

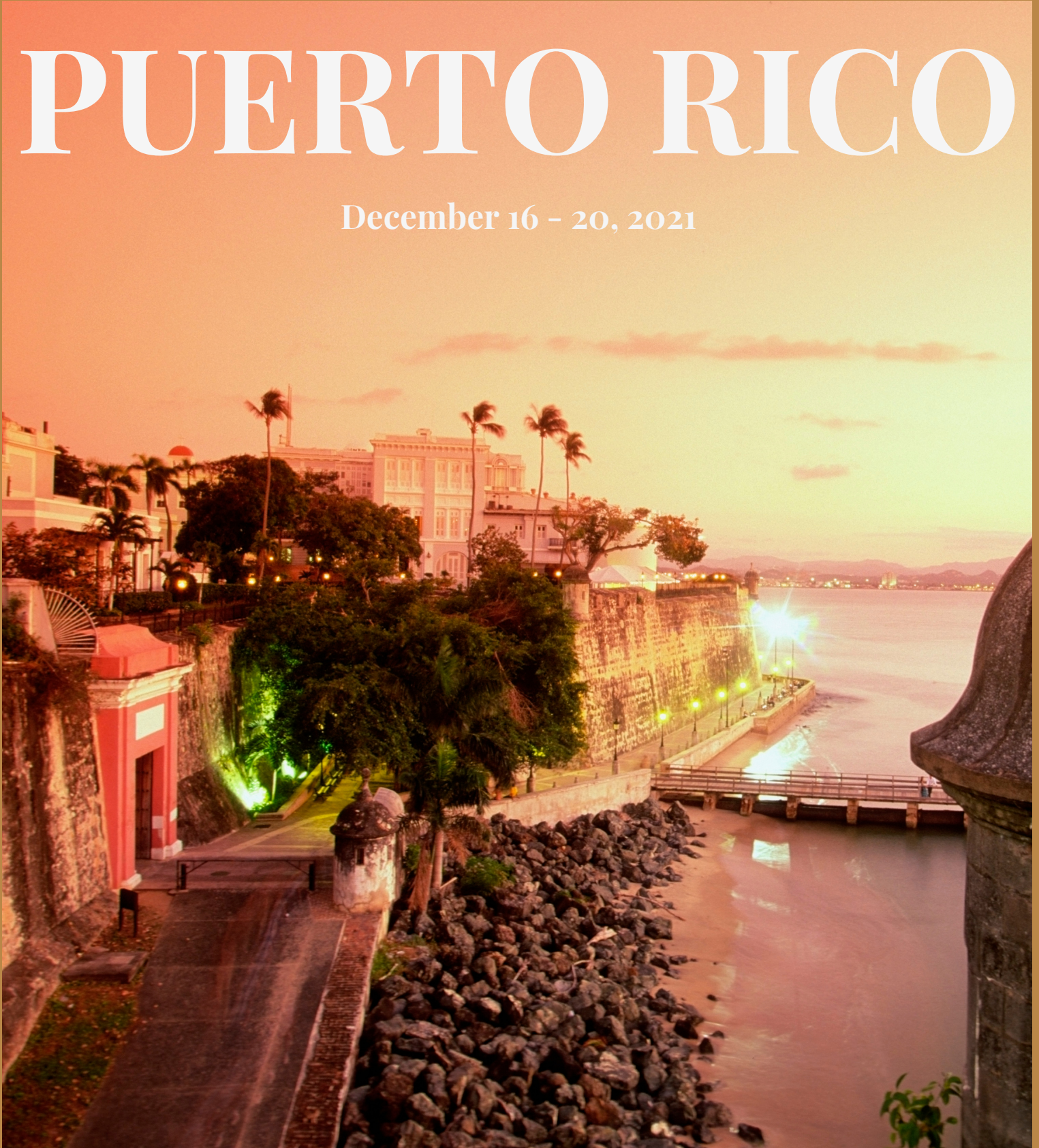
WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL  
*of Philadelphia*



*& Cooperating Councils*  
DEMOCRACY DEMANDS DISCOURSE

# PUERTO RICO

December 16 - 20, 2021



## A COMPLEX AND CAPTIVATING ISLAND GEM

Discover the many treasures of this Caribbean gem while learning about and supporting the island's efforts to rebuild and stabilize on this impact oriented journey. Meet with local non-profits and top government officials to discuss the complicated colonial history and current challenges with the mainland and why Puerto Rico is in the political limelight like never before. Traverse through the majestic El Yunque National Forest, the only natural rainforest in the US Forest System, known for exotic wildlife, flora, and fauna. Sit down with local inhabitants and learn about the path forward toward environmental revitalization. As the sun sets over this island of enchantment, listen and learn the moves behind Puerto Rico's centuries-old musical traditions. Experience the passion and resiliency of this culturally rich territory and support the people and nature that make it such a magical place to visit.



