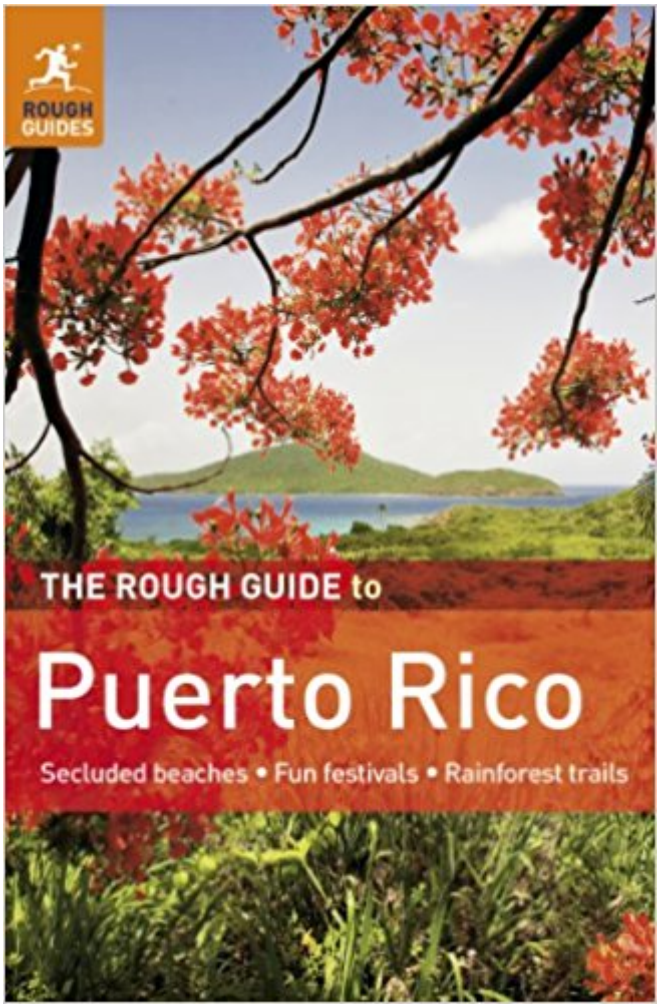
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The Rough Guide To Puerto Rico (Rough Guides)



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Synopsis

Discover a land of lush jungles & dazzling white sand. The guide will inspire you with 'things not to miss' from the cosmopolitan city of San Juan to the exotic flora & fauna of the Caribbean National Forest. Maps will guide you to recommended accommodation and restaurant reviews provide details of gourmet eateries & local food stalls.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The holiday-makers' favourite guidebook series The Sunday Times

I lived in Puerto Rico for several months recently and used this guidebook along with the most recent Fodor's guide. I also looked at the Lonely Planet and Moon guides. For Puerto Rico at least, the Rough Guide is your best choice of these options. The Rough Guide series in general skews more towards the budget backpacking type trip. (I did not have any such budget limitations and am glad I also bought the Fodor's guide for some information on higher priced activities.) It also happens to offer the most interesting, off-the-beaten-path perspective of the options out there. This perspective will be useful if you've exhausted Old San Juan, Condado, and the Isla Verde section of the capital city. The book has great suggestions for the coasts and hits on a lot of good cheaper restaurants. These places are a must-eat and the Rough Guide can point you there. The Rough Guide also provides a lot of excellent coverage on the islands of Culebra and Vieques, as well as smaller islands around the main island. This area of coverage is where the Rough Guide succeeds

and Fodor’s places a distant second. I also appreciated that the Rough Guide gave substantial cultural and historical information about Puerto Rico, as well as discussed the Commonwealth’s role as a jumping-off point for much of the Caribbean. The Virgin Islands, Dominican Republic, and Cuba (the book series appears written for a European audience), are all a quick plane ride away.The book is a little out of date. I found a number of small discrepancies between it and my experiences. One of the more serious ones is when we took a day trip from San Juan to the Arecibo observatory and interior part of the island. There was supposed to be a restaurant near the observatory that has since closed, leaving nothing in the area for food. The ATM was also "broken" (more like broken permanently) at the observatory. Fortunately we had cash, but wouldn’t have known this thanks to the book. My advice would be to carry sufficient cash with you (Puerto Rico really isn’t unsafe if you take reasonable precautions) for the day and not rely too heavily on the Rough Guide for essentials such as food and ATMs when outside of San Juan, especially in the more rural interior of the island.My main beef with this book, which I haven’t seen in Rough Guide books on other locations, is the at-times snarky tone the writers took towards more expensive, but perhaps more time-efficient, options. For instance, when traveling from the main island to Vieques or Culebra, you can drive from San Juan, park your car in a lot, stand in line at an ungodly early hour, and then take a two hour ferry ride over to one of the smaller islands. With this travel option, you run the risk of not even getting a seat on the boat. This is the cheap option--very cheap. But it is really uncomfortable and time-consuming. Instead of presenting the values of flying from San Juan to the smaller islands (very fast and convenient), the authors merely disregarded the option as overpriced and for the tourist suckers. It is more expensive, sure, but ensures you get the most out of your time there. I didn’t like this unbalanced attitude that the authors took through out their book.With that said, if you are going to Puerto Rico buy the Rough Guide. Buy the Fodor’s book too if you want the full picture of your options. If you are taking a cruise stopping for a day in Old San Juan, check out the Rough Guide in a bookstore and make some notes: many of the book’s strengths lie outside the metropolitan area, but the book covers a number of enjoyable restaurants, bars, shops, and sights in San Juan too. The Rough Guide provides more interesting, "local" activities you won’t want to miss.

I hadn’t tried a Rough Guide before, so I got the Lonely Planet Puerto Rico at the same time, in preparation for a 4-day trip to PR.It’s scattered, very little unity, or structure, to the contents. Like they took snippets from a bunch of different travelogues, categorized them by geography (which is kind of silly, since PR is tiny), and stuck them in a book.I ended up taking the Lonely Planet book,

and leaving this one at home.

Gave very detailed information on the sights and where to go. Also the do's and don'ts - smoking etc. Spanish phrases were helpful also. I went through the book before we left and highlighted the things we were interested in and that really helped.

...We took our third trip to Puerto Rico.This time, there were 9 of us including 4 children and parents and 3 grandparents. We stayed for a week on the east cost, at Punta Santiago. My wife and I (2 of the grandparents) stayed longer and visited some friends in the west central region, south of Aricebo. We usually take a couple of guide books with us and mark places with sticky notes. With the large number of people wanting to go in different directions, we ended up with 4 guide books.The number of sticky notes as well as the condition of the guide book is a good measure of how well we used the book. This time, The Rough Guide and the Moon Handbook were the winners. If you want only one guide book, The Rough Guide would be my choice. Driving directions are clear. Places of interest are quite complete. For example, we wanted to go to Monkey Island and found a great reference with a correct phone number to a ride with a knowledgeable Captain who directed us to an excellent snorkeling location as well as to Monkey Island....In all the places we went to, we found the Rough Guide gave accurate information. Of course, the best idea is to ask locals if there are any other local places to see. This way you get off the standard paths and have fun....While the Rough Guide has maps in it, I wish there were more. There were sometimes details needed that another map would provide. Since we drove, we also had a National Geographic detailed map which got a lot of use. The Rough Guide along with a sturdy map is a highly recommended combo for driving in Puerto Rico.

Good for developed tourist areas. Not exactly a 'Rough' guide to most of Puerto Rico.

lots of helpful hints

Should be a good resource for my next trip.

Out dated!!!

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