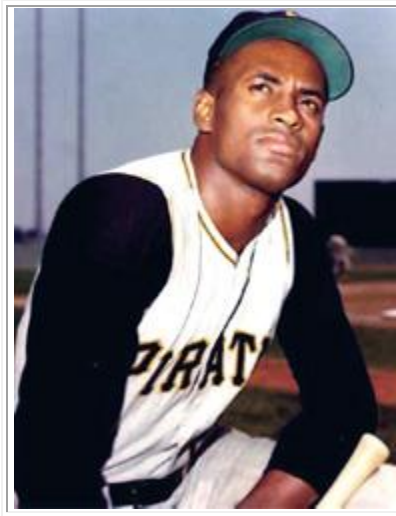


PUERTO RICO

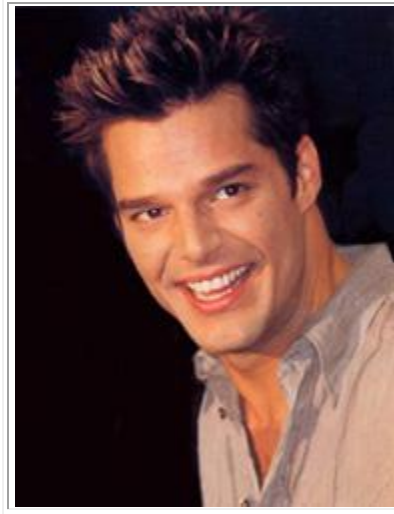


- NAME:** Borinquen (original Arawak name; Borikén); Commonwealth of Puerto Rico; Estado Libre Asociado de Puerto Rico; On his first cross-Atlantic voyage of discovery Columbus named the island San Juan Bautista and he named the great port Puerto Rico; over time the names became inverted: the country Puerto Rico and the city and port San Juan. The full name of San Juan Bautista (St. John the Baptist) is the name of the Roman Catholic cathedral in the capital's colonial center.
- NATIONAL SYMBOLS:** Puerto Rican spindalis (bird) and coqui (frog)
- NATIONAL ANTHYM:** "La borinqueña"
- POPULATION:** 3,800,000 (1997); 3,900,000 (2007); 3,600,000 (2010); 3,500,000 (2015)
Another 2,100,000 Puerto Ricans live in New York City and 1,800,000 live elsewhere in USA: total Puerto Rican population: 7,700,000.
- ETHNIC GROUPS:** 99.9% mestizo/Hispanic/mulatto
- CAPITAL:** San Juan (population 2015: 395,000; metropolitan area, 2,400,000)
- CONSTITUTION:** 1952
- LANGUAGES:** Spanish and English joint official languages
- RELIGION:** 90% Roman Catholic
- LIFE EXPECTANCY:** men (75); women (83)
- GOVERNMENT:** Governor and Commonwealth legislature; Puerto Ricans cannot vote in American national elections nor do they pay federal income tax; representative in House of Representatives with voice but no vote; the Chief of State is the president of the United States; the head of government is the governor of Puerto Rico.
- MILITARY:** US military
- ECONOMY:** Principal industry: manufacturing; per capita income = \$6,360 (highest in Latin America); unemployment rate = 22.4%
- MONEY:** US dollar
- GEOGRAPHY:** Easternmost of Greater Antilles islands; 75% is mountainous; highest peak = Cerro de Punta (4,390 ft.)
- INTERNET CODE:** .pr
- HISTORY:**

2000 BCE	Ortoiroid, an Archaic age culture
120 – 400	Carib, Arawak, and Boricua peoples come later, before Taíno culture Igneri, a tribe from the Venezuela's Orinoco river region emigrated to Puerto Rico
650 – 1493	Taíno culture developed and dominated the island
1493	Found by Cristóbal Colón on his second voyage; native Tainos conquered; Columbus named the island San Juan Bautista
1508	Juan Ponce de León named island's first Spanish governor; Spain settled the island and the Tainos died or were killed over the next 20 years
1511	Name changed to Puerto Rico; capital called San Juan Bautista
1518	African slaves introduced
1561 - 1627	Bernardo de Balbuena, Bishop of Puerto Rico, wrote major Spanish Baroque poetry describing beauty of the New World, especially Mexico (<i>La grandeza mexicana</i> , 1604)
1809	Puerto Rico made integral part of Spain
1868	Grito de Lares: defined Puerto Rican nationhood
1873	Slavery abolished
1898	Independence from Spain as result of Spanish-American War; dependence on U.S.A.
1900	U.S. military rule ended
1909	Revolt against U.S. presence
1934 – 1972	Roberto Clemente: Hall of Fame baseball player for Pittsburgh Pirates; one of Major League Baseball's all-time greatest players.



1952	Commonwealth status (Free Associated State of U.S.A.) (Estado Libre Asociado) granted after plebiscite.
1954 – present	Sonia Sotomayor, Neorriqueña, born in Bronx, New York City, whose parents were from Lajas, Puerto Rico.
1971 – present	Ricky Martin (Enrique Martín Morales), born in Puerto Rico: Puerto Rican pop singing artist, member of <i>Menudo</i> band.



1976	Carlos Romero Barceló elected governor.
1984	Pope John Paul II visited Puerto Rico.
2005	Governor Aníbal Acevedo-Vila.
2006 – 2007	The Puerto Rico State Department developed the protocol to grant the Puerto Rican citizenship to Puerto Ricans.
2009	Sonia Sotomayor named to U.S. Supreme Court: first Latino/a and first Puerto Rican-American nominated and appointed as US Supreme Court justice.
2013	Alejandro García Padilla, elected governor.

GOVERNMENT: Constitutional commonwealth; representative democracy

CHIEF EXECUTIVE:

Alejandro García Padilla, Popular Democratic Party

MAJOR POWER FIGURES:

Carlos Romero Barceló, former governor, Democrat

MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES:

Democratic Party
Nationalist Party
Republican Party

INTELLIGENTSIA:

Alejandro Tapia y Rivera (1826-82); writer
Eugenio María de Hostos (1839-1903); intellectual, writer
Pablo Casals (1876-1973) ; world renowned musician and cellist
Concha Meléndez (1895-1983); educator, poet, writer
Luis Palés Matos (1898-1959) ; writer, poet who invented Afro-Antillano poetry genre
José Ferrer (1912-92); guitarist, singer, and actor
Julia de Burgos (1914-53); writer, poet
René Marqués (1919-79) ; writer, novelist
Rita Moreno (b, 1931); dancer, singer, actress
Roberto Clemente (1934-72); Major League baseball player for the Pittsburgh Pirates; in the Baseball Hall of Fame
Luis Rafael Sánchez (b. 1936); writer, essayist, novelist, playwright

Iris Zavala (b. 1936); Spanish professor, writer, poet, literary critic
Orlando Cepeda (b. 1937); Major League baseball player; in the National Baseball Hall of Fame
Raúl Juliá (1940-94); actor
José Feliciano (b. 1945); song writer, singer
Sonia Sotomayor (b. 1954); American Supreme Court justice

