

Tondelayo's Voyage

The Society Islands – Moorea: A week on Tahiti's beautiful sister island

June 17 – July 10, 2003



Jun 17

Ran round doing a bunch of errands in the morning. Got back to the boat in time to fuel up, and head over to Moorea. A few hours of sailing, followed by a couple hours of motoring. Oh, picked a backpacker, Laura, for the ride over. She is doing some research on the impact of Tourism/Ecotourism on the local people. Had a nice mellow sail and motor, to arrive right at sunset.

Jun 18 Laura went in search of a campsite on the west side of Moorea, while Michael and I headed over to the east side by coastal road. Hitching did not get us a ride, so we walked several kilometers around to the ferry dock, and then headed toward the interior of the island on a footpath. Eventually, we came back around to the top of Cooks Bay and walked back along to road again to the boat. Total hike 18km.

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Left to Right: Some resort, Andrew at the saddle into the center of Moorea, Tondelayo in Cook's Bay, An Opuhi - Alpina

Jun 19 A day of rest after the death march yesterday. Moved the boat further up Cook's Bay. Went to the store for some Butane and got the filling system worked out with all my own gear. Cool. Went over to Meredith for a bit, had a chat and a beer before lunch – which was: Chicken Chow Mien Sandwiches. Yummy.

Jun 20 Another Bitchin' day! Rented bikes and ran around the island. Michael found a local Tattoo artist, and made an appointment for later in the day. Then we headed west and dropped by the Moorea Fruit Juice factory, or some such thing. Anyway, they are also a distillery and, well, they have a tasting room. After fortifying ourselves with a few tasters, Michael headed to the Tattoo Artist, and I went on to explore the island further. Ended up biking the valley, one bay over – more dramatic scenery, and green! green! green! Damn good climb up to Belvedere Lookout was a great workout. Stopped off at a few archaeological sites on the way up. The ancient Marae date back well before western arrival. Marae is kind of a generic term for the typical Polynesian courtyard, found all over the place. Amazing ride down, I was just flying down the hill.









Left to Right: , A "Marae" (excavated), and Mike's tattoo in Progress, a Church, and Atariaa Falls.

Jun 21

We were planning to leave today, but the wind shifted to the north last night. Went in search of some weather info. Got a weatherfax from Meredith which showed a big low moving west to the south of us, along with a cold front that was due to cross over us. That hit that night, and dumped about 5 inches of rain in about 5 hours. Then all settled down a bit.

Jun 22 Wind still from the north, as expected. I rented another bike for the day and circled the island. Stopped off for a little hike to a waterfall on the way as well. Total trip was about 65km. Feeling pretty tired after that one, so took the rest of the day off.

Jun 23 Off to the internet in the morning to upload all the pics for this page while we are in a place that is relatively fast. Noticed that the wind had backed to the NE, so dropped by the store for a few things and then packed up the boat for travel. Headed off for Huahine about 3pm.

Great sailing on a close reach, with wind from the NNE at about 10 knots, until midnight. Then the wind veered a bit more on the nose, but we were still able to point close enough to the wind to make Huahine without tacking. At about 4am, we hit a small squall line and had a bit of a shower and some winds to 25 knots, close hauled, but at least the seas were only a few feet high. By sunrise we were heading around the top side of the island, and the wind died, so we motored the last few miles. Was tired of anchoring in really deep water, so took the other option, and anchored in 9 feet on a sand shelf next to the reef.

Jun 24 In Huahine, taking the rest to the day off after a pretty easy overnight sail. Michael got to experience, night watch, good sailing, and some pretty strong wind. Not bad for his first day of real sailing. Cool.

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