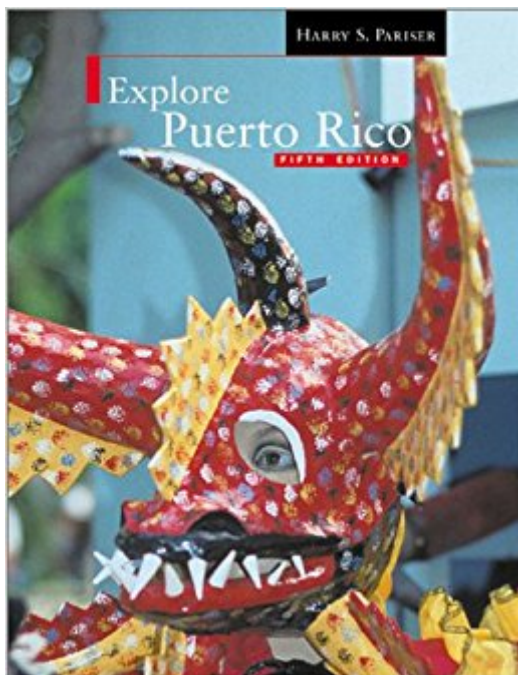


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# Explore Puerto Rico Fifth Edition



## Synopsis

Harry Pariser gives you detailed information on little-known towns, parks, reserves and offshore islands. His ecologically-aware perspective provides a refreshing look at archaeological sites, preserves and rugged rainforest environments. Old San Juan, El Yunque and the Caribbean National Forest, Palmas del Mar, Ponce, Guanica, Mayaguez, Mona Island, Vieques, Culebra, Arecibo, Camuy, Barranquitas and San German are but a few of the chapters in this book. Each region is covered extensively, with details on where to stay and eat, sailing, chartering and deep-sea adventures, snorkeling and diving, and the best birdwatching and hiking spots. Practical travel tips abound, and the introductory sections on the island's culture, history, geography, religion and customs will stand you in good stead for your next trip. Color photos and maps round out the picture.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"... a quality book that covers all aspects... it's all here and well done." -- San Diego Tribune  
"Hands down the best guidebook to the island." -- Islands Magazine  
"In addition to the resorts and gourmet restaurants, the guide helps you find local eateries and inexpensive guesthouses." -- Caribbean Travel and Life  
"Pariser's guides are among my favorites, well researched and detailed. They always include helpful facts.... insightful tips and tidbits." -- The Shoestring Traveler  
"These useful guides are highly recommended ..." -- Library Journal  
"Crams lots of useful information into a portable, attractive book... both practical and user-friendly." -- .com

Harry S. Pariser has been writing travel guidebooks to Puerto Rico since 1983. His guidebooks have sold tens of thousands of copies. Pariser, an award-winning journalist details information on resorts, guesthouses, restaurants and everything the reader needs to plan a trip. He writes thoughtfully about coral reefs, flora and fauna, history, culture, festivals and events and conduct. Pariser covers kayaking, horseback riding, car rentals, diving, snorkeling, plantation ruins and museums, camping, hiking, and other topics. You won't find much of this information anywhere else. Included are 30 color photos, 28 maps, and more than a hundred illustrations and black and white photos. Hundreds of web sites and e-mail addresses are listed as are fax numbers and 800 numbers. This is the most comprehensive guide to the Puerto Rico in print today.

I had the opportunity to acquire Harry Pariser's 5th edition to his guidebook, Explore Puerto Rico, recently. This book is a remarkable piece of assistance to any visitor to Puerto Rico. The single most important fact is his attention to detail. He has packed this volume with more useful information than any other similar book - and it is good helpful information to assist the new or veteran travel to Puerto Rico. I have a friend who was at one time in his life was the station manager for the South Pole Station in Antarctica. One of his views of life is that you cannot have too many maps. So what does this have to do with Pariser's guidebook to Puerto Rico? Mr. Pariser's maps are without question the clearest most accurate contained in any guidebook. Sometimes it is a challenge to correctly navigate the back roads of the island. The maps in the Pariser book will clearly be of assistance in this endeavor. In additions to his maps, Pariser has a superior guide and evaluation to the many beaches of Puerto Rico. The desirability of a given beach is in the eye of the beholder and varies with what one wants. Mr. Pariser gives you the information you need to start your search for your perfect Puerto Rican Beach. For example, he discussed the handicapped access to the ocean at Luquillo; other guidebooks seem to overlook this information that is essential to those with disabilities. Mr. Pariser also discusses what you can do to make you beach visit a little more "friendly" for the sea turtles that lay their eggs on the same beach at night. It is truly a pity that other guidebooks don't demonstrate a similar concern for those with whom we share the beach. The book also contains really first rate discussions of culture, history, environmental concerns, restaurants and hotels. (I do think he was a little too hard on Coors beer thought - read his book to find out why; but remember this is a guidebook to Puerto Rico, not beers of the world. I drink Medallia beer when I am in Puerto Rico; and recommend it over both Coors and Bud!) If I had my choice at the moment, I would be on one of Harry's beaches reading his book to find tomorrow's beach. If you are in the

market for a guidebook to Puerto Rico, I heartily recommend you get Harry Pariser's Explore Puerto Rico.

"Explore Puerto Rico" gives you the feeling you are there, even when you are at home. This book is not just a travel guide, it's also a history lesson, a lesson in basic Spanish and an incredible insight into the culture of Puerto Rico. Broken into sections, Mr. Pariser takes you to all the things there are to do and see on the island. The well known, like El Yunque, the Observatory in Arecibo, Old San Juan and the Condado. But then he takes you on a trip off the beaten path to places like the Museo Cemi in Jayuya, the Tibes Ceremonial Center just north of Ponce and the towns of Aibonito and Cayey just to name a few. You also get to visit Vieques and Culebra, part of Puerto Rico that is also known as the Spanish Virgins. Learn about the bioluminescent bay in Vieques and the nightly turtle watches in Culebra. One of the unique things in this guide is the food section. Not only is the Spanish name given but also a description of the food. Do you like aguacate (avocado), chillo (red snapper) or lechosa (papaya)? Or how about asopao or pastelillos? You can find out what they are on pages 64-65. There are maps and web sites to learn even more about "La Isla del Encanto" as Puerto Rico is known. With this book in tow, you will get to see Puerto Rico from the inside out. Pack it in your bag and go on a trip to this beautiful lush island that's just waiting to greet you.

We really enjoyed using this book. We found few errors and appreciated the frank evaluations. We feel that travel guides all have their good and bad parts. Your impression will depend upon who you are (what type of traveler) and what you are interested in. Lets Go is researched by college students, and, while we found it interesting, it lacked depth. Explore Puerto Rico covered some things better and other things less well in comparison to the Lonely Planet and Lets Go guides. We found mistakes in all of the travel guides we used. Practically every travel guide we've ever used has something out of date or a mistake. The official tourist literature sometimes has mistakes. It's just a fact of life. We did find that Explore Puerto Rico had a pretty good sense of humor. We did find the new update on the publisher's site to be of help, along with the various e-mails posted on the Yahoo! group. The e-mails and websites, which were quite comprehensive, were quite good also. We used a road map for navigation, but it's hard not to get lost in Puerto Rico. Signage is poor, and the regular maps, sold at the gas stations, often have inaccuracies. We didn't see that the Hotel Las Delicias had any directions to it. In any event, we always call a hotel first to ask for directions. Some people are just looking for something to complain about! It doesn't seem as if they have traveled much. It's pretty hard to write a travel guide, and we really appreciate the people who do it.

We wouldn't like to have to do this job: it seems pretty thankless.

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