



## **TOUR: HISTORY & MAIN SPACES HIGHLIGHTS**

### **Porte-Cochere: Welcome guests**

It is our pleasure to welcome you to the iconic Fairmont El San Juan Hotel! To start, let me share a little of our historical beginning. Originally built in the 1950's, by Pan American World Airways coinciding with the island's new international airport, the property provided a convenient spot for airline crew and travelers to rest after very long flights. In the 1960s, Louis Puro purchased the hotel and commissioned a redesign and expansion under the direction of Morris Lapidus, renowned architect of the infamous Fontainebleau and Eden Roc resorts in Miami Beach, as well as the El Conquistador in Fajardo, Puerto Rico. The El San Juan quickly became a popular destination. Jet planes had made travel easier and the Island offered rich cultural flavor and exciting nightlife, and of course great weather.

### **Enter The Lobby**

Fairmont El San Juan Hotel's crowning jewel is The Lobby. No expense was spared to ensure that the vision of designer Alan Lanigan was brought to life "to create an ambiance with architectural details and workmanship that could not be found elsewhere in the world." To this end, he traveled the world searching for materials and artifacts for the hotel. He spent two months in Italy's Montecatini quarry creating the singular Terracotta and Carrara marble that you can see covering the walls and floor of the lobby. He imported Cherry Mahogany from Santo Domingo for the wooden arches and ceiling, which were hand carved on-site by Jose Laguna and a team of 15 Puerto Rican artisans. The signature icon of this welcoming area is the grand chandelier. Hand-blown in Czechoslovakia, this unique piece of art weighs 4,000 pounds, has 185 lightbulbs and 7,000 pieces of glass; it is the third largest Czech crystal chandelier in the world. Other famed statement pieces hang in Milan's La Scala, in Versailles, and in the Hermitage Museum in Saint Petersburg. During our last renovation, each piece was meticulously cleaned by hand, in a process that took a team of specialists six weeks to complete. The chandelier is legendary in Puerto Rico and strongly associated with local society with unforgettable moments spent at Fairmont El San Juan Hotel.

After the Cuban revolution, Fairmont El San Juan Hotel became an epicenter of entertainment within the Caribbean for elite travelers from around the world, offering fine food, accommodations, and world-class entertainment. When the hotel was renovated in 2017, the new owners were looking to bring the El San Juan back to its former glory. They contracted New York-based design firm Jeffery Beers, giving them



the task of bringing El San Juan back to her internationally renowned status of seamless style and elegance. To that end, all these iconic elements were meticulously restored by hand.

Our grand lobby is comprised of several unique bars and lounges, each with its own offerings and personality. Before us we have the main attraction, the Chandelier Bar; to our right you will find the Crudo Sushi Bar, our craft cocktail & sushi bar; to our left, the Wine Bar, which features a wide array of varietals by the glass; and El Bistro, which serves the finest Puerto Rican coffee and grab-and-go fare.

### **Walk towards Casino & Tropicoro**

The new Foxwoods El San Juan Casino is back with non-stop gaming action. Featuring 15,000 square feet of the best slot machines and table games, a modern world-class entertainment venue, and much more.

Right now, we are walking towards Tropicoro, which was the successor of the famed Cuban Tropicana. Tropicoro was originally designed to resemble an outdoor space, reminiscent of El Yunque, with tropical vegetation covering its walls and ceiling. For years Tropicoro featured international headliners almost every week, including stars such as Sammy Davis Jr., Nat King Cole, Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennett, Louis Armstrong, and Liza Minelli, along with Latin stars such as Julio Iglesias, Luis Miguel, Raphael, Lucécita Benítez and Gilberto Santa Rosa, among others.

### **Walk towards elevators & Main Tower**

Here you can find, Chico Cabaret, our intimate lounge with a speakeasy vibe, which features weekly live entertainment, such as up and coming acts and well-regarded local musicians, including Grammy and Billboard award winners.

To our right, you will see the magnificent staircase leading to our Grand Ballroom. This staircase has been the setting for many iconic wedding photos. It offers an entrance befitting our Grand Ballroom, which is 11,000 square feet and can host events with up to 1,200 guests. It is a legendary venue for many of the island's grandest celebrations, including galas, weddings, and proms.

Fairmont El San Juan Hotel is a true urban resort. The city location accommodates a convenient proximity to an international airport while offering a beachfront setting and incomparable resort experience, which is reflected in the elegance and magnificence of the lobby. Jeffery Beers designed the rooms as an extension of the



hotel's natural splendor featuring a color palette comprised of deep blues, calming greens, and light woods, along with refined textures, which come together to create a fresh, relaxed and bright ambiance. The artwork throughout the hotel, including all accommodations, was specially commissioned from local artists, reflecting the hotel's desire to create the unique local experiences modern travelers desire, while at the same time providing state-of-the-art equipment and technology they expect.

