

PASSPORT TO ANOTHER LAND

PUERTO RICO



PACK YOUR BAGS



INFORMATION

CONNECT



MPL PROGRAMS

Official Name: Commonwealth of Puerto Rico
 Capital: San Juan
 Population: about 3 million
 National Language: Spanish and English
 Currency: US Dollar
 Flight from Indianapolis to San Juan: 6 hours

Passport to Cooking Starting September 14
 Visit Muncie Public Library's YouTube channel for a quick cooking lesson. This month we are making tostones and bolitos de queso.

Passport to Games Starting September 21
 Visit Muncie Public Library's YouTube channel for Passport to Games and learn to play dominoes as they do in Puerto Rico.

Armchair Travel September 23 7-8pm
 Join us on Facebook for Armchair Travel: Puerto Rico. Take a trip with "Hamilton" star Lin-Manuel Miranda and explore the art, culture, food, and must-see destinations on the beautiful island.

Passport to Art Starting September 28
 Visit Muncie Public Library's YouTube channel to learn how to make a Vejigante mask out of paper mache.



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EXPLORE

GEOGRAPHY AND LANDMARKS



PUERTO RICO



By USA Puerto Rico location map.svg: NordNordWest / *derivative work Kmusser (talk) - USA Puerto Rico location map.svg, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=9823278>

Puerto Rico is a group of 100+ islands, cays, and atolls located in the Caribbean Sea. Only the main island and two of the smaller islands have year-round residents. The majority of the main island is mountainous, with some coastal plains. One unique feature of Puerto Rico is its karst region, which is a type of landscape characterized by caves and sinkholes, with waterways traveling underground.

The climate in Puerto Rico is tropical marine. The average temperature is about 80 degrees year round, but the temperature in the mountains is always a few degrees cooler. Most days are warm, sunny, and humid, and the rainy season lasts from April to November.



Castillo San Cristóbal

By Jaro Nemčok - <http://nemcok.sk/?pic=25787>, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=11855283>

San Juan is home to Castillo San Cristóbal, the largest Spanish fort in the Americas, begun in the 17th century in response to attacks on the city. It took 150 years to complete, and incorporated the newest technologies.

Centro Ceremonial Indígena de Cagüana, built in the 13th century by the Taíno, the indigenous people of the Caribbean islands, was used for ceremonies, astronomy, and for playing the ball game *batey*, which was often used as a way to settle disagreements between tribes instead of war.



Centro Ceremonial Indígena de Cagüana

By The original uploader was Jbermudez at English Wikipedia. - Transferred from en.wikipedia to Commons by Werewombat., CC BY 2.5, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=3600879>

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Maring-Hunt: 765-747-8200
Kennedy: 765-741-9727

Phenomenal: a Hesitant Adventurer's Search for Wonder in the Natural World by Leigh Ann Henion.

The Not-Quite States of America: Dispatches from the Territories and Other Far-Flung Outposts of the USA by Doug Mack.



RESOURCES

DISCOVER



NATURAL BEAUTY

Hurricane Irma

In early September 2017, a very large and powerful hurricane formed in the Atlantic Ocean, off the coast of Africa. Hurricane Irma caused widespread damage to islands in the Caribbean, and while Puerto Rico was not hit directly, the islands received over a foot of rain and sustained damage from high winds. More than two thirds of residents lost power. The heavy rain caused widespread flooding and landslides.

Hurricane Maria

Just two weeks after Irma passed by Puerto Rico, an even more powerful storm made its way to the Caribbean. Hurricane Maria made landfall as a Category 4 storm, bringing with it devastating winds and massive amounts of rain.

All of Puerto Rico was affected: widespread flooding, homes destroyed, lack of access to food and drinking water. Slow governmental response to the call for help ensured that these damages would linger - even three years later, there are homes with tarps instead of roofs. Thousands of Puerto Ricans abandoned their homes and fled to the mainland. Nearly three thousand Puerto Ricans died.

