

VIEQUES INSIDER

Connecting Visitors to Vieques

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www.viequesinsider.com
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BEACH + TRAVEL *Guide*





CONNECTING THE Caribbean




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BEACH + TRAVEL

Guide

Welcome to Vieques, where life moves to nature’s rhythm and time is marked by sunsets and tides. Vieques is not for everyone, and that’s what makes it special. Expectations of everyday conveniences might need a slight adjustment, but Vieques rewards you with something far greater: authenticity, beauty, and an irresistible charm that lingers long after you’ve left.

This Beach & Travel Guide was created to be your companion, whether you’re planning your first visit to Vieques or returning to “*La Isla Nena*” to fall in love all over again. If you’re here for the first time, rest assured: you’re about to discover paradise. If you’ve been here before, you already know, Vieques has a way of captivating the soul.

Life here moves slowly, and the best moments are often the simplest ones. Inside these pages, you’ll find everything you need to make the most of your journey—from beach guides (offering everything from calm snorkeling coves to wild, open stretches of sand) to local sites, food, and practical tips for experiencing Vieques with respect for its natural beauty and welcoming community.

Vieques Insider’s 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. In this issue we have gathered some of our favorite articles, photos and helpful information to help you plan your trip and discover all that Vieques has to offer.

For more information about Vieques visit www.viequesinsider.com or scan here.



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A group of people are participating in a parade on horseback. In the foreground, a woman in a yellow shirt and blue pants is riding a grey horse, and a man in a white shirt and blue pants is riding a brown horse. They are both smiling and waving. A crowd of people is watching from the sidewalk, and a motorcycle is parked on the right. The background shows a building with a sign that says "CASA DE LA CULTURA" and a large tree.

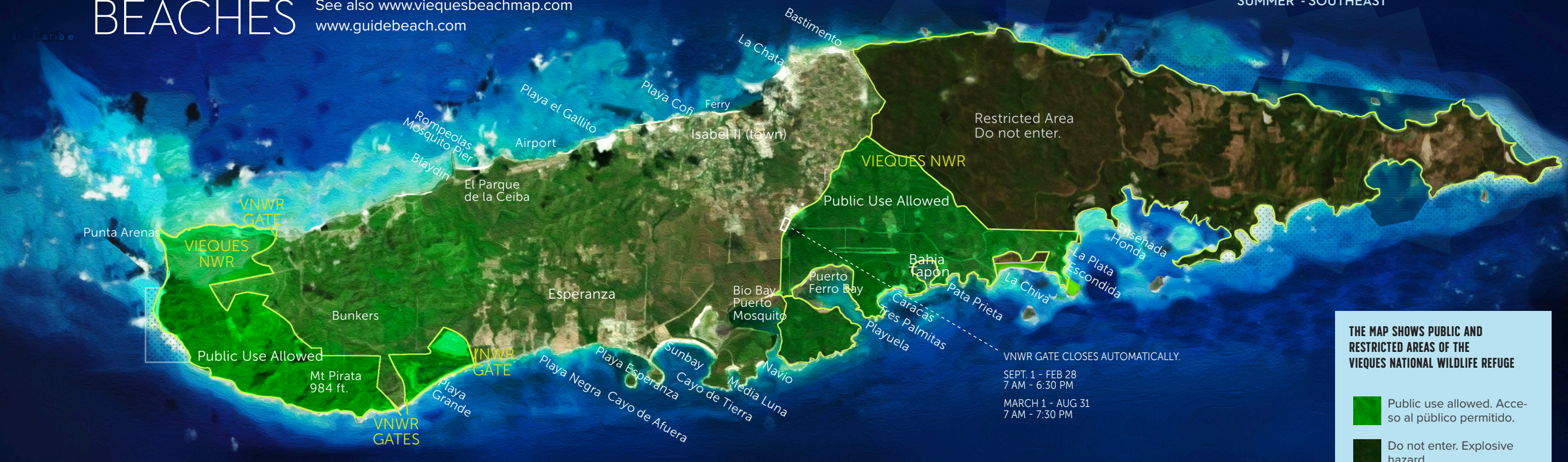


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VIEQUES BEACHES

Download the Vieques Insider Beach Guide at www.viequesinsider.com
See also www.viequesbeachmap.com
www.guidebeach.com

