

Sailing Trip January 2020

Saturday, January 18, 2020 St. Vincent

Arrived at St. Vincent Argyle Airport. Had an easy time through customs at the new airport. Took a taxi to Blue Lagoon Marina, and then the taxi driver took Deb and Kim to Massey's Grocery store. This was not the store we liked from last year, it turns out that is Sunrise Market down the road farther. Massey's was not as well stocked, so we did not get everything on our list. We got settled into the boat and got take-out from the bar at Blue Lagoon – jerked pork, grilled conch, and chicken kabobs (these were the best).

Sunday, January 19, 2020 Blue Lagoon to Bequia

Checked out of Blue Lagoon around 11:00 AM after fixing the jib sail and getting a sink stopper and a bucket. Sailed to Bequia and arrived at Port Elizabeth around 1:30. Took a mooring ball and went into town but since it was Sunday most shops were closed, including Doris' Grocery Store. We did find the Select Store on the way back and got chicken breasts and banana bread. We went back to the boat and when Kevin was standing on the swim platform it broke and he fell in. It bent the hinges and broke the turnbuckle that was already a rig job. Volker called Deram Yachts, who arrived an hour later and did a temporary fix. We went into town at 5:30 to Maria's bar to watch the second half of the AFC championship game (Kansas City vs. Tennessee). We had an unexpectedly great dinner of Mahi Mahi, potatoes, and steamed vegetables. We watched part of the NFC championship game (Green Bay vs. San Francisco) which was a blowout so we didn't feel the need to stay.

Monday, January 20, 2020 Bequia to Carricou

Sailed to Carricou, about six hours to Tyrell Bay. Went to the dinghy dock near the shipyard. Deb, Kevin and Kim hiked up the hill past goats, dogs, and puppies to an unfinished house up a very steep hill, with a beautiful view of the bay. We did not get to the top of the island (only about half way up). We walked back through town and saw cows and a bull in the middle of our road – we avoided him when he crossed and walked onto a soccer field where people were playing. Found a VERY nice grocery store named Alexis! Saw and smelled a nice restaurant (Big Citi), and went back to the boat.

Tuesday, January 21, 2020 Carricou to Grenada

We left Carricou at 8 AM to sail to Grenada and arrive around 1 PM at St. George, Grand Anse Bay. Deb, Kevin, and Kim dinghied into town to the Carenage (the old harbor part of town). We had to tie up with the local boats because we could not find a dinghy dock. No other dinghies were to be seen. Waves splashed up over the sidewalk when we were walking and dodging traffic to get to the tourism office. At the office we got a map and information about renting a car. We asked about restaurants for a late lunch and the girl said "closed", but then Kim asked about the best roti her eyes lit up and she gave us directions to Sandra's. We took our lives into our hands to walk along the narrow street with traffic coming at us, and asked the locals where Sandra's was. She had a little shack by the side of the road and she had two rotis left, sitting in paper bags on a plywood counter (not refrigerated, not kept warm!) We ate them at a ramshackle picnic area around the side, sharing the table with a colorful local artist/musician/rapper/comedian and had an interesting conversation while we ate our bone-in rotis, a new experience for us. Then we went to Foodland Grocery to get ice and buns. We grilled burgers on the boat and watched the cruise ships come in – 3 per day.

Wednesday, January 22, 2020 A day on Grenada

Around 8:30 we docked the dinghy at Grand Anse Beach. This was the first time ever that Volker had left the boat alone on anchor. We walked along the beach to the Radisson Hotel and called the rental car agency to meet us there. The driver took us to the police station so Kevin could pay \$25US for a Grenada driver's license. Saw a sign that during their carnival it is illegal for a man to dress as a woman, punishable by lashing. Took the driver back to the rental agency office and then headed out on our tour of Grenada. We skirted the town of St. George and headed toward the Douglas Spice Plantation. The towns we passed through were very poor, with narrow streets. In some places there were officers directing traffic to get the two-way traffic through the one lane roads. The plantation was very rustic, but there were many tour busses there. They had flatbeds of cocoa beans drying and examples of different spices on tables inside. It was disappointing as a tour, we felt sorry for the cruise ship tourists. We had a couple of harrowing detours, including following a local bus down a dirt road to get back to the "main" road, but eventually found our way to the Grenada Chocolate Factory, which was just a small outlet selling chocolate bars, but the nice young man there let us taste all the varieties of chocolate they produce. We bypassed the Belmont Plantation, which looked a lot more developed and touristy, and continued on to Grand Etang Preserve. We went to the visitor center and saw our Mona monkey! Kim and Volker had the monkey walking across their shoulders and we got some good photos. We continued on to St. Margaret's Falls (Seven Sister Falls) and took an awesome hike into the rainforest along a river to the double water falls. We swam in the upper pool. It was a very beautiful spot and as we were there later in the day we had it all to ourselves. We hiked back and stopped to view Lake Etang, which just looked like a large pond. Kim took pictures of the feral cats there. We drove back to St. George and found a modern Foodland Grocery store and got vegetables, chicken, deli, bread, beer, wine, and water. We met our driver at the Spice Market near the cemetery at Grand Anse Beach to return the car. We dinghied back to the boat, showered, and went to the Granada yacht club for dinner, which was only a so-so meal (ribs were good).

