerto Rico's second largest city, Ponce is just 90 minutes from San Juan by car. In 1493 Columbus claimed Puerto Rico for Spain, and the island remained under Spanish rule until 1898 when Spain ceded the island to the U.S. in the Spanish-American War. In 1917, under the Jones Act, Puerto Rico's residents became U.S. citizens and the island became a commonwealth of the U.S. in 1952.

Getting There

Puerto Rico is easily accessible to visitors with its three major airports. The island's largest airport, the Luis Muñoz Marín International Airport, is located in the Isla Verde section of San Juan, minutes from the Condado area.

Airlines

Most major hubs including Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, New York, Philadelphia and Washington, D.C. offer daily nonstop service to San Juan. Airlines serving Puerto Rico include American Airlines, AirTran, Continental, Delta, JetBlue, Spirit, US Air, United, Olberia, Copa, among others.

Customs/Passport Requirements

Puerto Rico is a commonwealth of the United States, and U.S. citizens do not need passports to visit

the Island. Visitors of other nationalities must have passports. When leaving Puerto Rico to return to the U.S. mainland, checked luggage will be examined for agricultural purposes.

Language

Both Spanish and English are the island's official languages. English is widely spoken, especially in San Juan.



Climate

Year-round tropical climate with average temperatures between 70°F - 86°F.

Currency

U.S. dollar

Ground Transportation

Taxis, buses and rental cars offer visitors convenient ground transportation. Tour operators also service the area. Easily identifiable "Taxi Turistico" or tourist taxis operate on a fare-zone basis among the airport or cruise ship pier and designated tourist zones including Old San Juan and the San Juan resorts. All other times they are hired on a metered basis or rented on an hourly rate. The "Taxi Turistico" fare from the airport to the hotel is \$10. A charge of \$1 will apply to each piece of luggage. All night services (10 p.m. to 6 a.m.) will have an additional charge of \$1. These rates are subject to change.



Tipping Guidelines

At restaurants, nightclubs and hotel dining rooms, 15% of the bill is considered an appropriate tip. Fixed service charges are not usually included in the bill, except for special functions or banquets.



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