

2/24-25/07 Days 40, 41 – At Sea – Saturday, Sunday, 24, 25 Feb 2007: We are on the way to the island of Bali in the nation of Indonesia. Each day at 1pm the Captain comes on the intercom system and gives us an update on the weather, sea condition, and ship's progress on the planned route. He also gives the depth of the ocean where we are. While we were crossing the Pacific Ocean the depths were commonly several miles. It seems strange now that we are going over this ancient land bridge in the Timor Sea that the ocean depths are just several hundred feet but there is no sign of land around us.

Bernie Davis is following this blog and thought it showed a rather limited view of shipboard facilities. He was right because we tend to write about things that we do during the day but there is a lot more going on that we usually do not mention. In order to address this shortfall we decided to make a tour of the ship and photograph facilities and events we don't normally write about. Here goes:

Here are some passengers in the Queen's Lounge following the leader in the exercise session called Sit and Be Fit.



Here are some of the exercise machines available in the fitness center on Deck 9.



There are regularly scheduled dance classes with instructors in the Crow's Nest Lounge.



Christine on the ship's staff conducts interviews visiting entertainers and lecturers in the Explorer's Lounge. Passengers are invited to listen and ask questions. Here she interviews Leigh Thompson, the band director.





Here Christine interviews Richard Scholes, magician, mime, and stage performer using unusual masks.

Guest expert lecturers, such as Warren Salinger, give in-depth presentations during the days at sea. This one was on the subject of the nation of Indonesia which is the next place we are to visit.



For the nimble minded there are daily Trivia Team contests on the days at sea. Here Ronan of the ship's staff is announcing the questions for the Trivia teams to answer.



Trivia teams concocting the answers for the questions.

Suzanne manages the ship's library of books and DVDs that are available for loan.



The library is well stocked with novels and reference books.





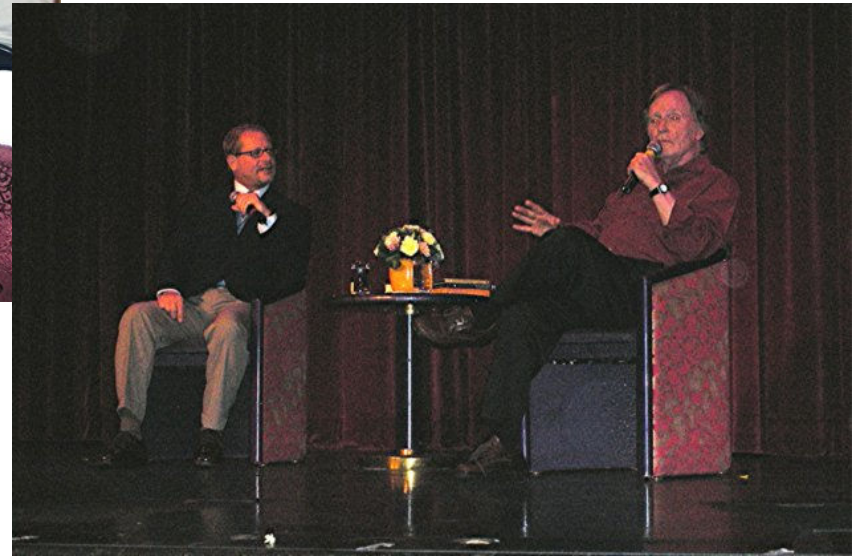
A large internally lighted globe is available in the library.

A jigsaw puzzle is usually at some stage of assembly on a table in the library.



The Hudson Room is where card players gather.

On Sunday mornings Rev. Doug van Gessel conducts Protestant church services in the Wajang Theater. Here a choir of passengers is singing at front left and Rev. Doug is middle front. Other religions and denominations also have scheduled worship services.



Dick Cavett, the TV talk show host joined the ship in Cairns and is traveling with us as he gives presentations about his experiences over his long career. Those presentations are made in the Queen's Lounge and also on the TV sets that are in each stateroom. Today, Bruce, the cruise director interviewed Dick Cavett on the stage. He is an entertainer that most of us remember well from his more active years. It was an entertaining hour.

So there are lots of things to do while on the ship. We never have enough time to do all the things we are interested in.

One thing we try to do is walk around the promenade deck every morning for exercise. The morning after we left Darwin and entered Indonesian waters we noticed a new device had been put in place. It was an acoustic machine that is designed to protect the ship from pirates or terrorists approaching the ship. This siren-like device is pointed at suspected trouble makers and activated to



produce such an intense noise that the attackers are driven away by the pain that the noise causes. One of the ship's security officers was on watch near the machine.



Here is what the back of the device looks like.

The icon at the right side middle of the machine shows a person sticking his head in front of the device while it is emanating energy. That image is covered by the standard red circle and hash mark indicating DO NOT DO THIS!



Finally, today we wanted to show some of the floral arrangements that are placed around the ship. The flowers in the dining rooms and public spaces are all real and changed frequently to keep them fresh. The florist staff on board is very accomplished at what they do and manage to keep a supply of flowers always on hand. Here are some examples:



There are live orchids growing in pots on each of the tables in the Lido Dining Room.

