

News!

2 October 2016, Grenada after hurricane Matthew missed us:

Now we're getting the rain, we managed to fill the tank (500L) when Matthew passed us, now we are filling the buckets and jerry cans...

Luckily for us it was still a tropical storm when it came by, supposed to be max 39 kts, and in fact we had max 40 kts in the gusts.

Now it's a full blown and very nasty hurricane headed for Haiti, Jamaica and Cuba as you have probably heard. They have already evacuated all the small islands and the most exposed parts of the main islands but with 150 knots at it's centre, that's devastation for sure. They're also expecting flash floods. It's a nightmare scenario. Tomorrow it reaches Haiti and Jamaica, unless it suddenly changes direction.

We are thinking of installing a water-maker, meaning desalinator as (fortunately) it doesn't rain like this all the time and it's getting harder and harder to find water. (Only problem being it costs a fortune). Apparently it will be even more difficult the further west we go in the Caribbean, and in the Pacific virtually impossible! That's still a way off as we're now thinking of doing a complete tour of the Caribbean clockwise, passing by Cuba and heading up the Florida to New York inland waterway. Actually I think we have to head up to New York by sea (via the Bahamas) and come back down by the inland waterway. People we've met say it's wonderful.

We shall see, first we have to get to the ABC's and Colombia!

First comes Bonaire- (for us it's the BCA's) then Curaçao and Aruba. We've given up hope for Las Rocas as Venezuela is in such turmoil.

It took us about a week to recover from our hike last week. Luckily I hadn't read the reports on this hike properly otherwise we most probably wouldn't have attempted it.

It was the highest peak on the island, Mount Qua Qua, a whopping 760 metres,(!) but we started at 500 metres high- no problem you may well think, as I did.....

Then it's a 500 metre descent to the concord waterfalls. All over in 6.3 km, nothing much, we've done much more than that before.

Well, the path up to the top was okay, took us an hour and a half, it's not far but sometimes steep and slippery and sometimes very narrow with sharp drops on both sides. We had a great picnic lunch with a view of the crater lake.







By 1pm we were back on the descent through the tropical forest and here's where it got unbelievably difficult. Often the 'path' was non-existent or covered by fallen trees, it was zigzagging through steep muddy streams and sometimes in them...sometimes way up the ravine on one side to soon slither down again and back up the other side. The stones are smooth with wet moss and the mud is reddish and abundant! Really slow going if you don't want to do yourself any damage! At one point we had to scale a steep rock face, if we hadn't been more than halfway down by then I'm not sure I'd have carried on! It took us 4 and a half hours to get down to the falls, 5.30 pm. Then another 3 km to the road to get a bus.

(Now I know why the guards at the park entrance wanted us to register our hike and report our arrival to them!) If it hadn't been for the iPad and the wikiloc hiking app with our route downloaded we'd probably still be there.

All's well that ends well as they say!

