



North Coast

POP 650,000

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Best Places to Eat

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Best Places to Sleep

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Why Go?

Veering from a manicured coast of plush golf resorts and posh surf spots, this region rears up into the less-visited vine-tangled crags of karst country, where landscapes seem positively prehistoric with yawning cave systems, *mogotes* (vegetated, steep-sided hillocks) and undulating spreads of forest.

However renowned the teeing in the east (Dorado) and the paddleboarding in the west (Isabela), don't make the mistake of forgoing what lies in-between.

The sights here have neither the untouched exotic character of El Yunque nor quite the rustic allure of the Central Mountains, but the north secretes a glut of DIY adventures, plus its own generous share of world-class diversions. Goggle at the world's largest radio telescope, climb one of its tallest statues, descend inside some of its largest caverns or simply strike out on forest trail to a hidden swimming hole – and still, should you wish, make your dinner reservation in San Juan.

When to Go

Outside of the island's rainy months (late summer to early fall), the north coast is generally sunny.

Big Atlantic storms can barrel in out of nowhere to whip the waves into white-capped frenzy. The arrival of low-pressure systems come late fall starts the big waves a-rolling and October's international surf tournament in Isabella starts drawing the surfers as surely as wasps to nectar.

Inland, the humidity increases, but on the shore the 80°F temperatures aren't at all oppressive. As there's only a difference of a few degrees between the coldest month, January, and the warmest, August, the region offers consistently sunny, breezy days year-round.

North Coast Highlights

1 Birth of the New World Statue (p202) Gawking at the gargantuan statue that put Arecibo on the tourist map.

the heavens with an ascent to the world's largest radio telescope.

2 Observatorio de Arecibo (p203) Immersing yourself in Arecibo on the tourist map.

3 Batey Zipline Adventures (p206) Swooping, paddling or galloping through the forests

and rivers of karst country with an adventure outfit.

4 Royal Isabela (p208)
Getting into the swing of things with a round on one of the north coast's world-class golf courses.

5 Plava Jobos (p207)

Surfing the storied waves at this wonderfully dramatic beach.

6 Playa Survival (p207)

Walking a stretch of sandy

north coast coastline along to
this divinely deserted strip.

7 TBC (p211) Sampling astonishing flavors to kickstart your day in one of Hwy 110's varied eateries.

