

THE ESCAPIST'S GUIDE TO
REDONDA

by
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ATTRIBUTIONS

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A MESSAGE FROM HRH

I warmly welcome you to my island kingdom of Redonda, and hope that you have a most delightful escape here, away from the pains, problems and pressures of the rest of the world.

During your stay, I hope that you make the most of the many great activities, sights and natural phenomenon that Redonda has to offer. Personally, I enjoy birding at Goat Hill and sailing in my yacht, Lady Grey. Also make sure that you sample our lobster and chèvre cheese; delicacies that we are most proud of.

Please note that a Redondan visa has no specified length of stay, so Redonda is the perfect place to escape the daily grind for as long as you find suitable.

Signed,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael".

His Royal Highness King Michael the Grey



CAPITAL

Restais

TIME

GMT -4 hours

CO-ORDINATES

16°56'19"N, 62°20'43"W

LANGUAGES

English, English Patois

CURRENCY

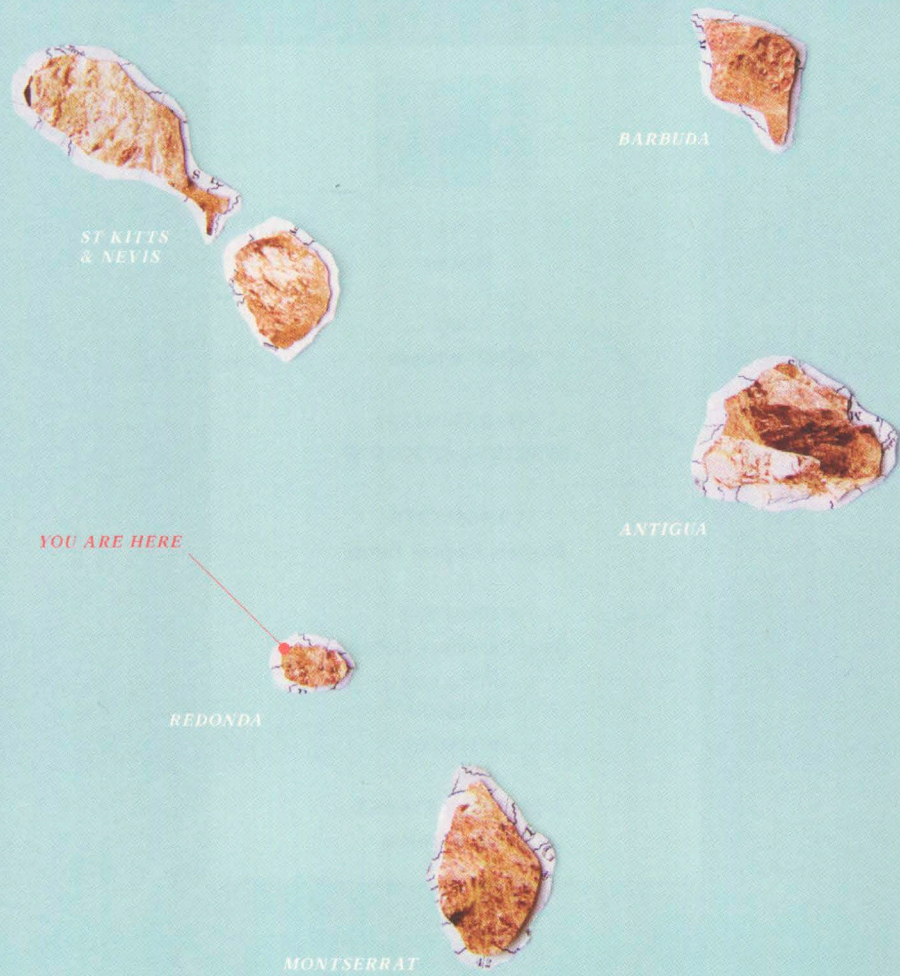
East Carribean Dollar

RELIGION

Polytheism

POLITICAL STANCE

Libertarianism



LOCATION

Redonda is perfectly remote, nestled within the inner arc of the Leeward Islands in the West Indies. It is surrounded by the idyllic Caribbean Sea.

