

Puerto Rico: The Hidden Colony
January 17 – 23, 2027

January 10 Day 1 **BIENVENIDOS!!!**

- 2:00pm Arrival - San Juan International Airport
- 3:00pm Transfer and check in to our hotel.
- 5:00pm **Orientation Meeting**
- 6:30pm **Welcome Dinner**

January 11 Day 2 **Historical Overview of Borikén**

- 8:00am Breakfast
- 9:00 am **Borikén: from the Taino, to Colony to Commonwealth**
We will meet with a representative of the **Movimiento Independentista Nacional Hostosiano (MINH)** to learn about the unique history of this island, including how Puerto Rico became a “commonwealth” and what the process of decolonization may look like.
- 10:40 AM **Enjoy a walking tour of Old San Juan.** We will focus on the historical landmarks, as well as the sociopolitical history of the people that built, and still inhabit, the old city and its surroundings. The sites will include: San Felipe del Morro Castle, San Cristobal Fort, 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, La Capilla del Cristo de la Salud, El Convento de los Dominicos, La Puerta de San Juan, and El Paseo de la Princesa.
- 1:00-2:00 pm **Lunch at the Chocobar**
We will learn about the work of the Fundación Casa Cortes.
- 2:30 pm **Visit to the Castillo San Felipe del Morro, (El 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 Spain in the Caribbean.

Dinner at El Jibarito then on your own to enjoy local cafes and bars.

Meals included: B, L, D

January 12 Day 3 **Piñones and Loiza**

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 Mangrove forest and meet with community members.

Lunch in Loiza

2:30pm **Bomba Dance** class followed by a community exchange at the **Casa Afro.** Casa Afro is a cultural center dedicated to the celebration and preservation of Afro-Puerto Rican culture. We will visit the school, tour the gallery and meet with local artists.

<https://casaafro.org/en/artists/>

5:00 pm Return to hotel. Dinner is on your own

Meals included: B, L, D

January 13, Day 4 **Poder por Comunidad**

8:30-9:30 am Breakfast

9:30am We leave San Juan and are off to Adjuntas, a mountainous municipality, just under 2 hours from San Juan. We will meet with **Casa Pueblo** staff and tour their facilities. Founded in the 1980's in response to a proposed open pit mining project in Puerto Rico, [Casa Pueblo](#) is a grassroots organization dedicated to protecting the natural, cultural and human resources in Puerto Rico, particularly in the mountain town of Adjuntas. Since hurricane Maria, Casa Pueblo has been working nonstop to bring electricity back to Adjuntas and surrounding areas. We will have lunch with the community.

Tour of the historical city of Ponce We will stop for dinner before checking into our hotel.

Meals included: B, L

January 14, Day 5 **Pa la Comunidad**

- 8:30am Breakfast
- 9:30am Community cultural project in Ponce.
- 11:00am Briefing and exchange with the dynamic **Ruth Santiago**, a [well-known environmental justice advocate](#). She works in the southeastern region of Puerto Rico (the region hardest hit by the hurricanes) in the town of Salinas. We will learn about sustainable development and green energy projects in her community.
- 1:00pm Lunch
- 3 :00pm **Cunyabe Cultural Center** - We will have a conversation with Edwin Gonzalez, the center's coordinator After our exchange we will have dinner with the community
- 6 pm Return to San Juan hotel and enjoy live music in the city!

Meals covered: B, L, D

January 15th Day 6 **Cultural Resilience**

- 8:30 am Breakfast
- 10:00am We are off to the **Agua, Sol y Sereno Theater Company Headquarters** in Puerta de Tierra where we will meet with Director Pedro Adorno. We will engage in rich conversations about classic and popular art in the context of cultural identity. The discussion will lead to a hands-on sculpture and artistic production workshop led by Pedro Adorno and members of Agua, Sol y Sereno Theater Troupe.
- 12:30 pm Free time for lunch and shopping in Old San Juan.
- 2:30 pm A visit to the Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Puerto Rico. We will meet at Casa Norberto Café and book store.
- 5:00pm Exchange with a representative of the **Centros de Apoyo Mutuo (Centers for Mutual Support)**, located in Caguas, Puerto Rico, for a discussion of Puerto Rico's future.

Meals included: B, D

January 16th Day 7

9 AM Breakfast

Afternoon; Lunch and Free Time
 Enjoy the beach, wander in Old San Juan, savor your last afternoon

6:00pm Reflection

7:30pm Farewell Dinner!

Meals covered: B, D

January 17. Day 8. Hasta Luego!

8am Breakfast

Note AM option: we can attend mass on Sunday or meet with Jesuits.
We also can have an Ifá/Santería closing

Check Out and Transfer to airport

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