

Mona Passage

TRAVEL PACKET

Mona Island

Join the Nekton crew as we cruise Isla Mona, Isla Monito and Isla Desecheo. Mona Island, considered by many as the "Galapagos of the Caribbean" features fascinating animal life including rare birds, iguanas and prolific marine life below. One Government official said, "You can't dive there - those are shark infested waters". The Crew said "Sounds Great!"

The underwater world of these unique islands is closer in feel to Eastern Pacific diving except the water is much warmer (80 degrees or better) and you will see warm water, hard and soft corals, as well as incredible number of sponges, sea fans, sea whips, etc. presented in a way very different from typical Caribbean dive sites.

Much of the diving is off of the sheer cliffs and wave swept boulders calved from the cliffs. Because of the waves, currents and proximity to hard vertical surfaces, much of the diving requires good buoyancy control and proper functioning equipment providing the ability to descend quickly, swim under the wave zone, enjoy the dive and swim away from the wave zone surfacing in the calmer water well off the cliff. For your diving efforts you will be rewarded with abundant sea life including sea turtles too numerous to count, sharks on nearly every dive and fish life of every description.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Citizens of the United States may enter Puerto Rico without a passport or visa, but carrying proof of U.S. citizenship and identity is advised. Proof of U.S. citizenship includes an expired U.S. passport, a certified (original) birth certificate, Certificate of Naturalization, Certificate of Citizenship, or Report of Birth Abroad of a Citizen of the United States. A valid driver's license or government identification card containing a physical description or photograph is needed to prove identity.

If you are a non-US citizen, you should have a valid passport which contains the necessary visas for travel to and from the Puerto Rico and the USVI. If in doubt, double-check with your respective government agency, embassy or consulate to determine what required documentation you'll need to enter Puerto and the USVI as well as re-enter into your home country.

PLEASE REMIT TO NEKTON

IN THE SELF ADDRESSED ENVELOPE PROVIDED:

- Cancellation/ Insurance Policy Form
- Check/Money Order for cruise balance - made payable to Nekton Diving Cruises
- Credit Card authorization form
- Guest profile sheet

** If you have booked your cruise through a dive shop or travel agent, please remit payment to them.*

** PLEASE NOTE: If you do not have your full airline or transportation details yet, please mail your guest profile sheet and call us with your update arrival details as soon as they've been made.*



YOUR TRAVEL PACKET INCLUDES:

- Liability Release Form Sample
- Cancellation/Insurance Policy Form
- Invoice/Statement with Cruise Details
- Credit card authorization form
- Guest Profile sheet
- DAN - Divers Alert Network membership/benefits brochure
- Some things You should Know sheet
- DAN Travel Insurance Brochure
- Self Addressed Return Envelope

AIRPORT TRANSFERS AND PICKUPS

SHARED shuttle transportation from the San Juan airport to the boat is available to you on the Saturday beginning your cruise.

If you wish to use a private taxi to get to the marina in Mayaguez, you may do so. Please advise the office if that is what you intend. If you take a private taxi, please drop your luggage at the boat sometime during the day.

Boarding for the guests is between 7 and 8 PM. We ask for your understanding that Saturday is a turn around day for the boat and we spend the day getting ready for your cruise. Therefore, we are unable to let you board before that time.

The boat is usually located in Mayaguez at the Government Dock. A Captain's briefing will begin shortly after boarding.

COMMUNICATIONS

SATELLITE PHONE SERVICE is available aboard your Nekton vessel. Each Nekton vessel is billed \$6 per minute for Satellite use. You will be expected to pay your phone bill prior to leaving the vessel at the end of the week. Credit cards are accepted.

Persons wishing to reach you aboard your Nekton vessel should contact our Ft. Lauderdale office at (954) 463-9324 between the hours of 9AM and 7 PM EST Monday through Saturday first, in order to save satellite costs.

INSURANCE

Because unexpected events can occur at any time and cause delays or even cancellation of your vacation, we recommend that you protect yourself by purchasing trip insurance. In the event that it is necessary to cancel or interrupt a cruise due to weather or any matter beyond the control of Nekton Diving Cruises, there will be no refund or credit issued. Information about DAN Trip Insurance is included for your reference. For further information, please visit: www.nektoncruises.com/Reservations/FAQ.aspx

We also highly recommend Divers Alert Network (DAN) insurance which will cover expenses related to a dive accident or injury. Information on joining DAN, a non-profit research organization, and on their insurance is also included in this packet.

