

VIEQUES INSIDER

Connecting Visitors to Vieques

ISSUE 1 • 2025

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LISTINGS

EL MAROC is an oceanfront estate in the Bravos de Boston beachside neighborhood of Vieques Island. Once in a generation opportunity, this sale represents the first time El Maroc has ever been offered and represents a one-of-a-kind coastal home with Moroccan inspiration. The home is spectacularly sited on the cliffs at water's edge and could not be built here today. El Maroc is one of the most envied villa-estates on Vieques Island. El Maroc is sighted on a breathtaking oceanfront lot of almost 1/2 acre and features a home that transports you to the enchantment of Morocco, inspired by the family's unforgettable journeys there. **\$1,599,000**



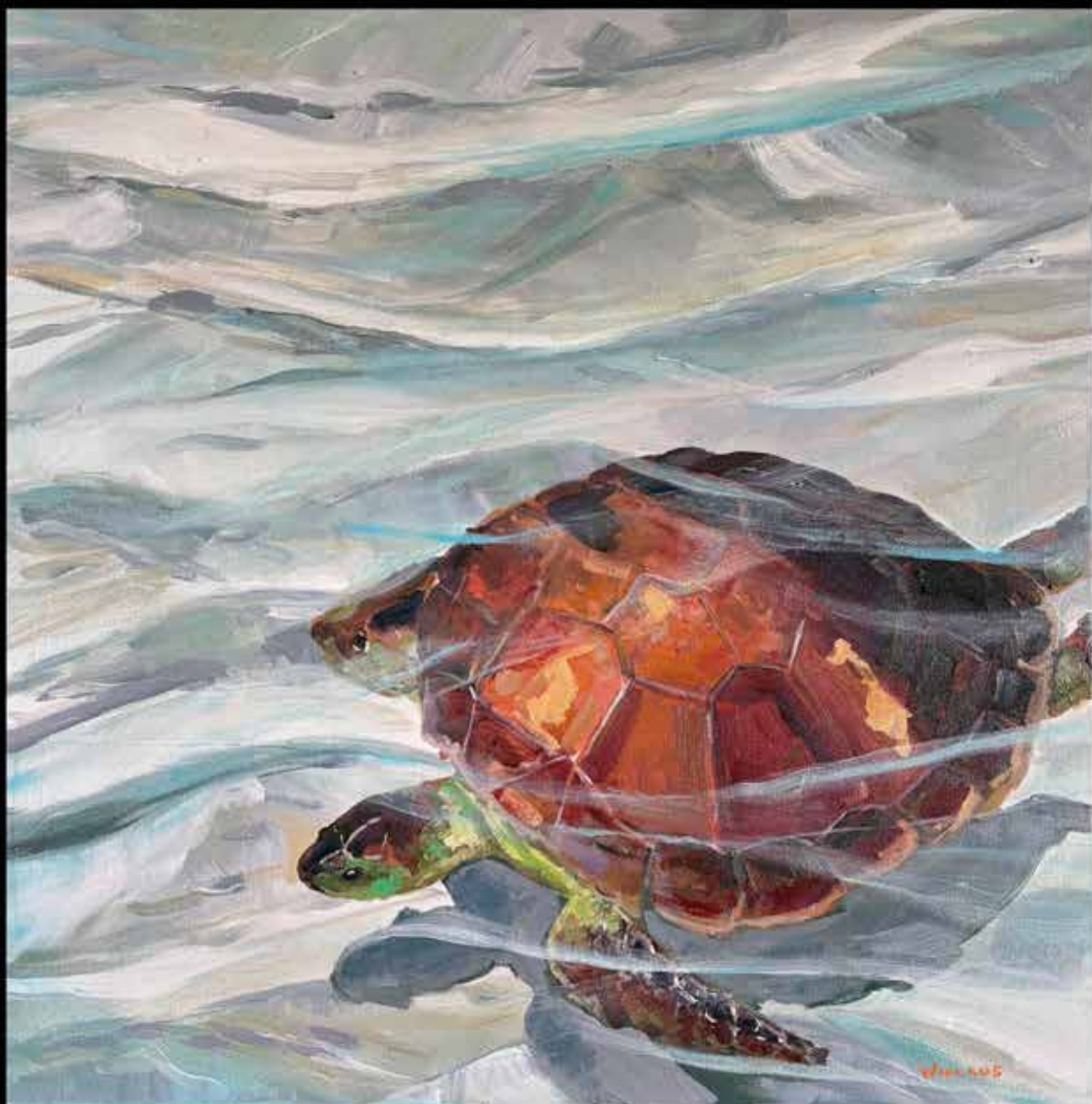
LA CASA FRENTE AL MAR

is an oceanfront oasis overlooking the Vieques Harbor. Discover your Caribbean paradise with this five-bedroom, two-bathroom oceanfront home, perfectly situated to capture breathtaking views over Vieques Harbor. This move-in-ready residence offers an invitation to experience Vieques Island life upfront! Wake up each morning to the peaceful sounds of the ocean lapping at the shore, and watch fisherman as they head out for the day or return with their fresh catch. From your vantage point, you can also see the ferry making its way across the sea from Puerto Rico to Vieques Island, adding a touch of local charm and vibrancy to the serene surroundings. **\$1,300,000**



LA CASITA DEL AMOR Beachfront Paradise! Located in the premier beachfront neighborhood, Bravos de Boston on Vieques Island. Nestled at the end of a private road, this serene retreat offers breathtaking views of Puerto Rico's main island, Culebra and St. Thomas. This is your chance to own a rare, income-producing gem with two separate homes on one lot - perfect for living in one and renting the other or keeping both for the many families and friends who will be coming to visit you. Imagine stepping outside your door each day onto a sugary sand beach with the ocean lapping at your feet. The property consists of a spectacular beachfront lot, the original home beautifully renovated with one bedroom, one bathroom, kitchen, great room, laundry and vaulted ceilings. The second home is brand new with a large air-conditioned storage room that could easily become a third bed and bath, great room with fantastic full bathroom including a shower and large bathtub, kitchen with ocean view, library/lounge, bedroom and bathroom. The rooms all have ocean and jungle views. **\$1,290,000**





Glen Wielgus, In The Shallows
Oil on canvas, 24" X 24"

SIDDHIA HUTCHINSON
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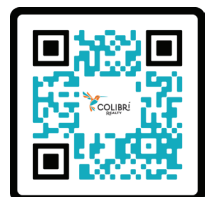
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Meet your hosts.

Freddy is a native of Vieques and this project has allowed him to return to the place where he grew up, reuniting with his friends from his childhood and youth. And for his wife Rebecca, it is a goal accomplished and a dream come true, because it has given them the opportunity to complement their strengths through her husband's creativity and the business experience she has.



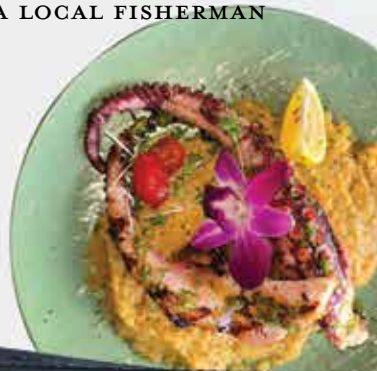
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VIEQUES PROPERTIES

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ABOUT TOWN

GETTING YOUR BEARINGS

SOUTH SIDE ESPERANZA

Esperanza, on the southern coast, boasts the deep aqua and crystal clear waters of the Caribbean Sea gently lapping along a picturesque walkway known as the Malecón. Esperanza offers a walkable array of restaurants, museums, stores, piers, boating and social interaction. Sundays are full of music, dominos, and libations. Extend your pleasure east or west along the Caribbean shore to discover art, black sand, roadside food experiences and an endless string of unique beaches so visually outrageous you'll be at a loss for words and pictures.

NORTH SIDE ISABEL II

Bordered by the wavy blue of the Atlantic, the north side offers a loosely organized configuration of main and side streets, churches, stores, bars, restaurants, shops and municipal offices, all loosely draped around the Plaza, a community square for great gatherings all year round. Charming and colorful, Isabel II ("town" or "el pueblo" to the residents) is named after the first reigning female monarch of Spain. Sitting like a decorated cake high above the town is the Fortin Conde de Mirasol, the last Spanish fort built in the Americas.



INSIDER TIPS

FIX A FLAT

Pick up one of these cans at any convenience store or gas station on the island and save yourself a lot of trouble. Just connect to your flat tire, inflate and go! It will only seal temporarily, so call your rental company for directions on where to go to get the tire fixed.



A TWIST OR A TAP

"If your car won't start when leaving the beach, don't panic! First, check your battery cable connections. On rough roads, they tend to bounce and loosen. Tighten them up, give them a tap and try again!



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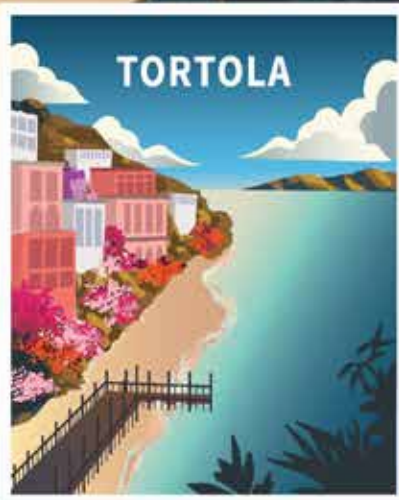


We also fly direct to San Juan, Virgin Gorda and St. Croix.

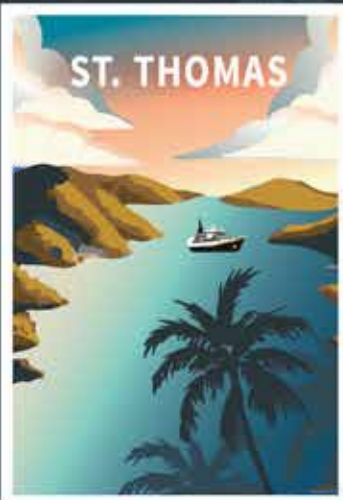
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Know more



PEBBLES IN OUR SHOES

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Every so often, life offers enlightening moments, reminders to pause, breathe, and live fully in the present. These lessons often come from the very young or the very old, who seem to naturally understand the rhythms of the world. In the hustle of our daily lives, many of us let small problems occupy our thoughts, like pebbles in our shoes that we don't take the time to rid ourselves of.

Walking to Playa Negra for this issue's cover photoshoot, I had the privilege of rediscovering this truth through the eyes of a spirited four-year-old named Thiago. As we followed the arroyo's stream, Thiago bounced and splashed like a tiny frog, his energy boundless, his joy contagious. His chatter flowed as freely as the water, and his mother commented on how much English he was speaking—and I realized what a brilliant young mind I was dealing with, much like my own daughter, Sky.

"Do you know the sound a crab makes?" he asked, leaning in close. Then, pulling my face next to his I listened and waited, he made barely a sound. In that moment, I was transported into his magical world.

At one point, I mentioned how the small pebbles in my shoes were bothering me. *"Just jump into the stream like this,"* as he splashed both feet down. *"This water is so wet—it just washes them away."* And he was right.

When we reached Playa Negra, the magnetic pull of the black sand dropped Thiago to his knees. He dug his hands into the mineral-rich earth as if it nourished his very soul. He ran, jumped and laughed, his joy radiating outward, a reminder of the unfiltered freedom we often suppress as adults.

After a few photographs, there was an abrupt change in mood, which had him stomping off nearly in tears of frustration at not being free to play—a display of raw, unbridled emotion that only a child can express so honestly. I asked if I could reward him with something for modeling—maybe ice cream? He requested a dinosaur. Either a Brachiosaurus or a Parasaurolophus would do.

We waited for the best light while the sun was setting, and as we packed up the gear, we realized that we would be walking back out through the arroyo in the dark, carrying all our equipment. It was a small problem, easily washed away by the "wet water" and Thiago's imaginative spirit of adventure. *"You KNOW,"* he said, *"if you were an octopus, you could carry all that gear AND me."* He was right again. I managed the gear into one hand so I could hold his little hand with my other.

When you explore Vieques, let the island's magnetic pull seduce you. Let the pebbles in your shoes remind you of life's small irritations—and how easily they can be washed away by nature's stream. Jump in with both feet. Splash, laugh, and let the world's raw beauty guide your spirit. The magic of Vieques, its people and nature have a way of grounding you, of reminding you what truly matters and how easily the stresses and pebbles of life could slip away if we let them, carried downstream by the "wet, wet water" and washed clean by moments of pure wonder.

When we got to the car, Thiago once again pulled my face close to his and whispered, *"I love you."* In that quiet moment, surrounded by the fading light of the day, the sounds of nature settling into evening, I felt the promise of this island, and the future, in a way that words can barely capture. Wild curiosity, unguarded love, untamed joy, unbridled emotion—all of it mirrored in that tiny whisper and in the magic of Vieques itself, with nature guiding our way.



AUDIO TOUR
Vieques-Playa Negra

Thank you, Thiago. I'll be searching for dinosaurs deep in the jungle if you need me.

