Cruise Log Croatia, Aug 27- Sept 2, 2005

Crew: Wilhelm and Jane

Boat: "Nemo", Azimut 36 fly-bridge motor cruiser, 8t, 2x 320hp Diesels on shafts.
Chartered from Offshore Boote (www.offshore-boote.at).
Charter base: Marina Kremik near Primosten.

Total logged: 201nm. Diesel used 974ltr. (4.8 lt/nm)
Kremik – Vis 34nm, around Vis 18.5 nm, Vis - Lastovo (East side) 40nm, +4nm Lastovo – Korcula/Lumbarda 24nm. Lumbarda – Hvar (Palmiziana), 25 + 18 nm, Hvar (Palmiziana) – Kremik 38 nm

Sat Aug 27 ***Arrival***

Having landed from London at Split airport, we arrive after a taxi ride of 40 minutes at Kremik Marina, at 22:00. The marina, situated in a cove surrounded by green hills without any buildings in sight, seems to grow and have more boats year by year. We have late dinner at the pleasant Marina restaurant.
The plan for this turn is to see the "outer" islands of Vis and Lastovo, and places on Korcula we haven't been before.

Sun Aug 28 ***Towards the Island of Churches and Wine***

After checking the boat (as usual with Offshore-Boote, no problems) and registration with the port authority, we do our food shopping at the Marina market, which is open 7:30 – 20:00.
Have lunch in the restaurant and leave berth at about 14:00, heading straight for Vis harbour, around 30nm. Sunny and warm, light SE winds and some small (but steep) waves.
We berth at Vis town harbour about 16:00, taking a mooring in the central part of the quay in front of a café. The numerous town quay moorings fill up until about 19:00.
Have a nice al fresco fish dinner at kanoba Kantun, which is the last restaurant walking along the town quay towards Kut bay, near the small shingle beach just before the road leaves the water front. Much enjoyed the local white Vugava, and the Mediterranean ambiente with its church bells, where life seems to take place along the harbour promenade; no cars or modern buildings spoil the traditional feeling.

During a stroll to Kut later we note that moorings there are completely full, including some larger yachts. To get a space there you need to arrive early. Several restaurants are available there, as well, including Villa Kaliopa with its palm court yard (which we feel is a bit extravagant).

Back at our boat we find a band of 3 producing nostalgic brass music in the café across the road. Provides a backdrop for a nightcap, until midnight.



Vis town - view from town quay to Prirovo peninsula.



On the mooring at Vis town quay - view towards Kut cove.

Mon Aug 29 ***Too early to leave this island yet***

On Vis harbour quay it gets very sunny and warm, no noticeable wind.
Spotted some jelly fish in the bay.
After I temporarily fix the rudder indicator that had stopped working, we leave the mooring about 11:00 and go round the West capes of Vis, past the anchorages at Budikoca and Ravnik islets, and anchor for lunch a swim in Uvala Ruda, East arm at 10m on (light) sand ground. It's like having the boat floating in a swimming pool, bright blue bottom and clear water.


On anchor in Uvala Ruda, on the South coast of Vis

Slight E winds in the morning are dying down in the afternoon, we enjoy it so much that we decide to stay at anchor for a bit longer into the afternoon.
Arrived into Komiza harbour at 18:00. All spaces at the pier/quay are taken (!), so we anchor out to the West of the end of the pier, towards the Diving Club; together with a number of other yachts. We expect a quiet night so we are not concerned about staying at anchor over night.
We launch the dinghy and go to the town quay, have dinner at a restaurant Falkusa on the harbour promenade close to the picturesque castle and pier. Very nice setting, good but average food. From afar we enjoy the display of anchor lights as night falls.
Back to the boat I use the opportunity to have a late night swim off the boat.

Tue Aug 30 ***Crossing the "Wide Lonely Sea"***

In the morning we take the dinghy to Komiza's fishermen's quay, to view this charming old town with its Venetian stone houses by day. The small castle/clock tower is home of a fishing museum.



The picturesque little castle at the harbour of Komiza, West coast of Vis.



