

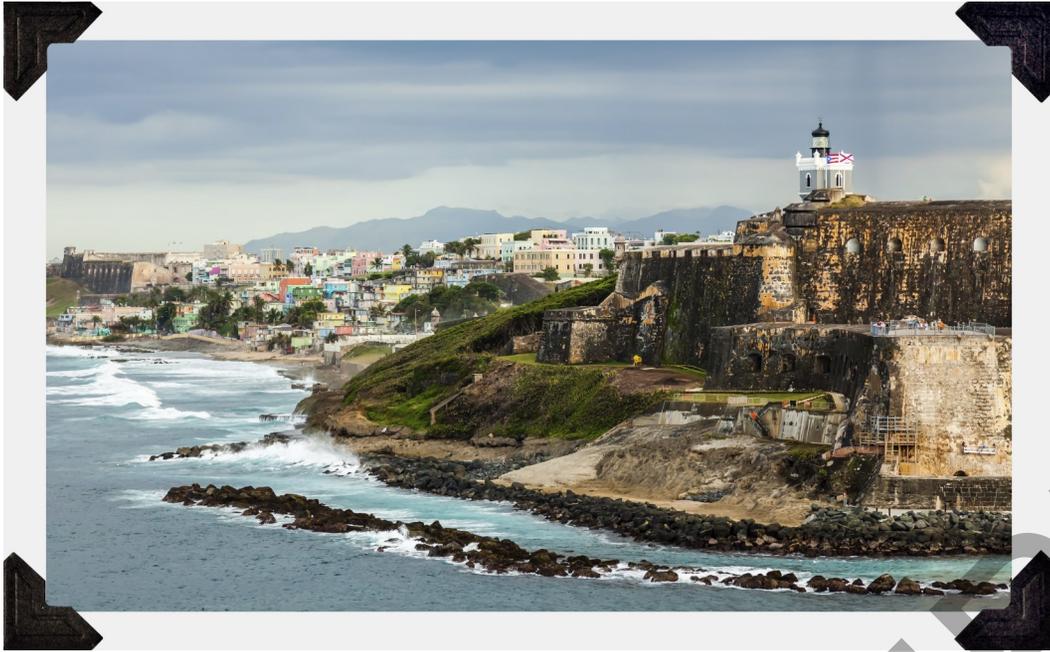
Puerto Rico



Puerto Rico is an island that is part of the West Indies, a crescent-shaped group of islands that separates the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea from the Atlantic Ocean. The Antilles is the name for all the West Indies except the Bahamas. The Antilles are split into the Greater Antilles and the Lesser Antilles. Puerto Rico is the easternmost island in the Greater Antilles. It is about 1,000 miles (1,600 km) southeast of Florida. Puerto Rico is a commonwealth of the United States. It

was claimed for Spain in 1493 when Christopher Columbus landed there on his second voyage. It was given to the United States in 1898 when Spain lost the Spanish-American War. Long before the Spanish colonized Puerto Rico, the Taino lived there. Many died after the Europeans came, but their legacy and heritage lives on in many ways including words from the Taino language we still use today such as *canoe*, *hammock*, *hurricane*, *iguana*, *maize*, and *papaya*. Puerto Rican culture is also influenced by being part of the Spanish Empire for 400 years and by the people who were brought from Africa to work on plantations and in mines.

Puerto Rico is home to beautiful tropical rainforests, busy cities, and small communities. The island is about 111 miles (179 km) long and about 39 miles (63 km) wide. Several smaller islands including Mona, Vieques, and Culebra are also part of Puerto Rico.



San Juan on the northern side of Puerto Rico is the capital and largest city. El Morro, or San Felipe del Morro castle, was built by the Spanish in the early 1500s to defend against attacks by the Taino or other European empires.

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SAMPLE

I hope you've enjoyed visiting four of the many amazing places in Puerto Rico! Before you leave to go home, could I ask you to do something special for the people here? Many people in Puerto Rico believe in Jesus, and the church is growing. But there are still people who haven't understood yet that Jesus loves them. There are also many people who struggle to live the way Jesus taught us to live.

Will you remember to pray for the people of Puerto Rico? Here are a few things you can pray for. You can add more prayer requests to the list as you think of them!



Pray that people will have Bibles to read in whatever language they speak.



Pray for the people living in San Juan and Ponce, those living on Culebra and Vieques, and those in every city and town and on every island to believe in Jesus.