PREVAILING WINDS:
WINTER - EAST TO NORTHEAST
SUMMER - SOUTHEAST



THE MAP SHOWS PUBLIC AND RESTRICTED AREAS OF THE VIEQUES NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

- Public use allowed. Acceso al público permitido.
- Do not enter. Explosive hazard.
- No entre. Peligro de explosión.
- Mariners prohibited from entering this area. Se prohíbe a los navegantes entrar a esta área.
- Mariners are prohibited from anchoring, dredging, or trawling in this area. Se prohíbe a los navegantes anclar, dragar o la pesca de arrastre en esta área.

SOUTH SHORE BEACHES

SUNBAY Accessible by the gated entrance off 997, Sunbay is a one mile stretch of beach. Sunbay has lifeguards and bathhouse. The entrance is 5 miles from Isabel II and 0.7 miles from Esperanza (the Malecon). 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. Also, for a free “spa experience,” enjoy an exfoliation from the silky, fine sand.



NAVIO Follow directions to Media Luna but pass Media Luna and take a left at the sign and go another 0.3 miles. The road is extremely rough and 4wd is sometimes required but you can also park at Media Luna and walk to Navio. 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 fishing piers in Esperanza.

PLAYA NEGRA (BLACK SAND BEACH) Leave Esperanza on 996 going west. Come to T (201) and take left. Drive 0.1 mile and there will be a guard rail and small pull off on your left. Drive 100 feet more to Gallery Oro and park in the lot across the street. 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. Rough road so 4wd is recommended. 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 #11 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.

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 (north shore), but pass the pier turn and drive about 2 miles to the northwest Refuge entrance. Continue 1 mile to a T-intersection; both left and right lead to beach spots, but the best snorkeling is to the left. Bring water and bug spray, as no-see-ums appear in the late afternoon. The area gets busy with anchored boats on holidays. To get the most out of this snorkel, go with a guide—you'll miss a lot if you don't know where to look.

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 On 200 going west look for a parking area and short peninsula on your right. The beach is on the right. Great place to be at sunset!

EL PARQUE CEIBA Go west on 200 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.

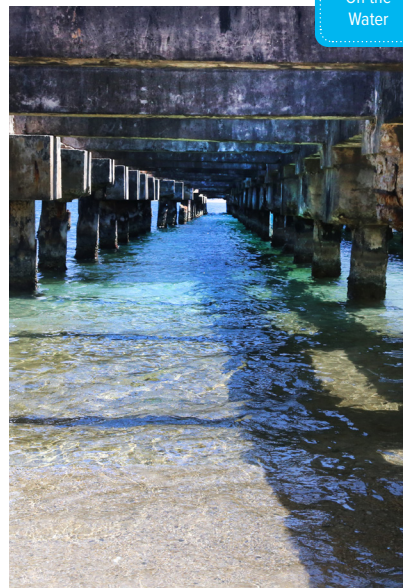
ROMPEOLAS From the Ceiba tree, continue along Route 200 and turn right at the empty concrete structure or lot; the road leads to the pier. The pier is about a mile long and popular with joggers and walkers. Excellent snorkeling can be found on the left (west) side but go with a guide for the best experience. Watch out for low-hanging concrete under the pier, and be aware that the cargo barge docks twice daily, bringing 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. There are lots of starfish here so be very careful where you step!

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

Vieques has the highest number of public beaches of all the municipalities in Puerto Rico. Beaches are in protected areas and are safe. Stay in the designated public areas. Never enter restricted areas that are marked with extensive signage.

Practice 3Rs
Recognize, Retreat, Report
Practiques las 3Rs
Reconozca, Retroceda, Reporte



5 Land-Accessible Snorkel Spots

> PROTECT VIEQUES REEFS :

If you can't raise your head out of the water to adjust your mask without stepping down (and damaging the reef below), DON'T venture out on your own! Go with a guide instead. If you are an experienced snorkeler here are 5 recommended spots.

