

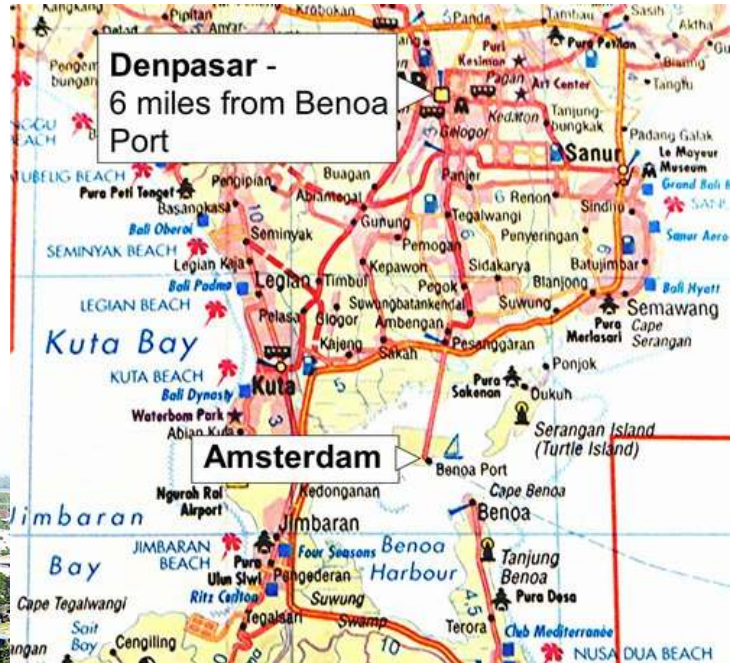
**3/2/13 - Day 55 Part 1 – Benoa Port & Denpasar city, Bali, Indonesia:** The location of the island of Bali and Benoa Port in Bali is indicated in the map on the right. Benoa was not always the scheduled port of call in Bali. In 2007 the favored port in Bali was Padang Bay and that landing required a tender boat ride. Eventually a new pier and passenger terminal became available at Tanah Ampo, not far from Padang Bay. In 2011 the Amsterdam port of call in Bali was changed to Tanah Ampo where, like at Padang Bay, it was necessary for passengers to take tender boats into the landing. For the 2013 World Voyage the original Bali destination was the port of Tanah Ampo. After the World Voyage started in January 2013, Holland America changed the destination port to Benoa Port instead of Tanah Ampo. One advantage of Benoa Port was that the Amsterdam could tie up to a dock and passengers could simply walk ashore and into the new passenger terminal there. A map showing the location of Padang Bay, Tanah Ampo, and Benoa Port is displayed on the right.



About 7am we arrived outside the harbor at Benoa Port on the island of Bali in Indonesia. We were scheduled to be alongside the dock at the passenger terminal by 8am. However, a large ferry boat was tied up in the Amsterdam's assigned berth. The ferry boat eventually got underway and the Amsterdam was docked with passengers streaming out onto the pier by 9:30am.

The locations of the Amsterdam's berth at Benoa Port, the city of Denpasar and Kuta Bay which has a popular beach is shown in the map on the right.

The orange roofed passenger terminal building and dock area



are shown on the left. The terminal building had a large sign on the roof announcing that we had arrived in Benoa. It provided a great backdrop to document the visit of Barbara's library card to this tropical port, as shown below.





In the days leading up to our visit in Bali there had been a great deal of excitement among the stewards on the Amsterdam. Many of them are from the island of Bali and they were eagerly looking forward to visits with family during our brief stop here today. The time available to the stewards for visiting is dependent on when they complete their day's assignment of cleaning rooms, preparing food or whatever their assignment may be. The availability of backup staff is very limited so basically the stewards have to work hard to finish early and then spend time with family. Many of the passengers, wanting to help their room stewards finish early today had put signs on their doors indicating that cleaning of their room was not necessary today. A majority of people posted signs so at least some of the room stewards could finish ship's work early and spend a few more hours with family. Some example of the notes posted for the stewards are shown below.

IWAN & JOKO  
Please, on 2ND MARCH (Bali Day)  
Do NOT CLEAN THIS ROOM.  
I WISH YOU BOTH AN  
ENJOYABLE DAY WITH  
YOUR FAMILIES.  
ASYIIK !

