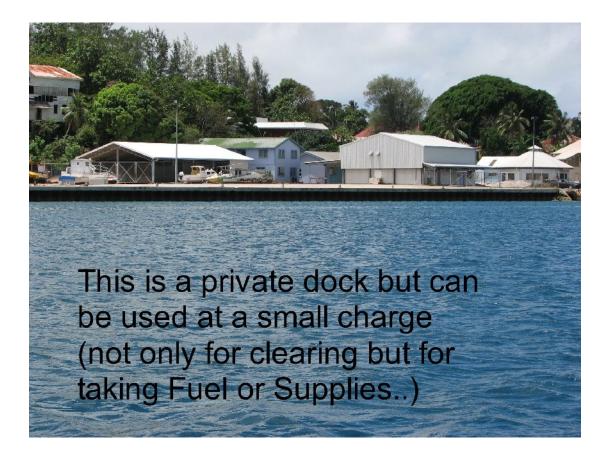
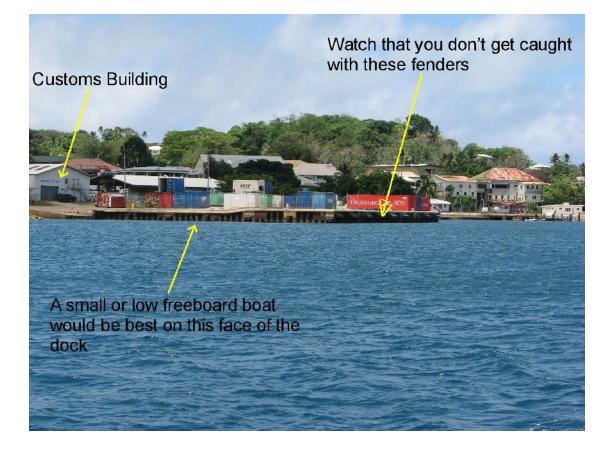


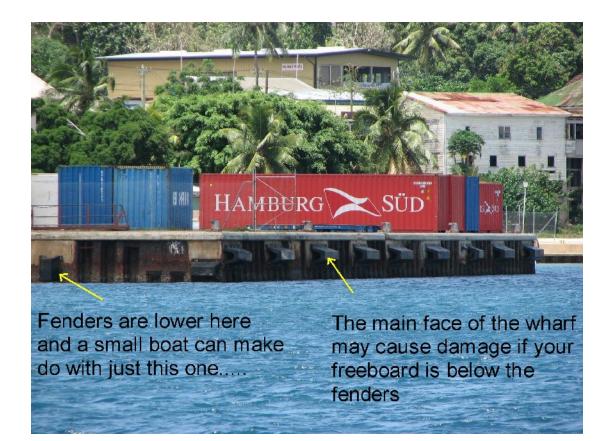


You may get away without going alongside for departure and internal clearance you may not

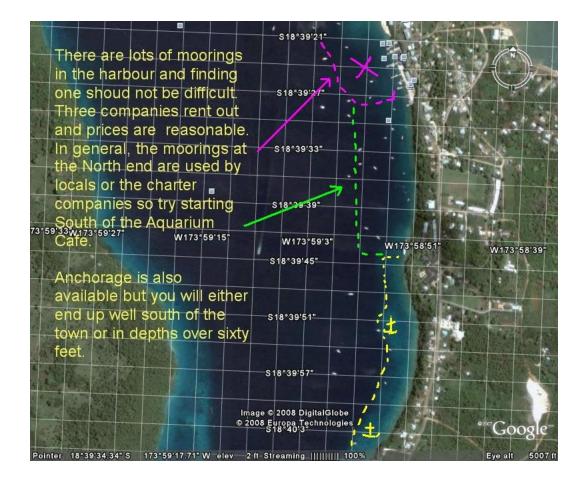


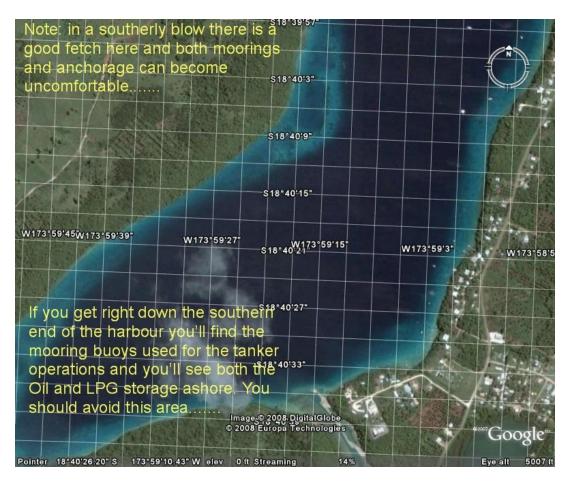












### A Few words about Neiafu

You should be a little cautious using the moorings, generally they are well looked after but you can never be sure when you are sitting on someone else's gear! Best take your normal precautions, go astern on it like you would do your own anchor, use your anchor drag alarm and if the weather is becoming adverse, keep a good eye out or move so a more sheltered spot.

There is enough food to survive in town however it is best not to have high expectations.

The local restaurants put on good value for money food but they also have logistical and price considerations .....so if you want prime Angus and French wine; you are in the wrong place.

There is a surprising amount of talent available to 'fix things'; at least enough to get you to someplace where more permanent repairs can be carried out.

The patrons of ALL establishments work hard (and in concert with each other) to get you fixed up with what ever you want.

Town water is available at two docks and it's cheap enough..... problem is you can't drink it (although they SAY the locals do). If you are short on drinking water most of the restaurants will come forward and let you fill jerry cans....(No one wants to see you leave because you can't get good drinking water!).

There is an active VHF net in the mornings and if there is anything you want or want to know, this is a sure place to ask....



## Out and about in the NW Sector



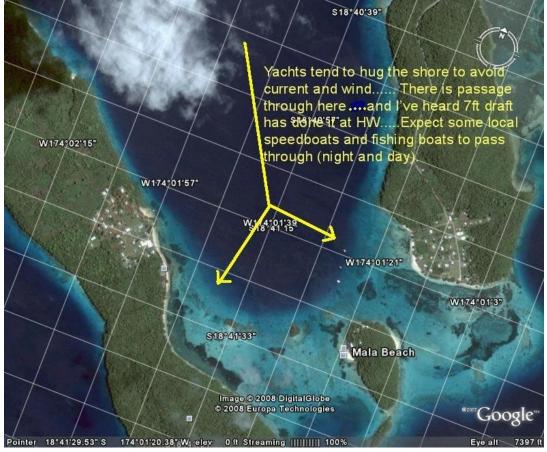
#### VAIMALO

Just fifteen minutes from Neiafu Harbour.

Away from the hustle and bustle.....

VAIMALO is just out side of Neiafu Hr and when its blowing in there, its usually calm in this anchorage not in a strong Sly or SWly though!	518°38'3"	
Be careful at HW as the bay looks deeper than it is, there is a pool at the back end seperated off by a reef that dries at LW. We anchored at the edge of the spit	S18*38'5"	
where depths are about 11 feet in broken coral and patches of sand. There are coral heads in the deeper water and you may have fun getting the hook back w174 00'3 w174 00'27" w174 00'15	513°98°15" W174°00°3" #	
Anchor Posn: 16 38 306S 173 59 980W. Quiet and peacefullots of early morning bird calls	S13°35'21"	W173 59'39'
	S18'38'27" S18'38'33"	
Pointer 16'38'25.43' 5 173'59'56.57' Weley 3 m	a SiO, NOAA, ILS, Nayy, NGA, GEBC D Image & CODDepotatione or 2010 Google © 2010 Europa Technologies Streaming III III 100%	ezour Google T







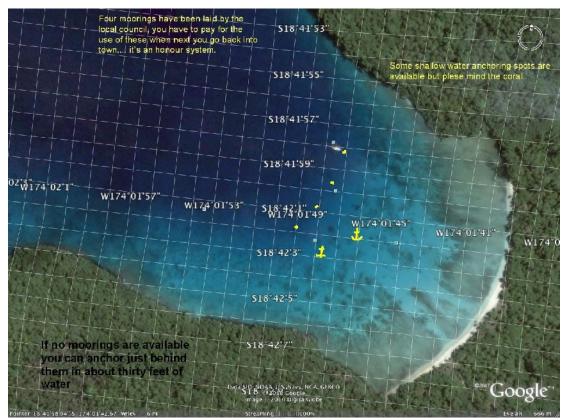
Also quite close to Neiafu are two very nice anchorages.

On route, having passed Mala Island to Port, you will round the next promontory "Muifaitunga", on the end of which you will find Swallows Cave; an interesting dinghy excursion from Port Maurelle.

Port Maurelle is one of the most sheltered anchorages in the group and has a nice beach (no houses) and some coral with plenty of colourful, small fish.