MOSQUITO PIER (ROMPEOLAS)

A mile-long jetty on the north shore with coral, colorful fish, and often sea turtles around its 40-foot pilings. Enter from rough stone steps at the last palm on the left—take care with the entry.

ESPERANZA SUGAR PIER

Once the main dock for Vieques' sugar industry, today only concrete pillars remain stretching 200 feet into the sea taking you from shore to a depth of around 10 feet. If you are an experienced snorkeler and want to teach your kids the basics, this spot is ideal. It has a sandy beach for entry, some soft corals and sponges on the concrete columns, and always some fish under the pier.

CARACAS

Caracas is a swimming beach so head to the left or right sides to enter the water to snorkel. Usually calm, this location has rocky areas on the east end and usually very good visibility. Look for rays.

LA CHIVA 10

La Chiva 10 is undoubtedly the standout beach for underwater photography. A novice should keep close to the shoreline. The experts can swim out to deeper water. Rays, Tarpon, and various corals will put your head on a swivel, so keep track of your partner.

PUNTA ARENAS

At the far western tip of the island, this reef offers consistent visibility, plentiful fish, and abundant turtles. Enter by the sandy area near the beach hut. Beware of scorpion fish on the bottom and strong currents at the tip. Nurse sharks sometimes rest under the rocks here. The best times are between 10 am and 2 pm as the noseeums (biting gnats) come out in the afternoon.



Snorkeling Vieques

The secret is out. Vieques has grown from a hidden treasure to one of the top snorkeling destinations in the Caribbean.



3 Ways to Snorkel Vieques

1. OPEN-WATER REEFS (BY BOAT ONLY)

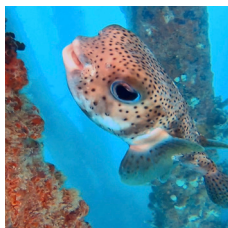
Some of the island's most spectacular reefs—like Lemon on the south shore, or Cayo Blanco and Mosquito Reef on the north—can only be accessed with a charter. These reefs are alive with vibrant corals, fish, and sea turtles.

2. INSHORE REEFS (WITH A TOUR)

Guided tours by kayak or swim are a safe and family-friendly way to explore reefs close to shore. Licensed guides tailor trips to your skill level and ensure you see the best wildlife while protecting fragile reef systems.

3. EXPLORATION SNORKEL (FROM LAND)

For strong swimmers and experienced snorkelers, several spots are accessible right from the beach. Always check conditions before entering, and never snorkel alone.



Sea Life You May Encounter

Turtle, ray, shark, barracuda, octopus, eel, conch, lobster, manatee, sea urchin, starfish, crab and too many species of tropical fish to name.

VIEQUES INSIDER RECOMMENDS

Go with a Guide

The safest and most responsible way to snorkel is with a licensed, insured local tour company. Unless you're highly experienced, always go with a pro—especially if it's your first time. Guides know the best spots, protect the reef, and keep you safe.

>
Food

verde - green

maduro - dead ripe

amarillo - yellow

THE VERSATILITY OF
PLANTAINS

Tostones and amarillos are two beloved Puerto Rican dishes made from plantains, a close cousin of the banana. **Tostones** are made from green, unripe plantains that are sliced, fried, flattened, and fried again until crispy and golden—often served with garlic or mayo-ketchup sauce. **Amarillos**, on the other hand, are ripe, sweet plantains that are sliced and fried once until caramelized on the outside and tender inside. These dishes showcase the versatility of the plantain and are a staple on nearly every Puerto Rican table, complementing everything from rice and beans to seafood and meats.

Coquito

No Vieques guide would be complete without this festive favorite! Our traditional homemade eggnog blends creamy coconut, warm island spices, and a generous splash of rum for the perfect taste of Vieques in a glass.