Fausi & Patu  
March 2  
Not Allowed to  
Work in Room 2585  
Enjoy!

Dear Reindra & Rubi  
On March 2, 2013  
(Bali Day) Please  
skip our cabin (2630).  
We won't need any  
service -  
Have a Great Day!  
Orlin & Barbara Stansfield

"DANGER"  
Any crew service,  
staff or officers  
ENTERING 2603 during  
ANY Indonesia Port  
will be given 10  
lashes & Tossed in the  
Sea!  
Maxrice & I  
Go have fun!

As the Amsterdam was in the final stages of mooring at the dock, we sighted the families that had come to Benoa Port today to see their loved ones on the ship. The photo on the right shows the men and women waiting patiently in the shade of the trees that lined the dock and in a shade tent that had been erected for them. Some were straining to see a familiar face among the workers who lined the rails of the Amsterdam as we docked. Provisions had been made to allow workers to leave the ship or bring family visitors on the Amsterdam for the day. From our superficial observations the efforts of Holland America to bring their Indonesian workers together with family today was greatly appreciated by the crew.



As soon as the ship was cleared for passengers to leave, we tramped down the gangway with all the others. There were Balinese dancers on the pier to greet us, as shown on the right.



We had never been to this part of Bali before and we were interested in going in to the city of Denpasar to look around. There were lots of taxi drivers on the dock offering their services. We briefly considered



sharing a taxi with another couple to reduce expenses but that turned into a hassle so we elected to go with just the two of us. We selected one of the taxi drivers with good English and after some haggling arranged for a 4 hour tour of highlights and shopping opportunities that the city had to offer. The driver/tour guide's name was Putu which is a name that Balinese families frequently give to the first born son. Several stewards on the Amsterdam have that name.



Putu had a relatively new van, as shown on the left. We particularly appreciated the good air conditioner because the day was hot and humid. We haggled over the price but at the end of the 4 hour tour ended up paying \$120 USD total which was significantly more than the agreed price because he gave us such a great personalized tour. The \$120 USD cost was about the same as Holland America charges for just one person on one of their bus tours in Benoa.

We loaded ourselves into the van and Putu got us rolling toward the city of Denpasar that was about 6 miles away. However, we were to find out that heavy traffic on the roads would make the 6 mile ride into a 45 minute thrill experience.

First of all, motor cycles competed for road space and, like this family of four shown on the right, darted in and out of slight openings between cars.



Then there was the relatively narrow streets packed with cars that we had to negotiate over most of the route. Many times we thought a head-on

crash and death was imminent. Fortunately, the number of those adrenalin pumping experiences decreased as we got used to the left hand traffic flow.





The following are some scenes we photographed along the way into Denpasar.

A roadside temple.



Not-so-great neighborhoods

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Modest new construction





This photo shows a terraced rice field as seen through a row of palm trees.



A rice field with streamers flying in the breeze to scare birds away. Putu said the man in the picture simply walked around the field to scare the birds away from the ripening rice. From what we saw that appeared to be his only function.

These heads of rice kernels shown on the right were what the birds were after.



Flooded rice fields getting the new crop started.





As we passed through the streets of Denpasar there were also examples of stately homes as shown on the left and below. We were told that the Hindu religion influenced city building regulations that limit the height of all buildings to four stories. It has something to do with

having shrines to the Gods in the lower floors and the degrading of the importance of those shrines if there are additional shrines on floors higher up. This building on the right is the tallest one we saw while in Bali.



We had told Putu that we wanted to look at some of the Batik fabric and shirts that Bali is famous for. After seeing some sights around town we pulled into the parking lot of the Kartika Chandra Batik showroom.



The process of making Batik fabric involves multiple cycles of painting the characteristic Batik pattern onto the cloth in wax followed by applying dye to portions of the cloth not covered with wax. A Batik fabric has the pattern in vivid colors on both front and back side while an ordinary printed pattern is brilliant only on the front with muted colors on the backside. Although this front-back difference is interesting, it is the characteristic Batik pattern that makes the cloth attractive to us.



These photos on the left and below give some notion of the Batik pattern appearance.

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**3/2/13 - Day 55 Part 2 – Bena Port & Denpasar city, Bali, Indonesia:**