



Mister Latin Jazz Goes to Puerto Rico

Musica y Cultura

February 22-March 1, 2027

Monday February 22 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.

3:00pm Check in to our home for the week, the Hotel El Colonial
or similar 4 star property.

5:30pm Welcome Cocktail & Meet and Greet.

7:30pm Welcome Dinner

Tuesday February 23 (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 FortEl 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 Spanish 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. We will share options!

Wednesday February 24 (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 MisterLatinjazz Curated Concert #1 Exchange with the community arts and music center, **La Goyco Community Center**, <https://www.lagoyco.org>

4:30pm MisterLatinjazz Curated Concert #1 **Enjoy A Mister Latin Jazz**
Curated Concert-Viento de Agua

Puerto Rican Plena master, Hector Tito Matos was a bandleader of Latin Jazz group, Viento de Agua, along with Viento de Agua unplugged, a folklore group. Matos visited all parts of Puerto Rico with his ,Plenas Callejeras, reinfusing Plena into all corners of the island and identifying living but forgotten Plena masters now elders in the community. La Goyco was a collaboration between Matos and his wife, Mariana Reyes Anglero. Since his passing La Goyco has grown as an important cultural touchpoint on the island and home to the Casa de la Plena Tito Matos, in honor of Hector Tito Matos' contributions to contemporary Puerto Rican culture!

6:30pm Time to dine, rest and explore. Optional cultural activity like live music or dancing. We will share options!

Thursday February 25 Pinones Ø 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 free evening to explore San Juan. Optional cultural activity like live music or dancing. We will share options!

Friday February 26 (B, L)

8:00am Breakfast

9:00am MisterLatinjazz Curated Concert #2 **Visit to the ancestral home of Rafael Cepeda and a community Bombazo (Bomba music and dance performance)**

For more than 50 years, Rafael Cepeda was one of the foremost performers of the bomba and plena. He created more than 600 original compositions, many of which appear on commercial recordings and have attained widespread international popularity. With his wife, Doña Caridad Brenes de Cepeda, herself a great traditional dancer, their three daughters, and eight sons, Cepeda formed the performing ensemble La Familia Cepeda, initiating a revival of bomba and plena.

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 Enjoy a free evening to explore San Juan's restaurants. Optional cultural activity like live music or dancing. We will share options!

Saturday February 27 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, which is centered on an old fire station that 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.

Sunday February 28 Playa y Sol (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 Optional time: Enjoy the beautiful turquoise waters of the Atlantic Ocean with some beach time. Or have time to explore el Viejo San Juan 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>

Monday, March 1 Hasta Luego! (B)

8:00am Breakfast and Check out of hotel.

9:00am Transfer to the Airport for flights back home! Or stay an extra day or two.

This Journey is Powered by...

