

Thank you for deciding to stay with us. We've provided some information to help you get to Pura Vida in Esperanza, Vieques. For the most up to date airline and ferry schedules, refer to <http://www.puertoricodaytrips.com/ceiba-ferry/>

Care Taker Contact Information (Call Mimi First, Joe sometimes forgets phone. Leave message if no answer)

Mimi: 443-310-6768 (Texting OK)

Joe: 443-310-5745 (Joe does not text)

We are on call during your stay, but please try to call between 8AM and 5PM unless an emergency.

Please call or text our care takers if your flight or ferry is delayed so they are not left waiting.

Home:

- Address: 184 Calle Lirios, Esperanza, Vieques PR 00765
Google Map: <https://goo.gl/maps/ocP324njyby>

Wifi Network Name: PuraVidaWiFi	Password: medalla1
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Flying to San Juan:

- From Isla Grande: Exit SJU with baggage. Find the orange taxi stands in the parking loop. The attendant will ask for your destination, simply say Isla Grande airport. The fare is regulated and approximately \$20, the transit time is about 15 to 20 minutes. There is no TSA security at Isla Grande airport.
- From SJU: If you are flying to Vieques from SJU via Cape Air, there are a handful of airlines which you can check your bags straight through from your commercial mainland airline. They are: United, Delta, American and Jet Blue (Southwest and Spirit do not have interline baggage agreements). When you begin your trip at your home airport, show the agent your itinerary to Vieques and ask them to check the bags through to Vieques (VQS). Once in San Juan, simply go to the Cape Air gate and do not exit security. All other airlines to Vieques (Vieques Air Link) you will need to exit security, manually retrieve checked luggage and recheck in at commuter airlines counter prior to Security.

Ferry to Vieques

- As of Fall 2018 the Puerto Rico Fast Ferry operates out of Ceiba on the main island's eastern coast. The fare is about \$11 per person for non-residents plus \$1 per bag. Taxis from SJU or private van service can get you to the Ceiba port, about \$95. Private van service: [Luquillo Van Service](#)

Arriving in Vieques via Airport or Ferry:

- Once you touch down in Vieques, and receive your bags, you'll exit the airport with a parking loop straight ahead. Here publicos, or taxis, will most likely be waiting. If not, they arrive throughout the day to pick up passengers. The publicos will be large vans vs. 4 door sedan type cabs, and they may drop off other passengers on the way to Esperanza. The same is true for the ferry, there most likely will be publicos waiting. All drivers will know where Esperanza is located. If not, maps and directions to Esperanza are below. Fares are roughly \$5 per person to Esperanza, plus a small fee per piece of baggage. Most guests take a publico to Pura Vida, where our care takers will meet you at the house after the Publico arrives. (Our care takers live only two blocks away in the small village).

How to get to Esperanza.
There are two routes to Esperanza.

Via Airport:

East on 200
Right onto Rt. 201
Straight onto 996
Right onto 996 towards
Esperanza

Via Ferry:

West on 200
Left onto 997
Follow this all the way into
Esperanza.



How to get to Pura Vida
184 Calle Lirios, Esperanza

The first landmark you will see, is the Green Store (1). Take a left at the fork in road at Green Store.

Continue for approximately 1/4 mile or so. Do not take the first right, continue on, and very quickly you will need to take the next right, after Rainbow Realty. It almost does not look like a street, it is very narrow (2).

Follow this street, it will bend around, and you will come to our house, #184, on the right.

If you miss the turn and end up on the Malecon, you've gone too far.

How to get to Pura Vida.



Check-In Instructions:

- The majority of our guests take a publico to Esperanza. Joe and Mimi will contact you via to confirm your estimated arrival time on Vieques. They will either tell you to have the Publico driver take them to their house (which is only a couple blocks away in Esperanza) or directly to Pura Vida, where they will meet you and let you into the house, provide keys, explain the island, restaurants, Bio Bay tours, and answer any questions.

