

## **“No Passport Required” Podcast Script**

Hola – I am Marybeth Bond, author of 9 travel books the new book “50 Best Girlfriend Getaways.”

I have walked, hiked, climbed, cycled and kayaked my way through six continents and more than 70 countries around the world. There’s nothing I enjoy more than criss-crossing the globe educating, enlightening and empowering others to explore it through travel.

To help you prepare for and enjoy your next vacation or quick weekend getaway, the Puerto Rico Tourism Company and I have joined forces to create the following 10 hassle-free travel tips:

1. Leave your passport at home, on purpose! Avoid the hassles of customs and immigration lines by traveling to sunny destinations like Puerto Rico, where no U.S. passport is required for travel between the United States and the Island! New travel regulations require all U.S. citizens traveling outside of the country by air to present a valid passport when visiting Canada, Mexico and the Caribbean, with the exception of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.
2. Shed your winter coat and gloves in lieu of resort-wear. Remember to pack your favorite bathing suit and light clothing. Puerto Rico’s tropical climate averages 82 degrees Fahrenheit – perfect weather for sunbathing at Isla Verde, sightseeing in Old San Juan, surfing off the shores of Rincon and snorkeling in Vieques.
3. Pack all your liquids and gels in your suitcase. If you want to carry on any liquids, make sure they are placed in a one-quart sized plastic bag, all in 3 ounce containers or smaller. U.S. Federal regulations do not allow anything more than that onboard the airplane.
4. Don’t forget to pack comfortable walking shoes and socks for your adventure, especially if you’ll be visiting a jungle or rainforest like El Yunque, the only rainforest in the U.S. National Forest System . Don’t miss the beautiful La Mina or La Coca Falls – must see sites for your hike.
5. Pack your favorite travel guidebook or, better yet, check out [www.gotopuertorico.com](http://www.gotopuertorico.com) for booking advice and great travel deals online.
6. Bring plenty of sunscreen! The island is full of great beaches, and some of the best can be found in less discovered areas on Vieques and Culebra. In fact, the Travel Channel recently named Flamenco Beach in Culebra as the Best Escape Beach and one of the Best Beaches in America.
7. Bring your favorite MP3 player and don’t forget to include a playlist of salsa music that is the sounds of Puerto Rico. Make sure to download some

podcasts before leaving home, including a new one on [GoToPuertoRico.com](http://GoToPuertoRico.com)!

8. Plan ahead: If you're visiting Puerto Rico, be sure to explore all that is found beyond the shores of San Juan including the western and southern regions of Porta del Sol and Porta Caribe. Puerto Rico has so much to offer – from spa and sports to sun and snorkeling – and by planning ahead, you can make the most out of your trip.
9. Make sure to pack an extra bag or leave enough room in your suitcase to accommodate your shopping. If you find yourself in Puerto Rico's Old San Juan be sure to explore Calle del Cristo, outlet shopping in Barceloneta, or pick up bomba drums from the local artisans in Santa Isabel.
10. Take advantage of airlines' online check-in to get you some extra sleep-in time before heading to the airport and don't forget to wear slip on shoes and socks to move through the airport security checkpoints – hassle free!

Remember, for travel between Puerto Rico and the United States, **No Passport Is Required**. As a further convenience, the Puerto Rico Tourism Company offers an online reservation system for a variety of accommodations including Paradores. For additional information about Puerto Rico, call (800) 866-7827 or visit [www.GoToPuertoRico.com](http://www.GoToPuertoRico.com).

We hope these tips help you to arrive at your destination safely and with minimal fuss. I am Marybeth Bond, “the gutsy traveler” wishing you un buen viaje!

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