

# PROJECT MONKEY ISLAND

## VOLUNTEER ESSENTIALS

PUERTO RICO



4

**Join our PMI Teams and help  
Rebuild, Recover and Revitalize the  
Caribbean Primate Research Center**

*(The 3Rs for the CPRC)*

The 3Rs for the CPRC (Project Monkey Island) was created and is presented by the International Primatological Society, Word of Mouth Productions and Primatologists Without Borders.

# HURRICANE MARIA WAS THE STRONGEST HURRICANE TO HIT PUERTO RICO IN OVER 80 YEARS AND MADE LANDFALL IN PUNTA SANTIAGO

*The 155-190 mph winds were constant for over 16 hours  
Punta Santiago - and "Monkey Island" - were completely torn apart.*



**CAYO SANTIAGO**  
**"Monkey Island"**

*Before  
Maria*

*After  
Maria*

Our on-going mission is to help **Rebuild**, **Recover** and **Revitalize** the **Caribbean Primate Research Center's** field site as well as the small town of Punta Santiago.

**DON'T PASS UP THIS ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY TO VOLUNTEER**

*"It was life changing!"*

*"Renews my faith in mankind!"*

*"It's like magic."*

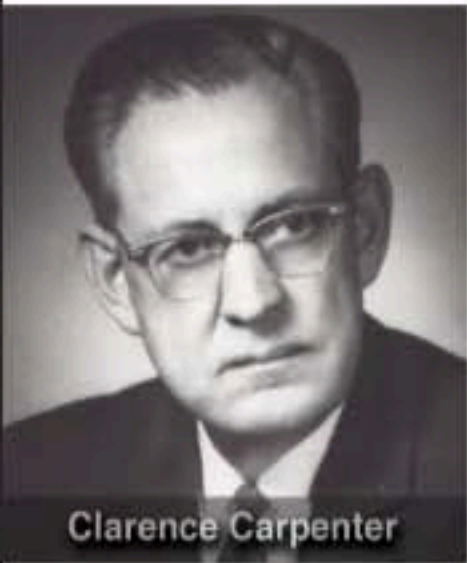
**BECOME A PART OF OUR TEAM**  
[www.projectmonkeyisland.org](http://www.projectmonkeyisland.org)



## PUNTA SANTIAGO



Punta Santiago, pop. 3000, is found on the southeastern coast of Puerto Rico. About a half mile off shore sits a 38 acre island, Cayo Santiago, aka "Monkey Island."



### CREATING "MONKEY ISLAND"

In 1938 American primatologist Clarence Ray Carpenter imported 409 rhesus monkeys from India to Cayo Santiago, providing a free-range colony of monkeys for behavioral research.

Over the last eighty years this world-renowned site has accumulated and preserved an unmatched collection of primate observational studies, DNA databases, skeletal remains, and so much more.



### PROJECT MONKEY ISLAND (PMI)

The 3Rs for the CPRC (aka PMI) was created after Hurricane Maria ravaged this invaluable research station and devastated the community of Punta Santiago, home to many of those who work and support this historic site.

## CAYO SANTIAGO





## TIMING & TRANSPORTATION

- PMI Volunteer Trips run between 7-14 days.
- Volunteers may attend for some or all days.
- Fly into San Juan, Puerto Rico, a USA Territory.
- No passport is needed for US residents.
- Car rentals are available at the airport.
- Groups of 4 typically coordinate cost sharing of car rentals.
- Cabs, Uber or Lyft services are options for rides to and from the airport and run from \$75-\$100.
- Currency is the American Dollar.

## LODGING & FOOD

- Housing is in Humacao, a short 15 minute drive from Punta Santiago.
- The PMI "Big House" sleeps up to 24 people.
- A second, "Big House II" may also be rented if "Big House I" fills to capacity.
- Volunteers may rent accommodations through services such as VRBO, AirBnB, hotels or resorts.
- Dinners are organized, cooked and eaten at the "Big House" each night.
- Breakfasts and lunches are pre-ordered and prepared by Punta Santiago food merchants for a flat rate for the duration of the PMI volunteer trip.