There is a path leading south to Barnacle Beach where they hold Tongan Feasts most weekends

Nuku is a great spot for swimming and the anchorage gets more Trade Wind breeze



### PORT MAURELLE



\$18 42'37" \$18-42'39" \$18 42'41" ++₺ Plenty of anchor space, I went S18°42'43" up between the coral heads but you have to be careful as 902 37 W174°02'31" there is some current through S18°42'45" W174°02'25 here W174°02'19" \$18°42'4W174°02'13" 3 w174°02<sup>'7"</sup> W174°02'3" t S18 42 49" \$18 42 5 Nuku Some good snorkelling on the coral heads in the channel \$18°42'53" S18"42'55" \$18°42'57"

> DataSs108N6-2:59 New Non GERC 0 2010 Google Timage © 2010 Digita Globe

> > S štřeaní no 1

18'42'55.31" S 174'02'24.49" Weley

W174

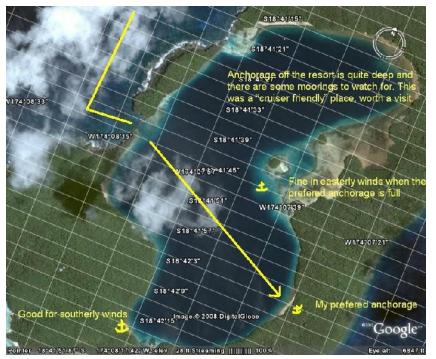
Google





When it comes to Hunga, there are only two places that yachts go; the main one is the Central Lagoon, which is the main body of "almost" enclosed water you see above. The second one is to Blue Lagoon in the south. The later has some lovely colouring and a neat spot for a photo, other than that, I find it has little to recommend it as the Blue Lagoon resort is well known for it's inhospitable attitude towards visiting yachts (even if you do want to spend money!) and the anchorage can become very rolly at high tide when the swell gets over the reef.

The trip around to the entrance of Hunga Lagoon is very straight forward and you may even catch a fish if you hug the coast.....I have no problem doing this in low visibility but first time around you may like a little sun behind you, thus its best to have an afternoon arrival. The tidal flow in or out of the lagoon is minimal but enough that there is often a long 'tell tail' on the surface, ruffled when against the wind, smooth when with the wind, showing where the main body of water is moving fastest; this also indicates the deep water so you can just follow it in.....

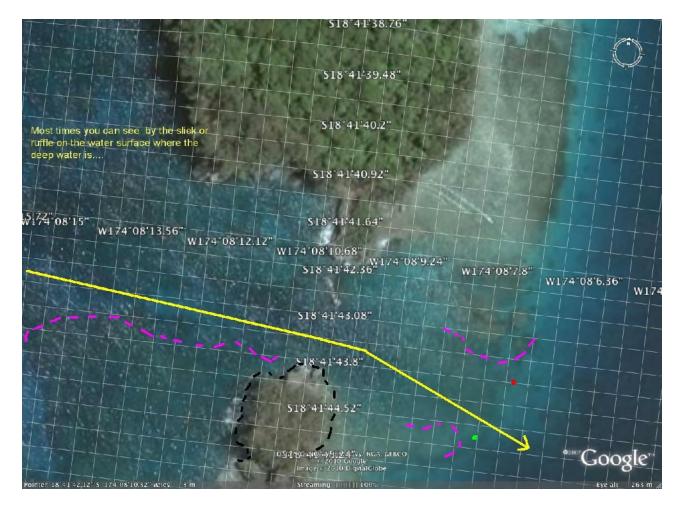


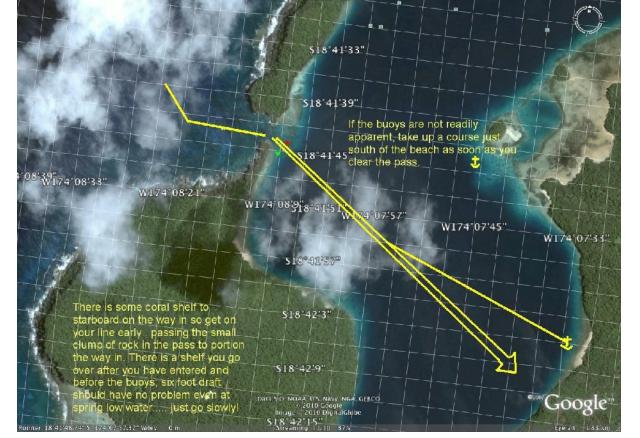
Outer: 18 41.716S 174 08.264W

Pass: 18 41.728S 174 08.170W

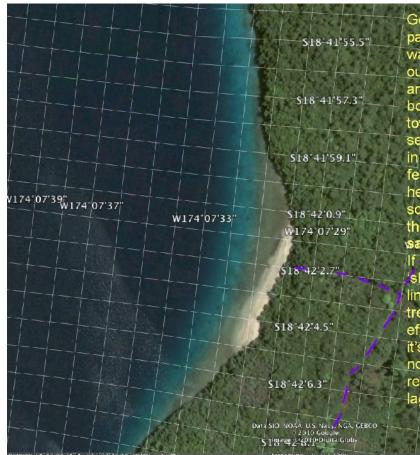
Buoys: 18 41.760S 174 08.111W

Anchor: 18 42.050S 174 07.540W



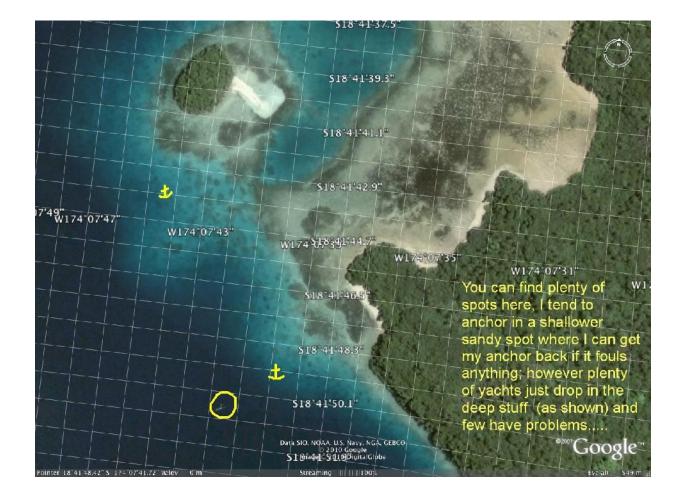


518-41'27



Go east directly at the beach, pay out to 25 / 30 feet (in the); water) on the bow anchor, pay out without delay as soon as anchor makes contact with bottom. Maintain slow progress towards beach and dropsecond anchor / kedge as close in as you dare go ... in about six feet of water. Avoid any coral heads that you can see, mainly so as not to damage them .... there are plenty of patches of sandtozget the hook down. If you are not satisfied with the shore' anchor, take a floating line to the shore and tie off to a tree. There is very little wind effect in close to the shore and it's not too buggy. Take the path north to the village and to the resort at the north end of the lagoon

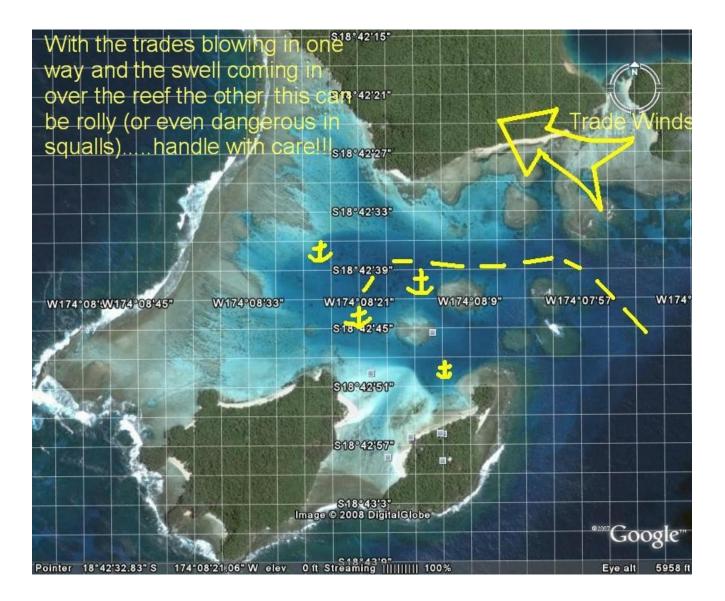
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This is looking west (or outwards from inside). I tend to favour the left side although the buoys do mark the port and starboard extremities of the channel......Just that when I snorkelled it, there seemed to be less to hit on this side. If you don't trust me, just go down the middle; you'll still be OK!!!!!