Thursday, January 23, 2020 St. George to Grand Mal Bay

Deb and Kim were dinghied into town by Kevin to see the other side of St. George. We went through the Sendall Tunnel, a 350-foot long excavation built in 1894 for horse carriages, but still used today by cars and pedestrians. It is a narrow one-way road with an angled ceiling, so Kim and I had to press up against the walls and trust that we wouldn't get hit by a car in the one lane tunnel. We ended up in the Esplanade, an East Indies marketplace. We went into the cruise terminal and shopped, but only saw lots of expensive jewelry stores, duty free shops, and touristy souvenir shops. Then we walked to the fish market and went into several local stores. We went to the local market square where there were many vendors with mostly spices for sale. We bought some tamarind balls, but thought they were a bit too sweet. We walked back through the tunnel and found a local handcraft jewelry store selling Grenadite, a local stone. Deb bought a pair of silver "Essence of Life" earrings. We continued on to BB's Crabback restaurant on the waterfront for cold drinks and a coleslaw snack. We used their wifi and wrote on their walls with the urging of the waiter. We were allegedly late to meet Kevin for our dinghy ride back to the boat. There was some miscommunication about pickup time and the boys were worried about us.

We then moved the boat over to Grand Mal Bay so we could snorkel at Dragon Bay. We saw schools of fish, a few big fish, and a good variety. Kim saw her first turtle, and we saw a chain moray eel. There was an Underwater Sculpture Park with statues of a mermaid, a man at a desk, a bicycler, a nutmeg, a Christ figure, and a kayaker. It was a good spot. We saw several cruise excursions come to this spot, on boats, dinghies and jet skis. For dinner we made our famous lemon chicken with fried baked potatoes, green beans, and Dr. Oetker chocolate mousse for dessert. We spent the evening with lots of drinks and reminiscing about our 10 years of sailing in the Caribbean.

Friday, January 24, 2020 Grenada to Tyrell Bay, Carricou

We sailed back to Carricou and on arrival, walked around town to scope out a restaurant for dinner that evening and got a few more things at Alexis. It started to rain hard so we were forced inside and had naps. Because of the rain, we stayed on the boat for a dinner of spaghetti with meat sauce, homemade coleslaw (a hit, need to keep on the menu), and bread. It rained all night and into the morning. Side note: at the beginning of the trip we bought small "green bananas" and were trying to figure out how to cook them (boiling seemed to be what the locals do and serve as a potato-like starch). We never got brave enough to try that, so ours either got ripe enough to eat or rotten enough to throw away.

Saturday, January 25, 2020 Carricou to Union Island

When the rain cleared and we were ready to sail, we docked and bunkered some fresh water since our main tank was running low, and got gas for the dinghy (Volker thought we would run out, but we brought the boat back with a full second tank of water). We sailed to Clifton Bay on Union Island and moored at a ball near Happy Island. We saw a few kite surfers, but not as many as last year since there was not as much wind. We snorkeled on the shallow reef between Happy and Green Islands. It was better than we expected. We went into Clifton and had dinner at the Water Front restaurant where they had a large saltwater aquarium with large lobsters that were very entertaining to watch. We had intended to go the Happy Island, but since there was not enough wind for the windsurfing show and there did not appear to be much going on over there, we had our own happy hour on the boat. The rest of Clifton was not looking very nice after dark! It was a nice cool calm and quiet night for sleeping. We were glad to be back to one of our "happy place" islands.

Sunday, January 26, 2020 Union Island

We had a quick breakfast of cereal and fruit for breakfast, and then sailed around the point to Chatham Bay. We anchored and Deb, Kim, and Kevin went snorkeling along the reef and around the point. Saw lots of little fish, coral, steep walls, pipefish, and big angelfish. While Deb was snorkeling, she saw a movement out of the corner of her eye and thought it was Kim or Kevin. She turned her head and looked right into the eyes of a dog that was swimming far from shore. He followed us all the way back to the boat and seemed to be exhausted so Kevin hoisted him up onto the swim deck, taking a scratch to the mouth and a slash on the arm in the process. We called one of the native boaters over and asked if he knew if anyone was missing a dog. He said it belongs to the owner of the restaurant and it likes to follow people. So, he took it into his boat and took him back to shore. We saw the dog many more times at shore, following random people up and down the beach. We bought a small fresh tuna fish from a local boat and he cut it into steaks for us. We also requested that we keep the head, since it had quite a bit of meat on it. We had BLTs for lunch and everyone had a nap. Volker was beginning to feel ill with a headache, fever, and chills. Kim and Deb snorkeled from the boat to the beach to check out the

restaurants and produce. We saw a turtle and lots of big starfish near the boat. We seared our tuna in a fry pan for dinner. Volker was in bed and not able to join us.

