

**Langkawi to Naihian Thailand 7<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup> Jan 09**

NM	Hrs taken	Eng hrs	Winds	Anchor Position	Notes
125	22	11.6		7 46.42N 98 17.83E	

**Port Blair Andaman Islands 10th- 13th Jan 09**

NM	Hrs taken	Eng hrs	Winds	Anchor Position	Notes
427	75	3.8	NE	7 46.42N 98 17.83E	Seas like a washing machine

**Visas** obtained in Thailand only allow 15days, visas obtained through Kuala Lumpur are not endorsed for the Andaman and this is not a problem, on entry you are then given 30 days.

**Port charges** are calculated when you check out, we paid a total of 1065rps 10 days anchoring and 2entries. National Parks permits change each year but in 09 1000rps for the boat 500pp at each Park area - not the whole Andamans When you **check out** everything is in reverse, it is time consuming and you the offices are spread all over Aberdeen town. out but immigration will insist on coming to the boat before you leave in the morning. You will get a port clearance number this has to be quoted to the Port Authority when you make the vhf call on departure.

Used Vejay who appeared at the Chatham Island bridge dinghy landing. There is also Ravi but did not meet him. VJ did the **water, diesel and Laundry** and did use him to take us to all the offices for clearing.

Clearing in everyone came to the boat but had to be collected as they have no boat. Customs officials were the most bothersome, regards gifts, we had to go ashore next day for **Port Clearance**. You need an Itinerary prepared in date order for your time in the Andamans

Lots of copies of everything and more! Check in everyday with Port captain on hf 8164mg when not in Port Blair. The red tape is unbelievable and probably would never go there again even though we were glad we went this time. Auto rickshaws are a cheap way of getting around, most speak English. Eating was good at the Lighthouse restaurant near the aquarium and Cellular Jail was interesting.

Havelock beautiful spot left dinghy at western end of bay around the rock area- no swell. 4 of us hired a jeep for the day to go round the island 1,200rps for the jeep and driver.

**Sri Lanka 24<sup>th</sup>- 31<sup>st</sup> Jan 09**

NM	Hrs taken	Eng hrs	Winds	Anchor Position	Notes
905	183	14.5	ENE- NE	6 01.27N 80 14.23E	Watery Pt till next morning

**Agent** – We used GAC shipping there is another one but much the same. Agents are compulsory, he came to the boat after we were told to tie up on the wall which was ok as conditions were calm, immigration and customs came to the boat, they did ask for a gift but we did not offer anything had no problems, Agent took papers and passports to get port pass and visa. He charged 225us\$ all inclusive one month stay. Power available on the wall. Security tight – anything taken from the port for repair is deemed dutiable so a big laundry bag is useful.

We used DeDe for **laundry** and tours he also has tame auto rickshaw drivers. Canvas repair at the end of the port road. Turn right at the end of the road and a short walk takes you passed the Buffalo curd maker, fresh daily yummy. Fish stalls and onto a **supermarket** which is well stocked and turned out to

be the best option in Galle. Mikes store is on the first turn on the right after the port entrance road he does not have much and offers delivery with conditions! Lots of banks in town with ATMs  
I did a trip in land with a friend for 4 days 3 nights which I thought turned out to be a little expensive but we did see a lot, saw stick fisherman on the SE coast, inland through wetlands to Ella in the hills where we had one night then on the train for 3hours were met by the driver and guide and taken to plantation for morning tea then onto Kandi where we went to the botanical gardens, Buddhas tooth temple and traditional dancing in the evening, stayed one night there and then cave temple in the morning, Segirya in the afternoon, well worth the effort of the climb!! Late in the afternoon was great light and cool winds. We stayed near Dambula that night and next day on way back to Galle visited the elephant orphanage. This was a great photo opportunity but very touristy and lacking in information, but good none the less. Graham had worked hard on the boom whilst I was away and various other small jobs as well as fuelling and watering the boat. So we were ready to clear out on Sunday and leave Monday, Sri Lankans have a public holiday every full moon, this is a Buddhist holiday so we think this was why there were not too many fishing boats out and about. In all our sailing even to Cochin only 2 boats came close enough to call out but lots of fishing boats out there that we had to dodge, but all lit up.

**Cochin India 9<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> Feb 09**

NM	Hrs Taken	Eng Hrs	Winds	Anchor Position	Notes
401	72	45.2	NE- NW	9 58.9N 76 16.15E	Bolghatty Hotel mud !*!??

Arrived at night good entrance well marked but out going ships take the center of the channel so we had to stand by whilst they passed. Anchored near the Taj Malabar Hotel Willingdon Island as in Red Sea Pilot.

**Port authority** came straight away gave us our first piece of paper, told us re anchor, area is small and shoals quickly. **Customs** come to boat next morning and take you ashore to do convoluted check in but all pleasant, just time consuming no one asked for anything. Moved to Bolghatty hotel on high tide. Anchorage sheltered and secure.