Redonda lies between the small tropical islands of Nevis and Montserrat. It is closer to Montserrat than to any other island; it is located 22.5 kilometres northwest of Montserrat. Redonda is 32 kilometres southeast of Nevis, and 56.2 kilometres southwest of Antigua.



SIZE

A small, rocky paradise dwarfed by its neighbouring islands, Redonda is the quintessential holiday hideaway. The island is approximately 2.4 kilometres long and around 2 kilometres wide. The actual land area of the island is a mere 4.8 kilometres squared.

Redonda's highest peak, Liberty Point, is 998 metres high. The second-highest peak is Respite Point, standing at 873 metres, followed by Treaty Point, at 706 metres.

A small, rocky
paradise dwarfed
by its neighbouring
islands, Redonda is
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holiday hideaway.

WEATHER

Redonda is home to a tropical climate, but is drier than most of the West Indies. The finest time to visit Redonda is during the northern hemisphere winter; December through to February. The daily highs average around 27°C, and the skies are blue. The weather remains clear and desirable until spring. By the month of June, the temperatures soar to an average of 32°C. It is ill-advised to visit from September through November as this is the rainy season and the odd storm may swirl across the island. If you decide to visit Redonda during this period, it is recommended to pack attire suitable for wet weather.



TRANSPORTATION

As Redonda is wonderfully remote, one cannot simply fly there directly from a major city. Many large North and South American carriers offer direct flights from major cities to Redonda's surrounding islands, and from this point, one must embark on a boat or small plane trip to Redonda. The best and most scenic way to arrive at Redonda is via boat. The Barbuda Express, a little ferry, runs once daily from Antigua to Redonda (2 hours), Barbuda to Redonda (4 hours) or Montserrat to Redonda (1 hour). Travellers who cannot wait to arrive can take a small plane from Antigua, Barbuda or Montserrat. ABM Air operates from these three destinations.

There are only two options for getting around Redonda; bike hire or on foot. In 1981, the former king of Redonda King Bob the Bald banned car ownership on the premise that its ecological impact would be too detrimental to the island's delicate ecosystem. Antilles Rentals offer bike hire at reasonable prices.

Walking is certainly the most economical and easiest mode of transport in Redonda. It is recommended that visitors to the island walk at a slow pace in order to take in their surroundings.

A BRIEF HISTORY



REDONDA POST OFFICE IN 1948

The first recorded discovery of Redonda was by Christopher Columbus in 1493. He initially named it '*Santa Maria la Redonda*,' meaning Saint Mary the Round, reflecting the round profile of the island when viewed from the side. Very little is known about what occurred on the island for the next few centuries, apart from a few reports of maroonings and pirate activities. It was during this time that the famous Redondan goat population was believed to have been initiated.

In the 1860s, Britain came into possession of Redonda. The island was discovered to be rich in deposits of phosphine oxide and the British government chose to undertake a long-term mining operation, during which the island's population rose to 120 residents. Buildings and a post office were built, which visitors to the island can now observe the remains of. Mining ceased at the announcement of World War I, and Redonda has remained a peaceful paradise ever since. Very little land damage remains as a result of the mineworks.

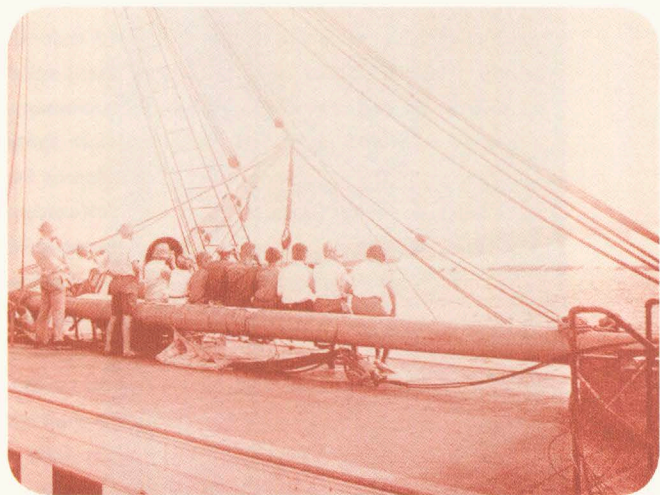
The monarchy of Redonda has had a colourful history, with contention as to the true lineage.

