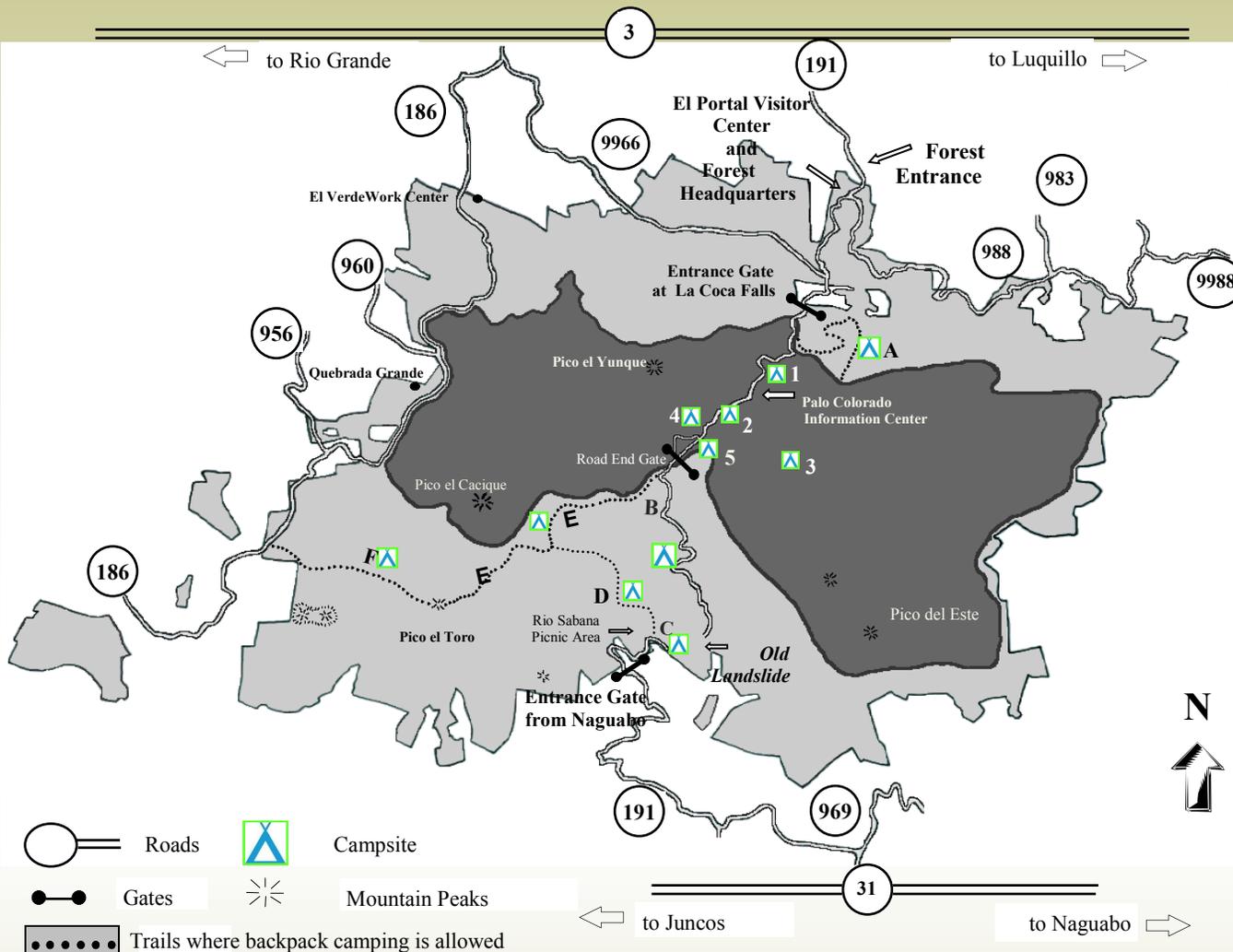




El Yunque National Forest Camping Information and Guidelines



- Roads
- Campsite
- Gates
- Mountain Peaks
- Trails where backpack camping is allowed
- Roadside-Natural Campsite
- Backpack Camping

El Yunque offers semi-primitive camping. There are **NO** toilet facilities, treated water, picnic tables or shelters in any of the camping areas. *Please check for site availability and for closures in Forest web page or with authorizing official.