Kelly Thompson



COVER PHOTOGRAPHER - DANIEL FERNÁNDEZ is a Puerto Rican-born cinematographer and photographer based in Vieques. His work has taken him to many corners of the planet, including Antarctica, where he has captured films, documentaries, and music videos showcased at renowned festivals such as Sundance, South by Southwest, Cannes, and the Los Angeles Film Festival. Daniel's work on *At the*

Edge of the World earned him the award for Best Documentary Cinematography from the late Haskell Wexler. In addition to his creative projects, he is the social media director of the nonprofit Vieques Love and manages his own Puerto Rican history audio tour business. Connect with him on Facebook at facebook.com/danny-cameras and on Instagram @danielfernandezphotos

COVER MODELS: Viequense Kassandra Castillo recently moved back to Vieques from NYC, bringing with her not only her marketing and social media expertise, but an upcoming jewelry business as well (see page 65). Her energetic 4-year-old son Thiago made the photoshoot of this cover a truly joyous experience.

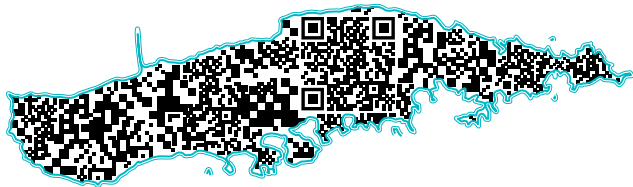


VIEQUES INSIDER

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Viequense **ANGIE ADAMS** is the owner of Vieques Tours & Transportation. She is passionate about the history, ecology and culture of Vieques and for making your trip an unforgettable journey. Angie spends much of her time and energy helping others on the island.



MARK MARTIN BRAS plays an important role in protecting and preserving the ecological environment of Vieques as well as educating the youth through his daily work and Manta programs at the Vieques Conservation and Historical Trust.



AMY GORDON is a freelance travel journalist and the author of 100 Things to Do in Puerto Rico Before You Die, which you can buy in shops around the island. Her work has also appeared in outlets including AFAR, The Washington Post, Forbes, and AAA Traveler. Follow her on Instagram at @amyfgordon and @100thingspuertorico.

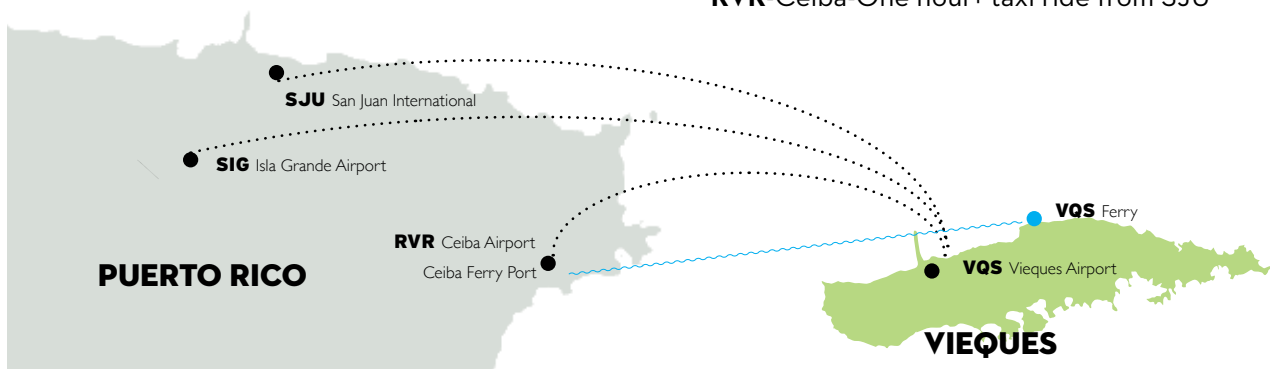


ROB ROY Rob Roy is a retired high school teacher from Maine. He taught digital photography, TV production, and web page design. He now spends December through early April in Vieques. He never thought he would become a "snowbird"! Rob is responsible for updating the Vieques Insider web site.

GETTING HERE

Yes, Vieques is a separate island and no, you cannot drive from Puerto Rico.

FLIGHT OR FERRY



3 AIRPORTS IN PUERTO RICO THAT HAVE FLIGHTS TO VIEQUES

SJU-San Juan International

SIG-Isla Grande-15 min taxi ride from SJU

RVR-Ceiba-One hour+ taxi ride from SJU

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Publico Vans are located outside baggage claim at SJU and can seat up to 10-12 people. They are managed by Puerto Rico Tourism and you will be supplied an invoice for your trip before getting in the van.



FERRY

🚢 FERRY FROM CEIBA TO VIEQUES

Requires 1 hour 15 min taxi ride from San Juan International (SJU) to Ceiba (aprox. \$100) Ferry ticket \$2 or you can purchase ahead of time on www.puertoricoferry.com with additional fees for luggage. There are additional charges for carry on items such as coolers, surfboards, beach chairs, etc. Be prepared to wait or possibly be bumped if ferry is full! Vieques residents are seated first. It is not uncommon for the ferry to be late.

TICKETING

Tickets are available online at www.puertoricoferry.com for about half of the passenger seats. Once those are sold, one must buy the tickets at the terminal. The procedure is, as the inventory of available tickets reaches 35, only local residents are allowed to purchase them.

www.puertoricoferry.com

TIPS FOR TRAVELERS

- ✳ Buy tickets ahead of time – online whenever possible.
- ✳ Rented vehicles are not permitted on the cargo boats.
- ✳ Bring a sweater on the ferry! It can be chilly with the AC.
- ✳ The Ceiba terminal has a seating priority system, giving preference first to elderly and disabled individuals, followed by local residents, and then tourists. While this system might seem unwelcoming to travelers, it is essential to remember that many residents depend on the ferry for crucial trips related to health, education, or work, and rely on it to return to their families.



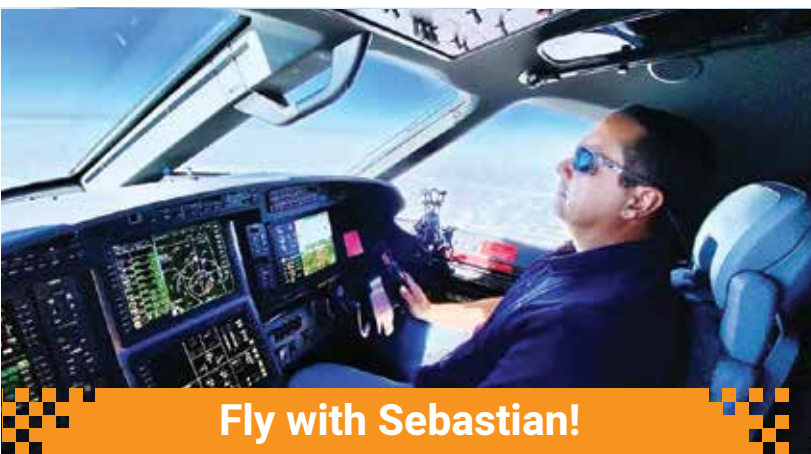
Insider recommendation: During high tourism season the ferry can fill up fast and residents get first boarding priority. If you don't want to chance being left at the ferry dock waiting hours for the next ferry or possibly even overnight, book a flight from one of the three airports!



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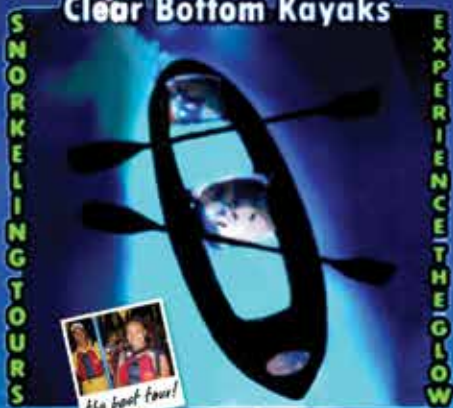
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PUBLICOS/PUBLICOS/ TAXIS:

Publicos are marked with the letters TC for transportacion colectiva (Collective Transportation), meaning that they can pick up other passengers along the route. Look for a van with wording on the side or windshield.



CAR/SCOOTER/UTV/GOLF CART RENTAL:

There are many rental car companies all within the same price range. Most offer Jeeps or SUVs to get you to the most remote beaches, but just because it's 4wd doesn't mean you can't get stuck. Vieques has some world-class potholes that are surprisingly deep. When parking at the beach don't leave valuables in the car, and leave the car unlocked. At Sun Bay do not park on the ocean side of the road, only in the grass on the opposite side. When returning cars you will be charged for wet seats, so think twice about leaving the top off the jeep. Make sure you rent from a licensed car rental company. Book early!



INSIDER TIP
GOLF CART TURN
SIGNALS WON'T
AUTOMATICALLY
TURN OFF! MAKE A
MENTAL NOTE-
TURN IT OFF!

BIKE RENTAL: Bikes can be rented by the hour or day. If you plan on using a bike as transportation make sure you research mileage on Google maps. Also, be aware that most beach roads are dirt, gravel or sand with some steep inclines. Hot, dusty roads; and be careful around stray dogs. Always have water!

Fix a Flat



Pick one of these up at any convenience store or gas station on the island and save yourself a lot of trouble. Just connect to your flat tire, inflate and go! It will only seal temporarily so call your rental company for directions on where to go to get it fixed.

A Twist or a Tap

If your car won't start when leaving the beach, before panicking, first check your battery cable connections. On rough roads, they tend to bounce and loosen. Tighten them up, give them a tap and try again!



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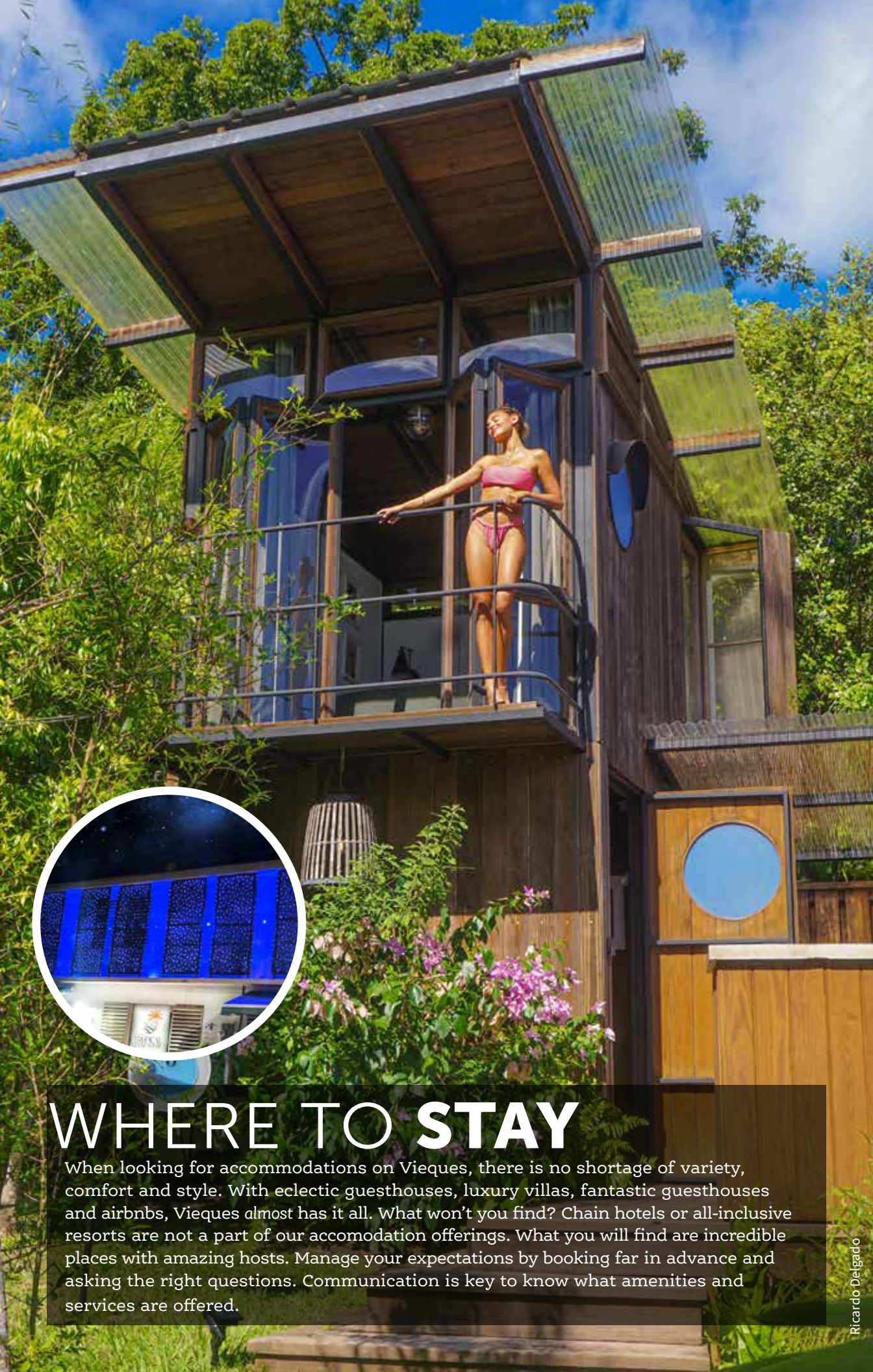


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MARITZASCARRENTAL.COM



WHERE TO **STAY**

When looking for accommodations on Vieques, there is no shortage of variety, comfort and style. With eclectic guesthouses, luxury villas, fantastic guesthouses and airbnbs, Vieques almost has it all. What won't you find? Chain hotels or all-inclusive resorts are not a part of our accommodation offerings. What you will find are incredible places with amazing hosts. Manage your expectations by booking far in advance and asking the right questions. Communication is key to know what amenities and services are offered.



