

home, a hero to many, after years of exile in France.

On a Thursday morning, August 5, 1920, escorted by Señor Charriez, Dr. Betances finally sailed into San Juan aboard the cruiser, USS Buford. Led by political and ecclesiastical dignitaries, the local press reported they had never witnessed crowds so large. Thousands upon thousands had been gathering long before sunrise to catch a glimpse and pay their respect to Dr. Betances.

Due to the large turnout all along the way, it took over two days for the entourage to reach the west coast of the island; the doctor's hometown of Cabo Rojo. Upon his arrival thousands and thousands more turned out in anticipation of seeing him. A few of his generation or perhaps as children, though older now, still remembered him as if it was yesterday. He had been their doctor. He had set their bones and sutured their wounds. He had shared their joy as he brought their babies into

the world and shared their sorrow and heartache in pronouncing the passing of a loved one.

And as he did for the local people in his medical practice, Dr. Betances tried to do for Puerto Rico as a whole. He had correctly diagnosed the debilitating disease of centuries of harsh Spanish rule within the heart the island. He prescribed as the only cure for the afflicted people of Puerto Rico ... independence. But it was not to be.

Dr. Betances and his procession finally reached their long intended destination. On August 7, 1920 it had been over 50 years since his banishment from Puerto Rico and 20 years since his death in exile in Paris. The people of Cabo Rojo, the people of Puerto Rico, sorrowed by his passing, joyous at his return, lay to rest the small box containing the ashes of the "Father" of the Independence Movement...the last mortal remains of Dr. Ramón Emeterio Betances y Alacán.



PLACES OF INTEREST

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1 El Morro (Castillo de San Felipe del Morro) is the oldest fortification in Puerto Rico. Named in honor of the Spanish King Philip II of Spain, construction on the castle began in 1539. Guarding the mouth of the harbor, the fortress gives visitors an amazing opportunity

to literally step back into a time when the major powers of Europe were fighting to carve up and secure possession of the New World.

2 Castillo de San Cristóbal was constructed as part of Old San Juan's defenses beginning in 1765. The fortification is the largest ever built by the Spanish in the New World.

3 The **Cuartel de Ballajá** has served as a military barracks for both Spanish and US troops. In the Second World War the barracks was converted into a military hospital. Today, relating much of the history of the island and surrounding region, this beautiful building is home to the Museo de Las Americas.

4 La **Casa Blanca** (The White House) is the family home of Juan Ponce de León; famed explorer and the first Spanish Governor of Puerto Rico. The house dates to the 1520s. It was built strong enough to offer some protection during the very early settlement of San Juan. Today the home is a museum.

5 La **Catedral de San Juan Bautista** is the most admired church in Puerto Rico. Restored in the early 1900s, the original church dates back to the 1500s. This is the final resting place of Juan Ponce de León.

6 La **Fortaleza** (The Governor's Mansion) dates to the mid-1500s and is the oldest official political residence in the New World. Visitors strolling the beautiful rooms and banquet halls have the opportunity to see and feel what life was like for the representatives of the Spanish Crown. The story (which we will not give away here) of the mansion's clock is of particular interest.

7 The **Iglesia de San José** (Church of San José) dates to the early 1500s and is considered to be the second oldest church in the New World. Originally built by Dominican monks as a monastery, it became the family church of the de León family. This is the final resting place of José Campeche, famed local painter from the 1700s.

Beyond Old San Juan

El **Yunque Rain Forest** is one of the most beautiful regions of Puerto Rico. Covering thousands of acres it is filled with birds, trees and colorful flowers. With numerous hiking paths, scenic vistas and tumbling waterfalls, the mountains of the rainforest reach over 3,500 feet above sea level.

SHORE EXCURSIONS To make the most of your visit to San Juan and the surrounding island we suggest you take one of our organized Shore Excursions. For information concerning tour content and pricing, consult your Shore Excursion Order Form or contact the Shore Excursion Desk. When going ashore, be advised to take with you only necessary items and secure any valuables onboard.

LOCAL CUSTOMS Bargaining: Though prices in restaurants and retail stores are usually fixed, bargaining may be practiced by vendors in open markets.

Tipping: A tip of 15 - 20% is appropriate in restaurants. Check your bill to see if a service fee may already be added. A 10% tip for taxis is common.

LOCAL CUISINE AND DRINK SPECIALTIES Known simply as "La Cocina Criolla", the phrase refers to the style of cuisine first made popular during the Spanish colonial period. The traditional cuisine of the island is a wonderful mixture of Spanish, Taínos, Africa and Central and South American. From the early indigenous Taínos and the Americas came a wide variety of tropical fruits, tomatoes, corn, peppers, pumpkins and roots such as yuca and taro. Plantains, yams, okra and the art of deep frying were introduced by African slaves. From the Spaniards came olives and olive oil, cheese, garlic, onions, pork,

chicken and beef. Some of Puerto Rico's traditional favorite dishes include: Arroz con habichuelas - tasty and hearty beans and rice, Arroz con pollo - chicken and rice stew, Tostones - fried plantains (those big green bananas), Empanadas - meat cutlets, breaded and fried, Pastelitos - tamales filled with meat, yuca and yam then steamed in plantain leaves.

The small coffee growers of Maricao and Jayuya, in the foggy and cool mountain rainforest of Puerto Rico's "Cordillera Central", produce what is quite simply some of the best tasting coffee in the world. These growers are every bit as much artists as they are farmers. Nurtured and raised from the rich soil, the wonderful crop produced by these planters and their families is a labor of love, a treasure brought forth by tradition, time and toil. "Café Real de Puerto Rico" (The Real Coffee of Puerto Rico) is fiercely protective of the authenticity and dedicated to assuring the quality of locally grown coffee. The island has been producing coffee for five centuries. Widely appreciated and sought after, at one time, together with tobacco and sugarcane, coffee was one of the major cash crops.

Rum production in Puerto Rico dates back well over 4 centuries. There are perhaps more separate brands distilled on this island than anywhere in the Caribbean.

SHOPPING Though there are shops and boutiques scattered throughout town, San Francisco, La Fortaleza and Cristo Streets make up the primary shopping area of Old San Juan. Together with standard items and souvenirs, a wide variety of locally produced goods are available such as hand rolled cigars, hammocks, musical instruments and lace. It should be mentioned that the incredible lace produced by the artisans in Puerto Rico follows an ancient Spanish tradition which dates back 500 years. The style and quality can be found in few other places than Spain and here in San Juan. Old San Juan also has a number of art galleries which offer some truly beautiful works created by Puerto Rican artists. Located in the "New" city's financial district, the modern shopping mall called Plaza Las Américas has hundreds of stores, restaurants and entertainment venues.

LOCAL CURRENCY The official currency is the U.S. dollar. Major credit cards are widely accepted.

POST OFFICE AND TELEPHONE The main Post Office in Old San Juan is located at Recinto Sur Street (in front of Hard Rock Café).

Dial the following access numbers to use a personal calling card:

AT&T: 1.800.225.5288

MCI: 1.800.888.8000

TOURIST INFORMATION La Casita Tourism Information Center is located next to Pier 1 at Calle Comercio (street) at the Plaza de la Dársena. This is where visitors disembark from the ship.

TRANSPORTATION Taxis and car rentals are available. It is best to agree on the fare before accepting the ride.

USEFUL WORDS AND PHRASES Spanish (primary) and English (secondary) are the official languages of Puerto Rico.

Yes - Si

No - No

Hello - ¡Hola!