



## **HISTORICAL PLACES ADD DISTINCTION TO MEETINGS IN SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO**

Puerto Rico's rich cultural heritage has left a legacy of outstanding, historical sites that provide meeting planners with a remarkable array of venues for special events or theme parties. From an evening under the stars at a fort built by the Spanish Armada, to a lavish reception at the Old Casino, Puerto Rico's venues offer meeting attendees an unforgettable experience of the island.

The following is a sampling of Puerto Rico's special meeting sites:

### **Interior Patio of Dominican Convent**

One of San Juan's oldest landmarks, this Dominican Convent serves as a unique site for informal dinners or cocktail parties. It once served as a barrack for Spanish soldiers during the Spanish-American war and then as the headquarters of the U.S. Antilles Command until 1966. Now, this historic building, with its immense interior patio, holds approximately 700-1,000 people for cocktails or dinner. The Convent will eventually serve as the city's museum of fine arts and currently contains the Institute of Puerto Rican Culture book and music stores.

### **Casa Blanca Garden**

Built for Ponce de León, the first governor of Puerto Rico, Casa Blanca now serves as a museum featuring 16th- and 17th-century family life. The museum's large garden and attractive salon can hold up to 300 people, thus making it an inviting setting for a late afternoon function or cocktail party. Casa Blanca's ethnographic museum and miniature re-creation of a Taino Village give it a genuine Puerto Rico ambiance.

### **La Puntilla Arsenal**

A former Spanish naval station overlooking the San Juan Bay, La Puntilla Arsenal often serves a site for large dinner functions, and has a capacity to hold up to 2,000 people. The Puntilla Arsenal is also a center for changing art exhibitions and cultural activities.

### **Tapia Theater**

With a capacity to hold 700 people, this 19th century theater serves as an arena for cultural events and enchanting ballet performances and is an ideal spot for meetings and presentations.

### **La Princesa**

Formerly the local San Juan penitentiary, La Princesa is an ideal site for a banquet function featuring local music and dance. Surrounded by elegantly landscaped trees, statues and kiosks, La Princesa has a capacity to hold 400-500 people. A breathtaking site, it faces the San Juan Bay and overlooks a fountain and bronze sculpture which depicts Puerto Rico's cultural roots.

**San Geronimo Fort**

Built by the Spanish Armada to defend the city during colonial times, the Fort withstood a bloody battle with the British in 1797. Today, San Geronimo serves as the perfect venue for theme parties -- such as the popular Conquistadores cocktail party. With a capacity of up to 2,000 people, this Spanish Fortress overlooks the seashore and provides a wonderful atmosphere for events held under the stars.

**Old Casino - Official Government Reception Center**

Old San Juan's most lavish building, the Old Casino is a masterpiece of plasterwork, capitals, friezes, cornices and pilasters. Its white marble ballroom featuring a 12' by 9' chandelier, sets the tone for elegant receptions and social functions. This luxurious building can host up to 400 people.

**Ballajá**

These barracks, the largest structure built by the Spaniards in the "New World," were once home to Spanish troops and their families; today, the historic building noted for its symmetrical architecture, houses the Museum of the Americas, which features archaeological finds and a colorful exhibit of crafts in the Americas. An outdoor courtyard accommodates 1,500 for a reception.

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