ACCOMODATIONS GUIDE

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CLUB VIEQUES

787-909-3125
www.clubvieques.com

EL BLOK

787-741-6020
www.elblok.com
reserve@elblok.com

ENCANTADA

EncantadaVieques@gmail.com
www.encantadavieques.com
Airbnb & Vrbo

ESPERANZA INN

939-233-0924
www.esperanzainnvqs.com

FINCA VICTORIA

www.lafinca.com



HACIENDA TAMARINDO

787-741-8525
www.haciendatamarindo.com

HIX ISLAND HOUSE

787-435-4590
www.hixislandhouse.com

LA LANCHITA

845-891-1502
www.casalalanchita.com

LEJOS ECO RETREAT

787-254-8236
www.lejosecoretreat.com

MARTINEAU BELLE PLAYA

www.luxuryvillavieques.com
787-409-3057

OLD CROW HOTEL & SUITES

787-741-0011
www.oldcrowhotel.com

SEAGATE HOTEL AND HORSEBACK RIDING

201-450-8238
787-741-4661
facebook.seagatehotel

TRADEWINDS

787-710-7440
www.tradewindsvieques.com

TROPICAL GUESTHOUSE

787-397-2249
www.viequestropicalguesthouse.com

THE VIEQUES GUESTHOUSE IN ESPERANZA

787-435-1513
www.theviequesguesthouse.com

VILLA DOS PALMAS

802-272-0704
www.villadospalmas.net

WATERSIDE INN

787-741-5555
www.watersideinnvieques.com

REALTORS / RENTALS

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787-741-1463
www.bravosboyz.com

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845-430-7479
www.colibri.realty

PARAISO REALTY

787-900-8909
www.paraisorealtypr.com

ISLAND REAL ESTATE

787-334-2943
www.islandrealestate.net

RAINBOW REALTY

787-741-4312
www.viequesrainbowrealty.com

VIEQUES PROPERTIES

787-216-6213
www.viequesproperties.com



CAMPING

★ SUNBAY - Campsites at Sunbay National Park include a view of the ocean and a mile stretch of sandy beach and turquoise water. The unfenced field to the right of the Sun Bay administrative building (as you face the shore) is the designated area to pitch tents. Camping is \$10.00 per night and check-in/out is coordinated through the Reserve Manager or other staff. There are open outdoor showers and a public bathroom, but bring your own supplies and paper products. Currently, the fencing for the camping area is partially down, so horses roam in. Check in at the Administrative Office at Sun Bay or try calling the municipal offices at 787-741-5000.

WHERE TO PLAY

ON THE WATER

		SNORKEL	KAYAK TOURS	BOAT TOURS	PADDLEBOARD	BIOBAY BOAT	BIOBAY KAYAK	BIOBAY CLEAR KAYAK	SCUBA	FISHING BOAT	EQUIPMENT RENTALS	JET SKIS	
Abe's Snorkeling & BioBay Tours	787-435-1362	•	•		•		•						www.abessnorkeling.com
Amity Charters	787-502-3839									•			www.viequessportfishing.com
Black Beard Sports	939-238-6841	•	•	•	•		•	•			•		www.blackbeardsports.com
Crystal Clear	787-242-1071	•											www.crystalclearvieques.com
Fun Brothers	787-435-9372	•	•		•		•	•			•	•	www.funbrothers-vieques.com
Isla Nena Bio Bay	787-403-5581					•	•						www.islanenabiobay.com
JAK Water Sports	787-644-7112	•	•	•	•		•				•		www.jakwatersports.com
Melaya's Tours	787-222-7055						•						www.melayastours.net
Mosquito BioBay Tours	939-426-8561	•					•						www.mosquitobiobaytours.com
Paradise Safari	939-244-2733			•									fb/paradise safari
Travesias Islenas	787-447-4104	•	•				•				•		www.viequesoutdoors.com
Vieques Snorkel Tours	787-349-6964	•											www.viequessnorkeltours.com
Vieques Blue Water Charters	843-367-1377	•		•						•			www.viequesbluewatercharters.com



HORSEBACK RIDING

► **Esperanza Riding Company**

787-435-0073
esperanzaridingcompany.com

► **Jurutungo Horseback Riding**

215-692-7374
jurutungofarm.com

► **Seagate Horseback Riding Tours**

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787-741-4661
seagatehotel.com



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(Lic 9905)

Lin Wetherby, Owner Broker
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(Lic 7941)

Jessica Matthews, Sales Agent
787.988.4731
(Lic 4043)

rainbowvqs@gmail.com
f/viequesrainbowrealty



FRONT



BACK

ISLA HERMOSA **\$675,000**

Currently a successful fully permitted guesthouse, with 6 bedrooms and 7 baths, on 2 acres in tranquil mid isle Destino. Could also just be a large residence with lots of space for guests! Full Laundry, porches, fruit trees, balconies, privacy, and an amazing separate sunroom/ playroom/library space; PLUS an outdoor kitchen and dining area. Truly a sensational property.



MONTE SANTO PLAYA **\$798,000**

What an opportunity this is! A unique property with 3 structures (3 units: 5 bdrms/ 4.5 baths total), 2 car garage, and a pool; needs some refurbishing/ updating/ finishing.... but wow! On 2 acres and steps to the beach with EXPANSIVE VIEWS and the sounds of the ocean surrounding.



Charming and spacious. These don't come along very often, and won't last long in this market! Huge equity potential.

www.viequesrainbowrealty.com



501c3 Non-Profit

Our Big Fat Caribbean Rescue Needs Donations!

to continue **FREE** spay & neuters for all our island animals.

Donations gratefully accepted:
ourbigfatcaribbeanrescue.org/#donate



Our Big Fat Caribbean Rescue is a 501c3 non-profit offering free sterilization, non-profit vet care and humane education through an extensive community outreach program on the island of Vieques, Puerto Rico. Recognizing sterilization is the most effective model for humane animal population control on the island, OBFCR has proudly provided free spay/neuters to over 4,000 dogs and cats, provided vet care to hundreds and developed programs for dozens of students. OBFCR is proud to be a part of our community, helping our neighbors and their animals. Our great thanks to all our supporters over the years helping us help them.

The beaches are magnificent, the vistas stunning and the people friendly. It's Vieques. But the island has another wonderful surprise in store for you: the dining experience. Our skilled and versatile chefs bring you delectables from the sea, land and farms for a culinary experience. The variety of offerings will have you wishing that you had more time and a bigger appetite. The guide provided here is a listing of our Insider Advertisers. Be sure to check restaurant Facebook pages for schedule changes and special offerings. Some restaurants require reservations but even if they don't, it is best to make one. Buen Provecho!

RESTAURANT GUIDE

Hours are subject to change. Please check the restaurant's Facebook page for current hours, events and specials! To scan, cover the QR code above and below the one that you want to scan.

FACEBOOK

MONDAY

TUESDAY
















WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY













FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

AURORA'S	787-407-9067		11AM-4:45PM				
BANANAS	787-354-0020		11AM-9:30PM				
BIEKES BISTRO	787-451-9061		11AM-10PM				
CARAMBOLA	787-741-3318		7-3 AND 5-9:30			BRUNCH 7-2, DINNER 5-9:30	
CLUB VIEQUES	787-909-3125		DRINKS ONLY/DAY PASSES SAT. TEA DANCE 3-7PM				
COQUI FIRE	787-741-0401		5-9PM				
CRAB ISLAND RUM	787-934-8015					11-5	12-8
CUNDEAMOR	787-372-5343		8-2 BRUNCH			8-2 6-10	9-2 6-10
EL BLOK BREAKFAST	787-741-6020		7AM-12PM DINE IN OR TAKE AWAY COFFEE, PASTRIES, JUICE				
EL PLAZA	939-391-4916		5-10				
KALIENTITO	939-273-2431					10:30-5	
KRISTY'S ON THE CARIBE	717-226-6257		7AM-1PM			7AM-1PM	
LA HELADERIA JOILETTE				8:15-7PM			8:15-9PM
LAZY JACKS PUB	787-741-1447		11-1AM KITCHEN OPEN UNTIL 11PM			11-2AM KITCHEN-11PM	
MAMA MIA'S VIEQUES	939-489-9990			11-9			3-9



		FACEBOOK	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	
MANGO TAPHOUSE & GASTROPUB	939-891-2764		12:30-8				12:30-8:00			
MAR AZUL	939-402-9696		11-CLOSE		12-5	11-12AM	11-2AM		11-CL	
MELAO SOCIAL CLUB	787-254-8236		4-9PM TAPAS							
ORQUIDEA TRATTORIA & PIZZARIA	787-502-1118		5-9			5-9				
PLACITA @ EL BLOK	787-741-6020		5-10			5-10				
ROOFTOP @ EL BLOK (BAR ONLY)	787-741-6020					4-8 LIVE MUSIC FRI, SOL SET SUN				
RINCÓN DEL SABOR	939-358-1783		11-7:30 • DELIVERY AVAILABLE							
RISING ROOST (GUAKE'TE)					8AM-1PM					
SABOR UNICO	787-436-7539		9AM-5PM							
TAQUERIA 765	787-225-1580		5-10				5-10			
TAVERNA	787-438-1100					5:30-9				
TRADEWINDS	787-710-7440		4-8 (HAPPY HOUR 4-6)					4-8 4-6HH	9-2	

RESTAURANTS IN **FAJARDO, PUERTO RICO** NEAR FERRY

GABY'S BURGERS • FAJARDO	787-456-0149		2-10	11AM-10PM					
MAMA MIA'S 00738 • FAJARDO	939-353-2285		11AM-9PM						

TEA DANCE

EVERY SATURDAY
3:00-7:00PM
Pool and Bar Open at Noon
www.ClubVieques.com







CLUB VIEQUES

*** THE RESORT**

Club Vieques is an idyllic, adults-only, gay-friendly resort, nestled on four private acres just beyond the pristine beaches of Vieques. Relax, play, and explore your perfect island getaway.

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Dive into paradise with our Club Vieques Day Pass! Enjoy full access to our clothing-optional saltwater pool and Splash Bar. Sunbathe, sip, and soak in the Club Vieques vibe—no overnight stay required. Locals and visitors, see you poolside!






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- ⌘ Henna Brows
- ⌘ Waxing
- ⌘ Manicure / Pedicure



Products to repair sun damaged skin






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939-279-6920
English / Spanish

 [the_v_viequesboutiquespa](https://www.instagram.com/the_v_viequesboutiquespa)



Fantasia Caribeña represents Vieques in the NYC Puerto Rican Day parade and events in the Caribbean. Find out how to support on facebook [Fantasia-Caribeña-de-Vieques](https://www.facebook.com/Fantasia-Caribeña-de-Vieques).





YOGA WELLNESS

FINCA VICTORIA

- Every Day
- ❖ 8AM -Unless closed for a retreat / announced via Instagram

HIX ISLAND HOUSE

- Every Day
- ❖ 9:30am -Yen Yoga Class
- ❖ 4pm -Les Mills and Mat Pilates
- Hix Island House Hotel Yoga pavilion. For Reservations and information
- Call 787-435-4590

VIEQUES NATURAL WELLNESS CLASSES

www.viequeseventplanning.com/yoga
Location for classes listed on website. It is REQUIRED to sign up for classes online in advance due to limited space and equipment.

