

# Collector's Journal

A Service of Collectors Alliance

## 2012 El Yunque National Forest Quarter - Puerto Rico

### *Eleventh in the America the Beautiful Quarters Collection*

The first of five different 2012 Quarters in the ongoing America the Beautiful series honors El Yunque National Forest in Puerto Rico. It is also the eleventh coin in the overall collection. The series, which started in 2010, will eventually include one coin for each of the 50 states as well as the District of Columbia and the five overseas U.S. territories.

America the Beautiful Quarters are issued at the rate of five coins per year. Each coin highlights a National Park or other national site within the state or territory, and the order of issue is the order in which the featured locations became national sites. There are no National Parks in Puerto Rico, so El Yunque National Forest was chosen instead.

The four additional coins to be issued in 2012 are Chaco Culture National Historical Park in New Mexico, Acadia National Park in Maine, Hawaii Volcanoes National Park in Hawaii, and Denali National Park in Alaska.

Each America the Beautiful Quarter is struck for circulation at both the Philadelphia and Denver Mints. The two distinct coins are identified by a small "P" (Philadelphia) or "D" (Denver) mint mark under "In God We Trust."

El Yunque National Forest is the only tropical rainforest in the National Forest System. Located in the Luquillo Mountains in eastern Puerto Rico, it covers about 28,000 acres and is renowned for its biodiversity. It is home to about 240 tree species, including 23 that are found nowhere else in the world, as well as hundreds of birds and other wildlife species. Annual rainfall can exceed 200 inches in some part of the park.

Spain ceded Puerto Rico to the United States in 1898, and President Theodore Roosevelt declared El Yunque a National Forest in 1903.



About one million people visit El Yunque National Forest every year. The most common time to visit is during the hot summer months, when people take advantage of the cool water, shaded picnic areas, and numerous trails that run through the forest. In addition, many cruise ship passengers enjoy the experience of taking a short journey from nearby San Juan into the heart of the forest.

The reverse of the El Yunque National Forest Quarter features a tiny coqui tree frog on the left and a Puerto Rican parrot on the right, together with a variety of tropical plants that are typically found in the rainforest. The Puerto Rican parrot is found in the wild only in El Yunque National Forest. When the Spanish colonized Puerto Rico in the early 1500's, it is estimated there were as many as one million Puerto Rican parrots. Today, only a few dozen remain in the wild, making it one of the most endangered birds in the world.

Several other designs were also under consideration before this design was selected. One featured only the coqui tree frog, while another featured only the Puerto Rican parrot. Two other suggested designs depicted waterfalls within the forest.

The El Yunque National Forest Quarter was released by the U.S. Mint in January 2012.

Collectors Alliance • 1942 Swarthmore Avenue • Lakewood, NJ 08701

Call TOLL FREE 1-800-997-9843

[www.collectorsalliance.com](http://www.collectorsalliance.com)