



Catalina's to Catalina: A Cruise Itinerary

By Don & Debbie Boyko, May 2014

Saturday and Sunday, August 16 and 17

Welcome to San Pedro California where we'll begin our adventure by rigging and launching our boats. Parking of vehicles and trailers will be at the Cabrillo Beach boat ramp facility in San Pedro. Sorry, but trailers **cannot** be left unattached from vehicles. Parking is \$15 per day, and you pay when you depart. We'll be staying at the Cabrillo Marina, which is just a short distance next to the boat ramp facilities. Slip fees are \$1 per foot for each day. There is a \$50 refundable deposit for the key to let you on the docks and into the restrooms. You can keep the key during the week while we're on Catalina Island and turn it in after we return and you leave. All slips have 30 amp electric service and city water. After launching and securing your boat in your slip, enjoy the many attractions of San Pedro. There is a beautiful beach right where you launched your boat. There is a trolley that will take you back to the restaurant district, the Battleship Iowa Museum, the Los Angeles Maritime Museum, and many other local attractions.

Here is our contact information for reserving your slip:

Cabrillo Marina

ask for Rosie Rojas, rojas@cymcabrillo.com

Tel: (310) 732-2252, Fax: (310) 732-260

224 Whalers Walk, San Pedro, CA 90731

As with all the marinas in Southern California, you are required to present current state registration for your boat, and proof of liability insurance with a minimum of \$300K liability coverage. The copy of your policy must state the effective dates of the coverage. You can easily fax this information to the marina office to ensure it meets their requirements.

On Sunday evening, August 17, 2014 at 6:00 PM we'll have a skippers meeting at the marina to go over any last minute details including how the mooring system works on Catalina Island. Make sure you have enough fuel for the entire crossing before our departure early Monday morning at 6:00 AM.

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Monday, August 18, 2014

We'll motor out of the marina and gather at the courtesy docks at the boat ramp facility at 6:00 a.m. on Monday morning. We'll depart in a group from this location and proceed out the inlet and make our way to Avalon. For many of the participants, this will be their first experience in the ocean, so let's keep in sight of each other. Once we past the Los Angeles light at the entrance to San Pedro, it's approximately 22 miles to the harbor entrance on Avalon. More than likely, we'll be motoring for the first several hours until the wind comes up, so make sure your boat is capable of sustaining 4 KTS. As we approach Avalon Harbor, we'll contact the Harbor Master on CH-9 for instructions and our mooring assignments. Mooring fees in Avalon Harbor are \$29 a day. Once you're secure at your mooring, feel free to start exploring the beauty of Catalina Island and the lovely town of Avalon.



There is a public restroom available across the street from the dinghy dock. Last year they had a shower special of soap, shampoo, towel, and a 5 minute shower for only \$4. There are plenty of public restrooms available around Avalon, but without shower facilities.



Tuesday and Wednesday, August 19 and 20, 2014

We'll have two full days to explore Avalon. There are many things to see and do while we're in Avalon. You can stay as busy as you want, or just relax on the beach in Avalon.

It's a short walk to the north past the casino to Descanso Beach where you can enjoy lunch or dinner and your favorite adult beverage while enjoying the sea breeze and the beach. On Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. we'll meet at a location to be determined to go over any last minute information for our trip up the island coast to Two Harbors the following day.

Thursday, August 21, 2014

Because mooring fees begin each day at 8:00 a.m., we'll be departing Avalon Harbor promptly at 8:00 a.m. and gather at the harbor entrance before the group makes our way for Two Harbors. Plan on motoring all the way to our next destination because more than likely, the prevailing northwesterly wind will be blocked by the island mountains. The distance to Two Harbors is approximately 12 miles. Again, as we approach the harbor, we'll contact the Harbor Master on CH-9 for our instructions and mooring assignments. In Two Harbors we'll have a choice of mooring on the "string line", or the standard ball moorings, which are identical to the ball moorings at Avalon Harbor. The difference is the boats will be closer together on the string line, but the cost is \$29 per day, and



the ball mooring is \$32 to \$39, (depending on the availability of the small moorings, or the larger moorings). I'll be in contact with the Harbor Master after we leave Avalon to let them know we're coming, and to check on the availability of the smaller moorings. After your boat is secured on your mooring, we'll start to explore the quaint village of Two Harbors. Thursday evening at 6:00 p.m. we'll gather at the "Reef Restaurant" in Two Harbors for a celebration dinner. Two Harbors is also famous for Buffalo Milk. If you're 21 or over, I highly recommend this island drink. Showers, restrooms, and even a coin operated laundry are available in Two Harbors. The restroom facilities are free, but the showers are metered, so bring

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your quarters. The going rate for the shower is 50 cents for 90 seconds.