- MONDAY
 - ❖ 8AM- Yin & Restorative
 - ❖ 5PM- Sunset Slow Flow
- TUESDAY
 - ❖ 8AM - Group Fitness
 - ❖ 5PM- Yin & Restorative Sunset
- WEDNESDAY
 - ❖ 8AM- Yin & Restorative
 - ❖ 5PM- Sunset Slow Flow
- THURSDAY
 - ❖ 7AM- Sunrise Vinyasa Flow
 - ❖ 8AM -Group Fitness
- FRIDAY
 - ❖ 7AM- Sunrise Vinyasa Flow
 - ❖ 8AM -Slow Flow Yoga
 - ❖ 9AM- Slow Flow Yoga
- SATURDAY
 - ❖ 7AM- Sunrise Vinyasa Flow
 - ❖ 8:30AM - Group Fitness

LET'S DANCE

- SOME FRIDAYS - LIVE MUSIC @ EL PLAZA • CHECK FACEBOOK EL PLAZA VIEQUES
- SAT - CRAB ISLAND RUM DISTILLERY LIVE MUSIC 12-8
- SAT - TEA DANCE @ CLUB VIEQUES DJ AND COCKTAILS BY THE POOL 3-7
- SAT - KARAOKE @ MAR AZUL
- SUN - SOL SET @ EL BLOK ROOFTOP DJ AND SUN SET 4-8
- TUESDAYS AND THURS-DAYS SALSA CLASS 1PM AT COLISEO LUIS PAUL GONZÁLEZ WEDNESDAY 7 & 8 PM PUBLIC PLAZA ISABEL II, 787-477-1334



ZUMBA
➤ MONDAYS AND FRIDAYS - ZUMBA 5PM
PLAZA PÚBLICA DE VIEQUES

TREAT YOURSELF

TREAT YOURSELF	MASSAGE	COUPLES MASSAGE	SPA/BODY TREATMENTS	ESTHETIC SKINCARE	AROMATHERAPY	ARUVEDIC THERAPIES	MANI / PEDI	LASHES/BROWS	
Finca Victoria	•	•	•	•	•	•			787-646-0011
Jason Curry Massage	•								412-980-8544
Rising Dawn Massage	•								248-470-5495
Vieques Massage	•								787-435-1313
Vieques Boutique Spa			•	•			•	•	939-279-6920





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ISABEL II

- ▶ **AZUL GEM @ GALERÍA EMERIC**
787-690-3107
- ▶ **BLACK BEARD SPORTS**
939-283-6841
- ▶ **EL PESCADOR FISHING & MARINE SUPPLIES**
Call 787-231-2624
- ▶ **FINCA VICTORIA**
Every Day 8-7
- ▶ **JAK WATERSPORTS RETAIL STORE**
787-644-7122
- ▶ **KAVANI HANDMADE JEWELRY**
Kavanistudio.com
- ▶ **LUNA LOCA ART GALLERY AND GIFT SHOP**
803-292-3862
Mon-Sat 9-5
- ▶ **OLA LOCA BEACH STORE**
843-271-1910
Mon-Sat 9-5
- ▶ **SCALLYWAGS**
787-966-7540
Mon-Sat 10-6
Sun 10-3

ESPERANZA

- ▶ **ATREVIDA AT EL BLOK**
787-741-6020
Every Day 9-9
- ▶ **ROSA'S DEPOT**
787-741-1307
Mon-Fri 7:30-4
Sat 8-12
- ▶ **VIEQUES GIFTS**
787-435-1244
Every Day 10-7
- ▶ **TRADEWINDS GIFT SHOP**
787-710-7440
Every Day 11-5
- ▶ **CRAB ISLAND RUM DISTILLERY**
THURS & FRI 11-5
SAT. 12-8

RT. 995 PUERTO REAL

- ▶ **FINCA VICTORIA**
Every Day 8-4
- ▶ **EL FORTÍN CONDE MIRASOL**
Wed-Sun 8-12

ART GALLERIES

- ▶ **ERNESTO'S ART GALLERY**
939-248-7200
9-5 Every Day

- ▶ **GALERIA EMERIC**
9:30-4:30 Mon-Sat
- ▶ **GALERIA ISABEL II**
817-751-2066
Mon-Sat 10-4
Sun 10-2
- ▶ **SIDDHIA HUTCHINSON AND GLEN WIELGUS GALLERY**
787-556-5409
Mon-Sat 10-2, Sometimes Sun



CLASSES

- ▶ **THE ART OF SEEING PAINTING CLASSES WITH CARMEN LUND**
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from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.
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LOOK FOR IT IN STORES
AROUND THE ISLAND.



TROPICAL COCO KISSES
FIND THEM AT FAMILY
MARKET IN ISABEL II.



VIEQUES SPICE &
TRADING CO.
IN STORES AROUND THE
ISLAND.

12
X
12

VIEQUES HUMANE SOCIETY 12X12 BENEFIT ART AUCTION

Professional and aspiring artists with big hearts for our island animals donate original art on 12in x 12in square canvases for the auction. Vieques Humane Society receives 100% of auction proceeds and reception donations to support the island's only animal shelter. This could be your most unique island souvenir!
*Generously sponsored by Siddhia Hutchinson/Glen Wielgus Gallery, Isabell II, Vieques. Look at the 12x12 art online or visit the gallery to view firsthand. More info, gala tickets and bidding link at www.viequeshumanesociety.org

March 7 -donated 12x12 art due to the gallery*

March 14 -Open online bidding starts
5-7PM Ticketed Kick-off Reception: 12x12 Art For Animals Gala

March 28 -Open online bidding ends



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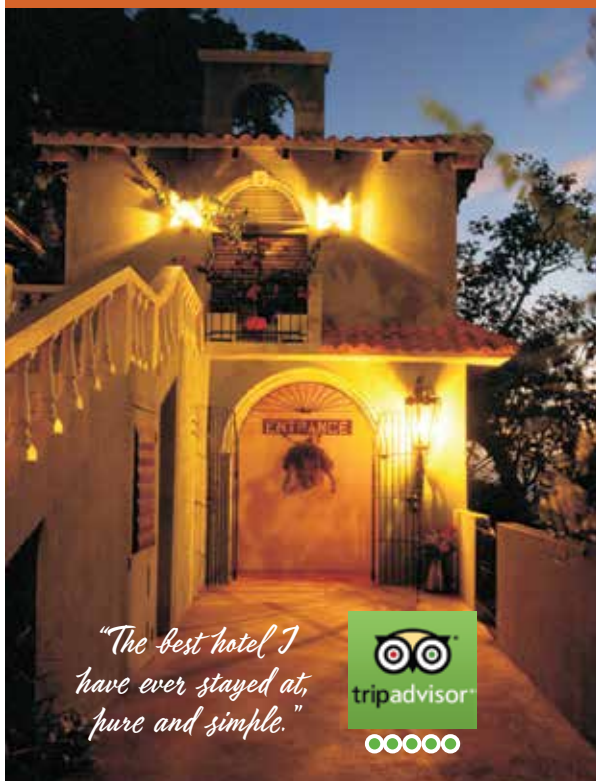
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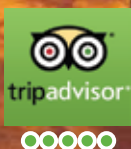


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SOLAR
HEATER

We are a registered corporation with the Department of State of Puerto Rico, Department of Treasury, Internal Revenue Service (IRS), and Department of Consumer Affairs (DACO), located in the beautiful Municipality Island of Vieques, PR. At Vieques Solar Solutions, we take pride in offering a range of specialized services that are at the heart of renewable energy and sustainability.

Our mission is to empower our clients and communities in the development of a more sustainable future. We specialize in the sale and installation of renewable energy equipment, while also providing valuable support in the creation of renewable energy projects.

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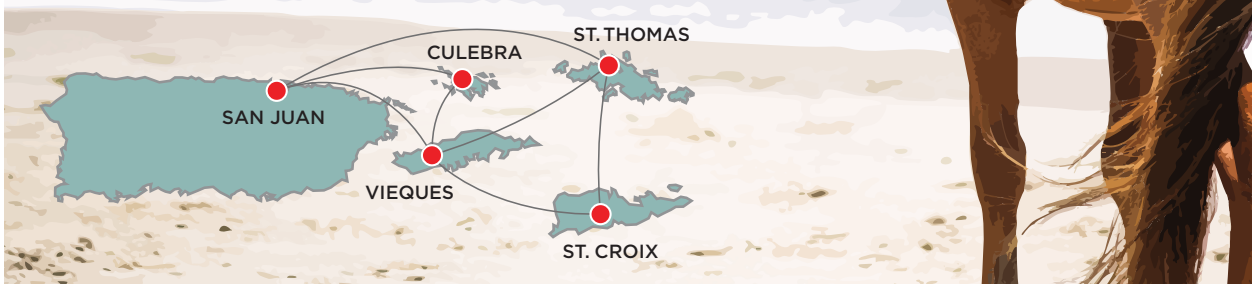
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with a
LOT of
stuff!**



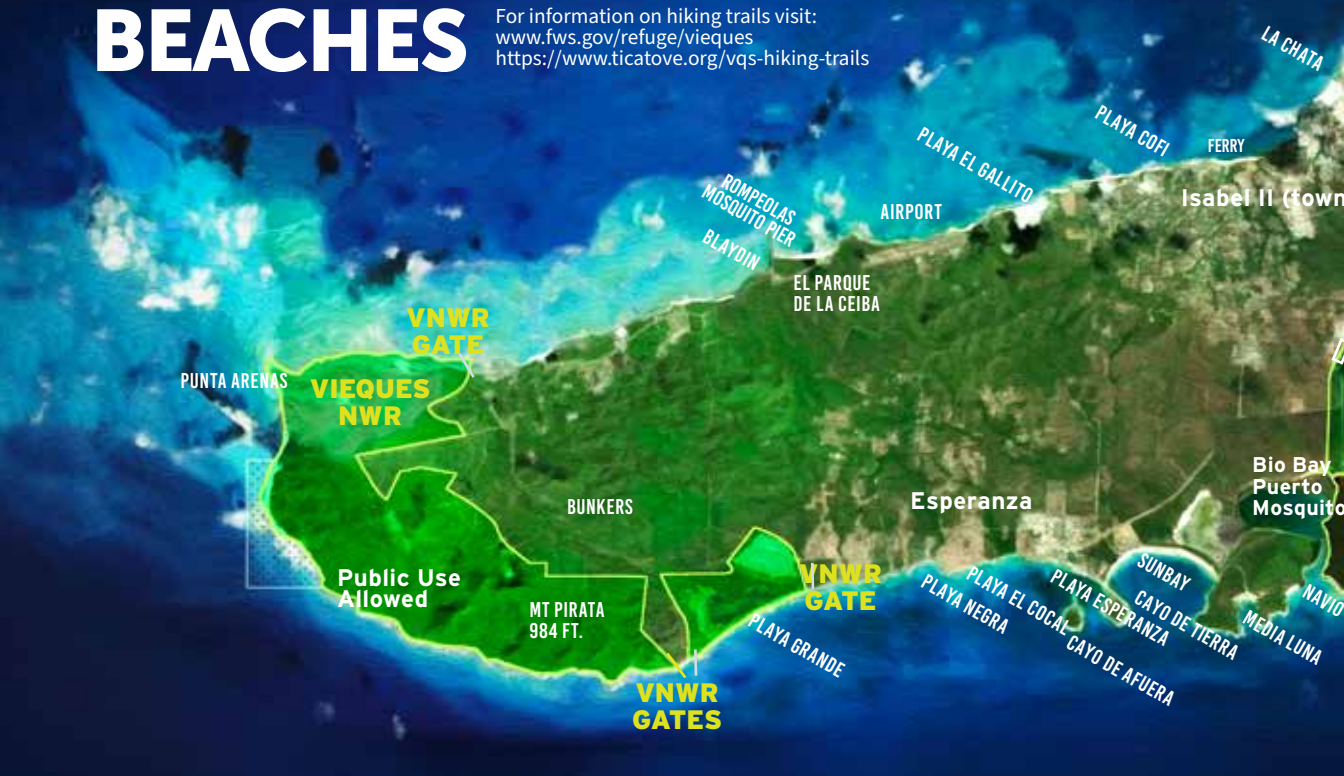
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VIEQUES BEACHES

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For information on hiking trails visit:
www.fws.gov/refuge/vieques
<https://www.ticatove.org/vqs-hiking-trails>



SOUTH SHORE BEACHES

SUNBAY Accessible by the gated entrance off 997, Sunbay is a one mile stretch of beach. Sunbay has lifeguards and bathhouse. There is an entrance fee of \$2-\$4 depending on time of year.

MEDIA LUNA Enter the gated entrance off 997 at Sunbay. Follow the dirt road at the end of Sunbay and travel 0.6 more miles to Media Luna. Great for small children, Media Luna is shallow. You can walk 30 ft out into the water and still be in waist deep water.

NAVIO Follow directions to Media Luna but pass Media Luna and take a left at the sign - go another 0.3 miles. The road is extremely rough and 4wd is sometimes required. Go into the cave on the left side of the beach (if facing the water) for an excellent photo spot! There's good surf so bring your boogie board!

ESPERANZA BEACH To the east and west of the sugar pier in Esperanza. Local hangout where families gather and kids jump from the end of the sugar pier or snorkel underneath.

PLAYA EL COCAL Leave Esperanza on Route 996 heading west. After passing the Vieques Guesthouse on your right, look for a driveway just before the gate of Villa Encantada. Take this

dirt road, which curves to the right, to reach the grassy parking area. This beach often has horses roaming around, so be sure to bring your camera! Playa El Cocal is rocky with strong waves and currents. For a stunning view of Esperanza, take a short hike around the rocky outcrop. Wear shoes!

PLAYA NEGRA (BLACK SAND BEACH) Leave Esperanza on 996 going west. Come to T (201) and take left. Drive 0.1 mile and look for the Playa Negra sign at the trail head. Drive 100 feet more to the parking lot across from Gallery Oro. Walk down the path to the dried stream bed and follow to the right. It is about a 20 minute walk to the beach. If it has rained, stream bed will actually be a small stream. Bring bug spray and water.

VIEQUES NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE*

CARACAS* From 997, turn into the Vieques National Wildlife Refuge at Km Marker 3.2. Go 2.6 miles to a sign for Caracas. Turn right and go .7 more miles. Little shade except for picnic gazebos in the grass area. Watch out for the sandburs! Be very careful where you step when you are in the grassy area and kids should wear their shoes down to the sand (or water's edge). Note: Only park in the parking lot, and not in the entire cul-de-sac at the very end, to avoid fines. It is only for emergency vehicle turn around.



