



*Cultural immersion through participation, not observation.
PREP TOURS, "mucho más" than a sightseeing company!*

Sample Itinerary - 5 Days, 4 Nights Cultural Immersion Tour to Puerto Rico

*Hike in a Tropical Rain Forest, Snorkel over exotic coral reefs, Kayak in a
glowing Bioluminescent Bay, Explore a 500 Year Old City -
Experience a Culture Fueled by a Latin Beat!*

This proposed itinerary is for a 5 Day, 4 Night historical and cultural immersion - based tour of the Spanish speaking country of *Puerto Rico designed for middle and high school students*. The focus of PREP TOURS affords today's educators and students access to varied sectors of the island. This program broadens and strengthens visitors' global awareness through hands-on rich cultural immersion experiences including cultural exchanges with students at local schools, *charlas* (talks) on topics related to Puerto Rican Studies educational sightseeing and recreational activities. All of this while absorbing the breathtaking beauty of the landscape, customs, history and traditions, language, music, geography, and food of *La Isla del Encanto*, the Enchanted Island. These experiences will no doubt create life-long memories that will be taken back to stateside schools and communities that can only be achieved through interaction with the ideal mix of educational, cultural, and recreation activities not found in any textbook, classroom or lecture hall.



Day 1 Thursday- Departure Day, Home City - Arrival Day, San Juan

Depart from your home city and arrive at San Juan International Airport (SJU). Meet your Tour Director, Paul Borkowski, Co – Owner of PREP TOURS, and staff members.



Upon arrival at the airport, you will be welcomed to the Puerto Rican culture by a meal consisting of a Media Noche sandwich, quesito pastry and island fruit.



Transfer to the **Embassy Suites Dorado del Mar Beach Resort Hotel in Dorado** via motor coach – *approximately 40 minutes from the airport to the resort*. Time permitting, there will be a short stop at a market close to the Dorado Embassy Suites if you wish to purchase refreshments, snacks etc. for your suite's refrigerator **and of course, to practice your Spanish Language skills.**



Check in.

Lunch upon arrival- Evening Pizza Party



Day 2 Friday - Cultural Exchange at a private independent school, Community Service project

- 8:00 A.M. Fully cooked-to-order scrumptious breakfast buffet in the resort's dining room
- 9:00 A.M. Transfer to a nearby private independent school for a hands-on cultural exchange activity hosted by students of the Junior Honor Society.



This activity, reserved only for students and teachers, includes a workshop on the styles of local folkloric music (African, European, Taino Indian). Students will have the opportunity to learn to dance and play traditional Puerto Rican instruments associated with the centuries-old folkloric music as well. This cultural exchange also includes a typical buffet style Puerto Rican meal with honor students and staff of the Academy.

Charla related to topics in Puerto Rican Studies.

At the conclusion of the cultural exchange, transfer to a Community Service project a local assisted living home where Spanish Class students can practice your Spanish Language skills with the residents while bringing them basic necessities such as linens and toiletries .

This Community service project can be noted on college resumes.

At the conclusion of your community service project/ Charla, you will be transferred back to the Resort

Dinner at the Resort

Organized free time

B/L/D/

**Day 3 Saturday- El Yunque Rain Forest / Luquillo Beach /
Bioluminescent Bay Tour**



*El Yunque is the **sole** tropical rain forest in the U.S. National Forest System. The forest's relatively small 28,000 acre size belies its year-round tropical climate and immense biodiversity.*

- 8:00 A.M. Fully cooked-to-order scrumptious breakfast buffet in the resort's dining room
- 9:00 A.M. Meet with your Tour Director and depart for **El Yunque Rain Forest** for a guided walking and hiking tour; home to over 240 plant species receiving billions of gallons of rainfall each year.

***Federal law prohibits the larger motor coach buses from passing the Rain Forest's El Portal Visitors Center. For this reason, you may be transferred to smaller buses at the Visitor's Center.**

There will be stops at Coca Falls, and Yokahu Tower which commands a view of the entire northeast coast of Puerto Rico followed by a picnic style lunch. Recently, El Yunque became one of the nominees for the Seven Wonders of the World Contest.

For the physically fit, there's a downhill hike to Las Minas Falls. The hike is approximately 45 minutes going downhill and a 55-minute return hike – all uphill. There is a beautiful waterfall and swimming hole at Las Minas, so bring along your bathing suit because you'll have a chance to wade in the cool refreshing water.

