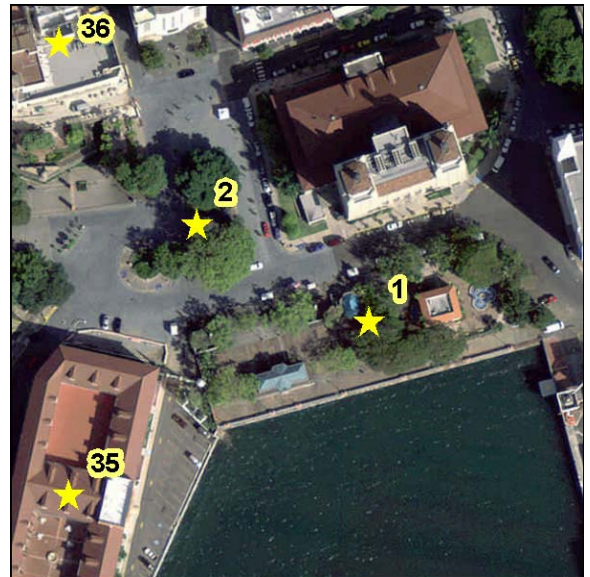


Walking Tour of Old San Juan, Puerto Rico

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Text for locations:	Puerto Rico Tourism Company (eyetour.com – also shows videos of each of these sites)
Orthophotography:	UPR-Graduate School of Planning, PR Planning Board, VITO Belgium, FugroEarth Data Inc. (gis.otg.gobierno.pr)

1. Plaza de la Dársena & La Casita

To the west of the Marina and overlooking the San Juan Bay you'll find one of the many enjoyable plazas that San Juan has to offer. Plaza de la Dársena is best known for its permanent crafts market usually held on weekends. The 'small house' or La Casita in this plaza was originally built for the Department of Agriculture and Commerce and dates back to 1937. It now functions as an information center run by the Puerto Rico Tourism Company. The plaza is also home to a statue of Henry the Navigator, Prince of Portugal.



2. Plaza de Hostos

Directly in front of Plaza de la Dársena and La Casita, is La Plaza de Hostos, named after "The Citizen of the Americas" Eugenio María de Hostos. An avid supporter of the independence movement for Puerto Rico and Cuba, Hostos dedicated his life to educational causes, helping Peru and the Dominican Republic in organizing their educational systems as well as advocating women's rights to higher education. A bust of Hostos adorns this plaza, where you can find numerous food vendors with typical fried treats and sweets, artisans, and locals playing dominos and enjoying the shade.

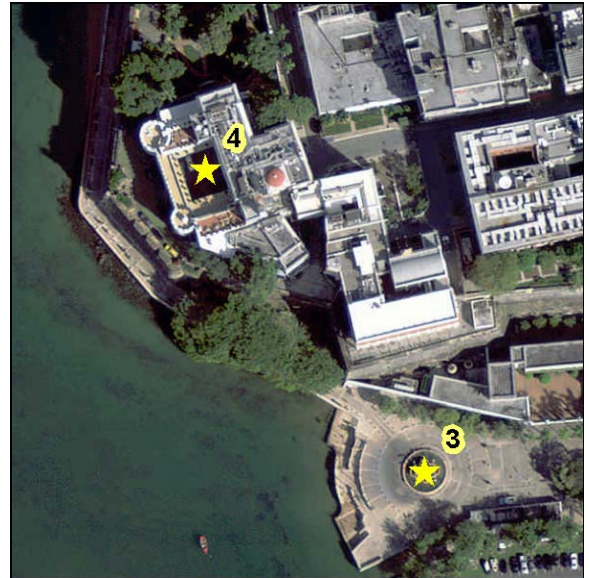
3. Paseo de la Princesa, Antigua Cárcel, Raíces Fountain

Walking westward from the marina, past Plaza de Hostos is San Juan's most beautiful promenade, El Paseo de la Princesa. Originally created in 1853, the Paseo has been recently restored to its 19th century splendor. This broad brick boardwalk, enjoyed in the Spanish Colonial era by members of the gentry, now leads its visitors through a pleasant palm-lined paseo and sculptural showcase, into various gardens,

and even a small restaurant. Midway through the walkway you'll find the headquarters of Puerto Rico's Tourism Company. Inaugurated in 1837 and known simply as 'La Princesa', this building served as provincial prison to over 200 inmates at any given time. Now restored, 'La Princesa' also houses exhibits of Puerto Rican art inside its mahogany doors and remarkable arcades. Grab a 'piragua,' a shaved-ice treat made with tropical fruit syrups and full of local flavor, before heading west to the end of the paseo's main boardwalk. Here stands the Raíces or Roots Fountain, sculpted by Spanish artist Luis Sanguino. This magnificent bronze fountain celebrates Puerto Rico's rich cultural diversity and historical heritage through representations of Amerindian, African, and Spanish peoples. Enjoy the lovely views of San Juan Bay as you continue your stroll, following the city wall until you reach La Puerta de San Juan.

4. La Forteleza

The Governor's palace is located at the northern end of Fortaleza Street. La Fortaleza was built between 1532 and 1540, after Spain realized the need to defend the San Juan Bay from foreign attacks. Also known as "El Palacio de Santa Catalina," its central structure was made up of four walls arranged around a patio. Two circular towers faced the sea from the northern and southern ends. The stone structures had to be rebuilt after they were destroyed in a fire during the Dutch attack of 1625. La Fortaleza served as a military fortress until 1845, when its interiors were remodeled and its main entrance façade was rebuilt in the neoclassical style, acquiring the palatial presence it maintains to this day. The building functions as the Governor's residence, making it the oldest executive mansion still in use in the entire Western Hemisphere.



