

# SELF GUIDED TOUR - CAVE RIVER TOUR

Welcome to the self guided tour of our famous Cave River Tour! We would like to advise you to download this guide to your mobile device before starting your day trip, as the location itself might offers little cell phone service. Please take your time to read the safety tips to make sure you and your family are safe.

Before you start the day trip:

- We advice you NOT to go there on weekends, as the crowds can be annoying and noisy. On a weekday you will almost certainly be alone there to enjoy nature
- Have a good breakfast. Do not go without eating first as you need energy to hike and swim
- The only way to get to this spot is walking down and up an access road to a water pump which is very steep, so prepare for that.
- Get ideal footwear. Sneakers or hiking sandals would be best but keep in mind this is muddy and slippery terrain at times, so bring whatever has the best traction. DO NOT USE flip-flops or crocs.
- DOWNLOAD THIS GUIDE BEFORE YOU GO

Things to bring on the hike:

- a backpack with food, snacks and water. You won't be able to purchase anything nearby
- Medications if needed

Things to bring and leave in the car:

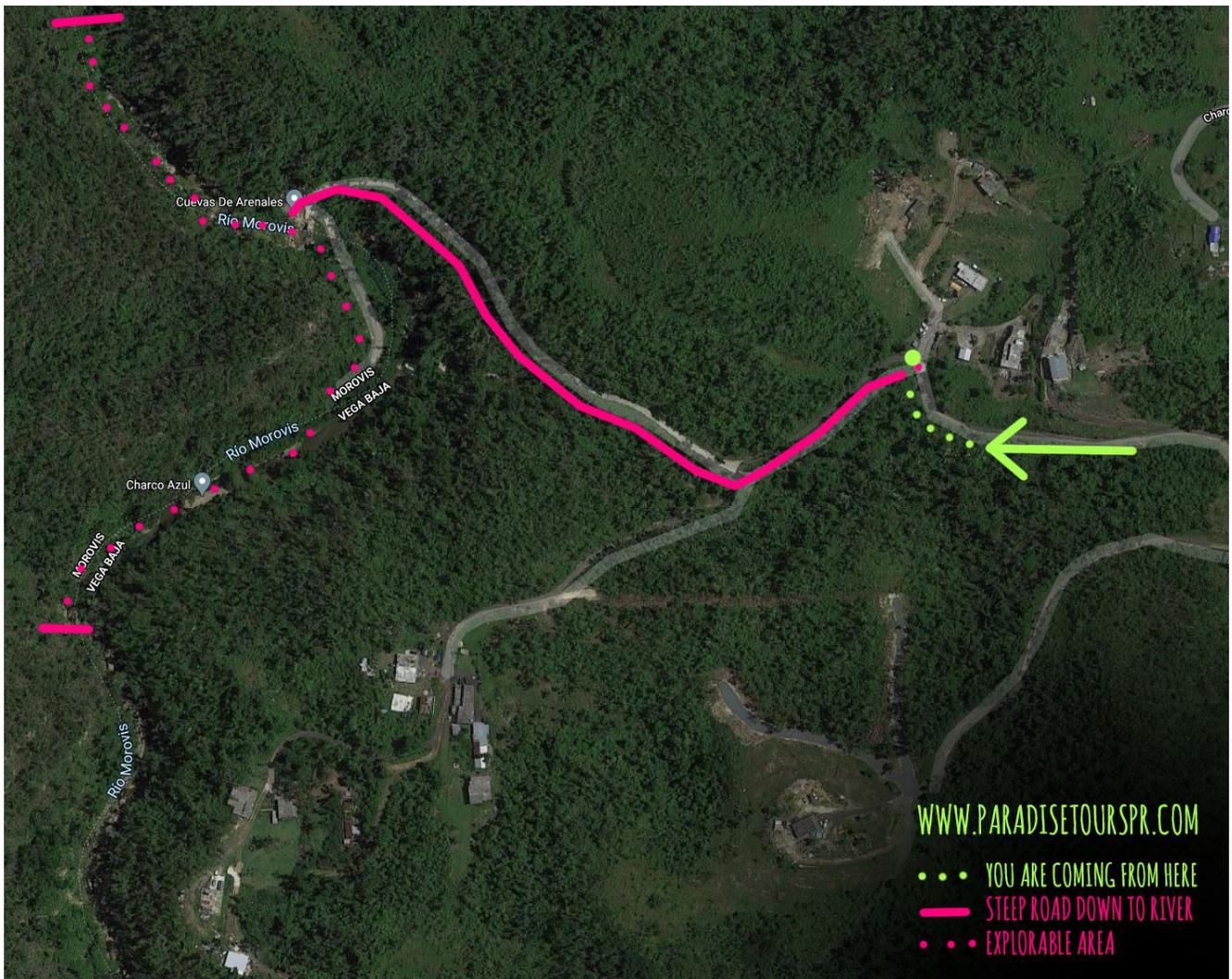
- At this location, don't leave anything in the car and just take valuables with you

