

Angel's Puerto Rico, with Alexis

January 19 - 26, 2019



Join Alexis and Angel on this very special trip to help bring tourism back to hurricane-recovering Puerto Rico. You'll tour San Juan, the countryside and coast, visit the sites, some beaches, the rainforest and Angel's hometown! You'll even meet his mom!



A highlight of this trip is supporting **Visit Rico**, a local non-profit established to strengthen the agricultural economy in Puerto Rico, which was expanded after Hurricane Maria to restore farms and devastated lands. We'll visit a farm for a tour and description of their work, and experience lunch prepared with fresh, local ingredients. Part of your tour payment will be a direct contribution to the farm and the Visit Rico organization so they can continue their mission.



Saturday, January 19 **MSP - San Juan** **R**
Depart Minneapolis/St. Paul on our **non-stop Delta flight** at 9:00 am. Arrival into San Juan International Airport at 4:13 pm. (Puerto Rico is in the Eastern time zone). We will be met at the airport and transferred to our hotel.

Puerto Rico, officially the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, is an unincorporated territory of the United States and is 100 miles long and 35 miles wide, making it the smallest island of the Greater Antilles.

We'll check-in and get settled, then the group will meet for a **welcome reception** at our hotel.

Overnight at AC by Marriott San Juan Condado

Our hotel is located in the bustling Condado District, filled with nightlife, restaurants, and entertainment, and is just a few blocks from Condado Beach. It features modern rooms, and a rooftop pool & bar with views of Condado and the ocean.

Sunday, January 20 **Depart San Juan - Ponce** **B**
Breakfast at our hotel.

By private coach with our local guide, we'll journey through the history and evolution of the Puerto Rican identity on our **tour in the city of Caguas**. Caguas is located in the mountains about 1 hour south of San Juan, and is the location of three ethnic roots: Taíno, Spanish and African, which are different from the 'Spanish' identity which is more closely identified with San Juan. We'll experience Caguas' atmosphere, as well as its history and places of interest including a visit to the Museum of Caguas History.



We'll stop in **Guavate** for lunch in traditional Puerto Rican style (on our own), and then continue to the city of Ponce for our overnight.

Ponce is a stately, historic city, with architectural charm and a lovely central plaza (below, right). The famous red and black Parque de Bombas, built in 1882, was used as the city's firehouse, and is now a museum (below left, with Angel). Surrounding the central plaza are shops and restaurants, and our hotel.



The main building of our hotel (at left), Ponce Plaza Hotel, dates back to 1882, and is regulated by the Puerto Rico Institute of Culture. It was built by the owner at the time, Mr. Francisco Roubert, where he lived for many years with his family. In 1912, it became the Liceo Ponceño School, the first all-girl school. After many years as a commercial property, it was purchased by the Muñoz family and restored to what today is known as the Ponce Plaza Hotel & Casino.

Explore the restaurant scene for dinner this evening on your own.

Overnight at Ponce Plaza Hotel

Monday, January 21 Tibes Ceremonial Center & Castillo Serralles B, D

After breakfast at our hotel, we'll continue to **Tibes**, the site of the oldest cemetery to ever be discovered in the Antilles. Over 186 individual skeletons dating back to 300 A.D. were uncovered at this burial site. It was just by chance that the cemetery was discovered in 1975 when a tropical storm uncovered bits of pottery and later, the intact remains of the village. We'll see the Visitor's Center and the archeological site, where many objects from the Taínos and Igneris Indians are on display.

Lunch on our own.

This afternoon, we'll visit **Serrallés Castle**, originally the residence for the Serrallés family, owners of the world-famous rum distillery that produces Don Q Puerto Rican Rum. The sprawling estate is now one of Ponce's most visited sites. The building, erected during the 1930's, was designed by Puerto Rican architect Pedro Adolfo De Castro with Spanish and Arabic flourishes, using the Spanish Colonial Revival Style popularized in the United States at the time.

Our **dinner** tonight will include **local specialties** at a family-owned restaurant in Yauco. Continue to our hotel after dinner.

