

12-29-15

The wind was very much improved and we left around 9 for the 25 mile sail to Agua Verde. We had stayed here before but it was summer and the winds were from the south that time. Now with the northerly winds we would seek shelter in a wonderful cove on the north side of the bay.



The trip down was an easy run with 10 knots from the northeast, not a common wind at this time of the year. It was looking like a beautiful uneventful sail. We sailed past some interesting arched guano rocks to seaward as we costed down the shore. They almost looked like they had snow on them. For a short time we sailed along with *Second Safari* but they tightened up their sails and left us in their wake. In fact it was smooth enough that I went up front to apply some sail tape to the bottom of the jib where it was starting to chafe while Alice steered. I was myopically focused on holding on to the bow pulpit and applying tape when Alice shouted "whale". I scanned the horizon but saw

nothing until I heard a loud exhalation directly in front of the boat perhaps 100 feet away. Before I could get up and get back to the cockpit the whale turned and began swimming directly toward us. Alice immediately changed course to port, the whale adjusted for the new intercept as he leisurely swam toward us and made a shallow dive (sounded).



Lots of mixed feelings. Excitement to see a whale so close, pride in the calm attitude of Alice as she again vectored away from the whale and a strong dash of “holy ship” we are about to get Moby Dicked.



He was shallow enough that I could see that he was turning and would swim parallel to the boat perhaps 10 feet way and maybe 6 feet under the water. Close call, very cool. I don't think we were in any danger, the whale was just curious; we hoped. I was told by a whale watcher that it could have been resting on the surface after a dive and was a bit territorial until it determined that the boat was no threat, or, it was a young male in love. Let's not go there. We arrived a half hour after *Second Safari* and anchored in 8 feet of water pretty much out of the swell. That evening we went over and shared a few drinks and talked about the big whale encounter.

12-30 Agua Verde

We went ashore and just walked along the short gravel beach on both sides and I took a short hike up to the promontory. Later we went to the beach with Don and Lindsey where we could hike into the village, really a loose collection of scattered homes. They were in search of the elusive goat cheese farm, and Alice was hoping to find some flour tortillas at a tiny tienda. Unfortunately they had no tortillas. We had lunch at a house that had a sign for meals and was entertained by a peacock that was strutting around. Then a hike through the bush following goat trails to find the goat farm. Seems



all goats don't lead to the farm. Eventually we came out by a small house and a larger covered area that backed up to a huge erratic rock sitting in the middle of an old arroyo. Here many generations of an extended family was gathered around some tables with kids running everywhere. We asked about the goat cheese farm but were told it was closed. They did say that they made their own cheese and would we like some. While one of the men went to get the cheese we watched several of the ladies making tortillas. They offered us some and Alice mentioned they had none at the tienda. The ladies insisted on selling some. We asked for 6 or 8 and they made up fresh

about 15 and gave them to us. When we asked how much it came to the equivalent of 50 cents. Two cheap! Much to the amusement of the ladies, after some lively reverse negotiations we settled on twice the price. The cheese buying experience with Lindsey was the same, a few bucks for 4 pounds of cheese. She worked hard at bargaining up the price. An early dinner and card game wrapped up the day

