



House Manual

We hope you are excited about your upcoming trip to Vieques and your stay at Casa Corona! Below, please find some information we have prepared to help make your trip easier. Should you have questions, please reach out to us anytime via your booking portal – or reach out to our house manager while you're on the island.

Pre-Arrival

Recommended Vieques Tourist Guides

Our Airbnb Guidebook

Please check out the Airbnb guidebook we set up here: <http://bit.ly/coronaguide>. We've included some of our favorite restaurants, beaches and spots in Vieques.

Best Tourism Guide

Our favorite tourism website is Vieques Insider: <https://viequesinsider.com/>

Another great tourism website from Puerto Rico Tourism Company: <http://bit.ly/discoverprtourism>

Most Complete Island Directory

Vieques Insider also publishes a great directory/phone list that is a must print/bring on your Vieques trip: <http://bit.ly/viequesinsiderdirectory>. There you can find restaurants, shops, rental and tour companies, real estate agents and more.

Most Complete Beach Guides

Vieques Insider also has a great Beach Guide: <http://bit.ly/viequesinsiderbeachguide>

Another Beach guide you might like is Vieques Beach Map: <http://bit.ly/viequesbeachmap>

What to Pack

Vieques is super casual and most people overpack the first time they come. Even at dinner almost everyone is in shorts and flip flops or sandals. If you think you might go hiking, biking or horseback riding, you'll want to bring appropriate clothing/shoes for that. Some people also like to bring 'water shoes' for exploring rocky beaches or for embarking kayaks for the bioluminescent bay tour.

There are resources for renting snorkeling and scuba gear, but some people prefer to bring their own. Casa Corona provides all linens, including sheets, bath towels and beach towels. Our bath amenities include premium soap, shampoo and conditioner.

Due to being closer to the equator, the Caribbean sun comes with stronger harmful rays than the in the U.S. mainland or Europe, and they don't weaken during winter months. Do not use tanning oils or you could experience dangerous burns. Always wear a minimum 15 SPF sunscreen, but we recommend 30 or 50 SPF. You will still have no problem tanning through the sunscreen – but you'll be better protected from sunburn. Or bring UV protective swim shirts (great for snorkeling). Should you need to purchase sunscreen on the island, you can find it at Superdiscounto Morales (supermarket) located just down the street from Casa Corona, or at Farmacia Rey (pharmacy) located across from the Plaza downtown.



Speaking of pharmacies, you can buy medicine in Vieques but please note that hours will be more restricted than you may be used to (closed evenings and on Sunday), so you may prefer to bring your own supply of medicines.

Traveling Around Vieques

From Puerto Rico (main island):

Vieques Culebra Ferry

The new online ferry booking website is here: <https://porferry.com/>. The ferry schedules can change often and occasionally the ferry is full (residents get priority over tourists) – so plan accordingly and try to buy your tickets in advance to ensure your spot. Sometimes they can scan tickets from your phone and sometimes they can't – so we recommend bringing printed tickets with you. The ferry website above is usually regularly updated, but there is also a Facebook group you can join for the latest ferry updates called "Vieques Culebra Ferry Watch." The ferry runs from Ceiba, Puerto Rico, which is located about 45 minutes from San Juan (\$80 Uber ride) and is about \$5/person each way.

Inter-Island Flights

There are a few airlines you can take to Vieques but it is rare to find "connections" via your regular airline booking portals. Instead, you should book inter-island flights directly with the local airlines. Airlines that travel inter-island to Vieques can be found in the Vieques Insider Directory (noted above). We prefer Vieques Air Link – and travel with them almost every trip we take to Vieques. Flights can be taken directly from San Juan International Airport (~\$120-\$140 each way), Isla Grande Airport located about 15 minutes from San Juan International Airport (~\$80 each way), or Ceiba Airport (located about 45 minutes from San Juan International Airport (~\$50 each way).

Vieques Car Rentals

There are many sights and beaches to see in Vieques, so having your own transportation while visiting is essential. There are several car rental companies in Vieques (see the Vieques Insider Directory above), but we prefer Avis Car Rental or Maritza's Car Rental. Both companies also rent golf carts – but beware that golf carts are sometimes more expensive to rent than cars. We have found the inexpensive Kia Sol to be a great option – as they are compact yet have sufficient room for 4 people and beach gear. You can also rent scooters, but they aren't the safest choice given Vieques imperfect roads (lots of potholes, sandy roads, etc.)