Route to location only by rental car, no Uber will access this area. The pin shows the exact location where you can park your car for a small fee on private property, so you don't have to worry about someone damaging your rental: <https://goo.gl/maps/g8i2tK9YGXja7vJq6>



Safety Warning! Do not plan your day trip on a rainy day, as the river can be flooded and will make it impossible safely enjoy it. Google the radar map for Puerto Rico and check the weather report for Vega Baja. Usually anything lower than 50% rain means it won't rain, but tropical weather is unpredictable. If you open the radar and you see many rain spots or few large ones - reschedule.

Once at the pin location, you will see a house at the top of the hill on the property. You can talk to this lady to pay a small fee to use her property to park. Sometimes other people will help you out with a parking space. Once you are ready, take all your stuff and start hiking down the hill. Don't take too much stuff because the hill gets extremely steep at the bottom and you have to carry everything back up. If you have a 4x4 Jeep rental, you might can try to drive down there, but on your own risk. The following image shows where you will be after arriving at the Google location and where you can explore the river and caves.





The above picture shows the road down to the water pump. Once you get to the water pump at the bottom of the hill, you should first make a left turn and continue following the dirt road / trail to the river. You will see an area that looks like this:



A very shallow section of the river will make it easy and refreshing to continue hiking for another 5 minutes until you reach the large pool which looks like this:



Find a nice plate to leave your stuff and take that well deserved morning bath! Once you are satisfied with swimming and waking up, you can explore the upper parts of the cave area. Be careful though not to slip. Do not let your kids go up there alone, it is not safe and you have to be careful, especially the first time.



Safety Warning! If the water is not as green and clear as in the pictures but brown and stronger current, there is a risk for flash flood, so use common sense and don't take unnecessary risks. The same goes for exploring the rock and caves. There is a lot of loose gravel which can make you slip and fall. If you plan on doing cliff jumps, check the water for rocks and tree trunks first.

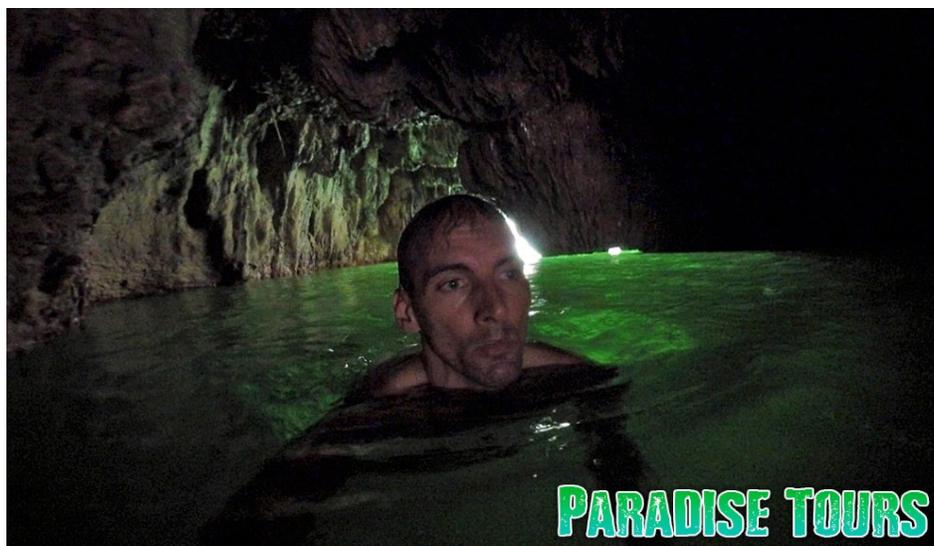


Once you enjoyed the pool on this side of the river for an hour or two and you are up for a bit more adventure, take your stuff and hike back to the water pump and before you get to it, follow the river downstream. It will take you to the following area:



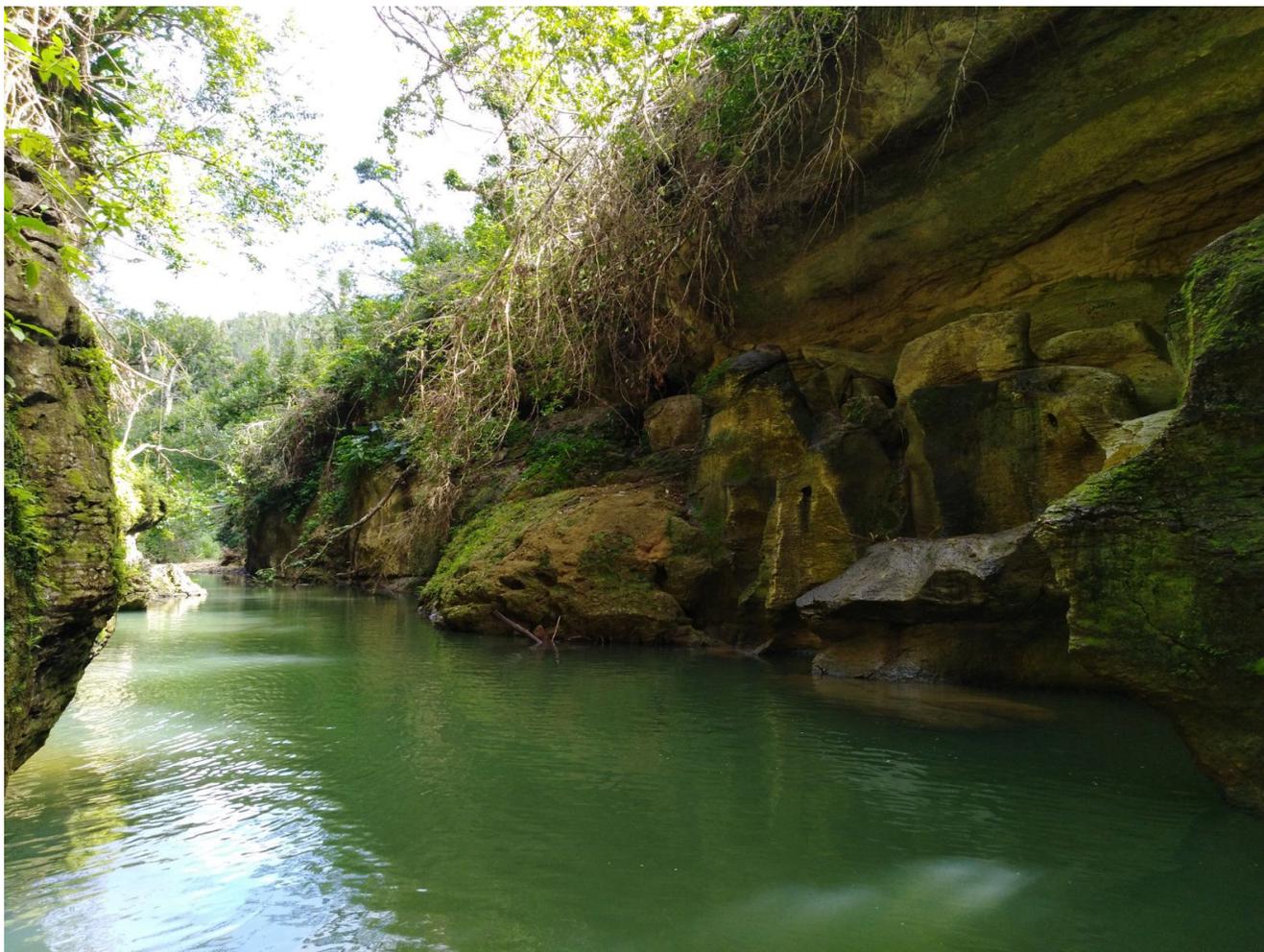
You will come down on the right side from the top on the upper picture and from there you can actually swim through another cave if you dare. Keep following the river until you get to the cave opening.

Again - make sure the water level and condition allows to do so in a safe manner. If it looks like on the pictures, you are good to go. Follow the stream and you will get to this:





Once through the cave you will find yourself in a bit more remote area to enjoy more swimming and exploring as long as you wish.



All in all this place is a great location to visit on a weekday and even on weekends if you don't mind noisy crowds and music etc. It offers enough to spend half a day and enjoy a nice day trip. If you are not tired yet, you can finish the day at a unique beach that is not too far away from there - called Mar Chiquita.



Other attractions nearby:

- Mar Chiquita Beach
- Los Tubos Beach
- Toro Verde Zip Line Park

We hope this guide was useful for you and your family to enjoy this awesome location in a safe manner!  
Hopefully next time we will be able to guide you in person to one of our other adventures!

Greetings, the Paradise Tours Team!