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ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



alicesoup

Glitz and Glamour

Puerto Rico, San Juan, 5 Days

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Guide Description



AUTHOR NOTE: We wanted to visit El Conquistador, one of the island's best resorts, but at the same time we wanted to get a better feel of the island before being sequestered away. The Ritz in Isla Verde commands a high price, but it is the most private of the large hotels in San Juan. The nightlife in San Juan is somewhat reminiscent of Miami beach, with the added bonus of casinos. Once in El Conquistador, we decided to take advantage of some of the nearby excursions rather than just lounging around the pool and beach, and these certainly made the trip memorable.

Itinerary Overview

things to do
restaurants
hotels
nightlife

Day 1 - San Juan

DAY NOTE: After a nice afternoon at the beach, we had an exquisite dinner at Il Mulinno, then played a little in the casino. We took a short cab over to the rooftop lounge at the Water Club.



The Ritz-Carlton, San Juan Hotel, Spa, and Casino

Exclusive and regal



Wet and Liquid

Boutique hotel clubs in the lobby and roof

DAY NOTE: We arranged for a day sailing trip out to a nearby island.



Erin Go Bragh

Sail with the family

Day 5

DAY NOTE: We arranged for transportation to the airport straight from the resort.

Day 2 - San Juan

DAY NOTE: We spent the day at the pool. At night we tried the casino at El San Juan. It's a little bigger than the one at the ritz, but mainly impressive for the gorgeous lobby. We went a bit early to the nightclub Bravas and left as it was starting to fill up at 11.



Ocean Bar and Grill (The)

Taking it to the Ritz!



Bravas

San Juan's premier club



The Ritz-Carlton, San Juan Hotel, Spa, and Casino

Exclusive and regal

Day 3 - San Juan

DAY NOTE: We arranged for pick up from El Conquistador, which was about an hour's drive from San Juan. There are plenty of activities, restaurants, pools, and a casino at the resort. The beach is a little disappointing however. The resort is very close to the bioluminescent bay, and we arranged for a sunset kayak tour. The kayaking was not difficult, but it is a little strenuous overall.

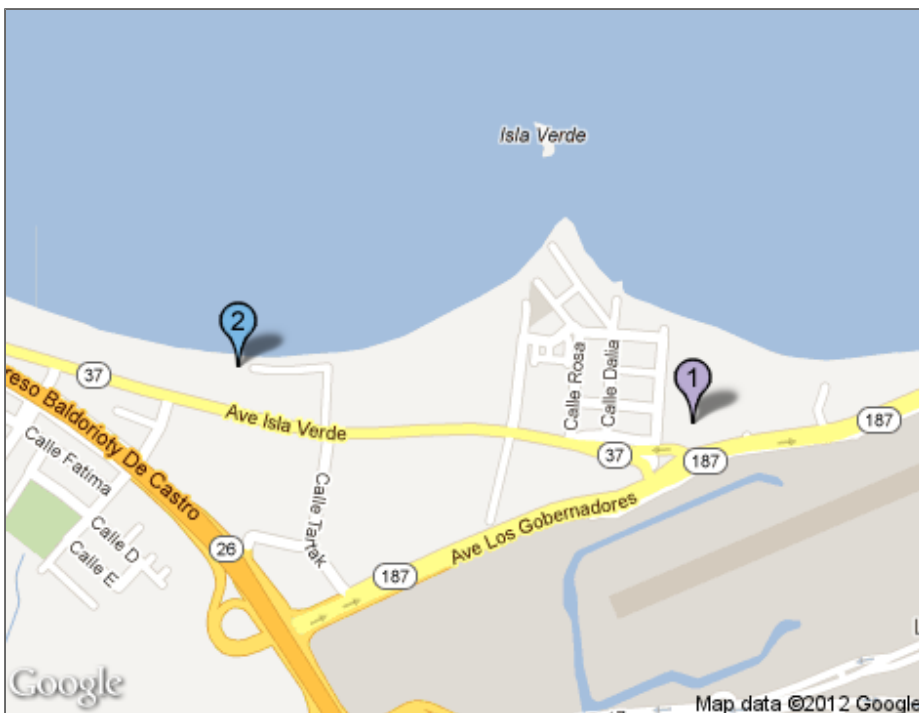


Las Tortugas Adventures

Expert guides lead unforgettable kayak tours around some must-see island spots

Day 4 - Puerto Rico

Day 1 - San Juan



QUICK NOTE

DAY NOTE: After a nice afternoon at the beach, we had an exquisite dinner at Il Mulinno, then played a little in the casino. We took a short cab over to the rooftop lounge at the Water Club.