PLAYUELA* From 997, turn into the Wildlife Refuge at Km Marker 3.2. Go 2.6 miles to the brown sign for Caracas. Turn right and go .6 mile to brown sign for Playuela and Tres Palmitas. Turn right and drive .1 mile to parking area for the Playuela Trail. Walk 10 min on a shaded trail and you're there!

PATA PRIETA* From 997, turn into the Wildlife Refuge at Km Marker 3.2 and go approx 2 miles. Pass turn to Caracas and continue straight on dirt road for approx 1 mile and turn right at Pata Prieta sign. After 0.2 miles, follow the road to the right to a small parking area with sign. Walk down the (slippery) gravel path to the left of the sign to the beach. Bring a beach umbrella as there is little shade!

LA CHIVA* From 997, turn into the Wildlife Refuge at Km Marker 3.2 and go approx 2 miles to the end of the paved road. Pass the sign for Caracas and continue straight on the dirt road. La Chiva has numbered spots #1-20. At marker #12 the road splits so stay right if you want to explore La Chiva spots #16-21. There are composting toilets at #3 & #12.

LA PLATA* Follow directions to La Chiva but when road splits take left and go 0.5 miles to reach La Plata. Parking lots/entrances are from #21-26. La Platita is the natural boat ramp at the end of the road.

PREVAILING WINDS:

WINTER - EAST TO NORTHEAST

SUMMER - SOUTHEAST



ON THE WEST SIDE

PLAYA GRANDE* Leave Esperanza on 996 going west and come to a T (rt. 201). Take a left. Go 1 mile to where the road dead ends and take a left. Follow road to the bottom of the hill, where you will be entering the southwest area of the Wildlife Refuge. Take a right onto dirt road to find a beach spot. Great beach for walking. Playa Grande is a turtle nesting beach so be sure to keep dogs on a leash and watch out for roped off nests. If you follow the dirt road west, you will run into the rugged Punta Vaca beach area. Good for hiking and nature exploration, but not safe for swimming.

PUNTA ARENAS* Follow directions to Rompeolas on the north shore but go past turn for pier and drive approximately 2 miles. You will come to a sign that says you are entering northwest area of the Wildlife Refuge. Drive 1 mile and come to a T / there are spots to the left and to the right with the best snorkeling to your left. Make sure to bring water and bug spray. No-see-ums come out in the late afternoon.

NORTH SHORE BEACHES

SEA GLASS BEACH Drive into Isabel II on 200 and make a left onto main street (Calle Muñoz Rivera). Almost at the end of the street you will see an intersection with a church on your right. Make a left here and at the next intersection make a right. Park on the street (not in the yellow!) and walk to the left of the gazebo down a path to the beach.

LA CHATA Drive by the ferry on your left and go up the steep hill to the right of El Yaté Bar. Go by the lighthouse on your left and take the next right down a steep little hill. Curve to your left and follow along this shoreline road. Pass La Lanchita on left and drive approximately 0.35 miles to a left turn onto a small dirt drive with two palms and large rocks at the end. La Chata! Keep your eyes open for sea glass. Don't be surprised if you are swimming with horses! Many people come here to exercise them.

EL GALLITO Go west on 200 toward the airport and look for a parking area and short peninsula on your right. The most accessible beach is on the right. Great place to be at sunset!

EL PARQUE CEIBA Go west on 201 approximately 1 mile past the airport and follow the sharp curve to the right. Go down a small hill and the Ceiba tree is on your right. Enjoy the Ceiba tree without climbing, marking or damaging the roots.

ROMPEOLAS Follow directions to the Ceiba tree but pass the Ceiba and continue on the main road to the left. Take the next right at the empty concrete structure with parking lot and this road will take you to the pier. Rompeolas pier is 1 mile long so it is great for beginning joggers or walkers! Great snorkeling on the left side of the pier but go with a guide. Twice a day the cargo barge docks at Rompeolas so you will find traffic in the early morning and late evening.

BLAYDIN BEACH OR MOSQUITO BEACH Follow directions to the pier but right before going out onto the pier there is a small sandy road to the left that leads to a shallow beach.

No-see-ums = sandflies that come out at sunset and they bite!



Watch out!
for the Coast Sandbur - *Cenchrus incertus* - very prevalent at Caracas and Pata Prieta and painful to step on.



Cell Service at the Beach If you hire a publico to take you to the beaches remember to arrange a pick up time before they drive off because cell service may not be available.



VIEQUES HUMANE SOCIETY

viequeshumanesociety.org

VHS, the island's only open-admission shelter, alleviates the suffering of our island's animals by providing temporary shelter, finding forever homes, offering spay-neuter services and a low-cost veterinary clinic for our community.



SCAN TO DONATE



VOLUNTEER WITH US



SCAN TO LEARN MORE

Visitors are warmly welcomed at our shelter! Volunteer opportunities include walking dogs, cuddling cats, hosting a pet for a field trip or sleepover, and escorting a pet on your flight to its new home.



IMPORTANT: Please resist the urge to pick up roaming animals; they're likely owned and will return home on their own!



**VIEQUES HUMANE SOCIETY
& animal rescue, inc.**

(787) 741-0209
Rt. 200 km 1.4 Santa Maria



/viequeshumanesociety



/viequeshumanesocietyp

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Club Vieques	787-909-3125
El Blok	787-741-6020
Encantada	786-239-7591
Esperanza Inn	939-233-0924
Finca Victoria	787-646-0011
Hacienda Tamarindo	787-741-8525
Hix Island House	787-435-4590
La Lanchita	845-891-1502
	800-774-4717
Lejos Eco Retreat	787-254-8236
Martineau Belle Playa	787-409-3057
Old Crow Hotel & Suites	787-741-0001
SeaGate Hotel	201-450-8238
The Blue	787-741-3318
Tradewinds Guesthouse	787-710-7440
The Vieques Guesthouse	787-435-1513
Tropical Guesthouse	787-397-2249
Villa Dos Palmas	802-272-0704
Waterside Inn	787-741-5555

ACCOUNTANT

Victor Simmons	787-936-7496
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AGRICULTURE

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Isla Nena Composta	787-309-8408
JaFlor	267-968-4197
La Colmena Cimarrona	787-502-4088
Extensión Agrícola	787-765-8000 x3921

AIRLINES

Taxi Aero Charters	787-718-8869
Cape Air	800-227-3247
Sebatian Aero Services Inc.	787-630-5389
Vieques Air Link	888-901-9247

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Hooves on the Ground	939-529-8848
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Our Big Fat Caribbean Rescue	787-349-8480
Vieques Humane Society & Animal Rescue	787.741.0209

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Fuerte Conde Mirasol	787-375-0525
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Galleria Isabel Segunda	207-467-0590
Luna Loca	843-271-1910
Lulu Atkin Ceramics	787-232-4976
Painted Paw Studio/Sarah Shearer	615-812-9144
Sandra Reyes	787-435-1155
Siddhia Hutchinson	
Glen Wielgus Gallery	787-556-5409
Vieques Historical Trust	787-741-8850

ATTORNEY

Gino Negretti	VQS Office	787-467-4349
	San Juan Office	787-725-5500
Frank López, Esq.	DBA F.L. Realty	787-466-6749

BABYSITTING

Sky Diaz Thompson (Fri & Sat. nt.)	787-435-3172
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BEE REMOVAL

Apiario Bieke	787-312-5848
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BIKE TOURS/RENTAL

JAK Water Sports	787-644-7112
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Fun Brothers	787-435-9372
Isla Nena Bio Bay Tours (boat)	787-403-5581
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Melaya's Tours	787-222-7055
Mosquito Bio Bay Tours	939-426-8561
Travesias Isleñas	787-447-4104

BOAT TOURS

Paradise Safari	939.244.2733
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Coqui Car Rental		787-741-3696
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Vieques Locksmith	787-564-5120

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Ivette Yolanda	787-435-1289

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Superdescuento Morales	787-306-3316
Pescaderia/Fish Market	787-349-8660

HARDWARE STORE

Rosa's Depot	787-741-1307
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HIKING/ISLAND TOURS

Black Beard Sports	939-283-6841
Ticatove	787-428-8288 (text
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HORSEBACK RIDING

Esperanza Riding Company	787-435-0073
Jurutungo Farm	215-692-7374
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KAYAK TOURS

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Jak Water Sports	787-644-7112
Travesias Isleñas	787-447-4104

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Crab Island Rum Distillery	787-934-8015
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Ayurvedic Wellness at Finca Victoria	787-646-0011
Blue Hill Reflexology and Massage	787-988-5914
Jason Curry	412-980-8544
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Vieques Historical & Conservation Trust	787-741-8850

PADDLEBOARD

Black Beard Sports	939-283-6841
Fun Brothers	787-435-9372
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Travesias Isleñas	787-447-4104

PHOTOGRAPHY/VIDEO

Daniel Fernández Photography	323-578-5788
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Blue Water Pool	
(Supplies / Fajardo)	787-328-4994
Pool Spa Tech Services	787-506-4898

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Melao Social Club 787-254-8236
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Finca Victoria 787-646-0011
Galeria Emeric 787-690-3107
Galeria Isabel Segunda 817-751-2066
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Luna Loca 787-685-2992, 803-292-3862
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Vieques Island Tours &Transport.787-397-2048

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Dr. Sam text/whatsapp only 845.800.5352
Vieques Humane Society & Animal Rescue 787-741-0209

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Vieques Natural Wellness 787-436-1055
Vieques Pilates, Yoga & Wellness 231-383-1885

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City Hall/Alcaldía 787-741-5000
Sun Bay 787-741-8198
US Fish and Wildlife Office 787-741-2138
Recycling Office 787-741-5000
Post Office 787-741-3891
PR Tourism Office Vieques Airport 787-741-2300
Isabel II 787-741-0800
AAA Autoridad de Acueductos 787-620-2482
FWS 787-741-2138
Vieques Post Office 202-791-7632
Vieques Gas 787-469-7734
Vieques Covid Hotline 787-340-3837

EMERGENCY

Ambulance 787-741-8261/911
Vieques CDT 787-685-3960, 787-741-0398
Emergency 787-741-8261 or 911
Fire Dept 787-741-2111
Police 787-741-2020
Municipal Office 787-741-5000
787-741-5051, 939-239-4164

PHYSICIANS/MEDICAL SERVICES

ASSMCA 787-741-4767
Behavioral Health Care 888-440-8787
Consejería Psicológica 787-547-9467
Dra. Daphne Torres (Dentista) 787-741-1916
Farmacia San Antonio 787-741-8397
Dra. Ivette Perez 787-468-2000
Dr. José Figueroa 787-223-1687, 787-366-1931
Dra. Fanny Garraton (dentist) 787-741-8765
Health Pro Med 787-468-2000
Hospicio 800-981-0054
Vieques CDT 787-685-3960, 787-741-0398

AA ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Monday-VCHT Meeting Room, 5:00pm
Tuesday-VCHT Meeting Room, 5:00pm
Wednesday-Catholic Church Rectory (bilingual), 5:00pm
Thursday-Playa Gallito, 8:30am
Friday-Catholic Church Rectory (bilingual), 5:00pm
Saturday-Catholic Church Rectory, 10:30am
Sunday-Women's Discussion Ceiba Tree, 8:00am
Sunday-Catholic Church Rectory, 10:30am
Contact: Lin 787-380-4990 or Dotti 787-741-0639

Alanon- for the family dealing with any substance abuse
Wed -Call Lynn for location 787-309-0798, 9:30am

NA Narcotics Anonymous
Thursday -Catholic Church Rectory, 5pm
Contact Kerry 917-834-3509 or Dotti 787-741-0639

The phone directory features our advertisers and local services. Advertising in one issue includes your phone number in both the printed directory and the online click-to-call directory for one year. To receive more information about advertising rates or to update your listing, please email kelly@viequesinsider.com.



WHERE TO **FIND** *the good stuff*

If you enjoy the challenge of hunting for the hidden gems, travel necessities or local treasures, skip this page.



► INFORMATION ON THE HISTORY OF VIEQUES >>

Visit El Fortín Conde Mirasol in Isabel II. Wed-Sun 8AM-12PM

► FRESH FISH, LOBSTER AND CONCH >>

Head to Pescaderia Zoe located on the first floor of El Norte Restaurant across from the ferry. Mon-Sat 10-2. Purchase fresh fish, lobster or conch when it is in season.

► SEE 80LB TARPIN >> Get to the Pescaderia Angelyz to the east of the ferry dock when the fishermen are bringing in their catch and see tarpon swimming close to shore waiting for scraps.

► LECHÓN >> Don Tito's Lechonera on Calle Patricio Tito Maldonado roasts pigs on Friday night to fill orders for Saturdays and holidays. Order by the pound before Thursday to pick up on the following Saturday 787-617-2748.

► LIMBERS >> Watch for the signs that say "Hay Limbers" at households around the island to purchase this frozen treat.

► FARMERS MARKETS >> Placita Reyes on the corner of 201 and 200 has fresh fruit and veggies on Tuesdays and Fridays 8am-5pm. Mercado Agroecológico Sambumbia is held the 2nd and 4th Friday of the month 11-2pm in the Isabel II Plaza. Watch for events at La Colmena Cimarrona, the farm on 997 where you can sometimes find pop up agriculture markets.