# ITINERARY

## DECEMBER 16 — ¡BIENVENIDOS A SAN JUAN!

Upon your arrival at San Juan Airport, you will be met by our local guide—one of the best in the country—and travel to our fantastic beach side accommodations to settle in.

From here, we'll head out for an Old San Juan walking tour. Stroll the narrow streets of this UNESCO World Heritage site, taking in the colorful buildings, the Cathedral of San Juan Bautista, the San Juan Gate and Paseo de La Princesa. Explore the historic shops and cafes along the beautiful tree-lined promenade that dates back to 1853.

Puerto Rico has dealt with some challenging times but it's lively cultural spirit remains strong. Tonight we'll celebrate over a traditional Puerto Rican welcome meal - a Caribbean sunset, island Sangria, and a Lechon barbecue dinner on the beach. We'll be joined by local community leaders and government officials to discuss a complicated colonial history and why Puerto Rico is in the political limelight like never before.

Overnight: Caribe Hilton or similar

Meals: D

## DECEMBER 17 — COMMUNITY AND CONNECTIONS

After a filling breakfast of local empanadillas and lots of coffee, we will head into the countryside to visit an eco-farm. Meet with the people who work there to hear their stories and vision for a healthy and sustainable agricultural future for the people of Puerto Rico.

As we return to San Juan, we will visit the fantastically colorful barrio of La Perla, which has been at the center of revitalization efforts. Hear from local business owners and volunteers who have been working for years to rebuild the neighborhood.

Enjoy an evening exploring this lively city at your leisure. The fresh ocean air and rhythmic music fills the stone streets as stars light up the night sky.

Overnight: Caribe Hilton or similar

Meals: B, D



## DECEMBER 18 — COASTAL CONSERVATION AND CARIBBEAN COCKTAILS

After an island breakfast with Caribbean coffee, we'll head off to one of the 1,000 serene beaches on the island. Swim or snorkel through the warm turquoise waters. Over a beachside picnic lunch, meet with leaders from the International Coastal Cleanup (ICC), which is coordinated by Ocean Conservancy.

This afternoon, we'll head to the Bacardi distillery, the largest rum distillery in the world. Together, we'll enjoy a guided tour of its plant, museums and tropical gardens. You'll learn the process of distillation of rum and the history of the Bacardi family from Cuba to their exile in Puerto Rico.

Tonight, the choice is yours: enjoy a relaxed dinner in Old San Juan on your own or head to an illuminating adventure - a Bioluminescent Bay kayaking tour (additional costs apply). Under the blanket of night sky, we'll paddle along the edge of the mangrove forest, searching for streaks of light from dinoflagellates - the magical ocean creatures that create this wondrous phenomenon.

Overnight: Caribe Hilton or similar

Meals: B, L,



## DECEMBER 19 — SOUNDS OF THE RAINFOREST

After enjoying breakfast and Caribbean coffee, we'll head to the majestic El Yunque National Forest. Today, you'll learn about the startlingly diverse landscapes of this island—and how its inhabitants have been adversely impacted by recent national disasters.



As the only Rainforest in the US National Parks Department, EL Yunque is a major draw for international tourism. We'll enjoy a tranquil hike through along the La Mina Trail, crossing gushing streams and picturesque waterfalls. Enjoy a picnic lunch in the forest where we will meet with a local NGO to discuss their environmental revitalization projects. After lunch, cool off with a dip at Juan Diego falls!

Back in San Juan, enjoy a final farewell with our new Puerto Rican friends at a local's favorite restaurant, enjoying local specialties like mofongo, a Puerto Rican favorite made of plantains and pork rinds. Then, we'll head out to celebrate like locals, swaying to the rhythms of live Salsa music.

Overnight: Caribe Hilton or similar

Meals: B, L, D



## DECEMBER 20 — HASTA LUEGO

Savor our last island breakfast together this morning.

Before heading to the airport, take a final swim in the Caribbean Sea. Say farewell for now, with new friends and a sense of a long weekend well-spent.

Or, stay for an optional trip extension.

