

*A Guide to the
Underwater
World of*

 **Montserrat**

www.visitmontserrat.com



A CARIBBEAN TREASURE - SPECTACULAR BY NATURE

Contents

Dive In	4
Dive Courses	4
Dive Site Map	5
Dive Sites	6
Snorkeling	9
Aquatic Adventures	9
Safety Tips	10
Contact Information	11

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Welcome to the Emerald Isle- Montserrat, West Indies

A hundred thousand welcomes!

Above and below the water, the Emerald Isle of Montserrat awaits you!

Settled in 1632 by Irish Catholics fleeing persecution, Montserrat became fondly known as the “Emerald Isle of the Caribbean” – a tribute no doubt to its rolling green hills and plunging coastlines, reminiscent, many say, of the Irish countryside.

Becoming a tourism Mecca has never been on the agenda for Montserrat, so you won't find teeming crowds, casinos, shopping malls or fast food chains here. But if you like majestic, mountainous, off-the-beaten-track places with friendly people and breathtaking scenery – both above and below the water – then look no further. Montserrat exudes a tranquility that other Caribbean islands would find hard to repeat.



Dive In!

Tired of the crowds? Have you ever wanted to dive an unspoiled ocean that's all yours to explore? Then Montserrat has what you are looking for!

No Crowds! No Rush! No Problem!

Our Pristine underwater environment awaits you.

With temperatures averaging 79 to 85 degrees and visibility that often exceeds 80 feet, spend your day relaxing in our wonderful blue waters. Most of our dive sites have been born out of the ashes of the volcanic eruptions. Join us as we discover the virgin growth and explore our reefs as they continue their incredible recovery.

Dive Courses

Whether you are a seasoned veteran diver or want to try it for the first time, our professional dive operators have the knowledge, skill and training to make your experience unforgettable.

Discover Scuba Program – Not sure if diving is for you? Try a Discover scuba dive experience. Spend a few hours in the pool with professional instructors learning some basic skills, then go for a dive in our clear waters.

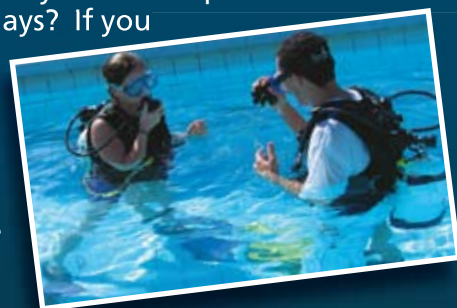
Open Water Referrals – Live in a cooler climate? Have your local dive shop take care of all of your classroom and pool portions of the course. Then come to Montserrat to make the required open water dives in our warm blue waters.

Open Water Certification – Did you know that you can complete the entire Open Water Course in as few as three days? If you are not as comfortable with the quick pace let one of our professional instructors work out a schedule that suits you.

Refresher Courses – Has it been a while since your last dive? Take advantage of a pool refresher course to review and update your dive skills.

Advanced Courses – Ready to move past the Open Water Certification into the Advanced Open Water course or Rescue Diver? Our dive operators can accommodate your desire to expand your skills to include deeper, more advanced dives.

Specialty Courses – Do you have a specific interest? Perhaps a specialty course is in your future. From underwater navigation to deep diver to night diver, whatever your interest our dive professionals can assist you in a menu of specialty courses.



Montserrat Dive Site Map



CARIBBEAN SEA

ATLANTIC OCEAN



KEY

-  DIVE SITES
-  SNORKEL SITES
-  MOORINGS


1 mile

Dive Sites of Montserrat



Rendezvous Bay - This site has a deep and shallow dive for all levels. The shallower reef is a great snorkel site and a great place to try your very first dive. The deeper reef is magnificent with enormous barrel sponges. Dive Mooring installed.



Pot of Gold - A great dive off of Northwest Bluff at 80 feet deep. You will be amazed as you swim with the many resident stingrays and explore the massive barrel sponges. Dive Mooring installed.



The Bat Cave - Dive in from a boat or swim from the beach to the point of Rendezvous Bluff. Head straight into the bat cave where the protected fruit bats live. This site also offers an underwater swim and great photo opportunities.



Redonda - A small island 14 miles off the coast of Montserrat. Redonda is an underwater marvel. See dozens of old ships anchors time has forgotten. Meet the resident 7 foot Green Moray eel or one of the many ancient turtles. It is very common to see Nurse Sharks or Black tip sharks from a distance. This site is also frequented by the occasional Spotted Eagle rays and very large Southern Stingrays.





Little Redonda - This site on the northern tip of Montserrat is the most spectacular and diverse reef, yet is seldomly visited. Rough seas can make diving this site difficult. Summer months afford the best opportunity for its underwater exploration. Dive Mooring installed.

Virgins Islands - A very peaceful dive to enjoy. Follow the reef's edge to the south towards Bunkum Bay. The very mild current will help you slowly glide down the reef. Dive Mooring installed.



Carr's Bay - This is a favorite site from shore or by boat and makes a spectacular night dive as well. Swim through the gates of paradise – an arch covered in a rainbow of soft corals. Dive Mooring installed.