5. La Muralla de la Ciudad

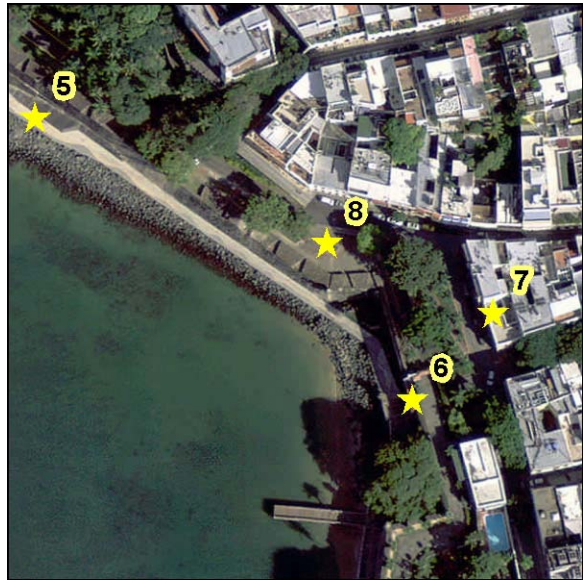
Puerto Rico's choice placement in the Caribbean and the political and military value of the San Juan Bay were great incentives for foreign attacks. Spanish colonizers recognized the importance of defending San Juan from these attacks and, in the middle of the sixteenth century, began construction of the city's defense system with the towers at El Morro and La Fortaleza. It was between 1634 and 1638 that the city walls were first built. They were later modernized in 1765 and raised to their current height. These three-mile long fortifications, were crucial to deflect attacks by the British and the Dutch, as well as to ward off pirates. Today you can take a walk along the walls that circle the northernmost tip of the city, by setting off on the trail beginning next to La Puerta de San Juan.

6. Puerta de San Juan

Keep walking past the Raíces Fountain, continuing along the path to the right. Following the city's fortified wall, El Paseo de la Princesa ends in La Puerta de San Juan.

Between 1634 and 1638, the city of San Juan was turned into an impregnable fortress with the building of its walls. Three of the wall's five doors led into the city, two of them overlooking the ocean – San Justo y Pastor and San Juan. These massive doors were closed at night to protect the city and its residents from attacks by land or sea. Out of the three, the only one that stands to this day is La Puerta de San Juan, once used by governors and religious authorities. Its structure houses a chapel, now closed off, that allowed for the celebration of mass

even during times of attack. The scripture on top is taken from the Benedictus, a hymn found in the Gospel of Luke from the New Testament. It reads in Latin “Benedictus qui venit in nomine domini” or “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.”



7. Museo Felisa Rincón de Gautier

Located in the corner of Recinto Oeste Street just past La Puerta de San Juan is a museum dedicated to Felisa Rincón de Gautier. This 300 year old building was the original residence of the first woman to be elected mayor of a capital city in the Americas. Affectionately known as Doña Fela, she served as mayor of San Juan for 22 years, from 1946 to 1968. During her administration, San Juan was awarded the “All American City Award.” The beloved mayor was also responsible for starting the Christmas tradition of hosting the island's needy children on Three Kings Day. Every January 6th, she would hand out gifts to every child who showed up at La Fortaleza, and even once flew snow into the island so that children who had never seen any could play in it. The museum has in its collection some of Doña Fela's personal effects and awards, as well as examples of period memorabilia.

8. Plazuela de la Rogativa

Turn left after passing through La Puerta de San Juan. Follow the path through the gardens, up the steps leading into La Plazuela de la Rogativa. This bronze statue completed in 1971 by New Zealand native Lindsay Daen, stands twelve feet high in front of an impressive view of the San Juan Bay. During the spring of 1797, Sir Ralph Abercrombie, commander of a British armada, sailed into the bay with plans of taking the city by storm. The initial attack was successfully repelled by the Spanish and Puerto Rican militia of Captain General Don Ramón de Castro. Abercrombie then organized a naval blockade to starve the residents of San Juan, cutting their access to supply shipments by sea. A ‘rogativa’ was ordered by

the governor to appease the already desperate citizens of San Juan. This religious procession through the streets was carried out by the women of the city. Bearing torches and bells, they fooled the British into thinking reinforcements had arrived. Abercrombie's fleet promptly left.

9. Casa Rosa

North from La Plazuela de la Rogativa stands the beautiful Casa Rosa. This house was built in the early 19th century to accommodate Spanish forces and now functions as a child day care facility for government employees. A path leads you further north and into El Morro.



10. Fuerte San Felipe del Morro

The quarter mile gravel path that leads to El Morro or 'promontory' is easily accessible from Norzagaray Street. Named in honor of King Phillip II of Spain, the fortress was built in San Juan's northernmost rocky headland to prevent attacks from the Atlantic. It was designated a National Historic Site and part of a World Heritage Site in 1983 by the United Nations, one of only 12 sites in the United States to be recognized as such. Construction began on El Morro around 1540, making it the second oldest of San Juan's defense system.

The initial plan consisted of a two-level structure with an arched tower, a battery platform and four embrasures for cannons in close proximity to the sea. It did not acquire its present appearance until more than two centuries later, when its four upper levels were completed. El Morro's majestic walls rise up to 140 feet above sea level and are up to 25 feet thick. They gave the fortress an extraordinary degree of protection and made it possible to safely house the city's residents and its troops in times of attack. Enormous fresh water cisterns would aid in this purpose as well as the subterranean galleries that lead to the fort's more vulnerable positions, making it easier to deflect attacks.

