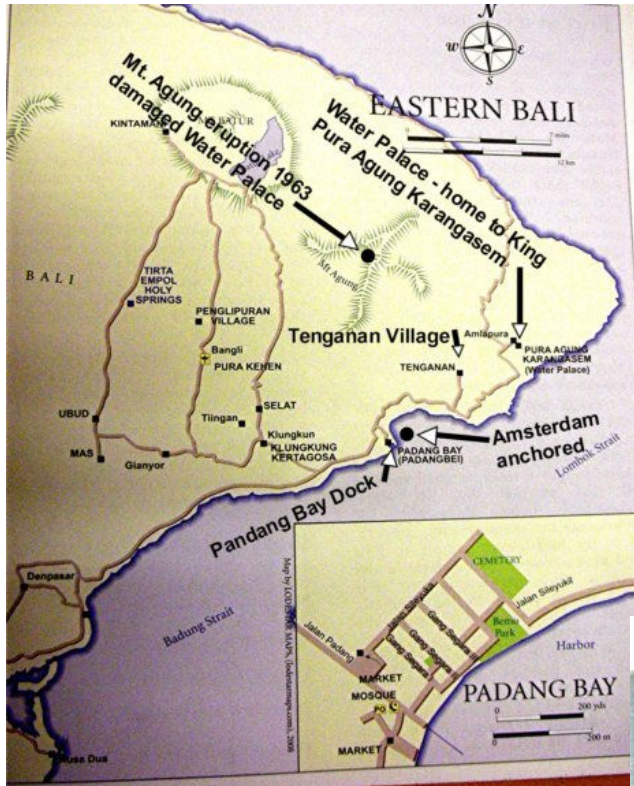


Day 36 (Saturday 10/25/08) Bali, Indonesia

We arrived about daybreak off the south shore of the island of Bali, Indonesia. The approaches to the island are quite shallow so the Amsterdam had to anchor several miles out in the bay. Here, on the right, is a map showing where we were located on the globe.

A more detailed map showing the anchorage and where we toured later in the day is shown below.



Since the ship was anchored out in the bay it was necessary to use the tender boats to get to and from the pier in town. The crew got the tenders into the water as soon as possible.

This was to be a bitter-sweet day for many of the Indonesian crew members whose families came for a too short visit in the town or on the Amsterdam. Arrangements had been made to give as much leave as possible during the day to crew members and some of them brought their families on board to see the place where they worked. A few days ago we had given an advance gratuity to the dining room stewards at our table and also to our room steward, Acep, to help with their expenses on this quick stop near home. We also told Acep not to bother cleaning up our room this morning to help get him on shore as soon as possible.



About 8:30am we went to the Queen's Lounge with our friends, Dick and Anne to pick up our tour in Bali today. We had signed up for a tour of the village Tenganan and then on to the Water Palace. Our ship's tender boat got us to shore in about a 20 minute ride. The beach in the town of Padang Bay is ringed with resort hotels with outrigger canoes lying on the beach ready for action.



The pier itself was not very auspicious but there was a welcome sign for us.



There were also very beautifully dressed traditional Bali Dancers and a band playing energetic music.



We learned later that the black and white checkered cloth wrapped around the roof posts have a religious connection with Hinduism and are supposed to impart good "karma" to any proceedings. We saw the wrappings in various places throughout the day.

We were on bus 16 and our guide for the tour was named, Mady. Mady could speak good English and he explained that his main income came from working as an independent guide for the tourists who came to Bali. He said he was glad to have this job for the Amsterdam but couldn't depend on this sort of thing because cruise ships came just "once in a blue moon".

We worked our way through a throng of street vendors and boarded our bus. The vendors



continued their high pressure sales tactics even through the bus windows.

Bali uses left hand traffic flow which we have grown used to. The roads were asphalt two lane affairs which were very narrow with no shoulders. Trucks and cars were parked on the highway blocking one lane of traffic but the speeds were slow so the system worked quite well as our driver cranked the steering wheel vigorously from right to left honking his horn at every blind corner. Gasoline costs about \$2.40 US per gallon. Mady said it had been half of that until recently.

Our first stop was in the village of Tenganan which has a population of about 1000 people. According to our guide, Mady, the village of Tenganan was founded by the first people who migrated to Bali. The major influx of immigrants was from India. They brought the Hindu religion with them and it is the dominant religion on the island of Bali. Most of the other Indonesian islands were settled by people with the Muslim religion.

