

## MEN LOST AT SEA FOR 29 DAYS SAY IT WAS A NICE BREAK

Many of us spend hours dreaming of getting away from it all – of getting far from the madding crowd. Two men from the Solomon Islands inadvertently did just that and spent 29 days escaping the rat race. They got lost at sea for over four weeks. Livae Nanjikana and Junior Qoloni set off from Mono Island on September the 3rd in a small motorboat to travel 200km to New Georgia Island. It was a trip they had embarked on several times before. Soon after they set out, they were hit by a storm which played havoc with their navigation system. They lost their ability to detect their location or find their bearings at sea. The storm blew them off course and they ended up off the coast of Papua New Guinea.

The two men were upbeat about their unplanned adventure. Rather than be distressed about their once-precarious plight, they enjoyed the potentially life-threatening escapade at sea. Mr Nanjikana said: "We didn't know where we were but did not expect to be in another country." They survived by eating oranges they had bought for their journey and coconuts they scooped out of the sea. A Papua New Guinean fisherman spotted their boat and authorities rescued them. Nanjikana said: "I look forward to going back home, but I guess it was a nice break from everything." However, due to COVID-19 restrictions, they will not be able to travel from Papua New Guinea to the Solomon Islands for a little while yet.

**1) Decide if the following sentences are True or False.**

1- Two men spent many hours dreaming of leaving the Solomon Islands.

**T / F**

2- The men were lost at sea on their yacht. **T / F**

3- The two men were on their first trip at sea. **T / F**

4- A storm blew the two men's boat off course. **T / F**

5- The two men seemed positive about their unplanned adventure. **T / F**

6- The men ate coconuts they bought for the trip and oranges from the sea.

**T / F**

7- An Australian fisherman rescued the two men. **T / F**

8- The two men's return home will be delayed because of COVID-19. **T / F**

**2) Rank these activities from 1 to 8. Put the best things to do for a nice break at the top.**

- Go to the beach \_\_\_\_
- Go to museums \_\_\_\_
- Go hiking \_\_\_\_
- Stay at home \_\_\_\_
- Go cycling \_\_\_\_
- Do voluntary work \_\_\_\_
- Go fishing \_\_\_\_
- Go to a health spa \_\_\_\_

### 3) Match these words with the correct meanings.

Paragraph 1:

**Getting away - Inadvertently - Rat race - Embarked**

**Havoc - Detect - Bearings**

- 1- A way of life in which people are caught up in a daily struggle for money and getting ahead. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2- Going somewhere for a short holiday. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3- Began a course of action or journey. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4- Great confusion or disorder. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5- Accidentally. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6- The position of something, or the direction of movement, relative to a fixed point. \_\_\_\_\_
- 7- Discover or identify the presence or existence of. \_\_\_\_\_

Paragraph 2:

**Upbeat - Precarious - Plight - Escapade**

**Scooped - Rescued – Restriction**

- 1- Not securely held or in position; dangerously likely to fall or collapse.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2- Picked up something from the sea. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3- Cheerful; optimistic. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4- A dangerous, difficult, or otherwise unfortunate situation.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 5- Saved someone from a dangerous or difficult situation. \_\_\_\_\_

6- An act involving excitement, daring, or adventure. \_\_\_\_\_

7- A limiting condition or measure. \_\_\_\_\_

**4) Match the following synonyms from the article.**

Getting away

Chaos

Inadvertently

Took

Embarked

Curbs

Havoc

Sense of direction

Bearings

Accidentally

Upbeat

Saw

Escapade

Undertaken

Scooped

Positive

Spotted

Escaping

Restrictions

Adventure

**5) Put these words into the spaces in the paragraph below.**

Paragraph 1:

**Set - Storm - Bearings - Embarked  
Coast - Crowd - Escaping - System**

Many of us spend hours dreaming of getting away from it all - of getting far from the madding (1) \_\_\_\_\_. Two men from the Solomon Islands inadvertently did just that and spent 29 days (2) \_\_\_\_\_ the rat race. They got lost at sea for over four weeks. Liva Nanjikana and Junior Qoloni (3) \_\_\_\_\_ off from Mono Island on September the 3rd in a small motorboat to travel 200km to New Georgia Island. It was a trip they had (4) \_\_\_\_\_ on several



times before. Soon after they set out, they were hit by a (5) \_\_\_\_\_ which played havoc with their navigation (6) \_\_\_\_\_. They lost their ability to detect their location or find their (7) \_\_\_\_\_ at sea. The storm blew them off course and they ended up off the (8) \_\_\_\_\_ of Papua New Guinea.

Paragraph 2:

**Potentially - While - Scooped - Upbeat**

**Restrictions - Expect - Plight - Authorities**

The two men were (9) \_\_\_\_\_ about their unplanned adventure. Rather than be distressed about their once-precarious (10) \_\_\_\_\_, they enjoyed the (11) \_\_\_\_\_ life-threatening escapade at sea. Mr Nanjikana said: "We didn't know where we were but did not (12) \_\_\_\_\_ to be in another country." They survived by eating oranges they had bought for their journey and coconuts they (13) \_\_\_\_\_ out of the sea. A Papua New Guinean fisherman spotted their boat and (14) \_\_\_\_\_ rescued them. Nanjikana said: "I look forward to going back home, but I guess it was a nice break from everything." However, due to COVID-19 (15) \_\_\_\_\_, they will not be able to travel from Papua New Guinea to the Solomon Islands for a little (16) \_\_\_\_\_ yet.

## **6) Multiple choice quiz.**

- 1) What does the article say we dream of getting far from?
- a) home
  - b) each other
  - c) the madding crowd
  - d) danger

2) When did the two men set off on their journey?

- a) September 3
- b) at 3am
- c) on a Wednesday morning
- d) after they bought their boat

3) How many times had the men made the journey before?

- a) several times
- b) zero
- c) one
- d) many

4) What did a storm do to the men's navigation system?

- a) confused it
- b) played havoc with it
- c) destroyed it
- d) assisted it

5) Where did the two men end up?

- a) off the coast of Australia
- b) off the coast of the Philippines
- c) off the coast of Tajiti
- d) off the coast of Papua New Guinea

6) How did the men feel about their unplanned adventure?

- a) excited
- b) upbeat
- c) relieved
- d) sad

7) What did the two men scoop out from the sea?

- a) coconuts
- b) driftwood
- c) fish
- d) seaweed

8) Who spotted the two men?

- a) an oil tanker
- b) the coast guard
- c) a fisherman
- d) people on a beach

9) Where did one of the men say he looked forward to going?

- a) PNG
- b) on vacation
- c) back to sea
- d) home

10) What is stopping the men from returning home immediately?

- a) COVID-19 restrictions
- b) money
- c) visa problems
- d) bad weather