El Morro's main battery is named after Santa Barbara, patron saint of people in danger of fire and explosions. From here mortars and cannons were fired at invaders, each manned by six soldiers and averaging a mile in fire range. El Morro's tremendous artillery was vital in



defending the city against Sir Francis Drake in 1595, the Dutch invasion in 1625, and General Ralph Abercrombie’s British Armada in 1797. Within its walls, notorious Puerto Rican pirate, Roberto Cofresí, was jailed and executed in the early 19th century. The fields that surround San Felipe del Morro are a perfect site for flying kites and enjoying picnics.

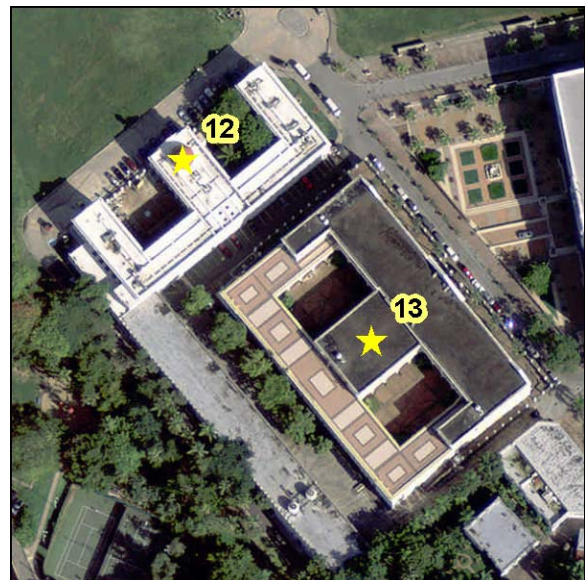
11. Cementerio de San Juan

The San Juan Cemetery was inaugurated in 1814. A path in front of the Quincentennial Plaza leads down into the cemetery grounds. The small neoclassical portico that serves as an entrance imitates the façade of other parishes characteristic to the island. Named after Santa María Magdalena de Pazzis, a neoclassical chapel bearing her name was also built here around 1860. This circular red-domed chapel, inspired by Bramante’s Rotonda in Rome, stands out amongst the numerous graves. The picturesque burial grounds are adorned with exquisite Genevan marbles and sculptures. These enhance the final resting place of important political and literary figures such as: Harvard-educated social reformer, Pedro Albizu Campos, who fought against colonialism; José Celso Barbosa, known as the father of the “Statehood for Puerto Rico” movement; and renowned poet and patriot, José de Diego.



12. Escuela de Artes Plásticas

Formerly “La Casa de Locos,” an asylum for the mentally ill, the building now houses la Escuela de Artes Plásticas – The School of the Arts. The school’s two courtyards face El Morro, giving this institution an inspiring view of the fortification. Feel free to walk the school grounds and you might be able to witness the creative process first hand.



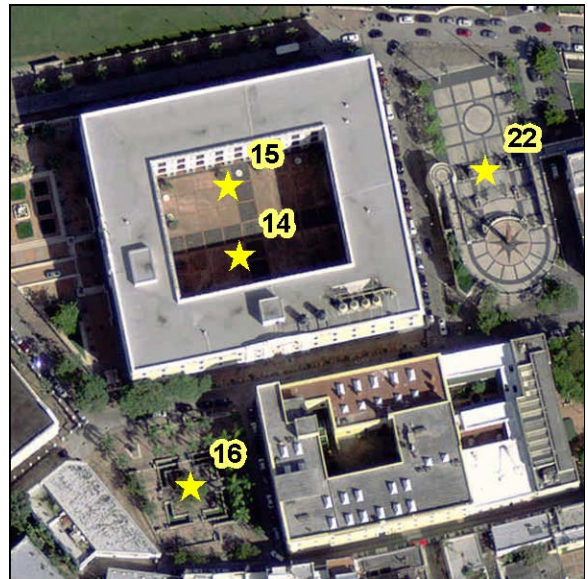
13. Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña

This monumental neoclassical building is situated west of Ballajá. Once a house for the destitute, it now serves as the central offices for the Puerto Rican Institute of Culture, a government agency in charge of promoting the arts. The building’s story begins in 1844, when it opened its doors to the city’s orphans, the handicapped, and the elderly. The original design in the Renaissance style by architect Pedro García was modified in 1897 with

the addition of a second level and neoclassical façade. The building suffered extensive damage during the Spanish-American War. In 1929, it became property of the U.S. Army for 45 years. Restoration efforts began in 1989, 15 years after having been abandoned.

14. Cuartel de Ballajá/Museo de las Américas

The Museum of the Americas is located inside El Cuartel de Ballajá on Norzagaray Street. The building served as barracks for the Spanish militia and their families during the late 19th century. Occupying over 7,700 square meters, it could accommodate over 1,000 citizens. The three-story structure was completed in 1864, making it the last and largest example of Spanish-built architecture in the New World. Its vast interior patio is a striking example of 19th century architectural prowess. With the change of sovereignty it became the quarters for the U.S. Infantry and later a medical facility. Currently housing the Museum of the Americas, it boasts an impressive collection of carved saints or Santos. Inaugurated in 1992, the museum also hosts permanent exhibits that explore the art of the New World and its African heritage.