BEVERAGE POLICY

The Nekton vessels are provisioned with a wide assortment of complimentary, nonalcoholic and noncarbonated beverages which include fruit juices such as orange, cranberry and apple, as well as ice tea, lemonade, Gatorade and fruit punch. Hot coffee, tea and herbal teas are also available. Over the past few years, we have carefully considered the feedback of our guests regarding our alcoholic and carbonated beverage policy. Based on their feedback, we have developed the following policy:

The Nekton vessels do not impose a corking fee for those who wish to bring along a favorite beverage, whether it be alcoholic or carbonated, etc. We will make arrangements for you to purchase these beverages before boarding the Nekton boat on the Saturday evening of departure. Your beverages may be stored in your cabin - we have a guest cooler on board where you are able to keep your liquor and sodas chilled.

SMOKING

No cigarette, cigar or smoking of any kind is permitted on Nekton vessels except in the designated outdoor smoking area at the rear of the sun deck.

WHAT SHOULD I PACK?

Your vacation is designed to be fun, relaxing and very casual. You will be most comfortable in lightweight, casual clothes and beach wear. You will most likely spend most of your days in swim wear, shorts and T-shirts. Light cover-up clothing, sunglasses and wide brimmed hat will protect you from tropical sun. Since the evenings can get cool, we also recommend a wind breaker or sweatshirts and light pair of long pants. A visit to your local dive shop for annual equipment overhaul and inspection is a good idea.

Clothing:

Shorts	Casual shirts or T-shirts
Bathing Suits	Casual outfit
Comfortable walking shoes	"Wet" shoes

If you are sensitive to the sun:

Long-sleeve shirt	Cap / hats
Long pants	Sweatshirt / lightweight jacket

Dive Checklist:

Scuba certification card	Fins
Mask & Snorkel	BCD
Booties	Wetsuit or dive skin
Regulator / depth gauge	Dive Light / cylume sticks
Dive computer	Underwater camera & video

Personal Items:

Toiletries (shampoo)	Sunscreen
Sunglasses	Hat
A good book	Camera, film, accessories
Batteries	Bug spray
Hair dryer	

Medication:

Please bring any prescription medications in original pharmacy containers to smooth your way through U.S. customs.

Identification:

Valid Passport (proper visa if required - see page 1)

Luggage:

Packing in soft luggage or a collapsible duffel bag will maximize your space aboard the Nekton vessels.

NOTE: Nekton supplies the following on-board:

Separate dive and cabin towels and soap in each cabin
Tanks and soft lead-shot weights/weight belts

NOTE: Don't forget your Passport and C-card

WAIVER

Nekton Diving Cruises requires that each guest sign a complete liability release prior to the vessel's departure and diving. For your convenience, a copy of Nekton Diving Cruises Liability Release is enclosed in this packet for your review. You will be asked to sign this release upon boarding your Nekton vessel.

MONEY MATTERS

Although your charter is all-inclusive, you may make onboard purchases, whether from the boutique or for gear rentals. Visa and Mastercard are accepted, as are travelers checks. Small currency and credit cards are recommended for local purchases. U.S. dollars are accepted in both the USVI and Puerto Rico.

SAMPLE DIVING ADVENTURE ITINERARY

While each Mona Island cruise may vary due to weather and sea conditions, the outline below will give you a good feel for the adventure you could experience!

Saturday: Your week begins by arriving in Mayaguez or at the modern San Juan International Airport which is serviced by several airlines with regular jet service. Since Puerto Rico and the Mona Islands are commonwealth territory of the United States, typical immigration and customs hassles are non-existent for US citizens. If you choose to fly to San Juan, there are several transfer options for the 3+ hour ride to the west coast port of Mayaguez. One may rent a car, arrange for a private transfer, or ride in a shared van with other Nekton guests (please call the office for price and also note that the shared shuttle may require a wait as other Nekton guests arrive.) Taxis are available from the Port of Mayaguez to the quaint shops and cafes of old Mayaguez. Dinner is served onboard and boarding begins at 7:00 pm. Later that night the vessel gets underway for the first destination of Isla Desecheo.

