

San Juan, Puerto Rico, USA

Puerto Rico's capital delivers one of the Caribbean's most rewarding cruise days — a UNESCO-listed walled city, two massive Spanish forts, and some of the best rum and food in the region, all starting steps from the pier.

Docked (pier) Typical call: 8–12 hrs USD Spanish / English Caribbean

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: _____	Arrive: _____	All aboard: _____
Excursion: _____	Notes: _____	

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Old San Juan Piers 1, 3, 4 & 6 (walkable to historic district); larger and homeport ships use Pan American Pier on Isla Grande (short taxi). \$425M port modernization underway through 2026–27.

Best For: History, walking, rum, beaches, rainforest day trips

Walk to center: Pier 1/3/4/6: 2–5 min walk to Paseo de la Princesa and the walled city. Pan American Pier: 10–15 min taxi.

Don't Miss: El Morro at opening time, a piña colada at Barrachina (the birthplace), and the Bacardí ferry

Getting around: Taxi \$8-20 USD · Rideshare Uber, Lyft · Hop-on hop-off City Sightseeing San Juan

TOP THINGS TO DO

- **Castillo San Felipe del Morro** — The 16th-century Atlantic-facing citadel at the tip of the peninsula is one of the most photographed fortresses in the Americas.
- **Castillo San Cristóbal** — The largest Spanish fort built in the New World, designed to defend against land attacks.
- **Old San Juan Walking Tour** — Blue cobblestone alleys, La Fortaleza (oldest executive mansion in the Americas), the Cathedral of San Juan Bautista (second-oldest cathedral in the...)
- **El Yunque Rainforest** — The only tropical rainforest in the US National Forest System, about 45 minutes east.
- **Casa Bacardí Rum Distillery** — Puerto Rico is rum country and Bacardí started here.

BEST WALKS

- **The Fort Walk** 3 km · 2–2.5 hrs · Moderate — From the pier, follow Paseo de la Princesa past the Raíces Fountain, through the San Juan Gate, then northwest along the coastal walk past the old city walls to El Morro.
- **Old San Juan Culture Loop** 1.5 km · 1 hr · Easy — A tight loop through the heart of the walled city: Calle Fortaleza (restaurants, shops, umbrella art installation), La Fortaleza exterior (the governor's mansion...)

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)				DAYLIGHT & MONEY	
Mon	High	Low	Rain	Apr 6:07AM–6:41PM · Jun 5:48AM–7:01PM · Aug 6:06AM–6:50PM · Sep 6:12AM–6:26PM · Oct 6:18AM–6:01PM	
Apr	86°	72°	15d	USD	
Jun	89°	76°	15d		
Aug	88°	77°	19d		
Sep	88°	77°	22d		
Oct	87°	76°	21d		

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Wear proper walking shoes. Old San Juan's blue cobblestones (adoquines — original Spanish ship ballast) are beautiful and brutal on feet. Flip-flops are a bad idea; ankle support helps on the hills.
- Go to El Morro first. It's far cooler, emptier, and better lit before 10 AM. The pier fills with tourists mid-morning — head to the fort immediately after disembarking and explore Old San Juan on the way back.
- The Bacardí ferry is a bargain. A public ferry from Pier 2 (steps from the cruise docks) crosses to Cataño for about \$0.50 each way — easiest and cheapest access to Casa Bacardí. No taxi needed.
- Try the Piña Colada at its birthplace. San Juan claims it — try one at Barrachina (Calle Fortaleza 104) or the Caribe Hilton, the two establishments that both claim the invention. Both are worth the stop.
- Eat two streets back from the pier.
- Book El Yunque through a tour.