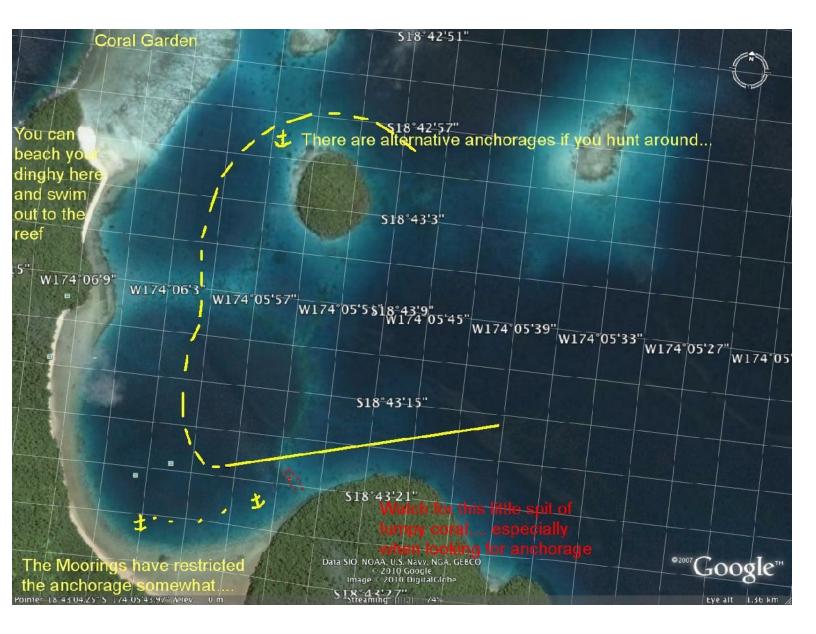
# The SW Sector





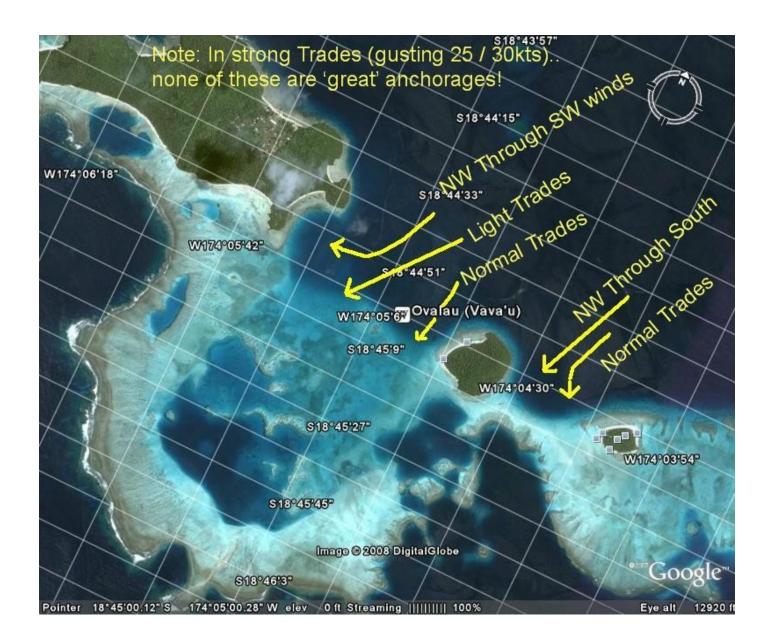
This general area is known as 'The Coral Garden', however the garden in question is only the small area indicated. With or without tanks there is a good 'wall' here' on the outer side of the reef. It is best accessed at High Water (over the reef) and a SW swell can make it uncomfortable to dangerous. There is often some current so care is always required.

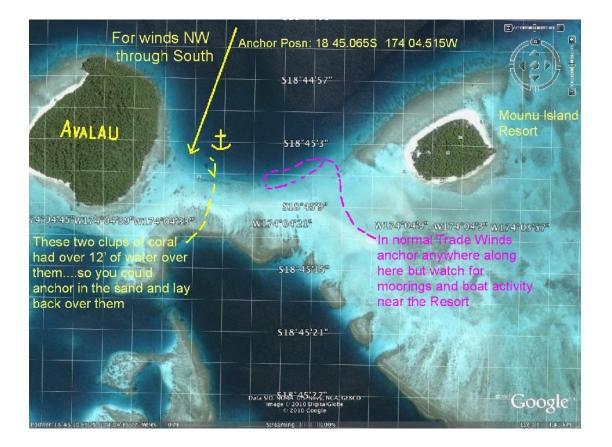


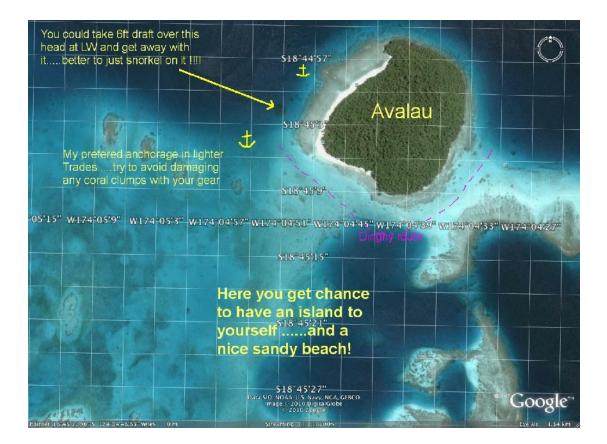


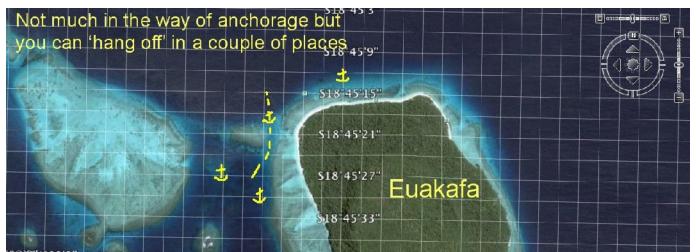


Maybe known as the "Ovalau (Vava'u) Group.....







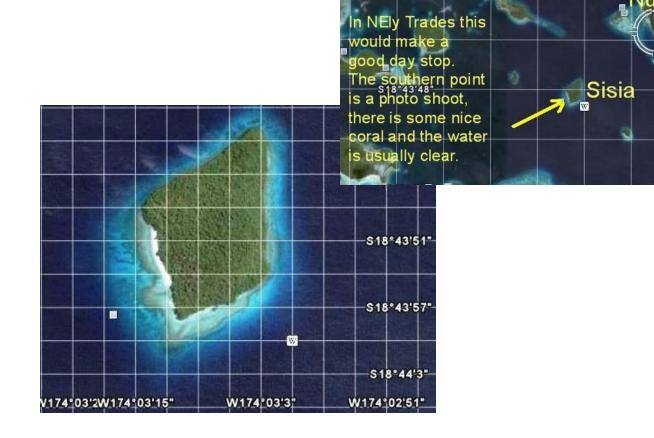


W174°03'3" W174°02'51" W174°02'39" W174°02'27"SW3174°02"15" W174°02'3" W174°01'51" W174°01'39" W174°01

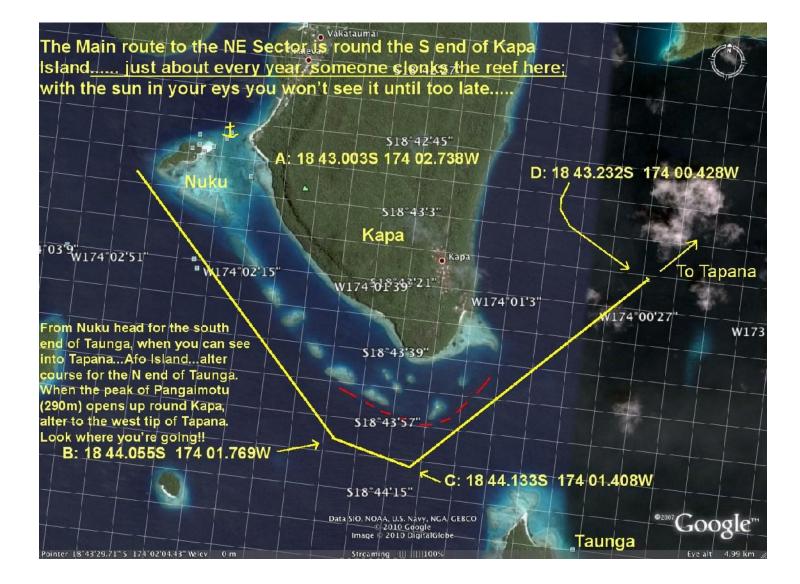
I ve seen local boats belt through the pass at full speed (and a few Moorings boats with 6' draft....) If you go through carefully, you can find anchorage to the south with some protection but there is coral, even in the deeper water.....

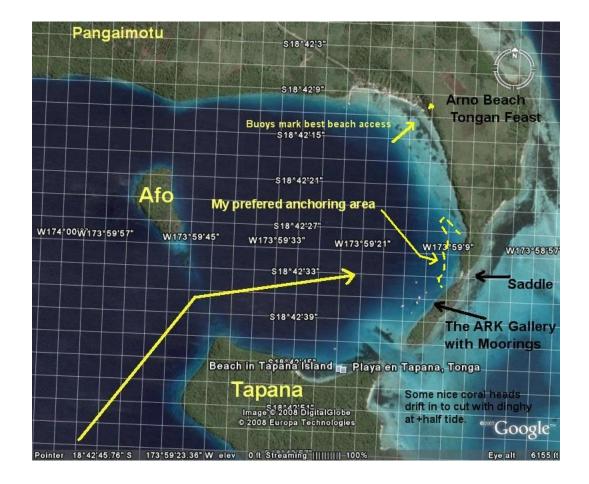
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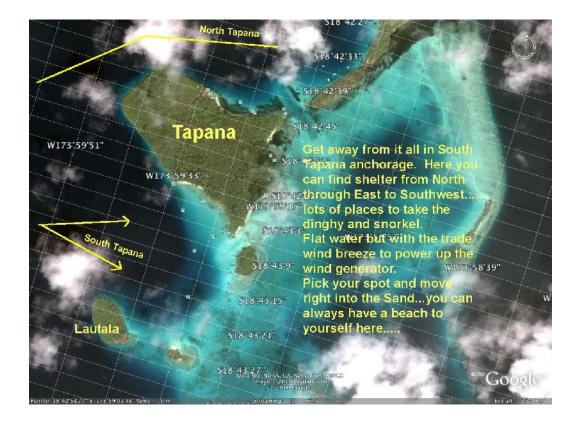


