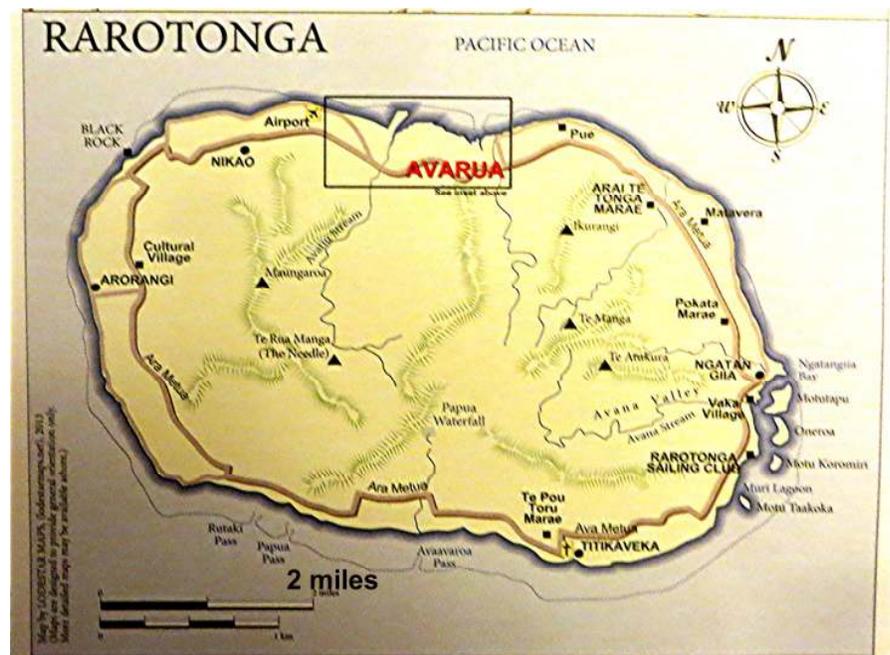


**1/31/13 - Day 26 – Rorotonga Island:** After spending one day at sea since leaving Bora Bora we arrived this morning off the north coast of the island of Rorotonga. As shown on the ship’s route map below, Rorotonga is about 500 miles southwest of Bora Bora. Rorotonga is one of the 15 islands in the Cook Island Group and it is the most populated island.



A map of Rorotonga is shown on the right. The circumference of the island is 20 miles and there is only one road that encircles the island. The Cook Islands’ Parliament buildings as well as an international airport are located on the island in the vicinity of the main city of Avarua. The island has a reef but the enclosed lagoon is usually less than 1000 yards wide and doesn’t provide a protective harbor for a ship the size of the Amsterdam.



Consequently, cruise ships like the Amsterdam anchor a couple miles away from the island in open sea and use tender boats to transport passengers to and from the island.

When we arrived this morning a 30 mile per hour wind was blowing and there were two sets of ocean swells approaching from different directions. Captain Mercer decided that

the conditions for operating the tender boats would be too dangerous for both the passengers and the boat crews so the visit to Roratonga was canceled. It was a disappointment to have the visit canceled but the conditions for the tender boats were even worse than we saw at Easter Island and no one wanted to go through that experience again. Everyone adjusted easily to the Captain's decision and we settled in for an unscheduled day at sea. A nice gesture on the part of the Amsterdam was to provide complimentary champagne at dinner tonight as part of an apology for having to cancel the visit to Roratonga.

The early departure from Roratonga means that we should arrive in Auckland, New Zealand sooner than planned. Although the seas were too rough for the tender boats, the Amsterdam, with stabilizers fully in use, glided along with a comfortable rocking motion that has not caused sea sickness.

We now expect to arrive in Auckland, New Zealand in the evening of 2/5/13 rather than the morning of 2/6/13 as originally planned. The Captain indicated that negotiations are underway to firm up those plans.