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# Puerto Rico's Guajataca Beach is a scenic site to relax

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By SEAN CHAFFIN / Special Contributor to The Dallas Morning News

QUEBRADILLAS, Puerto Rico – Across the blue water off Guajataca Beach, surfer after surfer anticipates the perfect wave and glides toward the exquisite sandy shore ringed by palm trees.

This beach in northwestern Puerto Rico is set in a small valley where mountains meet the Atlantic. The Guajataca River rolls from the mountains and empties into the ocean.

This short stretch of sand proved a fine place to relax with friends and family, sipping a cold Puerto Rican brew. A friend had introduced us to Guajataca on a previous visit to the island, and my wife, 3-year-old daughter, Marie, and I eagerly returned this summer.

We loaded our beach bag and drove west from San Juan on Highway 2 to the entrance road between Isabela and Quebradillas at the Rio Camuy.

Guajataca was pristinely scenic and almost always uncrowded. The cool breezes off the Atlantic eased the heat of the Puerto Rican summer, and a dip in the clear water kept us cool. Big, white-foamed waves thumped the beach, and large rocks marked each end.

Because of the waves, Guajataca is not ideal for young children. However, a shallow area of the river where it flows into the Atlantic creates a natural kid's pool. My daughter loved the cool, fresh water.

Guajataca is also called The Tunnel, due to the adjacent tunnel cut through the mountain. A former railroad transported sugar cane along the line, which now serves as a lookout for watching the sparkling waters and jagged rocks below.

On our day at Guajataca, the weather was grand, with large clouds drifting overhead. We stayed until early evening, watching the sun slowly set behind the mountains and palms.

*Sean Chaffin is a freelance writer in Rockwall.*

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SEAN CHAFFIN/Special Contributor  
**Surfers and boogieboarders** stroll on the sand at Guajataca Beach in northwestern Puerto Rico.