

With an intimate ambiance, the *La Pinta* is perfect for exploring the Galápagos Islands. The ship features yacht-like amenities including a large lounge, outdoor bar, hot tub, library and a Sun Deck perfect for watching the passing scenery.

ACCOUNTS ON BOARD

Upon embarkation, a shipboard account is automatically opened for your convenience with an imprint of your credit card. A "chit" system will operate for onboard purchases. Each time you make a purchase, a chit will be signed by you and the purchase amount debited to your shipboard account, which is presented for settlement at the end of the voyage. American Express, MasterCard, VISA, traveler's checks and cash are the only acceptable forms of payment for your account. The U.S. dollar is the standard currency on board the *La Pinta*, and all credit card bills and accounts are rendered in U.S. dollars.

BAGGAGE STORAGE

Baggage can be stored underneath the beds in your cabin. There are approximately 10 inches between the floor and the bed providing ample room for a standard-sized suitcase.

BAR

The bar is stocked with local and international liquors and alcohol. Chilean wines are served in the dining room. Upon request, the service staff will be happy to retain unused portions of bottled wines ordered with your meals for consumption at subsequent seatings. All alcoholic beverages will be charged to your shipboard account. Water, tea and coffee are complimentary.

BRIDGE VISITS

There is an open-bridge policy on the *La Pinta*. However, the bridge may be closed to visitors during maneuvers in port, when anchoring or during periods of inclement weather.

CABINS AND SERVICE

The ship has a total of 24 comfortable outside cabins with picture windows. The cabins are fully air-conditioned and heated with individual climate control and have private bathrooms with shower, toilet and wash basin. Shampoo and soap are provided in the bathroom. Hair dryers are also provided in the rooms. All cabins have a small sitting area with a chair and desk, and each cabin is equipped with a telephone (for contacting other cabins only). Valuables can be left at the safe located in every cabin.

Cabins are serviced every morning by your cabin attendant. They are cleaned again in the evening when beds are turned down. If you require additional housekeeping service in addition to these visits, please advise the reception desk.

COMMUNICATION

The *La Pinta* has a satellite link-up system that provides world-wide communication. The ship is equipped with satellite internet and two computers are located in the natural history library (Main Deck). Service has a rate of U\$ 25.00 per day. Wireless is now available on social areas, the rate US\$ 25.00 per day.

The ship is also equipped with a satellite telephone and fax. Calls and faxes are only possible whenever the satellite is visible over the horizon. Please note, however, that you will be charged for all personal communications whether inbound or outbound, and satellite reception is expensive. Each cabin has a telephone to call the front desk or another cabin on board, as well as

an emergency button located right next to the PA system volume control, for contacting the Bridge in case of emergency.

Detailed contact information for the *La Pinta* and our hotel in Quito will be included with your Red Journal sent approximately three weeks prior to departure.

DAILY PROGRAMS

The daily program is posted in common areas every evening on board ship. The program provides details of the cruising schedule, lectures, shore excursions and notes about interesting sights and other activities. Weather and other conditions may, of course, alter the day's intended program. Your tour staff will notify you of any changes to the printed schedule.

DIETARY NEEDS

Special dietary requests can be accommodated, but we must be notified at least three months prior to departure in writing on the **Individual Information Form** sent with your confirmation mailing. The galley is equipped to prepare or serve all special dietary foods except kosher cuisine.

DINING

Breakfast, lunch and dinner are served in the dining room on the Main Deck. The dining room accommodates all passengers in one open seating. Menus are typically a delicious combination of Ecuadorian and continental cuisine. Coffee, tea and water are available 24 hours a day in the main lounge. Throughout the program, meals may also be served outside on deck if weather conditions permit.

ELECTRICITY

Power in passenger cabins is 110 volts/60 hertz, with North American, standard-style outlets that accommodate a flat, 2-prong plug. Check the specifications of your equipment before departure and make sure you have the necessary accessories. Voltage in public areas may differ from that in your cabin. Please consult an officer before plugging any electrical equipment into the outlets in the lounge, library or other public rooms on the ship.

ELEVATOR

There is no elevator on board the *La Pinta*.

EXERCISE FACILITIES

The *La Pinta* has a small gym, open 24 hours, with three POLAR-brand machines: Treadmill 91Ti, Cross-Trainer 91Xi Total-Body and Lifecycle® Bike 90C Upright.

GIFT SHOP

Gift items and toiletries are available for purchase at reception on the Main Deck. There is a limited range of goods – mainly T-shirts, sweatshirts, hats, souvenirs, film and basic toiletries. Purchases are debited to your shipboard account.

GRATUITIES

Gratuities for onboard staff and crew are included in the cost of the trip. Tips to the ship bartender are not included.

