2020 Tour to Puerto Rico

HIGHLIGHTS

- 8 days, 7 nights in San Juan, Puerto Rico
- See the sights, rehearse, and perform in two concerts
- Sing local music, familiar Yale pieces, and more under the direction of Maestro Jeff Douma, the Musical Director of the acclaimed Yale Glee Club
- Rehearse, perform, and mingle with local music groups, and the Yale Glee Club
- Add optional Pre Tour:
- Add optional Post Tour:
- Connect and re-connect with an inspiring, fun, multi-generational community of Yale singing graduates and their families and friends

Day by Day (Note: Preliminary Itinerary is Subject to Change)

Main Tour
Day 1 — Off to Puerto Rico!
Sunday, March 8
Arrive in Puerto Rico, check-in to the headquarters hotel or your alternate lodgings, and meet for an afternoon rehearsal beginning at approximately 4:00pm. Afterwards, celebrate with your tour companions at a poolside welcome dinner at the hotel!

Day 2 — San Juan, Puerto Rico
Monday, March 9
Start your day with breakfast and announcements followed by a morning rehearsal. In the evening, there is a chance to explore local cuisine at a variety of restaurants.

Day 3 — San Juan, Puerto Rico
Tuesday, March 10
Breakfast, announcements, and a morning rehearsal. In the afternoon, lunch and a guided tour of Old San Juan. Dinner on your own.

Day 4 — San Juan, Puerto Rico
Wednesday, March 11
Breakfast, announcements, and a morning rehearsal. We will have a group dinner in the evening.

Day 5 — San Juan, Puerto Rico
Thursday, March 12
Breakfast and announcements in the morning. A dress rehearsal for our main concert followed by the evening concert with the Yale Glee Club, and local chorus Orfeón San Juan Bautista at the grand Teatro de la Universidad de Puerto Rico. After the concert, a joint reception with YGC and Orfeón San Juan Bautista.
Day 6 — San Juan, Puerto Rico

Friday, March 13

Breakfast and announcements in the morning. Joint activity with the Yale Alumni Service Corps, followed by an evening performance with choirs from the Puerto Rico Conservatory of Music.

Day 7 — San Juan, Puerto Rico

Saturday, March 14

Breakfast and announcements in the morning, followed by an entire day on your own prior to a farewell dinner in Ballajá in Old San Juan with the Yale Glee Club.

Day 8 — San Juan, Puerto Rico

Sunday, March 15

We enjoy our last breakfast and announcements together, check-out, and bid farewell to La Isla del Encanto!

*Please note that our production team is actively working on several Community Engagement activities which will be interspersed with all events in the Itinerary.

Optional Pre-tour excursion — El Yunque/Bio Bay Tour Experience

Your stay will include a visit to the El Yunque Rainforest, the only tropical rain forest in the United States National Forest System and a must-stop for all visitors of Puerto Rico! Following El Yunque is a fully guided nighttime Bio Bay kayak adventure into the mystical mangrove channels leading to Laguna Grande. There are two hotel options available, as well as 2 or 3 night options. More information on cost and package options is available in the "Tour Cost" section.

Optional Post-tour excursion — Copamarina Beach Resort & Spa and Coffee Tour Experience

If you’re a fan of road trips, nature and coffee, this getaway experience is right for you. Located on Puerto Rico’s charming southwestern coast amidst 20 acres of tropical gardens, Copamarina Beach Resort & Spa is situated on a secluded 3/4-mile crescent of Caribbean beachfront. Your stay will include a coffee farm tour, the perfect place to learn about coffee making and taste it at the same time. Through this inspiring coffee tour, you will learn about coffee’s history and the steps involved in producing the finest coffee from seed to cup! There are 2 or 3 night options. More information on cost and package options is available in the "Tour Cost" section.
Music, Musicians and Venues

The Yale Alumni Chorus will be performing several exciting pieces jointly with the Yale Glee Club and Orfeón San Juan Bautista, including works by renowned Puerto Rican composers Ernesto Cordero and Guarionex Morales-Matos, as well as Puerto Rican songwriter Rafael Hernández Marín’s ‘Preciosa,’ considered by many to be an unofficial anthem of Puerto Rico. We will also perform a solo set that will include works both new and familiar to veteran YAC choristers. A truly special feature of YAC tours is the opportunity to rehearse, mingle, and perform with various local professional and student ensembles in our travels, and to perform on some of the world’s great performance stages.

The Musical Director for the Yale Alumni Chorus is our beloved Maestro Jeff Douma. He has served as Director of the Yale Glee Club since 2003, and as Professor of Conducting at the Yale School of Music, where he teaches in the graduate choral program.

As the Yale Alumni Chorus, we are not merely tourists; we are traveling performers, and “Ambassadors of Song” for Yale. The Yale Alumni Chorus aspires to, and achieves, a high standard of musical performance with very limited on-tour rehearsal time. For some of us that is a challenge as the years pass, but we know you can do it! Music for the tour (its cost is included in your tour fee) will be sent to you well before we leave so you can practice and learn the notes ahead of time. Although we normally do not sing from memory onstage, Jeff needs your eyes and our audiences are counting on us for confident and well-prepared performances.

There will be an opportunity to rehearse and perform some of the music that will be performed on tour at an all-day rehearsal in New York City on Saturday, February 1, 2020. See the Yale Alumni Chorus website for more news to come about music and music preparation as the tour approaches.