**Water** available at the hotel jetty for 100rps for a month no matter how much you take. Dinghy dock near the High Court jetty on other side. Auto rickshaws average 30rps around town. Nazar is the local “no problem can do” guy very pleasant but be firm will organize **diesel , laundry and beer**, he lives in Fort Cochi and will come to your boat when you arrive at quarantine anchorage, it is not necessary to have him with you when clearing in, although make sure you have a way of getting back to your boat as customs were nowhere to be found when we had finished and the Taj Malaba agreed to take us back at no charge. Walk along esplanade (hold nose at low tide) to the Ferry across to Mattencherry and fort Cochi. (prices different on each side) **Supermarket** nearest and best is Ashi’s 5min walk passed the High Court Jetty (use this name as a reference for rickshaw drivers not Bolghatti)road turns left on to Banerji Rd, Ashi’s is first right and on the left across road If you stay on Banerji Rd on the right is a bottle shop of sorts, turn right to get to the **Market** this then leads on to Jews street which has hardware, spices, garlic and onion sellers. Staying on Banerji Rd will take you to MG road turn right (major road) lots of shops of all kinds and eating places and The Café group of coffee shops good coffee and coffee beans for sale. Jews rd meets here on the right near the cinema. . Nigiri supermarket is on Ravipurum Rd. with more western selection and variety of vegies.

We took the public bus from Ernakullum bus station to Allapuzah 39rps each about 1.5hr trip, then found a canoe trip 150rps per hour up the backwaters bus back to Cochin about 4pm. It was worth it to be away from the noise and bustle of Cochin. Cochin is in the state of Kerala (Gods own Country is the slogan) it is a communist run state, with most of the population being fanatic catholics with a hindu background this creates an interesting mix.

In the area across the road from Thomas Cook near Pallamuku Jn is lots of **battery, invertors and electrical shops**. This part of India is not renowned for its advanced technology we could not find a data card to use in the mobile phone for internet!! And did we try!!!!  
Mannikath Rd also in that area is where the Kathkali dancers perform each night.

**Salalah Oman 25<sup>th</sup> Feb - 12th March 09**

NM	Hrs Taken	Eng Hrs	Winds	Anchor Position	Notes
1466	350	101.4	Calms NW – NE-E	16 56.22N 54 00.35E	Port is a long way to town

**Clearing in** at the port area all in one office- no cash only credit card charged 3 times immigration , customs, port authority, 15rials+15rials+12rials about 168Au\$. Mohammed was the local provider, we hired a car from him about 11rials a day about 33Au\$.

**Diesel** we got from the local garage in Jerry cans in the boot, the best fuel available anywhere so good to get as much as you can as Aden fuel is not clean. Total we got 341lts for 198Au\$ approx .46us per litre.

**Water** we connect 3 hoses to the tap near the fishing boats and straight into the containers in the dinghy.

**Laundry** we just stopped at one near the first round about but very expensive.

**Food** 2 eateries at the port near the warehouses, and a local supermarket well stocked at the end of no 2 warehouse. In town there is Lulu's, KM supermarket and Matara spinis, which is a shop for the armed forces open to the public, great bakery and imported goods and cheese. When you come into town on Ar Rubat st keep on the road to the An Nahdah roundabout, turn left to the end turn right (before the main gate) through the smaller gates then it is on the right where there is parking and a tea shop. Shopping in old Salalah is interesting best in late afternoon. Nothing happens anywhere between 12 and 4.

**The money changer** (cnr of 23 July St and An Nahdah)will change all your Indian rupees for anything us\$ or rials big Indian working population here most restaurants are Indian run. Driving is on the right!!! In the port area is the Oasis Club wi fi available but check opening times. The Hilton has free wi fi if you have coffee not bad for an hour, air con and no smoking.

**Checking out** you have to go up to the port office up the hill first to pay your dues before customs and immigration a simple quick clearing out.

**Al Mukallah 18<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> March 09**

NM	Hrs Taken	Eng Hrs	Winds	Anchor Position	Notes
342	75	662	ENE	14 31.62N 49 08.03E	Anchored in old Dhow anchorage

The **immigration** men came in their own boat with an agent we filled in relevant forms nothing was asked for they were polite and did not smoke when asked not to (we did not realize at the time about the agent, Maha, but no problems as it turned out) They did not have uniforms, in fact we did not see anyone in Yemen with a uniform except the police in Aden, they took our passports and arranged to meet on the small fishing ramp in the morning. Ramp easier at high tide, a small hut nearby is the port official, who will issue gate pass, they were helpful and rang the agent who came with passports and port clearance. Did not get **laundry** done here, or **fuel or water**. It is a fascinating place to walk around, women more friendly when we went walking without the men. It is a cover up place and even then I did sense some adverse reactions but mostly young males. Clearing out was done by Maha at a cost of 10us\$ for him 10us\$ for customs and 10us\$ for immigration, no gifts asked for. Had excellent fish meal at Al Salaam Hotel about 5 mins walk from ramp'

We did get a message that the port authority wanted us to move into the harbour for security reasons but it is a small busy place and we were only staying 3 nights, we thanked them but declined, they insisted

so a compromise was made and we moved to just outside the harbour and wrote a letter (which we did not get to deliver) absolving them. I have heard some cruisers not having a pleasant experience in Al Mukallah but ours was. Even the envelop with my lost postcards was returned to me, which I had left in a vehicle which we thought was a taxi when he stopped and picked us up, then refused payment.