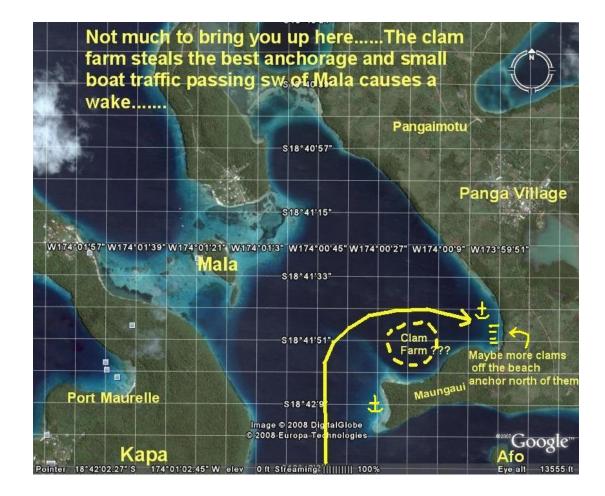




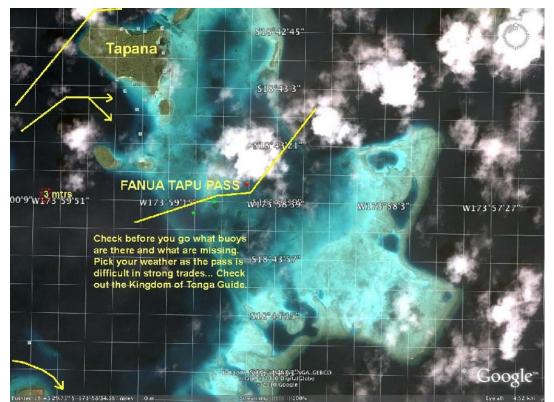


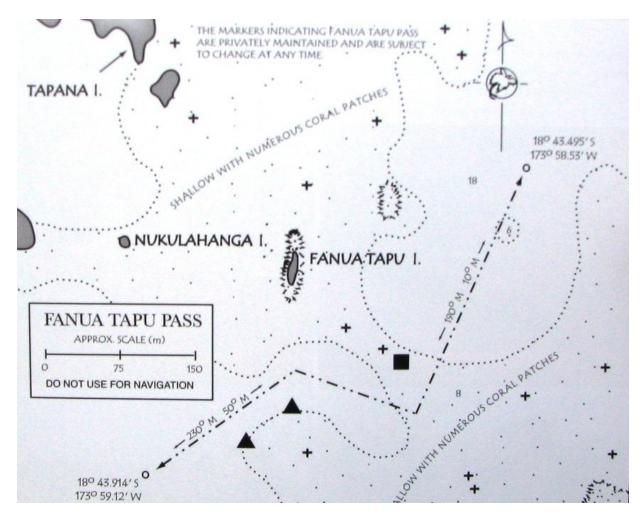
### TAPANA ISLAND



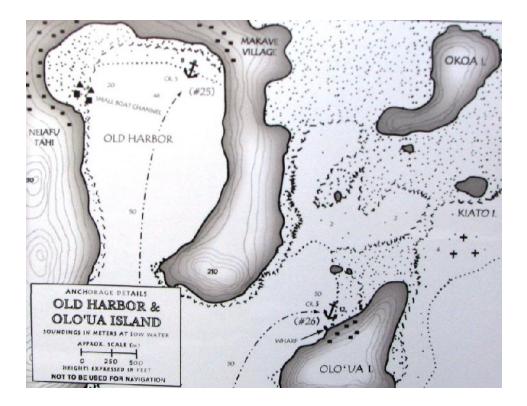


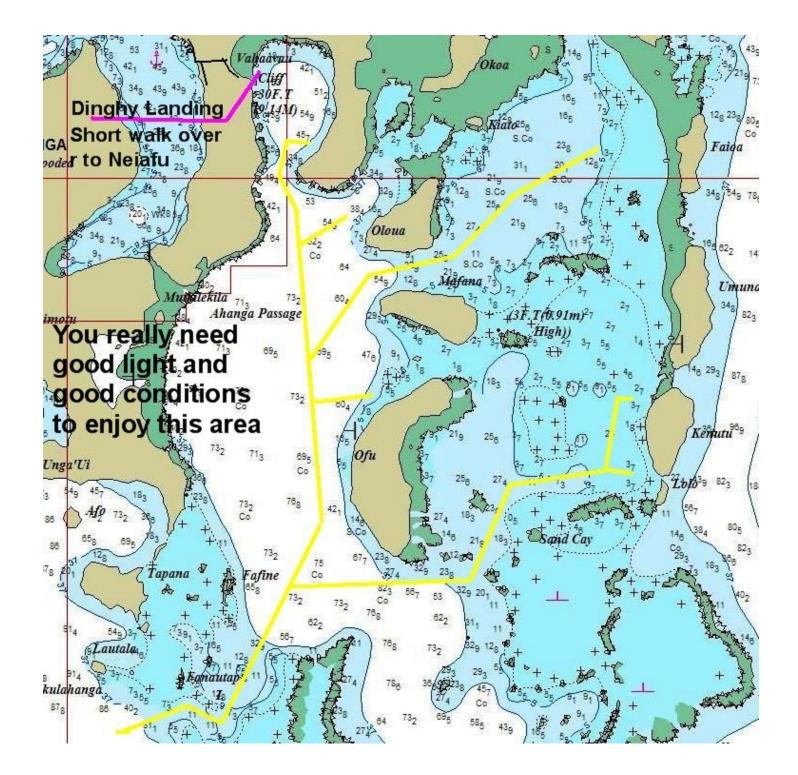
### **Going further East**

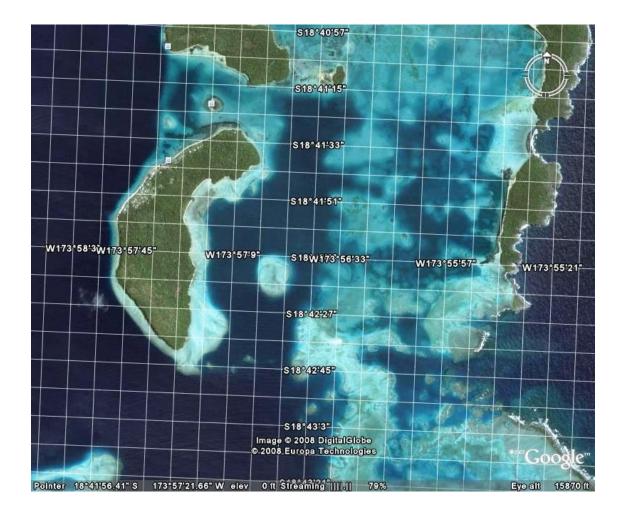


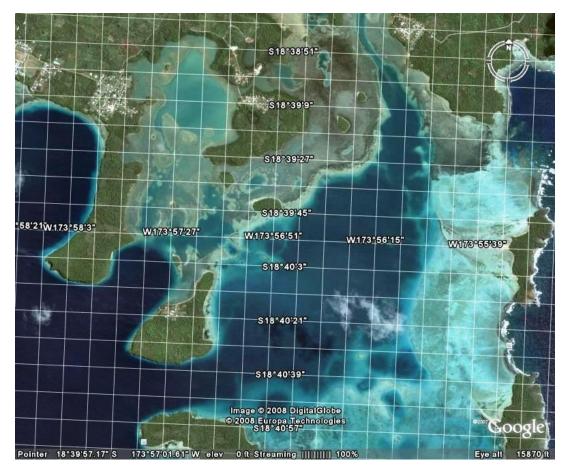


Above and below are from the 'Sailingbirds Guide'..... you should buy this book as soon as you arrive if you don't have it already.....