Overnight at Copamarina Resort & Spa



Homemade Sangria

Copamarina Resort & Spa is a beach paradise among palm trees and lush greenery. All rooms have patio or balcony, and are just steps away from the beach or pool (the resort has 2 pools!). Two restaurants, water activities, and relaxation await!

Tuesday, January 22

Visit Rico Experience/Farm to Table Lunch

B, L

Breakfast at our hotel.

This morning, we'll drive to a **local farm**, not far from where we're staying, where we'll meet the farmers, tour the farm, learn about its history, and how it operates today. We'll enjoy **lunch** prepared onsite using some of the farm's own fresh ingredients.

Visit Rico

Visit Rico is a local non-profit established to strengthen the agricultural economy in Puerto Rico, which was expanded after Hurricane Maria to restore farms and devastated lands. While in Puerto Rico, we'll visit a farm and experience a lunch prepared with fresh, local ingredients. Part of your tour payment will be a direct contribution to Visit Rico.



This afternoon, we'll stop in the former fishing village of **La Parguera** in Lajas. La Parguera has been re-invented, and is now a vacation destination with a boardwalk featuring hotels, restaurants, bars, and of course, shopping.

Dinner on own in La Parguera.

Overnight at Copamarina Resort & Spa

Wednesday, January 23

Beach Time

B, D

Breakfast at our hotel.



Today is at leisure to relax and enjoy our resort's amenities, the ocean, beach, and water activities.

This morning we'll have an opportunity to visit **Gilligan's Island**, a small Mangrove island reserve named after the popular TV show. It's managed by the Department of Natural Resources of



Puerto Rico and is located off the coast near our resort. The group has **exclusive use** of the resort's boat for transfers to the island this morning.

The resort offers: use of bikes, a fitness center, beach volleyball, a variety of water activities, spa treatments, snorkeling, two swimming pools, a white sand beach, two restaurants, tennis court, and equipment for rent.



Our group will receive 15% off spa treatments and water activities!

Optional Activities:

The activities which require advance booking are included on page 3 of the reservation form.

Spa treatments, Advance booking required; payment directly to resort.

30 minute massages:

- Reflexology \$ 60
From stress points on your feet.
- Back & Neck \$ 75
Relieves tension in back area.

50 minute massages:

- Swedish \$ 90
Full body.
- Full back/body \$ 90
Includes leg & feet.
- Aromatherapy \$105
Natural oils used.
- Deep Tissue \$115
Moderate to deep pressure, all areas.
- Harmony \$120
Back exfoliation & head to toe Massage.
- Beachfront \$140
- Each 30 min in additional time on any massage. \$ 50
- Stone \$150
Full body w/heated rocks.

Spa Packages:

- It's Me Time \$165
50 min. Aromatherapy massage, Manicure & pedicure.
- My Copa Moment \$235
50 min. Aromatherapy massage, manicure, Hydra facial.
- Copamarina Experience \$245
50 min. Aromatherapy massage, Manicure, Pedicure, Hydra facial.

Manicure & Pedicure:

- Spa Manicure \$30
- Spa Pedicure \$45

Afternoon snorkeling trip to the reef, 2 hours.

Advance booking required; payment directly to resort.

\$55 per person. All equipment is provided, as well as instruction.

Possible to see tropical fish, rays, lobster, nurse shark.

Water Activities, First come, first served; payment directly to resort.

	<u>1 hour</u>	<u>2 hours</u>	<u>3 hours</u>
Single Kayak	\$15	\$20	\$30
Double Kayak	\$20	\$30	\$40
Paddleboard	\$20	\$35	\$50
Pedal Boat	\$20	\$30	\$40
Hobie Cat	\$35	\$60	\$80

Beach Chair: \$10, all day.

Prices do not include tax.

Beach BBQ this evening!

Overnight at Copamarina Resort & Spa



Thursday, January 24 El Yunque Rainforest – San Juan

B, BL

Depart after breakfast and drive northward.

We'll discover the exotic vegetation of *El Yunque*, the only **tropical rainforest** in the U. S. National Park System. It features over 240 species of plants and wildlife, waterfalls, streams and trails leading to enticing locations. The Rain Forest is a Nature Lover's Paradise!