Note: For those wishing a more moderate workout, there is an optional leisurely 20 - 30 minute walk on the Bano Grande Trail.

After your Rain Forest experience, you'll be shuttled to the Route 66 Outlets for some shopping time and an early dinner at the food court on your own.

Or,

After your Rain Forest experience, you'll be shuttled to Luquillo Beach one of the most enhancing beaches in the Caribbean.

Its stunning coconut-lined palm trees make it one of the most picturesque beaches in all of Puerto Rico. Curved around a

beautiful bay, the beach is known

for its usually calm waters.

Dinner on your own at a local eatery en route to the Bio Bay.

After dinner, you'll be transferred to Las Croabas for an evening bioluminescent bay kayaking excursion. At Las Croabas, your guides



will instruct you on the safety and protocols of kayaking and lead you through the mangroves to the bioluminescent bay. Notice how the water sparkles when disturbed. This bio bay is one of several in the world where the phenomenon can be observed.

Return to your resort, arriving at approximately 10:00 P.M. for Pizza.

B/L/D/Pizza

Day 4 Sunday- Narrated Old San Juan Historical Walking Tour

9:00 A.M. Fully cooked-to-order scrumptious breakfast buffet in the resort's dining room

10:00 A.M. Meet with your Tour Director and board buses bound for a narrated walking tour of Old San Juan.



11:00 A.M. Begin guided and narrated walking tour of **Old San Juan, the oldest settlement within Puerto Rico and the U.S.** (approx. 2 hours). This narrated tour, led by a licensed bilingual tour guide, will introduce you to San Juan and its 400 years of Spanish Colonial history. Declared a "World Heritage Site" by UNESCO, this beautifully preserved area, comprising of seven square blocks, is a blend of both the Old and New Worlds.

There will be stops at:

- Fort El Morro / Fort San Cristobal. Fort El Morro was built to defend against "sea attackers"; later, Fort San Cristobal was built to protect against attack on San Juan by land.
- El Capitolio, the powerful symbol of self-government to Puerto Ricans. The guided and narrated tour is an interactive experience of the Puerto Rico Legislature and the wealth of modern day, first-hand resources of Puerto Rico's political history-in-the-making. Puerto Rico's Capitol Building is a photographic setting for group pictures on the Capitol Building's steps.
- Antiguo Casino, San Juan Museum, Convento de San Tomás, Iglesia San José, Catedral de San Juan, Pablo Casals Museum*, Casa Blanca and more.

*Pablo Casals lived on the island for about the last 17 years of his life. His mother and wife were born here.

1:00 P.M. At the conclusion of your guided walking tour of the Old City there will be time for lunch on your own and approximately two hours of free time for shopping, exploring, and strolling on the cobblestone streets of Old San Juan.

4:00 P.M. Depart for the Resort

6 P.M. Buffet dinner en route to the Resort

7:30 P.M. Salsa Lessons @the Resort





Day 5 Monday- Bid Adiós

8:00 A.M. Fully cooked-to-order scrumptious breakfast buffet in the resort's dining room
Prepare for your trip home
Load buses and depart for San Juan International Airport
Bid adiós to La Isla del Encanto (The Enchanted Island).

Addendum

Cost: Price is based on a minimum of 25 paying participants and resort and excursion availability at time of booking.

Included: accommodations (four per room); all buffet breakfasts, most lunches and dinners, pizza parties, and snacks; all ground transportation in itinerary; all academic activities, historical and cultural tours; entrance fees; guides; and, services of tour director.

Not included: airfares, visas, and travel documents; adult, client-elected single/double room requests require an additional charge, baggage handler (porter) fees, personal expenses, insurances, alcoholic beverages, specialty drinks, additional excursions/meals/entrance fees not on the itinerary, gratuities for tour guides and drivers, and additional security.

GRATUITIES: for tour guides and drivers – add \$2.00 per day per traveler, for each guide and driver.