Dinoflagellates are single-celled organisms that, when disturbed by movement nearby, produce a bright bluish-green glow. The numbers of 'dinos' is concentrated enough to create a bioluminescent bay in only five ecosystems in the world. Three of them are in Puerto Rico. The landforms and salinity of the water are unique in that the climate allows for the animals to demonstrate their special attributes year-round. The bays were heavily damaged by Hurricane Maria, and actually went dark. However, they have since recovered and now flourish once again.



PUERTO RICO



El Yunque Rainforest

By stanthejeep, CC BY-SA 2.5,
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=16089351>

The *El Yunque* Rainforest is home to more than 200 species of trees. While there are no large animals in the forest, there are lots of smaller animal species, notably *coqui* (frogs) and the Puerto Rican Amazon, a small parrot. Several rivers go through the forest, cascading over mountains in dozens of waterfalls.

El Yunque was heavily damaged by Hurricane Maria. Its dense canopy was destroyed, leaving the forest floor exposed to the sun. This allows plants that struggled in the shade to flourish. The damage is also offering scientists a unique look at how tropical forests recover after a devastating storm, and to allow them to devise solutions to maintain the ecosystem in the face of climate change and the volatile weather that accompanies it.



By RaviGogna - <https://www.flickr.com/photos/ravigogna/5589611611/>, CC BY 2.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=39091500>

EXPERIENCE



CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS

Dancing: Dances most associated with Puerto Rico are *salsa* and *bomba y plena*. *Salsa* is an energetic dance done with a partner, but *bomba y plena* is a dance with a different kind of partner: the dancer and drummer are partners, with the drummer following the lead of the dancer.

Search YouTube for *Bomba Puertorriqueña* by Dan Vazques (pictured at right) for an exciting example.



The *cuatro* is the national instrument of Puerto Rico. It's played like a guitar, but shaped like a violin. The original *cuatro* had four strings - hence the name - but modern *cuatros* have 10 strings arranged in 5 pairs. It's most commonly found in *jibaro* orchestras, which play Puerto Rican folk music.

By Kitb - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0,
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=2666770>

Vejigante Mask



Angel Xavier Viera-Vargas
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/xavierito/8303498349>
<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/2.0/legalcode>



PUERTO RICO



Holidays: Most of the holidays observed in Puerto Rico are Catholic in origin, and no other community celebrates Christmas for as long as Puerto Rico. The festivities begin the day after Thanksgiving through mid-January. The most significant day is not Christmas, but Christmas Eve. Known as *Nochabuena*, this is the day when families gather, exchange gifts, and eat a festive meal which typically includes *pasteles*.

Carnaval de Ponce: Just a few weeks after the Christmas celebrations end, Puerto Ricans celebrate *Carnaval de Ponce*. This week-long celebration is at the same time as Mardi Gras, and ends the day before Ash Wednesday.

The week is full of events: parties, parades, coronation of child and adult queens, and balls. The week starts with the arrival of *vejigantes*, characters dressed in colorful clothing and wearing horned masks made of paper mache to represent evil spirits that harrass and scare the partygoers.

On Ash Wednesday, there is The Burial of the Sardine. This event has its origins in Spain. Large representations of sardines are buried as part of a mock funeral to mark the beginning of Lent.

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RESOURCES

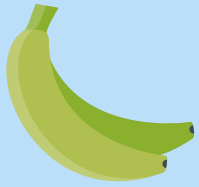
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Maring-Hunt: 765-747-8200
Kennedy: 765-741-9727

Puerto Rico Strong: A Comics Anthology Supporting Puerto Rico Disaster Relief and Recovery by Vita Ayala.

Helpful Website

Welcome to Puerto Rico: www.welcome.topuertorico.org



EAT LOCAL

CUISINE



PUERTO RICO



La Cocina Criolla

Puerto Rican cuisine has benefitted from Taíno, African, and other influences. *La Cocina Criolla* (The Creole Cuisine), is an example of the unique forces that have shaped life on the islands.

When Spanish colonizers arrived, they found the indigenous Taíno utilizing the native plants and animals in their cuisine. *Yuca*, a tuberous root, is ground and used in many ways, from making breads and *pasteles*, to thickening puddings and stews. Fruits such as pineapples and guava, as well as *calabaza* pumpkins and various types of peppers, were widely available and used.