15. Museo del Indio

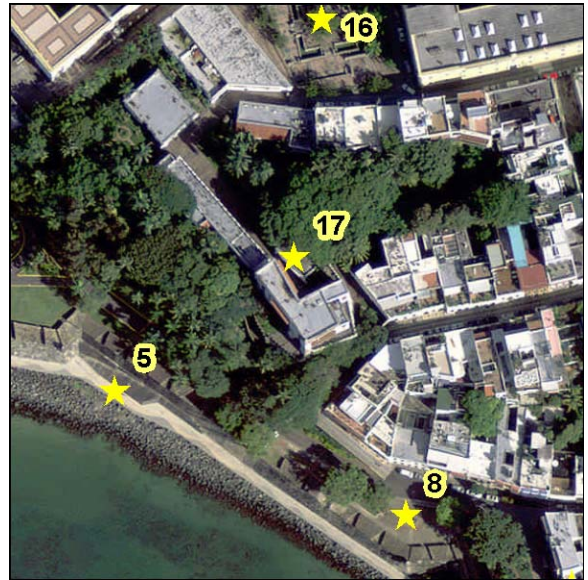
El Museo del Indio, located in the second floor of Ballajá, houses a fine collection of archeological artifacts pertaining to the indigenous inhabitants of the Caribbean. The Taínos of Boriquén populated the island before the arrival of the Spanish conquistadors in the 15th century. Meaning “friendly-people” in Arawakan, the Taínos were named by Columbus to emphasize the difference between them and the hostile Caribe tribes. The museum celebrates their heritage and cultural contributions to Puerto Rico.

16. Parque de la Beneficencia

This small plaza is situated near the Casa Blanca and the Museum of the Americas. A nice place for a stroll, the park sports a pleasant view out into El Morro and its adjacent boardwalks and plazas. Students of the School of Arts usually hang out on its premises during the day.

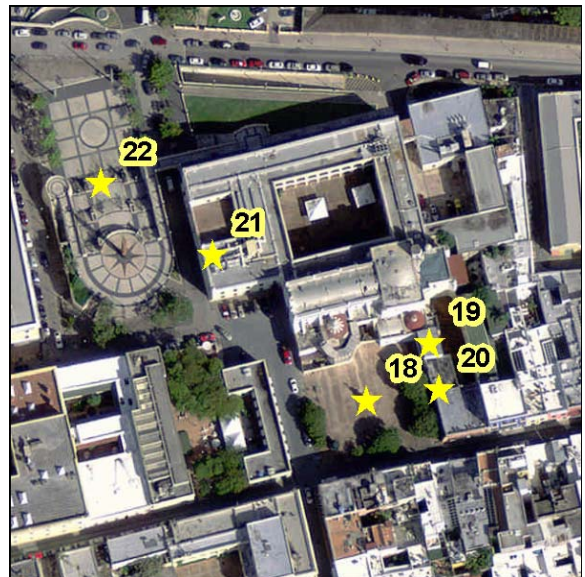
17. Casa Blanca

This historical site is located at the western end of San Sebastián Street. Feel free to enter the gates and step into Juan Ponce de León's family residence. Originally intended as a retreat for the Spanish conquistador and first governor of Puerto Rico, it became the ancestral home of his descendants for 250 years. Ponce de León died in 1521, wounded by a poisoned arrow in Florida during his search for the legendary Fountain of Youth. He never enjoyed the exquisite gardens, fountains and courtyard of the Casa Blanca that his son-in-law built for him.



18. Plaza de San José & Iglesia de San José

La Plaza de San José is located at the intersection of San Sebastián and Del Cristo Street. The plaza is host to La Iglesia San José. Previously dedicated to Saint Thomas Aquinas, the church is the only true gothic building resting on U.S soil and the second oldest church in the New World. Restoration efforts for the church have uncovered some of the earliest murals in the Americas. In the center of the Plaza San José stands a bronze statue of Spanish conquistador Juan Poncé de León, the first Governor of Puerto Rico appointed by the Spanish Crown. The statue was made in New York in 1882 out of melted cannons. These had been seized from the English militia after their late 18th century attack on the city. Around the plaza you will find various local bars, restaurants, and a couple of museums. It once offered the island its very first university studies. Dating back to the 16th century, these murals remained buried under layers of concrete later added to the church's walls.



19. Museo de Casals

Located in Plaza San José on San Sebastián Street, this museum is dedicated to the life and works of internationally renowned cellist and composer, Pablo Casals, best remembered for his recordings of Bach's Cello Suites. Born in 1876 in Catalonia, Spain, Casals moved to Puerto Rico in 1956 where he founded the Festival Casals. Celebrated every year, the festival attracts musical talent of the highest caliber from around the world. One of his last compositions was the Hymn of the United Nations, which he completed

before passing away in 1973 at the age of 96. The museum preserves audio-visual media documenting Pablo Casals' work as a solo performer and director.

20. Casa de los Contrafuertes/Museo de Nuestras Raíces Africanas

Located in Plaza San José on San Sebastián Street, the Casa de los Contrafuertes or House of Buttresses is host to the African Heritage Museum. This museum is dedicated to the exploration of West Africa's cultural influences in Puerto Rico's social fabric. Here, nine exhibit halls are chronologically arranged with historical artifacts that explore this relationship, from musical instruments and masks to documents from the past eras and artwork. One of the main exhibits replicates the experience of slaves being brought into the island by ship. The building is considered one of the island's oldest colonial residences.

21. Convento de los Dominicos

El Convento de los Dominicos can be found next to the Quincentennial Plaza on Norzagaray Street. Dating back to 1523, the building was founded by Dominican priests. It first served as their monastery and as a shelter from attacks on the city by the Caribe tribes. El Convento later functioned as barracks for the Spanish militia until the United States Army made it their Caribbean Headquarters. The building has benefited from restoration efforts and currently accommodates a small chapel museum, a music and book shop, and periodically hosts concerts and art exhibits.