THE EASY RECIPE

- 2 cans (12 oz. each) Evaporated Milk
- 1 can (15 oz.) Cream of Coconut
- 1 can(13.5 oz.) Coconut Milk
- ½ cup Sweetened Condensed Milk
- ½ cup white rum (optional)
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- ½ tsp. ground cinnamon, plus more for garnish, if desired

In bowl of blender, add evaporated milk, cream of coconut, coconut milk, sweetened condensed milk, rum (if using), vanilla extract and ground cinnamon. Blend on high until mixture is well combined. Pour coconut mixture into glass bottles or containers. Transfer to refrigerator. Chill until cold. To serve, stir or shake bottle well to combine. Pour coquito into small serving glasses. Garnish with ground cinnamon and cinnamon sticks, if desired.

Make good choices!

SWEET PERFECTION

Quesitos are delicious puff pastries with cream cheese filling. Find them at any of the local bakeries. But get there early!

Arepas can be fried or baked and are served at many restaurants as a side dish. Look for baked arepas stuffed with guava and cheese being sold around the island.

BETTER MAKE MINE A Light
pronounced Med-da-ya

Until 2011, this was the only mass-produced beer in Puerto Rico and comes in one version only; Light.

SE VENDEN COCOS

around the island you will see vendors selling coconuts at roadside stands or out of trucks parked along the road. The owners will remove the top of a young, green coconut with a machete and give you a straw to drink the coconut water inside. True local performance art with a sweet reward. Coconut water is the opaque liquid that comes straight from the inside of a young (unripened) coconut. Coconut water from green coconuts contains electrolytes, is naturally fat free, has less sugar, less sodium and more potassium than most sports drinks, and is delicious!

WHEN YOU ARE FINISHED DRINKING THE COCONUT WATER, ASK THE VENDOR TO CUT THE COCONUT IN HALF FOR THE SWEET MEAT INSIDE. A SLICE OF THE OUTSIDE HUSK MAKES A PERFECT SPOON!

VIEQUES INSIDER ADVERTISERS

 Al Sartén 787-909-7225	 Mango Taphouse & Gastropub 939-891-2764
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 La Palma Café 818-261-1648	 Trade Winds Restaurant 787-710-7440
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EDIBLE SOUVENIRS

We all want to bring exotic treats of our Vieques vacation home with us – it's natural. But according to the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (whose acronym, APHIS, is a clever reference to Aphis, the genus of a ubiquitous plant pest—the common aphid) all passenger baggage traveling from Puerto Rico to the U.S. mainland is subject to inspection. These inspections are conducted by officials of the USDA and APHIS prior to departure. Be prepared to open and close your baggage. If you have agricultural items with you, tell the inspector. Failure to do so can result in travel delays and fines of \$1,000 or more.

THERE ARE SEVERAL PLANTS THAT ARE ILLEGAL TO BRING BACK INTO THE UNITED STATES:

Mangos: because of the mango borer, which may infect the U. S. mango crop.	Pigeon peas (gandules in Spanish): because of the pigeon pea borer which might affect America's soybean and legume industry.	Citrus (of all types): because insect, bacterial, fungal and viral pathogens might be devastating to the Mainland's citrus industry.	Additionally, sour sop, passionfruit and potted plants are forbidden.

BUT HAPPILY, AVOCADO, PAPAYA, COCONUT AND PLANTAIN CAN BE TAKEN LEGALLY INTO THE U.S.			

➤ **Be sure to stop at the roadside kiosks for a true taste of the island's best grab-and-go bites.**

Pincho-mania!

The Caribbean Pincho is usually pork, shark, chicken or beef skewered with a really long wooden toothpick, grilled to perfection and then slathered with barbeque sauce. Topped off with a slice of pan de agua (Puerto Rican version of French bread), it is served simply on the stick and wrapped in tin foil. It is the quintessential “finger food”.

a Bit of History

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT VIEQUES?
HERE'S A BRIEF TIMELINE TO WHET THE APPETITE OF THE HISTORY BUFF IN YOU.

★ **2145 BCE** Archeological findings in Puerto Ferro date back to Pre-Arawak period.

★ **1100 CE** Taino culture abounds in Esperanza.

★ **1493** Columbus lands on the south side of Borinquen (now Puerto Rico) and claims it for Spain.



★ **1508** Ponce de León initiates colonization of Puerto Rico.