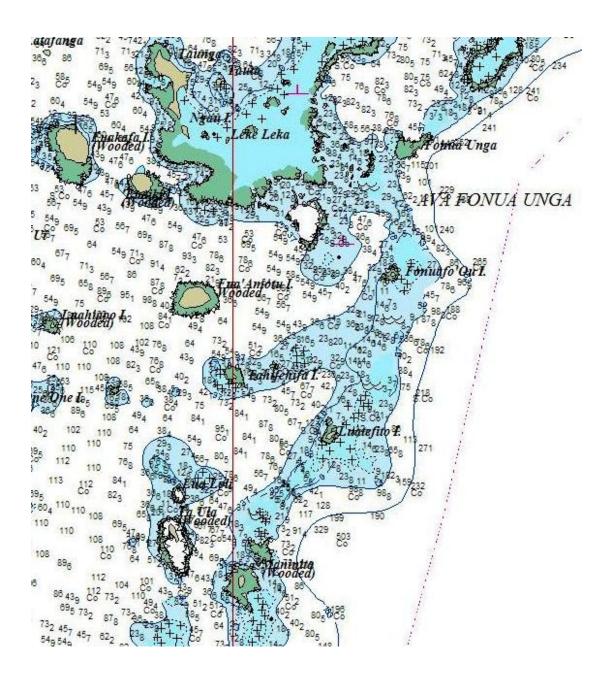


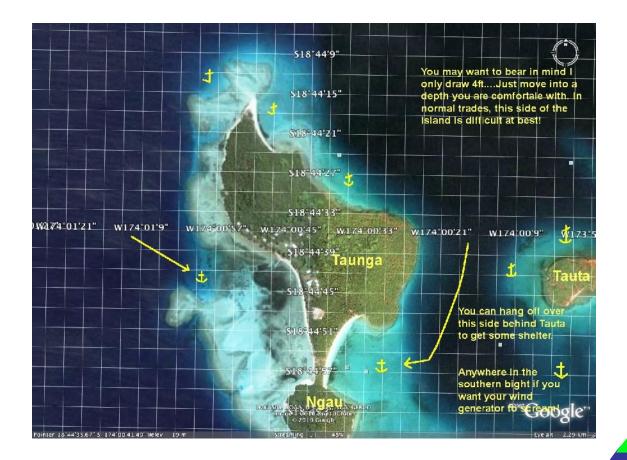


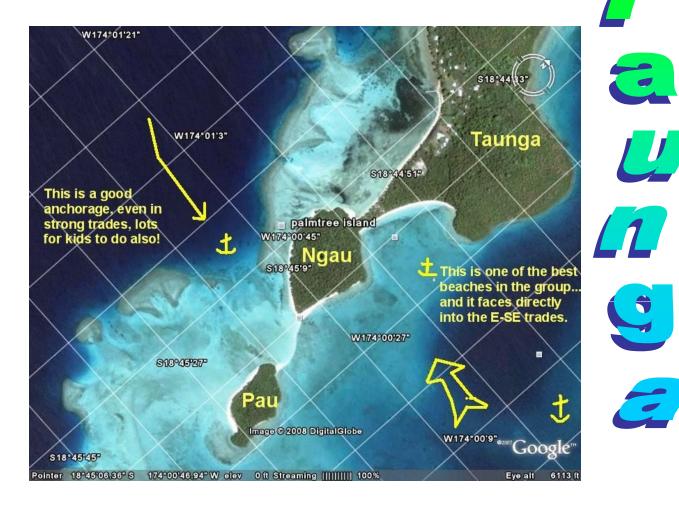


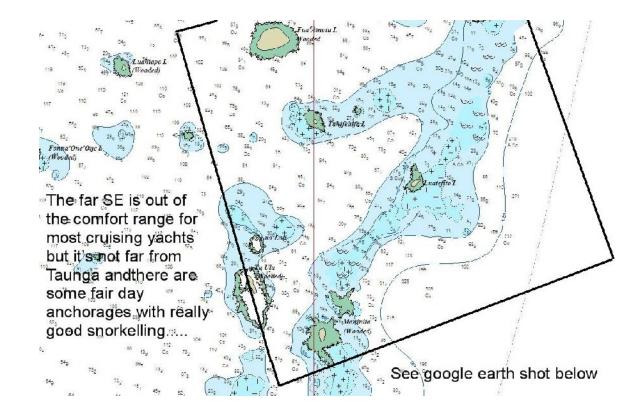


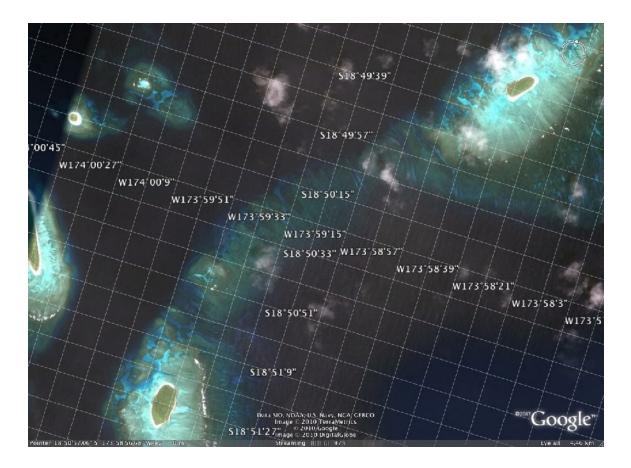




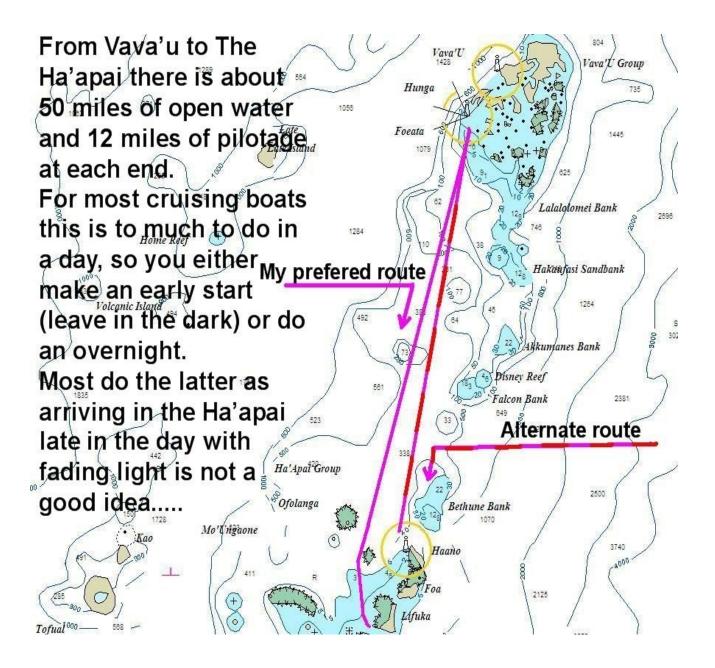




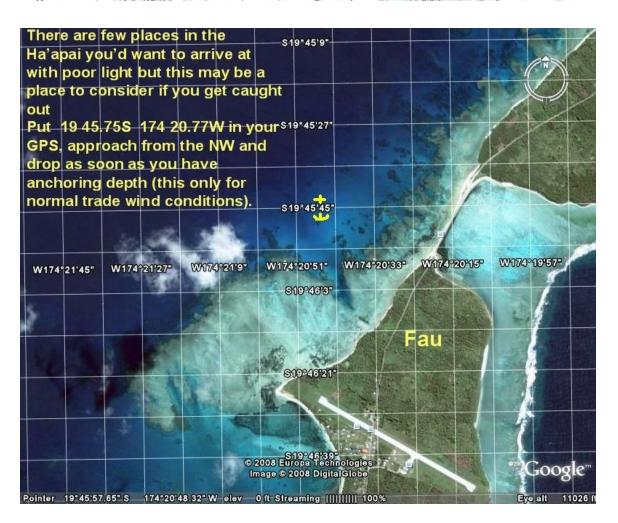


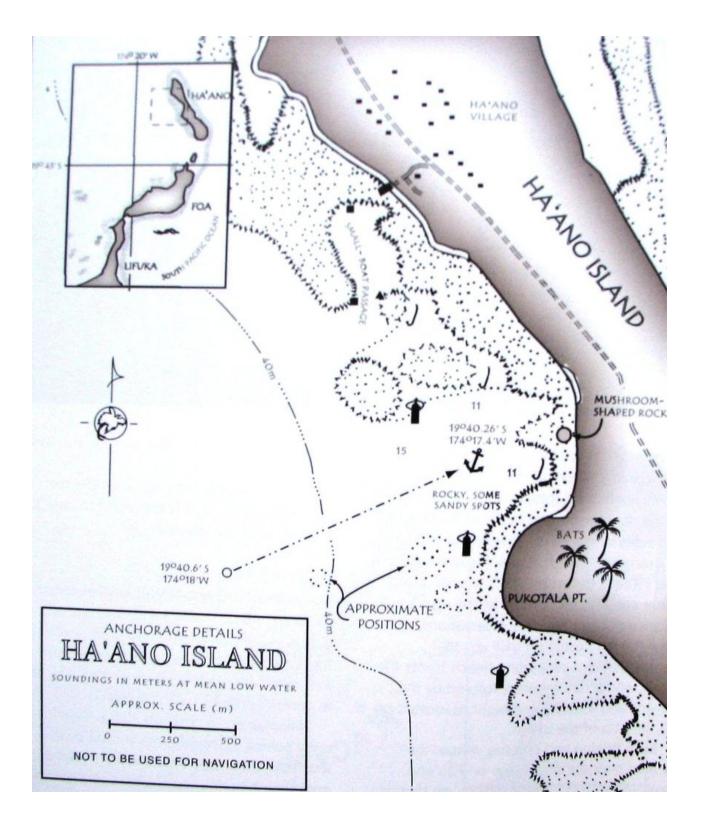


## A visit to the Ha'apai



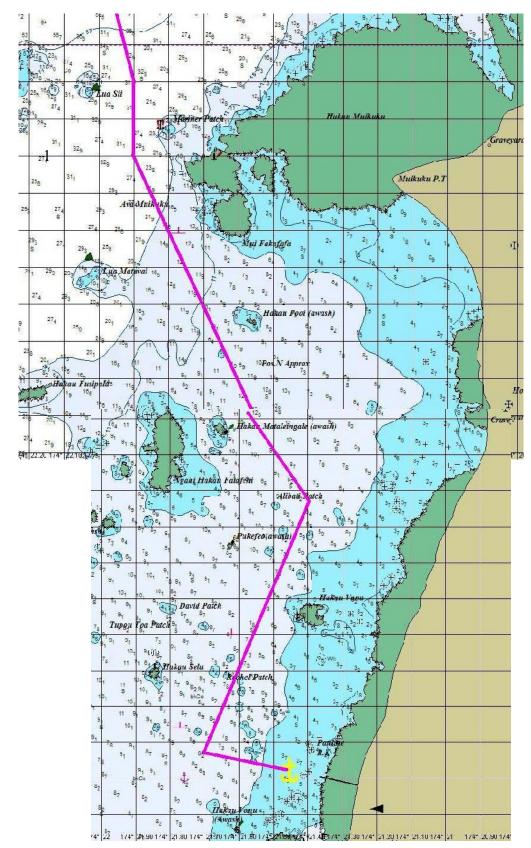
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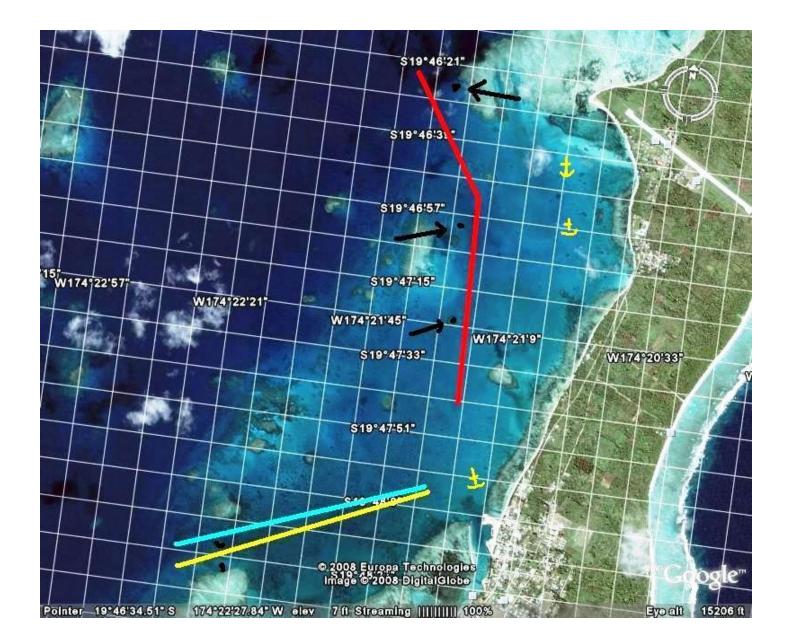


The 'Sailingbirds Guide' offers the above anchorage.....It may be good for an early departure when going north but arrival in poor light may be tricky....

