



## Mister Latin Jazz Goes to Puerto Rico

April 5 -12 , 2025

### Saturday April 5<sup>th</sup> Bienvenidos a San Juan (D)

AM Arrival at Luis Muñoz Marín International Airport, San Juan, Puerto Rico. We will arrange two transfers this morning. Please arrive by 3 pm.

4:00pm Check in to our home for the week, the Hotel El Colonial  
<https://elcolonialhotel.com>

5:30pm Welcome Cocktail & Meet and Greet.

7:30pm Enjoy Welcome Dinner.

### Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup> (B, L)

Breakfast is at your leisure daily 7 – 10 am.

9:00am Briefing by a local historian to share with us the history of this island nation “From Taino to Colony to Commonwealth”

11:00am **We have a special historic walking tour of Old San Juan** this morning to bring history alive. Highlights include the Old City Plaza de Colón, San Felipe del Morro Castle, San Cristobal Fort El Palacio de Santa Catalina (La Fortaleza), La Casa Blanca (Juan Ponce de Leon’s Residence, the first Governor of Puerto Rico), La Catedral de San Juan La Iglesia de San José (the oldest Spanish Church in the Americas), El Convento de los Dominicos , La Puerta de San Juan and the El Paseo de la Princesa.

1:00pm Lunch

2:30pm Our city tour concludes with a visit to **Castillo San Felipe del Morro**, (El Morro) sits atop a high promontory overlooking the entrance to the San Juan Bay. It is the result of the efforts of Spanish engineers over a period of more than 250 years and is one of the largest fortifications built by the Spain in the Caribbean.

4:00pm Free time to wander Old San Juan, rest and enjoy dinner.

Eve Optional cultural activity like live music or dancing at **La Factoria**.

### **Monday, April 7<sup>th</sup>**

**(B,L, D)**

Breakfast at your leisure daily at the hotel's restaurant.

9:00am Salsa Dance Class.

11:00am **Bomba & Plena!**, An Overview of Puerto Rican Music” by an ethnomusicologist.

1:00pm Lunch

2:30pm Exchange with the community arts and music center, **La Goyco Community Center**, <https://www.lagoyco.org>

4:30pm **Enjoy A Mister Latin Jazz Curated Concert**

6:30pm Time to dine, rest and swim

### **Tuesday, April 8**

**Piñones & Loiza**

**(B,L)**

8:00am Breakfast

9:00am Departure to the **Piñones Community and Mangrove Forest Reserve**. We will visit the Piñones Afro Puerto Rican historical community and stop at their mangrove forest on our way to Loiza. The town of Loiza, and the community of Piñones, reflects the richness of the island's Afro-Spanish culture and traditions, especially in the form of music, food and crafts. It is considered by many locals “the soul of the island” celebrating Puerto Rico's traditional AfroCaribbean community and culture.

11:30am Enjoy a **Bomba dance class** and enjoy a community lunch

afterwards.

3:00pm Our time continues as we visit to an artisan workshop where we will **create our own Vejigantes mask**, your souvenir to bring home. We will learn about the cultural festivals & carnivals that inspire the “devil” masks.

5:00pm Return back to our hotel and free time for rest and dinner

7:00pm Enjoy **A Mister Latin Jazz Curated Concert.**

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**Wednesday, April 9<sup>th</sup> El Yunque (B, L)**

8:00am Breakfast

9:00am Departure to **El Yunque National Forest**, the only tropical rainforest in the national forest system. At nearly 29,000 acres, it is one of the smallest in size, yet one of the most biologically diverse. We will hike to La Mina Fall where we will go for a dip.

1:00pm Lunch along the beach kiosks of **Luquillo.**

3:00pm Enjoy a brief visit at **the Museum of Art of Puerto Rico**, to explore its vast collection.

5:00pm Free time for dinner.

7:00pm. Enjoy **A Mister Latin Jazz Curated Concert.**

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**Thursday, April 10<sup>th</sup> Ponce Y Salinas (B,L)**

8:00am Breakfast

9:00am We are off for our excursion **to Ponce** (about an hour drive). Upon arrival we will enjoy a walking city tour with its ornate colonial buildings and lush shade trees. One highlight is the Parque de Bombas, structures is an old fire station which has been converted into a museum. Around the plaza you will also find the magnificent Lion Fountain (Fuente de los Leones), the mayor's residence, and the Cathedral of our Lady of Guadalupe. You will enjoy some free time to indulge in its local coffee shops, restaurants, and boutiques selling local products.

1:00pm Lunch in Ponce.

3:00 pm On our way back to San Juan we stop to learn about the work of the **Cunyabe Cultural Center in Salinas**. Exchange with Edwin Gonzalez, the coordinator and some of the youth artists.

6:00pm Return to San Juan and enjoy the evening to stroll the streets lit up at night.

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**Friday, April 11<sup>th</sup> Mar Chiquita (B,D)**

8:00am Breakfast

9:30am Exchange with **Agua, Sol y Sereno Studio** for an Art Expression Workshop. Meet with Director Pedro Adorno.

11:00am We are off to **Mar Chiquita** this morning to enjoy the beauty of Puerto Rico's water. This beach is a half-moon opening is created by two limestone outcroppings that allow the beautiful turquoise waters of the Atlantic Ocean to flow in. Free time for lunch along the beach stands.

3:00pm Return to the hotel

7:00pm Farewell Dinner and live jazz music at **Carli's Fine Bistro**.  
<https://www.carlisfinebistro.com>

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**Saturday, April 12 Hasta Luego! (B)**

8:00am Breakfast and Check out of hotel.

9:00am Transfer to the Airport for flights back home!