

Puerto Rico

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An essay I did on my home country.

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Puerto Rico

Puerto Rico is a self-governing commonwealth in association with the United States. There are two legislative chambers: the House of Representatives (Popular Democratic Party: 14 and New Progressive Party: 37), 51 seats, and the Senate, 27 seats. The commonwealth of Puerto Rico has a district court comparable to those of the US. The federal government, located in San Juan, is represented by 2 district judges and the procurator, who is named by the United States.

Government Form: Republican, executive, legislative, and judicial branches.

There is currently only one active military installation in Puerto Rico. Fort Buchanan is a U.S Army Base in Guaynabo was established in 1923 in honor of Coronel James A. Buchanan.

1492 1493 1512 1524 1542 1544

On April 17, Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain signed the agreement to finance and set the terms of Columbus's voyage to the Indies. The document is known as the Capitulations of Santa Fe. The agreement established that Columbus would become the viceroy and governor of all discovered land and rights to 10% of all assets brought

After the success of Columbus's first voyage, he had little trouble convincing Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain, to follow up immediately with a second voyage. Unlike the exploratory first voyage, the second voyage was a massive colonization effort. On September 25, Christopher Columbus set sail from Cadiz, Spain with 17 ships and almost 1,500 men. The second voyage brought European livestock to America for the first time.

On September 26, the first school of advanced studies was established by Bishop Alonso Manso. On December 27, the Burgos Law is issued, by Ferdinand II, the Catholic of Aragon, regulated relations between Spaniards and the conquered Indians, particularly to ensure the spiritual and material welfare of the latter, who were often severely treated.

The first hospital was built, called *Concepcion*, by Bishop Alonso Manso.

The coconut tree was introduced to the island. The coconut is indigenous to the Indo-Malaysian region. It spread by sea currents with the average maximum distance of 3,000 miles, on which the coconut will remain afloat and still remain viable.

The second hospital was built, called San Ildefonso.

Puerto Rico

The 3.966 million people that inhabit the island of Puerto Rico make it one of the most densely populated islands in the world. There are about 1,000 people per 1,000 per square mile. It is estimated that some 2 million Puerto Ricans have migrated to the United States. More Puerto Ricans are said to live in New York City than in San Juan since World War II.

Population: 3,989,133

3,808,610 (census 2000 Population)

Population Density: 1,163 density per sq mi/ 449 persons per sq km

According to the 1990 Census of Population and Housing 2.7 million Puerto Ricans reside in the U.S., of which approximately one half are second and third generation, having been born on the mainland.

Puerto Rico has one of the most dynamic economies in the Caribbean region.

The people of Puerto Rico represent a cultural and racial mix. Culture is a series of visual manifestations and interactions with the environment that make a region and/or a group of people different from the rest of the world Puerto Rico, without a doubt has several unique characteristics that distinguish their culture from any other. When the United States acquired the island in 1898, American influence was added to culture.

Puerto Ricans love their country, and at the same time accept the free association with the United States, always emphasizing loyalty to their own culture, folklore, hospitality and way of life. Puerto Ricans are often considered very friendly and expressive to strangers. Greetings are often cordial and genuine. Close friends and family members always greet you hello or goodbye with a kiss on the cheek or a combination hug and kiss. Puerto Ricans are best known by speaking using lively hand and facial gestures, as hand and body language are important forms of communication.

- **Biking & Skating**
- **Boating & Sailing**
- **Camping**
- **Cockfighting**
- **Cycling**
- **Fishing**
- **Golfing**
- **Hiking**
- **Marathons**
- **Horse Racing**
- **Snorkeling**
- **Wind Surfing**
- **Volleyball**

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Instruction in Puerto Rico is compulsory between the ages of 5 and 18, which comprises the elementary and high school grades. There are 1521 public schools and 562 private schools on the island. The literacy rate of the Puerto Rican population was 94.1% in 2002. According to the 2000 Census, 60.0% of the population attained a high school degree or higher level of education, and 18.3% has a bachelor's degree or higher. Dropout Rate is as high as 40%. Public schools provide free education at the elementary and secondary levels. The public school system is funded by the state and is operated by the Puerto Rico Department of Education. Public school is conducted entirely in Spanish, English is taught as a secondary language. Homeschooling is legal in Puerto Rico but is neither regulated nor legislated.

The island is almost rectangular in shape approximately 100 miles long by 35 miles wide. It is the smallest and the most eastern island of the Greater Antilles. The territory is very mountainous. The climate is Tropical Marine with regular temperature of 80°F. Puerto Rico has mostly warm and sunny days most of the year. Rainfall tends to be evenly distributed throughout the year. The north coast gets twice as much as the south coast.

Puerto Rico is a territory of the United States of America and Puerto Ricans have common citizenship, currency and defense. Although Puerto Ricans are U.S. citizens, residents of Puerto Rico pay no federal income tax, nor can they vote in presidential elections. Puerto Ricans do not require a work visa to live and/or work in the United States. Puerto Ricans consider themselves American but are fiercely proud of their island and their culture they don't usually call themselves Americans or *Americanos*, but *Puertorriqueños* or *Boricuas*. To most Puerto Ricans, *my country* means Puerto Rico, not the United States. It is known that Puerto Rican descendants call themselves Puerto Ricans. The term *Nuyoricans* is used to identify New Yorkers born in Puerto Rico or of Puerto Rican descent who live in or near New York City.

The major religions are: Catholic (85%), Protestant (8%), non religious (2.3%) and others (3%).

Take some time and travel to a tropical island. Hire a cast of thousands to play friendly, welcoming people most of whom speak English. When you are looking for exotic locations, miles upon miles of white sand beaches, plus an unbelievable rain forest and mountains, can come to Puerto Rico! Puerto Rico is a modern progressive and civilized vacation spot that maintains the charm and hospitality of days gone by. You will find everything that the Caribbean has to offer in this all around family destination-and with it is a people whose warmth is equalled only by the sunshine that graces the shores of Puerto Rico. Tourism has been a money revenue industry for Puerto Rico for a number of decades given it is host to diverse natural wonders, cultural and historical buildings, concerts and sporting events. Coquis reproduce year-round in Puerto Rico, but breeding activity is concentrated in the wet season. This species utilizes internal fertilization and like other eleutherodactylids, the fertilized eggs undergo direct development, rather than passing through a free-living larval (tadpole) stage, which means the parents don't have to lay their eggs on water, as it happens with other amphibians. The "tadpole" stage occurs entirely within a terrestrial egg, rather than as a free-living larval stage, and adult features form directly, sometimes bypassing the stages normally present in tadpole ontogeny (Hung and Elinson 1996, Hanken et al. 1997). *The towns celebrate festival featuring something special to the*

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town. In addition to the feature, the festivals include crafts and regional foods and music.

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