The first King of Redonda was His Royal Highness King Felipe I, née Matthew Phipps Shiell (1865–1947), who was bequeathed the Kingdom of Redonda upon his birth by his father, Matthew Dowdy Shiell. His father was a trader and preacher from the nearby island Montserrat, who decided that Redonda needed governance after sailing there one afternoon. He wrote to the British government, asking to take formal possession and for the title of king to be given to his son. The British Colonial Office obliged on the premise that there would be no revolt against colonial powers. Thus, the great Kingdom of Redonda was born in 1865. King Felipe I was properly crowned in 1880, at age 15, in a small ceremony conducted on the island by the Anglican Bishop of Antigua, William Walrond Jackson.

Ever since His Royal Highness King Felipe's reign, the monarchy of Redonda has had a colourful history, with some contention as to the true lineage of the kings. There have been many kings claiming title without evidence of their right to reign. Whilst there are now nine claimants to the throne, the popular consensus is that King Michael the Grey is most definitely the current ruler of Redonda.



KING FELIPE I WATCHING OVER REDONDA AT SEA



PHOSPHATE MINERS ARRIVING TO THE ISLAND



FORMER KING BOB THE BALD SURVEYS THE SHORELINE



TERRAIN

Redonda is the remnant of an ancient extinct volcano. If viewed from the east, Redonda appears as if it were a gigantic rock. The surface is quite mountainous and rocky. On the leeward side of the island the land rises steeply, forming rocky cliffs. At the top of the island there is an area of grassland that slopes quite steeply to the east.

The west side of the island is the most pleasant, and most visitors to Redonda prefer to linger here. The western shoreline features a more sandy terrain, a result of ancient volcanic ash. The west side hosts several small beaches and lush vegetation due to soil fertility brought on by the ash.

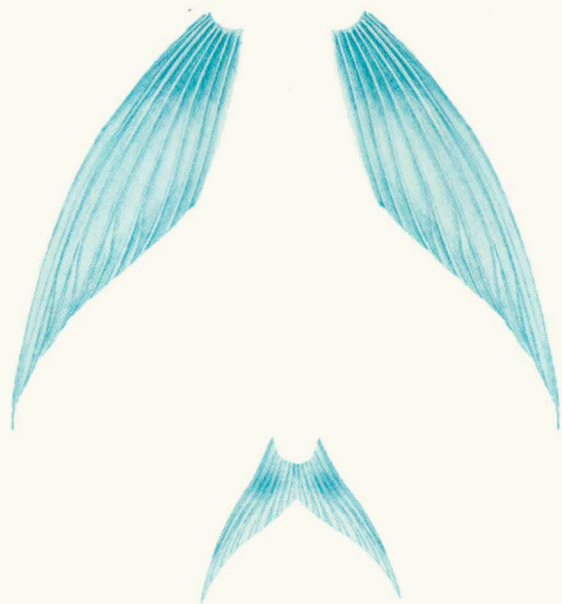
If viewed from the east, Redonda appears as if it were a gigantic rock.







PAUSE FOR A MOMENT HERE



FLYING FISH

DELICACIES

FRIED FLYING FISH

A delicacy in the Caribbean, fried flying fish is juicy and flavoursome. The fish is marinated in lime, salt and paprika before dipped in breadcrumbs and fried. It is oft served with plantain chips.

CARIBBEAN LOBSTER

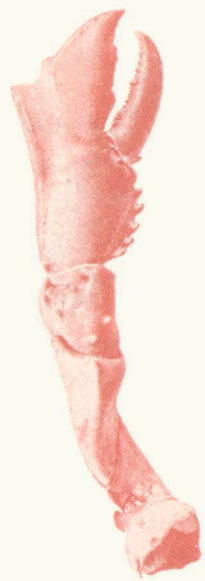
The surrounding waters of Redonda are overrun by a large Caribbean lobster population. The Caribbean lobster has sweet and tender meat and is best enjoyed grilled with a squeeze of lime.

