Saturday, August 19  (-/-/D)

Hotel Check-in
Depart for Puerto Rico. Arrive in San Juan and transfer to your hotel.

Welcome Dinner
Come together in the evening for a welcome dinner to meet fellow alumni in the group as you prepare for your adventure!

Return to Hotel
Stay overnight in San Juan.

Sunday, August 20  (B/L/-)

Breakfast at Hotel and Check-out

Old San Juan Tour
Begin the morning together with breakfast, then depart for a tour of Old San Juan. Old San Juan is the oldest settlement within Puerto Rico and the historic colonial district of the city of San Juan. This historic district is a National Historic Landmark District and is listed on the United States National Register of Historic Places as the Old San Juan Historic District. Several historical buildings and structures, particularly La Fortaleza, the city walls, and El Morro and San Cristóbal castles, have been inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage Site list since 1983. For more information on the history of Old San Juan, [Five Centuries of History in Old San Juan | Discover Puerto Rico](#)

Lunch

Travel to Fajardo
Following the tour of Old San Juan and lunch together, you'll pack up and head to our overnight destination in Fajardo, Puerto Rico.

Open Evening to Explore Fajardo
Monday, August 21

**Breakfast**

**El Yunque Rainforest Tour**
El Yunque is the only tropical rainforest in the U.S. National Forest System, and is also a sacred place in Puerto Rican culture. On this tour, you'll descend into this national treasure through Tabonuco trees in the lower montane forest to the federally designated “Wild and Scenic River,” the Rio Mameyes. During the hike, you can enjoy a swim and the rainforest view. Afterwards, you'll head to Yokahu Tower. Learn more: [El Yunque National Forest | Discover Puerto Rico](https://www.nps.gov/yunque/index.htm)

**Lunch and Explore Luquillo Beach**
Following the tour of El Yunque, lunch and exploration of Luquillo Beach is on your own. Luquillo's alfresco appeal extends beyond its powdery golden sand and azure ocean waves. The municipality borders El Yunque, where the peaks of the Luquillo Mountain Range rise as high as 3,525 feet above sea level. Its unique landscape, in easy reach of both the mountains and the beach, makes Luquillo an ideal destination for travelers looking to enjoy quality time in the great outdoors. Learn more: [Luquillo | Discover Puerto Rico](https://www.discoverpuertorico.com)

**Bioluminescent Bay Kayaking Tour**
What is a bio bay? These rare ecosystems happen when microscopic, single-celled organisms called dinoflagellates grow in quantities big enough to produce a “glow-in-the-dark” effect when stimulated by movement. When you paddle or splash the water, these organisms light up in a neon blue-green color, and so does everything they come in contact with, giving a star-like reflection to the water. Our group will be able to experience this excursion under a landscape of stars. Learn more: [Exploring Puerto Rico's Bioluminescent Bays | discoverpuertorico.com](https://www.discoverpuertorico.com)

**Return to Fajardo**
After a fun day of exploring Puerto Rico and its beautiful scenery, you'll return to Fajardo for the night.

Tuesday, August 22

**Breakfast**

**Queen Conch Hatchery Tour**
The Naguabo Aquaculture Center is a partnership project located in the Naguabo Fishing Association. The visit will include a behind-the-scenes look at how the queen conch, *Aliger gigas*, is grown in tank systems through the life stages — egg mass, larval, metamorphosis and juveniles. The queen conch is an important fishery species in Puerto Rico and many other Caribbean nations. The goal of the queen conch project is to grow the conch for restoration and sustainable seafood. The visit will also include an overview of sea vegetable aquaculture.

**Lunch**

**Bayer Facility Tour**
Bayer is a German Multinational pharmaceutical and biotechnology company whose business interests include consumer healthcare, agricultural chemicals, seeds and biotechnology products.

*Food Preparation and Safety*
Bayer's leadership in agriculture provides tailored solutions for farmers to plant, grow and protect their harvests using less land, water and energy.

