

At Sea – Day 29 Oct. 26:

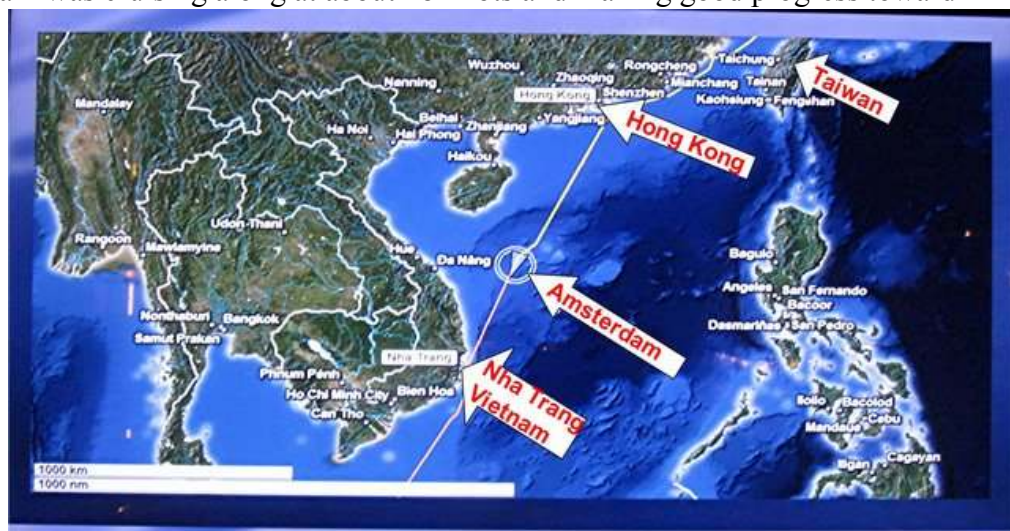
The day started with calm sea as the Amsterdam was sailing toward Nha Trang, Vietnam in the South China Sea. While we were in Hong Kong a lot of new passengers checked in and some people left the ship so there was a net increase of about 200. There are now about 1000 passengers on the Amsterdam. The buffet restaurant on the Lido Deck was noticeably more crowded and it was put back into a 48 hour “No-Self-Serve” mode to minimize the spread of contagious disease that may have come on-board with the new passengers.

Barbara went to the “Good Morning Amsterdam” TV show starring Cruise Director Gene Young and Hostess, Adele, shown in white on the right. This morning their guest was Stryker who entertains passengers nightly at the lively Piano Bar on Deck 5. He said that he only plays piano by ear. Any music he hears once he can play it back. His performances appear to us to make the Piano Bar more popular than seen on other



Amsterdam cruises we have taken. When the Amsterdam is at sea on a Sundays he puts on a Gospel Hour song fest in the afternoon that we have seen really packing in the guests.

The Amsterdam was cruising along at about 18 knots and making good progress toward Nha Trang. The picture on the right shows the position of the ship about 4pm today.



Today our Cruise Specialists ambassadors Henk and Lucia Barnhoorn hosted a Cocktails and After Dinner Drinks party for Cruise Specialists clients in the Crow's Nest Lounge. We went up at about 4:30 to join the party. Captain Fred Eversen, Hotel Manager Henk Mensink, Cruise Director Gene Young, and Guest Relations Manager Christel Mensink, among other officers and staff of the Amsterdam were also present. Lucia and Henk greeted everyone and handed out the handy magnetized name tags with large letters that really help in getting to know the names of people you don't see very often.

Lucia gave a brief welcoming announcement and the guests had no trouble socializing and having a good time as stewards circulated with drinks and finger food.

Henk Mensink had just returned from a conference in Atlanta, Georgia and he made the rounds of seated guests with his ever-ready smile and humorous viewpoint on events.

Gene Young was also engaged in conversation at an adjoining group when we got this snapshot, shown below.



We took this opportunity to tell Captain Eversen how much we were enjoying the cruise. He told us that he occasionally checks our blog. We had

our picture taken with him as well as Henk and Lucia, as shown on the right.



Some pictures of the guests attending the party are shown in the following pictures.

These folks are primarily from the early dinner seating so, unfortunately, the representation from the late seating group was sparse.

On the right is a picture of our table of friends, (left to right) Frank, Pauline, Mike, Orlin, Barbara, Jody and Larry.



We took the following candid photos of other Cruise Specialists groups gathered around the Crow's Nest Lounge for this party. We know some names and others we don't so to avoid offending anyone we'll just show people having a good time.







About 5:30 it was time for the early seating in the

dining room so we reluctantly gathered ourselves up and with a happy crowd of Cruise Specialists friends made our way to dinner.

The Amsterdam continued to sail smoothly through the night on our way to Nha Trang, Vietnam. We expect to arrive about 7am tomorrow. We have a private tour scheduled with Pauline.