



## Puerto Rican Country Guide

### Page 1 of 5 Important Information Prior to Travelling to Puerto Rico Current Travel Advice from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

This advice is current for Mon, 5th November 2018.

*Exercise normal safety precautions in the United States (US). Reconsider your need to travel to the US territory of Puerto Rico. Buildings and infrastructure are severely damaged following Hurricane Maria. See [Natural disasters](#). Enhanced security screening measures are in place for all commercial flights to the US. See [Entry and exit](#). Medical treatment in the US is expensive. Get comprehensive travel insurance to cover medical costs before you depart. See [Health](#).*

The above advice is issued for the US in general, not specifically for Puerto Rico. The above information is an edited excerpt of the Travel Advice Summary from The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Travellers are encouraged to read the travel advice in full, subscribe to updates to this advice and to register their presence in Puerto Rico at [www.smartraveller.gov.au](http://www.smartraveller.gov.au).

#### Passport and Tourist Visa Conditions

As Puerto Rico is a territory of the United States, the entry requirements are the same. Most Australian ordinary passport holders can enter the US for tourist purposes or business meetings without a visa under the Visa Waiver Program (VWP). Travellers entering the US on a plane or cruise ship MUST register with the Electronic System for Travel Authorization website (ESTA) (<https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov>) before they depart for the US, preferably more than 72 hours prior. Registering with this service costs \$14 and is payable by credit/debit card. The total stay in the US, Canada, Mexico and adjacent islands must be less than 90 days. Travellers require a machine readable e-passport that is valid for the period of intended stay, but it is recommended that they be valid for six months beyond this. Minors must have their own passport and may be subject to further requirements. Travellers should also be able to supply details of their first nights accommodation, produce tickets for their next destination and show documents confirming their ability to financially maintain themselves. Travellers who do not have complete and correct documentation may be refused entry into the US.

All travellers are recommended to read the VWP requirements at <https://au.usembassy.gov/visas/visa-waiver-program> to ensure that their specific circumstances and passport meet the eligibility requirements to enter the US under the VWP. Several factors may impact a travellers VWP eligibility, such as prior arrests or convictions; previous travel to or dual nationality with Chad, Iran, Iraq, Libya, North Korea, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Yemen or Venezuela; serious communicable diseases or some mental illnesses. For further information travellers are encouraged to contact a US mission on the details below.

#### United States Representatives

US Consular Service Centres in Australia

Visa Information Service: 1300 139 399  
Web: <https://au.usembassy.gov>

#### Vaccinations & Health Precautions

The following information is intended as a guide only and in no way should it be used as a substitute for professional medical advice relative to a travellers individual needs and vaccination history. No guarantee is made as to its accuracy or thoroughness. For further information, please contact The Travel Doctor on 1300 658 844.

Vaccination against hepatitis A is recommended for travellers to the Puerto Rico. Frequent or long stay travellers to should consider vaccination against hepatitis B and rabies (particularly if working with animals). Vaccination against typhoid (particularly when travelling to areas with poor sanitation and hygiene) should be considered by travellers to Puerto Rico. As dengue fever and widespread transmission of the zika virus also occurs, insect avoidance measures are recommended; pregnant women should consider postponing travel to Puerto Rico.

Regardless of destination, all travellers should be up-to-date with their routine "background" vaccinations, including a recent annual influenza vaccination. Please consult a medical practitioner or contact The Travel Doctor for your specific risk to these preventable diseases and the appropriate avoidance measures. Australians travelling to Puerto Rico should ensure that they have adequate travel insurance to cover the length of their stay. Medications that are legal in Australia may be illegal in other countries. For further information on insurance, taking medication overseas and other issues please visit [www.smartraveller.gov.au/tips](http://www.smartraveller.gov.au/tips).

Other US contacts for information on entry requirements:

US Customs and Border Protection, Web: [www.cbp.gov/travel](http://www.cbp.gov/travel)  
US Department of State, Web: [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov)



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### Time Differences between Puerto Rico and Australia

Puerto Rico is Greenwich Mean Time -4 hours. Daylight saving time is not observed. The applicable time zone is called Atlantic Standard Time (AST). The following times in Australia are a day ahead of the time in Puerto Rico, for instance if it's Sunday afternoon in Puerto Rico, it's Monday morning in Australia.

Puerto Rico, 12 noon, June = Perth midnight; Adelaide, Darwin 1:30am; Brisbane, Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney 2am.

Puerto Rico, 12 noon, December = Perth midnight; Darwin 1:30am; Brisbane 2am; Adelaide 2:30am; Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney 3am.

