

Nine of Cups – 45' Liberty Cutter – 7' draft – June 2004
Subject area: **Easter Island**

A 19-day, 1943NM sail from the Galapagos and we arrived early morning at Easter Island (aka Isla Pascua or Rapa Nui), the world's most isolated inhabited island. We hailed Pascua Radio (Chilean Armada) on Channel 16 about 10 miles out and received permission to anchor at Hanga Roa and were told to stay aboard for an inspection.

For nearly two weeks, we were the only sailboat at anchor in the harbor which we shared with a Chilean Armada submarine! We cannot say enough about the courtesy and hospitality of the Chilean Armada. They invited us aboard the sub for a tour, picked us up in their launch and gave us two great bottles of Chilean red wine as a gift.

Hanga Roa

Approach & anchorage: Straightforward, but watch for a large mooring ball used by supply ships and don't anchor too close in as the ground is reportedly foul.

We anchored at 27°08.56S/ 109°26.01W in 53 feet, good holding. Dinghy dock is a small protected fishing boat harbor through a narrow opening in the reef. Access is not always possible due to huge breaking swells at the entrance.

Note: When Hanga Roa is not a tenable anchorage, the Armada will advise you to move. There are five designated anchorages around the island, but NO all-weather anchorage. Thanks to the weather, we had the opportunity to try them all.

Formalities: A launch arrived within an hour with representatives from Immigration, Health, Customs, International Police and the Armada. These were the most courteous officials we've ever met. Each provided forms to be completed. There is no charge for immigration and your passports are stamped on board. If you plan to stay beyond two weeks or go to the mainland, there is an annual fee paid (~\$125) at the hospital and fumigation is necessary (provided at no additional charge). At least one crew member MUST remain on board an anchored vessel at all times. The Armada requests that you check in with them daily. You must request permission to move from one anchorage to another. Checkout is at the Port Captain's office (all the same folks congregate there to complete your paperwork) and there are no additional charges.

Services: (Get free maps, brochures and local info at the Sernatur office)

- **Fuel:** There is one gas station on the island on the way to the airport. We jerry-juggled via taxi. Diesel was a whopping \$2.40/gallon. The gas station takes US\$ or pesos and will give change in either currency, but not the greatest rates. Propane fills are available near the airport, but you need your own fittings ~\$10/10 lb tank.
- **Trash:** We were told explicitly that NO trash from the boat was to be disposed of on the island.
- **Laundry:** There are lavanderias in town, but none were a bargain at per piece pricing.
- **Banks:** Banco del Estado has an ATM which accepts Master Card only, however inside they will accept VISA cash cards and give you up to 250,000 Chilean pesos (~\$400US) for about \$1.50 service charge with a copy of your passport. Limited hours 9am-1pm.
- **Medical:** Small hospital in town and several farmacias.
- **Provisioning/Supplies:** (Note most stores close between 1PM-4 or 5PM and reopen for the evening till about 8pm).
 - Kai Nene is a good-sized supermarket. Predictably, prices are considerably higher than the mainland and best selection is after the weekly supply plane arrives.
 - A fresh market "Feria Municipal" is across the street from Kai Nene and opened daily Mon-Sat.
 - Lots of tiendas (small stores) for picking up basics
 - The butcher shop next to Kai Nene was excellent with a great selection.
- **Communications:**
 - Lots of internet and phone access locations at ~\$6.00/hr.

- Post Office – <60¢ to mail a postcard to the U.S.
- **Transportation:**
 - Lots of taxis...usual fee seems to be \$1-2 around town
 - Airport: Lan Chile has 2 flights per week: one to Papeete and one to Santiago
 - Rental cars, bikes, motorcycles, etc. all readily available. Gas is expensive.

Things to Do & See:

- A good portion of Easter Island (Rapa Nui) is a Chilean National Park. There are hundreds of moai and they're literally everywhere. Just take a walk!
- Lots of restaurants, boutiques and shops
- Great crafts market Mercado Artesenal
- Easter Island Museum
- Diving – Two dive shops are located at the dinghy dock in Hanga Roa.
- Island tour and trips to tourist sites such as Rano Raraku, Orongo (ceremonial village of the Birdman cult) are easily arranged via a multitude of tour companies

Hotu Iti

Approach & anchorage: On the east coast, this little bay is protected from the northeast to southwest, but is quite roly. We anchored at 27°07.98S/109°26.05W in 30 feet, good holding.

The Ahu Tongariki (15 moai) is on shore in front of you. There is a small cement panga dock to the west of the moai which we used with permission. Access to Rano Raraku (the moai nursery) is via a dirt road not far away.

Anakena

Approach & anchorage: On the north coast, this little bay is protected from the south, west and east. We anchored at 27°04.26S/109°19.46W in 18 feet, good holding.

This is a delightfully calm anchorage (in the right weather) off a white sand beach with Ahu Nau Nau (7 moai) and Ahu Ature Huki (single moai re-erected by Thor Heyerdahl et al) in clear view. There is a picnic area and it's an absolutely wonderful place for hiking around and taking photos. There is a cement dock with easy access and dinghy tie-up.

Vinapu on the east side of the island and **La Perouse Bay** on the northeast side of the island are two other anchorage options, neither of which we particularly liked due to weather conditions at the time.

Easter Island was magical. We were fortunate to have a 3rd crew member aboard, otherwise visits ashore would have been difficult and done individually. There were several days when shore trips were not possible.

Iorana, hello and goodbye in Rapanui.

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