PLANTAIN

Known as the savoury banana, plantain is a staple food of Redonda. You may sample it in its various incarnations; as golden chips, grilled as a side dish or in a sustaining plantain stew.

CHEVRE

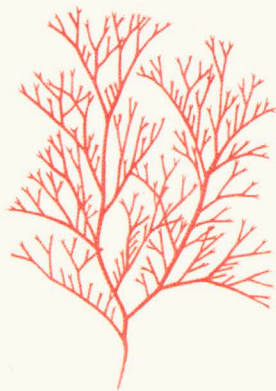
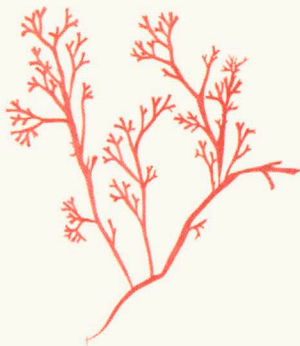
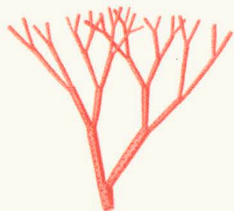
The Redondan goat population is the source of delicious chèvre cheese, made from fresh goat's milk. You may purchase it in rounds from markets near the beach. Moist, tart and crumbly, Redondan chèvre is delicious with a rum on the rocks after a long day spent relaxing.



CARIBBEAN LOBSTER



PLANTAIN



RED ALGAE

FLORA

RED ALGAE (*sphaerococcus subulatus*)

Only visible underwater, red algae is the most common marine flora growing in Redonda's surrounding waters. Keen snorkellers will catch a glimpse of these, as their deep red tendrils are difficult to miss.

SEA OLIVE (*bontia daphnoide*)

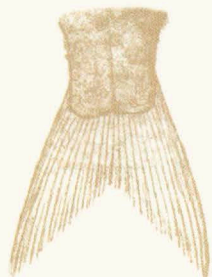
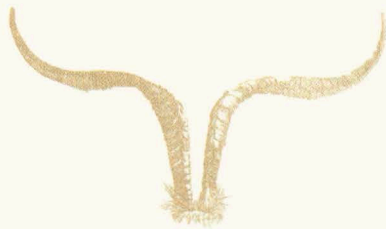
The sea olive is native to the Antilles and can be spotted along the western coast of Redonda, with its vivid yellow flowers and pale green olives. Please refrain from eating the olives, as they have been known to induce stomach aches amongst curious sailors in the past.

IMPERIAL PALM (*roystonea oleracea*)

The most populous plant on the west coast is the imperial palm. The imperial palm tree population is concentrated towards the delightful beaches of the westward side of the island. In fact, Columbus referred to the 'striking palms of Santa Maria del Redonda,' in accounts of his visit to the island in 1493.



IMPERIAL PALM



ALPINE GOAT
RING-BILLED GULL
FLYING FISH

FAUNA

ALPINE GOAT (*capra aegagrus hircus*)

The rocky grass-topped hills of the east of the island host a small herd of goats, believed to be left by sailors as a source of food when passing through the region. Visitors to the island are advised to avoid petting them whilst they are grazing, as they may react territorially. It is Redondan custom not to trim the goat horns, for aesthetic reasons.

