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Visit the Museums of Old San Juan Puerto Rico by Roger Nash

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For the typical tourist in Old San Juan, there are several museums that simply must figure on your list. You will of course have to begin with the forts El Morro and San CristÃ³bal and then follow it up with the Paseo La Princesa, La Fortaleza as well as the Cathedral. There are several walking tours you can take if you are up for the challenge. There are a number of museums in Old San Juan and two must-visit places are the National Gallery as well as the Museum of the Americas. Here are some others that you can go to.

The Museo del NiÃ±o or the Childrenâ€™s Museum is filled with 3 floors of interactive exhibits and absolute fun. Children can wander into space exhibits and even look after animals. There a well trained personnel to handle the children. This museum is right behind the park from Cathedral. Another good museum is the GalerÃ-a Nacional or the National Gallery. This was once a Dominican Convent and was built around the 16th century. It is filled with paintings from some of the big names in the Puerto Rican world like JosÃ© Campeche y Francisco Oller. If you are looking for a guided tour, just ask around and you will find someone helpful. The museum is in the San JosÃ© Plaza.

Give the Arsenal museum a shot next. This structure dates back to the 1800s and was actually a naval station that housed the Spanish military right after the Spanish-American War. The galleries are few and the exhibits change through the year. When this happens the museum closes down so you will have to ask around to see if it is open. Head to Casa Blanca or White House, which was the first fort that San Juan saw in 1521. This served as the strong house for the descendents of Ponce De LeÃ³n and went on to be used by the Spanish military and then the US for its military commanders. This went on until 1966.

For the bookworms, the Casa del Libro is a place that you should not miss. This House of the Book has a unique and rare collection of ancient manuscripts and books of over 4000 published works in all and goes all the way back to the 15th century. This is one of those free museums and you can spend a whole afternoon here being mesmerized by the collection.

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