★ **1514** Taíno Chiefs Yaureibo and Cacimar from Bieke fight Spanish forces on the east side of Puerto Rico.

★ **1683** British settlers from Anguilla invade Vieques. Danish forces from St. Thomas drive invaders away.

★ **1698** Scottish settlers from Nevis, Anguilla and Tortola invade Vieques. Spanish forces drive invaders away.

★ **1718** British settlers from Anguilla come to Vieques to establish a colony on two different occasions. Both times Spanish forces drive invaders away.

★ **1811** The Spanish colonization of Vieques begins.

★ **1815** Royal Decree of Graces allows other Europeans who swear loyalty to the Spanish Crown to remain in Puerto Rico. French settlers develop Vieques' agrarian economy.

★ **1816** Simón Bolívar, Latin America's Great Liberator, comes to Vieques.



★ **1822** The Spanish commence construction of a town, eventually called Punta Mulas (Isabel II today), on the north side of the island.

★ **1832** Teófilo José Jaime María Le Guillou, a French emigre, is appointed military governor of Vieques.

★ **1844** The municipality of Vieques is formally established; construction of original Catholic Church gets underway.

★ **1845** Construction of Fortín Conde de Mirasol (the Fort) begins.

★ **1863** Britain formally renounces all claims to Vieques.

★ **1873** Abolition of slavery in Puerto Rico (March 22, 1873); Manuel E. Benítez is elected Vieques' first mayor when municipalities are extended the right to vote.

★ **1893** All Saints Church is officially consecrated. Vieques and Ponce were the first places in Puerto Rico under Spanish Monarchy allowed to set up non-Catholic churches.

★ **1896** Punta Mulas lighthouse (north side) is completed.

★ **1898** Spanish-American War. Treaty of Paris gives United States temporary control of Cuba and ownership of Puerto Rico, Guam and the Philippine islands.

★ **1899** Puerto Ferro lighthouse (south side) is completed.



★ **1917** Jones Act grants United States Citizenship to all Puerto Ricans.

★ **1925** On March 19, a powerful earthquake causes major structural damages to the Puerto Ferro lighthouse. The lighthouse is closed.

★ **1941-49** The United States Navy expropriates nearly two thirds of Vieques for military maneuvers.



★ **1948** Luis Muñoz Marín becomes 1st democratically elected governor of Puerto Rico.

★ **1952** Commonwealth of Puerto Rico is established on July 25.

★ **1961** The film Lord of the Flies is shot in Vieques.

★ **1965** Osvaldo "Val" González-Duriex provides air transportation to Vieques and registers his enterprise as Vieques Air Link.

★ **1976** Water from El Yunque (Puerto Rico's rain forest) via underwater pipeline becomes the main water supply for Vieques.

★ **1977 - 1988** "Vieques Pony Express"— Ventura Camacho Dávila is hired by

the post office to initiate island-wide delivery of mail. For the next 11 years, Ventura Camacho does his job on horseback.



★ **1978** "Fishermen's War": An international NATO backed training military exercise on Vieques is stopped by fishermen who position themselves in the direct line of fire.

★ **1989** Hugo, since upgraded to a category 5 hurricane, devastates Vieques.

★ **1991** Restoration of Fortín Conde de Mirasol is completed.

★ **1999** David Sanes is killed by a bomb from U.S. Navy military exercises. The tragic death serves as the catalyst for a peace protest that galvanizes all of Puerto Rico. The 'Paz Para Vieques' movement garners international support and becomes instrumental in pressuring the United States Navy to end military exercises on the island.



★ **2001** Vieques National Wildlife Refuge is established (3,100 acres on the western end of Vieques).

★ **2003** U.S. Navy leaves Vieques; 14,573 acres of land on the east end are added to the Vieques National Wildlife Refuge. The Refuge

is operated under the U.S. Department of Interior and becomes the largest wildlife refuge in the Caribbean.

★ **2005** U.S. Congress designates parts of Vieques as a Superfund.