► SEAGLASS >> Most beaches have some amount of seaglass but La Chata, Playa Cofi, and Playa Voltio are popular sites to find it. Check the Insider beach map on pages 20-21 for locations or visit www.viequesbeachmap.com for more information.

► PUERTO RICAN COFFEE >> Rising Roost, Family Market and Morales are places where you can find Puerto Rican coffee beans, whole or ground. Have it prepared for you at Rising Roost to get your day started right. They use Gustos Reserva /Juracán a blend of beans from Yauco, Adjuntas and Las Marias Puerto Rico.

► LOCAL FOOD >> Along with all of the great restaurants on the island, the food trucks and kiosks each have their own local specialties! Don't be shy! Step right up to these streetside trucks or kiosks on the side of the road and you will be greeted with some of the best local food and a smile!



► LOCAL RUM >> Hand-crafted right here on Vieques, CRAB ISLAND RUM is not to be missed. Find it in local restaurants or stores. Take a tour, have a drink at the bar and enjoy live music at the distillery Thurs-Sat. 12-8.

► A FURRY FIX >> Contact the Vieques Humane Society to arrange time with a cat, dog, kitten or puppy for an hour, a day, your entire stay or forever! Take a dog for a walk on the beach, shelter a pet during your stay or just come in for a cuddle. Become a pet escort at no cost to you, and help a cat or dog get to their forever home in the states. 787.741.0209

► CAR VACUUM AND TIRE AIR PUMP >> Sand between your toes is good but when it's in your rental car you could be charged an



additional cleaning fee. Find a car vacuum and an air pump for your tires at Gomera Guzman on Rt. 200. at the intersection where there is a sign for La Praa.

► **THRIFT STORES>>** Visit the Vieques En Rescate thrift store on the corner of 200 and Calle Muñoz Rivera.. Your purchase will benefit the cancer patients on Vieques. The Catholic Church Thrift Store is located across from Taverna Restaurant

► **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS>>** Find out what's happening this week at www.viequesinsider.com.

► **CHARGERS/ELECTRONICS>>** Forget something that you can't live without? Find chargers, phones and other electronics at Quiñones Electronics next to Banco Popular in Isabel II.

ISLA NENA COMPOSTA
787-309-8408

Open /Abierta
Monday-Friday
Lunes-Viernes
7am-12pm, 1pm-3pm
Inside FWS Refuge

WHERE TO

RECYCLE ON VIEQUES

Currently dry cardboard, washed plastic and aluminum cans are recycled (aluminum and plastic does not need to be separated).

DROP OFF LOCATIONS

► **At the end of Calle Regimiento 65 de Infantería at Public Works Office.** Drive down Calle Muñoz Rivera (main street of Isabel II) toward the ocean. Take the last possible left onto Calle Plinio Peterson. At the next intersection make a right onto dead end and the recycling is at the Public Works building on the left.

► **Bunker 403** on the West Side of Vieques on 994 serves as the recycling center. Past the airport, Parque La Ceiba and Crab Island Rum Distillery, the left turn to the recycling center is approx 1 mi. past distillery. Look for painted, pallet signs. The recycling center is the third bunker on the right. Leave your bagged recyclables on the loading dock or in bins located at the entrance. Make a day of it by visiting the Ceiba tree, Rompeolas pier, Crab Island Rum Distillery and then visit the bunkers stopping at Bunker 403 to recycle!

VIEQUES INSIDER



www.viequesinsider.com

At Vieques Insider, our mission is to connect visitors with the heart and soul of Vieques—its history, ecology, people, traditions, and hidden gems. We believe that learning about this island enhances every experience, turning a simple vacation into a journey of discovery.

We're a small but dedicated team, working hard for both the island and our advertisers. Our goal is to highlight the incredible businesses, services, and experiences that make Vieques unique. Sometimes, island time wins out over deadlines, and we're not perfect—but we are always striving to improve.

Providing an authentic representation of Vieques to our primarily English-speaking guests can be a challenge without the voices and ideas of Viequesenses.

We deeply appreciate local contributions and encourage you to share your thoughts with us—email kelly@viequesinsider.com!

To our advertisers, thank you! Your support makes it possible to print Vieques Insider and provide it free to visitors, helping them navigate and appreciate all that Vieques has to offer.

To our readers, we look forward to hearing your ideas! If you visit a business you discovered in the magazine, please mention Vieques Insider. By promoting the island together, we help its culture, businesses, and natural beauty thrive.

kelly@viequesinsider.com
787 435 3172



FINCA VICTORIA

A Y U R V E D I C B O U T I Q U E H O T E L & R E T R E A T C E N T E R

HOTEL STAY

Finca Victoria offers 12 unique room categories, from serene treehouses to a charming Vintage Airstream. Surrounded by the lush landscapes of Vieques, each space blends rustic elegance with modern comfort. All stays include breakfast and daily yoga for a truly memorable experience.

WELLNESS CENTER

Our Ayurvedic Wellness Center offers therapies rooted in ancient traditions and complemented by modern practices. From Ayurvedic treatments to Western modalities and Chinese medicine, our services are designed to support balance and overall well-being, helping you reconnect with yourself.

YOGA

Join us for daily yoga classes, open to the public and welcoming all levels. Classes are \$15 per person, with mats and blocks provided. Walk-ins are welcome, except during private retreats when sessions are exclusive to guests. Stretch, breathe, and find your flow in our serene setting.

RETREATS AT FINCA VICTORIA

Finca Victoria offers the ideal setting for hosting or joining retreats. With versatile spaces for private events and workshops, and dedicated support to bring your vision to life, it's perfect for meaningful gatherings. We also host transformative retreats throughout the year, led by experienced facilitators specializing in wellness and personal growth. To host your own retreat, email us at retreat@lafinca.com.

DINNERS

On special occasions, we transform our Pavilion Area into a pop-up restaurant, creating a unique dining experience. Led by our talented chefs, these dinners showcase creative menus that highlight seasonal flavors. Announcements are made through Instagram and our website, so stay tuned to join us for these unforgettable evenings.

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photos by @danielfernandezphotos

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for current hours + activities!

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NECESSITIES

GROCERIES

- FAMILY MARKET**
ISABEL II
EVERYDAY 6AM-10PM
- MORALES SUPERDESCUENTO**
RT 200
MON-SAT 7:30AM-7PM
SUN 7:30AM -12PM
Holiday hours change
- MORALES EMPREZAS (PORTELA) ISABEL II**
MON-FRI 7AM-8PM
SAT 7AM-7PM
SUN 7AM-3PM
- MORALES ALMACENES**
ISABEL II
MON-FRI 7AM-4PM
SAT 8AM-12PM
- MOLINO ISABEL II**
MON-FRI 5AM-9:30
SAT-SUN 6AM-8:30
- VIEQUES FRUIT MARKET (MUNDO)**
MON-SAT 8AM-6PM
- MAMBOS (RT 997)**
EVERYDAY 7AM-9PM

GROCERY DELIVERY

- GOFERS**
Puerto Rico grocery pick up from Costco, Sams Club and Walmart. Trips every other Thursday. Call 787-220-0943 for more info.
- PRPRODUCE**
Groceries options - delivered straight to your door. Shop at www.avieques.com. Place order by noon on Monday. Groceries delivered on Tuesday.

FRESH FISH/LOBSTER

- PESCADERIA ANGELYZ**
NEAR FERRY DOCK
MON-FRI 10:30AM-2PM
- EL NORTE**
ACROSS FROM FERRY
FACEBOOK/EL NORTE REST.

VEGETABLE STAND

- PLACITA REYES**
TUES. AND FRI. 8AM-4PM
CORNER OF 200 AND 201

LAUNDROMAT

- ISLA NENA LAUNDROMAT**
MON-FRI 9:30AM-12PM
2PM-4PM
SAT 9:30AM-4:30PM
787-435-5615

GAS STATIONS

- THALERIA GAS STATION ISABEL II**
EVERYDAY 6AM-10PM
- MARISOL GAS STATION**
MONTE SANTO
EVERYDAY 6AM-8PM
- MONTE SANTO GAS STATION**
EVERYDAY 6AM-9PM

PHARMACY

- PHARMACIA REY**
52 C. BENITEZ GUZMAN
MON-SAT 8AM-7PM
SUN 10-6

HEALTHCARE/PHYSICIANS

- CENTRO DE SALUD DE VIEQUES**
787-765-2929
on google maps

HEALTH PRO MED CLINIC HOURS

MON-FRI 7AM-4PM
787-468-2000
#171 CLL REGIMIENTO 65 DE INFANTERIA, ISABEL II

DENTISTS

- DRA. DAPHNE TORRES**
CARR 200 KM 1.8
787) 741-1916

MUNICIPALITY

- CITY HALL**
787-741-5000

EMERGENCY

- EMERGENCY/AMBULANCE**
911 / 787-741-8261
- FIRE DEPARTMENT**
787-741-2111
- POLICE DEPARTMENT**
787-741-2020



Mark Martin Bras





40 YEARS OF ACTION

HOW VCHT IS PROTECTING VIEQUES FOR GENERATIONS TO COME

From preserving the brilliance of the Bio Bay to empowering future conservationists, the Vieques Conservation and Historical Trust has spent four decades proving that small efforts can lead to extraordinary change.

When you're walking along the Malecon, it's easy to miss the modest building that serves as the headquarters of the Vieques Conservation and Historical Trust (VCHT), but if you've taken a Bio Bay tour, snorkeled in the Vieques Wildlife Refuge, or explored the Playa Grande Sugar Mill Ruins, then you're familiar with what they do. Since 1985, the small-but-mighty team of dedicated scientists, conservationists, and community organizers that make up this nonprofit organization have been finding ways to nurture Vieques' most important resources, from the algae that makes the Bio Bay glow to the kids who are learning how to become the next generation of environmental stewards on Vieques and beyond. "We are an organization made up of wonderful people who are very committed to the cause, very hardworking, and very happy to be doing what we're doing," says Colleen McNamara, President of the Board of Directors, who has been an active member of the organization for over 25 years.



Tasked with a broad mission to foster, protect and conserve the environment, archaeology and culture

of Vieques, VCHT's purview has evolved to include initiatives as diverse as restoring seagrass beds, establishing resiliency centers for emergency preparedness, and advocating for the island on Capitol Hill. While wide ranging, these efforts share one essential thread. "*The Trust is proving that humans are a variable that can mitigate change,*" says Mark Martin-Bras, director of community relations and field research. "*We don't just sit there and complain about things. We're showing that Vieques is a place where people take action.*"

GUARDIANS OF THE BAY

VCHT has transformed the way that the island's visitors and residents interact with Puerto Mosquito, the world-famous Vieques bioluminescent bay. In 2012, the Trust implemented a two-week pilot program to train Bio Bay guides on safety and educate them on essential topics like

the science behind the light-producing plankton, the reasons that Puerto Mosquito is the brightest bioluminescent bay in the world, and the impor-



AJ Stetson Stetson

tance of the surrounding mangrove forest in maintaining the Bay’s delicate ecosystem. The program has been successfully replicated ever since, training hundreds of guides who have shared the beauty of the bay with hundreds of thousands of visitors. The Trust also helped design the infrastructure to ensure that the Bio Bay remains a sustainable tourist attraction that continues to dazzle onlookers and engage scientists, who come from as far as the United States, Europe, South America and other Caribbean islands to study this natural wonder.

The red streetlights that minimize light pollution around Vieques are another initiative directly tied to the Trust. As a founding member of the Puerto Rico Light Pollution Task Force, VCHT members even helped write a law that classified the entire island of Vieques as a high-value zone with the strictest of regulations. *“We also worked with Para La Naturaleza and the University of Puerto Rico on a NASA sponsored project to create a GIS of all of the lights that can be seen from the bay,”* says Mark. One of their scientific advisors, renowned architect Fernando Abruña, helped redesign the Lujan Sports Complex lighting plan.

However, human interference is just one obstacle to ensuring a bright future for the Bay. After the

devastating 2017 hurricane season, scientists from the University of Puerto Rico estimated that it would take 30 years for the 6,000 red mangroves that were lost to be restored naturally. *“Everyone in the room looked at each other and said, ‘no, we have to do something!’”* says Lirio Márquez D’Acunti, VCHT’s executive director. The organization embarked on The Mangrove Project to repopulate these important plants, which started with designing a system to grow mangroves in a controlled environment that gave them the greatest chance of survival. Through a lot of trial and error, they have so far replanted over over 2,000 mangroves – nursed from propagule to sapling before being planted. *“Then we discovered that it was not just the mangrove forest, but also the seagrass beds. So we embarked on restoring that, too,”* Lirio adds. Another project is in the works to revive the coral reefs that protect the entrance to Puerto Mosquito.



With climate change making the weather more and more volatile, the Trust has pivoted significant focus into emergency preparedness. In addition to maintaining two fully equipped resiliency hubs and communication centers on the island, the VCHT Resiliency Project empowers the community through education and training in radio operation, first aid, information distribution, and coordina-



tion with neighboring islands. In 2020, VCHT even became a founding member of the Climate Strong Islands Network, a coalition of organizations doing advocacy and education to promote just policies that support island communities facing climate change-related dangers.