Sunday: Isla Desecheo is a tall mountain-like island with steeply rising slopes and a low-lying shoreline including a couple of beautiful protected coves which are great for kayaking. The lee side or western shore diving includes shallow patch reefs with profiles to 10 feet. This will be your first introduction to the prolific basket sponges of this unique area. Everywhere you look, you will see basket sponges of all sizes in both individual stands and mass colonies. Your first morning dives will typically be on the choppiest north side, weather permitting, at a very dramatic site called Hobbit House. Here you will enjoy many swim-throughs under island-born boulders morphed by centuries of reef building. The end result is an enchanting odyssey not soon forgotten. The morning will pass all too quickly as even two dives will not seem like enough to fully explore this area. The afternoon will usually see the vessel move to the Eastern sites with easy, shallow day and night dives as well as kayaking, and snorkeling.

Monday: The morning is usually spent on a deep mini-wall with the mooring on top at 80 feet and the mini-wall dropping to below 130'. Enjoy a majestic 45 degree face of hard and soft corals teeming with life. Start conserving your dive energy for the high energy diving on Mona Island and Isla Monito.

Tuesday: Your day starts with a first look at Mona Island diving on the southwest side of the island. Here is your first introduction to the numerous turtles of the area including the endangered Hawksbill and Leatherback. Be sure to look for tags under their front flippers as the four island rangers, the Department of Natural Resources and the Puerto Rican Universities do a great job of tracking the local populations. The afternoon brings the boat to that "One Particular Harbor" with great shallow diving.

Wednesday: The boat repositions to the northeast side of Mona Island for a day of cliff diving - Isla Mona style! Enjoy expansive underwater caves, fallen boulders as big as a house, and intense fish populations. Feel the reverberation of the Atlantic swells unloading their energy on the cliffs above. Diving on this day is a little more advanced in that one prefers to swim to and from the wall in the calmer waters below the wave zone and avoid getting caught up in the washing machine working on full spin above.

Thursday: Enjoy a morning drift dive off Isla Monita for some colorful and dramatic cliff diving. Isla Monita, the smallest and most vertical of the islands, is so steep and deep that mooring or anchoring is not possible. There is the possibility of seeing just about anything here where the Atlantic meets the Caribbean Sea.

Friday: Morning dive at "The Isthmus" (80') and afternoon dives at Boqueron Reef (50'-65') along the southwest coast of Puerto Rico. A beautiful sandy beach lined with palm trees and a quaint town has made Boqueron a favorite for locals and cruising yachtsmen alike. The bay is shallow, protected and accommodates scores of sailboats. Enjoy an evening ashore where you'll find many inexpensive restaurants and bars and a couple of more "civilized" options. This is a great spot to unwind from a week at sea. Enjoy some music and a "cheeseburger in paradise" or John's recommendation, "lobster sauce pasta" at Galloways. Remember dinner is on your own on Friday evening in Boqueron.

Saturday: The boat arrives back at the dock. Disembarkation is at 8:00 am. We will transport you and your gear back to the airport in San Juan.

Please schedule flights AFTER 3:00 PM to allow time for arrival back to the San Juan airport. and REMEMBER DAN's recommended waiting period between repetitive diving and flying.



SAMPLE TRAVEL LOG

SATURDAY

- 11 AM - 5 PM** Fly into San Juan Airport in San Juan, Puerto Rico (airport code SJU).
7 PM - 8 PM We will begin boarding the boat. (Dinner is served onboard).
9 PM Captain's briefing begins.

SUNDAY MORNING THROUGH FRIDAY MORNING

- 6:30 AM** Continental breakfast is served.
7 AM Hot breakfast is served.
12 PM Lunch is served.
1 PM During lunch, the NeKton boat moves to a new site where you'll have an updated briefing and get to enjoy at least another two afternoon dives.
6 PM Dinner is served followed by a slide presentation by one of our crew members. The dive deck opens for your night dive after dinner.

FRIDAY NIGHT

- 8 AM** Dinner is on your own on Friday evening in Boqueron.

SATURDAY

- 8 AM** Checkout is approx. 8 AM. We will provide transportation back to the San Juan airport.

