Good Bye - Adiós Please - Por favor Thank-you - Gracias You're welcome - De nada.

NOTES

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GENERAL INFORMATION The island of Puerto Rico, with its capital city of San Juan (1521), is one of the most beautiful and popular tourist destinations in the Caribbean. The narrow cobblestone streets and historic colonial architecture make Old San Juan a wonderful place to explore. The island has been a U.S. possession since 1899, the end of the Spanish – American War. Unless you happen to be a proud Borincano (Puerto Rican) the political status of the island and its people can seem a bit confusing.

First and foremost; All Puerto Ricans are U.S. citizens and have been since 1917. Today Puerto Rico is a self-governing commonwealth of the United States...though some refer to their island as a U.S. colony. Puerto Ricans elect their Governor and Congress. They are represented in the U.S. Congress by an elected delegate (Resident Commissioner) who is eligible to vote in Congressional Committee but not in the full House. As any U.S. citizen, Puerto Ricans are eligible to vote in national presidential elections if they are a legal resident in one of the fifty states. The number of Puerto Ricans living on the island compared to those living in the states is roughly equivalent; approximately 4 million each. There have been three non-binding plebiscites regarding the island's political status; Statehood, Commonwealth or Independence. Each time Puerto Ricans voted to maintain their status as a commonwealth.

But Puerto Ricans also understand that free speech, like freedom itself, is not free. It should be noted that since 1898, in every US war, over 400,000 Puerto Ricans have served and continue to serve throughout all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces with honor and bravery, distinction and sacrifice.

This is a beautiful island with stunning beaches and enchanting rainforests. There is a long and rich, if at times tumultuous history, exemplified in the architecture, cuisine, music and dance, dating back centuries. But the real treasure, that which can not be overvalued or underestimated, is to be found in the Borincanos, the people of this island... this Puerto Rico.



## PORT EXPLORER & SHOPPING GUIDE

# San Juan

**HISTORY** In 1920 Señor Alfonso Lastra Charriez sailed from San Juan across the Atlantic on his way to France. Señor Charriez was a member and Special Emissary of the Puerto Rican Legislative Assembly. He was tasked with the honor of accompanying politician, diplomat and physician, Dr. Ramón Emeterio Betances y Alacán, on his return to Puerto Rico from political exile in Paris. Though he was the "Father" of the island's independence movement, not all Puerto Ricans agreed with the good doctor's "nationalist" ideas. Never the less, throughout the island he was highly respected for his skill and compassion as a physician and his love for and devotion to the people. It was time for Doctor Betances to come home.

From the day (November 19, 1493) Christopher Columbus stepped ashore and claimed the land in the name of the Spanish Crown, Puerto Rico became of vital importance to Spain. She ruled the island 400 years with an iron hand. By the late 1800s rumblings calling for independence were echoing throughout Puerto Rico. Arrest and prison, execution or exile waited for any and all who dared stand up for the independence of Puerto Rico from Spanish rule. Doctor Betances, among others, helped lead the way. With the U.S. victory in the Spanish – American War, Puerto Rico cast off the Spanish yoke. Needing a two-thirds majority, on February 6, 1899 the U.S. Senate ratified the Treaty of Paris by a single vote. Rather than independence, Puerto Rico found herself to be a new U.S. territory...the spoils of war.

For years prior to the Spanish-American war and at great personal risk, Doctor Betances wrote and spoke passionately in favor of independence. He championed colonial reform and the abolition of slavery. He encouraged Puerto Rican rebellion against harsh Spanish rule. The doctor also advised against being absorbed by the newly expanding United States. The doctor was now coming



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

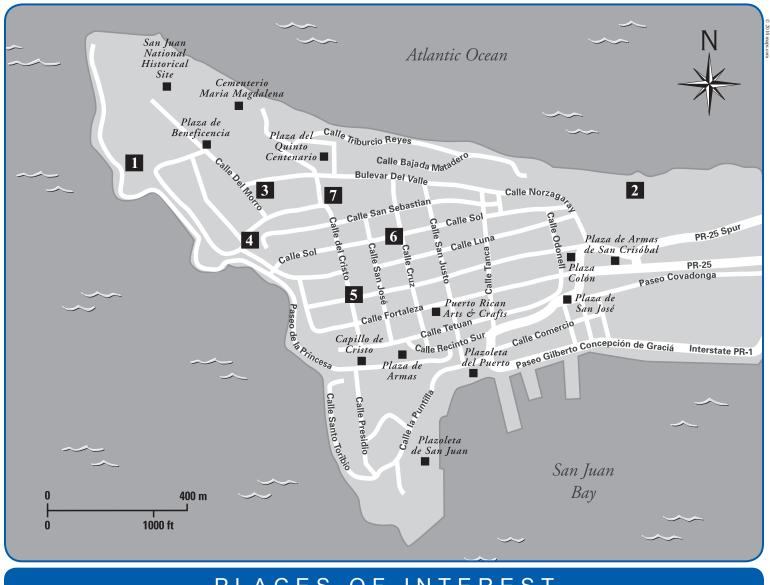
On a Thursday morning, August 5, 1920, escorted by Señor Charriez, Dr. Betances finally sailed into San Juan aboard the cruiser, USS Bufford. Led by political and ecclesiastical dignitaries, the local press reported they had never witnessed crowds so large. Thousands upon thousands had been gathering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