Items that we Supply:

- All bed linens, bath towels, and beach towels. (We do ask you wash the beach towels prior to departure for a courtesy to the next guest)
- Beach chairs, cooler, floatie noodle, toys (maybe sand castle items, buckets, shovels, etc. Depends on what previous guests left, used or lost.)
(We do not supply umbrellas, it doesn't take much wind to destroy a beach umbrella and they do not last long. Many beaches have pavilions for shade. If you require an umbrella you may buy one at Black Beards in Isabel.)
- Iron, small ironing board (please don't iron on bed), hair dryer
- We initially supply a couple rolls of toilet paper and paper towels. You will likely have to purchase a package of toilet paper depending on usage and length of stay. Do not knock on our care taker's door asking for toilet paper, yes – that has happened in the past. The Green Store or Colmado Lydia are both a quick walk down the street and have all of these items.
- There may be shampoo leftover from a previous guest, or a small hotel size on hand. You may want to bring your own if you prefer a specific type, or buy some at the Green Store.
- Electronics: the master bedroom has a TV and Sony Playstation2, Wii and a Blu Ray DVD player. We have a wide variety of DVD movies to satisfy small children to adults. There are also about a dozen PS2 and Wii games. Each TV has a Roku player to watch Netflix or other online content. We do not have Satellite TV reception.

Items you may want to pack from home, or you may need to buy at the Green Store:

- The one thing I think is critical to bring with you is a refillable water bottle. I usually fill them ½ way with water, place them in the freezer overnight, and fill with water prior to leave for the beach. You'll have nice cold water all day to keep hydrated in the sun.
- Beach Umbrella – We used to supply umbrellas, but the wind would destroy them, leaving it broken for the next guest. If you would like an umbrella you will have to purchase one at Black Beards, we just can't keep them in stock at the house.
- Toilet Paper and Paper Towels – we supply a roughly one day supply of these items. You will need to purchase additional toilet paper and paper towels depending on usage.
- Sun Screen, the sun is strong in Puerto Rico. I would recommend at least one bottle per person. You can buy lotion at the convenience stores.
- Bug spray – It is the Caribbean, depending on recent rains or lack of wind, mosquitoes do come out. The higher the DEET the better! The green deep woods bottle works best!
- Laundry detergent, we have a washer and dryer available for your use, but you will need to purchase detergent.
- Soap and Shampoo – We may have a small amount on hand, you may need more during your stay.
- We have a number of books at the house, but it's never a bad idea to bring one for the trip down. Island Time is much easier to pass with a book.
- Please feel free to use any condiments left in the fridge. We keep a close eye on them and throw out anything that is old.

Safety:

- Although Vieques is very safe for tourists, there is potential for petty theft while at the beaches due to unlocked cars or unattended items left on beach. We have no reports of theft at Pura Vida.
- We have a hotel safe at Pura Vida for small valuables, which can fit a laptop.
- Do not leave your wallet, keys, cell phones, cameras, laptops, etc. on the beach while you go off snorkeling (or even for a walk). Yes, this is paradise but we do have a few bad apples. If you are in a remote area please keep your belongings within sight.
- There are no concessions on the beaches except at Sun Bay. You don't need more than a few dollars in your pocket.
- If you experience any problems while on the Fish And Wildlife Preserve, call: 787-741-2138.
- Emergencies: Do not call the Vieques Police Department! Call 911. They will connect you to our local police. Ask the 911 operator to stay on the line with you. They can, also, act as translator for those who need it.

Driving on Vieques:

- Stick to the posted speed limit especially on Fish and Wildlife Preserve – the maximum speed allowed is 35 mph
- Watch out for horses (very difficult to see at night), dogs, cats, chickens, goats, sheep, iguanas (just kidding but you'll probably see some of the poor things squished in the road), teenagers, and drunks (sometimes driving and sometimes staggering along the road!)
- Do not park in front of a yellow or blue line. (Even if it looks as though it may have been yellow or blue sometime in the distant past – don't park there!)
- Watch out for the tourists as they love to walk in the middle of the road along the Malecon. I usually give the horn a little love tap and they move pretty quickly!
- **ALWAYS** wear your seatbelts for the obvious reason but the police will ticket you in a heartbeat if the front seat passengers are not buckled up.

