

CAUTION:
POOR ROAD
CONDITIONS



ROAD 186

Ruta Escénica Pico del Toro

EL TORO PEAK SCENIC BYWAY

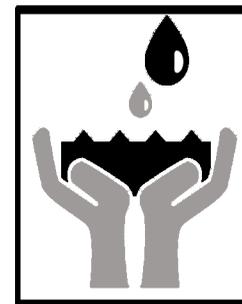
Welcome to the Río Espíritu Santo Watershed area, (also known as El Verde)
At the center of El Yunque Silviculture, Preservation and Research

Rich in Scientific History

El Yunque is one of the most studied forests in the world and the El Verde area is the home of hundreds of scientific studies in a wide range of fields. Some of the research plots here are the oldest in the hemisphere dating back to the 1940s with continuous growth records on over 50,000 trees. Much of what we know today about tropical forests comes from research done here in El Verde. It continues to be a leader in scientific research and is the current home to El Yunque's first Citizen Science vegetation monitoring program.

Ridge to Reef: The Río Espíritu Santo Watershed

Trace the meanderings of the Espíritu Santo (Holy Spirit) River and observe its' watershed as you drive along Road 186. Everything you see is linked through this common water source; shaping the landscape and communities of El Yunque and Puerto Rico by supporting matchless habitats and sustaining life from the ridge-top cloud forests to the colorful coral reefs found as it drains into the Atlantic at the Espíritu Santo River Natural Reserve. Even San Juan is connected - receiving 25% of its water from this El Yunque watershed!



El Toro Wilderness and Trail

Explore this natural and wild place by hiking the historic trail built by the CCC in the 1930's. Containing four major forest types: Tabonuco, Palo Colorado, Sierra Palm, and Cloud Forest; it provides habitat for the endangered Elfin Woods Warbler, Puerto Rican Boa, Desmarest's fig eating bat, five species of Coqui frogs, and the Puerto Rican Parrot. El Toro offers solitude, serenity, and an opportunity for challenge and adventure. After an approximately three hour hike you will be one of the few who has reached the highest peak in the Luquillo Mountains: El Toro Peak.

Tips: Wear long pants and good shoes; Bring water and snacks; Limited cell phone service; No trash cans.

Distance: 2.3 miles (3.8 km)

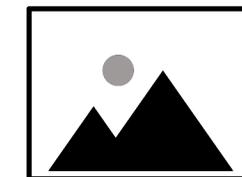
Elevation: 2132 - 3533 feet (650 - 1074 meters)

Time: 3 hours one-way

Difficulty: Difficult

What is "Wilderness"?

This area was designated a National Wilderness Area in 2005 and is the only tropical wilderness in the U.S. National Forest System. It ensures clean air, water, and habitat critical for rare and endangered plants and animals, leaving it in its most primitive state. Please follow stated guidelines and use Outdoor Ethics when visiting El Toro Wilderness to ensure protection of this unique area.



El Toro Wilderness Trailhead - km 10.8

Scenic View - km 12

Río Grande Bridge - km 14.4
Crosses the Río Grande River which eventually connects to the Río Espíritu Santo just before reaching the ocean.

Intersection with Road 956 - km 13.3
Take 956 to continue to the Ruta Escénica Mirador de El Yunque. Connect to 957 N and Route 66.

Quebrada Grande Recreation Site - km 15.8
Parking, picnic and day use facilities. Short trail on left to picnic shelters and river.

Río Espíritu Santo Observation Point- km 18.9
Panoramic view. Bridge crosses the Río Espíritu Santo (Holy Spirit River). Parking along the road and in small grassy area. Several waterfalls.

Road 960 Intersection - km 17
Scenic View

El Verde Research Field Station - km 19.5
Closed to the public Built in 1937 as a leader of tropical research; ongoing long-term research continues.

Quebrada Sonadora - km 19.8
Sonadora Stream and Waterfall

Eliza Colberg Girl Scouts Camp - km 22
Closed to the public Begun in 1950 as a summer day camp; still in operation. www.cgspr.org/

Portalito HUB: El Verde - km 22.1
Closed to the public Historic Ranger Station & Residence built by the CCC in 1930's.

Bilingual English / Español **Mobile App:**

Search in the App Store: **El Yunque NF (OnCell)** Visit the web version: **eynf.oncell.com**

Available on the App Store

ANDROID APP ON Google play

Road 9966
Connects to El Yunque's Main Recreation Corridor on Road 191

Road 3
km 24.7 - Intersection with Road 186

Road 3
To San Juan

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Forest Service
July 2019