

SURFING/SNORKELING/DIVING/FISHING

Surfing

Rincon has attracted surfers from around the continent since the World Surfing Championships were first hosted in 1968. The lay of the land on Puerto Rico's northwest coast is ideal for creating big waves. Cold fronts off the East coast of the US create swells that head down towards the Caribbean, where they run straight into Rincon. Southeast trade winds also help give the waves the smooth shape, which is so important for surfing.

Favorite surfing spots

- *Tres palmas, Dogman's, Indicators, Marias, Dome's.*
- *Dome's* is one of the more consistent spots --- it usually always has a few rideable waves, and is one of the more crowded spots in Puerto Rico.
- *Tres Plamas* is the place for big waves, with waves breaking outside up to 30 feet without losing their shape, earning it the nickname "Puerto Rico's Wiamea."

Surf School - you can contact any surf shop, or try

Rincon Surf School Phone 787-823-0610

Melissa nice, comes recommended by a friend Phone 787-823-3618

Good spots to watch

- *Besides the Point* is one of the best. You can have a cold beer and something good to eat at the same time if the kitchen is open.
- *Calypso* is great spot. Besides the surfers, in the evening you can also watch the sunset.

Surf/Clothing Shops

- *Cowabunga Beach Shop* 787-823-5225 Close to the Villas, just on 115
- *Desecheo Surf/Dive Shop* 787-823-0390 Next to Calypso Café at Maria's Beach
- *El Rincon Beach Shop*, Ramey Shopping Center in Aguadilla, Phone 787-890-3108
- *Malibu Surf Shop* Located on 115 down from Cowabunga's Phone 787-823-2552
- *Surf Town Surf Shop* located south of the plaza downtown. Phone 787-823-2515
- *West Coast Surf Shops*, 141 Munuz Rivera in (downtown) Rincon Largest and best known surf shop in town, Phone 787-823-3935 www.westcoastsurf.com
- *Maria's Hot Wavz Surf Shop* and *Caribbean Casuals* by Calypso Café at Maria's Beach, Phone 787-823-3942
- *Jobos Beach & Hang Loose Surf Shop* by Aguadilla. They give lessons - 787-872-2490

Snorkeling - If you did not bring gear and you want to snorkel a lot, you may want to consider buying inexpensive gear at Kmart or Wal-Mart in Mayaguez. Otherwise, you can rent snorkeling gear at *West Coast Surf Shop* or other surf shops.

Please let us know of anything you think should be added or changed.

Depending on the day, there can be good snorkeling right outside the house. On some days it is real calm and clear, you can see lots of fish, and some coral is developing. There are two strips of rock that run parallel to shore. The first one is real close and the other a little further out. The fish hang out just by this rock ledge. Take bread or cheese whiz to attract the fish. Be careful at the edge of the ledge. There could be some sea urchins.

Some of the best snorkeling is at "Steps". It is on 413 (the road to the lighthouse) There is a small paved road that runs between two open fields (lot of the time filled with tall weeds). The road is not marked well and you may want to ask Gladys, our manager. You park where you can and walk to the beach. You will then know why they call it "steps". The entire area from the Black Eagle Restaurant all along the coast to the lighthouse contains fabulous underwater sights. Lots of Elkhorn coral, with also brain coral, sea fans, colorful tropical fish... its all there. Because of the recent hurricane and other factors, it has not been as colorful as in the past, but it is right off the shore and its something you don't want to miss.

Fishing & Dive Spots

Desecheo Island - see one of the best reefs in the world! (according to *Reef Keeper's International Report*) Charter a boat to go 15 miles offshore, for a snorkeling and /or diving experience you will never forget. Crystal clear water, 20'- 40' deep, visibility is typically 100-200 feet, yet virtually unknown as a dive destination. Beautiful tropical fish, rock and coral formations, caves, swim through underwater arches...do it!

Mona Island - This is a major trip and NOT for the faint of heart. You should be prepared to "rough it". There are no bathrooms, or any place to plug in your blow dryer! It is a very rough and hostile nature refuge, reachable by a chartered boat (or by plane?) The sea trip takes about 3 hours, normally through some of the roughest waters in the Caribbean. Temperatures can soar to 110 degrees and the island is covered with dense thorn bushes and poisonous plants. Lodging is "bring your own", or you might be able to stay in a rustic cabin, (if you know a park ranger or a biologist). The island was originally home to the Taino Indians. It is dubbed the "Galapagos of the Caribbean. Mona Island means *Monkey Island* in English, but instead of monkeys, it is home to 4 foot long iguanas, the endangered hawksbill turtle, pigs, goats, several types of deadly scorpions, seabirds, many colorful fish, and over 50 species of spiders. The island is 7 miles by 4 miles and has over 200 caves, cliffs, and many pristine, unspoiled coral reefs. It was used in the past as a stopping point for pirates, including the infamous Captain Kidd. Legend has it there is lots of buried treasure that has never been found. Call the Department Natural Resources @ 787-724-8774 before you go. You must have special permit (last know price was \$4) to go.

Fishing, Snorkel, and Dive Charters

- **Taino Divers** Located in the marina next to Black Eagle. They do a great job! Comes recommended by many guests. They do fishing, diving, snorkeling, sunset cruises. Have been in business for many

Please let us know of anything you think should be added or changed.

8/07

years Phone (787) 823-6429 www.tainodivers.com

- **Desecheo Dive & Surf Shop** (on El Faro & Domes Beach Road) charters, diving, whale watching, surf lessons, etc. Phone (787) 823-0390

- **Makaira Fishing Charters** Captain Jose Pepi Alfonso, speaks English (has a nice boat, fishing only) Phone 787-823-4391 or 787-299-7374

- **Moondog Charters**, Rincon. Diving, fishing, whale watching, general excursions Phone: (787) 823-5075 www.moondogcharters.com

- **Light Tackle Adventure**, Fishing Adventures plus other services: kayak trips, bird watching skin diving and hiking Call for more information: 787-849-1420 or 787-547-7380

- **Katarina Sail Charters** - Snorkel, sunset cruises, and private charters Phone: 787-823-7245 www.sailrinconpuertorico.com

Please let us know of anything you think should be added or changed.