

Puerto Rico 2025 Travel



Cultural and Environmental Experience in Puerto Rico

- **Travel Lead:** Michelle Lewis (milewis@lee.edu)
- **Date:** Fall 2025
- **Cost:** <\$2900 (TBD)
- **Student scholarships are available to cover 50% of the cost!**

Students have the opportunity to travel in December 2025 to Puerto Rico, where they will experience the island's rich cultural heritage and participate in environmental initiatives. As U.S. citizens, students can travel to Puerto Rico without a passport, making it an ideal destination for this enriching experience.

Necessary Travel Forms

- [Application for International Travel Scholarship \(PDF\)](#)
- [Application for International Travel to Puerto Rico \(PDF\)](#)
- [Traveler Responsibilities & Participation Agreement \(PDF\)](#)

Objectives

- **Cultural Immersion:** Explore the influences of Spanish, African, and Taíno cultures that shape Puerto Rican identity.
- **Teamwork and Leadership Development:** Enhance leadership skills through collaborative projects and group activities.
- **Environmental Stewardship:** Participate in initiatives that promote sustainability and conservation in local communities.

Itinerary Highlights

Two Days/Nights in San Juan

Day 1: Arrival in San Juan

- Welcome briefing and introduction to the trip objectives.
- Evening: Group dinner featuring traditional Puerto Rican cuisine.

Day 2: El Yunque National Forest and Luquillo Beach Drive by van One each way

- Morning hike in El Yunque to explore lush rainforests and swim in crystalline rivers.
- Afternoon at Luquillo Beach to relax and enjoy local food at the kiosks.
- Focus: Teamwork activities and reflections on the day's experiences.

One Night in Ponce

Day 3: Cultural Exploration in Cayey 45 min drive by van from SJ and Ponce - 40 min drive by van from Cayey

- Visit Casa de la Música Cayeyana to experience local music and traditions.
- Explore historical sites in Ponce, including Parque de Bombas and the Ponce History Museum.
- Tasting traditional dishes like lechón asado and arroz con gandules.

Two nights in the Rincon Area

Day 4: La Parguera and Bioluminescent Bay – 40 min drive each way from Ponce

- Tour the fishing village of La Parguera and kayak in the bioluminescent bay.
- Evening boat tour to witness the glowing waters, with a focus on environmental conservation.

Day 5: Rincon and Aguadilla

- Relax at Aguadilla's beautiful beaches, known for surfing and sunsets.
- Explore local natural attractions, including tidal pools and El Tunel de Guajataca.

Two nights one day in San Juan

Day 6: Caves and Nature Exploration

- Guided tour of Parque Nacional de las Cavernas del Rio Camuy, exploring stunning cave systems.
- Hike to Cueva del Indio to learn about Taíno culture and view ancient petroglyphs.

Day 7: Cultural Wrap-Up and Salsa Dance Class

- Visit El Morro in San Juan to delve into Puerto Rico's history.
- Evening salsa dance class, where students will learn basic steps in a fun, engaging environment.

Student Expectations

- **Responsibility and Accountability:** Students must maintain commitments and demonstrate reliability throughout the trip.
- **Effective Communication:** Opportunities to practice communication skills while collaborating with local communities and peers.
- **Cultural Sensitivity:** Respect for local customs and traditions during interactions with residents.

Benefits

- **Personal Growth:** Development of essential leadership qualities such as responsibility and dependability.
- **Cultural Awareness:** Exposure to diverse perspectives will foster empathy and a global outlook.
- **Skill Enhancement:** Practical experience in teamwork and communication will prepare students for future endeavors.

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