



Vanuatu Holiday

What a great 2 weeks has been had by the groups of divers and families who went to Hideaway Island and to Espirito Santo.

Hideaway Island

Accommodation

We had a range of accommodation from the Bungalows for the families, to the Dormitory accommodation for the singles. The Bungalows were excellent while the dormitories were somewhat basic, they provided the necessities and were comfortable.

Food

I think everyone agreed that the food at Hideaway Island was excellent. All meals were well prepared, tasty and there was plenty of food.

In particular the weekly Melanesian Feast went down really well. It included as much food as you could possibly eat, some native songs and dances, and of course, audience participation. A beer or two and the odd shell of kava helped get the mood going.

Diving

Hideaway Island was the family trip. It was a great success. Most of the time, we had flat seas, no current and water at 29C to 30C. Visibility was terrible too, at a low 25 metres or so. As always, the visibility last week was better (well the week before that), the week prior to our arrival, Efate had 1 metre of rain. A pity we could not send some of it home.

The Scuba Rangers had their first dives in the ocean in the confined water at the front of Hideaway Island. Two of the older ones (12 and older) put their learned skills to good use on a try dive on a reef in open water.

A number of people refreshed their skills and one person completed their Open Water Diving Course there. What a way to do it!

We also saw something in Vanuatu that was a little strange to us; we had some rain just about every day. Anyway, we had great diving, a fantastic group of divers and their families, everyone worked in together so the whole holiday ran really well and everyone really enjoyed themselves.

Santo

Accommodation

The Coral Quays (ex the Bouganville) was comfortable but situated a little way out of town. The gardens are spectacular. The service was good but the owners although around, were distant and not involved.

Food

Food was of very high quality but of limited variety. The next time we go to Santo, we will be staying closer to the village. There are fantastic local eating houses in the town where you can get a full meal for about \$4:00. It is well cooked, tasty and plenty of it.

Diving



Santo was much more of a diver's holiday. Everyone was a diver and everyone wanted to spend as much time in the water as possible. Visibility varied. There was a lot more rain in Santo. It was fine the day we got there and the day we left. Apart from that it rained every day. When the water is warm, the rain is warm, the weather is warm, who cares!!! The diving was still just as good.

Apart from being wet, the diving was good and, if you got below about 45 metres, the visibility was pretty good too. Down deep, good viz of about 25 to 30 metres, above 40 metres, viz of about 8 to 10 metres. Hey we were diving a wreck, who needs any more, you are in the wreck anyway and the walls are not that far away.

We had to beat up the photographers once or twice, they kept getting left behind and we had to keep going back for them. But there is so much to take photos of, you can hardly blame them.

I think a number of divers were very happy with the levels and the depths they successfully dealt with and the dives they completed and the sights they saw and the dive courses they completed

Congratulations to Steve Griffin and to Alf Eriksson who completed their Technical diver's course over there, Peter Ozolins who finally completed his deep diver and got to go through the engine room of the President Coolidge, Maggie and Linda who completed their Deep and Wreck courses. Linda got to the swimming pool and Maggie completed all the courses she needs to lead Deep and Wreck dives.

Once again, I would like to thank all the group for making the leadership easy and for everyone working together to make it such a good trip.