

Puerto Rico Coastal Loop Road Trip Checklist

How Long Does It Take to Drive Around Puerto Rico?

Print this checklist and tick off every item before you hit the road!

1. Before You Go (Planning)

- Book rental car with **AutoExpreso tag** included
- Download **TollGuru** and **GasBuddy** apps
- Check Discover Puerto Rico 2026 visitor report for latest crowds
- Reserve El Yunque + other park passes (weekends sell out fast)
- Download offline Google Maps + Waze routes
- Book ferry to Vieques / Culebra (if adding islands)
- Print or save this checklist + emergency contacts

2. Rental Car & Toll Setup

- Confirm AutoExpreso transponder is activated (most rentals charge \$10–25/day unlimited)
- Test tag works on PR-22, PR-52, PR-66, PR-5, PR-20, PR-53 & Moscoso Bridge
- Take photo of rental contract + tag number
- Add full-coverage insurance (roads are rough!)
- Check tire pressure and spare before leaving agency

3. Route & Timing

- Decide clockwise or counterclockwise loop
- Plan 5–8 hours pure driving OR 3–7 relaxed days
- Mark 2–3 overnight stops (San Juan → Rincón → Ponce → Fajardo)
- Add buffer time for traffic + photo stops
- Note dry season (Dec–Apr) = fastest times

4. Safety & Driving Essentials

- Defensive driving mindset (locals drive fast)
- Avoid night driving in mountains
- Cash for small tolls + roadside vendors
- Check for speed cameras & 15 mph school zones
- Know 25/35/45/55–65 mph limits
- Seat belts for everyone + car seat for kids
- Download offline PRHTA Strategic Highway Safety Plan map

5. EV / Fuel & Tolls

- Locate NEVI EV charging stations along your route
- Fill tank before remote sections
- Budget \$5–15 total tolls with AutoExpreso
- Use TollGuru for real-time dynamic pricing

6. National Parks & Must-See Stops

- El Yunque rainforest hike (2–4 hours)
- Toro Negro & Guánica Dry Forest
- Cabo Rojo National Wildlife Refuge + Playa Sucia
- Bioluminescent bay in Fajardo / Mosquito Bay (Vieques)
- Lechón stop on pork highway near Cayey

7. What to Pack (Essentials)

- Reef-safe sunscreen + bug spray
- Rain jacket / poncho (rainforest + sudden showers)
- Water shoes + quick-dry towel
- Comfortable walking shoes for Old San Juan & trails
- Hat + sunglasses + lightweight long-sleeve shirt
- Reusable water bottle + snacks
- Cash + credit cards (some vendors cash only)
- Power bank + car charger
- Small first-aid kit + motion sickness pills

8. Final Checks Before Leaving

- Phone fully charged + offline maps downloaded
- Rental car inspected (photo damage)
- Hotel / Airbnb confirmations saved
- Emergency numbers: PRHTA roadside assistance + rental company
- Tell someone your route & expected return

You're ready!

Tick everything off and enjoy the best island road trip of your life