

## Jeju (Cheju) City, South Korea – Day 15 Oct. 12:

After sailing southward all night from Busan we arrived in Jeju City, South Korea and we were tied up to the new pier by about 7:30am. Jeju City is located on the Island of Cheju off the south coast of Korea as shown in the map on the right. Cheju Island is about 50 miles long and 20 miles wide.

Some local dancers and musicians had assembled on the pier to welcome the Amsterdam to Jeju. They were wearing costumes, playing traditional drums and marching around as shown below.



The performance expanded into a story about the food providers for Jeju. A performer dressed as a hunter, carried a gun and had several pheasants hanging on from a rope on his back. In this picture on the right the hunter is dressed in a tan



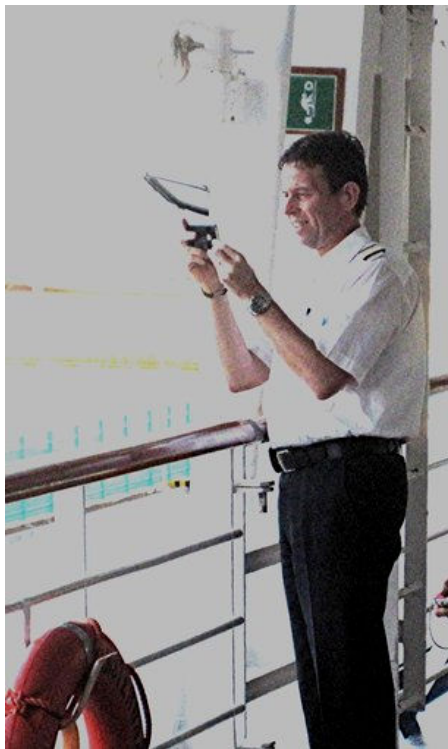
outfit with tan hat with pheasant feathers sticking out behind him at knee level. Soon a second cadre of workers demonstrated another source of food for

Jeju. These dancers had a large fish net with imitation fish caught in the net. They danced with their net as shown in the picture on the left. It was less polished than yesterday's greeting in Busan but it had the look of genuine folk-art authenticity.

While watching the welcoming ceremony by the local performers a large group of Amsterdam passengers had gathered on deck 3 to applaud and cheer on our hosts. Martha, our friend from Tennessee was there in her Tennessee orange shirt. Henk Mensink, the Hotel Manager also joined in the welcoming party by taking a few pictures.



Henk Mensink, the Hotel Manager also joined in the welcoming party by taking a few pictures.



We were free to leave the ship by 8am. This was so much more efficient than the immigration process we had in Petropavlovsk, Russia. We joined Henk and Lucia in the Ocean Bar on the Amsterdam to start our Cruise Specialists tour called “Jeju Highlights”. Henk handed out a small radio pack to go with the earphones we had received with our tickets for the tour. With this device hung around our neck and with the earphone attached to our ear we could hear the Korean guide on the bus and also when we were walking to various sites of interest off the bus during the tour. We left the Amsterdam and first got this photo on the right of Barbara’s library card making its debut in Jeju, South Korea.



We then boarded a bus that was to take us and our guide, Maria, on the tour of Jeju. As the bus rolled along, Maria, shown in the picture on the left, explained what we were going to see today in excellent English.



While Maria was talking Barbara snapped this picture of a gas station price sign, on the right, as we cruised along the highway.



The regular grade of gasoline is selling for 1350 Korean won per liter. At current exchange rates 1350 won is worth about \$1.22 USD. Approximating 4 liters per gallon this puts the cost of regular gas in Jeju at about  $4 \times \$1.22 = \$4.88$  USD per gallon. A price

of \$4.88 USD is more than the current cost of a gallon of regular gasoline in most of the cities in the US. There was plenty of traffic in Jeju today so the cost of gasoline was not keeping many people off the roads.

