

At Sea – Day 3 Sept. 29:

The seas had calmed down and the sun was shining today. With this good turn of events the first order of business was to go for a walk on the Promenade Deck that encircles the ship. It was a bit chilly outside (~50°F) so we put on jackets and ventured forth. Here is a picture of Barbara with a relatively flat ocean in the background.



On prior cruises the custom has been for people to walk around the ship in a counterclockwise direction. Although there is no official ship policy on this matter, a uniform walking direction is



desirable to avoid awkward collisions on the blind corners. Strangely, today there were a number of people walking in the counter clockwise direction as shown on the left. Normally this behavior doesn't show up until we go south of the equator. There has been speculation that the change in walking direction is influenced by the Coriolis Effect but that has not been confirmed. Until this gets sorted out we will just go wide on the corners.

After our exercise we walked by the library where they have an extravagant flower arrangement incorporating the giant antlers of a moose, as shown on the left. They have strung copper wire between the points of the antlers and positioned the flowers at strategic locations in the network of wires. It is definitely an eye catching display.



At 9am we went to the daily event called “Good Morning Amsterdam”. This is a show put on by the Cruise Director, Gene Young, and his co-host Adele. The program is available through the TV in our room but we like to attend the live show where they go over the day’s planned activities and interview a guest from the staff or one of the visiting entertainers. Gene and Adele keep up a lively banter which is fun and it is a good way to pick up some useful information about what is going on around the ship. Today’s guest was Barbara Haenni, shown between the two hosts in this photo on the right. Barbara is the Travel



Guide on the Amsterdam and gives lectures about each port prior to arrival in port. In addition, she maintains regular office hours so that guests can stop by to discuss specific questions or issues they may have about ports we visit. Today she mainly responded to questions from Gene and Adele about her career and her favorite places. It turns out she is from New Jersey and one of her favorite countries to visit is New Zealand.

When we returned to our cabin this morning we took some photos, as shown below, to illustrate the general arrangement of Cabin 2642 on the Amsterdam Main Deck (#2). The



closets are directly behind Barbara and the bathroom is to her right.

The photo below, taken in the direction of our window, shows the beds which can be arranged as a single wide double bed or two twin beds. The two twin bed configuration, that we asked the stewards to arrange, opens up more continuous floor space and gives better access to the window.



Our room stewards, Putu and Max, who keep the place in beautiful order are shown below.



Putu and Max are looking forward to visiting with their families when the Amsterdam stops at Indonesian ports in Bali and Java later in the voyage.



In the library there is a nice digital screen display showing the planned route of the Amsterdam across the Northern Pacific and also the current location. The photo of the display, with some graphic enhancement on place names, is shown in the picture below.



The original planned course is shown as the continuous line going from Vancouver Island on the right through the chain of Aleutian Islands on the left. The actual location of the Amsterdam is about 80 miles north of the planned route, probably to avoid some bad weather to the south. As of noon today we were about 250 miles south of Kodiak Alaska. We will be passing close to some land as we proceed through the Aleutian Island Chain on our way to Petropavlovsk in Eastern Russia.

This evening we got an announcement that has become so familiar. At 2am the Amsterdam will be setting the clocks back another hour. That will put us 7 hours behind the Eastern Time Zone and our home in East Tennessee.