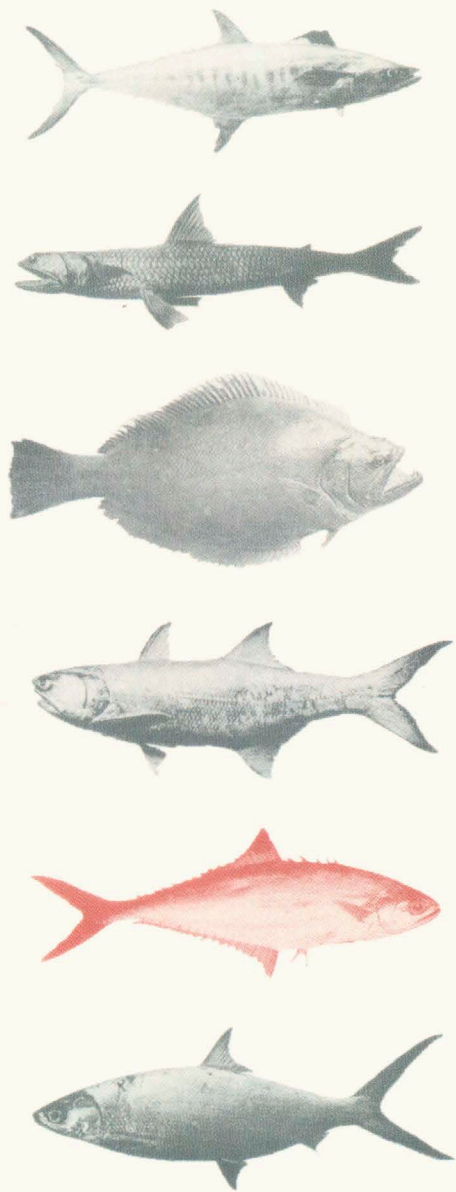
RING-BILLED GULL (*larus delawarensis*)

The east coast is also host to various seabirds and gulls, who enjoy perching and tottering on the cliffs. The most widespread of these is the ring-billed gull, a medium-sized gull which features a short bill and white speckled plumage. The ring-billed gull are the most social of the Redondan bird breeds and breed in small colonies.

FLYING FISH (*hirundichthys affinis*)

Upon approach to the island by sea, you may notice these energeting creatures whipping in and out of the water. The flying fish is the most common of all fish breeds living in Redondan waters. During your stay it is recommended to sample the Redondan delicacy of fried flying fish.





THE ABUNDANCE OF REDONDAN FISH

ACTIVITIES

FISHING

Given the abundance of fish and crustaceans surrounding Redonda, it is no surprise that fishing is a popular activity for visitors to the island. There is nothing more delicious and more economical than feasting on one's own catch of the day. Fishing equipment is offered for hire by a number of private businesses along the shoreline.

BIRDING

Redonda offers various birding tours for those interested in its vast spectrum of bird varieties. Tour operators take avid birders to the most popular bird spots. Who knows, you may be fortunate enough to grab a glimpse of a rare burrowing owl, the most sought-after sight of Redonda.

HISTORICAL TOUR

Those interested in the history of Redonda can partake in a historical tour of the island, in which they will be shown significant spots on the island. These include sites of speculated buried pirate treasure, the place at which King Felipe I was crowned and where his throne stood, buildings remaining from the inhabitation period of phosphate miners, and the old post office, which has existed since 1865.

SNORKELLING AND DIVING

Whether you are partial to the odd snorkel or a dedicated diver, you can make the most of the visual feast provided by Redonda reef. The reef boasts 62 different types of coral, 35 breeds of tropical fish and countless sea creatures including jellyfish, starfish and sea urchins. Diving equipment is available for hire at Antilles Rentals.

