

Divided Sky - Ionian Island, Greece

With so many fabulous places to visit in the Med, and so little time (don't laugh, it's true), we had to eliminate plans for Aegean Greece and Turkey and just pick two Ionian islands to visit on route to Croatia. Our choices were Paxos, for its tranquil beauty, and Corfu, for its history and culture. After our 300 mile passage from Vulcano, and with the smell of sulphur still lingering, we had sight of Corfu long before the smaller, further east island of Paxos was on the horizon. Finding the entrance to Lakka bay was easy. We had only to follow the charter yachts.



The cruising guide was right. What impressed us first about Lakka was the water colour. With a whole bay of 10'-18' of clear water over sand, Lakka struck a sparkling turquoise impact after the Mediterranean blue of the deep water outside.

We enjoyed everything here: great restaurants serving fresh calamari and swordfish, spinach pastries at the bakery; fresh produce; a bus ride to the capital, Gaios; and even a night of Greek dancing.



Col had time to work on various chores, and decided to make sure that the waste tank openers were working, in anticipation of a good pump out in Corfu. As happens, one tank could not be opened by any ordinary means. With perseverance, and using many of the tools on board, Col manufactured an opening implement which eventually freed the cap. We did not enjoy the night of terror at Lakka when the wind shifted NNW at over 30 knots - straight into the bay. Well set in the sand, our anchor was right, but we spent a watchful night as others swung differently or dragged and reset anchors. One yacht arrived at dusk with a torn sail which by morning calm was a destroyed sail, as they were unable to furl or douse it. With diesel nearly gone, the southeast wind provided a grateful sail north to Corfu.



Anchoring was easy just below the Old Fort (circa 1300) within easy walk to the Old Town, port authorities, and alfresco dining along the esplanade. Whilst we were visiting the Old Fort with its moat, we asked a woman to take our photo - - she just happened to be Sydneysider on tour! After a few days of tourist activities we headed for the marina to handle boat chores and to hire a car to tour the interior of the island. Throughout modern history, Corfu has provided a strategic maritime location for many European and Middle Eastern nations, from Phoenicians to Germans during WWII. Influences from so many cultures made it a very interesting destination.



Divided Sky is onward to Croatia now. Roger and Trish Rees will be waiting in Split, and we certainly don't want to disappoint them.