



PONCE ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORY

Ponce, known as “The Pearl of the South” and the second most important city in Puerto Rico, boasts a distinctive architectural style that reflects its rich history and cultural heritage. Its eclectic design blends neoclassical, Art Deco, baroque, and Creole influences, creating a unique and vibrant urban landscape.

Our journey begins with a guided walking tour of the town center, where you'll explore its historic charm. From there, we will visit the iconic Serrallés Castle, a landmark of local heritage. Here, we will delve into the history, architecture, and the profound impact of the sugar industry on Ponce and the surrounding region. Additionally, we will explore topics such as music, immigration, economic development, art, and culture, offering a comprehensive insight into the city's past and present.

INCLUDES

- Private round-trip transfer from your hotel or the Headquarter hotel
- Bottle of water and snack (fruit/protein bar)
- Guided tour of the historic center of the City of Ponce
- Guided visit to the Serrallés Castle
- Lunch at local restaurant The Wine Room
- A drink with lunch (water or soft drink)
- Dessert experience (surprise)
- Taxes
- Tips to guide, driver and waiter
- Accompanied from San Juan

JULY 13 (Español)
JULY 16 (English)
7:30 AM TO 6:00 PM

PRICE PER PERSON

\$245.

Minimum 30 /
Maximum 40 participants

ACCOMMODATION

Sheraton Puerto Rico (headquarters),
The Wave Hotel and La Mona Loíza

EXCURSIONS

Old San Juan / Ponce Architecture
and history / Ponce is Ponce and the
rest is.... / Catamaran to Culebra
Catamaran to Cayo Icacos / El Yunque
Forest Reserve / El Yunque Forest
Reserve and Luquillo beach

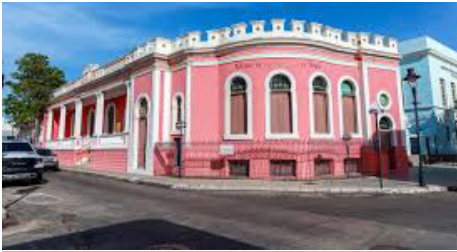


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AP-255



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BRIEF HISTORY OF PONCE

Ponce was founded in 1692 and is named after Juan Ponce de León y Loayza, great-grandson of the Spanish explorer Juan Ponce de León. During the 19th century, it flourished as a key economic and cultural hub, excelling in agriculture, commerce, and the sugar industry.

In the 20th century, Ponce underwent modernization, incorporating European architectural influences and solidifying its status as one of Puerto Rico's most significant cities. It also became the setting for pivotal historical events, including the 1937 Ponce Massacre, a tragic episode in the island's struggle for independence.

Today, Ponce remains a vibrant tourist and cultural destination, preserving its legacy as one of Puerto Rico's most iconic and historically rich cities.

FOR A BETTER EXPERIENCE

- Comfortable shoes, sandals
- Sunblock lotion
- Cap or hat
- Comfortable clothing (shorts, t-shirt, cotton clothing)

ARCHITECTURE OF PONCE, PUERTO RICO

Ponce, known as “The Pearl of the South”, has a unique architecture that reflects its rich history and cultural heritage. It is characterized by an eclectic style, combining neoclassical, art deco, baroque and Creole influences.

NOTABLE ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES IN PONCE

- **Neoclassical and Beaux-Arts** Visible in government buildings and plazas, with ornate façades, columns and domes. Example: The Mayor's House of Ponce.
- **Art Deco** Very present in theaters and residences from the early XX century, with geometric lines and stylized decorations.
- **Creole and Victorian Style** Colorful houses with wrought iron balconies, high ceilings and interior patios. Example: “El Parque de Bombas”, with its iconic red and black color.
- **Spanish and Moorish influences** Arches, mosaics and internal patios, reflecting the colonial heritage.

PONCE PARQUE DE BOMBAS: A HISTORICAL ICON OF PUERTO RICO

The Parque de Bombas is one of the most iconic landmarks in Ponce and Puerto Rico. Located in Plaza Las Delicias, at the heart of the city, it stands out with its distinctive red and black façade, making it a unique architectural gem on the island.

HISTORY

- It was built in 1882 as a pavilion for the Puerto Rico Agriculture and Industry Exposition.
- In 1883, it became Ponce's first official fire station, operating as such for more than 100 years.
- In 1990, it stopped being a fire station and was converted into a museum dedicated to the history of the Ponce fire department.

SERRALLÉS CASTLE: AN ICON OF SPANISH ARCHITECTURE IN PONCE

Serrallés Castle, built in the 1930s, is a majestic hilltop mansion overlooking Ponce. It was the residence of the Serrallés family, owners of the Don Q distillery, famous for its rum.

ARCHITECTURAL CHARACTERISTICS

- **Architectural style** Spanish neocolonial with Moorish influences.
- **Materials** Stucco walls, clay tile roofs and wrought iron details.
- **Distribution** Designed around a central patio, with arches and fountains that recall Andalusian stately homes.

DISTINCTIVE ELEMENTS

- Towers and balconies with panoramic views.
- Interiors with period furniture and decorative stained glass.
- Terraced gardens with fountains and sculptures.
- A mirador with impressive views of the city and the sea.



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GENERAL CONDITIONS

Full payment at the time of confirming services.

ACCOMMODATION CANCELLATIONS

45 days before: \$50 per room / 44 to 30 days before: \$75 per room / 29 to 15 days before: \$100 per room / 14 days or less: **Non-refundable.**

EXCURSION CANCELLATIONS

30 to 15 days before: \$25 per excursion / 14 days or less before: **Non-refundable.**
The refund is credited to the same payment method used.