

Panama

We first made landfall in a place called Portobello which in the past was the heavily fortified town where all the Inca gold was shipped back to Europe from. Portobello was the main harbour in times gone by and we were able to walk around the forts and imagine the gun battles that took place there.

Panama is very hot and steamy 30 deg plus most days with high humidity. We had Fun evening with another boat Om Shanti in Captain Jacks restaurant and hostel we made sure we had plenty of bug spray as there were lots of biters out as it was right beside the jungle !

We then sailed onto Shelter bay which is at the mouth of the Panama Canal we are in a secure marina as Colon city at this end of the Canal is a real no go area. Panama City on the Pacific side is reported to be fine so we are looking forward to getting there . Around the marina is jungle and one can go for walks and see Sloths and Howler Monkeys in the trees. Prior to the canal passage all the crews are getting ready checking everything on the boats prior to entering the Pacific.

Well two Panama transits later we are now in The Pacific somehow it feels different to the Atlantic and we have seen our first red tide an organic growth which turns the sea a red colour! Last night whilst anchored in Gaton lake we were awoken to a dawn chorus of Howler Monkeys in the trees near by! They call to each other as the sun comes up and the sound reverberates across the Lake. IF you did not know what the sound was it could be quite disturbing !

So a few days in Panama City stocking up on food and fishing tackle then off on an 800 mile sail to The Galapagos via the Los Perlas Islands on the way.

bye for now Helen & Chris