

GLOBAL MINDS INSTITUTE · SAMPLE ITINERARY

Puerto Rico

Colony, Statehood, or Independence?

SIX DAYS · SAN JUAN & LA ISLA · CREDIT-BEARING



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THE COURSE

At a Glance

Three million U.S. citizens. U.S. passports. Federal laws. No vote for president and no voting representation in Congress. **Is Puerto Rico a colony? Should it become the 51st state? Or should it stand fully on its own?**

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Understand Puerto Rico's history from Taíno civilization, to Spanish colony, to U.S. territory, and the origins of today's status debate.
- Engage directly with local communities and educators representing diverse perspectives.
- Apply collaborative design methods to co-create practical, community-informed solutions.
- Evaluate competing narratives and proposals through dialogue and field experience.
- Experience San Juan and its surrounding areas — a nexus of history, culture, and politics.

THE SIX-DAY ARC

01 Arrival

02 La Conquista

03 Indigenous & African Roots

04 Modern Boricua Identity

05 Coast & Climate

06 Homeward

This is a representative sample. Program dates and elements are customizable for organized groups, and are subject to adaptation pending shifting availabilities, closures, and unforeseen circumstances. As with all Global Minds Institute courses, Puerto Rico is strictly an academic endeavor which is staunchly and purposely unaffiliated with any advocacy organizations, political agendas, or religious ideologies.

01 — DAY 1

Arrival

Wheels up, wheels down

MIDDAY

Depart home campus for the airport

EVENING

Arrive San Juan (SJU); transfer to the hotel

OVERNIGHT

San Juan

02 — DAY 2

La Conquista

Five centuries in a single square mile

9:00 AM

Orientation: *Les presento a Puerto Rico*

MORNING

Walking survey of Viejo San Juan — colonial history and its consequences for Puerto Rico and the Americas

11:00 AM

Brunch at a Viejo San Juan cafetería; authentic *piraguas*

1:00 PM

Castillo San Felipe del Morro, the fortress built to guard San Juan Bay; the overlook above La Perla

5:00 PM

Late afternoon at Escambrón Beach

7:00 PM

Dinner and evening debrief

03 — DAY 3

Indigenous & African Roots

Rainforest, reef towns, and the drum

8:00 AM

Depart for El Yunque National Forest

MORNING

Meet a local guide to study reforestation and climate-resilience work; short trails, pools, and waterfalls in the only tropical rainforest in the U.S. National Forest System

12:00 PM

Lunch at the traditional Luquillo kiosks

1:00 PM

Loíza: Afro-Caribbean community, art, traditions, rhythms, and food

EVENING

Playa La Posita; dinner at the Loíza kiosks

04 — DAY 4

Modern Boricua Identity

Who gets to say what a neighborhood is

8:30 AM	Breakfast at an authentic Puerto Rican <i>panadería</i>
10:00 AM	Volunteer alongside local high school students at CREATTE, a nonprofit delivering arts-based social programs for at-risk youth
12:00 PM	Lunch with our CREATTE <i>compañeros</i>
AFTERNOON	Walk Santurce — Boricua identity through local artists and street art, and gentrification's impact on the neighborhood
3:00 PM	Playa del Pueblo, Condado
EVENING	Dinner; salsa dance lesson

05 — DAY 5

Coast & Climate

After María: recovery, migration, status

MORNING	Seminar: Puerto Rico after Hurricane María — recovery, out-migration, and how the storm reshaped the status debate
LATE MORNING	Playa Escambrón
LUNCH	<i>Pinchos</i> — street skewers
2:00 PM	Guided snorkeling excursion with manatees
EVENING	Poets Passage, Viejo San Juan; sunset walk on the Paseo de la Princesa
8:00 PM	Farewell dinner; salsa dance lesson

06 — DAY 6

Homeward

Last cobblestones

MORNING Pack up, check out, store bags

MORNING Viejo San Juan: final walk and souvenir run

12:00 PM Lunch in Viejo San Juan

AFTERNOON Depart SJU

EVENING Arrive home

BUILD YOUR OWN DATES

i Wepa !

Expeditions may be customized to align with your academic calendar.

Open to high school students and to educators (K-college); no background on the subject is necessary. Grades and professional development credit appear on transcripts pending approval of the institution of enrollment.

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