Drinking Water:

- The water in all of Puerto Rico must pass all U.S. Federal regulations for storage, transport and cleanliness. You do not need to worry about the quality of the drinking water as in places like Mexico or other South American countries. In fact, many people say the water taste and quality is better on Vieques than their home in the U.S.

Energy Conservation:

- We do ask you **please** turn off the Air Conditioners, lights and ceiling fans when not in use, such as when you leave for the beach. The majority of electricity in Puerto Rico is unfortunately generated from fossil fuels, the main one importation of fuel oil. Therefore the kilowatt hour rate varies each month to the price of oil. The average price is around .30 cents per kwh, which is 50% to 100% higher than what you probably pay in the States. We just ask you please turn off the AC units when not in use.

Internet Access:

- We have an internet hotspot at Pura Vida. Download speeds are around 7mbps, and these speeds can vary depending on conditions. It is perfectly fine for checking email, Facebook accounts, web surfing, etc. Wifi is available as a courtesy and not a guarantee. You just never know when Island Time strikes. The network name and password are as follows:

www.PuraVidaVieques.com

Cell Phone Coverage:

- AT&T, T-Mobile and Sprint voice and data work well on Vieques. Some of the remote beaches will not receive good coverage but in town and at Pura Vida they work well. Coverage is 4G with AT&T and 2G with T-Mobile.
- Verizon Wireless' Nationwide calling plans also give you the ability to make calls to/from Puerto Rico without roaming or long distance charges. To view the coverage in Puerto Rico, please visit their website by clicking on the following link: www.verizonwireless.com/plans . The following is from Verizon:
 - Before leaving for your trip to Puerto Rico, it is important to update the software on your phone in order for you to receive coverage. Please follow the instructions below while in your home area and receiving a digital signal:
 - 1. Dial *228 (Send).
 - 2. When prompted, select option 2.
 - Within two minutes, a voice recording will advise you that programming is complete. Remain on the line, as the call will disconnect automatically. After performing this software update, you will be able to determine what coverage will be available while you are traveling. You will be charged 69 cents per minute for roaming if a Roam, R, or triangle icon displays on your phone.
 - If the roaming indicator is FLASHING:
 - - You are traveling on the VZ Puerto Rico network
 - - Home airtime rates and Night and Weekend Minutes apply
 - - Enhanced digital services may not work
 - - Dial your ten-digit wireless number to retrieve Voice Mail
 - - Banner message (if applicable) will read "Extended Network"
 - If the roaming indicator is ON (solid, not flashing):
 - - You are traveling off network
 - - Service may be unavailable, Roaming rates apply; Night and Weekend Minutes do not apply
 - - Enhanced digital services will not work
 - - Dial your ten-digit wireless number to retrieve Voice Mail
 - - Banner message (if applicable) will read "Roaming."

On island grocery shopping:

- Morales
 - Vieques main grocery store is Supermarket Morales, located on Route 200 on the north side of the island. The towns two gas stations are next to the supermarket. One tip we use, if two people are together, have one get gas (there may be a gas line) while the other one starts the shopping. This saves some time. You can buy just about everything you need food wise at Morales. Their selection of items has greatly improved over the years.
- The Green Store
 - Located right on the corner as you come into Esperanza, open 9:00 AM – 9:00 PM, every day. You should find everything you need including dairy products, household products, snacks, packaged cold cuts & cheese, fresh baked bread in the morning (get there

around 10:00 AM when it's just coming out of the oven), beer, wine and spirits, etc.

They carry a very limited supply of produce and no fresh meat.

