

Lesson 1 read 2000 Q. 3
Done 10/06

Islands of the World

Mona Island

by Shawn Douglas

1 Are you looking for a fun vacation spot? Do you like to sleep in a hotel, go shopping, and eat fancy meals? If so, Mona Island might NOT be the place for you! That's because Mona Island has no hotels, no museums, no shops, and no restaurants. None at all!

2 But if you like nature, Mona Island is an amazing place to take a vacation. Some of the animals living there are not found anywhere else in the world. There are beautiful beaches and caves to explore. The sea around the island has colorful fish. There are many things that make Mona Island an unusual place.

Why Is Mona Island Unusual?

3 Mona Island is very small. On a map it looks like a tiny green lima bean floating in the big blue ocean. The only way to get there is by taking a long boat ride from the island of Puerto Rico.

4 The government of Puerto Rico takes care of the island and has made it a natural reserve. That means the island's animals and plants are protected from being harmed by people. Mona Island is different from most places because people are not allowed to live there. Only a few park rangers are able to stay.

5 The park rangers' job is to keep Mona Island safe and beautiful. They insist that rules be followed. One rule is that only 100 people at a time can visit the island. That way, the park rangers can make sure the land and animals remain safe.

6 Visitors to Mona Island must prepare wisely for their trip. Visitors can sleep only in certain areas and must bring their own tents. And if they want anything to eat or drink, they have to bring that along too. But people who take the trouble to come to Mona Island are rewarded with many wonderful sights.

What Is There to See on Mona Island?

7 One thing that most people enjoy is getting to see the Mona Island iguana. This type of reptile grows to be about four feet long and lives only on Mona Island. It has scales that look like horns on top of its nose. The huge muscles on its face droop down and look like fat cheeks. It likes to lie around and warm itself in the sun. Almost 2,000 of these iguanas live on Mona Island.

8 Several types of sea turtles also live on Mona Island. They nest along the white sandy beaches. Some of these turtles weigh as much as 600 pounds. That's almost as heavy as two refrigerators!

9 People also come to the island to get a close-up view of many kinds of fish and other sea life. Visitors can scuba dive and snorkel in the crystal-blue waters. They wear masks and special equipment to be able to breathe underwater. They can swim far below the surface. The water is almost transparent. Through the clear water, divers can see the bright colors of the fish.



Mona Island iguana

© Glenn Gerber. Used by permission.



Baby sea turtle

© Steven Gleason/Dreamstime #1158341

- 2 Paragraphs 7 and 8 are mostly about —
- A the muscles on an iguana
 - B the color of the sand on Mona Island
 - C the animals that can be seen on Mona Island
 - D the weight of the turtles on the beach