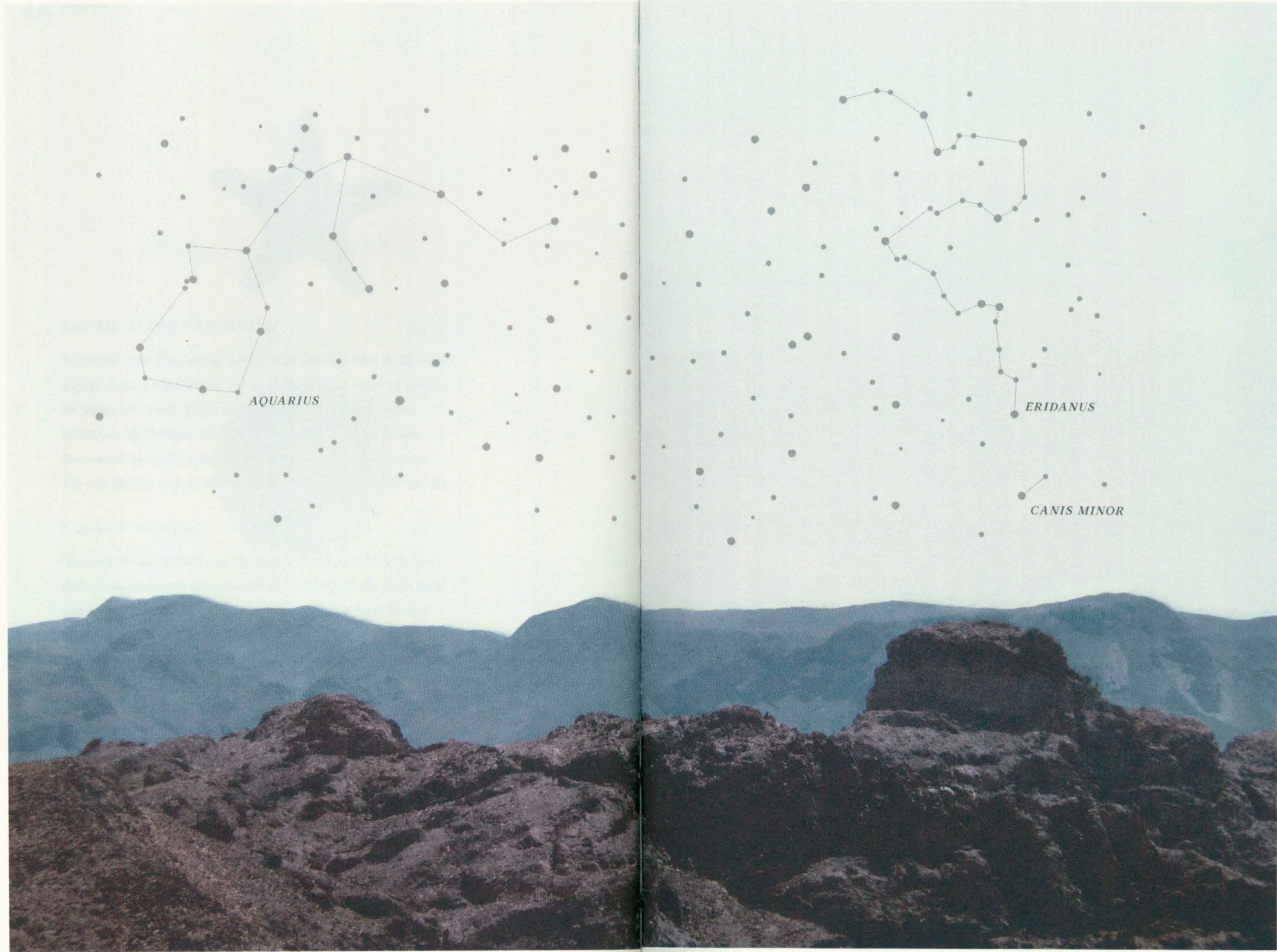
CHEVRE-MAKING

Visitors to the island can try their hand at creating the delicious Redonda chèvre, created using goat's milk from the herd of Redonda. Classes take roughly four hours and include a cheese tasting tour, in which partakers can meet and greet the goats.

STARGAZING

Redonda is known for its stargazing opportunities, a wonderful escape for the world-weary traveller. Avid stargazers can relish in Redonda's unique views, given its proximity to the equator. Redonda offers a spectacular view of celestial bodies, including the constellations Canis Minor, Aquarius, and Eridanus. The best view of these is seen from the rocky east side of the island which the goats inhabit.