contact:

tel: 787-253-1700

<http://www.ritzcarlton.com/en/Properties/SanJuan/Default.htm>

location:

6961 Avenue Of The Governors
Carolina -- 00979

1 The Ritz-Carlton, San Juan Hotel, Spa, and Casino

DESCRIPTION: The ultimate resort destination in San Juan, The Ritz Carlton offers some of the most luxurious amenities in the area. Comparable to neighboring El San Juan Hotel, The Ritz stands alone when it comes to name recognition. Its casino and spa are remarkable and favorites of not only locals, but other tourists staying in close-by hotels. Restaurants, bars, boutiques and more are to be found here. Not to mention a beautiful beach right in front. © NileGuide



Day 2 - San Juan



QUICK NOTE

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contact:
tel: 787 253 1700

1 Ocean Bar and Grill (The)

location:
The Ritz-Carlton San Juan
Carolina 00979

DESCRIPTION: Located inside what is arguably the most luxurious property in the Capital, The Bar resides in the Ritz-Carlton San Juan. This is the Ritz casual poolside bar and grill. © wcities.com

hours:
Daily 11a-6p

contact:
tel: 787 444 7778
<http://www.bravapr.com/index.html>

2 Bravas

location:
6063 Isla Verde Ave
Carolina PR 00902

DESCRIPTION: Located at the El San Juan Hotel & Casino, Bravas (formerly Babylon) is a fixture in San Juan nightlife. Locals and tourists mingle with the island's celebs to shake their bon bons and taste la vida loca. Bravas is as elegant as its host hotel and enforces a very strict, semi-formal dress code. Call the club to check on special parties and performers. © wcities.com

hours:
Th-F 9p onwards; Sa 10p onwards

contact:

tel: 787-253-1700
<http://www.ritzcarlton.com/en/Properties/SanJuan/Default.htm>

location:

6961 Avenue Of The
Governors
Carolina -- 00979

**3 The Ritz-Carlton, San Juan Hotel, Spa,
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Day 3 - San Juan

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contact:

tel: 17878090252

+17876378356

<http://www.kayak-pr.com>

location:

P.O. Box 1637, Canovanas

PR, 00729-1637

Canovanas PR 00729

hours:

Bio Bay tours are M-Sat 6:30p

and 9p, by appointment for

other locations

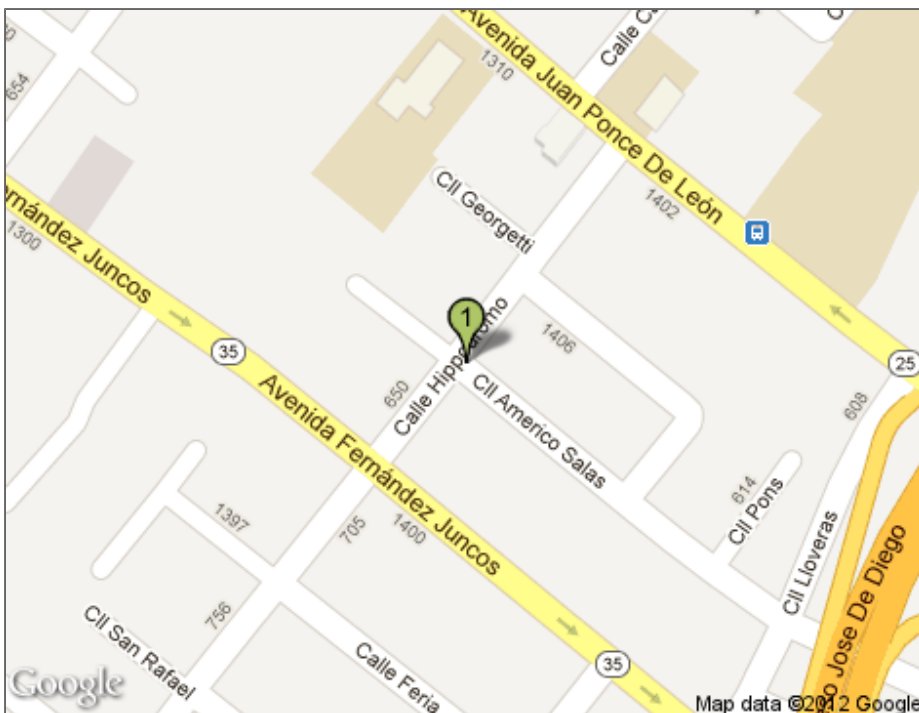
Las Tortugas Adventures

DESCRIPTION: Las Tortugas Adventures offers guided kayak tours of the Rio Grande River and the bioluminescent bay in Fajardo. The Rio Grande tour, just outside of Loiza, takes kayakers through a mangrove estuary and docks for lunch at a private beach. The biobay kayak tour in Fajardo is not to be missed! Kayakers can opt to leave at sundown or 8pm. The tour moves through a mangrove estuary and into the phosphorescent bay, where guides provide educational talks on the unique ecosystem. It's like kayaking through the stars. Charter tours to Monkey Island can also be arranged. © NileGuide



Photo courtesy of Las Tortugas Adventures.

