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For more information:

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 Rio Grande, PR 00745-9625
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<http://www.fs.usda.gov/elyunque>



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Camping on the El Yunque National Forest



The El Yunque National Forest warmly welcomes you! We provide the following information to help you have a safe and enjoyable camping experience.

What to expect

First, you should know that camping in a tropical rain forest will probably be different than any other camping experience you have had. The topography of the forest is steep and vegetation is extremely dense. Because of this, it is difficult to find areas suitable for camping.

The Forest receives between 100 and 200 inches of rain per year, depending on the elevation. This amount of rain can result in very wet and muddy conditions. Hurricane season begins June 1st and lasts till November 30th. During this time the camper needs to be aware of weather forecasts.

On the El Yunque National Forest **there are no developed campgrounds or designated camping areas.**



You must be able to find a suitable place to camp following the guidelines offered here. These conditions require experienced camper skills, including the ability to read maps, as well as having adequate camping gear.

Permits

Camping on the Forest requires a permit. There is no charge. Permits are issued at the Catalina Service Center located at Road 191 Km. 4.3 from 8:00 am to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday (787) 888-1880; and at Palo Colorado Visitor Center located at Road 191 Km.11.9 from 9:30 am to 4:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Permits can be obtained the same day.

US Department of Agriculture Forest Service Caribbean National Forest Free Camping Permit		
Permittee is hereby granted, subject to the following conditions and the applicable regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture:		
Last Name	First Name	
Address		
City	State	Zip Code
License Number	Expiration Date	
Full Number of persons camping on this permit		
Camping Dates	From	To
Issuing Officer	Print name	Date

Camping Season

Camping on the Forest is allowed year round.

Night Time Closure

Road 191 is closed each night at La Coca Falls. The gate is opened each morning at 7:30 am and is closed each evening at 6:00 p.m. **Car camping is not permitted behind the gate.** You are welcome to backpack in several locations near Road 191, with a permit.

Parking

There is **no designated parking** for the cars of the backpackers or car campers. All campers need to park off the road in areas where parking is not prohibited. **The Forest Service is not responsible for the safety of vehicles.**



Time & Group Size Limit

There is a **14 day** stay limit for all camping. Group sizes are limited to 8 persons or less.

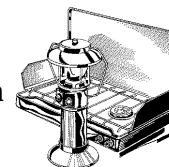
Where can I camp?

As stated before, there are no designated camping areas on the Forest. Camping is allowed along all roads and trails **except the areas shown as closed on the map.** Car camping is not allowed on the south side of the night closure gate at La Coca Falls.

Tents must be located at least 30 feet from any trail or body of water and at least 50 feet from roads and developed picnic sites. If using a tent, look for a level, well-drained site. Do not dig trenches or diversion ditches to channel water.

Campfires

Use a small camp stove and do not build open campfires. If you are going to build a fire, it must be at least 30 feet from any river, stream or developed trail. Build fires only in fire rings, stoves or grills. **Open fires are not permitted.** Be sure your fire is completely extinguished before leaving.



Leave No Trace!

Leave no trace that you have been in the Forest. Use only designated paths and

trails. Do not cut, mutilate or remove any tree, shrubbery or plant without permit. Dead material may be used for campfires. Leave the wildflowers for others to enjoy.

Washing

Do not wash in a stream or river. Even biodegradable soap pollutes the water and injures fish and other aquatic life. To wash dishes and clothes or to give yourself a sponge bath, use a bucket or washpan away from the stream. Use biodegradable or non-phosphate soap. Using no soap would be better.

Waste Disposal

Pack out all trash and dispose in garbage cans and waste bins.



Do not dispose of human waste in streams. Bury feces using the cathole method: dig a shallow hole in the top 6 to 8 inches of soil at least 100 feet from water, camp or trails and cover waste with soil. Urine need not be buried but should be kept away from water, camp and trails.

Courtesy

Respect the privacy of other campers. Avoid making loud noises at night. Radios, tape players, loud musical instruments and boisterous activity are out of place and can easily frighten birds. Take only memories, leave the flowers, trees and picturesque rocks for others to enjoy.