Potato Hill Reef - Drive to the water's edge and walk in or approach from a boat for a deeper dive. Potato Hill Reef has something for everyone from the snorkeler or novice to the experienced diver.

Lime Kiln - Another great snorkeling site, as well as a shallow dive from the beach or a boat. Large boulders encased in corals and colorful sponges cover the sea bottom.



Woodlands Bay & Deep - Montserrat's most diverse dive site. From the beach, snorkel for hours or have a long shallow dive. The shallow dive is a perfect night dive as well. At the deep sites

the reef starts at 60' and extends down to over 100'. Dive Mooring installed.





Fox's Bay - This deeper dive provides an opportunity to explore an artificial reef project started in 1995.



Old Road Bay - A nice shallow water dive from the beach or a great snorkeling spot. There is an abundance of marine life such as sea eels and squid.



Bunkum Bay - Here, fields of sea grass are home to hundreds of small Queen Conchs.

The Pinnacles - This is another spectacular site on the northern end of the island. Here, the sea floor is covered by beautiful sea plumes. Spotted Eagle Rays are common visitors to this area.



Yellow Hole - The location of the sunken steel schooner dating back to 1886. Although the ship has been battered by past hurricanes, this is another fantastic site.





Snorkeling

Not a diver and you don't care to be? No problem! Some of the most fantastic marine life and corals are in shallow water. You can spend hours viewing the underwater splendor from the water's surface.

Put on your mask, snorkel and fins and you are ready to explore! If you are planning to purchase your equipment before you arrive contact your local dive operator for a professional fitting. Haven't brought any gear with you? Our dive operators can supply you with rental equipment or items for purchase. You may wish to consider a wetsuit or dive skin to protect you from the sun. These are also available for rent or purchase.



Would you like to take home treasures of your underwater experience in Montserrat? Ask our dive operators about camera rentals or underwater video opportunities.

See the map on page 5 for recommended snorkeling sites or contact our dive professionals for guided tours.

Other Aquatic Adventures

Deep Sea Fishing – Take an afternoon to experience the thrill of deep sea fishing with one of Montserrat's finest fishing charters. For the fishing enthusiast, this is sure to be a highlight of your trip.

Sea Kayaking – Looking for a little more peace and solitude? Sea kayak over to Montserrat's only white sand beach at Rendezvous Bay for a little private time.

Turtle Watching - During the months of August and September, witness the spectacular sight of turtles nesting and laying eggs on our secluded beaches. Turtle watching is an amazing and rewarding experience.

Boat Tours – See the devastated capital city of Plymouth from the sea. Depending upon the level of activity of the volcano this is sometimes the only way to see Plymouth.





Safe Diving Practices

PADI has developed the following Standard Safe Diving Practices Statement of Understanding.

1. Maintain good mental and physical fitness for diving. Avoid being under the influence of alcohol or dangerous drugs when diving. Keep proficient in diving skills, striving to increase them through continuing education and reviewing them in controlled conditions after a period of diving inactivity.
2. Be familiar with my dive sites. If not, obtain a formal diving orientation from a knowledgeable, local source. If diving conditions are worse than those in which I am experienced, postpone diving or select an alternate site with better conditions. Engage only in diving activities consistent with my training and experience. Do not engage in cave or technical diving unless specifically trained to do so.
3. Use complete, well-maintained, reliable equipment with which I am familiar and inspect it for correct fit and function prior to each dive. Deny use of my equipment to uncertified divers. Always have a buoyancy control device and submersible pressure gauge when scuba diving. Recognize the desirability of an alternate air source and a low-pressure buoyancy control inflation system.
4. Listen carefully to dive briefings and directions and respect the advice of those supervising my diving activities. Recognize that additional training is recommended for participation in specialty diving activities, in other geographic areas and after periods of inactivity that exceed six months.
5. Adhere to the buddy system throughout every dive. Plan dives – including communications, procedures for reuniting in case of separation and emergency procedures – with my buddy.
6. Be proficient in dive table usage. Make all dives no decompression dives and allow a margin of safety. Have a means to monitor depth and time underwater. Limit maximum depth to my level of training and experience. Ascend at a rate of not more than 18 metres/60 feet per minute. Be a SAFE diver – Slowly Ascend From Every dive. Make a safety stop as an added precaution, usually at 5 metres/15 feet for three minutes or longer.
7. Maintain proper buoyancy. Adjust weighting at the surface for neutral buoyancy with no air in my buoyancy control device. Maintain neutral buoyancy while underwater. Be buoyant for surface swimming and resting. Have weights clear for easy removal, and establish buoyancy when in distress while diving.
8. Breathe properly for diving. Never breath-hold or skip-breathe when breathing compressed air, and avoid excessive hyperventilation when breath-hold diving. Avoid overexertion while in and underwater and dive within my limitations.
9. Use a boat, float or other surface support station whenever feasible.
10. Know and obey local dive laws and regulations, including fish and game and dive flag laws.

Contact Information

Dive Operators:

Green Monkey Dive Shop, Little Bay 664-491-2628
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www.divemontserrat.com

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MONTSERRAT

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