

## GIBRALTAR



2 hours before we see "The Rock" we are able to get an internet signal and deal with our emails. We are close to the coast of North Africa here, and we can see the "White City" of Tangiers. Our first view of Gibraltar shows this famous "Pillar of Hercules" rising sheer and white out of the busy straits, and covered by the dark, swirling cloud called the Levanter.



The main street, (called Main Street funnily enough!) has a mixture of architectural styles; Art Deco, modern, colonial and Moorish. A number of British high street stores are here including Marks and Spencer, Tie Rack and Monsoon, alongside duty free shops selling alcohol and tobacco. A litre of Napoleon brandy costs just £2.95, but electronic goods are much more expensive than the UK.



Signs in the shops advertise a 50% discount to travellers on the Van Gogh, Royal Princess and Boudicca. Presumably they will be replaced tomorrow with signs advertising discounts for the next cruise ships to visit Gibraltar!

A local church has many yellow ribbons attached to its railings, with posters of Madeleine McCann. There are British style Bobbys here and red phone boxes and letterboxes. In fact it is like a little bit of Britain in Spain!

Near the end of Main Street we find the cable car which whisks us up the steep hillside in just 6 minutes. During the ascent we can see many houses clinging to the rock, their gardens showing steep terraces and inviting swimming pools.

We are met at the top cable car station by a number of the famous rock apes, who look with interest at anything being carried in plastic bags - they have been known to "steal" bags, glasses and cameras thinking they are food! We choose to walk the mile or so downhill to the cable car middle station, where even more apes meet us with outstretched hands!



All in all, we think we may well have walked 5 - 6 miles today, so we are very tired when we return to the ship this evening

