



Educational Tours



Teacher Convention Tour: Puerto Rico

Dec. 27, 2012-Jan. 1, 2013



“The staff, tour director, lodging, food and sightseeing were totally beyond the scope of what I expected. I believe I am ruined for life now! I don’t know how anything will be able to top this incredible experience. EF, you have once again far exceeded my expectations!”

*Holly Casto, Foreign Language Teacher
Royal Palm Beach (FL) High School*

“Not only were the places we visited out of this world, but the people on the convention—from the EF staff to old and new friends—made it so that the conventions can’t be topped!”

*Dan Ware, Social Studies Teacher
Rock Bridge Senior High School, Columbia, MO*



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Day 1 Thursday, December 27 ✈️

Fly to Puerto Rico • This evening, touch down in San Juan and meet your EF Tour Director and staff who will accompany you throughout your stay. Puerto Rico's Old World capital, San Juan, was founded as a Spanish settlement by Juan Ponce de León in the early 16th century. (D)

Day 2 Friday, December 28

Guided sightseeing of Old San Juan • The original city was founded in 1521 as a fortress enclave. An architectural treasure, Old San Juan includes beautifully restored buildings exemplifying the 16th -17th century Spanish colonial style. The area is characterized by its wrought-iron balconies, lush greenery and narrow streets paved with adequines (bluish stones used originally as ballast for Spanish ships). Visit the gothic San José Church, built in 1532. Pass La Fortaleza, a fortress that is the Western Hemisphere's oldest executive mansion in continuous use and the residence of Puerto Rico's governor.

Visit El Morro • Your tour culminates with a visit to El Morro, a massive fortress built by the Spaniards between 1540 and 1783. Perched ominously on a rocky promontory 140 feet above the sea, this huge six-level fortress—a byzantine combination of dungeons, barracks, turrets, towers and tunnels—was built to protect the port. Enjoy a spectacular view of the harbor atop this imposing edifice.

Free afternoon • Spend the rest of the afternoon exploring San Juan at your own pace.

Welcome dinner • Be our guest at a special welcome dinner. Enjoy dining and conversation as you become acquainted with your fellow convention delegates and EF staff members. (B, D)

Day 3 Saturday, December 29

Convention seminar • We kick off the convention workshop with a keynote address by a senior member of EF Educational Tours. Delegates will then be divided into focus groups. This forum allows us to learn directly from you on how we can improve

future EF programs. The workshops are also an opportunity for you to compare notes with other group leaders and exchange ideas on tour planning. Afterwards, enjoy an included lunch.

Excursion to El Yunque Rainforest • This 28,000 acre jungle, complete with spectacular waterfalls, was given national park status by Teddy Roosevelt and is the only tropical rainforest on U.S. soil. Made up of four discrete forest types and offering a number of walking and hiking trails, El Yunque is home to hundreds of species of tropical flora and rare animals like the coquí tree frog (named for its high-pitched croak) and the colorful Puerto Rican parrot. After viewing a short video in the tourist center, you'll hike through the forest's trails.

Free time on the beach • Continue on to Fajardo on the east coast of the island. Fajardo's pristine, calm water provides an excellent spot for swimming. Enjoy watching the sunset over the water.

Guided kayaking excursion in the BioBay • At night fall, visit the Fajardo BioBay on a kayak! A bio bay is a body of water that contains millions of micro-organisms that glow in the dark for a brief moment when agitated. It is a rare, natural wonder that is best seen at night. After strapping on your lifejacket and getting a kayaking lesson from your guide, hop into your two-man kayak for an informative tour of the lagoon. As you float along with your guide's commentary, you'll notice the bioluminescent glow as you dip your paddles in the water. (B, L, D)

Day 4 Sunday, December 30

Excursion to Ponce • Travel south to the town of Ponce. It's more than 300 years old, but has recaptured its 19th-century flavor. Marvel at the marriage of mountain and sea from atop Ponce's 300-foot El Vigía Hill, the area's tallest geographical feature. The hill features La Cruz del Vigía (Virgin's Cross), whose observation tower offers breathtaking views of Ponce. You will also visit the nearby Castillo Serrallés, a beautiful example of Spanish revival architecture. It was once home to the Serrallés family, one of the most powerful rum-producing families.

Visit the art museum • The largest art museum in the Caribbean, El Museo de Arte de Ponce is considered to be the finest in Puerto Rico. It houses a collection of European art, as well as work by Puerto Rican artists, and contains one of the most important pre-Raphaelite collections in the Western Hemisphere, holding some 4,500 pieces of art distributed across fourteen galleries. The striking façade and interior of the building combine an extraordinary architecture with a magnificent collection. (B)

Pace: Leisurely

Included in the itinerary

- Round-trip airfare
- All transfers and activities as specified in the itinerary
- Upgraded hotel accommodations
- Upgraded meals as specified in the itinerary (B=breakfast, L=lunch, D=dinner)
- Full-time EF Tour Director and staff

Not included

- Insurance, beverages and meals not specified in the itinerary
- Optionals and activities during free time
- Customary gratuities for your tour director and driver

Accommodations and flight itinerary

To be announced approximately 14 days prior to departure



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Day 5 Monday, December 31

Free day • Enjoy your last day on the island before getting ready for the New Year's Eve celebrations!

Farewell dinner • Ring in the New Year at our special farewell dinner, where you can share stories and laughs with your new friends and colleagues. Later, enjoy the lively festivities! (B, D)

Day 6 Tuesday, January 1 ✈

Return home • After breakfast, EF staff will accompany convention delegates to the airport and assist with check-in for the return flight. Have a pleasant trip home! We look forward to seeing you on another convention soon. (B)

Itinerary subject to change.