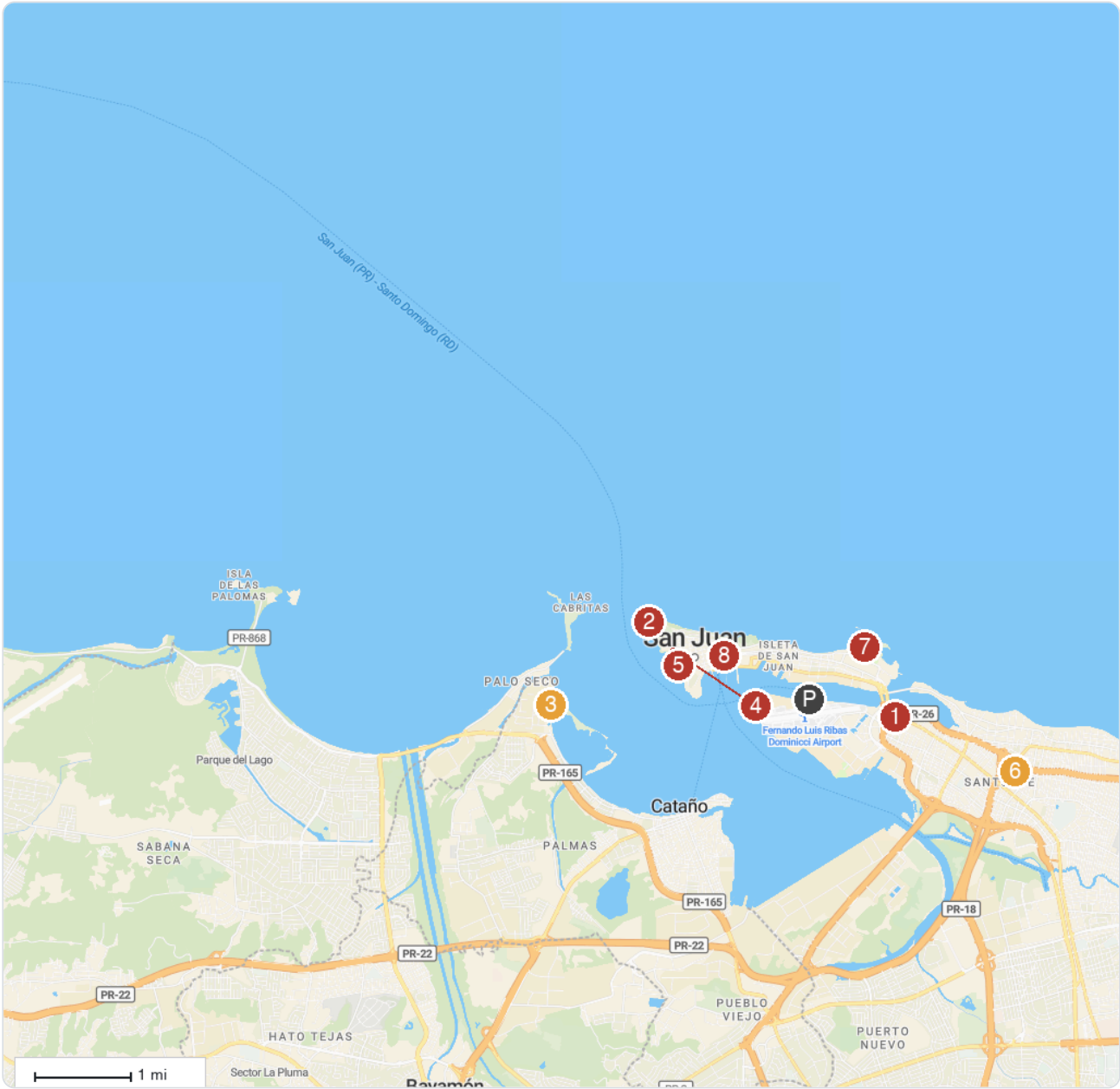
ESSENTIAL TRAVEL QUALIFICATIONS

- Current old free municipal trolley operation unconfirmed; do not rely on a scheduled fort loop. Advertised shore-excursion trolley is a separate service.

San Juan, Puerto Rico, USA — Port Map

cruiseports.org

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



- | | | | | | |
|----------|--|---|----------|--|---|
| 1 | Capilla Nuestra Señora de Lourdes | Beautiful historic chapel with stunning architecture. | 2 | Castillo San Felipe del Morro | Massive 16th-century Spanish fortress guarding San Juan Bay. |
| 3 | Casa BACARDÍ | Iconic rum distillery offering tours and tastings. | 4 | Casa Blanca | Historic home of Ponce de León, now a museum. |
| 5 | La Fortaleza | Official residence of the Governor, a UNESCO World Heritage site. | 6 | Museo de Arte de Puerto Rico | Premier art museum showcasing Puerto Rican and international art. |
| 7 | Balneario El Escambrón | Popular public beach perfect for swimming and sunbathing. | 8 | Teatro Alejandro Tapia y Rivera | Historic 19th-century theater hosting various performing arts events. |
| P | Cruise port / terminal | | | | |