22. Plaza del Quinto Centenario

Located next to El Cuartel de Ballajá, this plaza commemorates the Quincentennial of the European Discovery of America and Puerto Rico. Each of its elements represents a particular period of the Island's history. Its lowest level includes a fountain that symbolizes the first one hundred years after the discovery. Two needle-like structures stand on this end, pointing towards the North Star, which was historically used by explorers to determine their latitude. Two sculpted staircases, representing another centennial, lead up to the plaza's upper and most important level. This is the highest point in the city, on which stands el Totem Telúrico. Rising 40 feet from this level, the monument is a tribute to the discovery of the New World. Commissioned to local architect and ceramicist Jaime Suarez as part of the celebrations in 1992, el Totem was shaped out of black granite and ceramic replicas of archeological artifacts.

23. Museo de San Juan

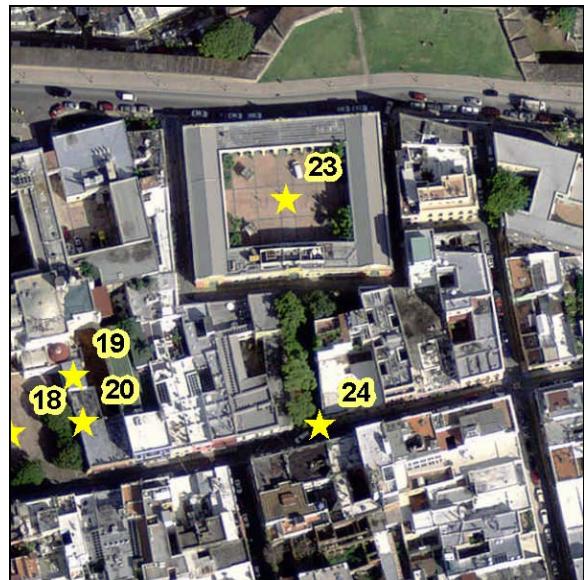
El Museo de San Juan is located next to the Dominican Convent on Norzagaray Street. Once the center for a busy marketplace during the 19th century, the museum was established in 1978 to preserve the history of Puerto Rico's capital and the cultural contributions of its citizens. Renovated at the turn of the century, it features artwork by local artists, including that of celebrated painters José Campeche and

Francisco Oller. The museum's 'Sala Oller' houses a permanent exhibit on the history and culture of San Juan told through panels that are eighteen-feet in height and interactive displays.

24. Calle San Sebastián

Located between Sol and Norzagaray Streets, you will find la Calle San Sebastián. This cobblestone street is known for its nightlife and entertainment and is frequented by Puerto Ricans from all parts of the island. This is a great place to enjoy Puerto Rican cuisine or tropical drinks, play pool, or go salsa dancing while you mingle with the locals.

This lively street becomes even livelier on the first Tuesday of every month during its Noches de Galería. Las Fiestas de la Calle are celebrated annually during the third week of January, when San Sebastián Street is flooded with people who come to enjoy the live music and crafts-fair.



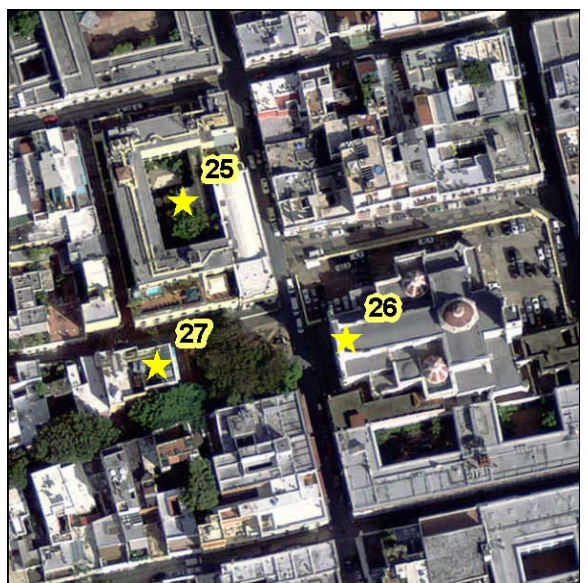
25. Gran Hotel El Convento

Walking down Del Cristo Street you can find the Hotel El Convento overlooking The San Juan Cathedral and its adjacent plaza. Founded in 1646 by Doña Ana de Lanzós, this convent for Carmelite nuns was inaugurated in 1651. The original structure was demolished in the nineteenth century, when a chapel was erected in the neoclassical style. Completed in 1858, this reconstruction included the building's façade, central patio, and second floor. The nuns left the convent in 1902, when it became an apartment complex and theater. In 1960 the building was refashioned into the now famous hotel. There are several dining options offered inside the historic building and its outside patio.

26. Catedral de San Juan

The San Juan Cathedral is located midway through Del Cristo Street, overlooking a small plaza next to El Convento. The building began construction in 1521 in the Late Gothic style. Some of the original architectural components that remain to this day are: a vaulted tower, gothic ceilings, and a circular staircase and four rooms.

These are rare examples of Medieval Architecture in the Americas. The cathedral was renovated in the Neoclassical Style of its façade which was completed in 1852. The plan shows three naves intersected by a transept with a central elliptical dome and six lateral chapels. Located near the transept is a marble



tomb that holds the remains of Juan Ponce de León, the Spanish conquistador who colonized Puerto Rico. The tomb is one of Spanish sculptor Miguel Blay's master works. It was placed in the cathedral to commemorate the four-hundred year anniversary of evangelization in 1912.