#### **Aden Yemen 24<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> March**

<b>NM</b>	<b>Hrs Taken</b>	<b>Eng Hrs</b>	<b>Winds</b>	<b>Anchor Position</b>	<b>Notes</b>
287	50	15.2	E 10-20	12 47.55N 44 58.88E	Nr Prince of Wales Jetty

**Customs and immigration** are in the jetty area, port pass is free for 3 days 67us\$ each for a visa. No gift asked for nothing given just the warning smoking is bad for you. The man in the gift shop at the jetty is helpful and polite (has 2 brothers) can mail cards he sells stamps, I did and they arrived ok. There are a couple of guys hang around the jetty with transport we used Saleem and his son Mohamed car was very old but most of the cars are around that area. Small mini bus near QV park go everywhere just state destination and they will point you to the right bus.

**Water** available at the PW jetty 3us\$ per ton can take containers in dinghy. There is also a tap at the top of the steps.

**Laundry** a few places within walking distance of the jetty not expensive but check bag before you leave.

**Diesel** is complicated procedure of payment but since many rally boats caused problems you now have to take your boat to the fuel wharf even to fill jerry cans, it is not the cleanest diesel. But things may change as they have a habit of doing. We went over in the dinghy first and were told to bring boat now.

**Shopping** there is a local veggie market in Tawahi area and small shops where you can buy cooked chickens, eggs yoghurt and flat bread. Lulu's supermarket is in Crater bus goes there, can get new taxi return. Arab market is also in Crater lots of shops selling everything same same. Maalla town has DHL, travel agents banks we used Orbit travel to book flights to Saana good service. Near the PofW jetty is a dive shop, they refilled grahams scuba tank. Garage just a short walk away for petrol. Not an issue bringing it through the check in at the jetty.

Did a one night 2 day trip to **Sanaa**, the flights were about 120us\$ return pp we stayed at the Daewood Hotel, which is an old residence converted, 400 years old, no lifts steep steps. 60us\$ for the room ensuite with breakfast + 10us\$ for the airport transfer, right in the center of old Sanaa, could have kept the room till departure late afternoon, staff were friendly and helpful, although we used them to book a taxi to the airport, not a good move as it was a friend in a small car chewing ghat! Don't try and get anything serious done in Yemen after midday as it is ghat time and the young guys get sleepy then about 5pm get overactive. Taxi from Sanaa airport to Hotel was 1500YR about 20km. 101 things to do in Yemen with fold out map, is a good guide book if you don't have the lonely planet. We were working on 200yr to 1us\$.

#### **Dudo Eritrea 4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> April 09**

<b>NM</b>	<b>Hrs Taken</b>	<b>Eng Hrs</b>	<b>Winds</b>	<b>Anchor Position</b>	<b>Notes</b>
230	45	4.2	SE 10-20	13 52.03N 41 54.5E	Coral sand bottom

Only planned to go to Hannish Islands but the winds were good so kept on to Marsa Dudo, Red Sea Pilot anchorage. Stayed the night only did not go ashore.

#### **Adjuz Island Eritrea 7<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> April 09**

<b>NM</b>	<b>Hrs Taken</b>	<b>Eng Hrs</b>	<b>Winds</b>	<b>Anchor Position</b>	<b>Notes</b>
137	26	6.2	SE10	15 12.95N 40 13.8E	Sand

Pleasant anchorage from south winds but moved round the spit when it blew from the North. A small canoe came out with 3 young men welcomed us we gave them water biscuits hats and cigarettes and they invited us to the village for fish if we were still there the next day.

#### Adjuz Island 9<sup>th</sup> April 09

NM	Hrs Taken	Eng Hrs	Winds	Anchor Position	Notes
11	5	2.5	NW 18	15 12.78N 40 14.36E	Returned after trying for Port Smyth

Our first taste of head winds.

#### Port Smyth Eritrea 11<sup>th</sup> April 09

NM	Hrs Taken	Eng Hrs	Winds	Anchor Position	Notes
33	8	6	N-NW	15 32.2N 39 59.4E	Pretty anchorage good small coral bombie

Interesting Island went ashore for a walk, very shallow south of the old stone jetty. Clear water one good coral bombie in shallow water between anchoring spot and old jetty.

