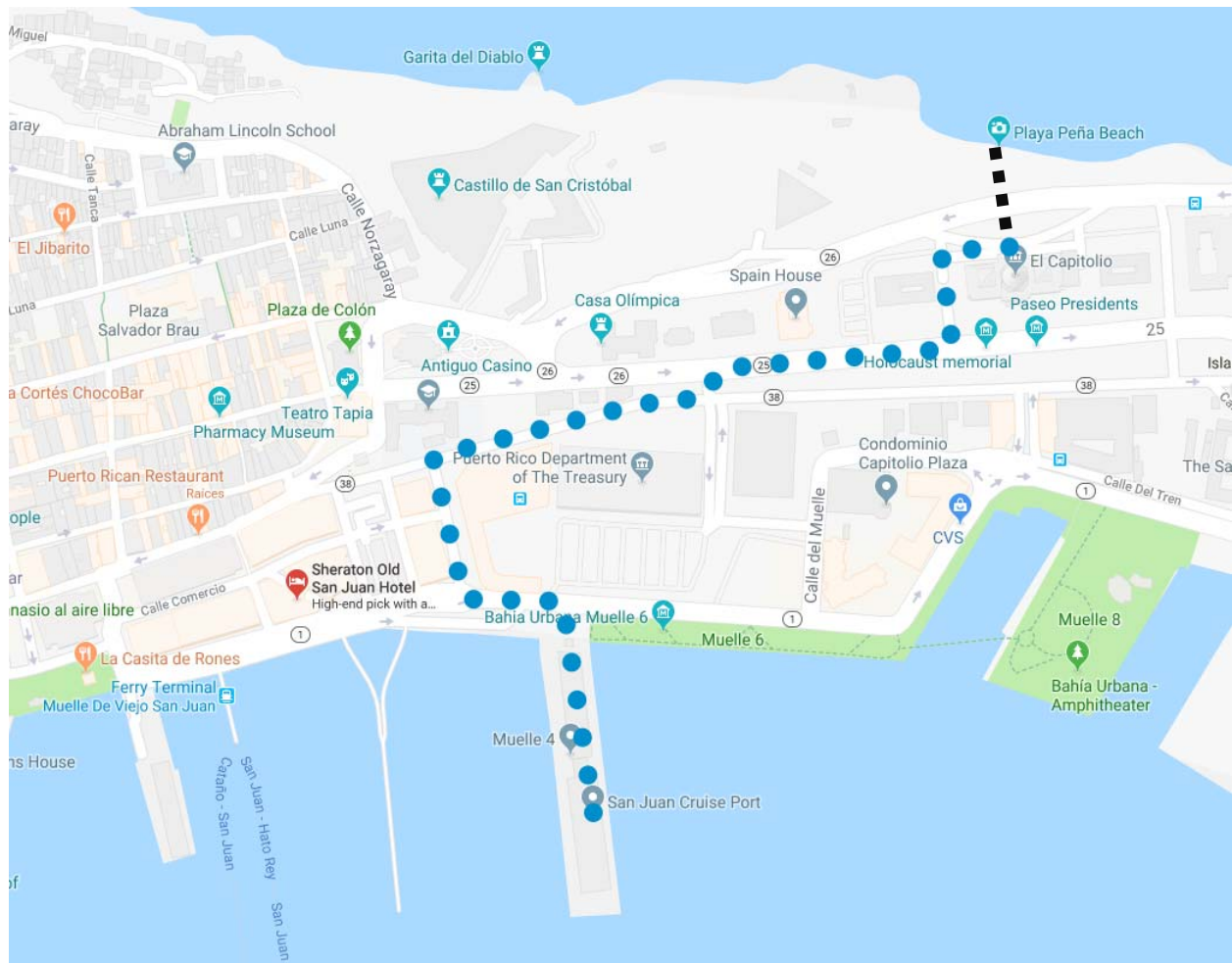




**TRAVEL ADVISORY:** Always be vigilant and constantly aware of your surroundings when exploring any port on your own. Reduce your risk by leaving jewelry and other valuables on the ship. Check the U.S. State Department Travel Advisories before deciding to explore a port on your own: <https://travel.state.gov/traveladvisories>

## SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO

# Walking Tour: Capitol Building & Playa Peña



<https://goo.gl/maps/WkWduJkDj8N2>

## Route Info

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Time: About 15 minutes to Playa Peña Beach;  
more time for stops.

