

## Always practice Leave No Trace



- ⇒ Plan ahead and prepare.
- ⇒ Dispose of waste properly.
- ⇒ Travel & camp on durable surfaces.
- ⇒ Minimize fire ring/stove impacts.
- ⇒ Respect wildlife and vegetation.
- ⇒ Be considerate of other visitors/campers.

### Safety Alerts

- Be aware of potential flash floods in or near rivers and streams.
- Landslides and tree fall may occur after heavy rains.
- Always be aware of current weather conditions, alerts and warnings especially June 1-Nov 30 during hurricane season.
- Mongooses are the principal carrier of rabies in Puerto Rico, avoid all contact with them. If bitten by a mongoose or any feral mammal (cat, dog) get medical attention immediately.
- Be cautious when brushing against plants as some may cause skin irritations.
- Out of four snake species, only the *Alsophis* or Racer has a toxic bite that may warrant medical attention.
- Insects and other arthropods that produce painful stings are: bees, wasps, centipedes, scorpions, tarantulas, certain ants and hairy caterpillars.
- Non Slip shoes/ boots and rain gear are recommended.
- Have a plan of activities and share it with Forest Service camping officials as requested in the permit.
- There is limited cellular phone coverage inside the Forest.
- Do not leave your belongings unattended. **The FS is not responsible for lost or stolen items.**
- Hiking at night away from campsite is not recommended.



### El Yunque Setting

El Yunque National Forest is a mountain wetland rain forest so be prepared for a muddy and possibly rainy experience. Night temperatures range from the 70's to low 60's F.(15 -21 C). Topography is steep and uneven and the soils are water logged. Mossy surfaces create slippery conditions and also conceal various tiny life forms in the ground, tree trunks and branches. Occasional heavy rains will cause flash floods and landslides. The dense vegetation helps birds, lizards and other forest fauna camouflage even when near you. The leaf litter houses many organisms. Stream rocks conceal shrimp and other aquatic fauna. The boa constrictor is the largest animal while the hawks are the top predators. Nocturnal activity includes among others: screech owls, bats, boas, rats, a great variety of non biting insects, geckos, coqui frogs, river crabs and shrimp. This ecosystem is very delicate, special and easily altered. Please minimize your impact on the Forest. It is well loved by many, hope you get to love it too! ENJOY!