#### Massawa Eritrea 12<sup>th</sup> April 09

NM	Hrs Taken	Eng Hrs	Winds	Anchor Position	Notes
31	9	73	calm	15 36.6N 39 28.34S	Just off the jetty no1 berth

Called on the radio and were told to go to No 1 berth and tie alongside. Mike the Port Authority guy came to the jetty, very good English and helpful with filling out forms the best way! Took Graham to the **immigration office and customs**, here he was given a paper to allow him to change us\$ at the bank. Only changed 50us\$ as the rate was better at Mikes (another one) Yasmin coffee shop. Who turned out to have the best espresso in town. He did **laundry** and was a mine of information. Did not get **water or fuel** here. Passes were issued for the port gate. Mike (port authority) asked very politely for a t shirt with the boat name on, only had one from Rebak Marina, (he was always smartly dressed) he brought us a couple of non fiction books and was very appreciative when I returned with a couple of books. Eritrea is very poor with little in the shops the only "supermarket" was Bella Vista a relic from Italian days, there is a local 2 stall market behind there or you can get the local people taxi but if you get into an empty one they will think you want to charter it  
Can't blame them for trying. The old Massawa (port Area) had internet café, photo copy store but not any eating places and Yasmin Mikes only did breakfasts and coffee. Good to go about 5pm and sit with everyone else having a good old natter. The streets were clean of litter and no smell someone was always sweeping, war torn and poor. Children asked for pens and the occasional person begging. Taking photo's in the market was not welcomed. One yacht here heading for Ausralia.

#### Dahret/Dohul Island Eritrea 14<sup>th</sup> April 09

NM	Hrs Taken	Eng Hrs	Winds	Anchor Position	Notes
22	3	3.5	NE	15 55.17N 39 34.79E	Sand

Had to anchor a long way off shore between the two islands as it shoaled quickly only spent one night.

**Difnein Island Eritrea 15<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> April 09**

NM	Hrs Taken	Eng Hrs	Winds	Anchor Position	Notes
182	38	17.8	E-N 20	16 36.4N 39 19.36E	Anchored in 14mtrs steep reef Close to shore

We set off for Khor Narawat sailed for 6 hrs during the day, stopping at a reef for a swim, wind died at dusk so motored til 3am, winds turned NW20kts with 70nm to go we decided to turn back for Difnein Island arrived 8pm 2-3mt seas strong wind no moon – get the picture? Stayed 3 nights, it is a military outpost, we looked at the reef and graham swam ashore to the 3men on the beach, asked for papers so we returned with port clearance and passports, after cursory look they invited us to join them for lunch. We settled for tea and took them some supplies, newspapers and a mag, we sat and chatted over Eritrean sweet tea and Tita bread, with the guns hanging on a nail on the wall, only one uniform between them, no boat and 3month stay on the island only communication we could see was am radio. Very friendly and glad we made the effort to go ashore. The newspapers were a great success. Not allowed to walk anywhere though but could snorkel and walk on the beach. SV Graptolite joined us here.

**Khor Narawat Sudan 19<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> April 09**

NM	Hrs Taken	Eng Hrs	Winds	Anchor Position	Notes
133	26	17.8	SE 9-13	18 14.91N 38 19.89E	Satira Island

Anchored about 8am went ashore in the afternoon snorkeled. Sheltered spot pretty but unremarkable. Inside the islands not so clear water.

**Long Island Sudan 22<sup>nd</sup> April 09**

NM	Hrs Taken	Eng Hrs	Winds	Anchor Position	Notes
54	8	8.3	NE-N light	18 46.4N 37 38.4E	Clear water sand bottom

Hobby horsing for a while caught Queen fish and a small Tuna. Anchored near lagoon lots of bird life, pretty, manta rays dolphins. Calm night. Graptolite here also. Stayed one night.

**Suakin Sudan through the Shubuck Channel 22<sup>nd</sup> April 09**

NM	Hrs Taken	Eng Hrs	Winds	Anchor Position	Notes
37	8	8	calm	19 06.49N 37 20.2E	Inner port nr fishing boats

Left at 0645 and could see the reefs by the time we got to the channel, followed waypoints in Red Sea Pilot did not use c-map. Two coordinates in the RSP were a little off i.e. 18deg 48.6N 37deg 28.6E and the next one 18deg 48.7N and 37deg 28.3E. We needed to favor the port markers. We passed these around 10am visibility good and for once the Interphase did not let us down. Entering Suakin is better during daylight hours as lots of surrounding reefs, it is a natural Marsa. Approaching the old town ruins over the reef got to 2.4 under the keel about 4.4mtrs of water, narrow channel, anchorage well protected. **Agent**/man about town Abu Mohammed will recognize him by deep deep voice we picked him up from shore, no nonsense man took passports, completed forms, we paid – in US\$ shore pass 2 x 30, agent fee 30, **gas refill** 9kg 20, 200ltrs **diesel** 140, 200ltr drinking **water**?!?!? 20, **customs and immigration** charge 2 x 20, total 310US \$ and we hadn't got off the boat yet. All completed by the late afternoon. Aaron on Carina just arrived before us. One boat in the anchorage heading South. Small market within walking distance and bakery with great bread, very poor town, port not the main one now that Port Sudan is working.