### Important Contact Numbers

Country Code for Puerto Rico:  
+1 787 or +1 939

To Dial Australia Call:  
011 61 <City> <Number>

Travelex Card Services:  
Call the US on +1 954 838 8294

Visa Global Assistance:  
1800 847 2911

MasterCard:  
1800 307 7309

American Express Travellers Cheques:  
(1) 800 221 7282

Tourist Information:  
(+1 787) 722 1709

Emergency Services:  
All 911  
Police (+1 787) 343 2020  
Fire (+1 787) 343 2330

### Important Information to be Recorded

Travellers are encouraged to carry photocopies of all important documents separately to their originals and to leave a set of these photocopies with someone in Australia. This includes those documents listed below.

#### Passports

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Passport #: \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Passport #: \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

#### Credit Cards

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

#### Travel Insurance

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Policy #: \_\_\_\_\_ Emergency #: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Policy #: \_\_\_\_\_ Emergency #: \_\_\_\_\_

### Australian Representation in Puerto Rico

Australian Consulate General, New York

34th Floor, 150 East 42nd Street  
NEW YORK NY 10017-5612

Tel: (+1 212) 351 6500  
Fax: (+1 222) 351 6501

Web: [www.newyork.consulate.gov.au](http://www.newyork.consulate.gov.au)

Australia does not maintain a permanent consular presence in Puerto Rico. The Australian Consulate General in New York, United States of America is accredited to this region. Alternatively, Australians may obtain assistance by contacting the 24 hour Consular Emergency Centre in Australia on (+61) 2 6261 3305.

Australians in Puerto Rico are encouraged to register their presence and contact details with the Australian Consulate General in New York, or online with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade at [www.orao.dfat.gov.au](http://www.orao.dfat.gov.au).



## Puerto Rican Country Guide

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### Duty Free Allowances for Puerto Rico/United States and Australia

Allowances when entering Puerto Rico/United States:  
 Alcohol: 1 litre of alcoholic beverages.  
 Tobacco: 200 cigarettes or 100 cigars.  
 Gifts: Up to US\$100 in addition to the above.

Allowances when entering Australia:  
 Alcohol: 2.25 L.  
 Tobacco: 25 cigarettes plus one open packet of cigarettes.  
 Other Goods: Up to a value of \$900 (\$450 if under 18 years).

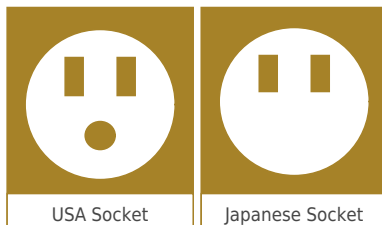
Minors may not claim alcohol or tobacco products. The above rates may be reduced depending on a travellers itinerary and any recent claims of the duty free allowance. Further restrictions apply when entering/exiting the US & Australia. Travellers are encouraged to familiarise themselves with these restrictions before crossing the borders of either country. For further details on American customs go to [www.cbp.gov/travel](http://www.cbp.gov/travel), or for information on Australian customs visit [www.border.gov.au](http://www.border.gov.au).

### Electrical Adaptors

Electrical Socket type: USA (type B) and Japanese (type A).

Supply: 110-120 V, 60 Hz (different to Australia). A voltage converter will usually be required to use appliances designed for Australia.

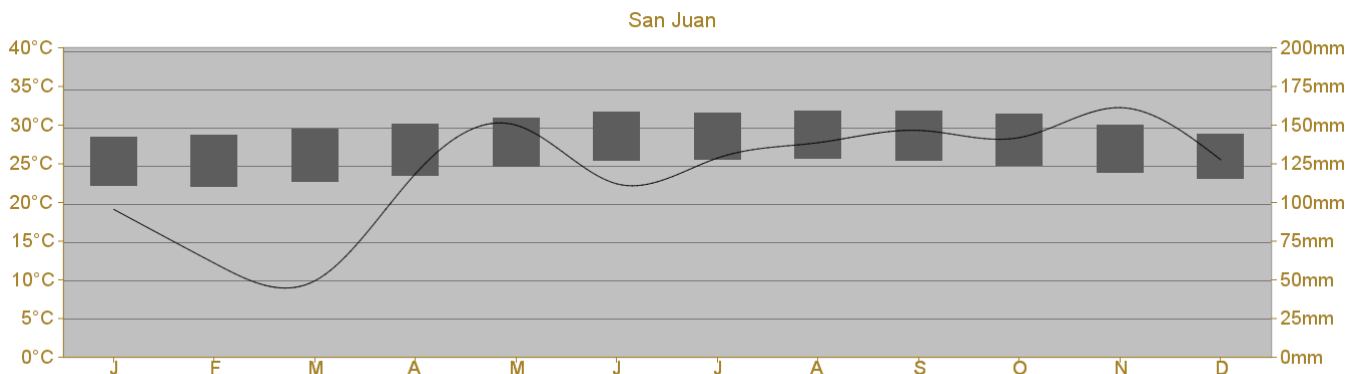
Travellers are urged to check the electrical info panel on their device. If it says "Input: 100-240V, 50-60 Hz" then a voltage converter should not be required.



