

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Bye Hiva Oa

Hiva Oa, the second largest of the Marquesas Islands, is famous for having been the final home of Paul Gauguin (painter) and Jacques Brel (singer), and both are buried in the city of Atuona, which is an hour walk away from our anchorage. The anchorage itself is famous for being very rocky and rainy, which is something that we can only confirm. Today was the first rain-free day in five days, and for a change the boat is not swinging from left to right like a metronome. The dinghy dock, a concrete jetty, is a hazard to boats and people alike. Frequently somebody slips and falls, dinghies get scraped up on the concrete, and anchor lines are cut or anchors jam in the rocky bottom below murky, shark-infested water. We've lost two dinghy anchors in one week.

But despite all that we enjoyed our stay here very much. Rolling boats, wet bottoms, and lost anchors are just a part of the cruising life like icy winter roads are a part of northern Europe. A very positive thing about Atuona is that the people are incredibly friendly and cheerful, and the shopping is very good. We've refill our supplies of fruit and veggies and even have cheese and meat on board, something we haven't had in the last two months. Fantastic. Now if only the sun would stay out so that we can keep the fridge running. Saturday I went on a hike up with Richard from "Vulcan Spirit" and Michael from Barfly, and of the 10h it took us to go up and down 1270m high Mount Temetiu we walked 7h in pouring rain.

But it's time to move on anyway. Tomorrow we want to sail further north-west to the island of Ua Pou, where we'll meet E Capoe again. After that we'll head north to Nuku Hiva before leaving the Marquesas for the Tuamotu atolls on the way to Tahiti.

Here some impressions from Hiva Oa:

A common sight: Polynesian with outrigger canoe

Another common sight: lines at the gas station, which is always short on diesel fuel

Taking a tour across the island

Saturday soccer match

Eating pampelmousse (pomelos)

A tiki site

View of the bay from half-way up Mt. Temetiu.

Posted by Axel Busch in Gudrun V at 00:26

Hi Axel,

schön, immer wieder von Euch zu lesen. Liest sich wie ein gutes Buch!

Alles Gute,

Klaus

Anonymous on May 17 2012, 12:34