

RAPA NUI ANCHORING GUIDE

ANCHORING IN HANGA ROA

All areas that are not marked as 'sand' are dense coral and rock – often with reefs and/or coral heads. The areas marked as 'sand' contain some small coral heads and rocks. The coral is absolutely beautiful and the snorkeling and diving (near the small dive marker buoys or closer in toward shore) is outstanding. PLEASE DO NOT ANCHOR IN THE CORAL.

GPS DATUM: WGS84

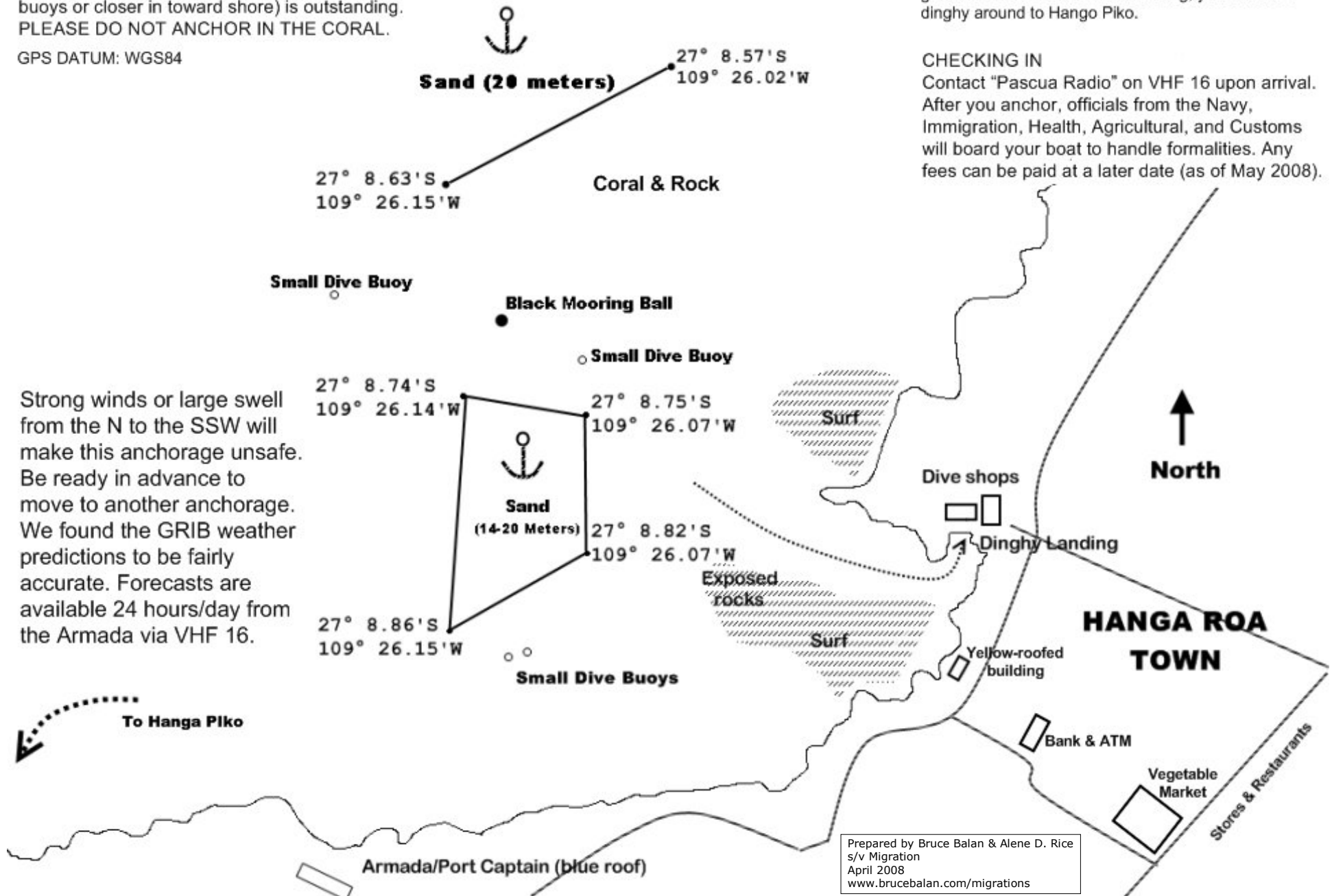
DINGHY LANDING

Be cautious and patient. Large sets may break completely across the entrance between the 2 areas of 'surf' shown. However, unless the waves are very big there are usually times when you can get in or out. If the waves are too big, you can often dinghy around to Hango Piko.

CHECKING IN

Contact "Pascua Radio" on VHF 16 upon arrival. After you anchor, officials from the Navy, Immigration, Health, Agricultural, and Customs will board your boat to handle formalities. Any fees can be paid at a later date (as of May 2008).

Strong winds or large swell from the N to the SSW will make this anchorage unsafe. Be ready in advance to move to another anchorage. We found the GRIB weather predictions to be fairly accurate. Forecasts are available 24 hours/day from the Armada via VHF 16.



Prepared by Bruce Balan & Alene D. Rice
s/v Migration
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ALTERNATE ANCHORAGES

Hanga Piko (approximately 27° 08.7'S 109° 26.3'W)

- Protected from all directions except strong SW swell

Fishing boats, the Armada's boat, and one or two local sailboats reside in the tiny harbor of Hanga Piko. There is room for a few visiting yachts. However, only monohulls less than 13 meters in length with a draft less than 1.6 meters are allowed. You cannot enter the harbor without a local pilot as it is quite dangerous. There is a fee. The pilots have final say on which boats may enter. Once inside, boats are moored with a spider web of lines to the walls of the harbor and their primary anchor hooked under a chain running along the bottom. The harbor is safe unless large SW swells develop and then it can become very dangerous and impossible to exit.

Vinapu (very approximately 27° 10.6'S 109° 24.0'W)

- Good in NNE – WSW winds

We are told there is anchorage here although we could not find any sand. Another boat found only rock and a third boat lost their anchor and rode. Locals may be able to help you find a decent spot. There is an old pier for landing.

Hotuiti

- Good in NNE – WSW winds

Beautiful anchorage in front of the Tongariki Ahi. Excellent holding in 17-23 meters sand in the area bounded by the following coordinates (WGS84):

Hotuiti (cont)

27° 7.603'S 109° 16.048'W
27° 7.638'S 109° 15.970'W
27° 7.693'S 109° 16.051'W

We anchored here several times during 20-35 knot W and NW winds and were very comfortable. However, a strong SE swell can make the anchorage completely untenable. Dinghy landing in the tiny fishermen's cove in the W corner of the bay in front of the house. You can land here even when swells are breaking along the shore.

La Perouse

We did not anchor here but there are some sand patches. It may be a bit better than Anakena if the wind is strong from the W.

Anakena (approximately 27° 04.2'S 109° 19.47'W)

- Good in SE - W winds

The easiest anchorage at Rapa Nui. 10 meters, sand bottom. Beautiful sandy beach with line of moai behind. Dinghy landing is easy on the beach. Be aware that if the wind is blowing hard from the W it can sometimes wrap around the NW point of the island and blow into the anchorage.

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