27. Museo del Niño

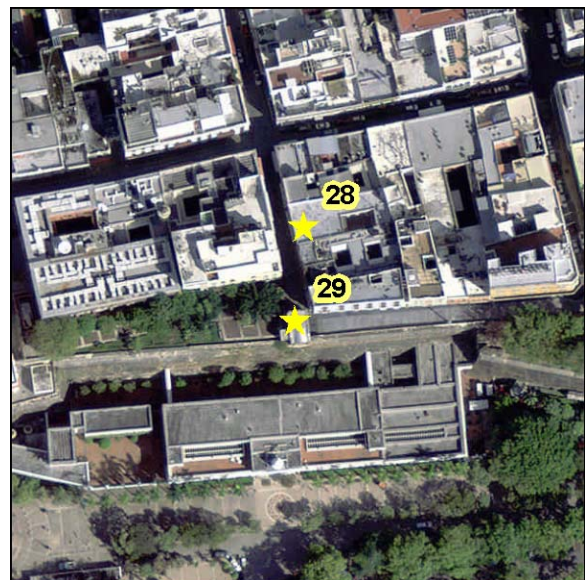
The Children's Museum, located in front of the San Juan Cathedral, opened its doors to the general public in 1993. Its three floors are filled with exhibits for children to interact with, including a giant replica of a human heart. This non-profit organization is involved in preserving the island's cultural heritage and presenting subjects in a rich and interesting way for children.

28. Casa de Libro

Next to El Parque de las Palomas you will find this museum, La Casa del Libro or House of Books, which boasts a collection of precious manuscripts produced prior to the 16th century, known as incunabula. This collection includes two official documents signed in 1493 by King Ferdinand 'the Catholic' and Queen Isabella II of Spain. The museum accommodates over 300 books published in the 15th century and also a valued edition of Don Quixote published in Valencia, Spain in 1605 – the first year that Cervantes's masterpiece was released in Madrid.

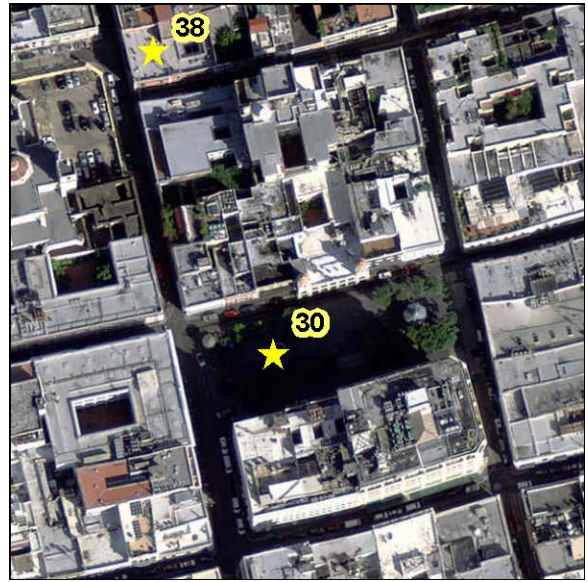
29. Capilla del Cristo / Parque de las Palomas

Between 1634 and 1638, this chapel dedicated to Santa Catalina was raised at the bottom of Del Cristo Street. The chapel was previously located in close proximity to La Fortaleza where it interfered with artillery shots fired from that fortress. The old structure had to be leveled and its location moved to where it now stands. Legend tells of how in June of 1750, during the traditional horse races of Las Fiestas de San Pedro, Captain Baltasar Montañés rode his horse into the wall next to the Chapel. Both the rider and his horse were saved from the fall by this structure. Don Tomás Mates Prats, the governor's secretary, deemed this a miracle. Having invoked El Cristo de la Salud to take care of the rider, Don Tomas hung a painting of the Christ in this Chapel to commemorate this miraculous occurrence. Next to La Capilla you will find el Parque de las Palomas or 'pigeon park' where families bring their children to feed the birds and enjoy the magnificent view of the bay.



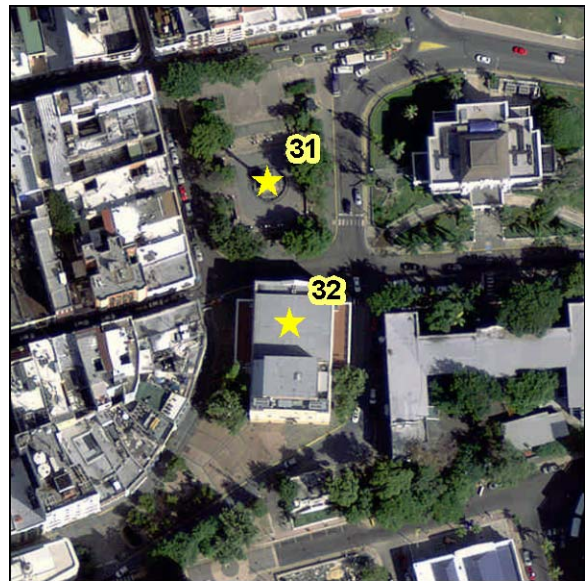
30. Plaza de Armas & La Alcaldía

The Plaza de Armas is located between San Francisco and Fortaleza Streets. Spanish troops practiced military exercises there, giving the plaza its name. Established in 1521 as the city’s central square, it served mostly as a marketplace until 1851. It was then that Governor Don Juan de la Pezuela ordered the plaza’s refashioning into a public promenade adorned with sculptures and fountains. The Alcaldía of San Juan or City Hall can be found in the northern end of this plaza. First raised in 1605 and renovated almost two centuries later, the building’s characteristic twin turrets were not added until 1842. These towers were designed to resemble those of the building’s counterpart in Madrid, Spain. The city’s shield, labored in stone, crowns the structure’s cornice. The solemn nature of the Alcaldía’s grand staircase, which leads to the mayor’s office, is unique among San Juan’s palaces.