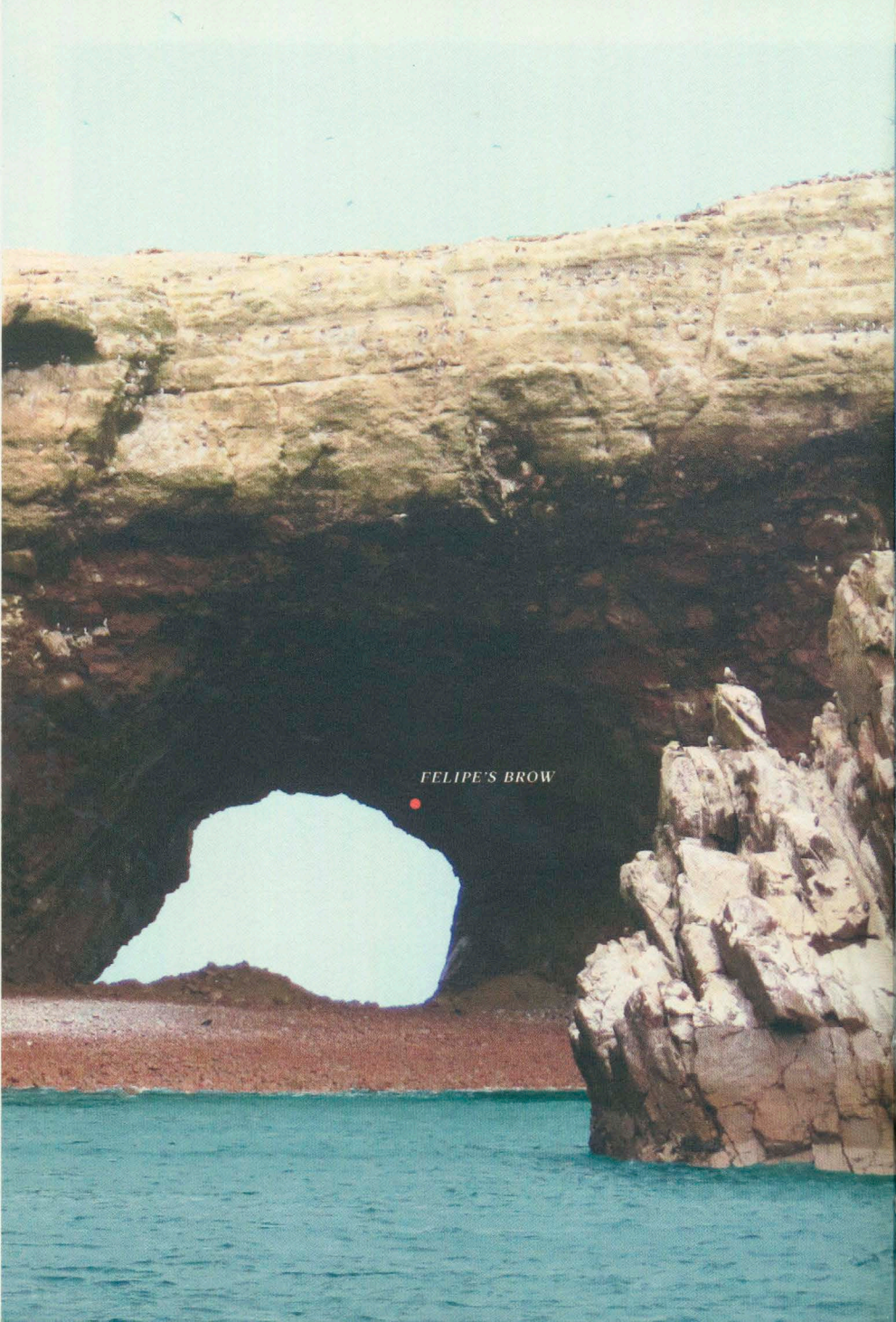




AQUARIUS

ERIDANUS

CANIS MINOR



NOTABLE SIGHTS

FELIPE'S BROW

A natural rocky arch off the Redondan coast, Felipe's Brow is named after the first king of the Island. It is a must see and can be reached by sailboat.

CLIFF OF THE GULLS

The best birding location for those interested in the gull population of Redonda. Ring-billed gulls swarm here, chattering and feeding their young.

LIBERTY POINT

The highest peak of Redonda. The foot of Liberty Point is a wonderful vantage point at which to view the rest of the island. Walking tours of the island stop here.

CONSOLATION COVE

Consolation Cove is a beautiful cove of volcanic rocks and blue waters. The cove is located to the north east of the island and can be reached on-land.

SEAL ROCKS

Resembling three large seals, the Seal Rocks are located to the south of the island. Columbus made notes on these rocks when he discovered Redonda in 1493.



CLIFF OF THE GULLS

LIBERTY POINT





CONSOLATION COVE



SEAL ROCKS