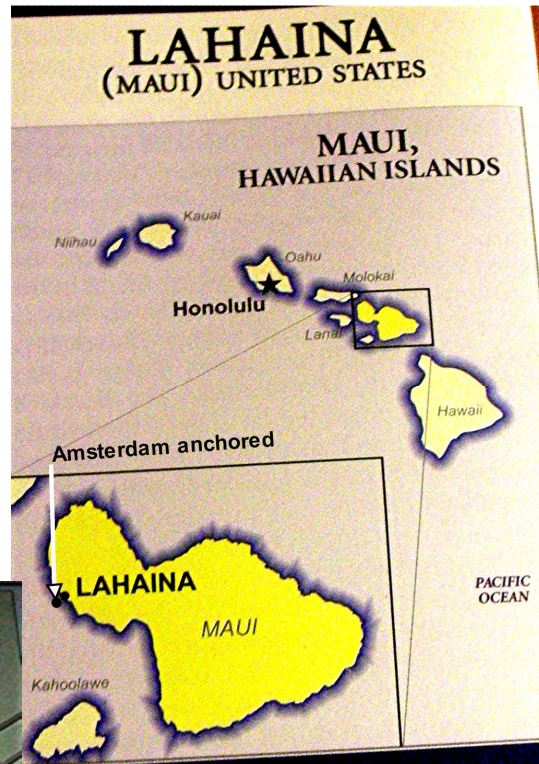
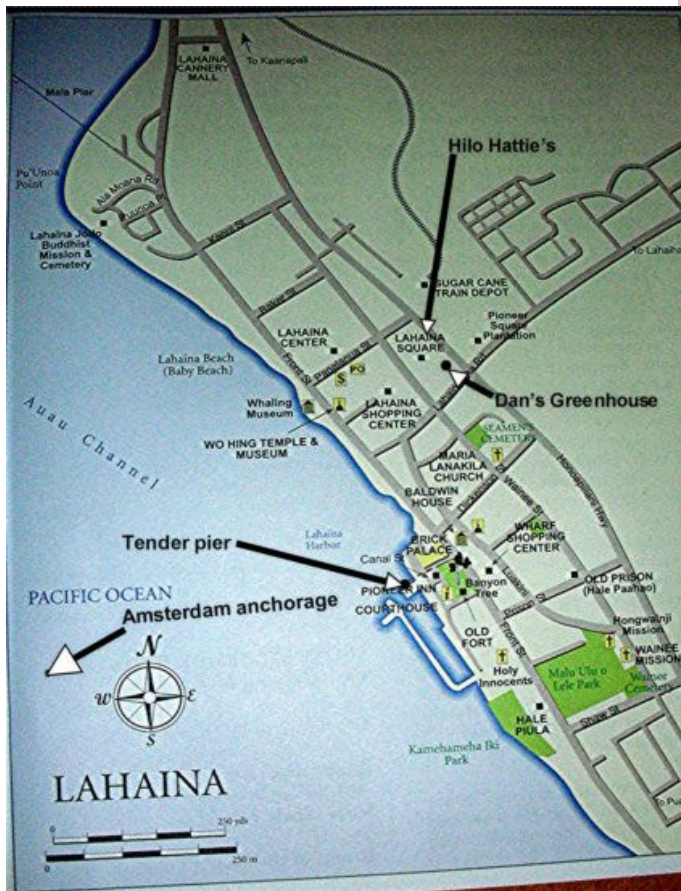


Day 61, (Tuesday, 11/18/08) Lahaina, Hawaii

The day started with temperatures in the mid 80s and light intermittent rain. The Amsterdam dropped anchor in Lahaina Harbor about 6:30am. Tender boats were put in the water to carry people to and from the Lahaina pier. The map on the right shows where Maui is located in the Hawaiian Islands and where the Amsterdam was located off-shore in Lahaina Harbor. The shape of Maui has been described as looking like the profile of a carved bust of a person with the head pointed toward Honolulu. Using that analogy, Lahaina would be located just above the eyes of the bust.

Lahaina is a small city which is relatively narrow but stretches for about a mile along the coastline. Some of the tourist sites and landmarks of Lahaina are shown in the street map below.



Since we didn't have any formal land tours scheduled in Lahaina we waited until the touring people had been taken to shore and then we went on in. The tender ride in to the pier was fairly smooth and took about 15 minutes.

A woman passenger wearing a flowing white wedding dress and a man in a formal black suit boarded the ship's tender with us. They had scheduled their wedding to take place this morning



on Maui. It would have been nicer without the rain but we guessed they would say this was the highlight of their cruise. When we got to Lahaina they carefully made their way off the pier and into a waiting white limousine.



Leaving the wedding couple to their own devices, we began our day in Lahaina by catching the free shuttle bus to Hilo Hattie's souvenir store at the Lahaina Center. We browsed through Hilo Hattie's shop where Barbara noted happily that in spite of the good food on the Amsterdam she still didn't need the largest shirt size available.



We have been concerned about shipping our Australian Didgeridoo home after the cruise.

We inquired at the Hilo Hattie shipping department to see if they had a cardboard shipping tube to put around the Didgeridoo. They didn't have a cardboard tube but referred us to a Mailbox type store that was also the local Federal Express office. The fellows there suggested we use two of their 4 foot long triangular cross-section shipping boxes taped end-to-end to protect the 5 foot long Didgeridoo. That seemed like a great idea and it was even better when it turned out that the boxes, marked all over with the FedEx logo, were free. We took two boxes, in the flat collapsed form, and were on our way.

