

Nine of Cups – Liberty 458 Cutter – 7' draft

Subject Area: Easter Island Revisited – April 2009

Tiny Easter Island, isolated from almost everywhere in the South Pacific (2,100nm from the Chilean coast and about 1100 nm from Pitcairn Island), is a magical place. We had visited previously in 2004 and were worried that “progress” would have spoiled what we remembered as being so wonderful. It doesn't seem to be the case here and in fact, changes that have been made have benefited yachties significantly.

In settled weather with the permission of the Armada, all crew may go ashore as long as they have a VHF on and tuned to Channel 16 at all times. Additionally, there is one mooring now in place in Hanga Roa that may be used by visiting cruisers with permission from the Armada.

We arrived with a south wind blowing and contacted Pascua Radio to ask permission to anchor for the night at Anakena on the north coast. Permission was granted immediately and we spent a lovely evening in the tiny anchorage just off the white sand beach and national park. It was crowded with beachgoers when we arrived, but we had it all to ourselves early the next morning. It was magical and mystical with a row of stately moai of Ahu Nau Nau just up from the beach. Only the sound of cara cara (falcon-like birds) soaring overhead broke the morning silence.

We headed to Hanga Roa late morning and arrived early afternoon. Since we were the only sailboat in town, we were invited to use the mooring. The Armada was upset about a previous boat having left without a zarpe or paying port fees. We assured them we were the “good guys” (SSCA clean-wakers) and when we told them we had visited previously, they actually looked up our information in old port log.

Hanga Roa Port information:

- **Arrival/Check-in**
 - Contact “Pascua Radio” Channel 16 about one hour out with your intentions to come into Hanga Roa (or any anchorage). On arrival, anchor in Hanga Roa near the mooring (or pick up the mooring with permission, if it is available)
 - Anchorage/mooring: 27S08.69 / 109W26.13; Mooring is large and black with two sturdy mooring lines easily picked up. Anchorage is in about 45-60', good holding. Don't go in too close as it is very rocky and easy to foul your anchor.
 - Check-in with the Capitania on arrival. Easter Island is a Port of Entry for Chile. If you're coming from outside Chile, they will come to your boat to handle all reception activities. If coming from another Chilean port, proceed to the Capitania with your paperwork for clearing in. The Capitania is located on the right as you leave the dock. Follow along the coast road about 1-2km.
- **Time:** UTC -6 (UTC -5 during daylight savings time)
- **Currency:** Chilean peso; a/o April 2009 ~600CLP = \$1US
- **Dinghy dock:** Caleta Hanga Roa. The entrance looks daunting with big breaking rollers all around, but there is a clear cut path to get in. Watch the fishing/diving boats come out. A large red/white marker marks the end of the breakwater. You can tie up midst the fishing and dive boats. Have a stern line available.
- **Services:** (Note that most shops open at 9-10am, close 1-5pm and reopen around 5pm till 7pm or later. Reduced hours on Saturdays and many closed on Sundays.

- Banks: Banco del Estado (on Tu'u Maheke) currently the only bank in town although Banco Santander is supposed to be opening within a month or two. There is an ATM, but it does not accept all cards. You can get a cash advance inside of up to 200.000 CLP (fee 2.000 CLP) with your ATM/credit card and passport. Bank hours are Mon-Fri 0800-1300. Allow an hour per transaction...long lines.
- Internet/Call center: Several on Av Atamu Tekena; ~1.300 CLP/hour internet or 1.000 wifi with your own computer. Open all day. International phone calls available there.
- Post office: directly up the hill from the dock on the right hand side next to the fire department. Open 9-3 Mon-Friday
- Car rentals - Several on Av Atamu Tekena; we rented a Suzuki (jeep-type) for 23.000CLP (all inclusive of taxes/insurance) for 8 hours; a great way to see the island and haul fuel.
- Taxi: A flat fee of 1500CLP to most places in town. Negotiate for anywhere else.
- Fuel (gas/diesel/kerosene): All available, but require jerry jugging. Diesel was quite reasonable (??? all things are relative) while we were here at 325CLP/ltr (\$2US /gallon).
- Propane: available, but you'll need a Chilean adapter for your tank, and you will need to pay a deposit on the propane tank and fill it yourself. Make sure it is clear you want to return the tank and get your deposit back. Easiest to ask a cab driver to take you to a tank exchange place.
- Hospital/Medical: directly up the hill from the dink dock, a long block beyond the church.
- Hardware: one hardware store on Atamu Tekena with limited supplies.
- Restaurants: lots along the coast road and on Atamu Tekena
- Fresh water: available, but not easy from Hanga Roa. Ask the Capitania for the best options.
- Provisioning/supermarkets
 - Largest is Supermercado Kai Nene on Atamu Tekena (0930-0130 & 1700-1930 – Mon-Sat); reasonable selection of frozen meats/chicken, fresh bread, some fresh produce; basic staples; wine/liquor; eggs; cheese
 - Opposite the Mercado Artesenal is a small supermarket with reasonable prices and stock.
 - Several small mini-markets with varying stock, but prices somewhat cheaper than Kai Nene.
 - For fresh produce, try the Feria (opposite Kai Nene) first or the truck farmers' offerings just south of Kai Nene.
- Laundry: (lavanderia) on Te Pito te Henua (directly across the street from the dink dock); about half way to the church on the left. 2.000CLP/kilo/wash-dry in 24-48 hours.
- If you're coming from mainland Chile and need to renew your Chilean visa, you can do so at the Gobernacion Provincial (behind the Feria). 90 day renewal \$100/passport or a maximum 10-day extension for free.