I couldn't get a 'google' on it and the last time I went passed, there was a boat rolling heavily in the cove.....so I kept on going!!!

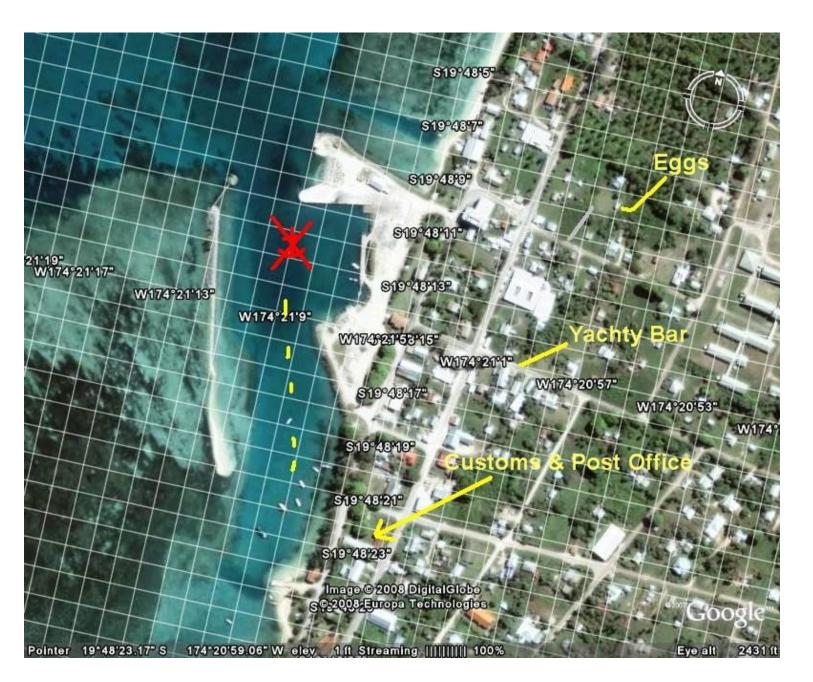


Anchoring off Pangai , Lefuka Posn 1) 19 48.002S 174 21.239W ...muddy sand...18feet of water Posn 2) 19 47.973S 174 21.285W... muddy sand...16feet of water Both of these are a short distance north of the harbour entrance but clear of traffic.



### PANGAI HARBOUR

Not the greatest of places but you have to go here to 'clear in' and out of the Ha'apai. The process is painless if you are calling in anyway.... but if you are on route, passing through, it can be a pain. Best take clearance direct between Vava'u and Nuku'alofa, then if you do stop on route, well... you can always make your way here to make it official.



There is room in the harbour for a couple of boats to anchor and this is one of the few places with some all-round protection in a frontal passage. Ourselves and a few other boats did take one here in roughly the yellow positions marked.... You should be prepared to use at least two anchors (line ashore is also an option). Do not anchor in the north of the basin as commercial traffic arrives and departs at all hours.....

There is not much available here however the Diesel was cheaper than in Vava'u and easier to get!!!!! LPG is also available near the dock and limited supplies. Most of the limited Fresh Provisions were of very poor quality. AND if you do buy anything best check for roaches before you bring it aboard (that includes lettuce, cabbage and the like!!!).

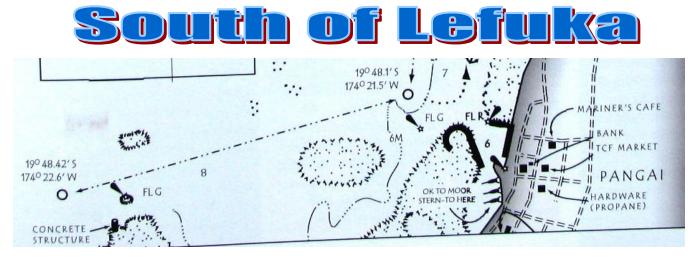




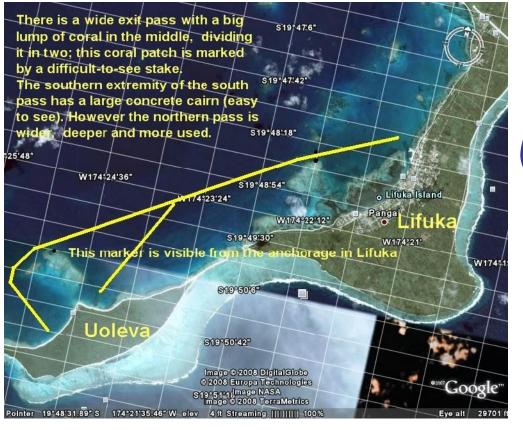
The end of the dock is fine most weekdays however, when school is out this is the local swim site so you can expect a wet, if not drowned, dinghy.

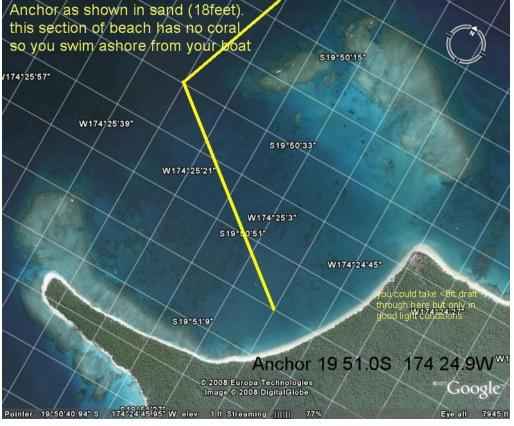
There are two ramps (one facing you on the bottom photo), we put our wheels down and pulled out there without problem except that at Low Water the ramp has a drop-off at the end..... and it's slippery!!!

As there is so little of interest ashore here, there should be no problem leaving the dinghy for short periods.

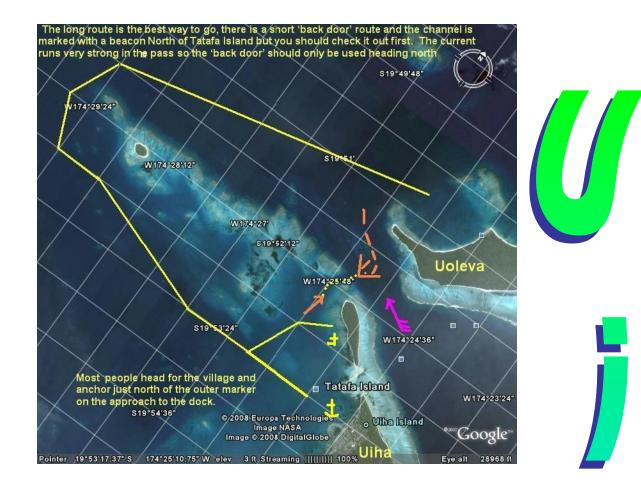


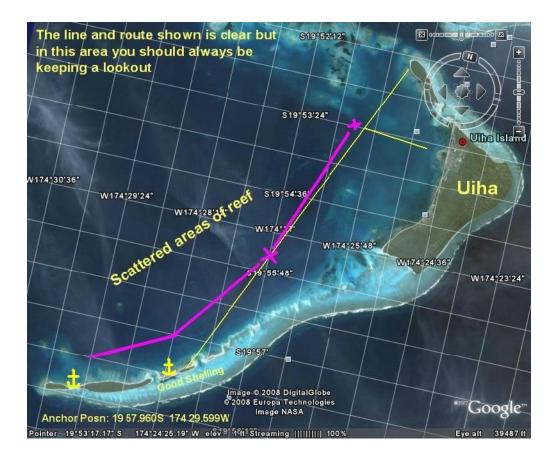
c/o Sailingbird Guide..... (The FL.G has been replaced by a stake June 2010)









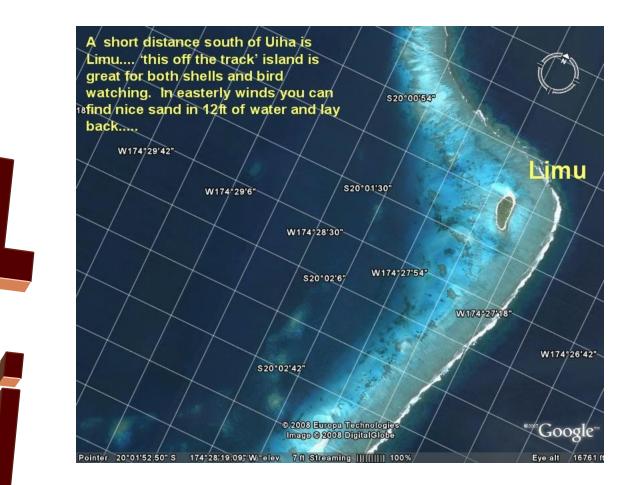


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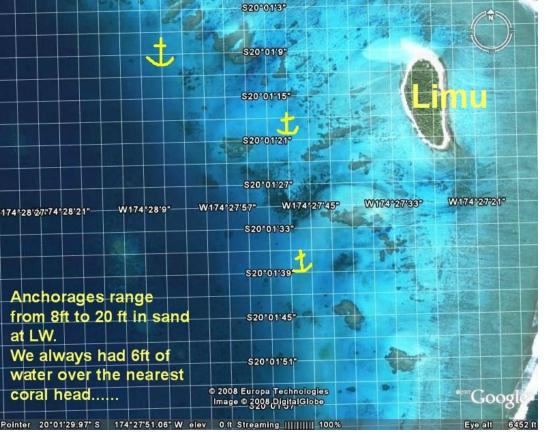
2

Going South from UANUKUHAHAKI, which is the anchorage indicated on the chart above in the southern Uiha group, you pass 'Ava Mata MaTa Veka' and to the west of Joulton Shoals. You may then take up a course directly for Limu Island. There are a couple of coral heads close to the approach line so the best time to do this passage is in the early afternoon.