Muhammed took us to the local, (he wrote the names of the hotel, Suakin for return bus, in Arabic which turned out to be very useful) local bus to Port Sudan 12 seater seating 18. about 40min trip about 5 S/Pounds. Mohammed arranged currency exchange, no atm in Suakin only Port Sudan, good fruit and vegetable market, internet cafes (we used Kanana internet but there are lots), and restaurants. As it was Friday the hotel Palace Hotel internet and restaurant was closed. Found one supermarket near the market, with imported goods, but sooooo expensive. We had to get local bus to the bus station 5pds for the 4 of us. Not camera friendly here. Clearing out done by Mohammed who met us with our passports and cruising permit.

### **Marsa Ata Sudan 25<sup>th</sup> April 09**

NM	Hrs Taken	Eng Hrs	Winds	Anchor Position	Notes
13	3	3.7	NW	19 17.37N 37 19.6E	Sand and coral

Motor sailed winds NE-N-NW 15-20 we were down to 3kts at times so decided on this anchorage, need good light there are markers as per Red Sea Pilot. We did a dinghy excursion in the marsa, mangroves some thriving some dead, lots of bird life and flocks of flamingoes.

### **Sanganeb Reef Sudan 28<sup>th</sup> April 09**

NM	Hrs Taken	Eng Hrs	Winds	Anchor Position	Notes
32	7	7.2	NW	19 44.00N 37 26.6E	Coral coral coral

Lovely reef but not good anchoring have to be prepared for difficulty when getting the anchor up. Good snorkeling. SY Ventana was here for about 2 weeks. We caught Mr and Mrs Trevally on the way here.

### **Khor Shanab Sudan 29<sup>th</sup> – 30th April**

NM	Hrs Taken	Eng Hrs	Winds	Anchor Position	Notes
111	25	19.8	NW	21 21.06N 37 00.6E	Sand anchored nr Quorn Hill

We went close by Shab Rumi where Carina and Graptolite had stopped for a snorkel, there were 2 commercial dive boats here the first we had seen. This is where Jack Coustaeux had his research station. Wind picked up from the NE so kept going. Wind died at dusk, moon set midnight, entered the marsa about 10 am it was beautiful, walked up Quorn Hill early morning before breakfast, great view saw goats and camels. Very sheltered anchorage but still get full effects of wind sand and chop.

### **Elba Reef Sudan 3<sup>rd</sup> May 09**

NM	Hrs Taken	Eng Hrs	Winds	Anchor Position	Notes
45	9	9.6	NW	21 59.65N 36 59.40E	coral

Motor sailed light winds away by 0630 saw pilot whales and dolphins, caught 2 barracuda but they lived to fight another day. Stayed one night here.

### **Ras Baniyas Egypt 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> May 09**

NM	Hrs Taken	Eng Hrs	Winds	Anchor Position	Notes
139	23	9.4	S-SE/N20	23 53.62N 35 46.9E	Sand/coral

Fast trip wing and wing, wind increased during the day to 30kts and waves to 2-3mtrs we reduced sail to slow down, but that was too roly so put the genoa back out, in the long run it didn't matter as the NE 20 and waves slowed us down anyway. It came in suddenly like someone threw a switch so we diverted to

Ras Banyas instead of the planned Dolphin Reef, Graptolite was ahead and too early to get into Ras Banyas and kept going to Dolphin Reef. The same weather up and down the Red sea catching many boats. Blew through the night 35kts nearly full moon. Stayed here 6 nights it was a welcome rest. One cloudy day with some rain spots, which you could count before all the dust on the boat became a mud slide!

**Dolphin Reef Egypt 11<sup>th</sup> May 09**

NM	Hrs Taken	Eng Hrs	Winds	Anchor Position	Notes
23	5	5.6	N 12-15	24 09.64N 35 42.00E	Easy access from south beautiful reef.

6am start, motor sailed into the wind – what else. Swam with the dolphins in the afternoon, just get n the water and they will come to you!! Go early before the dive boats or after they have left. Good snorkeling on nw tip of reef near the wreck. Weather much cooler 22-25deg and 25-30% humidity.