We were met at the Tenganan city entrance by a contingent of vendors who followed us from Padang Bay. Here on the right is shown our welcoming committee. Mady had given us a description of a cloth that was made exclusively in Tenganan by hand weavers.



We browsed through a couple of the shops and in one place a woman was demonstrating her weaving craft as shown on the left. The material is called "Flaming Cloth" and is used for such things as wall hangings or tapestry. Mady had warned us that these hand woven goods are pricey at \$100 US and up for a couple square yards of material.



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We looked at some displays of the cloth as shown on the right and below. The material



is beautiful but we were more interested in the less expensive "Batik" cloth that Bali is also famous for so we pressed on without buying.



Mady had also told us about how the sport of Cock Fighting was very popular in Bali. It is illegal but is apparently the laws are not enforced and he said almost everyone had some fighting chickens. We saw some of these chickens in cages.



There were also some chickens, like these, running around loose. Mady said that Balinese people eat both dogs and cats. We saw a lot of dogs running around loose but no cats.



Another product of the village besides the Flaming Cloth is woven baskets and boxes made from a tough and flexible reed. Here, on the left, is one of the displays of the woven baskets for sale.

The atmosphere of Tenganan was one of a quiet well kept village and this street scene captures the mood. A long open meeting house is on the left.



Here are our friends, Dick and Anne making their way down the street on the way back to the bus.



From Tenganan we drove through the twisting mountain roads through alternate dense foliage and open farmland. Here are some typical scenes that we saw.

Rice is a major part of the Balinese diet and we saw lots of rice fields either flooded or completely covered with lush growth of young rice plants. Banana tree groves were frequently bordering the open fields.





We arrived at the Water Palace accompanied by our fleet of street vendors who had followed on their motor cycles. The Water Palace once was the home of king, Anak Agung Karangasem. It is a beautiful layout with the main house and pavilion located within large formal pools.



We got a friend to take this picture of us by one of the pools.





Nearby was a large old tree with an offering to God left by some devout Hindu earlier in the day.

The entrance to a bridge leading to the palace was guarded by a couple of statues wrapped in the familiar black and white checked cloth to protect from evil and ensure good karma.



Passing through the entrance we crossed the bridge to the palace. Inside the palace were displays of furniture, such as a four poster bed and table used by the king and his family.

The palace and grounds were heavily damaged in 1963 when nearby Mount Agung let loose with some volcanic activity including earthquakes, smoke and lava. Mady said that the World Bank provided some financial assistance in the restoration of the Water Palace to its current condition. The palace grounds were fairly well restored, particularly the main house but some of the outlying structures still needed work. Shown on the right is an Acropolis looking structure on a little hill next to the palace ponds that showed some signs of damage.



By climbing up the steps, which were in good condition, we were able to get an overall picture of the Water Palace shown below. Note Mount Agung in the background with its top in the clouds.



We enjoyed the visit to the Water Palace but soon it was time to go. We made our way back to the bus and the waiting street vendors. Some of us succumbed to the pressure to part with our money.



The bus ride back to Padang Bay was one of complete scenic beauty. At one point Mady said that a Balinese person doesn't want to go to heaven when he dies because he feels he is already in heaven here in Bali. There were a lot of small and large Hindu Temples along the road. We usually passed so fast that we couldn't get a photo. However, Barbara with her quick trigger finger got this one on the right which is representative of the larger temples.



This sign on the left removed any doubt that we were coming back in to Padang Bay.

These local folks, shown below, were saving on bus fare.



The time was coming that we needed to catch the tender boat back to the Amsterdam. The ship was running many boats but the line of passengers and crew wanting to get on board was quite long. Of course the street vendors, with their bright cloth and trinkets were there to drain off any remaining cash that these tourists might have left in their wallets.



The line of the Amsterdam's Indonesian crew members, shown below, waiting for the boat created a more poignant scene. They had a brief visit with family, which was better than no



visit, but leaving is never easy. The good news is that jobs on the cruise ships provides much better pay than they or their families could get in their Indonesian communities.

Padang Bay is a main terminal for passenger and car ferry boats that provide the transportation between the many Indonesian islands. We had seen several of them coming and going in just the short time we were there. On the way back to the ship on the tender we noticed that one of the passenger ferry boats had cruised in and stopped rather close to the

Amsterdam, probably to give their passengers a better look at a cruise ship.

We were kind of hot and sticky and as we climbed the gangway back on board the Amsterdam we were looking forward to a shower.

About 6pm the Amsterdam got underway for Perth, Australia and the next port in the 2008 Asia & Australia Grand Voyage.