The Taíno cooked over an open fire, using a method called *barbacoa* (like the American barbecue).

The colonizers brought new ingredients with them that were quickly incorporated into the cuisine: garbanzo beans, onions, many types of meat, citrus, and olives and olive oil. Coffee, coconuts, pigeon peas, and varieties of bananas, like the widely used plantain banana, were brought to the colony from Africa.



Though it looks like a banana, you wouldn't want to peel and eat a plantain (bottom) raw.

They are savory and starchy, and delicious when fried.

By Rhododendrites - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=54851386>



Mofongo

By Diane - originally posted to Flickr as PUERTO RICO, CC BY 2.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=4143874>



Tembleque

By Arnold Gatilao from Oakland, CA, USA - Tembleque - Creamy coconut pudding with mango sauce and cinnamon, CC BY 2.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=54398216>

On the Menu

Arroz con gandules y lechón: The national dish of Puerto Rico is rice with pigeon peas and succulent roasted pork.

Pasteles: Similar to *tamales*, *pasteles* are made with a dough made from *yuca* and plantain, filled with meat or other ingredients, and then wrapped in a banana leaf and boiled. These are traditionally made at Christmas.

Mofongo: Made from a paste of fried plantains and other tubers, *mofongo* are savory dumplings, sometimes filled with meat or other ingredients.

Empanadilla: *Empanadillas* are turnovers filled with meat, beans, or vegetables and then deep fried.

Tostones: Plantains, sliced, fried, smashed, and fried again become crispy on the outside and creamy on the inside, *tostones* are eaten as a side dish like french fries.

Tembleque: The national dessert of Puerto Rico is *tembleque*, a pudding made from coconut milk, cinnamon, and sugar.

Adapted from "Puerto Rican Cuisine" https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Puerto_Rican_cuisine



LET'S COOK!

RECIPES



PUERTO RICO



Tostones

2 Green Plantains
1/2 C vegetable oil
Salt



1. Peel the plantains by cutting off both ends, and then slitting the peel lengthwise, and peeling around the plantain.
2. Cut the plantains into 1 inch sections.
3. Heat the oil over high heat until it sizzles when you put a drop of water into it.
4. In batches, fry the plantains 2-3 minutes per side, until they are golden.
5. Let the fried plantains cool, then smash them to about 1/4 inch thick, using a plate or a cutting board.
6. Refry the plantains. Drain on paper towels. Add salt to taste.
7. Serve warm, with mayo ketchup for dipping.

Bolitas de Queso

2 cups shredded cheese (gouda, cheddar, or Monterey Jack)

1 egg

2 tablespoons of flour

Pinch of chipotle pepper

Crushed crackers or bread crumbs.

1/2 c vegetable oil

1. Combine the first four ingredients in a bowl, mixing thoroughly.
2. Using your hands, form golf ball sized balls of the cheese mixture.
3. Roll the balls in the crushed crackers (if using). Freeze balls for at least 30 minutes.
4. Heat the oil over high heat until it sizzles when you put a drop of water into it.
5. Fry the balls, turning carefully until they are golden brown on all sides.
6. Drain on a paper towels.
7. Serve warm, with mayoketchup for dipping.

Mayo Ketchup

All of these fried yummys need a delicious dipping sauce. Mayo Ketchup is a very popular condiment in Puerto Rico. Mix equal parts mayonnaise and ketchup and add a little bit of garlic powder. Dip away!

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RESOURCES

Visit www.munciepubliclibrary.org
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Maring-Hunt: 765-747-8200

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A Taste of Latin America : Culinary Traditions and Classic Recipes from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Mexico, Peru, Puerto Rico & Venezuela By Patricia Cartin.

Latin American Street Food : The Best Flavors of Markets, Beaches, & Roadside Stands from Mexico to Argentina By Sandra A. Gutierrez.

