



DESTINATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT THEMED EVENTS

Between its colorful history and architectural wonders, Puerto Rico offers myriad possibilities for unique themed events. Following are ideas for exciting and entertaining events that the PRCB will help you plan and enjoy:

Conquistadores Night

Wander back over 500 years!

Conquistadores celebrations can take place in the stunning setting of San Gerónimo Fort, a colonial fortress that juts into the sea. Featuring a buffet or cocktail party, the event also includes mounted Conquistadores dressed in authentic 16th century costumes, as well as a fanfare of trumpets to announce arriving guests.

Special lighting and decorations include Spanish flags, wooden barrels, sandbags and torches, recreating the image of a real garrison guarding the entrance to Old San Juan.

Events scheduled for late afternoon or early evening are best. There is usually a fiery sunset that gives way to the sparkling lights of metropolitan San Juan and the starry tropical sky. San Gerónimo Fort accommodates up to 500 guests. The atmosphere can also be recreated in a hotel's ballroom or pool area.

Pirate Party

Recreate the nights when pirate ships visited the shores of Puerto Rico! Guests are greeted with typical rum drinks, don pirate gear (eye patches, kerchiefs, and gold hoop earrings), brandish their (plastic) sabers, and transform themselves into genuine swashbucklers. Enjoy a bold and exciting evening filled with suspense, complete with Roberto Cofresí (a fabled local buccaneer) and his pirates rushing the shores in their boats. . The atmosphere can also be recreated in a hotel's ballroom or pool area.

Carnival Night

Fun! Fun! Fun! Carnival Night includes Brazilian samba music intertwined with authentic Puerto Rican *bomba* and *plena*. Confetti and costumes are provided for guests and colorful decor creates a very festive atmosphere.

Puerto Rican Night

Participate in a Typical Town Patron Saint's Festival! These celebrations include several kiosks, featuring traditional Island food and drinks, including *lechón asado* (pork slowly roasted in a pit),. All of this against a backdrop of folkloric music and dance, including the famous *Vejigantes and Cabezudos*. A salsa dance contest can take place, and the winners are rewarded with Puerto Rican rum, coffee and candies.

El Yunque Rain Forest

Enjoy the only tropical rain forest within the US National Forest System! This event can be held in the rain forest or at any function room decorated with tropical plants and flowers, exotic centerpieces, and a waterfall. The unique sounds of the rain forest and a quartet playing pre-Columbian music add to the ambiance. The menu features international gourmet fare and native cuisine.

Treasure Hunt

Everybody wins! Groups are divided into teams and given a disposable camera. The teams are then staged from three different locations and staggered, road-rally style, with a printed guide and instructions to photograph certain sights. At the end of the hunt, the cameras are collected and presentation kits are made for each group.

Artist Showcase Party

Everybody participates! Guests test their abilities at hand crafting, while professional artisans show them how to make *Santos* (carved wooden saints), create seashell jewelry, or design carnival masks. Nobody leaves empty handed and the most talented wins an original piece of artwork!

Horseback Safari Party

A leisurely horseback ride takes participants through the countryside and across a river, or through a deserted beach (great for picture taking!). Upon your return trip to the stables along an equally scenic route, the party begins! Enjoy well-deserved piña coladas, Puerto Rican cuisine, and lively entertainment.

Jíbaro Party

Fashioned after the old harvest festivals of the farming community, this event is perfect poolside or at the beach, and includes typical food such as *lechón asado* (pork slowly roasted in a pit), *sancocho* (vegetable and meat stew) and *flan* (custard). Puerto Rican music and dance, such as the classical, waltz-like *danza* or modern salsa keep the party moving.

Beach Olympics

Planners can also coordinate Beach Olympics, raft-building events, and other beach activities, a fun and popular way for corporate groups to work on team building.

Flamenco Rendezvous

In honor of Puerto Rico's Spanish heritage, a Flamenco Rendezvous evening is complete with Gypsy music, *mantillas* (lace veils) and castanets for the women, and a flamenco dance contest for all. This event can be held at any site.

Island Rally

An abbreviated version of the famous European car rallies, this event can last one or several days, with overnight stays at *paradores* (country inns). Participants or groups are provided with a set of maps at the hotel and drive along the Island's panoramic route, with stops at pre-determined points along the way. Prizes are awarded at the closing dinner.

Taíno Night

Held in a venue decorated to resemble the ceremonial and recreational courtyards used by the native Taíno Indians, Taíno Night events include authentic Puerto Rican food and music, arts and crafts displays, games, dances, and serenades around a campfire on the beach.

For more information about this or other services provided by the PRCB, feel free to contact the Destination Services Department at 787-725-2110, fax 787-725-2133.