#### PLACES OF INTEREST

El Morro (Castillo de San Felipe del Morro) is the oldest fortifi-**L** cation 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.

**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.

**The Cuartel de Ballajá** has served as a military barracks for both chicken and beef. Some of Puerto Rico's traditional favorite dishes in-Spanish and US troops. In the Second World War the barracks clude: Arroz con habichuelas - tasty and hearty beans and rice, Arroz was converted into a military hospital. Today, relating much of the con pollo - chicken and rice stew, Tostones - fried plantains (those big history of the island and surrounding region, this beautiful building is green bananas), Empanadas - meat cutlets, breaded and fried, Pastehome to the Museo de Las Americas. les - tamales filled with meat, yuca and yam then steamed in plantain leaves.

4 La **Casa Blanca** (The White House) is the family home of Juan Ponce de León; famed explorer and the first Spanish Governor of The small coffee growers of Maricao and Jayuya, in the foggy and Puerto Rico. The house dates to the 1520s. It was built strong enough cool mountain rainforest of Puerto Rico's "Cordillera Central", produce what is quite simply some of the best tasting coffee in the world. to offer some protection during the very early settlement of San Juan. Today the home is a museum. These growers are every bit as much artists as they are farmers. Nurtured and raised from the rich soil, the wonderful crop produced by 5 La Catedral de San Juan Bautista is the most admired church in Puerto Rico. Restored in the early 1900s, the original church 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 dates back to the 1500s. This is the final resting place of Juan Ponce Coffee of Puerto Rico) is fiercely protective of the authenticity and de León. dedicated to assuring the quality of locally grown coffee. The island La Fortaleza (The Governor's Mansion) dates to the mid-1500s has been producing coffee for five centuries. Widely appreciated and o and is the oldest official political residence in the New World. sought after, at one time, together with tobacco and sugarcane, coffee Visitors strolling the beautiful rooms and banquet halls have the opwas one of the major cash crops.

portunity to see and feel what life was like for the representatives of Rum production in Puerto Rico dates back well over 4 centuries. the Spanish Crown. The story (which we will not give away here) of There are perhaps more separate brands distilled on this island than the mansion's clock is of particular interest. anywhere in the Caribbean.

**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 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.

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 LOCAL CURRENCY The official currency is the U.S. dollar. Major Shore Excursions. For information concerning tour content and pricing, consult your Shore Excursion Order Form or contact the Shore credit cards are widely accepted. Excursion Desk. When going ashore, be advised to take with you only POST OFFICE AND TELEPHONE The main Post Office in Old San necessary items and secure any valuables onboard. Juan is located at Recinto Sur Street (in front of Hard Rock Café).

LOCAL CUSTOMS Bargaining: Though prices in restaurants and Dial the following access numbers to use a personal calling card: retail stores are usually fixed, bargaining may be practiced by vendors AT&T: 1.800.225.5288 in open markets. MCI: 1.800.888.8000

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

LOCAL CUISINE AND DRINK SPECIALTIES Known simply as "La Cocina Criolla", the phrase refers to the style of cuisine first made TRANSPORTATION Taxis and car rentals are available. It is best to popular during the Spanish colonial period. The traditional cuisine of agree on the fare before accepting the ride. the island is a wonderful mixture of Spanish, Taínos, Africa and Cen-USEFUL WORDS AND PHRASES Spanish (primary) and English tral and South American. From the early indigenous Taínos and the (secondary) are the official languages of Puerto Rico. Americas came a wide variety of tropical fruits, tomatoes, corn, peppers, pumpkins and roots such as yuca and taro. Plantains, yams, okra Yes - Si and the art of deep frying were introduced by African slaves. From No - No the Spaniards came olives and olive oil, cheese, garlic, onions, pork, Hello - ¡Hóla!