CREATING FUTURE CONSERVATIONISTS

For the kids in Vieques, summer means Manta, VCHT's camp for ages 5 to 17. Campers spend days exploring their island on land and in the water, along with nights adventuring on the Bio Bay or camping out the Cayo. *"The MANTA experience was unique because it introduced us to parts of the island that we weren't aware of living here our whole lives,"* says 14-year-old Sky Diaz, who participated for 8 years and is the daughter of our proud-mom editor, Kelly Thompson.

Since MANTA was founded in 2006, thousands of Viequense youngsters have participated, and several have gone on to become Bio Bay guides and study science both on and off the island. *"The image of being able to become a marine biologist and wildlife manager first popped up in my mind when I was eight years old as a participant in the first mini-Manta,"* comments Hatuey Connelly, whose grandmother, Myrna Pagan,

was a founding VCHT member. *"Being a young kid interacting with Vieques' nature in a responsible way thanks to the guidance from the MANTA staff helped shape the image of what a grown version of me could become."* Now 22, Hatuey studies Wildlife Management and Marine Biology at the University of Puerto Rico in Humacao. *"I hope to divulge the knowledge I gather from my time in university to Vieques and create coastal resiliency programs to protect the island and the people that mean so much to me."* His ultimate goal is to found a natural science school for kids on Vieques, who often lack resources and access to advanced educational opportunities.

To help address such disparities, VCHT administers scholarships for post-high school education, and to date, more than 100 Viequense students have received financial support to pursue areas as diverse as molecular science, nursing, law, and civil engineering. *"Considering all of the limitations that Viequense students have academically and in terms of the cost to have experiences outside of Vieques, we are providing empowerment opportunities,"* says Mark. *"But we are trying to also work within the system here, like learning what the students need."*

"...the guidance from the MANTA staff helped shape the image of what a grown version of me could become."



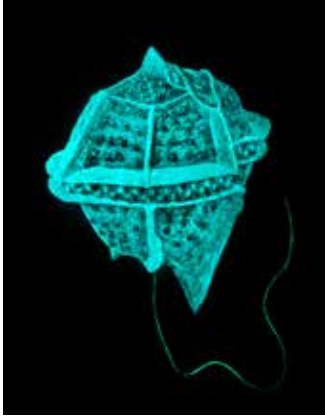
PUTTING VIEQUES ON THE MAP

In many ways, the work that the Trust does has helped put Vieques on the world's radar. On a macro scale, the organization has participated in public hearings, testified in front of the U.S. Senate and the Senate of Puerto Rico, collaborated with agencies and local governments about public policies for conservation, and been a vocal advocate for protecting the natural resources of Vieques, Puerto Rico, and the bioluminescent bays of the world. "Whenever we go to these meetings or do Zoom calls, everybody is so surprised that we are so tiny and we do so much," says Lirio. If they were familiar with Vieques, however, they might not be so surprised. *"The people of Vieques are many times misunderstood by people who are not Viequense. They'll fight to preserve their space."*

Supporting that deep sense of love and pride, VCHT often acts as a community organizer, running seminars on practical topics like compliance, budgeting, and grant writing to help other local nonprofits get off the ground and thrive. Says Mark, *"As more of the community gets involved in taking action, it's no longer just the Trust doing things for this community. It's now the community doing things for itself through the Trust. That is so uplifting."*

Reflecting on the past 40 years, it's hard to imagine where the island would be without VCHT. But perhaps it's more important to think about where will Vieques be 40 years from now because of the Trust. *"I think as Vieques faces massive social, environmental, and economic change, we want people to see all of the possibilities that come with taking action,"* Mark comments. *"And action is the only thing that gives hope. ■"*

"...action is the only thing that gives hope."



HOW YOU CAN HELP

There are several ways that you can help the Trust continue its work for another 40 years and beyond.

Become a member.

Send a donation.

Volunteer if you can commit to a long-term project.

Collaborate as part of another NGO or nonprofit.

SEE A TIMELINE OF THE VIEQUES CONSERVATION AND HISTORICAL TRUST'S WORK OVER THE LAST FOUR DECADES ON PAGES 50-51



11TH HOUR RACING NEW VIDEO SERIES ON ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

Introducing “Operation Restoration,” a new five-part film series by 11th Hour Racing that highlights five remarkable ecosystem restoration grantees. Through the eyes of those on the front lines, they share their passion, determination, and the impact of their work in restoring the planet’s balance.

"GLOW" VIEQUES, PUERTO RICO

In "Operation Restoration: GLOW," they follow the efforts of Hatuey, Mark, and Airmazul as they work to enhance climate resilience at the bay’s entrance. By studying water samples, planting mangroves, and engaging the community through workshops, the team at Vieques Conservation & Historical Trust aims to empower locals and protect this ecological treasure, ensuring its survival for future generations.



Did you know that one of Puerto Rico’s most important archeological finds was discovered in Vieques? The 2000-year-old carved jadeite talisman of an Andean Condor reveals the likelihood

of far-reaching trading routes from South America since neither jadeite nor Condors are native to Vieques. This majestic bird amulet became the symbol of The Vieques Conservation and Historical Trust when it was formed in 1984.

THE VIEQUES
CONSERVATION
& HISTORICAL
TRUST



FIDEICOMISO
DE CONSERVACIÓN
& HISTORIA
DE VIEQUES

2025 Events

Please check www.vcht.org for additional calendar events.

Feb 5 Wed.

Bird Walk*
7:30-11:10am • Meet just inside the entrance to Sun Bay

Feb 6 (and Mar 6)

VCHT Garden Tour
Get an inside look at some of Vieques’ finest gardens, with talks, refreshments and time to enjoy the lush landscapes. Tickets will be available at www.vcht.org.

Feb 19 Wed.

Bird Walk*
7:30-11:10am • Meet just inside the entrance to Sun Bay

Feb 12 Wed.

The 40th Anniversary of VCHT
6:00 PM – 10:00 PM •
El Blok, 158 Calle Flamboyán, Vieques, 00765, Puerto Rico
Celebrating our 40th anniversary as the pre-eminent charitable organization in Vieques. 7pm Dinner: an exquisite fusion of island flavors and gourmet dining at La Placita

March 22 Sat.

Let’s Glow Together!
Community celebration of VCHT at Crab Island Rum Distillery

* Our Bird Team volunteers love taking folks on Bird Walks, and there is no cost, but we ask that you consider making a donation or becoming a member of The Vieques Conservation and Historical Trust. If you are not a birder, consider downloading eBird, Merlin Bird ID, Bird Net, or the Audubon or All Birds PR Antigua apps on your mobile device before your Bird Walk. If possible, please bring binoculars and wear sturdy shoes. Regardless of your skill level, you are welcome to join us. Please email vcht.birding.team@gmail.com for additional information. If you have questions before, during, or after, or are a member of a large group, please email vcht.birding.team@gmail.com for additional information.

>>> Besides beaches and bioluminescence, Vieques has 105 “fairly common to common” birds and a variety of places and trails to see them. One popular bird walk begins at the Malecón in Esperanza, across the street from the Vieques Conservation and Historical Trust. Walk 0.3 miles along Esperanza beach to Cayo de Tierra, the left of the two small islands off Esperanza. It’s less than a mile around the Cayo. We recommend starting early in the morning when most birds are active.

Cayo de Tierra, Esperanza



Favorite APP: All Birds PR ->

Antigua, covering Puerto Rico

+ North East West Indies by

Mullen & Pohland GbR (Apple

users only). Other apps that

may be useful are MerlinBird ID,

BirdNET, Audubon, and eBird for

the advanced user, especially in

North America and Europe.



CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF VCHT

For four decades, the Vieques Conservation and Historical Trust (VCHT) has protected Vieques' natural and cultural resources while inspiring future conservationists. From organizing cleanups to supporting thousands of students, VCHT has driven conservation, preservation and advocacy on Vieques. It has collaborated with universities, co-authored research, and advocated for policies at local, national, and international levels. As an active voice in public hearings and policy discussions, VCHT has shaped legislation and awareness to safeguard Vieques, Puerto Rico, and bioluminescent bays worldwide.



2018: To provide the community with resiliency and disaster preparedness, the VCHT established resiliency hubs in Esperanza and the Escuela Barbosa. Equipped with emergency radio communications, solar energy, potable water, and storm-proof storage, the hubs provide essential support and training to first responders and the community.

2017: In the wake of Hurricane Maria, VCHT provided internet, water, satellite phone service, and accompaniment to the community.

2016: Entered into an agreement with the Puerto Rico DNER to co-manage the Vieques Bioluminescent Bay Nature Reserve.

VCHT became part of a national coalition of scientists and professors that created the ASPIRE (Active Societal Participation in Research and Education) approach.

2015: Hosted the first bilingual forum on light pollution, tackling the threat to the bioluminescent bay head-on and creating innovative solutions to preserve its magic.

Published groundbreaking bird research in the Journal of Caribbean Ornithology, sharing 32 years of data in a special issue on the Birds of Vieques Island, Puerto Rico.

2014: Entered into an agreement with the Municipality of Vieques for the permanent usufruct of the abandoned Barbosa school to convert it into an environmental facility for the benefit of the community of Vieques.

Opened the doors to the Barbara Bernache-Baker Bio-Bay Room, deepening the community's connection to this natural wonder.

2011: Financed by an EPA grant and the DNER, in partnership with the U.S. Geological Survey, the Municipality of Vieques improved the road to the bay from Sun Bay to prevent erosion and sedimentation through the installation of green infrastructure.

1989: VCHT helped to secure the designation via legislation for the Puerto Mosquito Bioluminescent Bay and its 283 surrounding hectares, including Sun Bay, Cayo de Tierra, Cayo Real, and the bordering waters, as the Vieques Bioluminescent Bay Reserve, a Puerto Rico Patrimonial Natural Reserve.

1986: Launched the first environmental education programs for local schools, planting seeds of conservation awareness in the community.

1985: Incorporated as a nonprofit organization in PR on October 25, 1985, to protect and preserve the unique natural and cultural resources of Vieques.

2010: Partnered with the Scripps Institution of Oceanography UCSD and the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources to kick off a groundbreaking monitoring program, tracking the bay's light-producing dinoflagellates and shining a light on marine science.

- Member of the White House Task Force for the Sustainability of Vieques.



2019: Launched the MANGROVE PROJECT to restore the mangrove forest vital to Puerto Mosquito Bioluminescent Bay that was devastated by Hurricane Maria. This long-term project, which continues, has had the support of PhDs Elvira Cuevas and Ernesto Medina, ConPRmetidos, Hispanic Federation, The Ocean Foundation, 11th Hour Racing, New York Community Trust, Well Beings Charity, Rivian Foundation, NOAA, USFWS, Adjuntas Landscaping and Vetiver Systems, local businesses, VCHT, and community members.

The VCHT became a member of the UNESCO Western Tropical Atlantic Decade of Planning group.

2020: The VCHT becomes a founding member of the Climate Strong Islands Network, a coalition of island organizations doing advocacy and education to promote just policies that support islands and their communities in facing climate change.

Magos de la Naturaleza – vocational skills training for Viequense youth during the pandemic when the schools were closed. Over 50 trained guides.

2021: The Mangrove Project grew to include the restoration of the seagrass beds besides the mangrove forest.

Lirio Marquez D'Acunti serves as co-chair of the Climate Strong Islands Network Steering Committee through 2024.

2022: The Barbosa Resiliency Hub became the Barbosa Center for Resiliency and the Environment where the VCHT mangrove nursery resides, and in partnership with the Vieques Amateur Radio Club, established an emergency radio-communications hub.

2023-2024: The Mangrove Project was expanded through several grants to include the restoration of the coral reefs that protect the entrance to the bay.

2001: Created the Marine Life exhibit fondly known as the World's Smallest Aquarium—the only educational aquarium in Puerto Rico and a beloved attraction for residents and tourists alike!

2005: Launched a scholarship program for Viequense students, empowering over 100 local scholars to date to pursue higher education and build a brighter future. This is an ongoing program funded by generous VCHT member-donors.

2006: Unveiled the award-winning MANTA Program: (Movimiento en Apoyo a Nuestros Tesoros Ambientales—Movement in Support of our Environmental Treasures) Environmental Education through Recreation. began as a 2 week summer program hosting 12 viequense children between 12 to 17 years of age has grown into a year round program that visits all of the schools and hosts 6 weeks of summer education, impacting thousands since it's inception. The program has been funded by VCHT members, community sponsors and by the Peter Alfond Foundation and Well Beings Charity.

2009: Celebrated the first and only Symposium on Bioluminescence ever held in Puerto Rico with the participation of renowned scientists, the local community, Federal and Puerto Rican government agencies, and members of the Puerto Rico Legislature.





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The logo for Altamira Vieques is prominently displayed in the center. It features the word "Altamira" in a large, white, stylized font, with "vieques" in a smaller, white, sans-serif font below it. The background of the advertisement shows a modern white villa with a balcony, surrounded by tropical vegetation and a swimming pool. A small inset image on the left shows a sunset over the ocean.A square QR code is located in the bottom left corner of the advertisement, likely linking to the website mentioned in the text.The logo for Rising Roost features a detailed black and white illustration of a rooster standing on a small patch of ground. Below the rooster, the words "Market & Café" are written in a small, sans-serif font, and "Rising Roost" is written in a larger, bold, sans-serif font.

