

At Sea – Day 13 Oct. 10:

The day started with sunshine and a gentle rocking of the Amsterdam as we sailed through the Sea of Japan towards Pusan, South Korea. We were about 100 miles off the coast of North Korea in the morning but most of the day we were off the coast of South Korea as we approached Pusan.



After all the walking we did in Vladivostok yesterday we got off to a slow start this morning. We were making the rounds of ship when we met up with Steve and Bobbie, Cruise Critic friends, who were passing some time in the casino.

The Amsterdam has made it easy to gamble. All you have to do is insert your room key and after some security maneuvers you tell the machine how much you want to gamble and you are on your way to all kinds of chances to win money. There are also card tables with dealers for the more adventuresome passengers.



Since tomorrow we visit Pusan, South Korea we stopped by the ship's front desk and bought some South Korean won in case we find something we want to purchase. We purchased 55,000 won for \$50 USD. In case we find something costing more than 55,000 won there is always the ATM machines.

At 11am we stopped by the Cruise Specialists “Chat Time” session in the Explorer’s Lounge. We got there just in time to help sing Happy Birthday to Bill, shown with wife, Dolores, in the picture on the right.



Henk was busy checking out the earphones that Cruise Specialists had included with vouchers for tours in upcoming ports.



While that was going on we chatted with Roy and Georgina, shown below, whom we had not previously met.



The Chat Time broke up about noon so we went to the Lido for lunch.

Today the Amsterdam and passengers were celebrating the Canadian Thanksgiving. There are a large number of Canadian passengers on board so this was a special recognition of their Thanksgiving Holiday. There will be a celebration of the US Thanksgiving Holiday on November 24th.

In the evening we all dressed up in formals and tuxedos and were treated to a Canadian Thanksgiving feast. The dining room was decorated in the bright red and white of the Canadian flag and the menu featured traditional turkey, dressing and pumpkin pie among other delicious options.

An especially nice pleasure at the dinner table was that we were hosted for the evening by Adam and Alexa of the Amsterdam staff, shown below at our table. We had made a request to have an officer join us on a formal night and the right moment had finally come about. Adam is the officer in charge of Internet Technology on the Amsterdam. Alexa is the lead singer of the Amsterdam Singers and Dancers whose performance we had enjoyed in the Queen's Lounge a few nights ago.



It turned out that Adam is a Canadian so it was particularly appropriate that we should be celebrating his country's Thanksgiving Holiday tonight. We had a wonderful time learning how Alexa and Adam had chosen their professions and how they ended up in the interesting jobs that they have. They both obviously enjoy interacting with people and travel to far away places so they are well matched to their jobs. We hope to see Adam from time to time about the ship and tomorrow night Alexa and the Singers and Dancers will be putting on their second show of the cruise so we will definitely be seeing her there. Like us, Alexa writes a blog on the Internet which is located at www.intothewildish.blogspot.com.

As we were leaving the dining room a steward was kind enough to snap a picture of us with the Canadian Thanksgiving decorations as a backdrop.

We set the clocks back another hour tonight as the Amsterdam continues to make its way through calm seas to our destination of Pusan, South Korea. We look forward to our first visit in that country tomorrow.