31. Plaza de Colón

Directly in front of Teatro Tapia and near Fort San Cristóbal, you’ll find Plaza de Colón. With the completion of the city walls in 1638, the only entryway through the fortified structures and into San Juan by land was La Puerta de Santiago. A chapel dedicated to the Patron Saint of Spanish Arms was erected in the same site, giving the plaza its first name, Plaza Santiago. A procession with horse-carriages in honor of the saint was organized every year up to 1868. On July 25th the image of the saint was carried all the way to the San Juan Cathedral. During the 19th century, the original plaza underwent a series of structural changes. To celebrate the 400-year anniversary of Christopher Columbus’s first expedition to the New World, the plaza was renovated once again. A marble and bronze statue of the explorer, by Genevan sculptor Schille Canessa, was placed on the plaza, thereby giving it its new name: Plaza de Colón.



32. Teatro Tapia

The first stone for this theater was placed in September 21st, 1824, making it one of the oldest free-standing stages still hosting performances in the United States. Named after a celebrated Puerto Rican

dramatist, the theater quickly became one of the city’s cultural centers. Former mayor Felisa Rincon’s efforts to save the theater in the 1940’s were crucial to its survival as a venue for San Juan’s cultural events.

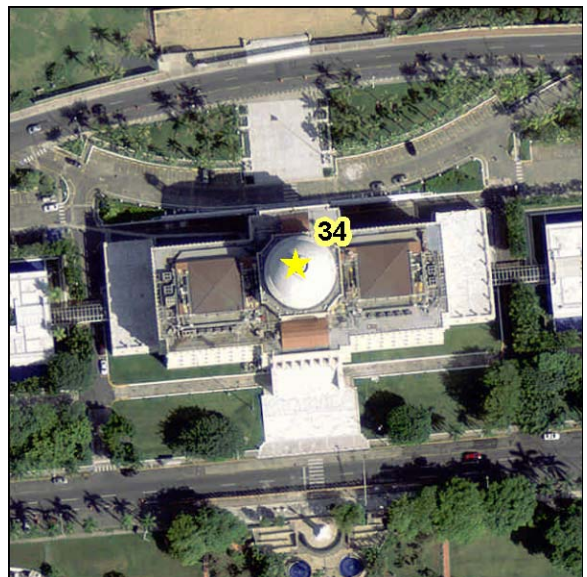
33. Fuerte San Cristóbal

By 1638, a second fortress dominated San Juan’s northeastern front, following the city wall from El Morro. El Fuerte San Cristóbal, named after the hill it sits on, was built because of Spain’s need to expand its defenses following the Dutch invasion of 1625. As El Morro defended the city from northern seaward attacks, San Cristóbal would protect the city from eastern attacks by land. Irish Field Marshall Alejandro O’Reilly and Royal Engineer Thomas O’Daly were hired by Spain to create the ingenious design for the fortress, recognized as the largest in the Americas. Through its structure we can admire the French style of fortification, which illustrates the principle known as “defense in depth.” The fortress was planned as a series of interconnected structures that formed various lines of defense independent of each other. If one were to be breached, it would not compromise the defense capabilities of soldiers situated elsewhere. From the highest level of San Cristóbal, known as the Caballero, one may observe the entire city and its bay.



34. El Capitolio de Puerto Rico

Located in the Puerta de Tierra sector of Old San Juan, if you follow Muñoz Rivera Avenue to the east of San Cristóbal you’ll reach El Capitolio. Inaugurated in February 11th, 1929, the idea for a capitol building of Puerto Rico had been gestating since 1907. It was then that Luis Muñoz Rivera, a strong proponent of administrative autonomy for the island and former Resident Commissioner, began campaigning for such a building. El Capitolio of Puerto Rico is home to the island’s Senate and House of Representatives. Inside the building is the original document for the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, a powerful symbol of self-government.



Other Locations in Old San Juan adjacent to the Walking Tour

35. El Arsenal

El Arsenal is located at the southernmost tip of San Juan in La Puntilla Street. Facing British attacks on the city, the Spanish forces found themselves in need of a naval station, and began the construction of El Arsenal in 1791. A mixture of architectural styles that range from Romanesque to neoclassical, the building housed a small fleet used to patrol the shallow waters and mangrove swamps around the bay. El Arsenal subsequently became a citadel for the marina with storage space, offices, living quarters, workshops, a coast guard, kitchens, and even its own chapel. In 1898 it served as the last stronghold for Spanish rule, and was later defeated by the United States in the Spanish-American War. The building now houses three exhibition galleries as well as a large capacity activity hall where cultural events are celebrated.

36. Old Harbor Brewery

Located in Recinto Sur Street, the Old Harbor Brewery Steak and Lobster House opened its doors in 2005 and quickly became known for its unique selection of locally-brewed craft beers. Puerto Rico's only microbrewery is the realization of the Díaz family's dream of producing and serving their own high-quality beers. The establishment's promise of great beer, food, and ambiance is realized inside a spacious building that once served as offices for the New York Federal Bank – and still maintains some of its original lamps from the 1920's. Old Harbor offers an international menu with a Puerto Rican twist and is recognized for its Caribbean Spiny Lobster, which patrons can choose directly from the restaurant's tank. The Mojito Frozen is a drink served frequently and is always made with some of the best Puerto Rican rums offered at the bar. The Old Harbor Brewery also features a variety of live entertainment, including local folk musicians, acoustic guitar trios, and a jazz band that entertains patrons every Friday night.

37. Casa Ramón Power y Giralt

Located on Tetuán Street, the former house of Admiral Ramón Power y Giralt was restored in the 1990's and currently functions as the Conservation Trust of Puerto Rico. Born on October 27 of 1775, Ramón entered the Spanish navy at the age of 18. He quickly rose to the rank of admiral after successfully defending the colony of Santo Domingo from the French. Elected to represent Puerto Rico in the Spanish Courts of Cádiz, he later served as vice-president, fighting for the equal representation of his Island before Spain's parliamentary government.