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The logo for Guake'te features a large, stylized letter 'G' with intricate, traditional patterns inside it. Below the 'G', the word "Guake'te" is written in a stylized, handwritten-style font.

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A circular QR code is located in the bottom center of the advertisement, likely linking to the website mentioned in the text.



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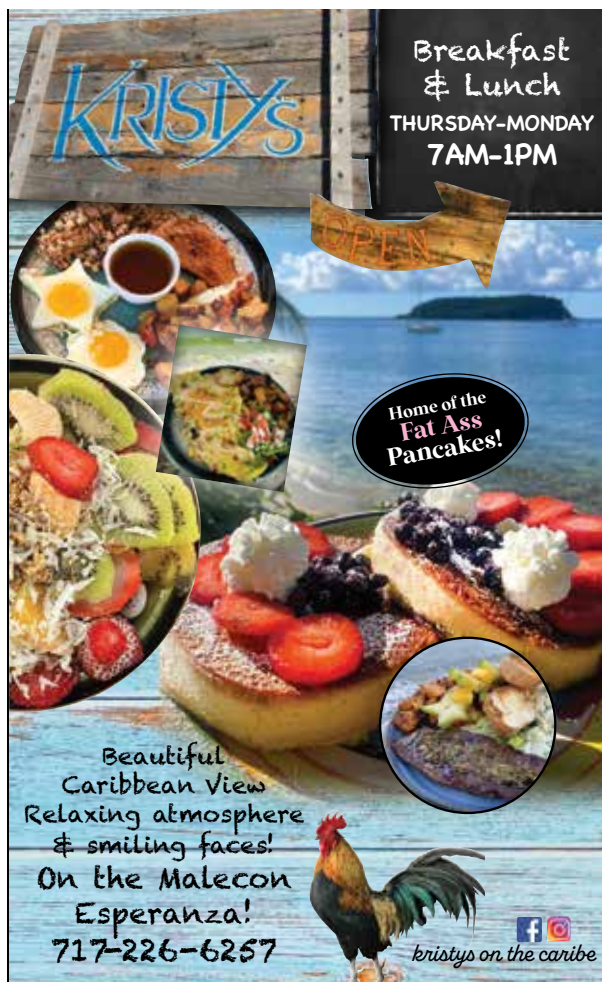
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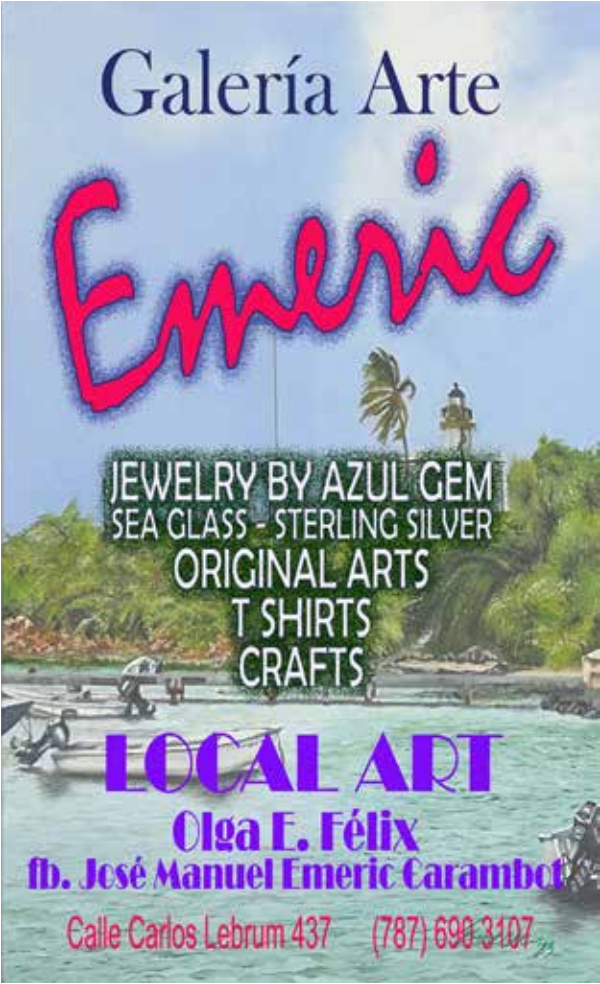
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Volunteer opportunities at Vieques Humane Society, our island's ONLY animal shelter:

- Beach Doggy or Kitty Cuddle Session. Spend a little time with a shelter pet or take a pup for a beach walk.
- Dog for a Day. Our dogs love car rides, beach days, and day-trip adventures.
- Vacation Pet Proxy. Are your accommodations pet friendly? Consider fostering a shelter pet during your stay.
- Pet Escort. If you don't mind an extra carry-on, VHS animals often need to hitch a ride to folks waiting for them stateside (no cost to you).
- It's a Keeper. You've decided to adopt your new best friend. VHS can help with all the travel details, including what to do if you are travelling before your pet can see the vet (a travel requirement). See viequeshumanesociety.org/travel
- The Vieques Humane Society has a wishlist of items that you can purchase from this amazon link [//viequeshumanesociety.org/wish-list](http://viequeshumanesociety.org/wish-list) and ship to Vieques Humane Society, HC 2 Box 11616, Vieques PR 00765

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PLAYA NEGRA

Playa Negra is more than just a beach—it's a testament to the natural forces that have shaped Vieques into the vibrant, diverse island it is today. Its' blend of beauty, science, and adventure makes it a must-visit spot for anyone looking to connect with the island's unique character. Tucked away southwest of Esperanza, this beach requires a ½-mile hike through an arroyo (stream bed), which may have a small stream if it has recently rained. The beach is more for exploring than swimming, as the water here can be rough with strong currents.

WHAT MAKES IT BLACK?

The black sand is the result of shifting tectonic plates pushing magma up through the surface of high areas like Mount Pirata, the highest point on Vieques. The magnetic, heavy but fine sand washes off the mountain and down through the stream bed, creating the black sand beach. The sand is rich in magnetite, a mineral that comes from the volcanic rock found in Vieques' ancient geological formations. Over time, rain and streams have carried this black material down the hillsides to meet the lighter-colored sands of the coastline, creating a striking mix that shimmers in the sunlight. Depending on rains, the beach can be jet black or a mixture of the black sand and red limestone. If you scoop up a handful of Playa Negra's black sand, you will be surprised at how heavy it is. Magnetite has a density of approximately 5.2 grams per cubic centimeter, which is significantly higher than typical quartz sand (2.6 g/cubic centimeter). This makes magnetite-rich sand much heavier than ordinary beach sand.

Magnetite is composed of about 72.4% iron, making it one of the densest naturally occurring minerals on Earth. This high iron content increases the overall mass of sand containing magnetite. This unique physical property adds to the fascination of magnetic black sand beaches, making them a great place to explore geology in action!

INSIDER TIPS:

Mind the Heat: Black sand absorbs heat quickly. Wear shoes to protect your feet from the midday sun.

Plan to do more than one beach on the day you visit Playa Negra. You probably won't stay all day because it's not a swimming beach.



Photo: Esperanza Riding Company

DID YOU KNOW? The black sand is magnetic! Bring a small magnet to see for yourself as the particles cling to it, showcasing the island's volcanic origins in a fun, hands-on way.

Because of its magnetic properties, visitors with phones that have magnetic cases should be careful setting them down, as the sand may stick to the case or cause scratches.



**AUDIO
TOUR
VIEQUES
PLAYA
NEGRA**



Joe Lovotti



Linda Quinn



Karl Alexander



AJ Stetson Stetson

Must-Do Activities on Vieques

Insider Picks! The short list!

Vieques Insider has handpicked a list of must-do activities across the island to help you experience its diverse beauty and rich culture. Think of these as just the beginning—along the way, you’ll discover even more hidden gems. Let this guide spark your curiosity and lead you to unforgettable adventures in Vieques!



For the Nature Lover

- **Book a Tour:** Choose from guided eco-tours, bio bay, sailing, snorkeling, scuba, horseback, or fishing tours to make the most of your visit.
- **Bioluminescent Bay (Puerto Mosquito):** Experience the world’s brightest bioluminescent waters on a guided kayak or electric boat tour.
- **Vieques National Wildlife Refuge:** Explore mangroves, lagoons, and secluded beaches like Playa Caracas and Playa La Chiva. Perfect for hiking, birdwatching, and beach hopping!
- **Playa Negra (Black Sand Beach):** Hike through lush vegetation to reach this volcanic-sand beach, a hidden gem for nature enthusiasts.

- **Parque la Ceiba:** Marvel at a 300-year-old sacred tree, a symbol of resilience with sprawling roots and cultural significance.
- **Horseback Riding:** Book a group trail ride to explore the island’s natural beauty .

For Local Flavor

- **Crab Island Rum Distillery:** Enjoy craft cocktails, live music and local flavor while sipping artisan craft rum made right here on Vieques.
- **Esperanza Malecon:** Stroll this vibrant esplanade with restaurants, bars, and local shops. Perfect for sunset views and seaside dining.

- **Restaurant Hopping:** Sample Vieques’ culinary scene, from fresh seafood to authentic Puerto Rican dishes.
- **Bar Hopping:** Enjoy local cocktails and live music at bars scattered across the island.
- **Kiosks:** Indulge in street food and meet locals at lively food stalls near popular beaches.



Must-Do Activities on Vieques

Insider Picks!The short list!

For the History Buff

- >

Fortín Conde de Mirasol:

Visit the 19th-century Spanish fort-turned-museum with exhibits on Vieques’ colonial and U.S. Navy history.
- >

Historical Navy Bunkers:

Explore relics of Vieques’ military past.
- >

Vieques Conservation and Historical Trust:

Learn about the island’s ecological and cultural heritage and visit the world’s smallest marine life aquarium!
- >

Puerto Ferro Archaeological Site:

Visit one of the oldest archaeological sites in Puerto Rico and the Greater Antilles, featuring ancient human remains and massive boulders linked to the island’s volcanic history.

For the Beach Goer

- >

Sun Bay:

Relax on soft white sand under shady palms, with free-roaming horses as a bonus.
- >

Playa Navio:

Venture to a secluded spot with waves perfect for bodyboarders and adventure seekers.
- >

Playa La Chiva:

Spend the day. Known for its crystal-clear waters, this beach offers stunning snorkeling and swimming opportunities.
- >

Punta Arenas:

Snorkel in calm, shallow waters rich in marine life at this serene spot.

For the Adventurer

- >

Novillo Trail:

Hike this scenic trail through the island’s lush terrain to a secluded beach.
- >

Mount Pirata:

Make the trek. At 987 feet, this is a challenging hike offering panoramic views of the island and surrounding waters.
- >

Puerto Ferro Lighthouse Ruins:

Discover this 19th-century lighthouse and enjoy panoramic coastal views.
- >

Esperanza Sugar Pier:

Snorkel, dive, or join the locals and jump from this historic structure teeming with marine life.



AJ Stetson Stetson



Find out what’s happening on Vieques at

www.viequesinsider.com





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¿CÓMO SE DICE...? HOW DO YOU SAY...?

Basic Spanish for your visit to Vieques
HEATHER KNORR

GREETINGS:

Hola, ¿cómo estás?	Hi. How are you?
Buenos días, Buen día	Good morning
Buenas tardes	Good afternoon
Buenas noches	Good evening/night
Feliz Navidad	Merry Christmas
Feliz Año Nuevo	Happy New Year
Buen Provecho	Enjoy your meal

FAREWELLS:

Qué tenga un buen día	Have a nice day
Hasta pronto	See you soon
Qué Dios le bendiga	May God bless you
Hasta luego	See you later
Adiós	Goodbye
Buenas noches	Goodnight

AROUND TOWN:

Por favor & Gracias	Please & thank you
¿Cuánto cuesta...?	How much is it...?
¿Aceptan tarjetas de crédito?	Do you accept credit cards?
Efectivo	Cash
Me gustaría...	I would like...
Yo quiero...	I want...
Yo tengo / Yo no tengo...	I have / I don't have
No entiendo.	I don't understand.
¿Dónde está...?	Where is...?

DIRECTIONS:

¿Cómo se llega a...?	How do I get to...?
A la derecha	To the right
A la izquierda	To the left
Derecho/recto	Straight
Sube/baja	Go up/go down
En la esquina	on the corner
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	

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Sunny Rumarita

2½ ounces Crab Island Orange
Infusion Rum

1½ ounces Triple Sec
(or Grand Marnier)

3 ounces fresh orange juice

1 ounce fresh lime juice

Honey for desired sweetness

Combine ingredients in a cocktail
shaker and shake.

Serve over crushed ice.

Salt or sugar your rim.





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sofrito

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10-12 ajíes dulces
(may substitute 2 cubanella peppers)

10 – 12 leaves recaó (may substitute cilantro)

½ red or yellow onion

3 cloves garlic

Blend all ingredients in food processor or blender. Pour into airtight container and refrigerate.



Buen Provecho - *Enjoy your meal!*



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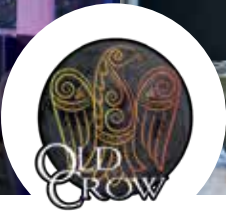
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