

Well Columbia was a very pleasant surprise , friendly locals wonderful food and the city of Santa Marta was full of energy and music. The locals we getting ready for carnival and teenagers would gather in the town square each night to practice their dance moves it was like something out of a movie but wonderful to see.

The town centre was busy with shoppers and music too with vendors selling fish, fruit and just about everything else ,we had no hassle and everyone was friendly and helpful. Provisioning in the supermarket was a dream with plenty of variety .

We left Santa Marta at first light bound for the San Blas Islands off the coast of Panama. The Columbian coastline is know for its strong winds and did not dissappoint us ! We had 25 to 30 knots from behind for most of the trip with big rolling seas our top speed was 15.1 knts pretty impressive for a boat of 30 tons !

We arrived at San Blas after two days at sea but waited untill morning to go in and anchor as the charts are not accurate enough to navigate in the dark. San Blas archipelago is made up of 300 or so tiny islands covered in coconut trees . The folk who live on the Islands are Kuna indians ,it is amazing to see them fishing in dug out canoes. The women are expert sewers and make beutiful sewn pictures called Molas, there are often a number of layers of fabric involved to make them colourful. They sell them from washing lines on the beach !

On the way in to the archepelago we saw a ship wreck on one of the reefs a warning to sailors to beware of coming in at night ! There are no navigation lights here

Last night we bought 14 Cray Fish for \$25 from a local fisherman, we cooked them all and ate some they were delicious! Then later we had an amazing light show as hundreds of phosporescent fish swam by it looked like something from an alien movie lots of yellow lights in the sea, I tried to video them but it was so dark they did not show up. This morning brilliant sunshine 30deg 67% humidity so very pleasant.

Bye for now will write again from Panama

Helen