Mailing Packages in Advance of Your Stay

Should you need to mail items to the house in advance of your stay, items can be mailed to our house manager. USPS and UPS are the best delivery services on Vieques, and it is advisable that you add 1 week to the estimated delivery date provided by your shipping company due to delays in getting packages from Puerto Rico to the island. Please message us on your booking portal for instructions.

Other Special Requests

Please let us know if you have any special requests at least 2 weeks prior to your arrival. We will do our very best to accommodate.



House Rules

We want you to have fun while at Casa Corona. However, it is our home and we do have two rules with which we need you to comply:

1. 4 Guests Maximum. Per our policy noted on all booking portals, Casa Corona is only equipped to handle 4 guests at a time. We also believe that having more than 4 guests results in a “crowded” situation that puts excessive wear on our home, presents hazards (especially in the small pool area), and increases our electricity costs (which are expensive in Vieques). Exceeding 4 guests will result in a penalty charge of \$125 per extra person, per night – and may also be included in your post-stay booking portal review. This requirement is important to us, so if you need a home for more than 4 people, we do not recommend Casa Corona. We do not make special exceptions to this policy.
2. No Smoking and No Pets on the Property. Our goal is to maintain an allergen-free home and clean grounds. Therefore, no smoking and no pets are permitted anywhere on the property. Smoking or having pets on the property will result in the loss of your security deposit and will also be included in your post-stay booking portal review. We do not make special exceptions to this policy.

Also, although we acknowledge and appreciate that Service Animals are not pets and are vital to owners with disabilities, we unfortunately cannot accommodate Service Animals in our home due to the health risk it places on one of our owners with severe allergies.

Post Arrival

When You Arrive

Car rental companies in Vieques will pick you up at the airport and bring you to the car rental facility. Our house manager, Aurelio Rosa, can meet you at the car rental facility (or pick you up at the airport if you prefer) and show you to the house. Please text or call the house manager’s cell phone at 787-238-9108 before you leave the Puerto Rico’s main island and let him know your estimated arrival time in Vieques and location (ferry or airport). Text or call him again once you're on the island to re-confirm. Should you have any issues you may also message us on your booking portal (we get push notifications to our phones and respond promptly).

Getting Into The House

Our house manager will unlock the gate and the house to let you in. He will show you around the property and answer any questions you may have. He will leave you with a set of keys and will show you how to operate the house alarm (if you'd like to use it while staying at Casa Corona) and the electric driveway gate. Please note: always close the gate when you leave the property and while you are on the property to keep wild horses out of the yard.

Security System

Since we don't live in the house full-time, the home is protected with an alarm system and a video surveillance system. Video surveillance faces away from house to monitor the entry gate and the fence perimeter only. Cameras DO NOT monitor guest areas (i.e., interior, deck, pool area, etc.) The neighborhood, however, is safe and theft is very, very rare - but rest assured our alarm system and perimeter video surveillance will help protect your belongings while you visit.



Wi-Fi Details

The house is equipped with wi-fi, which is primarily available to support the smart TV for TV/movies/music. Wi-Fi speeds on Vieques are slow, so you may find using your phone or a hotspot more effective for computer internet usage. The wi-fi password is goodlife1 in lower case letters.

During Your Stay

While at the house, you are welcome to use the air conditioners or turn them off and open all the louvered windows (there's a great breeze at Casa Corona). Please note that if you use the air conditioners, they are more efficient at cooling if you use at least all of them together – all set to your desired overall house temperature. Do not leave doors open at night so no critters can get in (i.e., bugs, geckos, iguanas, etc.)

If you encounter any issues with the house during your stay, please call Aurelio. He is the house manager - and owns a company with a full staff of employees and contractors who can handle any issue. Do not attempt to repair the home or appliances yourself.

Aurelio also has cleaning crews (extra fee for additional cleanings) and can also provide additional linens or bathroom amenities if needed.

Kitchen

The kitchen is equipped with everything you should need during your stay. A few notes about our appliances:

- The refrigerator does not include an automatic ice maker because the pipe fittings are notorious for becoming corroded by salty ocean air and springing leaks. Instead, we have provided plenty of ice trays for making fresh ice, and we encourage guests to purchase bags of ice from the supermarket if you need more.
- The dishwasher is for washing dishes only and does not have a dryer. When washing is complete, simply open the door to allow dishes to dry. Or pat dishes dry with kitchen towels provided.
- A stacked washer/dryer is located in the kitchen closet. Washing supplies are typically available in the house but can also be purchased at the supermarket. All linens and towels are washed prior to your arrival. However, should you need wash linens or towels during your stay, please only wash our premium linens warm water and do not use chlorine bleach.
- Other than the carafe, do not place espresso machine tools in the dishwasher.