- There are many other Colmados (convenience stores) located all over the island and they all have basic supplies.
- There is also a produce stand on Route 997 right before you get to Isabel Segunda (on the right). The produce is stored in the refrigerated trailers and you never know what will be available. They also sell tires and car batteries! No foolin'!
- Try The Esperanza Panaderia (Bakery) – traveling west on the Malecon, turn right on Hucar at The Tradewinds, then left at the big painted rock. Wonderful pastries, fresh baked bread and breakfast sandwiches! Go early in the day but, be advised – sometimes they're open and sometimes they're not! Mimi's favorite – guava cookies and Joe's favorite – everything!

SUV Rental

- Texting is illegal while driving and calling from a car without a hands free device is also illegal. Both carry a \$50 fine!!!!

Gas

- The island's two gas stations are on Route 200 as stated above, in-between the airport and the town of Isabel. **Gas is cash only**, pre pay. So ensure you bring enough cash with you, there is an ATM in the gas station if you need cash. Gas is sold in liters. If renting our SUV, we ask you leave the tank with the same amount of gas as you found it. Generally, we have guests begin their stay with 1/2 tank, and ask you leave it with 1/2 tank full.
- Please do not leave money for our care takers to refill the gas tank. They do not have time to do this. If the gas is not left at the agreed upon level we must withhold the price of the gas plus our care taker's time to refill the tank.
- Never wait until your gauge reads "empty". We highly recommend filling the gas tank whenever you drive by the gas station and the queue is short. Guests don't realize that the stations here are not open on a regular schedule, there may be extremely long lines or there may be no gas at all.

ATM

- There are a couple ATMs on Vieques. The main ATM is in front of Banco Popular in Isabel, next to the post office. Duffy's restaurant, on the Malecon in Esperanza, also had an ATM. Both gas stations also have an ATM.
- Colmado Lydia in Esperanza next to the baseball fields also has an ATM. Last time I was there the fee was \$2.00 and a limit of \$200.

Credit Cards

- Visa and Mastercard are widely accepted at most restaurants, markets, Green Store, supermarket, etc. (Gas station is cash only!). American Express is not widely accepted on Vieques.

Weather

- Common question: I just checked the weather report and it says rain all week, will it really rain the entire time we are there? It's the tropics and it will probably rain somewhere on any given island for some time every day. What the weather sites don't tell you is the rain usually comes in the form of very brief and very localized showers lasting only minutes. It's not unusual for it to be raining in one area and there be bright sun 1/4 mile away. The old saying goes, if you

www.PuraVidaVieques.com

don't like the weather, wait 10 minutes and it will change.

On your way home:

Checking out of Pura Vida:

- Check out time is 10AM, this time may be modified with the approval of our care takers.
- If possible, it would be greatly appreciated to start a load or two of laundry to include bed linens and towels.
- We rarely withhold funds from security deposits due to cleaning and turnover. We incur more expense than the cleaning fee we charge, and often absorb that as a cost of doing business. However, any excessive cleaning beyond a reasonable level required will be charged at our care takers hourly rate and deducted from the security deposit. A sink full of dirty dishes, overflowing garbage cans, every towel used in the house and other general issues will be considered excessive cleaning.

US Dept. of Agriculture baggage screen:

- BEFORE you go to your airlines check in counter you must send your bags through the US Dept. of Agriculture screening machine. This machine scans your luggage for any invasive plants which could affect mainland crops. There is a list of prohibited items at the screening station. If you forget to scan your bags you will have to get out of line.

Duty Free:

- Upon leaving Puerto Rico back to the US mainland, you are allowed to purchase duty free items to take with you. Rum is a popular item to take back (Don Q – we like to call it Vitamin Q - is our favorite). You can take as much home as you can carry. As of November 2012 they had 2 1-liter bottles of Don Q rum for \$24.



Pura Vida as seen from Calle Liria

Our Care Takers:

Joe and Mimi Popp.

Mobile Phone: (443)-310-6768.

239 Calle Magnolia

Esperanza

Vieques, PR 00765