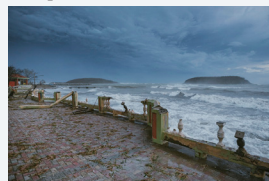
★ **2006** Montessori Education arrives in Vieques; Guinness World Records names Mosquito Bay the brightest Bio-bay in the world; MAN-ITA, the educational outreach program of the Vieques Conservation and Historical Trust (VCHT) wins EPA's highest award two years in a row.

★ **2007** Comunidad Verde Vieques is established. This is the first re-settlement inside former NAVY land.

★ **2009** First Bio-luminescent Symposium in Puerto Rico is held in Vieques and hosted by the VCHT.

★ **2011** White House report issued by the Vieques Task Force recommends military clean-up, a solid waste strategy, health care, renewable energy, protection of the BioBay and "green" tourism.

★ **2016** VCHT signs an agreement with the Department of Environmental and Natural Resources to co-manage the Mosquito nature reserve.



★ **2017** Hurricane Maria devastates Puerto Rico and Vieques with Category 5-force winds. Communication to the outside world is severed, and it takes 7 months to restore power. Numerous on- and off-island organizations form to provide help.

★ **2019** The death of 13-year old Jai Ventura sparks island-wide grief and a peaceful protest (justiceparajai) about the Vieques hospital. Destroyed in Hurricane Maria,



the hospital or CDT (Center for Diagnoses and Treatment) is in the process of being rebuilt.

★ **2019** The Covid-19 pandemic magnifies the island's humanitarian crisis after the devastation of Hurricane Maria and several earthquakes. Fortunately, response to the virus is rapid and thorough and controls the spread.

★ **2019-20** Puerto Rico experiences an unprecedented series of shock swarms. Over 9,000 earthquakes and after-shocks damage thousands of homes and buildings and closes schools.

★ **2025** The newly built hospital opens the doors to the dialysis center.



OPERATION PORTREX In 1950 a simulated attack on Blue Beach (La Chiva) was staged by a joint effort of Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine forces. The "D-Day"-like maneuvers took two months of preparation by land forces charged with protecting the beach and inland areas from the "assault". As a result, the topography of La Chiva was substantially altered. Bulldozers scraped the land, digging deep anti-tank trenches and felling palm trees and bushes. Much of the thorny growth, mixed with barbed wire, was wrapped around the palm trunks as defensive barriers. A camouflaged, deeply-dug shelter for 50 caliber machine guns was also placed on the cayo off Blue Beach to disrupt the beach landing from behind.

ESPERANZA SUGAR PIER

EL MUELLE GRANDE *translation: "the big pier"*

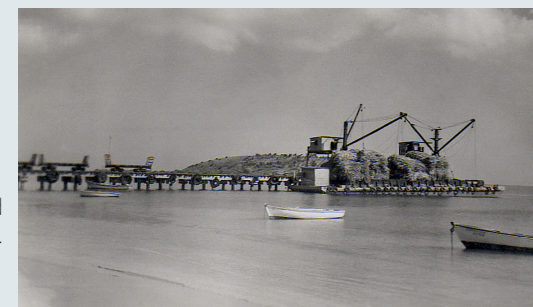
PIER WITH FUNCTIONING SUGAR CANE CRANES

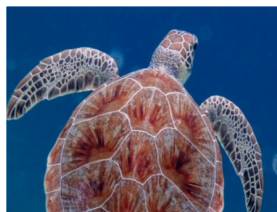
Gerry Carr Collection, Vieques Historic Archives

"El Muey Grande de Esperanza" was constructed in 1927 and lived up to its name by serving Vieques as a major exportation center for the cash crop of the 20th century; sugarcane. Two sets of tracks ran the length of the pier. The sturdily built structure was designed to hold the weight of two locomotives and their flat cars and cargo simultaneously. A crane at the far end of the pier revolved on its own set of tracks, unloading the precious cargo onto barges.

Until the arrival of the U.S. Navy in 1941, a railroad connecting the pier, sugar cane mill, and surrounding fields provided the main stimulus for island economy. When the "caña" market slowed during the latter half of the century, the pier went quiet while Viequeses searched neighboring islands for work.

