
San Juan, Vieques & Culebra

EXPLORER'S GUIDE

San Explorer's Guide San Juan, Vieques & Culebra: A Great Destination (Second Edition)
(Explorer's Great Destinations) Juan, Vieques & Culebra

A Great Destination

Zain Deane

SECOND EDITION

The Countryman Press Woodstock, Explorer's Guide San Juan, Vieques & Culebra: A Great

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This book is dedicated to the warm, welcoming, wonderful people of Puerto Rico.

LEFT: A garita, or sentry box, stands silent sentinel over Old San Juan.

Acknowledgments

Explorer's Guide San Juan, Vieques & Culebra: A Great Destination (Second Edition)
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WRITING A GUIDEBOOK about a much-loved tourist destination is no simple task. As much as my affection for Puerto Rico fueled my research, this book would not have been possible without the concerted efforts of several key contributors. At the forefront of this list are Kim Grant, who selected my proposal and recommended it to the Countryman Press, and Kermit Hummel, who commissioned the work.

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the research for this book. Explorer's Guide San Juan, Vieques & Culebra: A Great Destination (Second Edition) (Explorer's Great Destinations) So many of the people who run and manage the hotels, restaurants, shops, and attractions I visited reinforce Puerto Rico's image of warmth, friendliness, and charm. I'm deeply indebted to all of them. After so many years of listening to my stories about Puerto Rico, my wife finally had the chance to experience the island this year. I'm pleased to report she now loves it as much as I do. My sister Explorer's Guide San Juan, Vieques & Culebra: A Great Destination (Second Edition) (Explorer's Great Destinations) is the reason I first came to know the island. And lastly, I must acknowledge my parents, for without their support, I wouldn't be writing any of this. Thanks, guys.

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LEFT: There's really nothing in Puerto Rico to compare to Flamenco Beach.

Introduction

Explorer's Guide San Juan, Vieques & Culebra: A Great Destination (Second Edition)
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WHEN I FIRST AGREED to go to San Juan for Thanksgiving, I expected a quiet, lazy few days spent on an idyllic beach, listening to a tropical melody and sipping something out of a coconut husk. It turns out that I was sorely mistaken, and it was this grievous error that led me to fall in love with the place. Don't get me wrong: If it's a beach you seek, Puerto Rico has some of the best in the world. But in many ways, this island is more than it seems.

Puerto Rico is at once a verdant, lush landscape and a concrete jungle; a sun-splashed paradise and an indoor shopping mecca; a charming, provincial town and a bustling metropolis; a modern society and a place of deep history and tradition. Its Explorer's Guide San Juan, Vieques & Culebra: A Great Destination (Second Edition) (Explorer's Great Destinations) people are intensely proud of their heritage but divided in their opinions about their homeland's political status. Puerto Rico is a cultural, commercial, geographic, Explorer's Guide San Juan, Vieques & Culebra: A Great Destination (Second Edition) (Explorer's Great Destinations) and historic meeting point between old and new, *el gringo* and *el Latino*.

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