In a phone call back to Oak Ridge we had picked up Scott's request for a tee shirt from a place called Dan's Greenhouse. Dan's Greenhouse is an eclectic little shop in Lahaina that carries exotic birds, plants and other interesting things. Carrying our FedEx boxes we walked about a block to Dan's Greenhouse. The place looked much the same as it did a year ago when we were last here. They had a large parrot for sale with a sign asking customers not to whistle at the bird. Then we noticed the Vietnamese pig that they had as a pet. The pig was wearing a colorful lei and was running around the place like a pet dog.



We found the tee shirt we wanted and also a sprouted coconut with a 10 inch high tree attached. The coconut plant came in a plastic bag with instructions and certification from the Hawaii Department of Agriculture that it is free of nematodes. While paying for these purchases we asked the clerk about the toilet habits of the pig. She said that the little porker had a litter box in the back room.

We spent the next hour or so just wandering around, window shopping the streets of Laheina and taking pictures. On the right is a picture of Orlin with his FedEx boxes and the Amsterdam riding at anchor in the harbor. The island of Lanai rises from the ocean on Orlin's left.



We met up with friends Sue and Mike who had just arrived from the Amsterdam. Sue guessed right away that the boxes we were carrying were for our Didgeridoo. With the end of the cruise coming up, everyone has the issue of packing and luggage in the back of their mind.



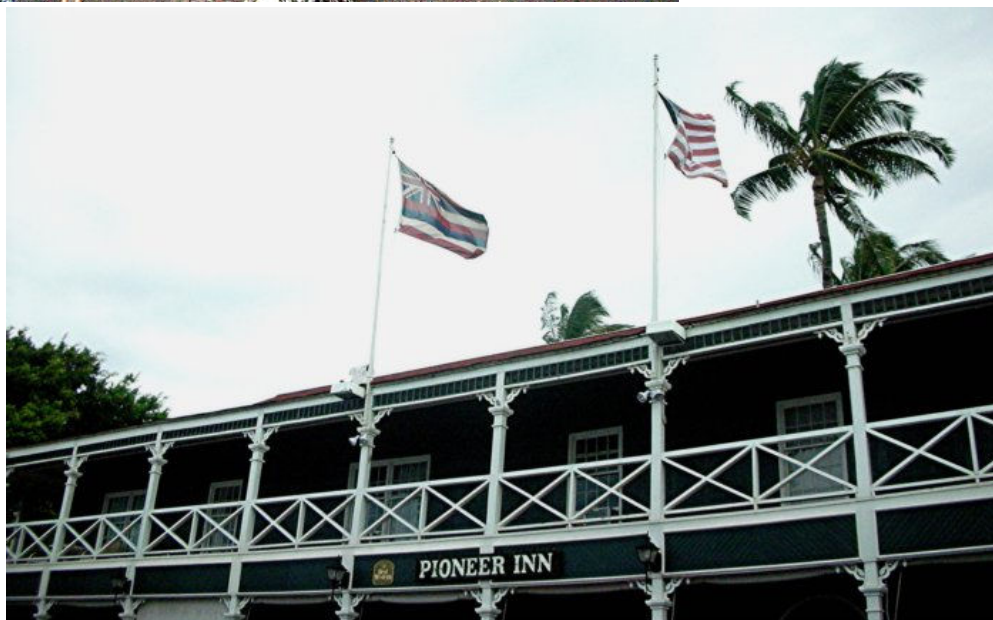
The streets of Lahaina were not busy and since the rain had stopped it was very pleasant.

We arrived at the famous old banyan tree and, like clockwork, Barbara whipped out her Oak Ridge Library card. We got this picture on the right with the iconic tree in the background to record where the well worn library card was located now.

We always marvel at the graceful shape of this great tree. Here's another picture of the tree below.



Lahaina is filled with restored and well maintained buildings in the style of the 1800s and early 1900s. The old Pioneer Inn near the boat landing is an excellent example, as shown below.



We decided to return to the ship for lunch and made our way to the pier. There has been a sunken sail boat in the shallow Lahaina Harbor for several years. We suspect it is left in place as a conversation piece for tourists. It is visible, along with the Amsterdam, in this photo taken near the boat landing.



We were early in getting back to the ship so the tender was not crowded. To our surprise the wedding couple had completed their ceremony and they also were returning to the ship with us. It turned out that rain had poured down on them during the ceremony but they carried on. Here are the newlyweds, probably looking forward to putting on dry clothes and getting out of the limelight.





Back on the Amsterdam we took a few pictures of the shoreline as viewed from the ship. In this picture on the left the trees along the streets of Lahaina are visible with cultivated fields stretching up the mountain slope.

Looking south from Lahaina were more rugged looking mountains.



The cloud covered island of Lanai, shown below, was visible looking west across the open Auau Channel from Lahaina.



While wandering the Amsterdam decks we happened upon Captain van Zaane. Always the gentleman, he allowed Barbara to exploit this opportunity.



We bid farewell to Lahaina as the Amsterdam got underway for San Diego about 2pm. The days at sea will provide some opportunity to get our luggage organized and ready for shipment back home. Now that the ship has returned to more well beaten tracks from the far reaches of the Pacific Ocean we have satellite TV with sports from ESPN and daily news by way of CNN. With regard to the news it is a mixed blessing in view of the continued down trend of the economy and stock market. In spite of this TV intrusion we will do our best to postpone the return to reality until the last possible moment before we arrive in San Diego on 23 November.