Meal: B



## PROGRAM DETAILS

### THIS PROGRAM INCLUDES

- All activities, sightseeing, and entry fees listed in the itinerary.
- Accommodations as described in the itinerary.
- All meals listed in the itinerary, including wine and beer at dinner.
- Transportation by private motor coach.
- Bottled water during all excursions.
- Comprehensive cultural information and reading materials.
- The services of World Affairs Council tour managers and hosts.
- All gratuities for participants and staff to cover drivers, wait staff at group meals, guides, and tour directors.

### THIS PROGRAM DOES NOT INCLUDE

- Transportation to and from Puerto Rico (SJU)
- Personal expenses (including cab fares, laundry, personal items, room service charges).
- Food and beverage other than that specified in the itinerary.
- Travel insurance (we strongly advise that each participant arrange for their own travel insurance).
- Medical expenses.
- Costs associated with trip interruption or modification due to weather, travel conditions, political/civil disputes, medical emergencies or other causes beyond our control.

### HEALTH

- All travelers must be at least 18 years of age by the date of travel. Trip participants must ensure that they are suitably fit to allow full participation.

### SPECIAL NOTE ON COVID-19

We understand that travelers are wary of booking arrangements because of the growing concern of COVID-19. If authorities deem it unsafe to travel, we will cancel the trip no later than 30 days before departure as safety is always our number one priority. In the event of cancellation on our end due to COVID-19 concerns, we will fully refund all participants less any unrecoverable costs.

## Rates

**\$2,499**

*per person*

*based on double occupancy*

### Single Supplement

**\$499**

### CANCELLATION POLICY

- Final payment is due 90 days before the trip, September 17 2021. Cancellation after this period incurs cancellation fees. The deposit is non-refundable but may be transferred to future credit on another trip.
  - 50% non-refundable if cancelled after September 17, 2021
  - 100% non-refundable if cancelled after October 17, 2021

### TRAVEL INSURANCE

- We strongly recommend the purchase travel insurance, including trip cancellation insurance. Information on recommended travel insurance will be shared in the welcome email and made available upon request.

# World Affairs Council | Registration Form

## Puerto Rico, December 16 - 20, 2021

Full Legal Name as it appears on your passport

Address

City/State/Zip

Phone

E-mail Address

Date of Birth

Passport Number

Passport Expiration Date

Nationality

Gender

Emergency Contact Name, Phone Number & Email

Dietary Allergies or Restrictions

Medical Allergies/Physical Limitations/ Health Issues

Full Legal Name of companion traveler (if applicable)

I am a member of \_\_\_\_\_ Council

### FILL OUT ONLY IF ALSO REGISTERING FOR COMPANION:

Traveler 2 Phone Number

Traveler 2 E-mail Address

Traveler 2 Date of Birth

Traveler 2 Passport Number

Traveler 2 Passport Expiration Date

Traveler 2 Nationality

Traveler 2 Gender

Traveler 2 Emergency Contact Name, Phone Number & Email

Traveler 2 Dietary Allergies or Restrictions

Traveler 2 Medical Allergies/Physical Limitations/ Health Issues

### ROOMING OPTIONS:

\_\_\_\_ I will be sharing a room with my travel companion, and will require: \_\_\_\_ one bed in our room OR \_\_\_\_ two beds in our room.

\_\_\_\_ I would like to be paired with another traveler of the same gender. I understand if that is not possible, I will have a room to myself and agree to pay the \$799 single room supplement.

\_\_\_\_ I prefer to have a private room to myself and agree to pay the \$499 single room supplement.

### PAYMENT:

Here is my deposit of \$\_\_\_\_\_ (\$200 per person) for \_\_\_\_ place(s)

\_\_\_\_ Charge my deposit to my \_\_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_\_ MasterCard \_\_\_\_ American Express

Card Number

Expires

Security Code

Authorized Cardholder Signature

Date

**To make your reservation:** Mail, scan, or fax your completed form to World Affairs Council, One Penn Center, 1617 John F. Kennedy Blvd., Suite 1055, Philadelphia, PA 19103. Email: [travel@wacphila.org](mailto:travel@wacphila.org), fax: 215-561-5660, or call us at 215-561-4700 x 209.

**Note: The Council is moving offices Jan. 31, 2021. Please call if you are mailing your reservation after this time.**

\_\_\_\_ I / We have read the Terms and Conditions for this program linked [here](#) and agree to them.

Signature

Signature Traveler 2 (if applicable)

Date