

S E P T E M B E R 2 0 1 1

# Corfu Coast

Sailing with Captain Bob

## Having Fun

Having fun is easy when you have a bunch of people eager to explore, ready to experiment and happy to be on vacation. That's us, a group of six that went sailing with Captain Bob on a 42 ft catamaran in the Ionian Sea in Greece from September 17 to September 24, 2011. We had a blast!



## Captain Bob

Captain Bob was in charge of the entire trip. He is a skillful sailor who planned the sailing excursion so well that everything went smoothly from day one. Most important, he made sure we were safe at all times and learnt about sailing. He believes 'a tidy boat is a happy boat' so each evening the lines were neatly put away and each day the fenders stowed in the lockers. In addition, Captain Bob was an expert at finding perfect spots for mid-day swimming and beautiful towns to explore in the evenings. At the end of the sail, the crew gave him A+ for planning the trip, maneuvering the catamaran, teaching the art of sailing, and making the whole experience so enjoyable for all of us.

Corfu Coast Sailing 17-24 September 2011

### Mates

Jim  
Susan  
Daryl  
Beth  
Anne  
Maija

### Ports Visited

Gouvia Marina  
Kalami  
Corfu Town  
Benitses

### Ports visited

Sivota  
Emerald Bay  
Lakka  
Petriti



## The Mates

**We had a great group**, a perfect combination of people with different skills. Jim with a sailing certificate and his wife Susan, also experienced at sailing, made excellent mentors to novices on board. Daryl, a power-boating enthusiast, and his wife, Beth, who was the best swimmer of the group by far, had mastered the basics already. The two Finns on board, Anne and Maija, had taken



The two Finns on board, Anne and Maija, had taken the trip out of curiosity, excited about the chance to learn something new. Anne, who had been kayaking for years, was thrilled at getting an extra benefit from the sail: an opportunity to practice English with native speakers.



*In all things of nature there is something of the marvelous*  
Aristoteles

***Greece is a fantastic place to take a break from busy life at home. The Eastern coastline of Corfu with its many port towns, pristine beaches and clear waters is a perfect location for leisurely sailing that allows time for exploring the towns.***



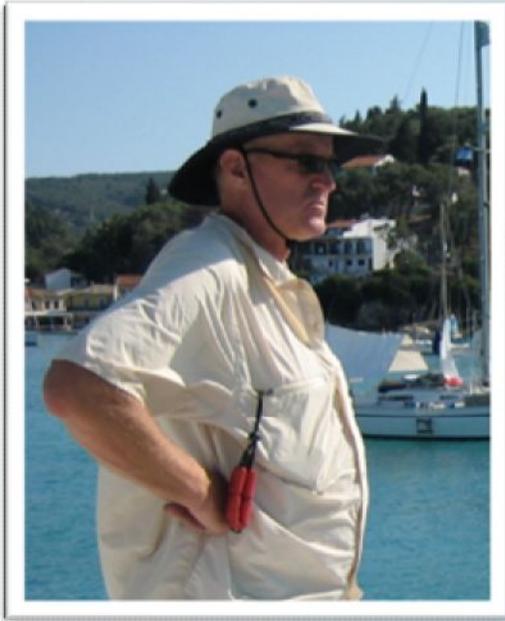
### Green hills, blue water

Unlike many of the Greek islands in the Aegean Sea, the ones we visited in the Ionian Sea were surprisingly green and hilly. Corfu, Paxos and Anti-Paxos had pine trees, olive groves, and elegant cypresses that grow so tall that the Greeks call them “fingers of God”.

Whether at islands or in the charming town of Sivota on the mainland, we enjoyed brilliant blue skies, glistening waters and picturesque sights. Waking up every morning to see a different visual smörgåsbord is an experience of a lifetime.



## Sailing for all



*Sailing with Captain Bob offers something to everyone. It is a chance for experienced sailors to perfect their skills and for novices to learn the basics.*



### Learning the Lingo

Learning the nautical lingo was like learning a new language. Captain Bob taught us some key words emphasizing that proper terminology allows precise communication making teamwork on board go smoothly. At the end of the second day, we all knew the basic vocabulary including words such as backstay, bow, cleat, forestay, sheet, and halyard.

As the days went by, our respect for the art of sailing became deeper. The techniques and maneuvers Captain Bob taught us from 'tacking' to 'jibing' rest on thousands of years of experience. They have been used to conquer nations, spreading religions, trading goods and providing aid. Learning something about sailing is learning something about our collective history.



## The Net of Wonder

### It's All About Knots

Knowing a variety of nautical knots is a requirement for all sailors. Jim, an eternal boy scout, was our expert on all knots you can imagine.

After Captain Bob had taught us how to make a bowline knot, 'the most useful knot in sailing', Jim was there to make sure we really learnt it. He relied on the "rabbit in a hole" memory aid, teaching us this basic maritime knot that is used to make a nonslipping loop on the end of a rope. When Captain Bob was mooring the sailboat at a dock and Jim was busy with spring lines, Susan showed the less experienced mates how to use the double half-hitch knot to secure

fender lines to the railing.



One thing we all excelled on this sailing trip was relaxation. Some read books, while others enjoyed the silence of sailing by looking at the constant movement of waves while deep in thoughts. The time went by fast as we listened to each other's stories or just drifted into thinking of sweet nothingness. "The sea, once it casts its spell, holds one in the net of wonder forever," said Jacques Cousteau, a French naval officer, scientist, and explorer. And so it does.



The Ionian Sea has many ways to cast its spell on unsuspecting travelers. In the Emerald Bay on the northeast coast of Antipaxos, we put down the anchor and swam in crystal clear turquoise waters in awe of the beauty that embraced us from all directions. Right there, if not earlier, we were caught in the net of wonder.



# Greek Culture & Traditions

*Sailing with Captain Bob provided a perfect mixture of inspiring experiences on land and at sea within the short period of time we had planned for the trip.*



Each day we learned a bit more about the Greek culture and traditions. Some traditions are carved on the stone, decorating buildings of the past millenniums. But some are as living as the people who are creating them today. Every time we feasted on Mediterranean fare, sampled local wines, or admired fervent dancing at taverns in town, we paid homage to what is truly Greek: passion for life. In Ancient times this passion powered imagination, creating towering gods of the Greek mythology that live on in the stories we tell today.



In the town of Corfu we learnt that Poseidon, god of the sea, fell in love with the beautiful nymph Korkyra and named an island after her. Korkyra (Corfu) remained a site of powerful mythological battles but its complex fortifications were built to protect the Greeks against the Ottomans. One of the ports we moored at was Mandraki Harbor, sitting below the old fortifications and a short walk from the city center that is bustling with commerce and tourism all year around.



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"Curiosity is the beginning of wisdom."  
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Sailing with Bob was an adventure into the world of natural splendor with joyful people eager to explore. It was fun!

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Thanks Bob, we'll do it again!