Friday, August 22, 2014

Friday will be a great day to explore Two Harbor's. Walking will again be the mode of transportation. Two Harbors' is a completely different world from Avalon. There are no paved streets, and no golf carts to rent. There is a GREAT casual restaurant open for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. There is also a bar located adjacent to the Reef Restaurant. There is also a convenience store that is pretty well stocked with food items, ice, souvenirs, and they also serve ice cream. Fuel is also available on the pier, but they are prohibited from dispensing fuel when the passenger ferries are at the dock. Dinner Friday evening will be a simple BBQ on the beach consisting of hot dogs, hamburgers, baked beans and an assortment of chips. Feel free to bring something to share, and your own beverages.

Saturday, August 23, 2014

Well, it's been a fast week, and it's time to head back to the mainland. We'll be departing early to take advantage of the calm morning to start our crossing. This will be an early rise, and the restaurant will not be open before our departure, so be prepared to have breakfast onboard as we begin our approximate 18 mile crossing back to San Pedro. Again, we'll be motoring for at least a portion of our trip back, so ensure you have enough fuel in case we have to motor the entire way. Our destination will again be the Cabrillo Marina in San Pedro. I'll be in contact with them to see if there are any changes in our slip assignments upon our return.

This will conclude our adventure, and I hope you have enjoyed the highlights of Catalina Island. There is so much to see and do on the island, and a week is hardly enough time. There is still a lot to see and do back on the mainland. Hopefully you'll have time to explore and learn about the rich maritime history few people associate Los Angeles with.

Additional Cruise Information and Expected Costs

I want to make sure that everyone is aware that there are no slips for visiting boats on Catalina Island. We'll be on a mooring, and with the exception of the string line in Two Harbors', all moorings are privately owned. The agreement is that when the owner is not using their mooring, the Harbor Master is free to rent them out. So occasionally, once you're on a mooring, you may be asked to move. So, how do you get ashore? There are two ways. You bring your own dinghy, or you can use the water taxi service.

We'll be towing our inflatable dinghy to the island. There just isn't enough room on the boat to inflate it once we arrive, so we inflate our dinghy in San Pedro and tow it across. You don't have to get elaborate, and some of our



friends have successfully used cheap dime-store rafts to get ashore. However, they are not suitable for towing, and the dinghy docks can get very congested, and the cheap inflatable that is perfect to play with in the pool, sometimes don't work out at the dinghy dock. Never tie your dinghy right up to the dock, always have at least 10' or 15' of line so others can get to the dock also. If you decide to use the water taxi service the cost in Avalon is

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\$4.75 per person for each way. The water taxi service in Two Harbors is \$3 per person for each way. The water taxi captains don't have credit card machines, so plan on paying them with cash. Both harbors offer water taxi service around the clock and you simply hail the Harbor Master's office on VHF CH-9 and advise them of your mooring number.

The mooring fields can be very congested with very expensive boats, so I really need to emphasize the need for a reliable outboard on your boat. It would not be totally unexpected that we would need to motor the entire way. On our first crossing to the island the wind never did come up while crossing over to the island, or on our way back. We motored continuously for six and a half hours each way. You don't want to have your engine dying either when you're idling to your mooring. Please ensure your outboard is mechanically in tip-top condition and capable of extended periods of running. Also, it is **VERY** important to ensure that you are carrying a sufficient amount of fuel for each leg of the journey. Gas is available in Avalon and Two Harbors, but keep in mind that the gas pumps will not be open early in the morning when we make our departures.

As you drive into San Pedro, make sure you have your provisions and enough ice to get you to Avalon. Also, if you think you might get sea-sick crossing to the island, make sure that you look into remedies before arriving. I can tell you that most of our crossings to and from the island have been smooth and uneventful, but this is the Pacific Ocean, and we will be making a fairly long crossing of open ocean that many have not experienced before. Debbie uses the wrist bands when we're out in the ocean, and a ginger pill seems to also help with nausea. I like to snack on Nabisco "Ginger Snaps" while out in the ocean, but not because I'm sick, I just like Ginger Snaps, and it's a good excuse to spend \$5 for a box of cookies! There is also a new device that looks like a cheap wrist watch. It stimulates the nerves in the wrist to eliminate nausea symptoms. I bought one for Debbie, but we've never used it. Occasionally we'll get some swells, but these are usually pretty mild, and several hundred feet from peak to peak, so you can't even feel them.