COMMUNICATE



LANGUAGE



PUERTO RICO



Español Puertorriqueño

Puerto Rican Spanish speakers have a unique dialect, distinct from other varieties of Spanish. The Spanish dialects spoken by the immigrants who began arriving in the 16th century mingled with the language of the indigenous people, the Taíno. Despite the fact that most of the Taíno died as a result of diseases brought by the immigrants, many of their words survive in Puerto Rican Spanish, and many of the place names are Taíno in origin, as well. Some Taíno words have become part of English, as well: *hammock*, *hurricane*, and *potato* are just a few. The slave trade came to Puerto Rico in the 16th century, as well, bringing speakers of many African languages, though Kongo seems to be the language which had the most influence on Puerto Rican Spanish.

English as a Second Language

When Puerto Rico became a territory of the United States at the end of the 19th century, English was imposed as the official language. Until the middle of the 20th century, school was instructed in English. Lots of American words entered the dialect, but even now, most Puerto Ricans speak Spanish at home.

Adapted from "Puerto Rican Spanish"
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Puerto_Rican_Spanish

Handy Phrases

Before you travel to Puerto Rico, you should learn some useful phrases to help you get around.

Por Favor (pour fah VOR) Please

Gracias (GRAH see us) Thank you

¿Dónde está el baño? (DOHN day ess TAH el BAHN yo) Where is the bathroom?

Mi nombre es... (me NOME bray ess) My name is...

¿Habla inglés? (AHH blah een GLACE) Do you speak English?

Mucho gusto (MOO choh GOOSE toe) Pleased to meet you.

Buenos días. (BWEY nohs DEE ahs) Good day/good morning.

Perdón (pear DOHN) Sorry/excuse me.

Adapted from
 "10 Spanish Phrases to Learn Before You Go to Puerto Rico."
www.laconcharesort.com

Jeringonza: Oo-day oo-yay eek-spay ig-pay atin-lay? Many of us are familiar with Pig Latin, a way to play with English words. *Jeringonza* is the Spanish equivalent, and Puerto Rico has its own version of the word game, adding *chi-* to the beginning of each syllable.

English	Spanish	<i>Jeringonza</i>
cat	<i>gato</i>	<i>chigachito</i>
dog	<i>perro</i>	<i>chiperchito</i>
bird	<i>pájaro</i>	<i>chipáchijachiro</i>

"Jeringonza – A Spanish Word Game Like Pig Latin" www.mamalisa.com

CREATE



ARTS AND CULTURE



PUERTO RICO



Taíno Art

Examples of art created by the indigenous inhabitants of Puerto Rico can be found all over the island. One type of art is the petroglyph, a stone bearing a meaningful symbol scratched into its surface. The images were often of animals or people, but some of them were abstract and uninterpretable. Some of the petroglyphs were carved into rocks, while others were carved into the walls of caves.

Rock petroglyph overlaid with chalk in the Caguana Indigenous Ceremonial Center in Utuado, Puerto Rico



Public Domain, <https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?curid=5637566>

Fun and Games

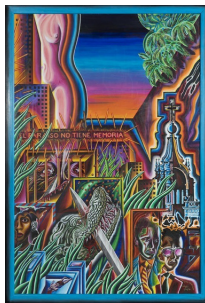
Because it can be played by people of all ages, playing dominoes is a great way for families to spend time together. Parents teach their children to play, passing down special strategies and rules used in their communities. The game can be played with two players competing against one another, or with four players divided into two teams.

To play dominoes, you will need a standard set of double six dominoes, with 28 "bones" or pieces.

Rules unique to Puerto Rican players can be found online, on sites such as "Jose's Page on Domino Games in Puerto Rico!" This page has rules and variations for different numbers of players.

Contemporary Art

In addition to a long history of native and colonial artists, Puerto Rico has produced amazing contemporary artists. Lin-Manuel Miranda will guide you through the history of Puerto Rican art during Armchair Travel on September 23.



"Eva y los Cocodrilos"
Rafael Villamil



Dominoes

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<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=1325689>

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The Story of Spanish by Jean-Benoît Nadeau
Hamilton: The Revolution by Lin-Manuel Miranda.

Helpful Website
Discover Puerto Rico: www.discoverpuertorico.com



RESOURCES