

Hi all,
Hope you are all well.
We are in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico and shortly heading for the Bahamas, which will be a 7 day crossing if the wind continues as it is now (zilch!)

We are supposed to leave tomorrow for the Bahamas but JL is currently F-ing and blinding under the scorching sun at the outboard engine which has just abandoned us for our much awaited & much needed laundry trip... Agh!! I, of course, can't open my mouth to suggest anything for fear of getting my head bitten off.
He's just given up.

That was yesterday. Luckily we'd done most of the shopping so we abandoned the laundry trip as we're pretty far out and there's nowhere to land with the dinghy except a yucky 'beach' with loads of hazardous stuff underfoot. (Mainly broken glass). All the pontoons were destroyed by the hurricane.

We landed on the beach anyway (much easier without the engine) as the day before we'd tied to the broken (rusty nails & all) fishermen's pier in flat calm. When we got back from town the dinghy was surfing the rollers... doing ok too! We'd happily put an anchor out back plus front & back ropes so she didn't hit the pier. Getting in with all the shopping was the challenge because the pier has no catway, just the skeleton left. We got drenched but we made it!

In town we tried to visit the Custom House because it looks open, but actually is no longer operational. We had already cleared out by telephone but we needed to unclear & extend because of the engine problem. Also the telephone thing doesn't make us feel secure. We need that piece of paper as proof!



Here we are in town with nowt to do except a touch of shopping so we hit the tourist spots. Maps & info back on board of course, so we have to ask -which is always more fun.
We stumbled across the Tourist Office & they couldn't have been more helpful. Actually it was only one person on duty & I reckon we were the only 2 tourists in town. When I mentioned I'd like to visit the house of the famous cellist Pablo Casals she called a guide to accompany us- immediately, all for free! It's been like that everywhere we've been, in Ponce too & the guides are

amazingly good. She also took us to another casa museo 'Casa Grande' where 2 guys jumped over themselves to take us around.

Almuerzo was menu del dia in the main square named would you believe, just for a change -Plaza Colon. Here you can get a full lunch & bottle of water for \$6 U.S. but a good local beer- Magna is \$3,50! A rubbish local beer (Medalla, which I quite like) between \$1,60 & 2,50. The restaurant was excellent.

We've booked to have the engine looked at on Monday so we aren't imminently leaving..As there are no outboard mechanics in town we've backtracked 10 miles to Puerto Real. It rained all afternoon so we're filling the tanks...
Puerto Real



Lots of love & hugs to you all-
Jan xxx Mum xxx

Anchored at Isla Caja de muertos (Coffin island) where we had 7 pelicans fishing around us and a fish eagle (osprey) along with numerous terns who are the best fishers. Huge tarpon under the boat, a bit scary.



View from the lighthouse- that's us down there. No other boats, just day trippers.



Casa Armstrong Poventud, Ponce P.R.



The old fire station, Ponce



The whole city of Ponce is ablaze with these gorgeous yellow guayacan or tabebuia caraiba





Casa Wiechers Villaronga, Ponce.

I couldn't resist this alter piece-

