

Chartering a Bareboat in Croatia, June 2015

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Part Four

As usually we left early in the morning. With full tank of fuel we were ready to pass another 36 Nm just in case there will be no prevailing wind. Destination ACI Marina Palmezana located on one of the main part of Pakelni Islands. Pakelni Islands are located south of Island Hvar, actually about 4 Nm south of Town Hvar Harbor so we were going back the same route that we already did from Hvar to Korcula.

Pakelni Islands are the group of small islands with many passages between the islands, harbors coves restaurants, bars, café places and of course many beaches with optional bathing suite and swimwear.

Actually it will be totally inappropriate for the ladies to wear a top of the swim suite. So my advise for our Long Island Ladies, start practicing this, the sooner the better. How about get ready for next MCYC 4<sup>th</sup> of July raft up. I think that will work.

Palmezana is a typical relaxing island where typically we spend the time on the beach, bars and restaurants. Marina can fit probably 400 or more boats which most of them as you can think are sailboats from various chartering companies. As usually we spotted the deck hand directing us to our slip. However I was not in the mood to go always to the end of the narrow fairway so I spotted nice wide open docking spot and was aiming for. Well this is not like on Long Island that you can argue where do you want to go. To our surprise a deck hand did not allowed us to dock in the spot we wanted to go and told us that we have to keep going more forward and that spot is for bigger boats. Well I told him that I'm going to the spot I want to go and he told me that he will not pass a mooring bow line to us and we can't dock there totally ignoring our arguments. Trust me even Dora's Colombian attitudes did not help. So we did not have a choice but follow his order and proceeds further down the channel until he gave us a spot next to another Jeanneau 32 which was chartered from the same company that we did. At the end I had to give him a right because they have to packed around 300 sail bots for the day and it make sense that smaller boats goes closer to the shore and the bigger boats further of the shore. After all we were happy with the spot and docked without any major issues just the normal ones. What do I mean by that, is that we put our fenders on both sides, and gently squeezed our stern between two other boats rubbing our fenders against their fenders and hulls. We become a friends with a very nice couple from Belgium. Leo was a retired commercial ship captain that was navigating a 300 feet long ship from Belgium to England almost every day. Linda retired market manager. They decided to leave Belgium and move for retirement to Spain on the Mediterranean Coast, so now we have a place in Spain to go to. As usually together we cooked, dined and broke many wine bottles over the next two days exchanging life and sailing stories. For those who loves beaches and bars Palmezana is the place.

Our last destination was Split were we planed to stay two days. Trip from Palmezana to ACI Marina Split went uneventfully with peaceful Adriatic Sea and a lot of sun. As I mentioned before leaving early and arriving mid afternoon was the trick. City Split is amazing itself. With a lot of history, castles, churches, bell towers that we claimed to the top, fortresses built by Greeks and Romans and of course shopping

stores, flea markets and bazars. Split is a city where anyone who wants to shop for yachting apparels must stop there. So when we finished shopping we had to charter a FedEx cargo plane to ship all the items to NY. Ha, ha, ha ...

ACI Marina Split is conveniently located in the harbor so there is no need for transportation. Within minutes we reached the center and the best we were walking along the pier so the view of the Split was amazing. As always there is a big night life with plenty of restaurants, bars and bands playing at the main pier.

The other reason we wanted to end the trip there because we had to return our boat with full tank of fuel and the fuel dock at Marina Kastela was under renovation and we did not know if it will be open by the time we will come back. Besides short approach to fuel dock at Marina Kastela was not my favorite idea as oppose to 300 feet long straight fuel dock in Split. From Split to Marina Kastela is about 6 Nm.

So early Friday morning we went to fuel dock and left the Split for Marina Kastela. On the one side Split is surrounded by mountains so it give is a lot protection. The weather prediction was great and we were looking into an easy trip back home. Well was not quiet peaceful trip as we were thought it will be. I guess Croatia's Gods of Wind particularly "Bura" held a last surprise for us as a fair well to Adriatic Sea.

When leaving Split harbor there was no wind so we said to each other that it will be ok to finish our trip on the engine. Let me tell you when Croatians tells you to look out for "Bora" you better look out for it. As soon as we came around the bent and lost the mountain protection this wind came on us out of nowhere at 20 kts. – 25kts., speed right on our bow. I said to myself what the f...k is this. On our last 6 miles we are going to fight with "Bora", and than just like that it hit me... my favorite "Mediterranean mooring" procedure came to my mind. However, I had at least an hour to rehearse our strategy with my co-captain Dora before we get to marina. Half way through I hailed the marina that we are coming in and asked for slip assignment. Again early birds casting off pays off. Since we were one of the first returning boats, the dock was empty and they told us to pick any spot that we want and deckhand will be waiting for us since is little windy. Yeeh... that is what they called little windy. So with that news in my mind I said to Dora ok this will be a peace of cake "Prophecy" is coming home. Marina Kastela is protected by over 400 feet long cemented pier with narrow entrance at one end. I was hoping that it will blow little less inside the marina as we come. Well it did not, so as soon as I had at least two length of the boat I started going astern. Our deck hand was already there so he passed to Dora bow mooring line so she put on the cleat and started paying on the bow line while I was going astern until I was able to pass stern lines to the shore. As always with great doze of adrenaline we successfully docked "Prophecy" for the last time. It was a happy joyful moment that we accomplished something amazing on our own and at the same time it was a sad moment because our adventure with Adriatic Sea was over and tomorrow we have to go back to NY, but on the other hand we will be going back home with awesome memories of our trip that we will be remembering and talking for years.

One thing I have to mention that within the minutes after we docked a scuba diver from chartering company came over to check the boat for any damages. We were actually very happy with this procedure because we new that our boat was checked the same way before we got her.

Since we returned to marina on Friday morning we had entire day for one more trip to near by Trogir but this time we took a local bus. We spend the rest of Friday walking around Trogir which is another ancient town with castle, bell towers, marinas and as always great restaurants and food.

Next day Saturday morning we checked out and returned the boat. Entire process was very quick and efficient considering over 40 boats needs to be check out for any damages and malfunctions and be ready by afternoon for new sailors that were coming in. Our pre- ordered taxi took us back to airport in Split that was just few miles away from the marina and the rest become the history...

Ps. Do not worry we will be back there again with more stories to come ...