



Customized Trip Proposal Developed for:

Thomas Hayes, PhD, Dean of Williams College of Business
Xavier University
MBA Program Trip 2022
Puerto Rico

A Little About Monte Azul:

Since 2018, Monte Azul (a 501(c)3 nonprofit) has been working to promote sustainable and regenerative agriculture in rural Puerto Rico to improve agricultural livelihoods, enhance community resilience, and reinvigorate the rural economy.

Monte Azul's mission is to serve youth and farmers of Puerto Rico through an agricultural resource center that provides the tools and resources to become the sustainable farmers of tomorrow.

Andrew M. Hermann, M.A. Co-founder and Executive Director of Monte Azul Foundation is a graduate of Xavier University's Philosophy, Politics, and the Public (Class of 2017) Undergraduate Program and the Master's of Arts in Public Affairs Program (Class of 2021). He was named in 2018 as "One of 12 Xavier Grads Changing the World" for his work in social entrepreneurship throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.

Learn more about Monte Azul Foundation at www.monteazulfoundation.org.

Why Visit Puerto Rico?

Puerto Rico provides a unique learning environment for graduate students in the Williams College of Business due to its location in the Caribbean and its unique political status with the United States as an unincorporated territory.

With its distinct culture, language, and economy Puerto Rico has many systems (financial, monetary, judicial, and regulatory) that exist in the United States yet has its own cultural and economic history. With the socioeconomic challenges the island faces after the economic destruction caused by Hurricane Maria in 2017 and the powerful earthquakes that rocked the south of the island in January 2020, the island is still recovering and the size and accessibility afford an enriching experience that feels international, yet still technically domestic.

During our time in Puerto Rico we will delve into the cultural, economic, and social history of Puerto Rico as well as the business climate and structural issues both micro and macro. We will hear from entrepreneurs, small business owners, government officials, and nonprofit leaders and learn about the exciting and innovative opportunities that lay ahead for Puerto Rico.



Puerto Rico Immersion Trip Itinerary

The following is a working document and is subject to change (revised 11/19/2021)

Saturday March 5, 2022

Arrival & Acclimation in San Juan

- Meet Andrew at Airport upon arrival and board private coach to transfer you to the hotel in Condado, Puerto Rico (~20 minutes from the airport)
- Check into your room and relax at the hotel until dinner time
- We will walk over to Jose Enrique's Restaurant (a famous James Beard-awarded Puerto Rican Chef) for dinner
- After dinner, enjoy a free evening

Meals Included: Group Dinner

San Juan Accommodations: The Wave Hotel Condado or similar

Sunday March 6, 2022

San Juan | Historical Walking Tour & Exploring Old San Juan

- Enjoy breakfast at the hotel
- After breakfast, board a coach for a historic walking tour of Old San Juan led by Monte Azul staff that ends at the historic Castillo San Felipe del Morro a 400 year old castle built by the Spanish and a US National Park
- Enjoy a lunch on your own in Old San Juan and check out the quaint shops for souvenirs
- Bacardi Rum Tasting and factory Tour at 2PM (Ages 18+), Duration 75 minutes
- Group dinner with a cooking class hosted by two private chefs to learn how to make a three course Puerto Rican meal. Within walking distance to the hotel at Cocina Abierta.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Group Dinner

San Juan Accommodations: The Wave Hotel Condado or similar



Monday March 7, 2022

San Juan | Company Visits in Hato Rey Financial District

- Enjoy breakfast at the hotel
- After breakfast, board a coach for a business visit at the **Port of San Juan** to meet with **Hernan Ayala**, President of one of the largest shipping companies at the critically important Port of San Juan. Learn about international shipping and economics, small island economies, and the challenges and opportunities facing Puerto Rico.
- After the visit, we will head to a nonprofit visit with **ENLACE Caño Martín Peña**, a local coalition of eight working class communities trying to create a community development plan in the face of rising sea levels and environment and economic pressures. We will be having lunch at the community center with staff from ENLACE.
- At 4PM, we will have a government Visit with **Humberto Mercader, Deputy Secretary of Economic Development**
- Return to the hotel around 5-5:30 PM
- Dinner will be on your own in Condado or nearby
- A **group salsa lesson** will be available in the evening around 8pm. Dance and salsa is of great historic importance to Puerto Rico where many famous salsa singers call home.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch

San Juan Accommodations: The Wave Hotel Condado or similar

Tuesday March 8, 2022

Transfer to Maricao | Guest Lecture, Small Mountain Town

- After breakfast, board a coach for Ponce Puerto Rico (~1 hour, 15 minutes) where we will meet Jaime Yordan-Frau in the historic center of Ponce. We will do a walking tour of the historic center to learn about the intersection of historic preservation efforts, tech entrepreneurship, and ongoing hurricane/earthquake recovery efforts.
- Lunch will be on your own in the Ponce Center
- At 1:30pm we will depart for Maricao, Puerto Rico, a rural mountainous community located in the Southwest of Puerto Rico. The trip will take approximately 1 hours and 15 minutes. During the trip, you will traverse a great portion of Puerto Rico and you will see the differences in the climate and ecosystem between the San Juan area and the South of the island. As you traverse the south, you will have a beautiful view of the Caribbean Sea before we leave the highway and begin the ascent up to Maricao.



- Check in and enjoy an afternoon hike around Hacienda Juanita's trails that take you through the coffee fields.
- Enjoy some time at the pool at Hacienda Juanita.
- Group dinner at Hacienda Juanita

Meals Included: Breakfast, Dinner

Maricao Accommodations: Hacienda Juanita

Wednesday March 9, 2022

Maricao | Monte Azul Site Visit, State Forest Hike

- Enjoy breakfast at Hacienda Juanita
- After breakfast, we will visit Maricao State Forest and hear from Park Ranger Noel about ecotourism and enjoy some time learning about the endangered birds.
- We will make a stop at La Torre de Piedra, an observation tower built in the 1940s that provides a sweeping view of the Western part of Puerto Rico.
- Lunch at a gazebo in the State Forest with the Mayor of Maricao, the Hon. Wilfredo "Juny" Ruiz Feliciano to hear from a town mayor the challenges facing Maricao and the path to recovery and resilience.
- Afternoon relaxation at Hacienda Juanita
- Opportunity to work on group project for Monte Azul Foundation
- Group dinner at Hacienda Juanita
- Depending on weather, a potential evening campfire opportunity.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Maricao Accommodations: Hacienda Juanita

Thursday, March 10, 2022 | Maricao | Historic Coffee Farm Tour

- Enjoy breakfast at the hotel
- After breakfast, we will depart for a local coffee Hacienda (Hacienda Tres Angeles) and receive a tour of the coffee process from plant to cup with lunch included.
- After lunch, we will return to Hacienda Juanita
- In the afternoon, there will be a community service opportunity in Maricao
- Dinner will be included at Hacienda Juanita

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Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodations: Hacienda Juanita

Friday, March 11, 2022 | Snorkel in the Mangroves | Return to San Juan | Reflection

- Enjoy breakfast at Hacienda Juanita
- After breakfast, we will depart for La Parguera in the mangroves of the Southwest part of Puerto Rico
- We will experience a snorkel and boat tour of the mangroves
- Lunch will be on your own in La Parguera
- We will then depart for San Juan in the early afternoon
- We will check in at the The Wave Hotel in Condado (or similar)
- There will be a farewell dinner at Jose Enrique Restaurant in Condado

Meals Included: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodations: The Wave Hotel Condado or similar

Saturday March 12, 2022 | Return to Cincinnati

- Enjoy breakfast at the hotel
- After breakfast, transportation will be provided to the San Juan Airport

Meals Included: Breakfast