### Puerto Rican Holidays 2018

01 Jan: New Year's Day	04 Jul: Independence Day
06 Jan: Epiphany	03 Sep: Labor Day
15 Jan: Martin Luther King Jr	08 Oct: Columbus Day
19 Feb: Statesmen Day	11/12 Nov: Veteran's Day
02 Mar: U.S. Citizenship Day	19 Nov: Discovery of PR Day
29 Mar: Holy Thursday	22 Nov: Thanksgiving
30 Mar: Good Friday	25 Dec: Christmas Day
28 Mar: Memorial Day	

### Average Temperature (Bar) and Precipitation (Line) in Puerto Rico



For local forecasts please go to the US National Weather Service at [www.srh.noaa.gov/sju](http://www.srh.noaa.gov/sju) or go to [www.bbc.com/weather](http://www.bbc.com/weather).

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## Puerto Rican Country Guide

### Page 4 of 5 Puerto Rican Currency Information and Cheat Sheet Exchange Rate with the United States

Interbank Rate  
 1 Australian Dollar (AUD) = 0.72 US Dollars  
 1 US Dollar (USD) = 1.39 Australian Dollars

With 4% Margin  
 1 Australian Dollar (AUD) buys 0.69 US Dollars  
 1 US Dollar (USD) will cost 1.45 Australian Dollars

All rates were correct at a point in time on Monday, 05 Nov 2018. The "Interbank Rate" does not take into account any exchange fees, while the "With 4% Margin" adds 4% to the exchange rate to simulate a typical margin that would be paid when exchanging currencies. These currency rates have been rounded and should not be used when calculating transactions of large value.

### Currency Cheat Sheet

This cheat sheet uses the "With 4% Margin" rate of exchange listed above.

\$0.50 USD = \$0.72 AUD	\$10 USD = \$14.46 AUD	\$100 USD = \$144.61 AUD
\$1 USD = \$1.45 AUD	\$20 USD = \$28.92 AUD	\$200 USD = \$289.22 AUD
\$2 USD = \$2.89 AUD	\$30 USD = \$43.38 AUD	\$300 USD = \$433.83 AUD
\$3 USD = \$4.34 AUD	\$40 USD = \$57.84 AUD	\$400 USD = \$578.44 AUD
\$4 USD = \$5.78 AUD	\$50 USD = \$72.31 AUD	\$500 USD = \$723.05 AUD
\$5 USD = \$7.23 AUD	\$60 USD = \$86.77 AUD	\$600 USD = \$867.67 AUD
\$6 USD = \$8.68 AUD	\$70 USD = \$101.23 AUD	\$700 USD = \$1,012.28 AUD
\$7 USD = \$10.12 AUD	\$80 USD = \$115.69 AUD	\$800 USD = \$1,156.89 AUD
\$8 USD = \$11.57 AUD	\$90 USD = \$130.15 AUD	\$900 USD = \$1,301.50 AUD
\$9 USD = \$13.01 AUD		\$1000 USD = \$1,446.11 AUD

### US Banknotes and Coins

The official currency of Puerto Rico is the US Dollar. The following units of currency are the most common but other versions and denominations are also in circulation. Pictures are not to scale. As it is illegal in many countries to print copies of bank notes, travellers are advised to remove the below images prior to travelling.







# Puerto Rican Country Guide

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**About Puerto Rico**

Full Name: Commonwealth of Puerto Rico (Rich Port).  
 National Status: Territory of the United States.  
 Size: 13,790 sq km (20% the size of Tasmania).  
 Population: 3.6 million. San Juan (capital) 2.5 million.  
 Language: Spanish and English are the official languages.  
 Religion: Catholic 85%, Protestant and others 15%.  
 Ethnicity: White (mostly Latino) 76%, black 12%.  
 GDP Per Capita: \$16,300 (Australia US\$40,800).

Significant Dates:  
 Pre 1493 - The Taino people inhabit the island.  
 1493 AD - Christopher Columbus claims Puerto Rico for Spain.  
 1508 - Spanish settlement begins under Ponce de Leon. The Taino peoples are decimated.  
 1873 - Slavery in Puerto Rico is abolished by Spain.  
 1898 - Following the Spanish - American War, Puerto Rico comes under US control. Modernisation begins.  
 1917 - All Puerto Ricans are given US citizenship.  
 1947 - Partial self government is established.  
 1951 - Puerto Ricans vote to become a US commonwealth.  
 1954 - Puerto Rican nationalists open fire in the US Capitol.  
 2012 - After three votes favouring to remain a commonwealth Puerto Ricans vote in favour of becoming a US state.

