

TRIP REPORT, CLUB ORIENT

December 14-28, 2009. From Jack & Billee Brown, AANR & TNS members.

Billee and I have been nudists for 36 years and have visited about 70 or more nudist clubs, resorts, and beaches and taken three nude cruises. We are 77 years old, so somewhat older than the usual resort crowd. We are adventurous and enjoy physical activities, so look for a challenge when we vacation such as kayaking or mountaineering. However, we also like to take a warm weather winter trip to a nudist resort, but have found it difficult to find one in the US that can be counted on to have WARM weather. Our criteria, also, is for a white sand beach with water devoid of sea urchins (Jamaica) or rocky bottoms (Mexico & Hawaii). We had heard that Club Orient fulfilled this criteria and had briefly visited it while on a nude cruise. The resort proved to be all that we had envisioned when we arrived on December 14th. We had booked a mini-suite for two weeks and were assigned #157 just across from the office from the store. The suite was perfect with a full kitchen, bedroom, and a living room opening onto a patio where we had breakfast every morning. (The restaurant doesn't serve breakfast). The interior green belt, with the swaying palm trees and tropical birds, made for a relaxing and pleasant experience as did the 81 degree temperature. The beach was a 5 minute walk, where we could reserve a lounge and umbrella for the duration of our stay, and enjoy the 81 degree water! The restaurant was a 7 minute walk to Papagayo's for lunch and dinner. Wonderful!!

All was going wonderfully until the fourth day when Billee, while doing her morning jog, tore her achilles tendon, partially. She hobbled back to our unit and immediately started icing the ankle to reduce swelling. The office was able to furnish her with a cane, and next day, Saturday, arranged for her to see a doctor in Grand Chase. His name is Chico, which happens to be the name of Billee's favorite line of clothing. Serendipitous!! He agreed there was a tear, but scheduled a sonogram for Monday in Marigot, the capital. Although not definitive, the sonogram did show a small tear and she was advised to ice and keep elevated. What better place to do it than at Club Orient! The cost of this service, being French socialized medicine was a nominal \$37 for the doctor and \$75 for the sonogram. The medicine and crutches came to \$92. Club Orient also furnished her with a "dune Buggy" wheelchair made of PVC plastic pipe and big balloon tires, which made it possible for me to push her right down on the beach up to the water's edge. The rest of our stay was therefore very pleasant and she recuperated nicely. On returning home she had an MRI taken, confirming the tear, and she wore a moon-boot for a week. After 6 weeks she was back skiing.

Club Orient was all we had hoped for. The staff was most accommodating and helpful. We ate all our meals at Papagayo's and enjoyed the cuisine very much. We had hoped to dance to the music each night, but Billee's injury relegated us to being observers. Our observation was that most women wore something in the evening and some of the men also. We were one of the few couples who were diehard nudists, staying nude 24/7. That was why we were there, to begin with. If you are looking for a big party scene, this will probably not be for you, but it was perfect for us and a very enjoyable break. The

Monday evening complimentary wine and cheese part, hosted by managers Stephen and Linda Pane, was a good mixer and chance to meet people from all over the world. For those of you who might be wondering what the final cost was, it averaged out to be about \$325 per day for both of us, including lodging, meals and incidentals. I should point out that my wife was not drinking alcohol, so that kept the cost down. Happy hour ,two for one, also helped.

Hope this report will be helpful to those contemplating a trip to Club Orient. We are looking forward to our next visit.

Submitted by Jack & Billee Brown. Email: jb22bj@comcast.net