

Here is an update of my Birthday !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Last year I sat with an Egyptian pilot all day heading up the Suez canal not sure if this one is any better :-)

Well we are back from Bulgaria after two weeks ..an interesting place but I wouldn't bother going back there again ...We left Burgas at 9am after dealing with port police ( Its a long story for another time :-) ) WE had no wind all day and flat seas !!!!! so motored to the border and anchored overnight ( 56 Miles ) Next day we had a fast sail back down the Black Sea with 25 kts behind us and lots of rolling and things falling about down below :- ( Not had seas like that since the East coast of Qld with a strong wind warning out !!!!!!!!!!! :- ( 60 miles ) Anchored in Poyraz ( top of the Bosphorus ) and headed out again before all the tourist boats arrived on Sunday morning !!

We had a good trip down the Bosphorus with 4 kts of current with us and after shooting out the southern end and avoiding a dozen ferries and tankers etc we set sail for the suburb of Tuzla to anchor and recover before dealing with the Bureaucracy of checking into Turkey :-)

After a day of rest we decide to go to the marina at Pendik as we had been told by the Police they would not be happy if we where on anchor ..when checking in..

We hoped to do all this in one day as the cost is \$50 a night in the marina :- ( Well that was a optimistic !!!!!!!!!!!

We caught a train and walked to the Passport Police in the commercial harbour at UN RO RO They took all our details and copies of documents etc etc again ( We had only been there two weeks ago Checking out !!!!! ) and told us we had to go to the Chamber of shipping in Istanbul ( 2 hours by train and ferry and tram ) to get the new transit log and they would not stamp our passports till we had the log and went to the Customs and Harbour Master in Tuzla. ( 30mins the other way by Taxi )

So as it was already the afternoon we decide to go to Istanbul the next day ..... We left early to catch the train ( absolutely packed with office workers and families as it is school holidays !!!! ) to Istanbul and to the Chamber of Shipping who charged us 120 YTL ( \$100 ) for the log and they said they would update our details on the Internet so we could just take the Transit log to The Harbour master without using an Agent ( who charges \$300 !!!!!!!!!!! ) .....

Then the computer stopped working at the Chamber of Shipping so we went for lunch and then down to the grand bazaar etc etc in Eminonue. ..Finally they called at 2.30 pm. Our documents where ready so back up to Findikli another hour then back to Kadikoy...Then ferry to Hydrapasa....then train to Aydantepe ( one hour ) then found a taxi to Harbour master and Customs in Tuzla !!!!!!!!!!!!!

Now 5 pm ...Customs says we need to go back to Polis ( 20 mins by taxi !!!!!!! much discussion then we go to the Harbour master who says we need and agent !!!!!!! We say no..... ring this man at Chamber of Shipping. Reluctantly he passes us to his junior with other people helping with English we get some stamps ..... told to go back to Customs and Health check ....Get health check

( Health Dept didnt even take our temperature and we had been traveling on all these forms of public transport !!!!!!!!!!! Too bad if we had an infectious disease!!! ) Then Customs who reluctantly stamp some of the Transit log (With the help of an agent who was there at the time who could speak English !!!!! )Back to Harbour Master who then stamps the rest ...took his pages,then customs says we have to go to Polis and return with stamped copies!!!!!!!!!! The helpful agent says he will drive us to Polis and he will bring back the copies so we don't have to go back there!!!!!!!!!!!!... :-)

So we arrive at the Police in Pendik RO RO ..... They stamp our passports and stamp the rest of the Transit log everybody happy, the Agent will take the copies back to Customs and looks like we have done it :-) ..... Its now 7 pm ...

Except me (Graham ) says there is no visa only a entry stamp >>>>>>>> But you can stay for 21 days without visa says the policeman !!!!! No we want 3months ..... Many phone calls!!!! Yes you can go to the Airport for a visa ..... NO we don't like that idea >>>>>>>> OK come back tomorrow at 9.30 am and you can have a visa and another stamp as long as you pay 30 Euro !!!!!!!!!!! NO Lira AAAGGGHHHH Back at the boat at 9 pm !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Next day MY Birthday today !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Not looking good so far for a quiet day :-)

Early train trip and walk to Police ..... Boss is in today no english !!!!!!!!!!! NO he doesn't like this idea we will have to go to Istanbul and buy a visa there 15 Euro each or US\$20 !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

So now back at the marina Strong Northerly so we give - in and pay for our 3rd night ..

So we only have a visa for 21 days and hope we will be able to get our 3 month one in a few days !!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Will go back out on anchor tomorrow and recover before the next round :-)

to be continued .....