

## Tanah Ampo, Candidasa Karangasem - Bali, Indonesia – Day 38 Nov. 04:

By 6am the Amsterdam crew was already busy lowering tender boats into the water off of the pier at Tanah Ampo, Bali. Time was short for the visit to this port where we had to be back to the ship by 2:30pm this afternoon. The short visit time was doubly painful for Indonesian crew members who had relatives and friends meeting them here in Bali.

The location of the port of Tanah Ampo, Bali is shown on the map on the right. For many years the Holland American cruise ships had been stopping at a nearby port of Padang Bay but now the tender boats will be going to the pier at Tanah Ampo. Tanah Ampo consists primarily of a sturdy new pier and a few resorts clustered along the beach, as shown below.



About 9am we caught a tender boat and went ashore to explore this new place. The tender boat operation is never as convenient as when the ship can tie up to the dock but the water here is too shallow for the Amsterdam to approach closer to the shore. However, the facilities for tendering at Tanah Ampo were about as good as they get.



After getting off the tender we passed by the station that had been set up by the



Amsterdam to process identification papers for family and friends who would be visiting Indonesian crew members today. As shown on the left, the staff was busy with handling the paperwork.

We made our way down the long pier to the stone pillars marking the gateway to Tanah Ampo.



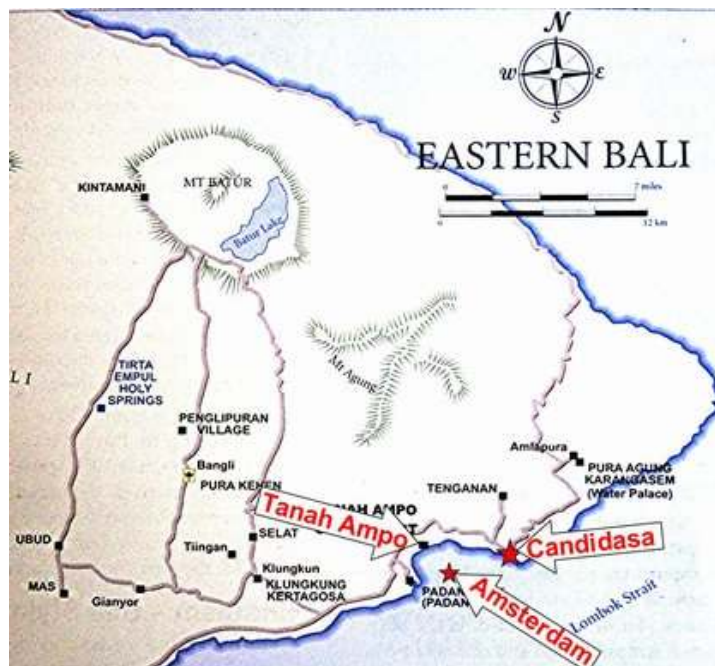
A group of Balinese dancers and a band was waiting for us but they weren't performing at the moment we passed through.



The terminal building at the head of the pier was clean and spacious but there wasn't much there to hold our attention. We soon left the terminal building looking for the Amsterdam

shuttle bus to take us into the resort town of Candidasa. We passed through a squad of taxi drivers offering tours and finally boarded a fine shuttle bus with air conditioning that felt good in the early morning heat. Later we would learn that several of the Amsterdam passengers we knew engaged some taxi drivers in tours and were quite happy with the service and the price.

The map on the right shows the location of Tanah Ampo in Eastern Bali and also the location of Candidasa, the town where the shuttle bus would take us.



The bus took us on about a 20 minute ride through the Bali countryside to the town of Candidasa Karangasem. We're not sure of the meaning of the name "Karangem" we saw attached to Candidasa on some signs but it may mean something like a county



in the US. Along the way we got some classical photographs of the rice and vegetable farming that takes place in Bali.

We arrived at the town of Candidasa and found it to have a single road paralleling the shoreline and many resorts and bungalows lining the beach. The town has been a vacation spot for Australians for many years. Americans and Europeans who can handle the long plane ride have also found Bali and Candidasa to be a good vacation choice.





The street vendors were present and hawking their goods as usual but they were not super aggressive and eventually backed off when it became obvious we just wanted to walk the town. It wasn't long before we saw the familiar face of Tom, our Amsterdam friend, taking a break while wife, Sherry, did some serious shopping.

We were still in the hunting stage so we soon pressed on. We found a treasure trove of small Balinese percussion instruments and fearsome masks in a nice shop called Lenia Art Shop. Hopefully our acquisitions today put a cap on our shopping extravaganza that is starting to strain not only the wallet but the storage capability of our stateroom. Afterwards we got a picture of the affable owner and his son outside the shop. He showed us a cinder block wall next door which he said was the start of an expansion of his store. He invited us back when the expanded store opens.

His wife, who had helped us with our selections and purchases, later hailed us on the street and we got together briefly.



We had to worry a little bit about our negotiating skills when a local merchant happily greeted us after we had been in town for only an hour. We chalked it up to genuine Balinese friendliness and went on with our tour of Candidasa.

On the east end of town we found a beautiful inlet showing a wonderful reflection of the surrounding trees and buildings, as shown on the right.

Hyacinths were blooming and the scene was one of tranquility. We could see how this place could grow on you.

Heading back in to town we saw one of the stewards named Nyoman who works in the Lido on the Amsterdam. He was riding through town with a friend on a motor bike. He stopped and we chatted briefly. His time for visiting friends and family were brief so we wished him well and he was quickly on his way.

The little town of Candidasa didn't have a grand public building with a large sign that we could use to photograph with Barbara's library card. However, we found this substantial



looking sign proclaiming that it was located in Bali so we used it to document the library card visit to Bali, as shown on the left.

Near the Kubu Bali sign used for Barbara's library card was an interesting statue of a woman with lots of children, as shown on the right. To our untrained eye this looked like a tribute to motherhood.

This beautiful flower grew on a bush nearby.



According to some literature we have read, in Bali nearly everything and every element of daily life holds religious significance. A large fraction of the population practices the Hindu religion. Family shrines were visible in front of many houses along the road in Candidasa. Some examples are shown on the left and below.



Resorts and bungalows for tourists lined the street on the beach side. Here are a couple prominent signs for those establishments.







About 1pm we decided it was time to return to the Amsterdam so we caught the shuttle bus and took the ride back to the Tanah Ampo cruise terminal. At the pier we found that Amsterdam passengers were starting to accumulate for the return tender trip.



The tender boats were bringing friends and family members back from the Amsterdam and dropping them off on the pier. Then they would pick up a load

of passengers and return to the ship. One of our Lido stewards, Widi, had said his wife and 4 year old son was coming to visit him today. It turned out that Widi and his wife were returning to the pier while we were standing in the line. As they passed we



recognized each other and they stopped only long enough for us to get a picture of the two of them, as shown on the right. Widi's son had been left with relatives so we didn't get to see him. The fact that Widi would soon be leaving was sad but they seemed to be handling the situation well.

We made it back to the welcomed air conditioning and shower on the Amsterdam. The Amsterdam got underway about 3pm and we were on our way to Exmouth, Australia.

Later in the evening we met with long time friends Mike and Martha in the Canaletto Restaurant on the Lido Deck. We had a great time with them and the Italian style meal was excellent. We got a picture of our happy little group before the evening was over.



This was a great ending of our day in Bali.