Most dining and kitchen supplies are located in the wall shelf unit. We keep very little in the cabinets – primarily just towels, silverware and cleaning supplies.

The grocery store does not offer plastic shopping bags. However, there are several large black nylon shopping bags located in the closet beside the entry door for grocery shopping.

Although we have pest control service monthly at the house, it is nearly impossible to completely prevent tiny 'sugar ants' in Vieques. So, always place sugar, flour and other dry goods/open foods in plastic containers or in the refrigerator to keep ants out. Also, wipe any sweet liquids or sugar from countertops to avoid attracting ants.

Beach Supplies

We offer beach supplies for our guests. There are 4 beach chairs, 2 beach umbrellas and a cooler located in the closet by the entry door. Beach towels and beach bags are located in each guest



bedroom. We also have a 'leave some, take some' basket of sunscreen for guests to use/share with others. Additionally, there is a beach cart should you wish to walk to the secluded beach located down below the house – and the house manager can show you where it is located. If beach chairs or umbrellas are missing or broken, please request replacements from the house manager.

Plunge Pool & Deck

Casa Corona has a small plunge pool on the deck. The pool is serviced regularly, and chemicals are monitored and adjusted as needed by the house manager and his staff. The pool pump operates via solar power at variable speeds depending on the intensity of sunlight hitting the panels located in the yard. It does not run at night. Should you need the pool serviced or cleaned during your stay, please call the house manager. A light is located in the pool and can be turned on via a light switch located in the master bedroom on the right side of the ocean-facing wall.

Caution: For your safety, please use the handrail when entering the pool and do not jump or dive into the pool, which is just 4 feet deep. Also, for your safety and the safety of future guests, please refrain from having glass in the pool area.

A small string of café lights hangs across the deck and can be used to light the deck at night. They can be turned on via a light switch located on the left side of the ocean-facing room in the living room.

The patio table has an umbrella for shade. Please always close the umbrella when not in use as Casa Corona receives ocean breezes and gusts which can damage the umbrella when left unattended.

Coming & Going From The House

Remember to lock all doors when you leave the house, and again, always keep the driveway gate closed to keep wild horses off the property. If you'll be leaving the house all day, we'd appreciate it if you turn the AC off or set it to a higher temperature. Electricity is very expensive in Vieques because of its delicate power grid – so we appreciate your conservation if/when it's convenient for you. Our home is located at the top of a hill and has sort of a blind driveway, so we recommend guests turn right when leaving the house and make a U-turn down the street should you need to go the opposite direction. Left turns can be risky since you cannot see over the hill.

Emergency Procedures

In the unlikely event of an emergency, below please find Casa Corona's emergency procedures.

Medical or Fire Emergencies

Dial 787-741-8261 or Dial 911. If asked your location: Casa Corona is located in Martineau on Carretera 200 at kilómetro 2.3. If coming from Isabel II toward the airport, Casa Corona is the last house on the right after you pass Carretera 201 but before you get to the W Resort property. The house is white with a silver roof.

Fire Extinguisher/First Aid Kit

A fire extinguisher is located underneath the sink in the kitchen. A first aid kit is located in a plastic box in the closet beside the main entry door.



Emergency Room

Vieques' emergency room is located on Carretera 997 in Las Marias. Look for signs.

Directions:

- **From Casa Corona, turn left and head west toward Isabel II.** As you reach Isabel II you will pass the school and police station on the right and approach the Esso gas station ahead. Carretera 997 will be on your right. (it's just before the Esso gas station) on the right heading into Isabel II. After you pass the old Hospital building on the left, look for hospital signs to turn right toward Las Marias. Follow signs.
- **From Isabel II** turn left on Carretera 997 (after the Esso gas station) and head west toward Esperanza. After you pass the old Hospital building on the left, look for hospital signs to turn right toward Las Marias. Follow signs.
- **From Esperanza,** head east on Carretera 997 and look for hospital signs for a left turn into Las Marias just before you reach the old hospital. Follow signs.

Although Vieques has an emergency room, there is currently no hospital (hospital was damaged by Hurricane Maria and is awaiting funding to rebuild). The emergency room will triage patients who come in - but some emergencies will require travel to San Juan, which can be arranged via local airlines. For extreme emergencies, Vieques emergency room can call for helicopter service to San Juan.

