

OUTLET: Tampa Bay Metro

DATE: Summer 2019

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Caribe Hilton Exterior and Pool View

San Juan Puerto Rico: Recovered and Ready for Summer Travelers

The Historic Caribe Hilton Welcomes Guests | By Ronda M. Parag

It's been nearly two years post-hurricane, and on a recent visit to San Juan, Puerto Rico and the Caribe Hilton, I found the island of Puerto Rico welcoming and ready for exploration. For Tampa Bay residents, a direct flight on JetBlue or Southwest Airlines makes getting to San Juan so easy from Tampa International Airport. Once the plane takes off, it is less than three hours to touch down with Caribbean fun waiting.

The Caribe Hilton has been a staple on the island, which opened in 1949, and is celebrating its 70th birthday. Following the closure from the hurricane, the hotel underwent a \$150 million resto-

ration, including new contemporary guest rooms, reimagined restaurants and bars, fitness center, spa, collaboration with Puerto Rican Olympic gold medalist Monica Puig tennis center, landscaping, new indoor and outdoor event space and more.

"The reopening of Caribe Hilton is one more symbol that Puerto Rico is back in business," said Pablo Torres, General Manager, Caribe Hilton. "The sun is shining, there's energy and rhythm on the island, and once again our famous piña coladas are flowing. We're welcoming our return guests back home, as well as introducing new ones to the

enduring Caribe Hilton experience and legacy."

For a taste of the island, dine at the property's Mojoto's Caribbean Fusion, offering a selection of Puerto Rican favorites including fresh seafood, mofongo and a shareable paella. Make sure to order the legendary Piña Colada, as history was made at Caribe Hilton in 1954 when Ramon "Monchito" Marrero created the first ever frozen cocktail by combining rum, coconut cream and pineapple juice. Relax poolside at the private beach, or when hunger or thirst calls, simply swim up and place an order at the Bagua Bar.

For complete relaxation, schedule a



Caribe Hilton Beach Stretch



Caribe Hilton Beach Aerial View



Caribe Hilton Mojito Caribbean Fusion 2019



Caribar Terrace



Caribar Lounge



Caribe Hilton Garden King Room

deep tissue massage at the newly designed Zen Spa Océano and feel the stress of life melt away. The spa also offers teen and kid's spa treatments.

Discover the city of Old San Juan with its cobblestone streets, colorful architecture and rich history by taking a food tour with Flavors of Old San Juan Food Tour. The three hour walking tour includes five delicious food stops and our tour guide Nadia showed us historic points of interest throughout Old San Juan, including Parque de las Palomas and Plaza de Armas. Did you know that cheese and chocolate dipped in hot cocoa is absolutely delicious? I tried it at Casa

Cortes Chocobar and now I'm hooked.

After dark, try a kayak or SUP with Night Kayak in a clear bottom LED lighted kayak around Condado Lagoon. The guides were friendly and it's fun for the entire family. If you venture into San Juan for cocktails and dinner, try Murphy's Law Irish Pub with live music and full bar including Guinness, or Sabrina Brunch & Bistro Bar for a delicious dinner and live latin music mid-week. Just outside the city walls, a delicious lunch spot is La Garita in La Perla, where the Despachito music video was filmed. A stroll up the hill takes you to the ornate and beautiful Cementerio Santa María Magdalena de

Pazzis and Castillo San Felipe del Morro, the fort that was the Spanish government's first line of defense against invaders in the 16th Century.

Whether you are looking for a family trip, a friends getaway or a romantic escape, it's time to re-discover San Juan with a luxurious stay at the historic Caribe Hilton. **M**

To make hotel reservations or for more information, call 1.800.445.8667 or visit www.caribehilton.com.

More Resources:

Flavors of Old San Juan Food Tour: www.sanjuanfoodtours.com

Night Kayak: www.nightkayak.com

Sabrina Brunch & Bistro Bar: www.facebook.com/sabrinabistro

Murphy's Law Irish Pub: www.facebook.com/murphyslawcalleleiza