Also, a reliable VHF radio will be required so we can maintain radio contact with everyone should a problem arise, and a periodic check-in. Also, this is the only way to communicate with the Harbor Master to get our mooring assignments, and any instructions they might have.

If you don't already have one, a GPS receiver is an essential safety item. It is very possible that the morning haze will prevent maintaining visual contact with the island, or the mainland when we return. You don't need to go overboard. We successfully used our Garmin NUVI from the car for navigation out on the ocean. We just put it in the off road mode and it worked wonderful, but keep in mind most car GPS receivers are not waterproof and some spray could render them useless. A waterproof chart covering Catalina Island and the coastal area from

San Pedro south to Dana Point should also be onboard. There is a well-stocked West Marine store right on your way to the boat ramp. They will be on your right as your heading west on Harbor Blvd. in San Pedro. The address and phone number is:

293 N Harbor Blvd
San Pedro, CA 90731
(310) 833-0717

There is no need to provision out your boat like you're going to Hawaii. There are two grocery stores in Avalon that have anything you will need, along with a couple drug stores. Restaurants and bars are all over, as well as souvenir shops. Two Harbors has a grocery store that is pretty well stocked, and normally Wednesday they receive fruit, vegetables, and supplies from the mainland. So you can easily get by with some drinks and snacks onboard, and enjoy the comfort and ease of the restaurants once on shore. After all, you are on vacation.

You will do a lot of walking, and the terrain is very hilly, so bring comfortable shoes for that purpose. Also, the days will be sunny and warm and the island climate is desert, so keep water with you and stay hydrated. We'll be on the eastern side of the island mountains so the sun starts to set behind the mountains earlier, and the temperature will start to fall. A light jacket or sweatshirt will be required in the morning until about 8:00 a.m. and the evenings. You will not have a hot muggy night with insects onboard your boat. It will get down-right chilly at night so make sure you have some sleeping bags or blankets. Many summer nights we turn on the heater to take the chill out of the cabin. The water is probably clearer than many of you have ever seen, and snorkeling is a popular sport. However, the water should be around 70 degrees, which some may consider chilly, but it can be very refreshing.

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Avalon has many popular attractions; the biggest attraction is the zip-line tour. It's a bit expensive, but it's well worth it. You'll have about 30-40 minutes of instruction before you take the bus up the mountain. You'll zip down 5 separate runs down to the base. One line is over 1,000' long and takes you 300' above the canyon floor! It will take several hours to complete the zip-line tour. There is also bicycle rental, kayak rental, golf cart rental, tours to the interior of the island, submarine tours that take you through the kelp forests off the island coast, and the famous Catalina Island glass bottom boat tours. Miniature golf is a popular pastime in Avalon, and they also have a 9-hole course. There is even an evening boat tour where you'll see the flying fish. The botanical gardens lead you to the Wrigley Memorial. It's a bit of a walk, but comfortable. Tours of the historic casino and an evening movie in the beautiful restored theater is also enjoyable.

Two Harbors is much more casual than Avalon. But you can still enjoy kayak rentals and snorkeling. There is plenty of hiking opportunities to the other side of the isthmus, and a hike up the hill to check out the historic Banning mansion, which is now a wonderful B & B. Two Harbors also has the oldest building on the island that served as the barracks for the Union soldiers during the civil war. Two Harbors originated as a movie set, and you can see the relics left over from the old sailing ships blown up and burned in the movies from the 20's and 30's.

There is also a pretty good chance you'll see some of the wild buffalo that came to the island to shoot a western movie back in the roaring 20's. The herd still roams the island and are wild, so don't approach them. If you don't see a buffalo, you will find some of their "chips" as you hike around Two Harbors.

The Pacific Ocean off Southern California is some of the most nutrient rich waters in the world. With that comes an abundance of sea life. The microscopic creatures bring bigger creatures, which bring even bigger creatures, and so the food chain goes. We've never crossed without a

visit from a pod of curious porpoises, it's always a thrill! We have more porpoises off the Southern California coast than anywhere else in the country because of this abundant food supply. Once we found ourselves in the middle of "mega pod" where thousands of porpoises were jumping for as far as we can see around us as we sailed along for almost forty five minutes. We've also seen sharks, seals, marlin, flying fish, and Blue Whales, which are the largest animals to ever live on the earth, even larger than the largest dinosaurs. So keep your eyes open during the crossing!

We're looking forward to showing you the beauty and adventure of Catalina Island, and we sure hope you can make the cruise with us!