We also aspire to look great onstage during the tour, so singers will need to bring appropriate performance attire. Concert attire is uniform black shirts/blouses and your own long black pants/skirt/shoes. This is the same concert attire that has been used for recent trips, and can be ordered online. More on this later.

Community Engagement

This tour will be rich with many community engagement opportunities. We know that we will work with 100 by 35, which is an island wide musical outreach program. There will be a collaboration with the Yale Alumni Service Corps which will be working on the island at the same time as us. There are also many other opportunities we are still exploring, and hope to share with you as these partnerships come to life.
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Travel and Accommodations

Airfare costs are not included in the basic tour fee. However, from the time you join the tour in San Juan on March 8th and until we depart on March 15th, your transportation needs are taken care of by the tour and included in the tour price. Our tour hotel is the Intercontinental San Juan overlooking the ocean. A few specifics:

- The tour price is based on double occupancy for the hotels; if you are a single traveler and choose not to have a roommate, there will be an additional single supplement charge. Roommates will be assigned for those who sign up for double occupancy and do not specify a roommate.
- The tour price includes all breakfasts and some lunches and dinners. Over the course of the tour, budget for some meals on your own.

Tour Costs

Your producers have worked hard to arrange a terrific tour while keeping the price as reasonable as possible. We have offered, however, some options which can customize the perfect trip for you!

Estimate your total cost by adding together the base cost (Option 1 or 2), your cost for whatever you will spend for airfare to and from Puerto Rico, the cost for a pre or post tour excursion you choose to add, and finally whatever allowance you choose for the limited number of meals or sightseeing you’ll do on your own. Here are the options:

Option 1 Full tour including lodging

- Base price $3,750 per person
- Double occupancy rooms at the Intercontinental San Juan
- Single supplement is an additional $1,050
- All breakfasts and some meals
- Transportation to all tour events

Option 2 Full tour excluding lodging (this option is only for those who graduated after 1990)

- Base price $2,350
- Lodging will be the responsibility of the tour participant
- All breakfasts and some meals (same as Option 1 above)
- Transportation to all tour events (same as Option 1 above)
Pre-Tour Excursion – El Yunque/Bio Bay Experience (included amenities listed)

- Base price Intercontinental Hotel 3 nights $1,018; 2 nights $818
- Single Supplement Intercontinental 3 nights $1,702; 2 nights $1,302
- Base price Verdanza 3 nights $820; 2 nights $686
- Single Supplement Verdanza 3 nights $1,306; 2 nights $1,036
- One airport transfer (upon arrival)
- 3-night or 2-night stay
- Daily breakfast per each paying guest.
- El Yunque and Bioluminescent Bay Tour (full day experience)
- Wi-Fi in room and common areas

Post-tour Excursion – Copamarina Beach Resort & Spa & Coffee Tour Experience (included amenities listed)

- Base price 3 nights $674; 2 nights $526
- Single Supplement 3 nights $1,350; 2 nights $1,050
- Coffee Farm Tour
- Car rental (3 days)
- Daily breakfast per each paying guest
- Resort fees
- Bottled water in room
- Wi-Fi in rooms and designated hotel areas
- One hour of bike rental (based on availability)
- Self-parking

Financial Assistance

The Yale Alumni Chorus Foundation’s generous donors (yes, that is all of you!) have made it possible for a limited number of singers who may not have the financial resources to participate on the tour to apply for need-based financial assistance to offset some or most of the cost of the tour. This program improves the musical quality of our group and serves to expand the Yale Alumni Chorus community. The application process is conducted confidentially by a committee of YAC members and includes a brief written application and possibly a telephone interview. If you are interested in applying for financial assistance please fill out the online application. Click the link for the online registration, http://weblink.donorperfect.com/YACPR2020FA

If you would like to support these singers who will make such a wonderful addition to our chorus and our traveling community, please include a tax-deductible contribution to the Yale Alumni Chorus Foundation along with your tour payments and designate it for Financial Assistance. Your contribution will supplement other resources from the YAC Foundation’s reserves to make more scholarship dollars available for this tour.
How to Apply

Yale Alumni Chorus international tours are open to anyone who sang at Yale, plus their accompanying family and friends. If that does not describe you but you have participated in a past Yale Alumni Chorus tour, you are also welcome.

The Application for the tour is online, and all communications related to the tour will come to you via email. You will also need to access the internet to visit the Yale Alumni Chorus website, yalealumnichorus.org, to view and download information such as links to rehearsal recordings, PDF scans of some of the music, etc.

Click the following link to get started! Please submit one application per person.

- Please note that we accept credit cards and online checks. If you choose to pay by credit card there is an option to pay a processing fee to help offset YAC’s credit card transaction costs.

Some Frequently Asked Questions:

My spouse/partner does not sing. Is that OK?
Yes, non-singing participants are welcome.

Can you set me up with a roommate if I am traveling on my own?
Yes, we usually have quite a few people who are travelling on their own and need a roommate.

Do I need a passport to travel to Puerto Rico?
No. Since Puerto Rico is part of the United States, no passport is needed. However, you will need an identification that will be accepted by TSA.

Do you offer trip cancellation insurance?
The Yale Alumni Chorus Foundation does not offer Trip Insurance, but it strongly urges all participants to purchase it individually for their own protection.

Will there be someone at the airport to pick me up?
No but ground transportation is readily available at the airport. The airport is very close to our headquarters hotel.