

## **Caribbean Sailing Trip on the Carassin (Goldfish)**

**January 13-26, 2018**

**Martinique, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Canouan, Mayreau, Tobago Cays, Bequia**

### **Saturday, 1/13/18**

Arrived at Martinique Airport – taxi to Le Marin Harbor (Le port de plaisance du Marin). Met Deb and Kevin and helped get groceries to the boat. Discovered later shopping at Simply Market next to Le Marina du Marin shopping/restaurant center would have been a lot easier than Carrefour/Leader Price. Bought croissant, pain au chocolate and a baguette at Le Mango Bay. Dinner: baguette/smoked salmon/blue cheese.

### **Sunday, 1/14/18**

Long sail to Rodney Bay on St. Lucia. Happy hour G+Ts while Volker went to customs office to checkout of Martinique. Dinner: grilled steak, sautéed potatoes, carrot, onion, zucchini, baguette.

### **Monday, 1/15/18**

Sailed to Anse Cochon for snorkeling (giant barrel sponge, green tube sponge, clear water, rocky, small fish – C rating). Sailed back to Marigot Bay. Walked around town and through Capella resort. Hiked up the steep road to Marigot Town. A local made us palm frond fish. Checked out Julietta's for dinner – great view. Had a local pastry (layers of strawberry jam and raisins) fresh out of the oven. Snorkeled from boat (saw golden spotted eel and lots of West Indian sea eggs in grass bed). Decided on dinner on the boat: grilled chicken, sautéed zucchini, carrot, onion pepper, jambalaya rice. Prepared pasta salad for lunches. Special Silver Patron shots and pineapple margaritas and 1 ½ bottles of red wine before/with dinner. Volker was swinging from the doorway and saying "I'm a monkey!" Then he went for drinks with a German couple from Hamburg and stayed out "late."

### **Tuesday, 1/16/18**



Sailed to Anse Chastenet for snorkeling. Roped off area on south side of bay was roped off and had lots of fish. Lots of coral on the north end. Sailed on to Soufriere. Had trouble with Rodney being aggressive about helping us take up a mooring ball and wanting to charge 40 EC. Volker went to customs to get exit stamps in our passports. Deb, Kim and Kevin took a taxi to Diamond Falls ([diamondstlucia.com](http://diamondstlucia.com)) and then to the Sulphur Springs Mud Baths (The Caribbean's only drive-in volcano). Learned that the lighter mud was calcium-rich, the black mud iron-rich. Learned that part of "Romancing the Stone" was filmed at the waterfall and "Superman II" scene of Superman flying between the Pitons and picking a flower from the botanical gardens. Local grocery store was decently stocked and lots of fruit for sale at street vendors. Back to boat for showers and happy hour, then ate at Petit Peak in town – fish with rice, cheese potatoes, vegetables. Unfortunately Rodney was waiting for us on the pier and threatened to "come back tonight to get his fee." Volker reported him to park service.

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### **Wednesday, 1/17/18**

Sailed to St. Vincent Wallilabou Bay ([wallilabou.com](http://wallilabou.com)), filming location for Pirates of the Caribbean "Port Royal." Large pod of speckled dolphins swam with the boat a while. Locals helped with mooring (anchor with stern line attached to palm tree on shore). Snorkeled stone arch at entrance to the bay. Chicken Caesar salad for lunch. Waited a long time for Volker to clear customs and watched large groups of tourists who were taxied in for a look. Kevin started cleaning the hull – with lots of comments from locals who said they could do a better job. Walked to Wallilabou Heritage Park and swam under the small waterfall – lots of volume for a nice back massage. Giant fig tree growing on a stone arch over the river. Saw cows with accompanying "Cattle Egrets." Back on the beach: buildings from film set, gallows, stockade, coffins, pictures of cast, blueprints, film schedules. Dinner: grilled black and blue burgers, pasta salad.

### **Thursday, 1/18/18**

Sailed to Canouan, Charlestown Bay. Lunch: Chicken Caesar again! Long, hot walk into town for shopping, ATM. Very local flavor, not really for tourists. Did find most of what we wanted at grocery store, great two-pack of local bread at bakery, and good local fruit at fruit market (coconut opened by cracking on the concrete). Tried for dinner once and got poured on in the dinghy so had to go back and change clothes. Rewarded by a RAINBOW, so many rainbows on this trip. Dinner at Tamarind Beach Hotel/Pirates Cove. Roti (nothing special), fish tacos, ribs, seafood risotto.

### **Friday, 1/19/18**

Sailed to Mayreau, had a look at Saline Bay, then sailed back to Salt Whistle Bay. Beautiful beach! Reserved beach BBQ dinner with our greeter (next time ask how much!). Walked beach on windward side, watched kiteboarders. Rented a paddle board for an hour. Snorkeled at Grand Col Point. Good time watching the locals living on the boat in front of ours – getting lobster out of holding pen, harvesting sea eggs. Our BBQ was at "Black Boy and Debbie's" and was the best snapper/lobster we've ever tasted! Watched the BBQ action. Sides: vegetable rice, carrot slaw, BBQ baked potato with topping, banana bread for dessert, everything so good!

### **Saturday, 1/20/18**

Half-way point. Sailed "around the corner" to the Tobago Cays. Anchored right on the edge of the turtle sanctuary off Baradel Island. Went snorkeling and saw four turtles, medium, small and two big ones right by the boat. Got to watch them feeding in the sea grass. Walked the small beach and snorkeled. Bacon and eggs for breakfast. Deb and Kim got dropped at Petit Bateau. Saw a giant white (with black and white striped tail), smaller brown (female?) and smaller white iguanas. Larger male chased the smaller one away – they can run. Walked to the other side of island and saw their large BBQ set-up. Saw a ray swimming off the back. Snorkeled off the point. Very nice fish – large queen angel, trunkfish and large schools of smaller fish. Dinner: spaghetti with sausage, pepper, onion, tomato, salad and local bread. Chocolate mousse.

