

The Vieques Fajardo Ferry

Visiting Vieques for a day, a week, or longer? The ferry is an affordable option, but it takes a bit of planning and often a lot of patience.

The ride is generally about an hour and 15 minutes. The time may vary upon the boat you board, the weather, and how long it takes to load and unload.

The trip over and back is pretty stable, but depending on the weather, the boat may get a little rocky. If you suffer from seasickness, sit in the middle seats where you'll feel less motion. Speak to your doctor (in advance) about a prescription or over the counter medication before your trip to prevent seasickness (read the directions in advance, too!).

The boats are air conditioned (and usually freezing) and you can often ride on the top deck. You can not ride or walk on the car deck when the ferry is in motion. There are restrooms on the ferry, and a water jug and cups, but no food or other beverages.

Facilities at the Terminal

You will find restrooms, vending machines and an ATM. Sometimes there will be food carts. Don't expect to find alcohol, any type of sit down dining, or even food. It is a good idea to get your tickets an hour or two in advance and then look for something to eat and drink if you are hungry. If you arrive in Vieques after 9:00 pm you will find almost all establishments that sell food, including grocery stores and restaurants, closed.

If you have a handicap, there is special seating so you don't have to wait in line, just ask a security person.

The ticket booth in Fajardo is across the street from the ferry dock. The ticket booth in Vieques is at the ferry terminal. Be a crowd watcher. If there are a lot of people waiting to ride the ferry, it is wise to get in line and/or get a seat. Residents have priority on the ferry, so it is possible to get bumped if the ferry is full, but this doesn't happen very often.

Pros of Traveling to Vieques by Ferry

- Great way to travel with a group.
- Inexpensive - \$2 or less depending on your age
- Fun to ride and very scenic, especially at sunrise and sunset.
- If you love the water, this ride is for you!

Cons of Traveling to Vieques by Ferry

- Traveling by ferry requires more planning and, at times, patience. If the weather is right and all the ferry boats are in good working condition, you should not have any problems.
- The ferry system is not perfect. There have been many issues over the years and the Internet is full of stories (both good and bad), complaints, and suggestions.
- If you are a tourist, please be advised that residents of Vieques get preference on the ferry.
- On holidays and weekends, including Holy Week and Patronales (December 8) be prepared for long lines and wait times. Try to purchase your tickets in advance.
- Rental cars are typically NOT ALLOWED on the ferry. Please don't rent a car with the idea that you can take your rental car to Vieques. If you want to try, please check with your rental car company in advance. If you make it, and get bumped off the ferry on the way back, it will cost you at least another day (or two or three or four) in rental fees.

Tips for Using the Ferry to Vieques

- To be safe, allow at least two to three hours from the time your plane arrives in San Juan to get to Fajardo. Allow another hour or two prior to your ferry's departure.
- The morning ferry sells out the quickest. Arrive two hours early if you can. If you are driving a personal vehicle you may be able to reserve a ticket in advance.
- High season is from December to April and during the summer when Puerto Ricans from the mainland head to the offshore islands. Holiday weekends, including Holy Week and Patronales (December 8) are REALLY busy. Arrive at least two hours early just in case you have to wait for the next ferry to depart.
- If you can't get on the ferry or don't wish to wait you can drive to nearby Ceiba Airport and catch a flight to Vieques. Be sure to call for availability, schedules and prices before you leave. Sometimes airline flights are hard to get.

Ferry Schedules

The cargo ferry is currently being used for both passengers and cargo at this time. Please call the number(s) listed below to confirm operating schedules and departure times as schedules are subject to change.

Vieques to Fajardo Cargo Ferry Schedule

- Monday to Friday - 6:00 am (except holidays), 11 am, 3 pm, and 6:30 pm
- Saturday, Sunday and Holidays - 6:30 am, 11:00 am, 3:00 pm, and 6:30 pm

Fajardo to Vieques Cargo Ferry Schedule

- Monday to Friday - 4 am (except holidays), 9 am, 1 pm, 4:45 pm, and 8:15 pm
- Saturday, Sunday and Holidays - 9 am, 1 pm, 4:45 pm, and 8:15 pm

Arriving at the Ferry Dock with Vehicle Reservations?

- If you already have an auto reservation you don't have to stand in line. Present your ID at the ticket office and they will give you a ticket
- If you are taking a vehicle on the ferry, passengers will need to walk on while the driver drives on. The driver will need to join the passengers after he or she parks the car.

Contact Information and Ferry Reservations

The ferry system is currently managed by ATM (Autoridad de Transporte Maritimo).

Phone numbers for questions and reservations

- Fajardo Office - (787) 494-0934
- Vieques Office - (787) 494-0931
- Culebra Office - (787) 334-0931

Offices in Vieques and Fajardo

- Fajardo - Across from the ferry dock in Fajardo.
- Vieques - At the ferry dock in Isabel.

Fees

- One way passenger - \$2 or less depending on your age
- One way car or medium size truck - \$29 (driver's fee included)
- One way cargo truck - \$51 (driver's fee included)
- Various fees for carts, surf boards, and other stuff may apply - most expensive is \$6

Documents Needed for Vehicles

- Driver's license
- Vehicle registration

Vehicle Reservations

- By email - reservaciones@atm.gobierno.pr
- Paying by phone - Visa or MasterCard
- Paying at the terminal - Cash, Debit Card, Visa and MasterCard

Vehicle reservations are based upon availability. Be advised that residents receive preference on space. Although rare, be prepared to have a backup plan (especially on holidays) for getting to and from Vieques.

Apps and Webcams

If you want to watch the ferries arrive and depart (or not, as often happens) in real time, download Ship Finder or Marine Traffic. This is a great way to get to know the ferries, as well as some of the cargo ships and pleasure craft, that pass our way.

Vieques and Fajardo Ferry Webcams

- <http://its.dtop.gov.pr/es/>

One Last Reminder

You may purchase tickets ahead of time at the Fajardo and Vieques ticket booths. Be sure to arrive to the ferry dock at least 1.5 hours before departure time. We want you to have a good experience getting to and from Vieques, so do yourself a favor and try to avoid taking the ferry on July weekends and holiday weekends / weeks. July is high season for mainland residents and they love heading to Vieques and Culebra; they typically get to the terminal early, even the day night before. Some people have waited up to 15 hours to get a ticket to the offshore islands, so you may want to fly instead.

For additional information, Google <Vieques Ferry> and do your research before you ride!

For more of the same, see... <http://vieques.com/ferry-vieques-fajardo/#10/18.2919/-65.5451>

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