

Day 35 (Friday 10/24/08) At Sea

Today the sea was calm, humidity high and temperatures in the mid 80s. In his navigation report for the day Captain van Zaane said we had 200 feet of water under the keel.

Barbara got the day off to a fast start with a trip to see the hair stylist Raffaella known as "Raffie". Raffie was able to trim Barbara's hair just the way she likes it.



At 11am we went to a lecture by anthropologist Dr. Gaynor Macdonald on the subject of Australian Aborigine Art before it was art. She told us about the symbols used by some of the Aborigine tribes in describing events in their lives. There are many variations of Aborigine art and she is just showing us a couple selections. So far what she has shown us doesn't look very much like what we have seen in the typical Australian tourist shop. Maybe that comes in the next lecture.

At noon we gathered with our table mates along with Lyle and Marjorie for lunch in the dining room. Bob and Esther are going on the 2009 Grand World Voyage and so are Lyle and Marjorie so Barbara had arranged for the gathering in order to introduce them to each other. We all had fun discussing prior cruises and the one that we are on. Before the group broke up we had this picture taken to record the event. Starting at the bottom of the picture, Joan, Lyle, Marjorie, Bob, Esther, Barbara and Orlin.



At 2pm in the Queen's Lounge Dr. Wolff gave another one of his lectures. This lecture covered the life of the woman whose story was glamorized in the movie "The King and I". The king involved in the story was the king of Siam or Thailand as it is now called. The people of Thailand revere their king and the portrayal of him in the movie did not set well with them. Dr.

Wolff pointed out that the real story of Anna was that she was just an English teacher for the king's children. She was not the children's governess and she never had a personal relationship with the king as shown in the movie.

After dinner this evening we happened upon some Cruise Critic regulars Dianna and MaryLou (lusyrsgirl). They were with their long time friend Hennie from Germany. We think of these ladies as real free spirits because whenever we see them they seem to be having such a good time. Trudy (the adult in the team) was missing tonight but they had two new friends from Australia, Lyn and Kevin. Kevin Lee is a professional harp musician who performed on the Amsterdam a couple days ago and tomorrow he leaves the ship in Bali headed for an engagement on another Holland America cruise ship. Tonight they were in the Ocean Bar enjoying Kevin's last night on the Amsterdam when we snapped this picture.



Left to right, Dianna, MaryLou, Lyn, Hennie, Kevin

Tomorrow morning we pull into Padang Bay in Bali. The harbor is too shallow for the Amsterdam to tie up at a dock so we will anchor far out. We will be taking the tender boats in to the landing docks and then the fun will begin. Many of the Indonesian crew will be meeting family members so there has been a lot of anticipation for tomorrow's day in Bali.

