



EVENING BAY CRUISE PACKET

June 29 – July 3, 2009

*National Marine Educators Association Conference 2009
Asilomar Conference Grounds, Pacific Grove, CA*

Dear NMEA Participant,

Thank you for registering for the Evening Bay Cruise on Tuesday June 30! Monterey Bay is a fantastic location for marine mammal and wildlife viewing. Enclosed you will find information regarding where to meet and what to bring. Please review all information before attending the cruise. Transportation will be provided to and from Asilomar Conference Grounds starting at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday afternoon. We suggest that all boat cruise participants catch early buses to allow time for dinner. Buses will pick up participants in front of Phoebe Hearst Social Hall at Asilomar Conference Grounds. The drop-off and pick-up location in downtown Monterey will be adjacent to the Monterey Maritime Museum. If you have any questions, please contact the NMEA staff at nmea09@mbayaq.org with the name of your field trip in the subject line. Thank you for your participation!

Sincerely,

Rachael VanderWalde
Evening Bay Cruise Coordinator

Email: nmea09@mbayaq.org

Fax: (831) 647-4526, Attention: NMEA Field Trips- Evening Cruise

EVENING BAY CRUISE INFORMATION

You may decide to purchase dinner at one of the many food stands at the Monterey Farmer's Market, or at one of the delicious restaurants along Fisherman's Wharf or in downtown Monterey. Please meet at the Monterey Whale Watch dock at the end of Fisherman's Wharf at 6:00 p.m. to check in. We recommend that you take the 4:30 p.m. bus from Asilomar to Monterey, in order to ensure enough time to explore the town and get dinner prior to the check-in time.

Take advantage of the unique opportunity to view the diverse inhabitants of the Monterey Bay during our 2-hour cruise aboard the 100-foot *Princess of Monterey*. During the summer months, the nutrient-rich water attracts a variety of magnificent marine mammals. Humpback, fin, minke and orca whales all feed here as well as the mighty blue. Large pods of porpoises and dolphins also frequent the Monterey Bay. The cruise pushes off at 6:30 p.m. (with check-in from 6:00 – 6:15 p.m.) and will return to dock by 8:30 p.m. This tour is open to people of all ages.

Check-in time: 6:00 p.m.
Monterey Whale Watch dock, end of Fisherman's Wharf
The cruise will depart at 6:30 p.m. sharp. For this reason, we suggest catching an early bus from Asilomar to Downtown Monterey.

Return time: By 8:30 p.m.
The last buses back to Asilomar will be departing adjacent to the Monterey Maritime Museum (across from the entrance to Fisherman's Wharf) at 9:00 p.m. **If you miss the last bus you are responsible for your own transportation back to Asilomar.**

Vessel: Participants will board the 100-foot *Princess of Monterey*. This vessel has a full, walk-around lower deck with bench seats. The cabin is fully heated, has bench seats with tables and extra large windows, restrooms and a full service cash-only snack bar. Beer and wine may also be sold on board with cash. The cruise will depart from the wharf by 6:30 p.m. and will return by 8:30 p.m.

Clothing: Weather on the bay can be unpredictable. To fully enjoy the trip, we suggest the following: warm layers, long pants, windproof jacket, hat, sunglasses, flat closed-toed shoes and sunscreen.

Food: You may purchase dinner at one of the many food stands at the Monterey Farmer's Market or at one of the delicious restaurants along Fisherman's Wharf or in downtown Monterey. Please make sure to finish your dinner before 6:00 p.m. in order to make the 6:00 - 6:15 p.m. check-in time. **The boat will not wait for late arrivals.** Additional snacks and drinks may be purchased on board with cash.

Medication: Bring along any necessary seasick medications. **If you have a tendency toward seasickness, please take preventive medication at least 30 minutes prior to boarding.**