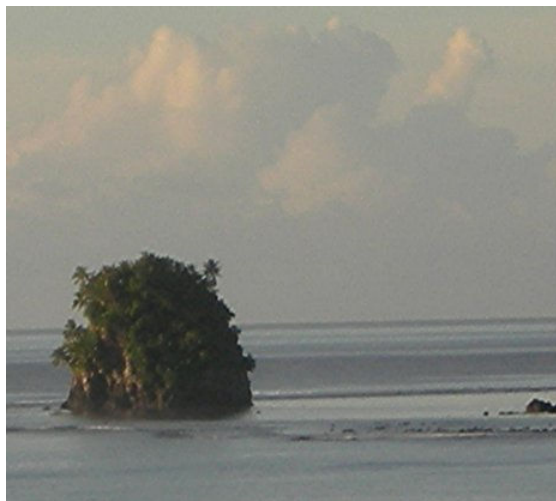
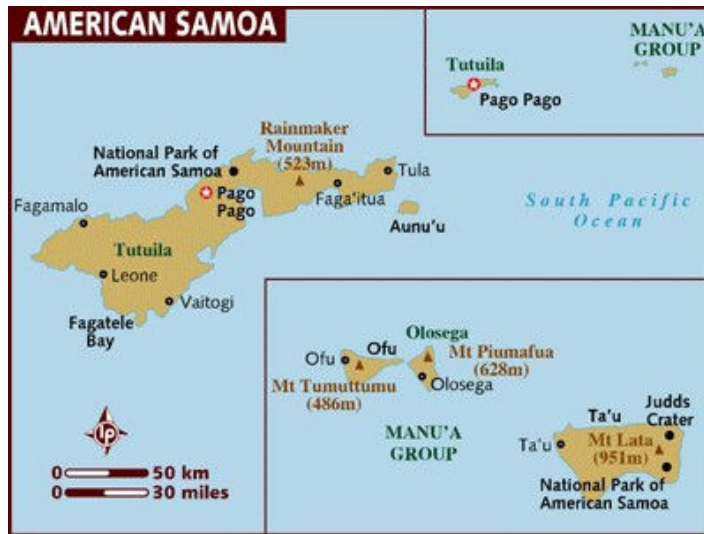


2/7/07 Day 24 – Pago Pago, American Samoa – Wednesday: American Samoa is made up of the island of Tutuila and a cluster of islands known as the Manua Group. American Samoa is a territory of the USA. They have representation in the US Congress and use US currency in commerce.

Today we approached the island of Tutuila in American Samoa and cruised into Pago Pago Harbor about 7am.



Near the entrance to Pago Pago Harbor stands the famous Flower Pot rock formation.

The small city of Pago Pago (pronounced Pango Pango) lies at the end of a narrow 2 mile long harbor connected to the large bay that leads to the sea.

This deep and narrow harbor with surrounding high mountains makes an ideal sheltered harbor. The United States has used the harbor as a strategic asset for Navy operations in the Southern Pacific since 1878. Today seagoing containers dominate the port area. Tourism, entertainment and tuna canning are the primary industries. The city of Pago Pago is at the end of the harbor. The village of Fagatogo contains the commercial port facilities where the Amsterdam docked. However, the entire area is generally referred to as Pago Pago. The following pictures show the port facilities and residential areas that line the Pago Pago Harbor.





A view of the container dock facilities from the Amsterdam.



On the right - some local craft vendors had had set up stalls next to the shipping containers in the port area where the Amsterdam docked.



On the left - the village of Fagatogo, next to the container docks as viewed from the Amsterdam.

We didn't have any organized tours scheduled in Pago Pago. We left the ship on our own about 9am and walked along the harbor toward the city of Pago Pago. There was only

a single road along the harbor so it was busy with truck and bus traffic going to and from Pago Pago city. Here are some views we saw along the road.



Baptist Church



United Pentecostal Church

Assembly of God Church



Along the way to Pago Pago City we saw a good use of worn out tires along the sidewalk. They were painted white and used as flower beds containing coleus plants



Children's playground in a public park.



Pago Pago Community Center



Barbara and the ever present Oak Ridge Library card in Pago Pago, American Samoa. Note the Amsterdam superstructure in the background.

We got this flower arrangement at one of the vendor's stalls. Only ten dollars!!!!!!



Vendors' stalls on the dock in front of the Amsterdam.



The buses in Pago Pago were plentiful and colorful.

We have been buying craft items and tee shirts mostly from sidewalk vendors at the various ports and they haven't taken our VISA credit card. We had to use cash in most places so we were starting to run low on US money. Here in American Samoa US dollars are the official currency and we were able to replenish the cash supply out of an ATM machine at a bank in Pago Pago.

The temperature was about 85 degrees and very humid so we only spent about three hours walking around Pago Pago and then we returned to the Amsterdam and air conditioned comfort. The after dinner show was a magician by the name of Phil Hitchcock from the UK. He dismayed the audience with his tricks and put on a good show. One of his magic feats must have employed some special rubber in a balloon. He inflated a rubber balloon until it was stretched very tight and transparent. Then he tied some ribbon to a long steel needle and pierced the balloon with the needle. The balloon did not pop and stayed inflated even when he drew the needle completely through the balloon and it was held by the ribbon attached to the needle.