**Port Ghalib 13-14<sup>th</sup> May 09**

NM	Hrs Taken	Eng Hrs	Winds	Anchor Position	Notes
112	26	22.9	N-NW light	Dive resort marina	

We managed a couple of hours sailing but motored through the night, there was a significant long northerly swell, only saw 2 ships. We arrived at Port Ghalib at 0730 tied up to the **immigration and customs dock**, they came to the boat very polite and helpful, we were tested for swine flu,(temperature taken in the ear) Total cost of **check in** was US\$100 – 30 for immigration 30- government fee – 40 processing fee everything done by 11.30 we were guided to the berth, our first med style mooring!!! This is a new development a bit like a theme park with an Egyptian theme, lots of restaurants but nothing practical except the free water taxi from the marina side to the restaurant side. The prices displayed at restaurants does not include service or tax and in some cases can be as much as 25% on top. There is a **bank and ATM** amongst the shops. Everything seems to go in 50LE units – two ice-creams- a t shirt – local beer the exception at 30LE (Egyptian pounds). **Laundry** can be done through the hotel at hotel prices , swimming in their pool is extra. You can order fresh fruit, vegetables, dairy foods and meats, but the prices are unreal. 200egpounds for 1kg of smoked turkey, at the local shop in the nearby residential area it was 70pounds, to get there you can take the courtesy bus from the hotel reception which goes to the beach but will stop at the roundabout and drop you off, we were lucky as we were the only ones in the bus he took us straight to the supermarket and came back 1hr later. The supermarket was well stocked and had small deli, but no fresh fruit or vegetables. They could be had 70km away the quote we got for a taxi was 230pounds, so we opted for the hotel service. If you do this be sure to check every item, the order has to be placed before 9am for 4pm pick up I incorrectly assumed they brought it in from outside but when I got it , it looked like everything they did not want, never seen such bendy cucumbers, zucchini, herbs they only sell by the kg!!! I was given a bill for everything I ordered not what I received!! Nice try. We stayed 4 nights great to be able to wash the boat however futile it seemed. Total cost was 464LE including power and water and rubbish. Everyone was courteous and no buksheeshs, check out was a breeze, we filled jerry cans at the **fuel** dock on departure, .88cents a litre. Walked to the Port office and collected our cruising permit. Visa was for 1month.

**Ras Abu Soma Egypt 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> May 09**

NM	Hrs Taken	Eng Hrs	Winds	Anchor Position	Notes
91	21	21	N	26 49.73N 33 57.8E	

We left with a decent looking grib forecast and by early evening the seas were glassy but.....at 2am the NW reared upp like a scolded cat and blew 20-30 so we did a side swerve to Abu Soma arriving at dawn. Stayed till next day.

**Hurghada Egypt 20<sup>th</sup> May 2009**

NM	Hrs Taken	Eng Hrs	Winds	Anchor Position	Notes
33	7	8.4	NW	Berth c22	Wow the colour of the water has to be seen to be believed

We left Abu Soma at 0400 with an 8kt northerly but by 0630 it was 15kts and by 1030 up to 18kts but this was ok as we did have shelter from the reefs around Hurghada, the marina was not busy but there are a lot of floating bouys to manouver around but the marina boys come in there run about which is not an inflatable!!! The **supermarket** at the marina belonging to the chain Abu Ashara with stores all over town, it is very well priced and well stocked even has a deli section. Metro Supermarket is a no5 people taxi (mini bus) for 1LE each, this is along Nasr Rd, hospital is near the Metro S/m. Just out of the gate at the supermarket end, cross the road turn left cross over pass the coffe shop, bicycle shop and fish shop on the corner and turn right passed the barber and you will see Semsema fast food shop keep walking on that side and there is a sign high up advertising Sea Wave laundry with two fish on it. The **laundry** is up a lane passed the carpenters and is very cheap and clean, quick service, 75piastas a piece ironed!! You can also get it done by the marina. Almost opposite to the lane, across the road is a man selling the best fresh bread, 3le per round. Along from him is the fresh dairy shop selling fresh yoghurt and milk desserts. Fruit and vegetables stalls are here too. The travel agent we used is on Sheraton rd turn left out of the marina near the tapas bar then right passed the pastry bakery to the end turn left and keep walking till you see all the **travel agents**, it was Amenophis the mans name was Ayman he organized a trip to our itinerary did all the bookings and organized guides for each place hotel, cruise and train back to Luxor from Aswan for 4nights total 462us \$ each and whilst on the boat that included all meals. After being here for 2 weeks we are getting used to the system but were a little disheartened by the haggling at first but now we take a stronger stance things seem to be easier. Extending our visas for one month (our choice) was easy once you find the place, best by taxi, first floor, cost 11LE it took 1hr and we were back at the marina. The Marina arranged our cruising permit extension as it had to go through customs, it took a few hrs but they collected and delivered the passports to the boat at a cost of 30US\$ for the permit and 40us\$ for the agent fee. Fuel was convoluted we only wanted jerry cans filling but had to give 2 days notice then waited 2 more days and some prompting before it was delivered .85c a litre. Plus 20LE delivery. Foreigners are not allowed to travel the highways on any bus there are check points and paperwork to get through, but organized tours and Superjet buses from the Bus Station are ok.