HAIR DRYER

There is a hair dryer available in each cabin.

LAUNDRY

There is no laundry service available on board the *La Pinta*. However, the ship has arranged for laundry service (no dry cleaning) to be provided one time for all guests while the ship is docked in Puerto Ayora on Santa Cruz Island. A clothes dryer is available on board throughout the cruise for drying wet swimsuits, clothing and other items.

LIBRARY

There is a small library, which contains a selection of magazines, books and reference materials for your use.

MAIL

You will have the opportunity to purchase stamps and send mail from one of the towns in the Galápagos, at the airport or from mainland Ecuador. Please be aware that mail sent from the Galápagos does not reach its destination as reliably as mail sent from the mainland.

MEDICAL SERVICES

The ship's infirmary is located on the Main Deck. A fully licensed physician will be on board throughout the voyage. Any applicable fees for medical services received on board are debited to your shipboard account, payable at the end of the voyage. At no point in the cruise itinerary are we more than twelve to fourteen hours from the nearest hospital.

It is essential that persons with any medical problems or drug allergies inform us well before departure so that we may brief the ship's doctor accordingly. Please indicate these in writing on the **Medical Form** sent with your confirmation mailing. If you require prescription medications, please remember to bring an adequate supply for our trip.

If you use a hearing aid that might be turned off at night or would otherwise require special assistance in case of an emergency, please advise the reception desk of this fact at the time of boarding.

NEWS

News reports are received Monday through Friday, weather and satellite conditions permitting. The most recent communication is posted at reception.

RECREATIONAL EQUIPMENT

The *La Pinta* carries a supply of **snorkels, masks and fins** for passenger use. As water temperature is not warm year-round in the Galápagos, the ship also carries "shortie" **wet suits** (3mm or 1/8 inch) in different sizes, for men, women and children. Damaged or lost wet suits will be added to the guest's shipboard account (\$80). A wetsuit is highly recommended for use during snorkeling excursions (see **Travel Information** for more information).

The ship also features a **glass-bottomed boat**, which is available as an alternative to snorkeling. There are no facilities for SCUBA diving.

The ship also carries eight 2-person **ocean kayaks**. These optional kayak outings last approximately 30 minutes in the waters off Floreana, Tower and Isabela Islands.

SAFETY AT SEA

Safety at sea is a major priority aboard the *La Pinta*. The ship contains the latest in firefighting equipment and fully complies with the strict provisions of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) and International Maritime Organization 1983 amendments. All officers are trained in emergency procedures, and regular drills are held to instruct the crew in their emergency duties. For passengers, a lifeboat drill is held within 24 hours of embarkation. Attendance at this drill is mandatory. All cabins are equipped with a life preserver for each passenger. Life preservers are also mandatory during Zodiac excursions (these are provided separately from the ones in your cabin, which should only be used in case of emergency), and you must have yours secured properly before descending the ship's gangway to the Zodiac.

SECURITY

The security of passengers and crew is of the utmost importance to Stanford Travel/Study and the *La Pinta*. As of April 2008, current security precautions being taken aboard the *La Pinta* include the following:

- Airfreight from the continent to the ship is inspected and sealed prior to departure.
- All guests and their luggage are clearly identified on the continent when checking in for the flight to Galápagos. All luggage passes through a special quarantine control.
- All guests are accompanied on the flight by a local representative.
- A deck watch officer is in charge of the ship at all times. When in port, visitors must be approved, sign the arrival log, receive an identity card and be accompanied by the crewman responsible for their presence on board.

SMOKING POLICY

Smoking is not allowed inside the ship, only outside on deck in designated areas. Please use appropriate ashtrays for cigarette butts and used matches. Never throw cigarettes or cigars over the side of the ship as these may blow back onto the ship and cause a fire.

STORAGE

Each cabin has a wardrobe area with hangers and several shelves for storing your clothing and other personal items.

SAFE

A safe is available in every cabin.

WATER

The ship's water supply provides potable water of a high standard, but passengers are asked to practice conservation at all times. Drinking water is provided in the dining room and in the main lounge for refillable containers. Bottled water is available for purchase on board.

ZODIACS

The *La Pinta* is equipped with a fleet of Zodiacs. These rubber boats are safe, dependable and durable, and allow us to land in areas that might otherwise be inaccessible for a large sailing vessel. There will be a safety briefing on board to explain the proper use of Zodiacs and how one should embark and disembark these boats. We will use Zodiacs for most of our excursions when the *La Pinta* anchors offshore. These are "wet landings" and require you to step into, and wade through, up to 12 inches of water to reach the shore. Please refer to the **Travel Information** sent with this mailing for details on recommended footwear.