# Update from Divided Sky - Galapagos to the Marquesas, French Polynesia

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Hi from the beautiful Iles Marquesas.  After 24 days at sea, and another 3,000nm under the keel, we were thrilled to be at anchor at Atuona, Hiva Oa, Iles Marquesas, French Polynesia. It was a lovely resting place, and in fact was the final resting place of Impressionist artist, Paul Gauguin.

The terrain was rugged and peaked but also quite verdant. Photos will never capture the exquisite natural beauty of the Marquesas Islands.  It felt like being at anchor in the Alps with tropical coconut palms shading the white sand beaches.

This passage was as good as it gets. We were now halfway between Panama and Australia, so were feeling very good about the remainder of the trip.

However, we decided that making three ocean passages (and nearly 15,000nm) in 12 months was crazy.  At least Tahiti was “only” 780 nautical miles further downwind. Adventuring there with us will be Bob and Gill Hogarth, from Adelaide.

We had only minor boat repairs; normal mildew, rust, gooseneck barnacle and hull clean-up ( the starboard hulls of the boats here were especially grimy after so many miles on a port tack); water and diesel fill-up; and fresh food provisioning before we went “out-island” to some of the lesser visited anchorages here in the Marquesas.  One of our minor repairs was a broken fitting for a lower shroud which Colin was working on when a single-handed sailor stopped to thank us for helping him with anchor problems.  He looked at the fitting and said that he thought he had exactly the right replacement part - - lucky Divided Sky!

The Marquesas have been absolutely terrific so far, with several late running Happy Hours and a couple of fresh fish Beach BBQs at a picture-perfect anchorage in Tahuata. One lovely day of rain provided a day for reading and relaxing, plus water tanks overflowing with beautiful pure rain water via our canvas rain-catcher (now referred to as our water-maker).  In Hiva Oa we ventured off on a 4 wheel drive tour with other yachties and had a good look at the scenery as well as the 2000+ year old stone carved Tiki statues.

We are sending this from Nuku Hiva where we are able to get Wifi on our laptop whilst at anchor.  This is a tremendous help after struggling with older equipment and French keyboards at the island Internet Cafes and Post Offices.  The French swap letters “Q” and “A” on the keyboard, which is very frustrating for a touch typist!

Whilst ashore in Nuku Hiva a cruise ship arrived with about 1000 passengers.  As they alighted from their lifeboats on the quay, the locals danced in traditional costumes to the beat of drums.  We were lucky to be able to enjoy the performance as well.  We are looking forward to seeing the national singing and dancing competition, called the Heiva Festival, in Tahiti next month.

