

Guide for Scientists Visiting Puerto Rico

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IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

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IMPORTANT DRIVING DIRECTIONS

Sabana Field Station:

Go East on Highway 3

Pass the Luquillo traffic light (Econo, Total and Walgreens are on the right)

At the end of the overpass, take the Luquillo/Sabana Exit

Turn Right

Not long after you turn right, the road will branch, keep to the left

Just after you pass the cemetery, which is on your right you will cross a bridge

When you come to the triangle intersection (Blue Luquillo sign), turn right (983)

There should be an elementary school on your left not long after you turn.

Follow this road for a good ways... my motto is to follow the yellow bridges

You will come to an intersection where the road goes straight and there is a yellow bridge to your right. Turn right and cross the bridge. Sabana field station is on your left.

The gate code is 0863. As of 1 April 2011 Sabana is under construction. All personal vehicles must park outside of the gate. Official vehicles only park inside. After hours the gate is opened with the 54 key.

Directions to IITF (aka Rio Piedras) from Luquillo:

From Sabana/El Verde, go West on Highway 3

Take Route 66 (\$1.50 toll unless have gov't vehicle)

The toll road will end and becomes Highway 26

Just after the airport, take the Puente Moscoso exit... you want to cross the bridge (\$3).

Right after the bridge ends, the road divides. You need to stay to your right on highway 17. Take the Rio Piedras exit (Ave Luis Munoz Rivera). You will come up on an overpass with a light. Gold's Gym is located at that intersection.

Turn Left. This road is Luis Munoz Rivera. This road eventually branches into two directions. Take the left branch, stay to the left and cross at that light. OR... if you miss the left branch and go to the right, make a u-turn at the light. Once you turn around, the botanical gardens road will be on your right. Turn into this exit. Tell the guard that you are going to the Forest Service. Once inside, go straight on this road until you pass a building with bright yellow flowers on the right. Just after these yellow flowers, turn left on calle ceiba and you will take the up ramp on the left to the parking lot. If you do not want to take the Puente Moscoso to IITF, you can exit Hwy 3 just after you pass the toll on Route 66. The off ramp loops around to the right. You go straight down this road for about 6 miles. You will see a sign for Hwy 1. Just after a sharp curve the light for the botanical garden will be on your left. If you miss the light (it is an odd intersection), you can make a u-turn.

El Verde (from the airport):

Take highway 26 towards Fajardo, Carolina (East).

Highway 26 turns into Highway 66 (the toll, \$1.50)

When the toll road ends, turn right on Hwy 3 (Belks outlet mall will be on your right).

Take highway 3 East

Turn right at the second intersection after the major intersection. The El Verde Bar will be right at the corner. It has a bright neon green trimming around it.

Follow the road up until you come to an intersection with a triangle with a restaurant on your left. Turn right at this intersection.

Follow this main road... you will cross several bridges, a small school on the right, the welcome to El Yunque National forest sign, the left entrance to El Verde is just after you cross the Sonodora Bridge. The gate is locked in the evenings and on weekends and holidays. You should be sure to lock the gate behind you during these times. If you are the first to leave in the mornings, the gate can be left open; however, the lock should be locked to the chain. Another tid-bit of information: you need the key to get the lock to close. Although this does change... the lock is always breaking. To get a key you need to speak to the El Verde Field Station Manager, Francisco, and pay the \$20 fee.

Linde Gas (for dry ice purchase):

The dry ice branch: 787-641-8565 The main branch: 787-641-7445

They are located in Cataño, which is south west of San Juan. Plan on two hours to get there in case of traffic.

From Route 3, Take Route 66. The road becomes highway 26. Pass the airport on your right. Move to the right lane. Right when you reach an overpass you will come to the The Caguas Bayamon exit (route 22). It is easy to miss so keep your eye out for it. The exit curves to the left and takes you under a tunnel. I think there is a toll, but I can't remember how much.

From route 22, once you get near Catano, take the third exit (Exit #11, Las Palmas to Route 869). If you are too far to the right, you will accidentally wind up on the second exit and this takes forever to turn around from #5, so keep your eye out here!

Once you take the third exit (#11 las palmas) take a right turn on route 869.

You'll go about a mile down this road and Linde Gas is on your left. You will see a water tower on the left that says Linde Gas and there is an apartment complex on the right. If you see a vacant parking lot, the store is just before that and you turn left to get into the parking lot.

They sell dry ice by the pound. Be sure to bring the cooler that you plan on filling with soil!! I filled the large cooler about half way and this was plenty of dry ice to send about 10 gallon ziplocks of soil. That was 35 lbs and cost \$70!

LABORATORY/VEHICLE ETIQUETTE**Please remember that we are a guest at these facilities!****IITF:**

Closed toe shoes and relatively formal attire are required in the IITF laboratory. Women can wear skirts, but shorts are frowned upon for men and women.

Mary Jeane is the laboratory manager. I generally stop by her office and let her know that I am there and what I plan on doing. It helps to keep her informed of what is happening in the laboratory. The doors to the lab are locked at all times. Keys are not given out since this is a government facility, so you need to be buzzed in. No propping doors open unless you have explicit permission for loading and unloading.

