

Contents

List of Maps	vi
---------------------	----

What's New in Puerto Rico	1
----------------------------------	---

1 The Best of Puerto Rico	3
1 The Best Beaches	4
2 The Best Hotel Beaches	5
3 The Best Scuba Diving	6
4 The Best Snorkeling	7
5 The Best Golf & Tennis	8
6 The Best Hikes	8
7 The Best Natural Wonders	9
8 The Best Family Resorts	10
9 The Best Honeymoon Resorts	10
10 The Best Big Resort Hotels	11
11 The Best Moderately Priced Hotels	12
12 The Best Attractions	12
13 The Best Restaurants	13
14 The Best Offbeat Travel Experiences	14

2 Planning Your Trip to Puerto Rico	17
1 The Regions in Brief	17
2 Visitor Information	22
3 Entry Requirements & Customs	22
4 Money	24
<i>What Things Cost in Puerto Rico</i>	25
5 When to Go	26
<i>Puerto Rico Calendar of Events</i>	28
6 The Active Vacation Planner	31
<i>Take Me Out to the Beisbol Game</i>	34
7 Travel Insurance	37
8 Health & Safety	38
9 Specialized Travel Resources	40
10 Getting There: Flying to Puerto Rico	42
11 Package Deals & Group Tours	43
<i>Great Discounts through the LeLoLai VIP Program</i>	45
12 For the Cruise-Ship Traveler	45
13 Getting Around	48
14 Tips on Accommodations	50
15 Recommended Reading	54
<i>Fast Facts: Puerto Rico</i>	54

3 Suggested Puerto Rico Itineraries	59
1 The Best of Puerto Rico in 1 Week	59
2 The Best of Puerto Rico in 2 Weeks	63
3 Puerto Rico for Families	66
4 La Ruta Panorámica in 2 Days	68

4 Getting to Know San Juan	71
1 Orientation	71
<i>Neighborhoods in Brief</i>	74
2 Getting Around	76
<i>Fast Facts: San Juan</i>	77

5	Where to Stay in San Juan	79
1	Old San Juan	80
2	Puerta de Tierra	83
3	Condado	84
4	Miramar	90
5	Santurce & Ocean Park	90
6	Isla Verde	92
	<i>Family-Friendly Accommodations</i> . . .	95
6	Where to Dine in San Juan	98
1	Best Bets	98
2	Cocina Criolla & Kill-Devil Rum . . .	100
	<i>Strange Fruit</i>	101
3	Old San Juan	104
	<i>An Authentic Criolla Restaurant</i> . .	109
4	Puerta de Tierra	114
5	Condado	115
6	Miramar	120
7	Santurce & Ocean Park	120
8	Near Ocean Park	122
9	Isla Verde	123
	<i>Two Family-Friendly Restaurants</i> . .	124
7	Exploring San Juan	128
1	Seeing the Sights	128
	<i>The Best Places to See Puerto Rican Art</i>	138
	<i>Walking Tour: Old San Juan</i>	139
	<i>The Cathedral of Rum</i>	144
2	Diving, Fishing, Tennis & Other Outdoor Pursuits	145
	<i>La Vida Loca & La Criolla Chic</i> . . .	148
3	Shopping	149
	<i>Grotesque Masks</i>	152
	<i>Shopping for Santos</i>	155
4	San Juan After Dark	158
	<i>The Birth of the Piña Colada</i>	160
	<i>Barhopping</i>	163
8	Near San Juan	165
1	Arecibo & Camuy	165
2	The Karst Country	168
3	Dorado	170
	<i>World-Class Golf at the Former Hyatt Dorado</i>	171
4	El Yunque	172
5	Luquillo Beach	174
9	Ponce, Mayagüez & San Germán	178
1	Ponce	178
	<i>Walking Tour: Ponce</i>	184
2	Mayagüez	191
	<i>Mona Island: The Galápagos of Puerto Rico</i>	194
3	San Germán	197

10	Western Puerto Rico	200
1	Rincón	200
2	The Southwest Coast <i>Puerto Rico's Secret Beaches</i>	207 212
3	Paradores of Western Puerto Rico <i>Life After Death: Taíno Burial & Ceremonial Sites</i>	214 216
11	Eastern Puerto Rico	221
1	Las Croabas <i>To the Lighthouse: Exploring Las Cabezas de San Juan Nature Reserve</i>	221 222
2	<i>Top Caribbean Spa: The Golden Door</i>	224
2	Palmas del Mar	225
3	Paradores of Eastern Puerto Rico	228
12	Vieques & Culebra	230
1	Vieques	230
2	Culebra	244
	Appendix: Puerto Rico in Depth	249
1	The Natural Environment: Beaches, Mountains, the Rainforest, Off-Island Islands & More	249
2	Puerto Rico Today	252
3	History 101 <i>Ponce de León: Man of Myth & Legend</i>	253 254
4	A Portrait of the Puerto Ricans	264
	Index	267

List of Maps

Puerto Rico	18	Old San Juan Attractions	129
Camping in Puerto Rico	32	San Juan Attractions	132
Paradores & Country Inns of Puerto Rico	53	Walking Tour: Old San Juan	141
Suggested Puerto Rico Itineraries	60	Attractions Near San Juan	167
San Juan Orientation	72	Walking Tour: Ponce	179
Old San Juan Accommodations & Dining	81	Mayagüez	193
Puerta de Tierra, Miramar, Condado & Ocean Park Accommodations & Dining	85	Western Puerto Rico & the Southwest Coast	201
Isla Verde Accommodations & Dining	93	Eastern Puerto Rico	223
		Vieques & Culebra	231