Our bus took us to a site called the Dragon's Pond on the coast about 5 miles east of Jeju City. The Dragon's Pond is a steep sided inlet from the ocean into the solid volcanic rock forming the high coastline cliffs along this side of the island. Local legend claims that a dragon came down from Mount Hallasan, the tallest mountain on the island, and dug out the inlet. A picture of the inlet is shown on the right. The inlet with the growth of vegetation on



the cliffs and still water made a beautiful tranquil scene.



At the entrance to Dragon's Pond was a sphere constructed of steel rods welded together. Similar to the tradition we encountered in Vladivostok, Russia, here lovers attached padlocks to the steel rods and tossed the key into Dragon's Pond to seal their devotion to each other forever. The structure with padlocks attached is shown on the left.

From the Dragon's Pond we drove to the nearby site of Dragon's Head. Here an ancient lava flow created a rock formation on the beach that, with some imagination, can look like the head of a dragon. A steep staircase led to an optimum photo spot where we got this photo shown on the right. Our guide, Maria, explained that the dragon is jutting out of the rocky coast at a 45 degree angle from the left. There is crown of rock on his head and beneath the crown is his face with mouth closed. We were less than convinced but it is an enduring local legend.



From the Dragon's Head we drove back into Jeju City to the Folklore Museum. On the way to the Folklore Museum the bus drove by some retaining walls along the highway that were decorated with photographs of different people, as shown on the left. The guide said these were photographs of local residents who wanted to show that they were happy smiling people. It apparently is a tradition



just in Jeju and not a nationwide South Korean phenomenon.

The Folklore Museum is in an attractive building, shown in the picture on the right. The exhibits of local traditions and history are very well done. The guide took us through the museum and explained the main exhibits. We spent about an hour going through the museum.



The expansive front steps of the Folklore Museum were too much to resist for a large group of Asian tourists visiting the museum with us today. They were in the process of rather noisily organizing for a group picture when Sherry, in our Cruise Specialists tour group noticed them. In a moment of exuberant inspiration the usually demure Sherry decided to stand with the friendly looking tourists and Orlin, who is easily led astray, joined her in the picture. Our new Asian friends quickly warmed to this spontaneous bit of fun and we got the picture on the right taken with Sherry's camera by an obliging tour guide. One small step toward cultural integration!



The entrance to the Folklore Museum was flanked by huge stone images of the “Grandfather Stone”, as shown on the left. The Grandfather Stone is the symbol of Jeju City and is also a symbol of fertility.

Near the museum entrance was an outdoor exhibit of an ancient stone mill for grinding grain into flour. Barbara decided to try her hand at the task as shown on the right. She quickly decided to stick with the local super market for her supply of flour.



From the Folklore Museum we drove to the center of Jeju city where we spent an hour of free time just wandering through an underground department store market place and an open air street level market referred to as a “Wet and Dry Market”.

The underground market shown in this photo on the right was primarily a series of individual clothing stores. A view down one of the corridors is shown on the right.

This underground market seemed to be alive and doing well. It was unlike the one we saw closed down and dark in Busan yesterday.



The so-called “Wet and Dry” market was a typical food source with lots of colorful fruits displayed along with a “Wet” section where sea food was sold. Some of the citrus fruit for sale is shown on the left. There was also an interesting item called a dragon fruit. The dragon fruit had a red skin with green leaves growing out of it, as shown in the photo below.



Part of the “Dry” market included meat for sale. The item that caught our eye there was the head of a pig, as shown on the right. Apparently, the pig’s head is a popular food in Korea where we have seen them on display in markets in Busan and also here in Jeju.



We also toured the “Wet” market that included a wide variety of sea food. A few of the items on display are shown in the pictures that follow:

These morsels on the right were a long silvery fish of unknown name.



This item below was obviously octopus.





After touring the markets our group gathered in a pleasant little park with this great bit of stone carving, shown below.



Our bus soon picked us up and after about a 20 minute ride delivered us back to the ship. Our guide was good and the sites were interesting so we thought it was a very good day. The Amsterdam got underway about 2:30pm headed for Incheon, South Korea on a north-westerly course through the Yellow Sea.