Old San Juan Historic Walk

Cruise ships dock right in the heart of the historic district of San Juan, making this an excellent port to explore on foot.

**Start** Café Cola’o  
**Distance** 2.75 miles  
**Duration** 3 to 4 hours

**4** Pass through the gate and turn right onto leafy Caleta de San Juan up the slope to the beautiful Plazuela Las Monjas. On the north side of the plaza is Hotel El Convento and to the east lies the Catedral de San Juan (pictured).

**3** In the 17th and 18th centuries, Spanish ships once anchored in the cove just off these ramparts to unload colonists and supplies, all of which entered the city through a tall red portal known as Puerta de San Juan.

**2** Continue along Paseo de la princesa, a shaded 19th-century esplanade that tracks alongside the formidable old city walls to the brink of the Bahía de San Juan.

**1** After an early-morning caffeine hit at Café Cola’o next to Pier 2, stroll west and take in the soaring 12-story elegance of the 1937 Banco Popular building, an art-deco gem at the corner of San Justo and Tetuán.

**5** Cut along Luna for a block before taking a right down San José. Take a left onto San Francisco, which will bring you to the Plaza de Armas, an expansive square with government buildings like the imposing Palacio de la Real Intendencia. Cut north up Av Muñoz Rivera to Fuerte San Cristóbal.

**6** Walking west along Norzagaray, you can see the faded pastel houses of La Perla. Hidden in a former market building to your left is the Museo de San Juan. Across the grassy expanses of Campo del Morro is the stately fort of El Morro.

**7** Head down Calle del Morro to the Casa Blanca, the ancestral home for 250 years of the descendants of Juan Ponce de León and the oldest permanent residence in the Americas. End at the Plaza de San José, with its statue of Juan Ponce de León.