El Yunque National Forest

WHERE ARE WE?

Located approximately 25 miles east of San Juan, about a 1 hour drive from the metropolitan area. Follow Hwy. # 3 east from San Juan to the town of Palmer. Then follow Hwy. # 191 south to the forest.

WHAT ARE WE?

El Yunque National Forest is administered by the US Forest Service. El Yunque is the only tropical rainforest in the US National Forest system. With 28,000 acres, it is one of the smallest in the forest system, but is also one of the most ecologically diverse. It is the largest protected area in the island of Puerto Rico, and is one of the oldest forest reserves in the western hemisphere. In December, 2005, the President signed into law the Caribbean National Forest Act which designated 10,000 acres of the forest as the El Toro Wilderness Area, the first wilderness area to be designated in a tropical rainforest. As a wilderness area designated by an Act of Congress, El Toro is afforded the greatest level of protection available to a federally managed area.

"Caring for the Land and Serving People"

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EL YUNQUE ...IN A NUTSHELL

El Yunque
National Forest

SOME FACTS & FIGURES

Maximum/minimum elevation -
330/3,533 feet (100/1,076 m.)

Highest peak - **El Toro**

Average annual rainfall -
120 inches (304 cm.)

Maximum recorded rainfall -
250 inches (635 cm.)

Number of native tree species -
240+

Tree species found <u>only</u> in
El Yunque - **23**

Animal species in El Yunque -
250+

Animal species found <u>only</u> in
El Yunque - **8**

Forest area dedicated to research -
3,629 acres (14.6 Km²)

Forest area dedicated to
recreation - **1,500 acres (6 Km²)**

Number of annual forest visitors -
1,185,700

Puerto Rican Tody, *Todus mexicanus*

FOREST TYPES

El Yunque is divided into four major forest types:

Tabonuco forest type

Found on foothills and slopes below 2,000 feet (609.6 meters). It comprises almost 50% of the forest.

Palo Colorado Forest Type

Found above 2,000 feet (609.6 meters) in valleys and on gentle slopes bordering the Tabonuco forest. It comprises approximately 8,200 acres (33.2 Km²) or about 30 % of the forest.
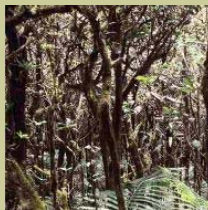
Sierra Palm Forest Type

Found on steep slopes and stream margins above 2,500 feet (762 meters) . It includes approximately 4,800 acres (19.4 Km²) or 17 % of the forest.

Cloud Forest Type

Occurs on higher peaks and ridges above 2,500 feet (762 meters) that are subject to extreme exposure. Also known as the Elfin or Mossy forest, it occupies only 1,000 acres (4 Km²) or 3 % of the forest.

Gold Heliconia, *Heliconia caribaea*

NATURE TRAILS

Big Tree Trail:
0.8 miles (1.2 Km.) / 40 minutes, one-way

La Mina Trail:
0.7 miles (1.1 Km.) / 30-40 minutes, one-way

Caimitillo Trail:
0.2 miles (.3 Km.) / 15-20 minutes, one-way

Baño de Oro Trail:
0.3miles (.48 Km.) / 20 minutes, one-way

Mt. Britton Trail:
0.8 miles (1.2 Km.) / 40 minutes, one-way

El Yunque Trail:
2.4 miles (3.8 Km.) / 2 hours, one-way