

# The U.S. destination with the highest vaccine rate? Puerto Rico

Puerto Rico is leading all U.S. states and territories in Covid-19 vaccination rates.

According to data from the CDC, the destination, which is a U.S. territory, has the highest percentage of people fully vaccinated against Covid-19, as of Oct. 21.

Puerto Rico hit 73.1% for full vaccination of people on the island on that date, higher than the 66.2% rate in the U.S. More than 2.3 million people on the island have been fully vaccinated, the CDC said.

According to the CDC's data tracker, the territory with the next-highest rate is Guam, at 71.5%; for states, most of the New England states are running neck and neck, with vaccine rates of around 70%. (Only Palau, a sovereign nation with a Compact of Free Association with the U.S., has a higher rate; in its case, 87.4% of residents, or nearly 16,000 people, have gotten the jabs.)

In Puerto Rico's case, the destination put together a step-by-step plan with help from the CDC to reach high vaccination rates. The plan included publicity campaigns with doctors, nurses and politicians; an organized National Guard distribution system; clear messaging from Puerto Rico's leaders; and numerous public service announcements giving the locations of mass vaccination sites.

The government now mandates vaccinations for college students, concert-goers, restaurant diners and those working in restaurants.

All U.S. citizens entering Puerto Rico must fill out an online Travel Declaration form. Vaccinated travelers must present their official vaccination card (a copy is not accepted); unvaccinated travelers must present a negative PCR or antigen test taken no more than 72 hours prior to arrival.

Hi Nancy,

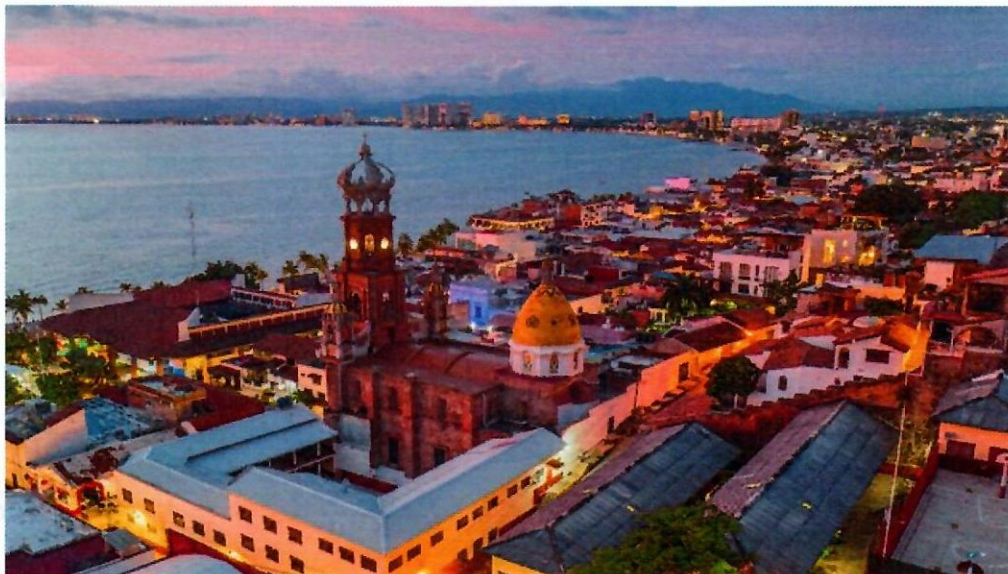
What a wonderful time we had on our Collette trip to Portugal and its Islands. We spent nearly a full week in Lisbon where we visited many historic sights including Jeronimo's Monastery, the Monument of the Discoveries and the Tower of Belem. We also explored Sintra the summer residence of Portugese kings and visited the National Palace. Then off to the Azores for 4 days where we toured Ponta Delgado's town center and saw the City Gates, and Saint Christ's and Saint Sebastian churches. Terra Nostra Botanical Park was beautiful and we were able to take a dip in the park's thermal water pool. The lunch we had here was YUMMY and it was cooked in the heart of the volcanic earth. We even got to see them remove our pot of food from underground. Lastly, we flew to Madeira where the views were breathtaking and we took a cable car to the top of the mountain and then a tobaggan ride down into the town. Really Cool!!!! Our tour guide Jose was fantastic and extremely helpful the entire trip. All I can say is Portugal is a must see!!!



Marianne S. Farbar



# PUERTO VALLARTA



## It's Time for Multigenerational Travel In Puerto Vallarta

After many months of travel restrictions and pandemic-related separation, families are eager to get together and according to many travel experts, multigenerational travel will be a top trend in the coming months and into 2022. Puerto Vallarta offers the ideal combination of sun, fun, and authentic Mexican culture for parents, grandparents, and children to enjoy together. Here are just a few of the highlights of any Puerto Vallarta trip for the entire family:

### **Pirates of the Bay show**

Every day at 7 p.m., Puerto Vallarta's signature pirate dinner show takes place on a dinner sail through Banderas Bay. Come aboard a replica pirate galleon to enjoy an impressive pirate battle, music, dinner and more.