Today the 86 year old skeleton of the pier is still a central gathering point for the community with lots of activity above and below the pier. Families and friends gather weekends and holidays to fish and grill, and adults and kids alike enjoy the brief thrill of walking the foot-wide foundation to jump off the end into the crystal clear waters below or snorkel in between the pilings. It is a great place to sit and watch the sunset. Just make sure you navigate your way back before it's too dark!





Snorkeling

Beneath Vieques' crystal-clear waters lies a vibrant world of color and motion. Whether you join a boat excursion or paddle out by kayak with a guide, there are options for every level. Booking with a knowledgeable tour ensures you reach the healthiest reefs, where schools of tropical fish weave through coral gardens and you're likely to encounter sea turtles, or perhaps

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Blue Water Charters
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facebook.com/61557650723801/about
939-224-2773

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www.viequesoutdoors.com
787-447-4104

Vieques Blue Water Charters
www.viequesbluewatercharters.com
843-367-1377

Vieques Catamaran
www.viequescatamaran.com
863-231-4493

Vieques Sailing Charters
www.viequessailing.com
787-435-4858

Vieques Snorkel Tours
www.viequessnorkeltours.com •
787-671-3862



Sailing

Sail to and snorkel remote offshore coral reefs accessible only by boat. Choose from a half-day or full-day adventure, or opt for a sailing membership that lets you experience the yacht life without the hassle of ownership. Choose to enjoy a stunning sunset at anchor or relax in the harbor aboard a sailboat for a truly unique way to spend your evening.

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www.viequessailing.com
787-435-4858

SCUBA Diving

Whether you want to try SCUBA for the day or take an in-depth course, Blackbeard Sports and 18Degree Dive and Snorkel offers equipment, instruction, certified guides, and courses for beginners through advanced open water, and more.

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18 Degree Dive and Snorkel
www.18degreedive.com
787-435-6225

Blackbeard Sports
www.blackbeardsports.com
939-283-6841



Fishing

Try deep sea fishing with Vieques Blue Water Charters. Find all the equipment you need to fish from land at the Pescador Fishing and Marine Supplies. Denise will take care of all your fishing supply needs but call ahead for directions and to confirm open hours.

VIEQUES INSIDER ADVERTISERS

JAK Water Sports
www.jakwatersports.com
787-644-7112

Pescador Fishing and Marine Supplies
787-231-2624

Vieques Blue Water Charters
viequesbluewatercharters.com
843-367-1377

DID YOU KNOW?

You don't need a fishing license for recreational fishing on Vieques but you must follow all regulations regarding closed seasons and minimum size limits for each species. Visit the www.fisheries.noaa.gov

Boat Tours

Choose to see the Biobay by boat with Isla Nena Biobay, go deep sea fishing with Vieques Blue Water Charters.

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www.islanenabiobay.com
787-502-4752

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even a graceful ray, or even an elusive octopus.

Paddleboarding & Kayaking

Calm waters make SUP relaxing and fun; kayak tours explore mangroves, the Bio Bay, and open water. Rent equipment or take a tour with guides who know the best areas and can ensure your safety.

VIEQUES INSIDER ADVERTISERS

Abe's Snorkeling and Biobay Tours
www.abessnorkeling.com
787-435-1362

Fun Brothers
www.funbrothers.com
787-435-9372

JAK Water Sports
www.jakwatersports.com
787-644-7112

Blackbeard Sports
www.blackbeard-sports.com
939-283-6841

Melaya's Tours Corp.
facebook.com/melayastours
787-222-7055

Mosquito Biobay Tours
www.mosquitobiobaytours.com
939-426-8561

Travesias Isleñas
www.viequesoutdoors.com
787-447-4104



Surfing

If you're thinking of catching a wave on Vieques, it's worth knowing that many of the surfable breaks sit over rocky reef or coral bottoms rather than soft sand. The reef systems at local surfing sites are dramatic and precarious. If you don't know the reef well, it's wise to hold off surfing on Vieques. On the flip side, a good learning spot is the west side of Playa Caracas. It tends to have a gentler break and soft sand, making it a great place for first timers trying to learn.



