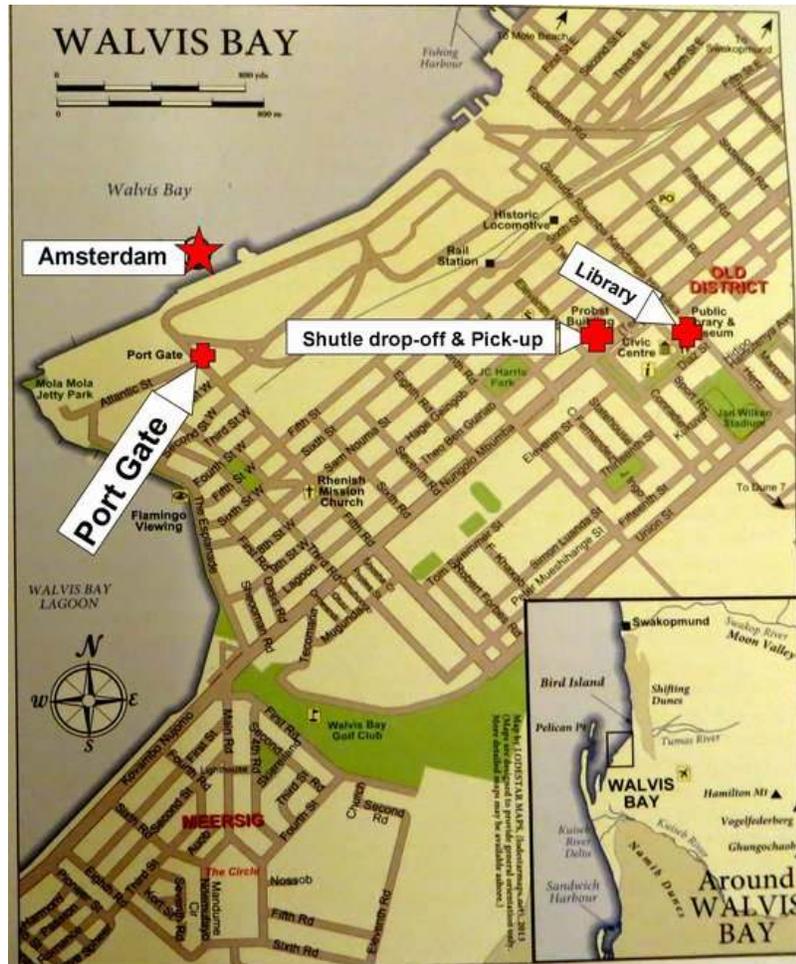


4/12/13 -Day 96-Walvis Bay, Namibia- Library- Around Town: This was our last

day in Walvis Bay, Namibia and we planned to take the shuttle bus in from the port just to look around and get a feel for the town. The map on the right shows the street grid for the central part of town where we planned to roam around. About 9am we caught the shuttle bus and were taken to the place in town where the bus dropped off and picked up the Amsterdam passengers. Passengers were discouraged from walking the relatively short distance through the port to town because of all the distractions and work activity in the port that could cause injury. This seemed like a good rule to follow for us elderly types. After all we hadn't yet been able



to pronounce Namibia correctly three times in a row. There seemed to be something that made this combination of sounds difficult to pronounce. We noticed people walking around practicing the pronunciation. We found the only way we could get the pronunciation approximately right was to emphasize the first syllable “NA” and then after drawing it out a bit finish up with “MIBIA”.

The temperature was cool and refreshing with a bit of overcast. We heard that these conditions were very normal for this city thanks to the cold Antarctic Current that flows off their shores. Our first item on the agenda was to get documentation for the visit of Barbara's library card to Walvis Bay, Namibia. The bus dropped us off in the middle of town. There was a beautiful planting nearby that caught our eye and we had to photograph, as shown on the right.



The streets were clean and neat with moderate traffic. The cars were driving on the left side of the road so, as usual, we had to always be on the alert to check both ways when crossing the street. We walked a short distance in the direction of the library and spotted a library sign, as shown on the right. It's a good thing when a community cares enough about books and learning to post a sign like this.



The library was in a modern facility separate from the main Civic Center building and was clearly marked, as shown on the right. We walked around inside and found it quiet and comfortable with 2 or 3 people using the books. They also had computers available but no one was using them at



the time. We took a picture of the main room, as shown on the left.

There was only one thing wrong, we couldn't find a large (high priced) brass or aluminum sign identifying this as the Walvis Bay

Library. When available, we love those fancy signs whatever facility they are identifying. We searched around and finally found a sign posted by the front door that did the job for us just fine. The picture we got showing the card in Walvis Bay is shown on the right.





The grounds around the library and Civic Center were covered with a lush grass lawn that was rare in this dry desert country. A hard working maintenance worker was mowing the grass, as shown on the left.

We continued our walk that went around the Civic Center and

found a large parking lot. Here was a scene that touched our hearts since our grandson just recently went through the trauma of getting his first driver's license. We saw that an automobile driving school had set up classes in the vacant



parking lot and their clearly marked car was being guided around some pylons by a novice Namibian driver, as shown on the right.



About this time we sighted a shell gas station down the street and hustled down there to get the most recent price of gas. The genial attendants let us photograph one of the gas pump displays where the price of the gas was given, as shown on the left. Regular gas was selling for 11.26 Namibian Dollars per liter. That price was equivalent

to \$1.22 USD per liter. Assuming 4 liters per gallon that works out to \$4.88 USD per gallon. That's pretty consistent with gas prices in some US cities.

Completing our mission to establish the price of gas we glanced up just in time to see a flight of flamingos soaring over the gas station on the way to the lagoon south of Walvis Bay. The photograph is kind of marginal but here it is on the right anyway. We continued to be overjoyed at how well the flamingo population seems to be doing here in Namibia.



One thing that our tour guide kept proudly repeating to us yesterday was that the roads and streets of Namibian cities are clean. We did our own inspection and had to agree with his assessment. We didn't see the random fast food trash and drink containers that frequently litter the roadways around our home. One reason for this is probably that the standard of living here doesn't support a lot of fast food eating on the highways but there may also be a cultural difference. We noticed a couple time that city workers were engaged in using old fashioned brooms and rakes to pick up debris and dirt from the city streets as shown in these photos.



As we walked around the central district we took pictures showing the appearance of downtown Walvis Bay.



We spent some time walking around the residential sections of Walvis Bay. The housing seemed to be of a nature that might be found in most US cities, as shown by the photos below.



We spent some time browsing through a nice souvenir shop downtown with the name of “UP FRONT”. They seemed to have high quality items at reasonable prices. We finished up our shopping and caught the shuttle bus back to the Amsterdam. However, when we approached the gate to the port we saw the large array African carvings and artwork spread out by the vendors so we left the bus for a little more browsing and shopping in this outdoor market as shown on the right.



When we had finished looking

around the craft market we caught a shuttle bus at the port gate and rode on in to the Amsterdam. The Namibian immigration people came aboard and checked all of our papers and then cleared the ship so we could leave the harbor.

The Amsterdam got underway about 5:30pm headed for the island of Saint Helena, our next port of call. Saint Helena Island is reported to be very beautiful and a point of interest for folks who know something about Napoleon and how he lived the latter part of his life as a prisoner on that island far out in the South Atlantic Ocean. We are scheduled to arrive in Saint Helena anchorage on Monday, April 15.