### **The Ultimate Outdoor Adventure with Vallarta Adventures**

With more than 4,000 5-star TripAdvisor ratings, Vallarta Adventures' Outdoor Adventure is an adrenaline pumping activity for visitors age 8 and above. This six and a half hour adventure is designed for the physically fit and includes a speedboat ride across Banderas Bay, exploring the Sierra Madre Mountains by 4x4 off-road trucks, riding a mule deep into the subtropical jungle, rappelling down waterfalls, and taking off on the new zipline roller coaster, one of the few of its kind in the world. The activity is located south of Puerto Vallarta on a private reserve, and transportation is provided

### **Adventure to Las Caletas**

Las Caletas offers the ultimate hidden getaway in Puerto Vallarta where families can choose to relax in a hammock under the shade of lush palm trees; take up kayaking, snorkeling, or paddleboarding; or enjoy an encounter with the local wildlife including friendly monkeys and colorful macaws. Perfect for the entire family, the excursion includes access to the Kids Adventure Park and Teen Adventure Cove offering an array of exciting activities. Adults can enjoy treatments at the Caletas Hill Top Spa, cooking classes, mezcal tastings, and more. Even the catamaran ride to Las Caletas is an adventure in itself

## 11-Night Alaska Wildlife Encounter Cruise tour Celebrity Millennium

Anchorage to Vancouver—September 5-16, 2022

(Cruise only option available September 9-16, 2022)

Enjoy four captivating destinations over four nights, immersing yourself in the natural beauty and frontier spirit of Alaska's vast interior, followed by a relaxing southbound cruise. On the land portion visit Anchorage, Denali, Talkeetna, and Alyeska (Girdwood). Included is your hotels, some tours, rail and motor coach transfers. Embark on your seven night cruise from Seward visiting ports of call of: Juneau, Skagway, cruising through Hubbard Glacier, Icy Point Strait and Inside passage. Included in your package is accommodations as selected, transportation in Alaska, all current port and government taxes, on board the cruise you will have all meals (specialty restaurants are additional), free Wi-Fi, all non-alcoholic and alcoholic drinks, and pre-paid gratuities. Please call for more information and rates.



## Norwegian Cruise Line Prima

Transatlantic NYC to Reykjavik

May 14<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Come experience what this brand new state of the art ship has to offer. On this special itinerary you will sail from New York City with ports of call of: Halifax, a day at sea, Sydney, Nova Scotia, four days at sea, Akureyri, Isafjordur and an overnight in Reykjavik. **The special rate of \$2422.00** includes: a balcony cabin based on double occupancy, all current and government taxes, all meals (including 4 specialty dining restaurants), premium beverage package (alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages), a \$50.00 shore excursion credit per cabin per port, an internet package and on board credit. Not included is one way airfare from Reykjavik or optional travel insurance. Please call for more information to experience Prima and the splendors of Iceland.

**NCL** has changed course and decided to go smaller with their new Prima Class ships. While smaller in size, Prima class ships are all about the wide-open spaces. *Ocean Boulevard*, located on Deck 8, features the *Oceanwalk* glass bridge, swim to the horizon in one of two infinity pools and watch the world go by at *Infinity Beach*, warm up on cool nights with friends around the firepit at the *Indulge Outdoor Lounge*, go all-in on some amazing food options at *Indulge Food Hall* or enjoy dining with a view from one of the *Ocean Boulevard* seaside restaurants.

# The Cruise Season in Brazil Is Back



Maritime cruises can return to the Brazilian coast in November. The agreement authorizes the start of the 2021-22 season, starting with six ships setting sail from **Brazil** (two from **Costa Cruises** and four from **MSC Cruises**), and one MSC ship sailing from **Argentina** and making stops in Brazil.

Ships will start sailing in Brazilian waters again between November 2021 and April 2022, allowing Brazilians and foreigners to join over 2 million travelers who have returned to sailing in nearly 50 countries. This should introduce 2.5 billion Brazilian real (about \$500 million) into the national economy and generate more than 40,000 direct and indirect jobs.

There will be 130 routes and 570 stops at iconic national destinations such as **Rio de Janeiro, Santos, Salvador, Angra dos Reis, Balneário Camboriú, Búzios, Cabo Frio, Fortaleza, Ilha Grande, Ilhabela, Ilhéus, Itajaí, Maceió, Porto Belo, Recife** and **Ubatuba**.

Initially, the ships will operate with 70 percent of their maximum guest capacity. Onboard security initiatives include use of masks at all common areas, social distancing, reduced occupation, fresh air without recirculation and constant disinfection and cleaning. A contingency plan, specially trained medical staff for constant assessments, continuous monitoring and structure with all modern resources to serve guests and crew are part of the health initiatives.

Excursions include special protocols, co-ordination with local authorities and cancellation of re-boarding for guests who do not comply with the rules. In addition, each company has its own health and safety programs.

Brazil has over 100 million people fully vaccinated (until October), which impacts pandemic control and creates a safe environment along with public policies, such as the "**Responsible Tourism Seal**," which certifies establishments that follow all health protocols.

## Barbados drops quarantine rule for vaxxed visitors

Barbados removed the mandatory second PCR test and quarantine requirement for travelers entering the country who are fully vaccinated against [Covid-19](#).

These travelers now need only proof of a PCR test done three days before arrival and their vaccination card.

Unvaccinated travelers must also show proof of a negative PCR test to enter Barbados, and they must quarantine for five days at a [pre-approved accommodation](#), take a PCR test on day five at one of the approved labs or testing hotels at their own expense and continue to quarantine until a negative test result is received.

All travelers must fill out and upload the Immigration and Customs form 24 hours prior to arrival. Like all arriving travelers to the U.S., travelers must take the required rapid antigen test 24 hours before leaving Barbados to return to the U.S. The test is \$50 and can be done at one of several sites on the island.