38. Corralón de San José

Behind the San Juan Cathedral, and on San José Street, you will find El Corralón de San José. It is one of Puerto Rico's oldest theaters and the only building designed in the Spanish Comedic Corral style on the island. Known as House of the Two Foyers, the three-story structure was built during the 18th century with characteristic indoor balconies. Through the years it has functioned as a hostel, brothel, funeral home, and museum. In 2001 it reopened as a theater.

39. Blend

Blend is located in the culinary Mecca of Old San Juan that is SOFO. Blend's sophisticated dining experience is reflected in its modern and intimate atmosphere. Blend's innovative and contemporary style lends itself to an unforgettable nightlife experience with live DJs, lounge music, and one of San Juan's top bars. The Blend Punch is one of the bar's signature rum drinks – a unique take on a classic, using Puerto Rico's premier rums. Memorable main courses by chef José Ramirez de Arellano include the 4 Hour Braised Lamb Shank served with white truffle mashed potatoes and Porto sauce. Come dressed to impress for a blend of unique culinary experiences and blissful moments.

40. Tío Danny's

One of Fortaleza Street's most beloved offerings is Tío Danny's, offering great-tasting Puerto Rican cuisine and authentic Mexican dishes in a friendly atmosphere. Its building maintains to this day the brickwork laid out centuries ago when it was originally erected, providing the restaurant with a distinctive setting. The restaurant's rosewood bar is decorated with plaques that commemorate Tío Danny's first customers and established patrons. Best known for its version of the Rum Punch, the bar regularly serves refreshing tropical drinks made with fresh fruits and local rums. Be sure to try the mofongo criollo, a typical plaintain dish served with chicken, lobster or shrimp and Tío Danny's 'pasteles' – akin to the tamale, but full of Caribbean flavor. Tío Danny's roomy interiors include an elegant patio where patrons can enjoy dinner by moonlight and watch the stars at night.

41. Casa del Callejón

This 18th century building, located on Fortaleza Street, is also one of San Juan's oldest. La Casa del Callejón houses two museums: The first floor is dedicated to the Museum of Pharmacy. This museum includes in its collection examples of items commonly found in a 19th century Puerto Rican pharmacy, such as period ceramics, glasswork, and other medicine-related articles. On the building's second floor you will find the House of the Puertorican Family which recreates a domestic household of a wealthy family in the 19th century.

42. SOFO

SOFO, short for ‘South of Fortaleza’ is located at the end of Fortaleza Street. This sector of the city is well-known for its fine dining and nightlife. Most of the restaurants you will find on this street double as bars and lounges. A good place for after-hours and creative cuisine, SOFO also hosts outdoor food festivals periodically. Follow the street uphill to find the city’s busiest shopping area. If you continue downward, SOFO leads you into Teatro Tapia and Plaza Colón.

43. Casa Don Q

A great starting point for any visitor to Old San Juan is Casa Don Q. Located across from Pier 1 in the Edificio Ochoa at the corner of Marina and Tanca, the museum is an excellent place to learn all about the origins of rum production on the island. Historical photographs and documents chronicle the story of the Serrallés family and a video explains the spirit’s elaboration process. Be sure to enjoy a complimentary drink at the bar including the bartender’s specialty, Don Q Dulcinea, a wonderfully sweet and refreshing concoction made with orange, pineapple and grapefruit juices, cream of coconut, grenadine and Puerto Rican rum. And don’t forget to visit the specialty shop where you can find all the varied Don Q products and related accessories.

44. La Marina

San Juan’s Marina is renowned as the best in the Caribbean, welcoming almost one and a half million visitors each year. The Marina’s boardwalk is a nice place to enjoy the breeze and plan your exploration of the historical city. Across the street you’ll find various shops and restaurants to wander around – a good introduction to the city’s crafts and local flavors. Walk north into Recinto Sur Street to visit the city’s shops and restaurants or start walking west and you’ll soon reach El Paseo de la Princesa, one of Puerto Rico’s best known promenades.

45. Chicago Burger Company

Crossing Brumbaugh Street from the piers we find Chicago Burger Company in The Sheraton at Old San Juan. A care-free, outgoing atmosphere awaits, as you select from a wide variety of angus beef, salmon or vegetarian burgers – you can even create your own! Savor the food on the outdoor terrace with views of the bay or take advantage of the daily happy hours from 5pm-9pm and enjoy your favorite drinks made with Puerto Rican rums, like the house specialty, the CBC Mango Mojito. Sit back at the bar and watch some sports – or better yet – dance the night away to the tune of tropical music and our live steel-drum calypso band. Chicago Burger Company truly has something for everyone.

46. Restaurante Raíces

This beloved restaurant — established in Caguas, Puerto Rico — recently opened its doors on Recinto Sur Street, serving the best traditional ‘criollo’ cuisine. Raíces offers patrons a memorable dining experience steeped in local culture, history and traditions. The restaurant simulates a typical country home circa 1940, with wooden ceilings, open window views to murals of the Puerto Rican countryside, and traditional masks of ‘Vegigantes’. Raíces’s staff also dons the traditional ‘jíbaro’ attire to complete the illusion. Start your meal with the ‘Raíces del Cielo’ and ‘Beso Tropical’, two delicious tropical drinks made with Puerto Rican rums; and try Raíces’s specialty of ‘Mofongo con churrasco’, or mashed green plantains stuffed with Chimichurri-style skirt steak. Inside Restaurante Raíces, culture and cuisine combine to give you a taste of Puerto Rico. You’ll soon find yourself wanting even more.