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### **Sunday, 1/21/18**

Sailed to Admiralty Bay on Bequia. Dinghy to Port Elizabeth. ATM visit, bought feedbags and some fruit. Maria's Cafe showing the playoff games. Back to boat for happy hour, then back to Maria's for Eagles/Vikings game. Eagles kicked butt.

### **Monday, 1/22/18**

Back to Port Elizabeth (Kim and Deb walked the nice pathway from Jack's bar to town) for shopping. Found Doris' Fresh Food. Great place to provision and found fresh cheese bread, croissants, and chocolate croissants. Bought banana bread slices at local coffee shop/bakery. Sailed to Blue Lagoon on St. Vincent. Snorkeled, but NO GOOD, shallow grassy, saw small golden spotted eel – very up close. Kim and Deb explored the Blue Lagoon Hotel and Marina ([bluelagoonsvg.com](http://bluelagoonsvg.com)) and black sand beach (shipwreck). Had a drink at the beach bar and then back to the boat for a VERY happy hour. Dinner: a recreation of the beach BBQ on Mayreau: snapper grilled in foil (butter, garlic, Hairoun beer), baked potatoes with topping of bread crumbs, butter, parm, sautéed broccoli, carrot, pepper, onion. Bar of Vincentian Chocolate ([vincentianchocolate.com](http://vincentianchocolate.com)). G+Ts, Rum Punch, Red wine, bed at 8pm!

### **Tuesday, 1/23/18**

Long sail back to Soufriere, St. Vincent. Saw 4-5 whales, swimming on the surface side by side, spouting and then eventually saw large tail fins as they dove (pilot, humpback, sperm?). Volker checked in (no Rodney, he'd apparently been sidelined from harassing yachts). Moved to Anse des Pitons – Jalousie Plantation resort and Sugar Beach resort. Snorkeling great along both sides. North side along Petit Piton had a roped off area and mooring ball to tie off dinghy. Saw a moray eel, two spotted eels, lion fish, sea anemones, coral, clear water. Dinner: lemon chicken, couscous, salad, bread. Watched local men fish with nets from traditional wooden boat. When moving they stand four in a row, upright with hands behind their back – great balance! Bought amazing-tasting small bananas, mangos, grapefruit from local in a boat. MANY rainbows and in the morning some strange sunrise rainbows on the western horizon.

### **Wednesday, 1/24/18**

Morning snorkel, had fried chorizo, potato and onion with scrambled eggs and mango. Sail/motored to Vigie Creek in Castries, St. Vincent. No place to anchor, near the cruise ship dock, industrial and no good, so moved on to Rodney Bay and anchored to the south of the channel. LONG dinghy ride through the yacht harbor into the lagoon to check out the shopping malls/grocery stores and look for restaurant for dinner. Found nice steaks for a last grill meal on the boat and Kevin found the "Blue Olive" restaurant for dinner that night. Went back for showers and happy hour, then back for dinner. Restaurant had a very rickety dinghy dock. Great appetizers: tuna carpaccio and conch fritters, and entrees of ribs (honey cinnamon were great), not so great seafood skewer (tiny portion), Mahi and Tuna. Great cheesy potato side. OK passion fruit tart for dessert.

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### **Thursday, 1/25/18**

Sailed back to Martinique, nice wind for a solid 8 knot average. Saw a GIANT (40+?) pod of dolphins, in a long line ahead of the boat (almost looked like a surf line – water churning). They were hunting, jumping one after another and together out of the water chasing fish. Anchored in Grand Anse D’Arlet for customs but found out customs moved to Petit Anse D’Arlet, so moved there. Volker spotted some topless women, woo hoo. Pretty setting: beautiful church on the waterfront and homes terraced up the valley. Volker cleared customs for the last time, then Deb, Kevin and Kim took a hike around the headland between the two bays (bought a crème horn and éclair at the bakery first). Ended up in Grand Anse D’Arlet so strolled the pedestrian walk along the beach and then walked back to Petit Anse D’Arlet along the main road. Stopped at the bakery for a baguette and yet another chocolate croissant, then found a woman selling homemade ice cream so had to have some of that (NO English, so difficult to figure out the flavors!). Strolled the town and shops a bit, then back to the boat. Lots of beach BBQ restaurants in both bays: fish/chicken/lobster. Difficult high pier for dinghy –ocean swells. Snorkeled the rocks in the bay. Lots of fish but murky from the sand/swell. Saw scorpion fish and spotted eel on way back to the boat. Volker saw a turtle when snorkeling right off the boat. Dinner: grilled steak, leftover baked potatoes, sautéed broccoli, carrot, onion, garlic. Chocolate Mousse! Nice sunset.

### **Friday, 1/26/18**



Breakfast: scrambled eggs with bacon and baguette (cream cheese/smoked salmon). Sailed close to Diamond Rock and then back to Le Marin Harbor, heavy rain coming in and rainy off and on all afternoon/evening. Deb got free ice from Le Mango Bay. Volker called sexism! Dinner at Ti Toques (difficulty with ordering, the waiter spoke NO English). But ended up with two large, nice pizzas (ham and mushroom and seafood). Went for a drink after to Kokoarum, live Caribbean duo singing. To bed and then up early for taxi to the airport.

Many rounds of hearts were played, and Kevin was a master happy hour bartender! Volker and Kevin did all the sailing and Deb and Kim loved the Carassin!