

Tondelayo's Voyage

The Leeward Islands - Huahine, Raiatea, Tahaa, and Bora Bora

June 23 - July 10, 2003

Jun 23 An overnight trip to Huahine. The usual running around in the morning. Checked, and the wind was about as favorable as it has been for a while, so we headed out at 3 o'clock that afternoon. We were the only ones that left. Several other boats were leaving the next day. We had light wind ahead of the beam until midnight, then it veered forward and we sailed close hauled the rest of the way. A squall that showed up gave us good speed until sunrise, then we had to motor around the top of the island and into the anchorage off Fare.

Jun 25 Went and checked out the town. Very small and not too much to do. Found the bike rental place and reserved some for the next day. Did some snorkeling right off the boat. Excellent coral formations and quite a few species of fish, esp. butterfly fish.

 [eels_t.jpg \(30142 bytes\)](#)

Jun 26 Bike ride day. Took a ride around both islands, about 50km in all. Lots of hills around, so it was an excellent workout. On the trip we visited tons of Maraes on the north side of the island. Then stopped to see the feeding of the 'sacred eels.' These fresh water eels are about the size of large morays, and the locals feed them fish scraps. The small pool comes alive with all kinds of thrashing and biting. Pretty cool.

Jun 27 More snorkeling. Laying low on the boat. Went over to Meredith for tea, and ended up staying for a while and playing Rummykub, or something like that. A sort of version of rummy, where you can change things after you lay them down so that you can lay different stuff down. Anyway, great fun.

Jun 28 Getting ready to head over Raiatea. Food and beer of course.

Jun 29 Early, headed over to town to check out the parade for the start of the Hieva Festival. I think most of the town was in the parade at some point. Pretty cool. About 10am, Sailed over to Raiatea. About 25 miles, and nice wind the entire way. It rained, hard, right as we were entering the pass, but it was well marked, so no problem.

Jun 30 Basically, it rained for days, for all I know, it may still be raining on the south end of Raiatea. Stayed on the boat all day. Read a book called Illywhacker. Thanks, Allison.

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Jul 1 We took the dingy up a river at the mouth of the bay, and checked out the interior of the island. Prtty neat, lots of jungle, ect. On the way back, we checked out a botanical garden, which was pretty cool. Really well manicured, with all the these cool tropical plants and flowers.

Jul 2 Had a plan to meet up with Devon on the beach, and saw him standing on shore in the morning. Went over and picked him up and then motored up to the town of Utaroa, where we tied up to the small municipal dock and filled up with water, bought a few tihngs and had a nice relaxing time attached to land for a night.

Jul 3 Headed over to Bora Bora. Wind was very light. Sailed a little with the genniker, but then motor sailed most of the way. Arrived in beautiful Bora Bora for the sunset, and a nice view of the peaks.

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- Jul 4 Put up the big US Flag for the fourth. Then went over and picked up a mooring ball at Bloody Mary's, which is pretty cool. Went looking for an old US naval gun emplacement, but could not find the road, but walked up to another lookout instead. Came back and dropped by Bloody Mary's for a beer and checked out the scene, very cool. After a nap and dinner, went over to meet Colin off Manu Tara and Gary from Chelsea. The place was pretty packed.
- Jul 5 Went to anchor next to Viatape, the main town on the island. The anchoring was 90 feet deep, so we put out a ton of chain and then we decided to hike to Mt Pehia, the 2nd highest peak on Bora Bora. Took a couple hours to locate the path since no one wanted to tell us where it was. It seems that they would prefer if we hired a guide to take us up. Eventually, we did find it and started the trek up the 2159ft peak. Sections were steep and muddy in places with ropes to help climb up the rocks. The final leg of the ascent featured a very narrow path with lots of exposure and some technical climbing, definitely not for the timid. We did make it without any mishaps. So, after the 5 hour hike, we were totally spent and went back to the boat for dinner and a beer. We were so tired that we were unable to go to shore for what sounded like quite a dance competition at the amphitheater.

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- Jul 6 Got my bond back and checked out of the country for Rarotonga. Shopped. That night, went over to shore to see some Polynesian Dancing. Pretty neat. About 50 dancers in each troupe, along with a full choral section and half a dozen drums.
- Jul 7 Took a trip around to the other side of the island. A bit of a maramu was blowing, so it was blowing so hard the boat would barely move at times. Bon Idee invited us over for drinks along with some other folks. Had a good time and got pretty loaded.
- Jul 8 Hanging around, went on a hike over to the windward side of the island to look at the sea. Devon snorkeled the coral Graveyard on the way back. All the coral on that side of Bora Bora was killed by unnaturally warm temperatures of and fresh water (from rain off the island) attributed to El Nino.
- Jul 9 - Sailed out for Rarotonga, Cook Islands.
- Jul 14
- Next [Rarotonga - A little Island in the middle of nowhere.](#)