Roaded-Natural Campsites

1. El Pabellón - Rd 191 km.11.4
2. Dos Quebradas -Rd 191 km 11.9
3. Molindero - Rd 930 to East Peak
4. La Lomita - Rd 191 km 12.3
5. Los Pilotes - Rd 191 km 12.6

Backpack Camping

- A. La Coca Trail
- B. 191 Landslide Road (N)
- C. 191 Landslide Road (S)
- D. Rio Sabana Trail
- E. Tradewinds Trail
- F. El Toro Trail

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Camping Permit Information
www.fs.usda.gov/elyunque
or El Portal Rain Forest Center
Road PR191 km 4.0 Palmer, P.R.
787 888-1880

Revised 3/2013



STAY SAFE. ENJOY. BE AWARE OF WEATHER AND OTHER NATURAL CONDITIONS.

Camping Guidelines

- Camp only at the designated campsite location indicated on your approved permit.
- Length of stay is limited to 14 days. Group sizes are limited to 8 persons or less.
- Open campfires are not allowed. Build fires only in fire rings or grills. Use of camp stoves is permitted.

Fire ring



Stoves



- No cutting of trees, palm fronds, shrubs, branches or other vegetation is allowed.
- To improve insulation from the cool mud, use a plastic sheet under the tent.
- Use of hammocks is discouraged as it can destroy rare plants and epiphytes on trees and branches.
- Avoid walking off the trails to protect trailside plants. Travel in small groups.
- Avoid loud noises so as not to disturb other Forest visitors and wildlife.
- Be mindful of wildlife, terrestrial and aquatic.
- Encounters with mosquitoes are rare. Avoid using lotions and insect repellents that introduce chemicals into the environment.
- Do all washing 100 ft. away from water sources by using a bucket or wash pan.
- Do not dispose of human waste in streams. Bury feces using the cathole method: Dig a shallow hole (6 to 8 inches deep) 100 ft. away from streams, or at a reasonable distance from campsite or trails and cover waste with soil. Urine should be kept away from streams, campsites and trails.
- If you packed it in, please pack it out and take it off the Forest!

- **Always practice Leave No Trace.**
 - ⇒ Plan ahead and prepare.
 - ⇒ Dispose of waste properly.
 - ⇒ Travel and camp on durable surfaces.
 - ⇒ Minimize campfire impacts.
 - ⇒ Respect wildlife and vegetation.
 - ⇒ Be considerate of other visitors.



Safety Alerts

- **Be aware of potential flash floods in or near rivers and streams.**
- Always be aware of current weather conditions, alerts and warnings especially during hurricane season (June 1- Nov 30).
- Mongooses are the principal carrier of rabies in Puerto Rico, avoid all contact with them. If bitten by a mongoose or any feral mammal (cat, dog) get medical attention immediately.
- Be cautious when brushing against plants as some may cause skin irritations.
- None of the animals produce a lethal poison.
- Out of four snake species, only the Racer has a toxic bite that may warrant medical attention.
- Insects and creepy crawlies that produce painful stings are: bees, wasps, centipedes, scorpions, tarantulas and hairy caterpillars.
- Mosquitoes are uncommon.
- Boots and rain gear are recommended.
- Camping alone is not advisable or safe.
- Have a plan of activities and share it with Forest Service camping official as requested in the permit.
- There is limited cellular phone coverage inside the Forest.
- **In Case of an Emergency, Dial 911**



Requesting a Camping Permit

- An approved permit is required to camp in the Forest and must be processed 10 business days prior to the camping date.
- The permit is valid only when signed by an authorizing official.
- There is no fee required.
- Pre-processed permits can be picked-up at the El Portal Visitor Center from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Information and forms are also available at our forest webpage: www.fs.usda.gov/elyunque, and by calling Forest Headquarters at 787-888-1880.

Camping Season

We offer permitted camping year round but camping closures will occur during hurricanes and other storm events.

Night Time Closure

At 6:00 PM the gate closes at La Coca Falls km 8.2. Rd. 191 and reopens at 7:30 AM. You will not be able to exit the Forest by vehicle during this time.

The Natural Setting

Camping in this tropical rain forest is a wet and muddy experience. High annual rainfall turns the Forest into a drippy sponge most of the time. Summer night temperatures remain in the 70's F and winter nights in the low 60's F. Higher elevations have cooler weather and more precipitation. Steep and uneven topography as well as moss covered rocks makes for slippery surfaces. Occasionally heavy rains will cause flash floods and landslides. Birds easily hide in the dense vegetation. Small animals are mostly hidden or camouflaged in branches, moss covered trunks, leaf litter and soil as well as under rocks in streams. The boa constrictor is the largest animal while the hawks are the top predators. Nocturnal activity includes among others: screech owls, bats, boas, rats, a great variety of insects, geckos, coqui frogs, river crabs and shrimp.