Day 4 - Puerto Rico



QUICK NOTE

DAY NOTE: We arranged for a day sailing trip out to a nearby island.

contact:

tel: +1 787 860 4401

fax: +1 787 863 5253

<http://www.egbc.net/>

location:

PO Box 718

Puerto Real 00740

hours:

10a-5p call for bookings and
customizing overnight sails

1 Erin Go Bragh

DESCRIPTION: Relax and enjoy a unique sail cruise to picturesque Palominos, Icacos or Palominitos aboard this luxurious fifty-foot sailing ketch. The crew offers customized guided snorkeling tours, including gear, as well as overnight cruises to the island of Vieques where a nocturnal visit to a bioluminescent bay will leave you beaming. Dine on the captain's legendary BBQ fixings midday and enjoy the convenience of an open bar. The boat can accommodate up to six guests and private rooms are available. © wcities.com



Day 5

DAY NOTE: We arranged for transportation to the airport straight from the resort.

San Juan Snapshot

Local Info

Many believe San Juan is a small Spanish colonial town with but a few bustling avenues. However this impression does not aptly describe the breath and depth of this fine old-world city. Modern-day San Juan encompasses a vast metropolis that covers seven unique and distinct districts. This makes for an eclectic combination of sights and sounds that is essential to the wonder and joy of visiting San Juan.

Old San Juan/Puerta de Tierra

San Juan is a traditional, colonial city that is bordered by walls. As the seat of the island's bicameral government, it houses La Fortaleza, home of the Governor and El Capitolio, the seat of the House of Representatives. The Senate, on the other hand, is located in nearby Puerta de Tierra. However, both districts can be found on the islet of San Juan and are connected to the mainland via several bridges. Old San Juan itself consists of narrow streets encompassing over four hundred years of history and tradition. Dine in one of the great establishments on Fortaleza Street, party in San Sebastián until dawn, or simply stroll along the charming avenues and thoroughfares. Similar to Europe, a famous tradition in Old San Juan is to people-watch, and there is no better place to indulge in this activity than from one of the several plazas that are located throughout the city. This town has something for all ages, young and old. A must-see is the impressive Spanish fort El Morro located

on the north side of the islet. Puerta de Tierra houses hotels such as the famous Caribe Hilton. While a lot of Old San Juan has been in a state of disrepair, the current renovations are making this once decrepit community an acceptable tourist destination.

Condado

El Condado, as the locals say, is the island's most glamorous district, featuring boutiques, a variety of restaurants, and some of the finest hotels on the island. Contrary to popular belief, many nationals do reside here in the exquisite turn-of-the-century mansions. You'll notice the populace on any given day to be a good balance between tourists and locals. If you are an avid jogger, you'll love the expanse of open area. This district spans from the Condado Plaza Hotel & Casino in the west to the Ocean Park area in the east.

Isla Verde

Isla Verde is home to high-rise apartment buildings, huge clubs and luxurious hotels. This area is actually part of the municipality of Carolina, connected to San Juan via several highways and streets. It spans from the Punta Las Marías area (adjacent to Ocean Park) to the land just beyond the International Airport. Isla Verde hosts world-class hotels that include the Ritz-Carlton and El San Juan. Its nightlife is exciting, and the enormous balneario, or public beach, is where locals and guests come to sunbathe and get their fill of people-watching.

Hato Rey

Hato Rey is several miles from Old San Juan but is easily accessible. It is the island's central commercial district, where the local wheelers and dealers conduct their business. Thus, its restaurant scene caters to more business people than anywhere else on the island. Roosevelt, the district's residential area, can be found just off Highway 52. It is one of the most famous venues for nightlife in San Juan, and the Plaza Las Américas, the Caribbean's largest mall, is also located here.

Santurce/Miramar

Both the Santurce and Miramar districts are located just off Condado and Old San Juan, but north of Hato Rey. Santurce was originally an upper-class neighborhood and entertainment. Today, there are office buildings and abandoned structures with a small but very good marketplace (Plaza del Mercado). A major campaign is under way by City Hall to restore the sector's vitality.

Río Piedras

This district is known as University City because it houses the University of Puerto Rico. Visiting Río Piedras is enlightening for those who want to explore the real Puerto Rico first-hand. The district has a traditional Plaza del Mercado and a very hometown atmosphere.

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