Located on the 10<sup>th</sup> floor of the Grand Tower, guests can find the Well & Being Spa. Well & Being Spa offers a palette of uniquely rewarding and deeply personalized experiences in an amazing spa and wellness setting, which infuse life with a greater sense of vitality.

### **Walk towards The Shops and meeting rooms**

To our left, you can see our warm reception area, which leads to The Shops at Fairmont El San Juan Hotel, our exclusive on-site shopping gallery. Peruse genuine Puerto Rican iconic fashion styles, delicious food, and breathtaking art. The Shops are filled with unique goods that reflect San Juan's rich culture, including Art Lab, Il Sole Pizzeria, Boronea, Candy Shoppe, Chic Shoes, Gustavo Arango, Tropical Togs Swimwear, Tropical Tots, The Nail Bar, The Dry Bar, and Viaggi.

Our versatile meeting spaces have been fully adapted to the current circumstances under the highest AllSafe Guidelines. We offer an unforgettable professional experience with different options of venues to fulfill our guests' needs for their meetings, gatherings, or events.

### **Walk towards the pool**

To our right, we have two of our restaurants Riva, a fine dining restaurant offering a five-course tasting menu, and Meat Market, a truly contemporary steakhouse, boasting a sophisticated ambiance. To our left is BRAVA Nightclub, one of Puerto Rico's famed hotspots! It has been a favorite among locals and tourists over its history.

To our left, you can see Fairmont El San Juan Hotel's iconic Banyan Tree, a tropical Ficus tree that is estimated to be over 300 years old. In 1998, Hurricane George caused significant damage; the iconic tree lost half of its diameter and received other critical wounds that threatened its life. A tree surgeon flown in from Florida was able to save it, and thankfully, Hurricanes Irma and Maria spared this glorious tree. For generations, our Banyan Tree has been the site of weddings, receptions, and social activities. You



can also enjoy worldly comfort food at the Banyan Tree Grill while delighting with the view of this legendary tree.

In front of us, you can find the Well & Being pool where guests can enjoy a family atmosphere and aquatic activities such as yoga, float fit and other exercise classes.

### **Walk towards the beach**

Our beachside pools are surrounded by luxury cabanas at El San Juan Beach Club that provide different experiences and amenities, according to our guest's preferences, including Seaside, Lux, and Grand cabanas. Guests can experience this gorgeous scenery, while relaxing in a tropical paradise.

Fairmont El San Juan Hotel is located on two miles of what USA Today recognized as the Best Urban Beach in the United States. Before the hotel was built, it was the preferred beach for locals. Our beach is one of the few within the Metro area with shallow waters and no dangerous undercurrents. This due to the natural coral reef that protects the shoreline from one end to another. One end of the coral reef is near sea level, allowing bushes to grow in a manner resembling a small island which in turn gave the area its name, Isla Verde or Green Island.

Guests can relax with full service amenities, including reserved chairs, daybeds, and umbrellas, or be part of the action, with activities such as volleyball and watersports.

El San Juan Beach Club provide an exciting poolside ambiance, with live entertainment on the weekends, delicious cuisine, and innovative mixology.

Our state-of-the-art, tri-level Well & Bring Fitness Center has floor to ceiling glass walls overlooking the pool allowing guests to enjoy an inspiring view as they exercise on our state-of-the-art Matrix equipment. The rooftop fitness area a unique space for outdoor activities, such as sunset yoga and boot camps. After a workout, guests can visit the Tennis and Basketball courts or even replenish their energy with a cold-pressed juice from our outdoor juice bar.

### **Walk towards Caña by Juliana Gonzalez**

Fairmont El San Juan Hotel's celebrity restaurant is Caña by Juliana Gonzalez. Born and raised in Puerto Rico, Chef Juliana left the island to train in the United States and Spain. She then opened her first restaurant in Miami, Barceloneta which specializes in Spanish cuisine.



We are very proud of our partnership with Chef Juliana, who was excited to return to the Island to share her love and culinary talent for the cuisine of her childhood. Working with international Master Chefs taught her techniques she has married with traditional Puerto Rican dishes, bringing to Fairmont El San Juan Hotel a creative menu that elevates the familiar to the sublime. To develop the restaurant concept, she spent several months in Puerto Rico sourcing local farms and training the culinary team, to ensure that the cuisine provided an authentic atmosphere and fresh indigenous ingredients.

### **Walk back towards Entrance**

Fairmont El San Juan Hotel is proud of all the work and effort infused into our Puerto Rican icon. Intimate detailing has respected the original design, honoring elements such as these antique tapestries, brought by Alan Lanigan from France in the 1960s. Our mission is to ensure we could provide an authentic experience for our guests while not losing sight of today's modern expectations in quality and service. We feel we reached our goal, and eagerly look forward to welcoming guests.