We'll visit the El Portalito Welcome Center, La Coca Fall, and Yokahu Tower. An easy trail walk through Angelito's Trail will take us to a natural pool in the Mameyes River. Wear your swimsuit - there will be time to **relax in the river!**

Continue to San Juan. Explore the Condado neighborhood's restaurants for dinner on your own tonight!

Overnight at AC by Marriott San Juan Condado

Friday, January 25 Old San Juan & Bacardi Rum Distillery Tour

B, D

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel.

This morning, we'll explore **Old San Juan** on our **walking tour**, which is an excellent way to discover 500 years of fascinating history. Our first stop will be the impressive **San Cristobal Fortress** (at right), which in colonial times protected the island from enemy attacks.

We'll continue down the promontory of the Old City (below). Walk the blue, grayish cobblestone streets and feel the magic of the San Francisco Church, Plaza de Armas, and San Juan City Hall, la Rogativa, La Fortaleza, San Juan Gate, and The San Juan Cathedral among other fascinating monuments.



Old San Juan



There will be time for lunch on our own and some shopping.

We'll transfer from Old San Juan to the **Bacardi Distillery**, the largest rum distillery in the world. We'll learn about the process of distillation of rum and the history of the Bacardi family from Cuba to their exile in Puerto Rico. Of course, we'll enjoy some samples!

Return to hotel. **Farewell dinner** this evening.

Overnight at AC by Marriott San Juan Condado

Saturday, January 25

Depart San Juan

B

We have breakfast at the hotel, then the *morning at leisure*.

Visit the nearby Condado Beach, or return to Old San Juan on your own for some last-minute shopping.

We'll transfer to the airport in the early afternoon. Depart on our *non-stop Delta flight* at 5:10 pm, arriving Minneapolis/St. Paul at 9:10 pm.



Fried plantains



Angel with a local dish, Mofongo



Flan

WELCOME HOME!



620 W. 58th St. | Minneapolis MN 55419

612-822-4640 | 800-843-0602

info@bortonoverseas.com | www.bortonoverseas.com/Puerto-Rico

Angel's Puerto Rico, with Alexis

January 19 - 26, 2019



Tour Price: \$3,579.00 per person, double occupancy
\$ 981.00 single supplement

Tour Price Includes:

- Roundtrip, economy class airfare on Delta Airlines, including government-imposed taxes and fees.
- Breakfast daily, one lunch, one box lunch, three dinners, and a welcome reception with passed hors d' oeuvres. (indicated by B, L, BL, D, R)
- Seven nights' accommodation at specified hotels in standard double room with one or two beds, private bathroom, and air conditioning.
- Transportation by private coach from arrival to departure.
- Services of English-speaking guides throughout itinerary, and while touring sights.
- Sightseeing as described in itinerary.
- Entrances to the Museum of Caguas History, Tibes Ceremonial Center, Castillo Serralles, El Yunque Rainforest, San Cristobal Fortress, Bacardi Distillery, and roundtrip boat transportation to Gilligan's Island.
- Tips to local drivers and guides.
- Tax-deductible contribution of \$100 to Visit Rico.
- Hosts Alexis Thompson and Angel Toro.
- Services of a Borton Overseas staff member throughout itinerary.
- Pre-departure meeting and travel documents.



Angel and his mom

Not Included:

Airline luggage fees, tips to hotel staff, travel insurance, meals not specified, items of a personal nature such as laundry, beverages not included with meals, sightseeing and activities not specified.

HURRY! SPACE IS LIMITED!

Questions? Contact Linda McCormick, Borton Overseas:

Direct: 612-661-4622; 800-843-0602, ext. 112
linda@bortonoverseas.com

Completed reservation forms should be mailed with deposit payment to:

Borton Overseas, Angel's Puerto Rico
620 W. 58th St., Minneapolis MN 55419



Tel: 612-822-4640 | 800-843-0602
info@bortonoverseas.com | www.bortonoverseas.com