PREP TOURS INC
A TRUSTED COMPANY

- ☀ **PEACE OF MIND—WITH PREP TOURS YOU Know where your children are.**
- ☀ **PREP TOURS uses insured vehicles licensed, regulated & inspected by the Puerto Rico Tourism Company (PRTC) as well as the Puerto Rico Department of Public Works.**
- ☀ **Our drivers and tour operators are licensed and certified by the Department of Public Works and PRTC.**
- ☀ **Our drivers and tour operators are drug screened and possess good conduct certificates (background checks) issued by the Puerto Rico Police Department.**
- ☀ **PREP TOURS co-owners and founders, Nancy Escabi and Paul Borkowski, are long time island residents.**
 - **Nancy is Head of School at a prominent independent school on the island. She has chaired Middle States accreditation teams on the island. She arranges cultural exchange activities for schools visiting the island.**
 - **Paul is a retired N.Y.C. Dept of Correction Captain with nearly 25 years of experience in safety, security, tourism, and transportation. He possesses a strong educational and practical background in Puerto Rican Studies and lectures for all levels of Education.**
 - **Paul Jr. is a student at the University of Puerto Rico pursuing a B.S. in Business Administration. He is a licensed Tour Operator.**
 - **Together, their unique backgrounds allow them to work with group leaders to design a tour that meets the demands of today's school boards, administrations, faculty, parents, and students in today's ever changing world of student educational travel.**



OPTIONAL Extra Day– Camuy Caves / Arecibo Observatory

- 8:00 A.M. Fully cooked-to-order scrumptious breakfast buffet in the Resort’s dining room
- 9:00 A.M. Meet with your Tour Director and board buses for morning transfer to the amazing **Camuy Caves** and **Arecibo Observatory**.

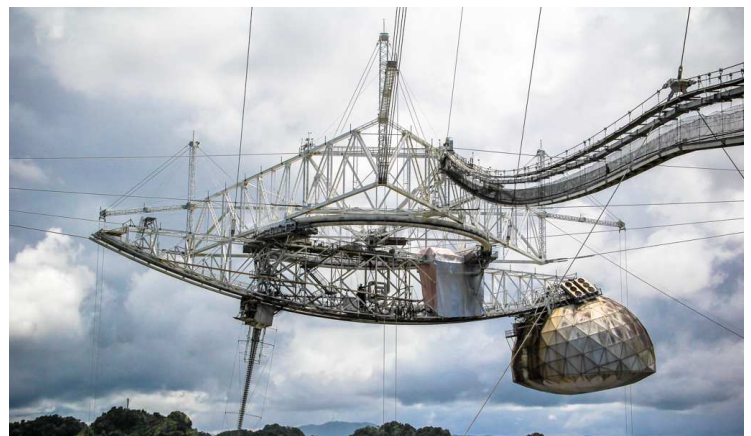
Camuy Caves is one of the largest underground river and cave systems in the world. The open air trolley-tram will take you through the massive cave system followed by a walk down a spiral sinkhole.



Lunch at a local restaurant.

Transfer to the **Arecibo Observatory** for a tour of the world’s largest single-dish radio telescope. It’s nestled in the karst hills of Puerto Rico and was formerly operated by Cornell University and the National Science Foundation. It is the place where planets outside our solar system were discovered. The hit movies, “Contact”, starring Jodie Foster and James Bond’s, “Goldeneye”, were filmed here.

There will be a shopping and supper stop on your own at the Prime Outlets at Barceloneta before returning to the resort.





OPTIONAL Extra Day- Catamaran swimming, snorkeling, and chillin'-out Excursion

- 7:30 A.M. Fully cooked-to-order scrumptious breakfast buffet in the resort's dining room
- 9:00 A.M. Meet with your Tour Director and board buses for a transfer ride to your catamaran excursion at the **Ceiba Marina** to a private island for sun, sail, swim, snorkel and relaxation.



- 10:30 A.M. Board your catamaran
You will enjoy the beautiful views of Puerto Rico's east coast, including stunning views of the "El Yunque" mountains and the Fajardo coastline. The catamaran crew will tell you about the oceanography of the islands. You will sail to the paradise island of Icaco, an uninhabited Spanish Virgin Island. Here sparkling beaches and crystal-clear snorkeling waters await your arrival. The crew will tell you about ocean life to anticipate and look for when snorkeling.

Buffet lunch provided on board the catamaran. The catamaran excursion usually lasts approx 4-5 hours.

- 3:30 P.M. Depart for Resort,
- 6:30 P.M. Dinner at Resort



B/L/D/