**Endeavour Reef Egypt 11<sup>th</sup> June 2009**

NM	Hrs Taken	Eng Hrs	Winds	Anchor Position	Notes
24	5	6.2	NW	27 34.1N 33 47.7E	sand

We anchored in the outer bay there was a more protected anchorage towards the west but conditions were calm. Clear water and it would have been easy to stay there a while, nice looking beach.

**Marsa Zeitiya Egypt 12<sup>th</sup> June 2009**

NM	Hrs Taken	Eng Hrs	Winds	Anchor Position	Notes
25	5	6.1	N	27 49.8N 33 34.0E	Sand and rock

Left anchorage with 10kts flat sea but adverse current, wind strength increased to 18kts waves increased and water over the wheel house, speed down to 3kts at times, currents constantly changing between reefs. This is oil field area not allowed ashore. We stayed here for 10days and made one attempt to cross the gulf to El Tur but turned back when wind increased to 25kts on the nose with short seas. We had constant wind of 25 to 40 for the ten days, hot hot hot dry wind from the NW. Marsa Zeitiya has to

be the windiest place in the Gulf, later we studied the wind charts from different web sites whilst in Abu Tig and it was definitely more windy there then anywhere else in the gulf.

### Qeisum Island 23rd June 2009

NM	Hrs Taken	Eng Hrs	Winds	Anchor Position	Notes
16	3	15	NW30	27 35.91N 33 3.0E	Sand and rock

We decided to go to Abu Tig to restock and rest, anchored at Qeisum for one night, we had 35kts behind us coming past the reef. But it was behind us. The anchorage was well protected and depth under the keel was 3mts in sand.

### Abu Tig Marina 24th June 2009

NM	Hrs Taken	Eng Hrs	Winds	Anchor Position	Notes
19	4	1.5	NW10-15	C23	Laid mooring stern to

There are two basins north and south, the north one was incomplete whilst we were there a lot of construction work going on, but the marina were offering berthing free for one month, power and water extra and no wifi. We stayed in the south basin which was busy small and very noisy, wifi not provided but nearby restaurants had the service. The amenities block was 10 mins walk across the front of the restaurants to the marina office, too far for a loo. Egyptian boat owners are not allowed to live aboard their boats in Egypt. The marina is surrounded by mediocre restaurants all serving similar pasta dishes. The nearby El Gouna village was within walking distance with 2 supermarkets, post office, atm and 2 fruit and vegetable shops which were not good when we were there. There are tuk tuks for 8LE or 5LE per person, we took one to Abydos marina which is actually to timber jetties for dive boats, and two sail in hard stands which work like a lock. But from the shore they look like large concrete boxes floating on the water. Laundry was 4-5LE per piece we were told that the water is not drinkable but other boats filled up with no ill effects. There is a bus to Hurghada for 5LE one way, we did not try it. We paid 345LE including power and water for 5 days plus 10% tax. If we had decided to stay in Egypt for the season then we would choose Hurghada Marina a little more expensive for the berth but free wifi everything accessible.

### Qeisam Island 29th June 2009

NM	Hrs Taken	Eng Hrs	Winds	Anchor Position	Notes
18	4.5	4.4	calm	27 35.91N 33 44.3E	Sand

Anchored same spot.

### El Tur Sinai Peninsular 30<sup>th</sup> June 2009

NM	Hrs Taken	Eng Hrs	Winds	Anchor Position	Notes
48	8	10	N15-25 NW5-8	28 14.11N 33 36.6E	Sand

Left the anchorage 08.45 there was adverse current between the reefs but not too choppy. We decided to take a direct line to Shag Rock, waves increased in the shipping channel but only 8nm wind on the beam motor sailed at 6kts to get across the busy channel once we turned round the bottom of Shab Ali reef the wind dropped to 15kts the seas were flat and we were happy, as the conditions continued to improve we made it to El Tur by 1830. El Tur is quite large, a prime wind surfing spot. Going ashore is not allowed anywhere on the Sinai Peninsular without special permission. Anchored amongst fishing boats, there is a

large boatyard here mostly dive boats and some boat building. Stayed 5 nights again waiting for the winds to ease.

### Ras Zanema 5th July 2009

NM	Hrs Taken	Eng Hrs	Winds	Anchor Position	Notes
62	13	12.1	NW8-15	28 14.11N 33 36.6E	As in pilot deep close to shore

We departed 0530 there was some swell but winds calmed by noon and almost glassy sea. Current against us inside Belayim Oil field. Ras Zenema is a mining town, coal and phosphorous and oil rigs. We anchored as per the RSP.

### El Tawila 6th July 2009

NM	Hrs Taken	Eng Hrs	Winds	Anchor Position	Notes
58	12	12.1	NNW4-15	29 46.95N 32 38.02E	In lee of sand spit 3.5mtrs dpth

Winds slightly more but thank ful for long daylight hours. Motor sailed all day. Saw lots of shipping heading for rallying point at Suez .

