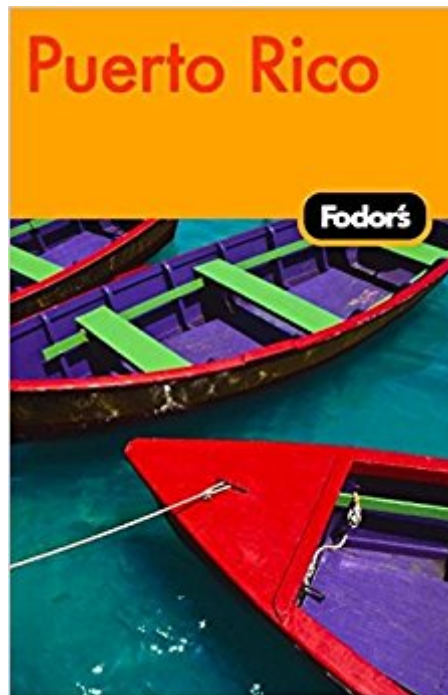




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Fodor's Puerto Rico, 5th Edition (Travel Guide)



Synopsis

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Customer Reviews

"In terms of comprehensiveness of coverage, the very accessible format, and the enthusiastic tone, this series remains one of the best on the market." *Booklist* "Fodor's super-informative guidebooks are known for accuracy and attention to detail" *The Sacramento Bee* "The Fodor's guides are notable for their ratings of sights, restaurants, shops, accommodations and attractions." *Chicago Tribune* "The great detail, infectious spirit, and attractive format are distinguishing traits of these guides, which are entries in one of the top series in the business." *Booklist* "Fodor's can help you plan the perfect adventure" *The Arizona Republic* "Always thoughtfully written and easily readable, Fodor's travel guides have become a must-have when traveling to unfamiliar destinations" *Mid South Magazine* "Widely recognized as the gold standard of mainstream travel" *Honolulu Advertiser*

Having just returned from Puerto Rico, I thought now would be the best time to review this book. Fodor's did a good job with some of their recommendations, but other areas were disappointing. The Old San Juan section is great with a guided walking tour and some great restaurant selections, but outside of the city, be cautious of their suggestions. Although they describe some of the more rural towns as "quaint, seaside villages", we found nothing of the sort in Fajardo, Luquillo or Pinones for example. Although we didn't get to the west side of the island, what was described on the east side by the book and what was actually there are two very different things. However, the San Juan section and the El Yunque section made it worthwhile.

Whenever I'm planning a trip I always buy a number of travel guides--Moon, Rough Guide, Insight, Lonely Planet, etc. to read beforehand but this is the first time I've ever bought a Fodors. It's a great addition to my Puerto Rico collection. The book is as informative or even more so than some of the other guides. But what I really like about it is its organization-- with lots of easy to read listings. The book is small and compact (not a pocket size) and feels good in the hand also. In fact, I've decided that this will be the one guidebook that I will take with me to Puerto Rico.

I brought this guide-along during a 1.5 week trip to Puerto Rico a couple of months back. Sure, if you're sticking to Old San Juan, you probably shouldn't even bother with a guide, but for more than a couple of days, you're best off with a guide to help navigate you to other parts of the island. I'm a fan of Fodor's Full Color Guides. You get the color & glossiness alongside the information. The book is generally well-focused too. San Juan gets about 90 pages and the most important excursions

(Fajardo/Yunque, the islands and Ponce) take up most of the remainder of the book. One annoyance with this guide - if you are leaving San Juan you need a car. Any guide to Puerto Rico needs some good, detailed road maps, and the pull-out map isn't quite going to suffice. Aside from that, I agree with another reviewer here that the writers tend to over-sell a lot of cities and attractions I wouldn't give a second look. For example, Luquillo and Rio Grande - really? Those were points where I had to call his judgement into question.

Wonderful guidebook - one of the best I have ever used. I went on a 5 day trip to Puerto Rico and was able to do many more things than some of my friends who had visited PR earlier. I love that they highlight "Fodor's Picks" (you'll be fine if you just follow those if you're hard pressed for time), and that they offer 1-day, 3-day, 5-day, 7-day itineraries. Lots of handy tips on safe travel as well. Maps are basic but the tourist offices in PR give you very detailed maps so it's fine. Thanks to this book in 5 days I was able to do Old San Juan, including the forts (both by day and night); local restaurants (some amazing hidden gems that one would normally miss unless one knew to look for them); Luquillo Beach and food kiosks; Bio-luminescent bay; El Yunque Rainforest (including hiking and zip-lining); art galleries; the works. Overall, highly recommended book! I would give it 6 stars if I could.

Read it before going to PR. (Unfortunately, left it in the airplane while landing in PR!) The book seemed to be up to date. It is well organized, things are easy to find. But it has almost no pictures of the attractions, that is something they can certainly improve upon. It also has good coverage of Vieques and Culebra. Lot more practical information compared to Insight's guide to PR. But that guide has a lot of good pictures and articles in discovery channel style about PR.

I always buy the Fodors guide and the DK guides to wherever I'm going, since I find the process of planning for a trip almost as much fun as the travel itself. Fodor's provides reliable tips; I've never been disappointed by accommodations, restaurants, or highlights they've recommended. DK is more photo-heavy, which can be helpful too, but I think Fodor's is better at keeping their info up to date, so I'd give it the preference, if you're buying just one guide.

The guide may well be excellent for what it covers, but it completely omits the area west of San Juan, including Dorado. For golfers in particular this is a major omission. On page 121 under golf it references the Hyatt Hacienda del Mar, under Doarado in chapter 6. But there is nothing there. The

Dorado Golf Courses are omitted from the book, as is all of that area of PR - there is no section on Dorado in the book, not even a lodging entry for the Hyatt mentioned on page 121.

All in all, I think this is a good resource. There are a few things that seemed a bit out-dated (comparing to my AAA travel guide for the Caribbean), but I understand that there is a 2010 edition soon to be released. The city maps are extremely helpful, and are really great to use for walking tours. There is just enough background information to be interesting, but not too much to be boring. Would definitely recommend.

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