If you are to be doing any sort of lab work in the common areas (with permission from Mary Jeane), the lab area needs to remain clean. You should also put together a schedule of when you plan on using the lab space and what supplies you will be using (if any) for Mary Jeane's records so that she remains informed of your activities. When working with chemicals, be sure to provide/wear your own lab coat and goggles, and as I mentioned above, closed toe shoes are a must!

The ability to work in this laboratory is truly a courtesy and the privilege should not be abused. Remember that multiple people use this space so keep the working space to a minimum.

SABANA:

Carlos Torrens collects litter every other Tuesday. Miriam collects water samples every Tuesday. These are busy days for the lab. Be sure to leave space in the lab for them on these days so that Miriam can work (check with Miriam to learn what space she needs in advance, the construction has led to some changes). Carlos and Humberto frequently dry litter in the ovens and on occasion sort litter in the lab. Make sure you check with them before you dry soils. The temperature on the ovens should be kept at 65°C when not in use.

In general: Please put things away when you are finished working and make sure you lock up all of the labs if you are the last to leave. When you do have a larger experiment be sure to inform everyone. Let them know how much space you need and how long you plan to occupy it. Remember that this is a common lab space. Everyone has to be able to work together. If you need to leave the experiment over night, it is best to leave a slip of paper with information about the experiment and your name. Grizelle and others often pass through the lab and they like to know what is happening and how is using what space. If you have a new experiment, Grizelle should be contacted for approval.

Label all supplies that we purchase the lead scientist's name so that they don't get thrown away. This way everyone knows who to talk to if it is in the way.

GOVERNMENT VEHICLE

The vehicle is for official use only.

No unauthorized persons are allowed in the vehicle. Only forest service employees and volunteers are allowed.

The car should be washed once per month. Carlos Torrens can tell you where to take the vehicle to have it cleaned.

If the car is to be returned to IITF, it should have a full tank of gas and be thoroughly cleaned.

If an accident or damage of any kind occurs, an accident report must be filled out. This is of the utmost importance.

Like the use of the lab space, our ability to use a forest service vehicle is a courtesy. If we abuse this privilege we could lose our ability to use the vehicle. This would be truly detrimental to the project. Please keep this in mind when you make your decisions!

GUIDE TO THE SABANA KEYS

1. Sabana Gate Code: 0863
2. HE, Large Yellow: Opens laboratory, Office, and Laundry Room/Bathroom
3. HE, Large Purple: Opens the office side of Laundry Room, but only if they leave the inside bolt unlocked.
4. HE 54, Pink: Opens the woodshop and the entrance gate (if the automatic gate isn't working)
5. A2, Small Purple: Opens the Bisley Gate and now opens the East Peak Gate
6. Small Yellow: Opens the Silver Lab Closet
7. B1, Small Pink: Opens the El Yunque/Mt Britton Gate.
8. Small Turquoise: This is the **old** East Peak key. I have been told that it is now the A2 key (same as Bisley). I have not checked to see if that old lock is still there or not.

Square key with no color is the el verde gate key. It is on a separate ring.

The remaining keys are a complete mystery!

FEDEX PROTOCOL

Mailing Soils Via FedEx:

Soils need to be double bagged for shipping and transport to the US. This means that the ziplock bags of clearly labeled soils should be wrapped again in another larger plastic bag or in a trash bag. Multiple samples can be put in the same “second” bag.

Soils must be shipped in a hard container that doesn’t leak. You can fulfill this requirement by putting it in Tupperware inside your luggage; however, there are numerous ice chests in the lab that are well suited for transporting soils, or one can be purchased at walmart. In the soil box, the two soil permits should be included.

Ask Miriam Salgado for the FedEx labels. Be sure to list soil under the contents.

The morning that you plan to ship soils via FedEx, be sure to tell Miriam to call FedEx to come pick them up. They generally arrive close to 3pm; however, there are days when they have arrived right at 2pm. To be on the safe side, it is best to be there just before 2pm with everything labeled and ready to go. If you are nice, sometimes the FedEx lady will let you meet her in town with the samples. Make friends and get her number!! If you are making a lot of shipments, get the FedEx number from Miriam and the appropriate address to tell them... the calls go to Mexico (?) and they speak in Spanish, so if this is an issue, best leave the phone calls to Miriam. Do get her schedule because she is not at Sabana every day.

Also to keep in mind. The Sabana staff arrive around 7am and frequently leave by 3pm.

LABORATORY SUPPLIES

At the Sabana Field Station there are ovens, scales, a working hood, a copier, a freezer and fridge, and counter space to work. There is currently no DI water at Sabana. Reagents and DI needs to be brought in from elsewhere.

The El Verde Station does have DI Water. Space there is very limited over the summer.

IITF does have a small shaker that can be borrowed. You need permission from Mary Jeane to remove the shaker from IITF.

You should plan on bringing any lab equipment and/or reagents that you need (e.g., nalgene bottles, volumetric flasks, funnels, etc.). If you are collaborating with Bill McDowell, Whendee Silver, or Fred Scatena, you may be able to borrow some of their equipment. One thing to keep in mind is that the construction at Sabana has led to a lot of disarray. The field/laboratory supplies at Sabana were moved to IITF (Rio Piedras) and are stored in the basement of a building that is undergoing construction. You need to be accompanied into the basement to search for supplies and the space is not organized!!