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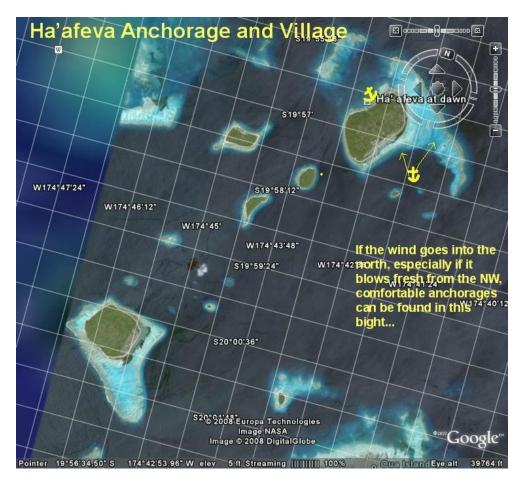


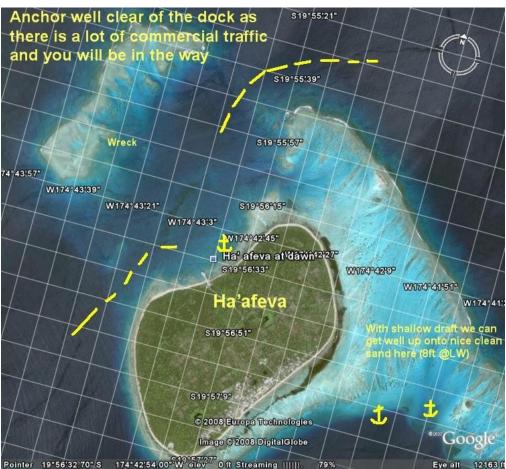




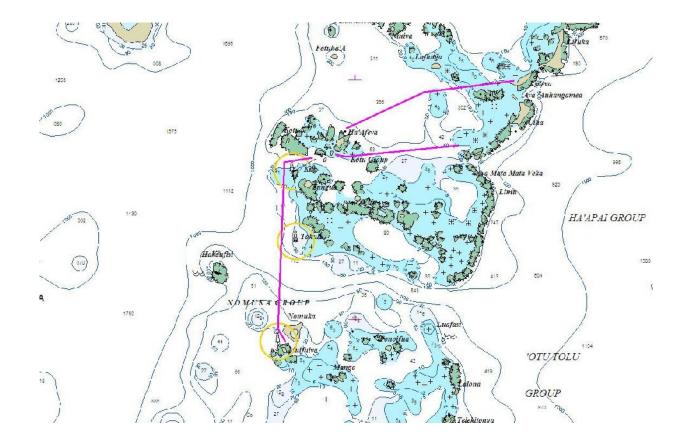


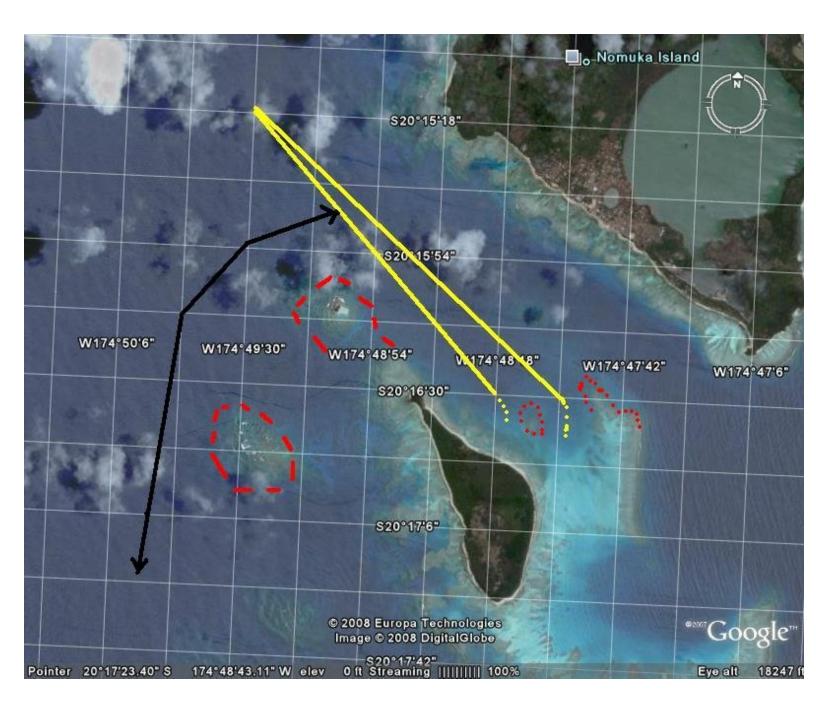


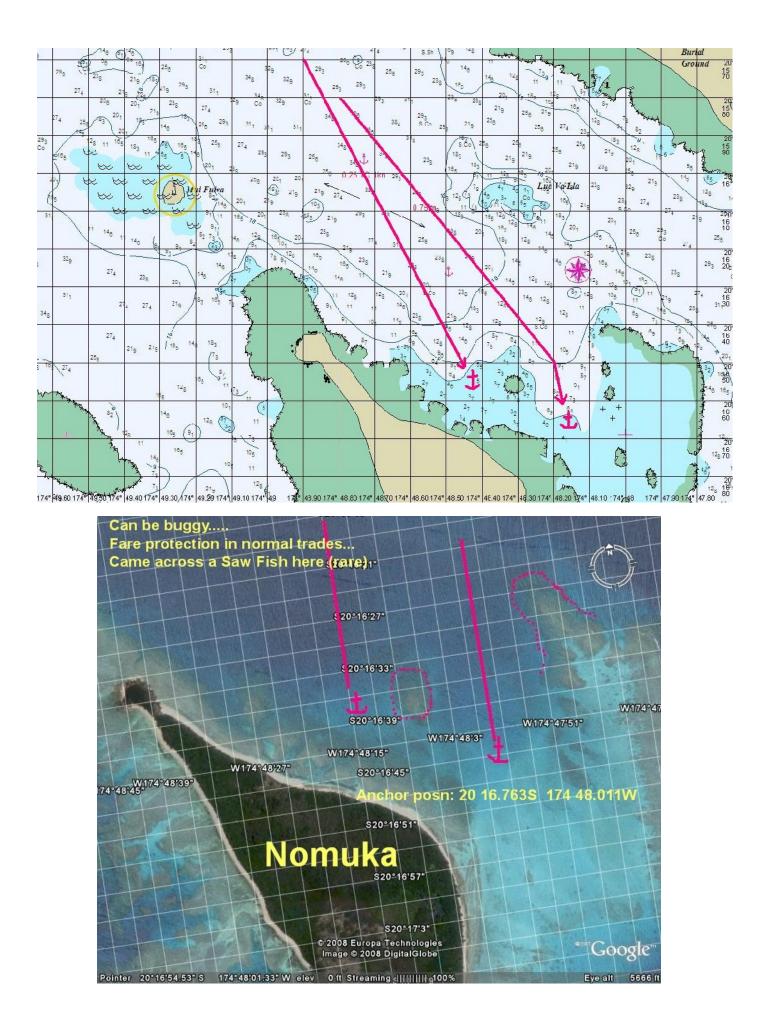




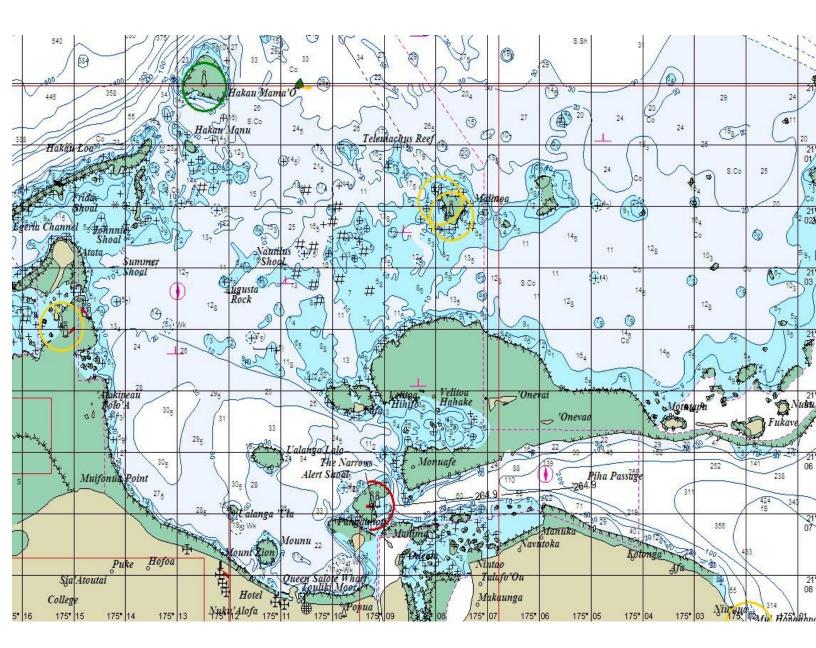
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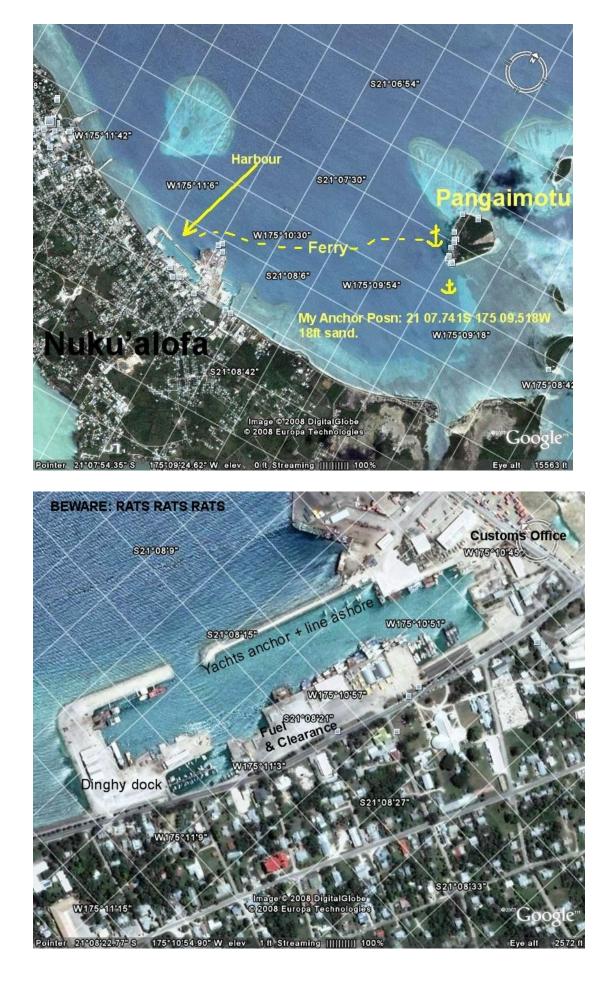


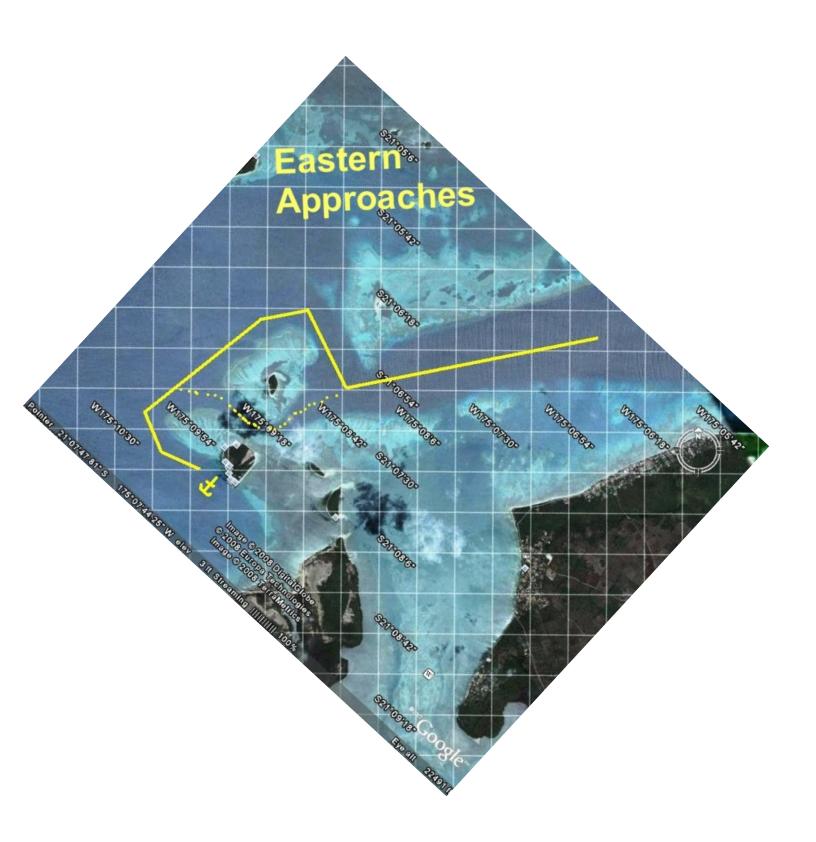


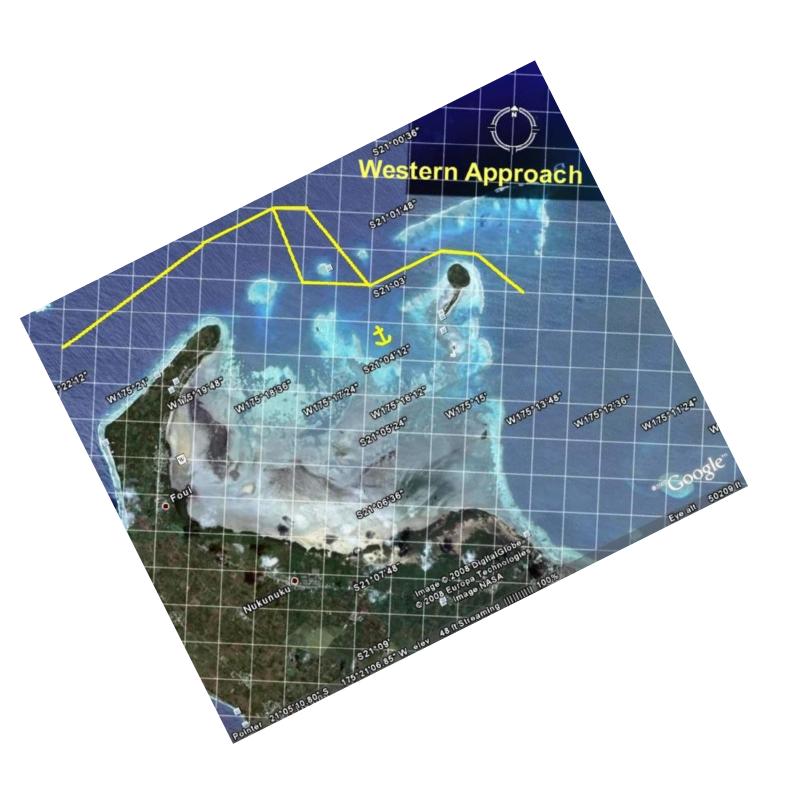




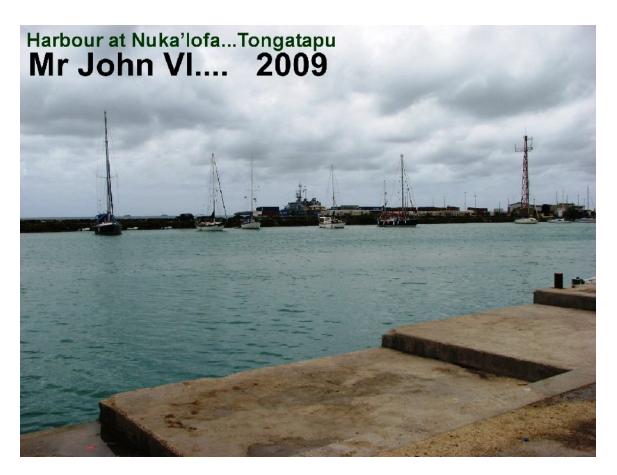












And after all that time, the Rats are still here.....!!!!!!!!

**TONGATAPU** is not a bad place to hang out waiting for the jump to New Zealand, there is some local cruising around the island and ashore you can always hire a car to see the interior. There is a good market up town and all basic supplies can be purchased.

If you go alongside for fuel, watch out for Rats on the quay..... they will board you within moments of getting alongside no mater what time of day!

Whilst there are some nice places to visit south of Vava'u, none of it could be called a 'Cruising Ground' in the same way as Vava'u..... you always have to be alert and looking over your shoulder, there are few places offering any sort of all round protection; in many you may be fine with the trade wind but the southern ocean swell will creep in and set you rolling. With due care however, good times can be had.

I was never that impressed with the snorkelling, they have had a lot of cyclone damage of late. **Swimming with the whales** however is the most unbelievable experience and this is one of the few places in the world where you can do it.

THIS IS NOT A PILOT BOOK..... just a little guide to give you some ideas what is available and how much time you want to a lot to the group. I hope it gives you some insight and that you have a great time here as we have always done.

There are some good, up to date, Pilot Books available and you should get one on arrival. Watch out when using charted data.... both paper and electronic charts are out in many areas.... I have always found "Google Earth" positions to be spot on.

Good luck and good sailing....

John & Paula Wolstenholme British Yacht "Mr John VI" Sept 2010

www.yachtmrjohn.blogspot.com yachtmrjohn@gmail.com



"Mr John IV" in Hunga Lagoon 1989