Monday, January 27, 2020 Chatham Bay to Mayreau

Sailed to Mayreau, one of our favorite places. Deb, Kevin and Kim snorkeled off the boat and were disappointed to see a bunch of trash in the water. This was not a good bay for snorkeling, but has a beautiful beach resort and palm trees. Deb and Kim walked on the beach and checked out the local produce stand. Later all four of us paddled the dinghy to the beach and tied it to a tree. We bought some fruit, then watched one kite surfer (not as many as last year). Kim and Deb stayed to swim and sun at the nice sandy beach. The boys later paddled back to the beach to pick us up. We passed on the native beach barbecue this year and cooked pork tenderloin and more of our fresh tuna on the grill. We added potatoes to the hot coals for future use.

Tuesday, January 28, 2020 Mayreau to Mustique

We arrived at Mustique and went to the liquor store and the grocery store. They did not have chicken breasts or limes and the prices were high, so we do not plan to provision here in the future. We snorkeled on the point and saw a huge school of blue tangs, large parrot fish, turtles, an electric ray, a guitarfish, a flying gurnard with long pectoral fins. We also saw a black and white striped fish with a large feathery fin on top that we later found out is a spotted drum or spotted ribbonfish. We went to Basil's Bar for a yummy dinner of burgers and fish sandwiches. We got to see the blues musicians arrive and set up on the stage. We recognized some familiar faces from last year. We decided not to stay for the Blues Festival concert because it started at 9 PM and cover charge was \$25. As it turns out, we could hear the music quite well from the boat.

Wednesday, January 29, 2020 Mustique

Kevin, Deb, and Kim took a 3-hour hike from town to the Cotton House Hotel/Endeavor Bay, around the north side of Mustique and back. We saw the library, school, airstrip, hotel and lots of large estates, then came to the beach at L'Ansecoy Bay. We hiked up the road to a private estate and cut through to the hiking path that follows around the northern points of the island. We split up at Rutland Bay and Deb took the road back while Kim and Kevin continued along the path around the island. We met back at the library and walked back to town to Sweetie Pies Bakery for chocolate croissants. We got a couple tomatoes and a little pineapple from the local produce vendor. At 3 PM we gathered our trash and beer bottles to recycle. At \$0.30EC each we got enough credit at the grocery store to buy one Coke. We cleaned out the refrigerator and made a frittata for dinner. Volker thought we were making something exotic, but it's really what the Germans call a "Farmer's Breakfast." We listened to the Blues Festival from the boat. Volker was still feeling ill and was introduced to the miracles of immodium.

Thursday, January 30, 2020 Mustique to Friendship Bay, Bequia

Kim and Kevin had a last snorkel on Mustique and then we had a short motorsail off to Bequia to a new harbor, Friendship Bay. There were not many boats there. We wanted to snorkel, but it was logistically difficult, and the one group we saw coming back from snorkeling gave us the "so-so" sign, so we decided not to go. We took a dinghy ride to the dock at the end of the beach and then walked about a mile along the beach to the Bequia Beach Hotel to make reservations at the Bagatelle Restaurant. Went back to the boat to shower and then repeated the process to go in for dinner. The restaurant was very nice

and we had a table on the terrace with a beautiful view of the bay. We started the meal with an amuse bouche of shredded beef with mango salsa that was really delicious. Kim and Kevin had tenderloin steak for dinner and Deb had Mahi Mahi. Volker had a bowl of rice and bread, poor guy. The bay was very rolling and the two other boats that were there had left for the night so it was strange. The bay was rolling all night and made it rough to sleep. Volker says we will not be going back there and we agree!

Friday, January 31, 2020 Bequia to St. Vincent

Set sail from Friendship Bay to Blue Lagoon early (6:30) because the boat needed to be back at Blue Lagoon by 10 AM. We arrived and Kim, Deb, and Kevin had a nice breakfast at the Loft restaurant overlooking the marina while Volker checked in the boat. He was able to get a \$500 refund for the problems we had with the boat. We called a taxi that took us to our hotel in Kingstown. We were getting a little nervous as the taxi took us through some very questionable neighborhoods and through the downtown area. Then we drove up into the hills and arrived at the Grenadine House. We were greeted with rum punches on the terrace while our rooms were prepared, since we had arrived early. We checked into our rooms and then headed to the swimming pool for a refreshing dip and relaxing by the pool. We went up to the roof terrace to enjoy the sunset and views of the harbor. We had dinner that night in the hotel restaurant. Deb, Kevin, and Volker had pizza and Kim had a chicken roti. We finished up our last bottle of wine. The next morning Kim and Deb had an 8:30 appointment for aromatherapy massages at the spa, a real bargain at \$20 US for ½ hour. Very relaxing! Then we went to the pool for a final dip. We ate the leftover pizza for lunch and our cab arrived to take us to the airport at 1 PM. We had a final round of hearts at the airport, where Deb finally got her win, and then it was off on our flight to Miami.