



El Yunque & East Coast

Includes »

El Yunque	94
Luquillo & Around ...	100
Fajardo & Around ...	103
Naguabo & Around ...	109
Yabucoa & Around ...	111

Best Places to Eat

- » La Estación (p108)
- » Pasta y Pueblo (p102)
- » Pasión por el Fogón (p108)
- » *Friquitines* in Luquillo (p102)
- » Aquamar Steakhouse & Seafood (p112)

Best Places to Stay

- » Casa Cubuy Ecolodge (p99)
- » Rainforest Inn (p98)
- » Luquillo Sunrise Beach Inn (p101)
- » Ceiba Country Inn (p107)
- » Casa Flamboyant (p98)

Why Go?

The east coast is Puerto Rico shrink-wrapped; a tantalizing taste of almost everything the island has to offer squeezed into an area not much larger than Manhattan. Sodden rain-forest teems with jungle waterfalls and noisy wildlife at El Yunque National Forest, the commonwealth's giant green lungs and biggest outdoor attraction. Down at sea level, beach hedonists bask on the icing-sugar sand of Playa Luquillo.

Golfers and resort-seekers will find a different kind of nirvana: the highest concentration of mega resorts outside San Juan.

Scruffy Fajardo is the island's uncrowned water-sports capital, where adventurers kayak, dive, snorkel and fish, and rich yachters park their sailboats.

Cutting through the region like a thin, green ribbon is the Northeast Ecological Corridor, a slender tract of undeveloped and endangered pristine land featuring Las Cabezas de San Juan Reserva Natural 'El Faro,' a tiny nodule of coastline harboring one of Puerto Rico's stunning bioluminescent bays.

When to Go

Noteworthy annual events in Luquillo include the Fiesta de los Platos Típicos (Traditional Food Festival) in November, and on the third Saturday in April the Sierra Club promotes the preservation of the Northeast Ecological Corridor with a child-friendly turtle festival (Festival del Tinglar). An April kite festival is a fun event in Fajardo.

Note that hurricane season – early June through late November – can bring sodden conditions to El Yunque, with the possibility of trails being closed due to mudslides and flooding some years.



El Yunque & East Coast Highlights

1 Ramble through the moist rainforest flora in **El Yunque National Forest** (p94)

2 Admire the sea views, iguanas and seven different ecosystems in **Las Cabezas de San Juan Reserva Natural 'El Faro'** (p104)

3 Surf the local break and swim at one of the island's

best beaches at **Luquillo** (p100)

4 Explore hidden waterfall pools and petroglyphs on **El Yunque's quiet south side** (boxed text, p98)

5 Kick back at one of the pretty oceanfront paradises near low-key **Yabucoa** (p112)

6 Drink in the mesmerizing water with a **kayak tour** (p106) of Fajardo's glowing bioluminescent bay

7 Traipse the forest or beachside landscape with a **horseback riding trip** on the north (p110) or south coast (p101)