At this facility, the Juana Diaz houses a Crop Science division focusing on advanced assisted breeding research and development. Corn, soy and cotton seeds are developed for superior performance for farmers. Learn more: Bayer in Puerto Rico | Bayer

Depart for Mayaguez
Following our tours, you'll head to a new destination — Mayaguez, Puerto Rico.

Wednesday, August 23 (B/L/D)

Breakfast

Cocoa Forest Tour
On this educational tour, you will walk through the cacao forest, learning about the farming practices — including fine grain cacao — as well as the importance of agroforestry, permaculture and nature conservation. Depending on the tree production during the time of our visit, you will have the opportunity to view the cacao fruit, taste the fruit fresh from the tree and perhaps have the opportunity to harvest or plant cacao. You'll end the experience with of a tasting of cacao fruit pulp and artisanal chocolate.

Ricardo, an Agronomist with a specialty in soils and plants, will guide our tour. In 2014, Ricardo and his wife, Vivienne, as well as their two sons, purchased almost 3.57 acres of Las Marias/Añasco land. In 2021, the farm, Finca Hekiti, grew to 9.1 acres. The mission of Finca Hekiti is to educate, conserve and grow using traditional farming practices on the beloved island of Puerto Rico. Staying within the guidelines of agroforestry, permaculture and agroecological forms, they strive to educate the global audience of the importance of conservation, self-sustaining practices and local economies. They are proud to be a conservation easement with Para La Naturaleza. Learn more: Cocoa Forest | Finca Hekiti

Lunch and Free Time to Explore

Dinner

Return to Hotel
You'll be sure to sleep good after a sweet day of tasting chocolate. You'll stay overnight in Mayaguez.

Thursday, August 24 (B/L/-)

Breakfast

Plenitud Puerto Rico (Las Marias) Visit
Plenitud Puerto Rico is a 501c3 non-profit educational farm and a community dedicated to service and sustainability. The organization provides people with the knowledge and sustainability skills necessary to foster inner growth and live in harmony with themselves, with others, and with the natural world. The heart of their service is experiential learning in the areas of sustainability and the...
arts that engage people in community service, foster relationships and create connections. Learn more: Plenitud PR | Plentitud PR

**Farm to Table Lunch provided by Plenitud PR**

**USDA Tropical Agricultural Research Station Tour**
This research station is home to a well-known botanical garden, which focuses on the development of fruit production systems that help growers increase the market and sales potential of their crops. Learn more: USDA Topical Agricultural Research Station | USDA

**University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez Campus Visit**
Possible presentations include:

- Research programs and laboratory facilities — Dr. David Sotomayor
- Puerto Rico Agroforestry, silviculture and taxonomy — Dr. Oscar Abelleira or Anthony Perez, Dr. Victor Snyder or Pablo Diaz Boyle
- Asian Vegetables — Dr. Ermita Hernandez
- Mango and Exotic Fruits — Dr. Pablo Morales

**Return to Hotel**
After a big day of learning, you'll spend one last night in Mayaguez.

**Friday, August 24**

**Breakfast**

**Depart for Adjuntas**

**Hacienda Tres Angeles Tour**
Enjoy a unique experience at this coffee plantation tucked into mountains of Adjuntas and learn about their agricultural practices, coffee processing and tasting. You'll get to enjoy a coffee, from farm to cup, on their gorgeous deck with mesmerizing views of the coffee plantation below. Learn more: Hacienda Tres Angeles | Discover Puerto Rico

**Lunch at Hacienda Tres Angeles**

**La Destileria Rum Distillery Tour and Mixology Class**
In this fun and interactive tour, you'll visit a rum distillery to learn about the rum distillery process and pick up some tips and tricks on crafting cocktails.

**Farewell Dinner**
While you won't want trip to end, you'll enjoy one last evening together as a group, sharing meaningful conversations over great food.

**Return to Hotel**
Spend your last evening in San Juan before you depart Saturday.

**Saturday, August 26**

**Departure**