

## Fremantle, Australia – Day 43 Nov. 09:

The Amsterdam had spent the night tied up at the cruise ship terminal in Fremantle, Australia. It is springtime here in the southern hemisphere and daylight comes pretty early at about 5am. The Amsterdam was scheduled to leave Fremantle about noon today so we didn't have a lot of time to tour around. Our plan was to explore on foot the part of Fremantle around the Maritime Museum and the older part of town on High Street. A map of Fremantle with the route we walked today is shown on the right.

Leaving the Cruise Ship Terminal at about 7:30am we turned left and walked towards the Maritime Museum. The sun was out and the temperature was in



the mid 60s so it was a pleasant day for a walk.

Near the Maritime Museum we walked by a three masted sailing ship, shown on the left. The ship looked sea worthy and obviously was ready for action. It would have been fun to see her under full sail but today she was just tied up at the dock.

The Maritime Museum was closed at this early hour but they had a great display of real military submarine completely out of the water and sitting next to the Museum, as shown on the right.



From the submarine we walked a short distance to the Bather's Beach area. We were looking for the "Round House" that we had seen on the map of Fremantle.



Some local Australians pointed us in the right direction and we were soon standing on a low seaside hill next to the Round House, as shown in the picture on the left (the "Round" House is really 12 sided and not round but whose counting?).

In the early 1800s this part of Fremantle was whaling station that was

used to process whales in the production of whale oil. The Round House is the oldest public building in Western Australia and it housed prisoners in a jail on the upper floors. This jail apparently served to hold English and Irish criminals until an expanded prison could be built. The larger prison was the one we visited yesterday in our walking tour of Fremantle. One cannot visit here for long without coming up against the prison issue that permeates the early history of Australia. Shipping wayward citizens off to remote Australia solved two problems for England at the time. It reduced the population of impoverished and rebellious English and Irish people while at the same time establishing a strong colonial English presence in Australia before other European nations could make a serious claim on the land. In "The Fatal Shore" book by Robert Hughes he even claims there was the familiar "National Defense" justification of the forced colonization of Australia by prisoners. England's dominance of the sea secured its place as a super power at the time but her warships in these remote southern waters would sometimes be incapacitated by storms that broke the wooden sailing masts. The prisons and prisoners stationed along the eastern coast and islands of Australia harvested the Norfolk Pine tree and made replacement masts so the warships could be quickly put back in operation.

Fremantle has been attempting to improve its tourist business for several decades. The restoration of the Round House was one of the significant accomplishments of that effort as suggested by this plaque near the door of the Round House.



As shown in the map above, the Round House sits on the sea shore at the foot of High Street. We left the Round House and proceeded up High Street.

Along High Street is a wonderful collection of stately old buildings, many of them past the century mark. Businesses along the street were just starting to open at this early hour. We wandered along enjoying the sights and taking some pictures.

In this view down High Street the Round House can be seen at the end of the street.





The architecture of this building on the left made us think we were back in New Orleans. A nearby plaque explains that the structure was built in 1895 and used as a hardware store for many years.

High Street took us to Kings Square in the middle of Fremantle. The City Hall, shown in the picture on the right, dominates the square. We had been looking for the city library and we found it in the City Hall Building. Barbara whipped out her Oak Ridge library card and, as shown below, we soon had proof that the well worn card had visited Fremantle, Australia.



Another of our goals today was to withdraw some Australian money from an ATM machine. The conversion rate of our US dollars to Australian is usually better with a major bank ATM machine than the typical money changer. We found a nice Bankwest machine near the City Hall and made our withdrawal. We were amazed at the speed of the transaction. Here we were half way around the world from our bank in Oak Ridge and the withdrawal seem to take less time than it would if we were using the ATM machine at our local bank.

From the City Hall area we made our way to Cantonment Street where we found the Coles store waiting for us.

Coles is like a Super Wal Mart and has just about everything for sale.

One item on our shopping list was "Vegemite". Fred, a veteran traveler, joined our dinner table in Singapore and had introduced us to this classic Australian food. He sometimes brought his bottle of it to the table to spread on dinner rolls. Fred couldn't find it in US stores and bought the stuff on-line. It has an interesting flavor and Orlin wanted to get a bottle of it while we were in Australia in order to give Vegemite an extended taste test.



We found Vegemite in the store just as one of the lady employees was stocking the shelves. She thought it was humorous that we Americans would be looking for Vegemite. In her friendly Australian way she told how her mother would insist she eat some of it every day for good health. She seemed a bit skeptical about the health benefits and made a disparaging quip about marketing claims. Anyway, we picked up a bottle of the stuff as shown on the right.



We also picked up a few more packets of the “Fisherman’s Friend” lozenges in case we had a recurrence of Orlin’s sore throat and cough. Many folks on the Amsterdam seem to be suffering from cold symptoms and it is “going around”.

While touring around in various ports we frequently meet up with Amsterdam



passengers. This morning we had met fellow passengers from Tennessee, Mike and Martha, in downtown Fremantle. Now again we met Martha in Coles. She was with Monique, another Amsterdam passenger from near Winnipeg in Manitoba, Canada. We got a quick picture of this chance meeting before we had to complete our shopping and get back to the ship.

Next we made our way to “Liquorland” which is a part of Coles separated from the rest of the store by a chrome plated steel fence with an open entrance. Liquorland has a complete inventory of alcoholic beverages but it was the wine we were after. Many of the passengers on the Amsterdam had found Liquorland yesterday. They had told the clerks that they wanted to come back for more shopping today but were worried that the early departure of the ship would prevent their return. We heard that Liquorland had opened up early this morning to accommodate Amsterdam passengers worried about getting back to the ship on time. We bought some wine and toted it back to the ship just like many others. Getting wine this way is a little silly in view of the fact that wine expense is a minor part of the cost of a cruise but it is beginning to be a tradition among Holland America passengers. Holland America allows passengers to bring wine on board but not other alcoholic beverages which must be purchased on the ship.

The Amsterdam got underway from Fremantle at noon and we sailed out of the harbor. Some well wishers waved from the dock and jetty as we headed out to sea.

Before dinner we went to the stateroom of Bob and Esther for drinks and conversation about this and prior cruise experiences.

Soon it was time for dinner and we made our way to the dining room. We joined Fred and Elaine at the dinner table. Elaine joined our table in Hong Kong and Fred joined in Singapore. Elaine will be leaving when we stop in Melbourne, near her home but Fred is on for the whole cruise back to



Los Angeles. Since Elaine will be leaving in a few days we decided to get a picture of our table mates tonight, as shown on the right. Shown clockwise are Elaine, Orlin, Barbara, Esther, Bob and Fred.

The sea had been a bit rocky since leaving Fremantle but during dinner Captain Eversen came on the PA system with some encouraging words. He said we would continue with the bumpy ride until about 10pm when we should clear the southwest corner of Australia. At that time he could turn the ship east and the rollers would then be coming from the west so that the rolling motion of the ship would be reduced. After the turn to the east we should have a following sea and get a much smoother ride. He turned out to be right and we had a very good night.