

Monday, May 31. 2010

## **Fuerteventura**

FuerteventuraFuerteventura is the next island from Lanzarote, and after Tenerife the second largest of the seven major canary islands. It is best known for it's awesome beaches on the east coast. With fine white sand that was blown over the water from Africa. My friend Michael and his family had arrived in Fuerteventura a day before I've arrived in Lanzarote. The closest port to his hotel is Morro Jable, at the southern end of Fuerteventura and we wanted to meet there. The distance from Puerto Calero to Morro Jable is 65nm, or about 14 hours sailing with Vespina. When I left Puerto Calero the weather was fine and the forecast good. Then the wind quickly increased to a force 7. As usual . Nice for sailing, but not so good for anchoring. Especially not on this coast it seems. I had hoped to be able to anchor over night on the way south, but the descriptions in my cruising book where little promising: ... in calm weather ... approach in good light ... daylight stops in settled weather ... unwise to stay overnight ... Well, the weather didn't settle and it stayed far from calm. So I had the choice of either turning into one of the few suitable harbors on the way (Puerto del Rosario Castillo, Puerto Castillo), or sail through the night. I was a little close to the coast for my comfort, but I hadn't encountered any other vessel on the way. And so it seemed safe to sail through the night. I furled most of the genoa away to slow down because I didn't want to arrive in Morro Jable before dawn. Morro Jable. Horrible, isn't it .During the night I passe done vessel, but again with ample warning from my AIS and radar. And at about half past nine I entered the harbor of Morro Jable. The cruising guide advised to lay alongside the fuel pontoon to check in. But when I approached that, the harbor master came out of his office and waved me away, pointing to the smaller pontoons which were mostly empty. After I've secured my boat to one of these, another guy came along and send me off again, pointing to the far eastern corner of the harbor. On the way there I used the rocky ground to scrape away some weed from my keels before tying Vespina to one of the two remaining pontoons. The third had apparently lost it's chains and had snuggled up to the breakwater. I grabbed my papers and wallet and wanted to step off from the pontoon, only to realize that there was no bridge (anymore). But there was one on the other pontoon. So I cast off again, and secured Vespina to the other pontoon. Then I walked to the harbor master's office, where I waited for two hours because the guy was around and about somewhere. But at least it's cheap - 3 EUR/day. The rest of the day consisted of reading and sleeping, as often after a sail through the night. Saturday morning the Reuther family picked me up with a rental car to show me their Fuerteventura. It was a beautiful road trip through the barren, desert-like interior of the island, the rocky western coast and the sandy eastern coast. And at the end we were all very tired and everybody but Michael fell asleep in the car. Fortunately Michael was the driver . On tour with the Reuther family A popular surfing spot on the west coast.Anybody care to anchor here?The caves were used as dry-docks for submarines in WW2. Jule fearlessly exploring the caveMysteries of the world: What is waiting beyond the next dune?Niklas!Daddy has to carry the shoes Birgit and MichaelJule and NiklasOn Sunday we all went sailing with Vespina. Niklas steered her out of the harbor and then Michael unfurled the genoa. At first there wasn't much wind, but it picked up as we approached the lighthouse at the south-eastern tip. We didn't make it quite that far however, because one by one they got seasick, and I steered Vespina back into the harbor among a lot of retching and fish-feeding. Only Jule, the youngest, remained totally unimpressed. Hehe. Now the question is whether to stay here a littler longer and enjoy the beaches, or sail west to Gran Canaria, where I would have wifi and showers. Hmmm ... the beach wins

Posted by Axel Busch in Vespina at 07:03

HÄrt sich nach Urlaub an. Viel Spa!  
Anonymous on May 31 2010, 15:23

Ahoy landlubber ... are you still on the beach?  
Anonymous on Jun 4 2010, 05:40

is ja 'n Ding, traumhafte Umgebung und dann noch einen "alten" Kumpel treffen  
....keep on having fun....  
Anonymous on Jun 4 2010, 15:33