Traditional boat building in Komiza

We then walk 20min up to the church in-land (just follow the road), set between vineyards and olive trees, form where there are good views.



View of Komiza from Sv Nikola church

We lift the anchor at 11:30, and head for Lastovo. Bright hot day with little wind, but slightly hazy: Visibility is around 10 nm, which means that on the direct course from Vis to Lastovo/South of Korcula you cannot see Hvar, and just lose sight of Vis when you spot the faint shapes of Susak, later Korcula appears; Lastovo takes some more time to become visible. This feels like being on the open seas, with no boats in sight.

Our boat performs reassuringly well. We find we prefer cruising calmly, at around 20kn, rather than pushing harder. There is no wind but still some swell from SE.

Arrive at Mali Lago cove on Lastovo 13:30. We find the inner west part of Mali Lago (most convenient anchoring ground) built up too much to enjoy lunch here, and move to one of the outer coves, Borova, where we anchor to the west side close to the shore at 10m depth. Beautiful clear bay surrounded by woodland, no buildings at all. We stay for lunch and a swim. Very hot day, a bit dizzy but clears in the afternoon.



Uvala Borova – part of Mali Lago on Lastovo.

Leave at 16:00 for nearby Zaklopatica cove. Zaklopatica is an interesting small bay, for its sophisticated restaurants; we have heard about Triton's. However, moorings at restaurants Triton and Augusta Insula are already fully booked (telephone reservation necessary!); we get a mooring at the new pier in the West part of the cove in front of simple houses and kanoba Brain.

Excellent dinner of seafood risotto and dragon fish at Augusta Insula. Nice to eat outside on the terrace looking over the yachts and watching the sunset. (Reminds us of Sv. Clement island near Hvar, and we decide we must re-visit this on the way back). Some larger yachts are here, too; one with Americans (the place seems to get fashionable). Booking advisable +385 (0) 20 801 122 or (0)20 801 167. mob +385 (0) 91 764 7549 or +385 (0) 98 571 884 (Luco's).



Uvala Zaklopatica on Lastovo; looking East from the mooring on the quay in the West.



Restaurant Augusta & moorings

Wed Aug 31 ***Clouds but soon sunshine again***

During the morning dark clouds from the South, some light rain and distant thunder.

We decide to wait in the bay until about 11:00; then leave, with the weather now clearing, to head for the E side of Korcula, and towards Lumbarda marina. Anyhow, on the way we have a look at some small coves on the S side Korcula, Pavja Luka and others further to the East. These do not seem useful for anchoring, not even for lunch (too small or too deep, or uncertain holding). Finally, shallow Uvala Przina (east most cove on near Rt Raznjic) with its ample sandy beaches is a very good spot to anchor for lunch and a swim. We anchor at 5m, (some other yachts have discovered this bay, too…).
Weather has turned back sunny and hot (around 30deg C), a bit hazy, and smooth sea.



Uvala Przina, southeast end of Korcula. View towards Lumbarda, in the background mountainous Peljesac

About 17:00 we leave for nearby Lumbarda marina, a pleasant smallish yacht harbour. Lumbarda is a relaxed village and resort; clearly we are back to tourist land and no longer on a remote island.

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Moored in pleasant Lumbarda marina – Nemo to right

The marina seems to be home to several long term customers, the atmosphere is friendly – apart from a quibble between the owner of a Fleming yacht who is anxious his expensive toy might get damaged by a sailboat with a drunken young Aussy crew who show rather appalling boat handling skills when trying to berth.

We have dinner at konoba More, very nice position overlooking the bay, good - but not exiting - food.

Thurs Sept 1 ***In Paradise, with a Noisy Neighbour***

The backdrop of mountains on Peljesac makes for a scenic marina view at Lumbarda.
We leave berth at 10:30 bound for the fuel station near Korcula, but find a queue and the message that Diesel will not be available for another hour. Knowing what this could mean in Croatia, we decide we have plenty of fuel left and can easily make it to Hvar.