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**USDA Forest Service**

## Camping Guidelines El Yunque National Forest



Illustration by A. Moragon

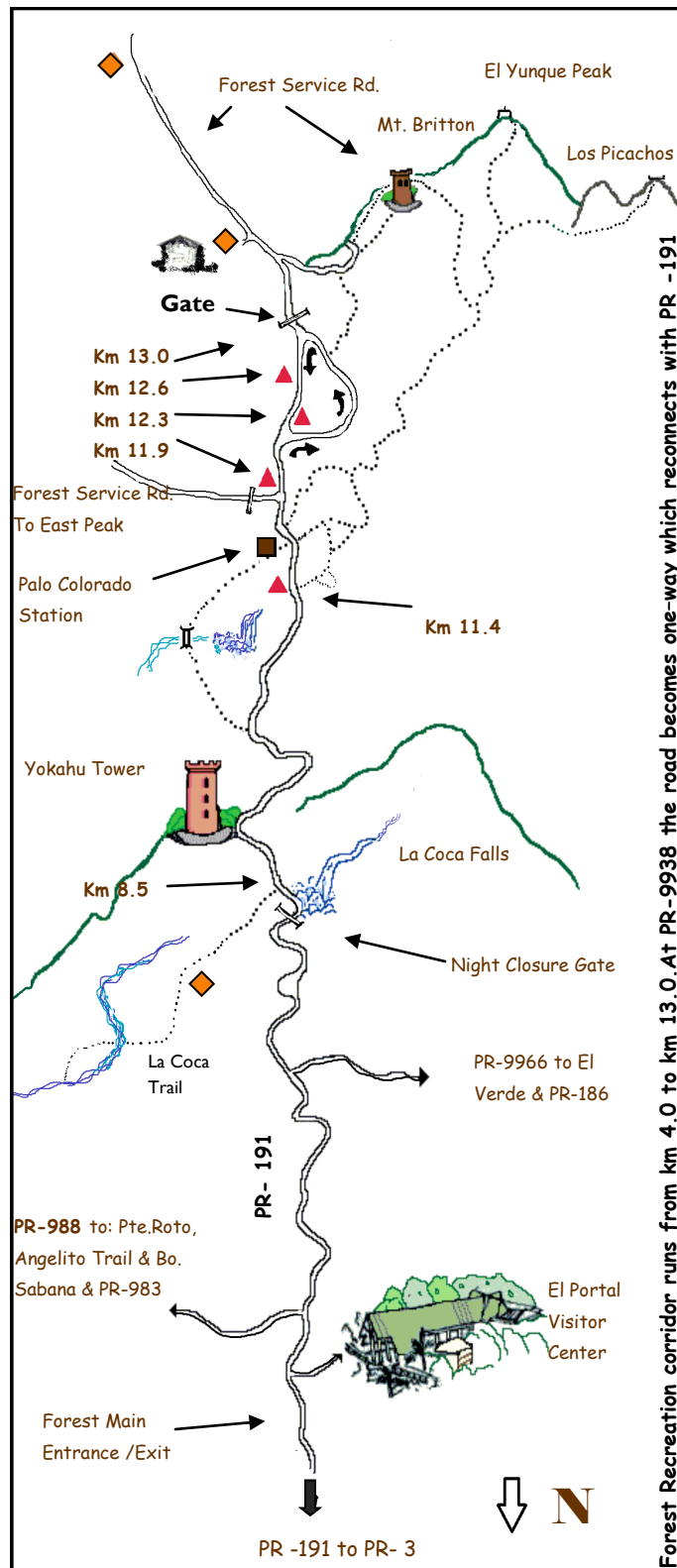
El Yunque only offers undeveloped camping. There are no toilet facilities, treated water, picnic tables or shelters in any of the camping sites . Check with camping officials for availability or last minute closures .

## Camping Guidelines

- Your Camping Permit Number is your ID.
- Camp **only** at the designated campsite authorized for your Camping Permit Ticket.
- Length of stay is limited to 14 days.
- Group sizes are limited to 8 persons or less for most sites.
- Old Nursery is the only campsite accommodating groups of up to 25 max.
- Open campfires are not allowed. Build fires only in fire rings or grills. Use of camp stoves is permitted.



- Make your impact on the resource as slight as possible.
- Use of hammocks is strongly discouraged as it may destroy rare plants and epiphytes on trees and branches.
- Avoid walking off the trails to protect trailside plants and other organisms. Travel in small groups.
- Avoid loud noises so as not to disturb wildlife or visitors.
- Do not harm or stress wildlife (arboreal, terrestrial, aquatic) no matter how small.
- Do not cut or damage plants (trees, palm fronds, vines, mosses, etc.) or modify the natural surroundings terrestrial or aquatic. Do not rearrange stream rocks.
- Do all washing 100 ft. away from water sources by using a bucket or wash pan.
- Do not dispose of human waste in streams. Bury feces using the cat-hole method: Dig a shallow hole (6 to 8 inches deep) 100 ft. away from streams, or at a reasonable distance from campsite or trail and cover waste with soil. Urine should be kept away from streams, campsites and trails.
- Encounters with mosquitoes are rare. In general, it is a good idea to avoid using lotions or insect repellents that introduce foreign chemicals into the environment.
- If you packed it in, please pack it out and take trash with you, while leaving Forest things in the Forest!



## Getting a Camping Permit

An **approved** permit is required to camp in the Forest. No camping fee is required.

Use the **Camping Form** at [www.fs.usda.gov/elyunque](http://www.fs.usda.gov/elyunque) to submit an application for camping.

The **Camping Form** contains the **Camping Guidelines flyer**, the **Camper's data** and **Camping Permit Ticket**. Please read the Guidelines flyer. Complete and submit the Camper's data form to camping officials: [vcuevas@fs.fed.us](mailto:vcuevas@fs.fed.us) & [jrortega@fs.fed.us](mailto:jrortega@fs.fed.us) at least 10 days prior to camping date.