Power Outage

Should Vieques experience an extended power outage (rare, but can happen since it's an island), the house is equipped with a whole house propane generator. Additionally, the house is equipped with emergency lights that will light up should the power go out (plugged into several outlets throughout the house). If the power is out for at least 30 minutes, you may request that the house manager come over to engage the generator. Please note that the generator cannot power everything in the house at once – so it is important to follow instructions provided by the house manager about which items may be powered while the generator is engaged to avoid damaging electronic appliances. There is typically sufficient power for refrigeration, lights and a small air conditioner. Since the pool pump is solar powered, it will also continue to operate.

Tropical Storm/Hurricane Safety Procedures

For the safety of our guests, we reserve the right to cancel bookings should a hurricane or severe storm become imminent. We do this so that we can prepare the house for the storm, which involves sealing up all doors and windows with steel hurricane shutters - making the home inaccessible to guests.

In the unlikely event that a guest is already in Vieques during a storm, our house manager will provide directions for preparedness, safety and shelter, and the house is furnished with emergency supplies (first aid kit, backup batteries, flashlights, manual radio, etc.) which are located in the closet by the entry door. The bathroom is considered the safest room in the house, as it has both concrete walls and ceilings. The roof is designed to Dade County, FL hurricane standards, and survived both Hurricanes Irma (Category 5 just north of Vieques) and Maria (category 5 direct hit to Vieques) without damage.

Should a mandatory evacuation be announced, all Casa Corona guests must comply with local laws and evacuate accordingly.



Earthquake/Tsunami Safety Procedures

Seismic activity is common throughout the Caribbean and small earthquakes are common – although you will rarely ever feel one while visiting Vieques. Recently, the Caribbean tectonic plates have been more active (January 2020) and larger than typical earthquakes occurred on the southwest coast of Puerto Rico. Vieques is located on the east coast of Puerto Rico some 135 miles away and experienced no effects from the earthquakes. Additionally, since San Juan International Airport is located on the northeast coast, and Ceiba (location of Vieques-Culebra ferry) is located on the east coast, the earthquakes also had no effect on air or sea travel to/from either location.

Should you experience a significant earthquake in Vieques (very highly unlikely), please observe the following precautions (informed by the US National Safety Council):

- Be aware of gas/electrical connections to major appliances and the house. All gas connections in Casa Corona are on the south side of the house (facing the road) just behind the washer/dryer and kitchen stove. The electrical lines connect to the southwest corner of the house (breaker box is located in the smaller guest room in the corner).
- If you are inside a building when an earthquake occurs, get under a sturdy table or desk and hold onto it; if that's not possible, crouch in a strongly supported doorway or inside corner and protect your head. Stay clear of windows, tall shelves and heavy items in high places.
- If you're outside when an earthquake occurs, move away from buildings, streetlights, utility wires and overpasses.

Tsunamis, although highly unlikely, can occur if a very large and long earthquake were to occur off one of Vieques' coasts (only 3 tsunamis have occurred in Puerto Rico since 1867; the last occurred in 1946). To be prepared, simply make yourself aware of Vieques' tsunami hazard zones and safety routes – marked with signs throughout the island. Casa Corona is not located in a tsunami hazard zone and is a safe location should a tsunami ever occur.

Following are “natural warning signs” of a tsunami and if you are in a tsunami hazard zone and experience any of these warning signs (indicating a tsunami could arrive in minutes) you should move to a safe area on higher ground:

- Feel a strong or long earthquake
- See a sudden rise or fall of the ocean
- Hear a loud roar from the ocean

Vieques also observes the U.S. Tsunami Warning System and alerts residents and visitors via warning sirens and TV/radio broadcasts:

Warning Take Action —Danger! A tsunami that may cause widespread flooding is expected or occurring. Dangerous coastal flooding and powerful currents are possible and may continue for several hours or days after initial arrival. Follow instructions from local officials. Evacuation is recommended. Move to high ground or inland.	Advisory Take Action —A tsunami with potential for strong currents or waves dangerous to those in or very near the water is expected or occurring. There may be flooding of beach and harbor areas. Stay out of the water and away from beaches and waterways. Follow instructions from local officials.
Watch Be Aware —A distant earthquake has occurred. A tsunami is possible. Stay tuned for more information. Be prepared to take action if necessary.	Information Statement Relax —An earthquake has occurred, or a tsunami warning, advisory or watch has been issued for another part of the ocean. Most information statements indicate there is no threat of a destructive tsunami.



For additional information, the following resources are also available:

- Puerto Rico State Emergency Management Agency 784-724-0124 (San Juan)
- Puerto Rico Seismic Network, UPRM 787-833-8433, 787-265-5452, <http://redsismica.uprm.edu>
- National Weather Service (NOAA – San Juan) 787-253-4586, <http://www.tsunami.gov>