Today's weather is brilliant and, again, very hot. We cruise along the North coast of Korcula to its very West end, with no noticeable wind and calm sea. Going round Proizo island, we find a nice un-inhabited wooded South facing cove completely to us (Uvala Perna Privale) where we anchor at 9m on sand. Have lunch and several swims into the afternoon. That's holiday!

By 16:00 we make for Hvar harbour. The W wind has freshened to about 4bf and mildly reminds us during the short passage what going against wind and choppy sea might feel like if the weather was not as good as this time.



Uvala Perna, West end of Korcula, the skipper has spotted yet another lonely little bay. Perfect for snorkelling


.. for Nemo's intrepid Competent Crew

At Hvar town, we have difficulty finding Hvar fuel station in the "East harbour", so well hidden is the small quay with the pump. It is far back behind moorings of tiny local boats on both sides of a narrow approach channel, with no room to manoeuvre. With the westerly blowing in and causing swell we are relieved we made it without any incidents; clearly we do not recommend this fuel pump for boats much larger than 40 ft. From here we cross the channel to Palmiziana marina on Sv Clement, our favourite ACI marina and best place to berth for Hvar town. Arrive about 18:00, marina is uncrowded.

A motor boat with Spanish ensign berths next to us; the owner starts washing down his boat and carries on pedantically for about one hour; throughout this period he has his generator running – asked why, he claims he needed more power for his air conditioning than the marina mains can supply, but, that he will turn it off in half an hour.
We have excellent fish dinner at Meneghello's, which is an interesting place also for their exhibits of "art". The anchor bay to the South seems quite crowded with yachts.

On the return to our boat at 22:00 we find our neighbour's noisy generator still running (!). Annoyed by the unneighbourly attitude I knock on the door but only the owner's wife is on board, she claims to be unable to do anything about the noise while her husband is away. I complain at the marina reception, but the only solution appears for us to move our boat. Not an appealing idea, given it's after dinner and completely dark. However, it is impossible to relax in the cockpit with noise so close by, therefore, at 22:20, we drop the mooring and change position with a marinaio assisting with the mooring.

After this short "adventure" in the night, now with pleasantly quiet neighbours, we relax.

Fri Sept 2 ***The Fishermen of the Tatinja***

The weather forecast is for yet another very hot calm day.
After breakfast I discover that yesterday night's manoeuvre has left a mooring rope (not our own, but another one right under our boat) round one of our propellers. The marinaio must have lifted it in the dark by mistake.
Jane and I attempt a morning dive in the clear warm waters of the Palmiziana, (actually a pleasure), and luckily we find a way to unwind the rope and lift it off by just turning the prop with my feet while Jane crept under the boat and helped to free the rope.

After a relaxing coffee in the marina bar we leave at 11:30, aiming to have lunch in a cove on Solta. We approach Tatinja, and, after a good look round, decide to anchor in the narrow East part, near some humble fishermen's huts. A friendly guy appears in a rowing boat and offers to take a land line ashore; so we anchor with a land line to a rock ashore.

The guy appears again with his boat some time later, and invites us to join his friends for some "little fish". Although we have no Croatian, and he has no foreign language, we do not refuse his friendly invitation though we cannot help a moment of silent concern whether there might be some dark intentions behind this kind of hospitality ... in hindsight, we are very embarrassed about our thoughts.
In their shelter, in prime position in the cove, the four men from Solta have prepared fresh whitebait, and a large pan of red snapper and bass is simmering in their hut behind. The conversation goes around the way of life and the natural delights Solta provides. We will remember these lovely and humorous people who insisted on sharing a delightful meal of fish and wine with us, and did not accept any reward, except for a bottle of wine we had on the boat.



The shelter of the fishermen



Anchored in Tatinja cove with a line ashore.

After an afternoon swim in the lovely clear water of the cove we untie the land line and leave. On the way to Kremik we make a final stop and anchor in the SE part of the bay Stari Trogir, N of Arkandel, behind a rock sheltered from the Westerlies.
This is just to have a final swim before setting out for the last few miles back to the base, to conclude this excellent little cruise.

Arrive back at our base in marina Kremik around 18:00.