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Difficulty: Moderate; Some Hills

## Admission

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Walk: FREE

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Capitol Building: FREE

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Playa Peña Beach: FREE

## Overview

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From National Park Service:

For Puerto Ricans, El Capitolio de Puerto Rico stands as a powerful symbol of self-government. Former resident Commissioner of Puerto Rico Luis Muñoz Rivera promoted the idea of constructing a capitol building as early as 1907; later he was the prime mover in seeking the capitol building's construction between 1925 and 1929. The dome, however, was not completed until 1961. Although Puerto Rican architect Rafael Carmoega designed this magnificent Neoclassical Revival style building, many other famous Puerto Rican artists--Rafael Rios Rey, José Oliver, Jorge Rechani and Rafael Tufiño and others--collaborated on the capitol's interior design, which is highlighted by murals and mosaics depicting Puerto Rico's history.

<https://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/prvi/pr5.htm>

From SanJuanPuertoRico.com:

A gorgeous, naturally rugged beach right in the Old City of San Juan, Puerto Rico, Playa Peña is a wonderful surprise right in the city of Old San Juan. For many years, there was no beach in Old San Juan. City workers and volunteers cleaned up this beach and gave locals and visitors easy access to it. It is perfect for those needing a little escape from the hustle of the city just a few steps away. Peña translates to rock, and the name is descriptive of the beach due to all the rocks along the shore.

<https://sanjuanpuertorico.com/playa-pena-old-san-juan-beach/>

1. Exit the port and locate Calle Juan Antonio Corretjer. The road is located two blocks east of Walgreens/Sheraton and across the street from the area between cruise terminal piers 3 and 4.





2. Walk north on Calle Juan Antonio Corretjer to the T-intersection.



3. At the T-intersection, turn right onto Paseo Covadonga.



4. Walk uphill on Paseo Covadonga. You can look for the top of the Capitol building in the distance.



5. Continue walking downhill on Paseo Cavodonga. (The Puerto Rico Department of the Treasury is the building located inside the white gates to your right.)





6. You will come to a small connector road on the left. The road connects Paseo Covadonga (the lower road you are walking on) to Avenida Juan Ponce de Leon (the higher road). Continue walking on Paseo Covadonga past the gated entrance to the Puerto Rico Department of Treasury on your right, then use the crosswalk to cross Paseo Covadonga and walk uphill to Avenida Juan Ponce de Leon.



7. Continue walking on the right side of Avenida Juan Ponce de Leon.



8. The Holocaust Memorial Monument is located on the right side of Avenida Juan Ponce de Leon, just before the Capitol building area.



From Discovering Puerto Rico:

*“One of the most moving memorials that you will find along Constitution Avenue is the San Juan Holocaust Memorial that was inaugurated in March 2012.*

*“Designed by New York artists Michael Berkowicz and Bonnie Srolovitz, the memorial is made from weathering steel with carved out images representing a family whose shadows are cast in black granite.*

*“Around the statue there are bilingual plaques relating to the atrocities carried out on the Jews during World War II.*

*“The monument not only commemorates the holocaust it also honors the 17 Puerto Rican tourists who lost their lives at the Lod Airport massacre in Isreal in 1972.*

*“A walkway entitled Path of the Righteous honors those who risked their lives to help others during the Second World War.”*

<http://www.discoveringpuertorico.com/san-juan-holocaust-memorial/>



9. Further along Avenida Juan Ponce de Leon – and directly across from the Capitol building – is the Walkway of the Presidents, which commemorates the US Presidents who have visited Puerto Rico.





10. Cross Avenida Juan Ponce de Leon to the Capitol building, and then turn left.



11. Continue walking on Avenida Juan Ponce de Leon in front of the Capitol.





12. Turn right onto the road located west of the Capitol building.



13. Continue walking uphill on the road located west of the Capitol building.





14. Continue walking to Avenida Luis Muñoz Rivera, and then turn right.



15. Continue walking on Avenida Luis Muñoz Rivera.



16. Cross Avenida Luis Muñoz Rivera at the crosswalk area to Plaza San Juan Bautista.



*“Plaza San Juan Bautista is located in front of the Capitol. This modern square with details in marble and granite is adorned with flowers and artistic banks has a spectacular view of the Atlantic Ocean. In the center of the square there is a round decorated with mosaics of the shields of the towns of Puerto Rico and a sculpture of San Juan Bautista.”*

<http://www.zeepuertorico.com/lugar/plaza-san-juan-bautista.aspx>





17. Turn right in Plaza San Juan Bautista and head down the nearby stairs to reach Playa Peña Beach.

