

At Sea – Day 7 Oct. 4:

During the night the Amsterdam cleared the stormy area and we enjoyed breakfast with smooth seas and a beautiful sunrise. We heard later that we had brushed up against one of two unusually violent storms



currently raging in the world. The other storm is off the coast of Greenland.

The outside conditions were inviting so we took a quick walk around the deck along with many other passengers who were eager to get out in the open. We were even greeted by a faint rainbow, as shown on the right.



About 11 am Orlin attended an enthusiastic group of cruisers at Lucia and Henk's Cruise Specialists Chat Time meeting in the Explorer's Lounge. These meetings, that only take place on sea days, have been a great way to get to know other people and exchange tidbits about cruising and exploring ports of call. Barbara skipped the Chat Time in favor of Chef Bernie's "Culinary Demonstration" where she learned all about making Sweet and Sour Pork.

In the afternoon there was an extraordinary demonstration hosted by Adele where two skilled culinary artisans created beautiful “Edible Bouquets” from fruits and vegetables. Adele introduced the two experts, who each have attended a 15 day class in this craft provided by Holland America. They quickly got to work with sharp knives and loads of talent to create their works of art.



Some of their “Edible Bouquets” are shown in the following selection of pictures.

The proud artist displays his playful duck made of grapefruit, cantaloupe rind, and pineapple.



A beautiful flower made from a jicama root.

This impertinent imp made of cauliflower, eggplant and a tomato sticks out his orange-slice tongue.





This one, on the left, is truly a bouquet made of root vegetables, red bell pepper, carrots, a beet, a radish, and an onion.

This view, on the right, shows a bit more detail of the flowers made from a beet, turnip, a sliced onion. The blue and yellow color was applied with food coloring.



This view below shows what can be done with a red bell pepper, a radish, turnips, and watermelon rind with spikes cut to form palm tree fronds attached to carrot stick tree trunks.



We had often been impressed on the Amsterdam with displays of melons carved to represent faces. However, today we gained even more respect for the talent of these men as they created beautiful delicate flowers from such common material.

Later in the day the video display of the Amsterdam's position showed that we were headed south and had crossed the island chain that extends all the way from Alaska to Russia, as shown below. Typically the ocean depth in these waters is on the order of 2



miles but when we crossed the island chain the depth decreased to a mere 600 feet. We were making good progress in the approach to Petropavlovsk, Russia and were about 200 miles from our goal. In preparation for arrival we purchased 600 Russian Roubles at the Front Office of the ship for \$20 USD. Not exactly major international finance but it will probably cover the cost of a souvenir or two. We expect to arrive about 5am tomorrow. The Captain is promising us clear weather for tomorrow. We sure hope that he is right.