

At Sea – Day 26 Oct. 23:

The day started with calm sea and hazy sky and the Amsterdam sailing slowly southward toward Hong Kong. The trip from Xiamen to Hong Kong is relatively short but too long for just an overnight jaunt. In order to keep to our itinerary we needed to spend the whole day on the trip. That was fine with us because days at sea are a great time to rest up and get ready for the next port.

After breakfast we hiked around the Promenade deck in the balmy tropical air. The deck stewards were in the process of washing down the wooden deck but we slogged through the water without a problem. In the process we discovered that the wooden benches on deck are



used to store the hoses that are used for the deck washing.



After the decks are washed the stewards carefully put the deck chairs in place and lay out the pads which are stored away every night to keep them dry.

We were not far off the coast of China and small fishing boats were frequently seen in the water around us.

Although the sea was relatively calm the small craft would occasionally send up a spray of ocean water over their bow as they plowed ahead. An example of one of the small fishing boats is shown on the right. During the night some of



these fishing boats deployed intense bright lights making them visible from a great distance. The lights are apparently used to attract the fish they are catching.

This was Sunday and Protestant Church services were held in the Queen's Lounge. Reverend Alan Humes conducted the service.



At 10am Adele and Pinnacle Grill Chef, Das put on another cooking show in the Culinary Center. They have great rapport and it is fun to watch them as they work on presenting the Chef's new dishes.



At noon one of the favorite events of food lovers took place on the Lido Pool Deck. The stewards had laid out the Mongolian buffet lunch and passengers were eager to get the buffet started.

One of our favorite Lido stewards, Wayan, was there to guide people to the different selections that were available.



Later in the day we checked the Amsterdam's position on the TV screen and found that we were making slow but steady progress toward Hong Kong. Our position was as shown below.



Before dinner we met with our friends Bob, Esther, Steve and Bobbie in the Ocean Bar. We discussed our plans for Hong Kong over drinks and had a good time. We had the steward take a picture of our little group, as shown on the right.



After dinner we went to the Amsterdam Singers and Dancers show in the Queen's Lounge. The singers, like Alexa Wildish really got a chance to show how good they can be. We turned in early in anticipation of a big day tomorrow in Hong Kong.