

3/13/13 - Day 66–Hong Kong, Avenue of Stars, Underground Sidewalks: After the previous two days of pretty frantic touring around Hong Kong we decided to take it a little easier today with a relaxed schedule. Leaving the Amsterdam and Ocean Terminal about 9am we headed for the Avenue of the Stars. The route to the Avenue of the Stars took us past the Star Ferry, Clock Tower and Hong Kong Museum of Art in accordance with the map below.



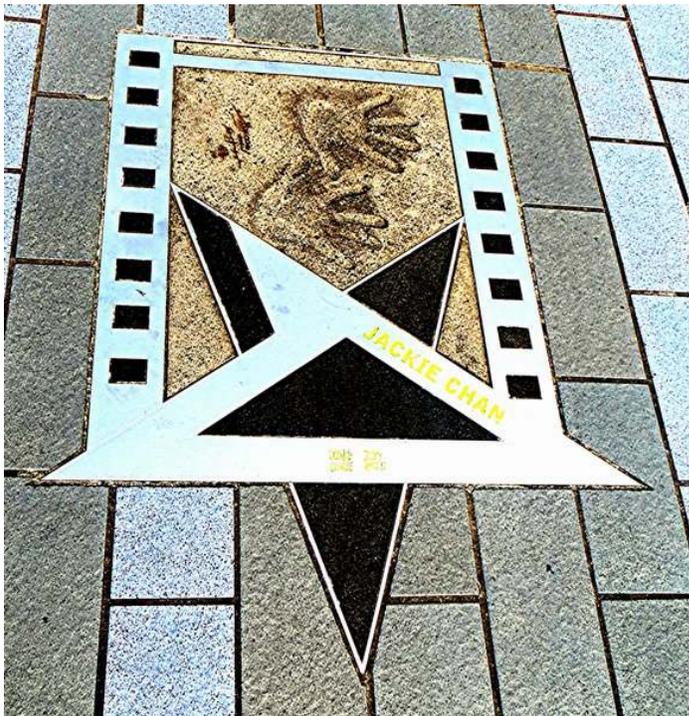
On the way to the Avenue of the Stars we passed the Kowloon Clock Tower which had been decorated at the base by a collection of colorful statues representing Asian characters as shown on the right.





plaques were for Asian actors we didn't know but two that we recognized were Jackie Chan below and Bruce Lee on the right.

From the clock tower it is just a short walk to the Avenue of Stars that can be seen suspended over the harbor water in the picture on the left. The Avenue of Stars has metal plaques embedded in the pavement with the names of famous Asian actors. This is much like the sidewalk in Hollywood that is dedicated to famous US actors. Most of the



Jackie Chan's plaque had his handprints pressed into the concrete so that fans could compare their hands with his.

There are other interactive displays on the Avenue of Stars. In prior visits we have enjoyed watching people engage in a little fantasy and having their picture taken to record the funny moment. We were not disappointed today as we stood back and enjoyed the scene. On the right some young folks do an imitation of Bruce Lee's fighting stance.



We finished walking the Avenue of the Stars and crossed Salisbury Street. We walked the short distance to the venerable old Peninsula Hotel. The Peninsula is famous for hosting rich and famous people since the early days when Hong Kong was a British possession. We entered and took a picture of the lobby to show the elegance of the place.



After our visit to the Peninsula Hotel we used the extensive pedestrian subway system of Hong Kong to return to Ocean Terminal and the Amsterdam. Many of the



main streets have pedestrian subways that are accessed by stairways or escalators and allow pedestrians to cross busy streets and even walk underground to exits that are several blocks from the entrance to the subway away. Another important purpose of the pedestrian subways is to provide access to the underground Mass Transit Railroad (MTR) stations. We walked by the entrance to the Tsim Sha Tsui (Kowloon) MTR station but didn't explore it.

The subways are spotlessly clean, have tiled walls and are brightly lit. While walking in the subway this morning we spotted a sign with Hong Kong mentioned prominently and we decided to use that display in a photograph documenting the visit of Barbara's library card to Hong Kong, as shown on the left.

We were walking on Salisbury Road and nearing the Harbour City Mall when we came upon the Chinese Arts & Crafts store. This store has museum quality Chinese craft items, like carvings and other oriental artifacts. It also has asian fabrics and clothes of all kinds. It is a high end store but we have shopped there on prior visits and occasionally found items in a reasonable price range. It is always worth a visit just to feast your eyes on high quality Chinese items. We noticed that signs were posted announcing an upcoming move of location next June. We couldn't determine the exact new location but suspect it may be in the new cruise passenger terminal being built on the old Kai Tak airport site in Kowloon, a few miles to the east of where it is currently located.

We made it back to the wonderful Ocean Central and Harbour City Malls where we enjoyed a last hike around the polished hallways. Then we returned to our room on the Amsterdam and got ready for dinner. We were at dinner when the Amsterdam left its berth at Ocean Terminal. Leaving the harbor we passed the marina where many small boats are kept. A rock sea wall encloses the marina and protects the boats from storms that sometimes attack the harbor.

We bid farewell to Hong Kong after a wonderful visit and headed for Nha Trang Vietnam. After a day at sea we expect to arrive at 8am on 3/15/13.

