

Hong Kong in Visitors' Eyes

By Stéphanie and Christophe Bergamelli

Stéphanie and Christophe Bergamelli visited Hong Kong in May and were welcomed to the ABC as visiting yachtsmen. Here they relate something of their voyage and their time in Hong Kong.

Yo!" is an Ovni 385, a French 40-foot sailing boat, with a centreboard made entirely of aluminium. From her design concept, she is perfectly fit for long-haul trips. Thanks to high-quality craftsmanship, she is solid and reliable, suited to difficult sailing conditions as well as for wandering through treacherous coral seas.

After a round trip to the Red Sea back in 2008, we decided to reach the East by classically going through the Atlantic Ocean and then island-hopping: through the Galapagos and Marquesas islands,

French Polynesia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines and Japan.

We departed France on 3 August 2013, and landed in Hong Kong on 14 May 2016, after sailing roughly 25,000 nautical miles.

A warm welcome

After rounding the Paracels and experiencing a cyclonic low 100 nm before Wanshan Qundao, the welcome in Hong Kong from the ABC was so nice that we quickly asked for permission to stay longer than originally anticipated. The formalities with port authorities went so smoothly that we felt at home.

The mythic Aberdeen Harbour has, of course, changed over the course of time, but sailors still pay respect to Tin Hau, which we did.

As far as the city is concerned, multi-dimensional is how it is best characterised, layered in roads, streets, flats, etc. ... making it fun to find one's way.

In Hong Kong, the level of energy is incredible, and shopping is a window to the world, (with top quality French haute-couture as well as cheese). Each stall represents a food lover's paradise and a drink on some of the rooftops reinforces the feeling of uniqueness.

In a matter of a month, we sailed from Singapore to Hong Kong; two Chinatowns that, in different ways, go beyond limits. We are lucky sailors, thanks to the sailing community.

We left on 28 May, sailing east to the Bashi channel (beware) then Ishigaki ... we plan to spend a year in Japan.

Follow the voyage of Stéphanie and Christophe at www.yodyssey.com. 