### Port Suez 7th July 2009

NM	Hrs Taken	Eng Hrs	Winds	Anchor Position	Notes
13	3	3	calm	Moored bow in	Now have a floating dock at SYC

We had seen the agent in Abu Tig (Felix) and rang them on the way to Port Suez they were at the marina to meet us, he took our papers and told us the measurer would come soon. There is now a floating dock with power, water and wifi we went bow in with stern line to a bouy. Marina manager organized the fuel containers to be filled and delivered back to the boat US\$.90 a litre. We had prepared a type written paper with measurements worked out as per the RSP formula. It worked well the measurer came only measured the wheel house and cabin top did not ask for bucksheesh although Graham was prepared with an envelope we were told it was his job, he gets paid and we should not give any bucksheesh to anyone! The fees were US\$322, 202 canal fee, 80 for the agent and 40 for customs. We did not get our passports stamped as we wanted to spend time in Ismailia. Celebrated both being in Suez and Grahams 60<sup>th</sup> had dinner at the Red Sea Hotel but had to be back by 10pm as agent would be back with our papers and to tell us what time we would be leaving, 6am everything went smoothly in Port Suez only 2 boats transiting.

### Ismailia 8<sup>th</sup> July 2009

NM	Hrs Taken	Eng Hrs	Winds	Anchor Position	Notes
40	10	10	N8	Ismailia Boat Club	Bow in stern line to bouy

Our pilot to Ismailia was good, he arrived on time, did not smoke prayed quietly to himself and ate what was offered, did not ask for anything, contrary to what we had heard. On arrival Graham did give him an envelop 100LE and swimming goggles for his children, he did not open the envelop and departed very quickly, it had been a long hot day, he did most of the steering but did not ask for the engine revs to be increased, we did have current against us all day. After some of the stories we had heard of the canal experience we were pleasantly surprised it all went so well.

The club at Ismailia was a disappointment the **facilities** were grotty and unusable, one **washing machine** only was working, 3US\$ per wash on honour system this was inside the only shower room which had 4 showers one toilet and one urinal for all the boats and mainly used by staff for washing and drying the club laundry. **Power and Water** available near the moorings. It is a hot place the sun reflecting of the tiled deck of the club. Families arrive around 9pm for pizza and soft drinks and leave around midnight, the best option is to put a bin in front of your boat so they won't sit at the bow talking

on their mobiles, with noisy children, we sleep aft so not so much of a problem. There were two weddings whilst we were there, one very loud but all gone by midnight Pizzas are good and fresh lemon juice.

We had a 3night trip to Cairo using Mohamud Imbaby and his taxi, a very good driver and delightful personality, although he will try a little conversion on the way back, but all well meaning. For a one day return trip to Cairo he charges 200LE, good clean taxi. Mobil no is 0121538285. We had one morning with him shopping and another seeing the sights of Ismailia. **Metro supermarket** is within walking distance through the port security straight ahead to the canal over the bridge turn right keep walking to the next foot bridge at the lights turn left and straight ahead on the right is Metro. Nefertiti restaurant is air conditioned and good value but no alcohol served. Across the street is the best cake and icecream shop I have seen, air conditioned glass front red sign. Another **shopping** and market area is over the canal from the marina turn Left keep walking to the next bridge and lights turn right and the side streets on the left are where the market is, vegetables and fruit during the day and clothing at night. This is not a tourist town and people are very friendly, taxis are cheaper than anywhere. Trains (only 2<sup>nd</sup> class) run to Cairo, Bus line is Delta to Cairo but when we went to the bus station we did not like the look of the buses and thought Muhamed was the better option.

**Fuel** we did not get fuel here but one boat did whilst we were there with no problems arranging it with the customs and immigration Mr Siad in the small kiosk type office before the security gate on the right side. One other boat got fuel later and had a problem mainly because they did not play the game which then caused problems for all of us with security then searching our bags and checking passports each time we came and went. For the two weeks previous we had had no problems and once the guards were used to you they did not check each time and stopped asking for cigarettes/gift..

**Visa** with an Egyptian visa you have two weeks grace after it has expired, extension in Ismailia is only 5LE in Hurghada we paid 11LE each. Ours ran out before we left for Cairo but we had no problems anywhere and were not asked about it.

### **Port Said and Beyond**

Our pilot Salem arrived on time we left at 0600 in fog but kept going as the pilot said we should make most of the current which will turn against us around 9-10 am. We agreed! The pilot called the canal authority and asked permission to raise the sail which we did and motor sailed when wind allowed, he was polite, courteous and steered most of the way. We arrived at the drop off point in Port Said at 1300hrs, about 45nm the pilot boat came along side, we just stayed in the channel in neutral and off he went, Graham gave him an envelop and something for his children, and cigarettes for the pilot boat, he did not open the envelope, the crew on the boat called out for soft drinks and gifts but the pilot told them to stop that he had their gift. So all went well and with great relief we set sail for Cyprus.