

28 February ~ Thursday

It is a bit cloudy at breakfast this morning. The waitress brings a mango smoothie. Tasty. A couple of parrots chatter at passers by. We sit on the balcony while the room is made up and write cards. On each side Bougainvillea, with their own watering system. Out to sea, an island is just visible through the mist.

A concrete path meanders beside the beach. We follow it to Whalers a shopping mall about a ten-minute walk. The path serves several hotels and is busy. A Marriott is selling time-shares. One-week occupancy a year costs \$45,000 for a single bedroom condo. Ouch!



The stores are geared to us vacationers. I buy a small bottle at the ABC store.

At Crazy Shirt I purchase a red dirt dyed T-shirt. [Later, back at home, after soaking in vinegar water and twenty rinses, the color is still leaching out.]

True to its name a Sperm Whale skeleton is displayed in the courtyard.

Back at the pool we split a burger. Why does all our food and drinks come with edible flowers?

Some sort of wooden structure is being erected by the pool. The workers are noisy. One does a balance beam between the posts to nail a tie in place. "Jan, that post is not straight."

255. The Stores at Whalers Village.



256. Whale skeleton.

531. The pool as seen from our room.



260. Luau.

Christine has one copy of the outrigger pictures on CD. Some are very good. We discuss how to distribute.

It's the Luau. Jan and I are early, and invited to stake out the Tauck Tour tables. We really don't earn our privilege since the napkins have all been turned sideways to signify "reserved" tables. A bird does a number on a tablecloth. The waiters visibly cringe and rapidly make a change.

An open bar..... This is the strangest gin, a cross between seawater and liquorice.

The pig, having cooked all day, is raised from the pit. Since this meat is instantly available at the buffet, I suspect we just saw tomorrow's roast. We have been to many buffets; this is one of the best. Very clean. Great food. No rush. We love it! I actually ate poi noodles.



266.

The hula we have seen elsewhere on these islands is slow and graceful. In Polynesia, very fast and sensual. Our show tonight is intermediate. The fire dancer is the best we have seen anywhere!

The master of ceremonies asks for birthday people, those with anniversaries and newly-weds to identify themselves. One couple claims three hours married. There are lots of weddings in this beautiful place.



243. Chandeliers made from shells.