

# 20 TOP EXPERIENCES

## Mysterious Old San Juan

**1** Even those limited to a quick visit find it easy to fall under the beguiling spells of Old San Juan's (p50) cobblestone streets, pastel-painted colonial buildings and grand fortresses. From the ramparts of El Morro, the allure of this place is evident in every direction – from the labyrinth of crooked streets to the endless sparkle of the Atlantic. By day, lose yourself in historical stories of blood and bombast; by night, float along in crowds of giggling tourists and rowdy locals.

## Beaches

7

**2** The rub of sand between your toes, the brilliant sparkle of turquoise water and the rhythmic shush of cresting waves – Puerto Rico’s beaches have the qualities of a daydream. Take your pick from the golden, crescent-shaped heaven of Playa Flamenco (p119; considered among the world’s best beaches); the coconut oil-scented crowds of Playa Isla Verde (p66), Puerto Rico’s little slice of Brazil; the secluded, mangrove-shaded hideaways in the south or the roaring surf of the west.