Elliot Anderson



Good to Know

GROCERY

▶ **FAMILY MARKET**
EVERYDAY 6AM-10PM

▶ **MORALES SUPERDESCUENTO**
RT 200
MON-SAT 7AM-6PM
SUN 7AM -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

▶ **PLACITA REYES/FRUIT & VEG RT 200 & 201**
TUES & FRI 8-4

▶ **VIEQUES FRUIT MARKET (MUNDO)**
MON-SAT 8AM-6PM

▶ **MAMBOS (RT 997)**
EVERYDAY 7AM-9PM

PHARMACY

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

GAS STATIONS

▶ **THALERIA GAS STATION ISABEL II**
MON-FRI 7AM-9PM
SAT-SUN 7AM-10PM

▶ **MARISOL GAS STATION MONTE SANTO**
EVERYDAY 6AM-8PM

▶ **MONTE SANTO GAS STATION**
EVERYDAY 6AM-9PM

Where to find

Hidden gems, travel necessities and local treasures.

▶ **FRESH FISH, LOBSTER AND CONCH >>** The first level of El Norte Restaurant across from the ferry is a fresh fish market. Check hours on their facebook page..

▶ **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 MARKET >>** Placita Reyes (Rt. 200 & 201) Tues & Fri 8 a.m.-5 p.m

▶ **SEAGLASS >>** Most beaches have some amount of seaglass but La Chata, Playa Cofi, and Playa Voltio are popular sites to find it. Check the In-sider beach map on pages 24-25 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.

▶ **FISHING SUPPLIES >>** El Pescador Fishing & Marine Supply (Barrio Santa María). Rods, yo-yo's, spearfishing gear, lures, tackle. Call ahead: 787-231-2624 (Denise).

▶ **CHAMPAGNE AND WINE >>** Diverse selections can be found at the Family Market in Isabel II, Morales grocery store on 200, or La Tienda Verde in Esperanza.

▶ **LOCAL FOOD >>** Along with all of the great restaurants on the island, the food trucks and kiosks serve island specialties—step up and enjoy!

▶ **LOCAL RUM >>** Handcrafted 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 >>** walk a dog on the beach, foster, cuddle, or be a pet escort to the States. Vieques Humane Society 787-741-0209.

▶ **VEGAN FARE >>** Our talented restaurant chefs and diverse

menus usually accommodate all diets, but for a vegan "experience" make reservations at Finca Victoria's Vegan Friday Dinner or watch for pop up vegan nights at El Plaza.

▶ **CAR VACUUM AND TIRE AIR PUMP >>** 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.

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

▶ **CHARGERS/ELECTRONICS>>** Quiñones Electronics next to Banco Popular (Isabel II).

▶ **FARMERS MARKETS >>** Placita Reyes on the corner of 201 and 200 has fresh fruit and veggies on Tuesdays and Fridays 8am-5pm.

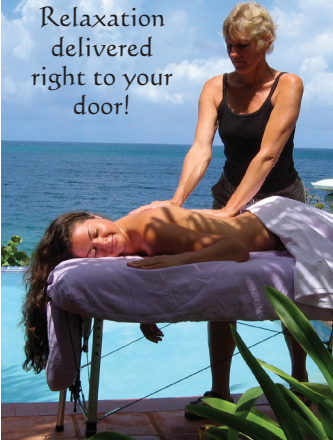
▶ **VIEQUES AUDIO TOURS >>** Visit www.puertoricoaudiotours.com for an audio tour that explores Vieques history, facts about the military presence, sugarcane industry, and more!



Where to Recycle

Bunker 403 on the West Side of Vieques on 994 serves as the recycling center. Currently dry cardboard, washed plastic and aluminum cans are recycled (aluminum and plastic does not need to be separated). Past the airport, Parque La Ceiba and Crab Island Rum Distillery, the left turn to the recycling center is aprox 1 mi. past distillery. (If you get to the Arcadia Water Station with a field of solar panels on your right you have missed the turn.) After the turn take the right when the road splits and go down a little hill. The recycling center is the third bunker on the left. Leave your bagged recycables 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!

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