The **Camping Permit Ticket** will become your Approved Camping Permit once you populate it with the assigned **Camping Permit #**, **Authorized Campsite** and name of **Authorizing Official** as reflected in the Authorization e-mail you will receive. This validated permit binds you as follows:

**BY ACCEPTING AND CAMPING UNDER THIS PERMIT YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR COMPLYING WITH ALL THE CAMPING GUIDELINES FOUND IN THIS FLYER.**

Display the validated **Camping Permit Ticket** on your vehicle's dashboard or have it with you while camping if without a vehicle. Any uniformed Forest Service personnel can ask to see it.

We recommend you call or email a check-in/check-out note to camping officials for safety purposes.

### Campsites Near Parking

El Pabellón 191, directly opposite Caimitillo Trail	km 11.4
Dos Quebradas (hill) 191, corner East Pk Rd	km 11.9
La Lomita (hill) 191, corner entrance to PR 9938	km 12.3
Molindero (bamboo stands) past cement pillars	km 12.6

### Campsites to Hike-Backpack from Parking

La Coca Trail- 45 min. hike to campsite	km 8.5
Old Nursery- open space in front of old structure soon after walking past km13 gate on the left hand side of the road	S of gate Landslide rd.
Icacos- after aprox. 1 hr. walk south of km 13 gate on left side of rd. The area has a clearing and a rain gage on a green wooden structure	S of gate Landslide rd.

**CAMPING SEASON** We offer permitted camping year round but camping closures will occur during hurricanes and other storm events. **Night Time Closure:** At 6:00 PM the gate closes at km 8.1. PR-191 and reopens at 7:30 AM. During this time there is no exit by vehicle.

**CAMPERS DATA-PLEASE COMPLETE AND SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IN ORDER TO APPLY FOR A PERMIT**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lead camper's name-holds accountability for group

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cell phone number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lead camper's Driver's license/State ID #

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, Country of residence

\_\_\_\_\_  
Group name if applicable

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name & phone of an additional camper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name & phone of emergency contact

Dates :

From \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ # of Nights \_\_\_\_\_

Total number of campers: \_\_\_\_\_

Total number of tents: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Vehicle Color/ Make, Model /License Plate Number

(Additional vehicles if any:)

Activity schedule (hiking plans, etc.) for safety purposes; Additional comments.

Select campsite choices in order of preference in case we need to assign alternate site.

\_\_\_\_\_ El Pabellon

\_\_\_\_\_ Dos Quebradas

\_\_\_\_\_ La Lomita

\_\_\_\_\_ Molindero (3 spaces )

\_\_\_\_\_ La Coca Trail

\_\_\_\_\_ Old Nursery

\_\_\_\_\_ Icacos (2 spaces)

**USDA FOREST SERVICE  
EL YUNQUE NATIONAL FOREST**

**CAMPING PERMIT TICKET**

**(Complete this form AFTER receiving the Camping Permit # from the authorizing official and use this form as your Approved Camping Permit)**

**ASSIGNED CAMPING PERMIT #** \_\_\_\_\_

**AUTHORIZED CAMPSITE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATES:** From \_\_\_\_\_ To \_\_\_\_\_ # nights \_\_\_\_\_ # Campers \_\_\_\_\_

**AUTHORIZING OFFICIAL :** \_\_\_\_\_

**LEAD CAMPER'S SIGNATURE** \_\_\_\_\_

**This permit becomes valid only when fully completed with the information provided by the Authorizing Official in the Authorization Message. You must have this permit handy while camping. Permission for camping is hereby granted, subject to the conditions and applicable regulations of the USDA Forest Service. The permit holder is responsible for reading and complying with the instructions in the Camping Guidelines flyer. Display this Camping Permit Ticket on the dashboard of any vehicle in the camping permit. Do not leave your belongings unattended. The FS is not responsible for lost or stolen items.**