## AVERAGE COSTS

- Costs depend upon season and number of volunteers attending.
- Average food cost is \$30/day (non-alcoholic beverages, snacks, meals).
- Average cost per night at the "Big House" is \$150-\$220/night.
- Room sharing can substantially reduce the per-night cost.
- Couches (limited basis) range from \$30-\$50/night.

## KEEPING THE MONEY IN PUNTA SANTIAGO

Whenever possible, please shop, eat and lodge within the Punta Santiago and Humacao area to contribute to the area's economic recovery.

**NOTE** Puerto Rico is a tropical island with high humidity and temperatures from the upper 70s to the upper 90s all year round.

# WHAT PMI VOLUNTEERS DO

## WHERE YOU WILL BE WORKING

Volunteers will be working on different projects during the trip. Jobs assignments will alternate so most volunteers will be on Cayo Santiago ("Monkey Island") at least one day, and in multiple locations within the town of Punta Santiago.

## GENERAL ACTIVITIES

- Debris Clearing
- Roofing
- Demolition
- Jack-Hammering
- Shoveling/Picking
- Chainsaw Work
- Scraping/Painting
- Flooring
- Cleaning
- Concrete Work
- Trash Collection
- Path Clearing
- Electrical Wiring
- Plumbing
- Welding
- Loading/Unloading
- Organize Supplies/Tools
- Walls/Doors/Windows

## PUNTA SANTIAGO

PMI repairs or rebuilds any local structure in need of help, including:

- Homes
  - Schools
  - Offices
  - Playgrounds
- \* Teenagers younger than 18 years old may work on jobs in Punta Santiago.  
\* Clothing options depend upon the job being performed in Punta Santiago.

## CAYO SANTIAGO

- Plant/Tend New Trees
- Remove Construction Debris
- Rebuild Structures
- Replace Equipment
- Repair Water Collection Systems

## THE PMI TEAM STAYS CONNECTED



PMI volunteers presently use a messaging app called [groupme](#) to keep the team connected during trips via cell phone.

Job assignments are posted each evening for the following day.



## CAYO SANTIAGO MANDATORY NEEDS

- Volunteers who will work on Cayo must be 18 years of age with valid ID.
- Proof of immunizations due no less than two weeks prior to arrival:
  - a) Neg Mantoux TB Skin Test
  - b) Measles
  - c) Current Tetanus Vaccine
  - d) Hepatitis Booster (Optional)
- Liability forms need to be filled out and signed prior to visiting Cayo.
- Personal duffle bag/gear pack with snacks, electrolyte packets, water, etc.
- Hydration backpacks (separate from gear packs)
- Long sleeves and long pants
- Close-toed shoes and long socks
- Sunglasses and hat
- Bandana/handkerchief and gloves
- Bug repellent and sunscreen

## THE CAYO SANTIAGO LOCATION

- A small boat leaves the Punta Santiago dock at 7am for Cayo.
- Boat ride is about 10 minutes.
- Boat typically returns to Punta between 11am and 12pm.
- There is no electricity on Cayo.
- One bathroom located near shop area.
- Enclosed "monkey-free" lunch cage for gear pack storage.
- Drinkable water station located in shop area and lunch cage.
- Truck and construction tools/equipment located in shop area.
- Photography limited, no "sharing" unless pre-approved by the CPRC staff.

## IMPERATIVE KNOWLEDGE FOR CAYO VOLUNTEERS

- NEVER approach or make any kind of contact with monkeys - physical or eye.
- NEVER give monkeys food or water or leave any personal items unattended.
- Human viruses can be deadly to the monkey population.
- NEVER urinate, expectorate, or defecate on the island grounds.  
Please use the bathroom and the "monkey-free" zones to dispose of any kind of food, napkins, drinking bottles, sweat removal cloths, etc.
- Cayo monkeys carry Herpes B - a virus that can be deadly to humans unless treated immediately. Gloves and eyewear must be worn at all times.
- An "EXPOSURE" is any contact with urine, feces, saliva or any bodily fluids or environmental items with which a monkey has come in contact.
- Any injuries such as cuts, scrapes, splatters, etc. qualify as an "exposure."
- All exposures MUST be reported/treated immediately.