SCUBA EQUIPMENT

Tanks, air-fills, weights, weight belt and professional assistance on the dive deck are all provided at no additional charge.

Equipment Available for Rental

Item for Rental	Daily Rate	Weekly Rate
Regulator with octopus/computer	\$30	\$125
BCD	\$30	\$125
Personal Dive Computer	\$25	\$100

Item for Rental	Daily Rate	Weekly Rate
Regulator w/oct, BCD & computer	\$55	\$250

Cylume Sticks available for purchase	\$3
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To ensure availability, please reserve equipment in advance (this may be done by calling our office)

CERTIFICATION COURSES

Your dive vacation is an excellent time to learn to dive or enhance your knowledge and skill.

Resort Course\$150

An introduction to diving. This course includes personal instructions, inwater training and two dives with an instructor.

Open-Water Check-Out DivesFREE*

When you participate in our Learn to Dive program, we place you with a local dive shop for a Referral Course. Upon arrival onboard our vessel, you will complete the final open-water training dives with one of our instructors. You'll earn a PADI Open-Water Certification upon completion. *Does not include \$20 for PIC Card.

All necessary medical Statements must be completed by your local physician and Official Referral forms must be completed by prior instructor.

Open-Water Certification\$500

If you decide upon arrival that you would like to learn to dive, it may be possible to complete the entire Open Water Certification course during your cruise (depending upon sea conditions for the "pool" sessions). The Course includes academic instruction, in-water training and all scuba equipment.

Advanced Open-Water Diver\$225

This course introduces you to four popular specialty-diving activities including underwater navigation, night diving, deep diving and two specialty dives.

Underwater Photographer (with your own camera) \$175

Learn the basics of underwater photography and take home underwater memories to last a lifetime! The Photo Course includes three days of individual instruction.

Rescue Diving Course\$250

Dive Master Course\$400

Nitrox\$200

Specialties\$175

Courses available include Environmental, Night Diver, Deep Diver, Wreck Diver, Navigation, Search/Recovery and more! Please ask your crew for more specialties information.

THE DIVING & OUR DIVING POLICIES

Puerto Rico and the USVI are well known for their beautiful reefs and walls. The diving is truly spectacular and the following guidelines will give you an idea of our diving procedures and policies:

- Unlimited diving available based on individual profiles. This means you are basically free to dive as you like during the times the dive deck is open as long as you stay within the bounds of recreational diving and use our sign-in / out board
- In keeping with the teachings of the major training agencies, the 130' maximum diving depth limit is observed.
- Expected water temperature will average 77F - 85F degrees.
- Conservation laws do not permit spear fishing or collection of any marine life while on scuba. Please do not bring spear guns or Hawaiian slings onboard.
- Nekton support DAN's position that alcohol consumption prior to and after a dive encourages physiological changes that increase the risk of decompression sickness. We enforce the policy that "your first drink of the day marks your last dive of the day." Ultimately, final responsibility for alcohol consumption belongs to each passenger.
- We also advocate the buddy system.
- If you plan to take a certification course including Open Water, Advanced, Nitrox or any specialty, you will need to complete a medical release signed by your doctor. Please request the Medical Statement form from our booking office.
- Fun is Mandatory!

In general, Nekton Diving Cruises follows and enforces the accepted diving standards and guidelines of the major U.S. dive agencies like PADI, NAUI and Divers Alert Network. If there is any question or problem on your cruise, please let a crew member know immediately so we can resolve it to your complete satisfaction.



ONE LAST TIP..

In addition to safely navigating your vessel, the crew will be serving you as waiters, dive masters and stewards during your week-long vacation. Consistent with cruise industry practice, Nekton Diving Cruises does not include gratuities in our cruise fares. The crew depends on tips as do others who work in the service industry. To thank those who have made your cruise vacation better than you could have imagined, we suggest the following tipping guideline for each guest. Please remember that gratuities are shared equally by each of the crew members.

\$ 35 per person per day

We believe that Nekton Diving Cruises has the best crew in the industry and we strive to exceed your expectations in every way. If for any reason you are not satisfied with the service you receive, we encourage you to contact the Captain while onboard. This will allow us to address your concerns in a timely and in an appropriate fashion. At your discretion, you may adjust the gratuities at any time.