- Copies: Up the hill from the dink dock on the right Kare PC (50CLP/copy/b&w); also has printer ink cartridges and basic computer supplies.
- Trash: bins available at the end of the dink dock; follow instructions of the Capitania as boats coming from ports other than Chile may have restrictions.
- **Things to See and Do:**
 - Moai, moai moai!
 - Sernatur: turn right out of the dock onto the coast road. It is a short distance on the left and provides tourist information, island maps, etc. This is a good place to start.
 - Diving: several dive shops in Caleta Hanga Roa at the dink dock
 - Crafts:
 - Mercado Artesenal (up the hill from the dink dock, left at the church) and the Feria Artesenal (also the fresh market) on Atamu Tekena across from Kai Nene supermarket. We found the variety was good at the Mercado Artesenal, but the prices were significantly higher than any other place in town.
 - Lots of souvenir boutiques and tattoo opportunities
 - Museo Antropologico: small, but good overview of the island, its formation, culture and history. A long walk along the coast. Take a left out of the Hanga Roa dock or take a cab. Hours: Tues-Fri 0930-1730; Sat/Sun 0930-1230; closed Mondays. Admission \$2US or 1.000 CLP / pp.
 - Orongo Ceremonial Village: long, long hike, rent a car, take a cab, or take a tour. Center for the birdman cult activities. Small, but interesting. Entrance: 5.000CLP or \$10US/pp. Great vistas and views of the Rano Kau volcano crater.
 - Moai are just about everywhere (hundreds throughout the island), but the places we liked and thought most impressive were:
 - Anakena (Anakena anchorage)
 - A walking tour near Hanga Roa (left out of the dink dock) to several moai and past the local cemetery
 - Tongariki (Hutuiti anchorage)

Note that there is no all-weather anchorage at Easter Island. Depending on the winds, you must be able to move rather quickly to a more protected spot. The Chilean Armada will provide local, fairly reliable weather forecasts (prognosticos) at your request. Other anchorages on the island to consider are:

Anakena anchorage (north coast) – 27S04.22/ 109W19.48 – sand, good holding; 25-30’

Absolutely beautiful...what we always imagined a South Pacific anchorage might look like. No services here, but it’s part of the national park. There’s an old cement wharf that can be used for dinghy tie-up; consider using an aft anchor to keep off the rocks. Ahu NauNau and Ature Huki moai are here close to the white sand beach. A palm tree grove provides shade for a lovely picnic area. No trash allowed ashore. Contact Pascua Radio on Channel 85.

Hutuiti anchorage (east coast) – 27S07.59 / 109W16.16 sand, good holding; 40’

Good protection from W through N winds. A small dink tie-up south of moai near the house ashore with a marker on the breakwater to guide you in. Ask permission to leave your dinghy here. Access

from here to Rano Raruku crater and moai “nursery”/quarry. Great view from the boat and access to Ahu Tongariki, a stand of 15 moai, erected by Japanese archeologists after the 1960 tsunami destroyed it. Contact Pascua Radio on Channel 85.

More and more sailboats are calling at Easter Island, it seems. The Chilean Armada is welcoming, helpful and efficient. It’s a long way, but in our estimation, well worth the effort.

For more photos and information about Easter Island, visit our website at www.nineofcups.com.

Commodores Marcie (AA1ZM) and David Lynn (AA1ZL)