

**1/14/13 - Day 9 – Callao and Lima Peru:** As the Amsterdam approached Callao (Pronounced Ki-yow) Peru, the cold Humboldt (aka Peru) Current was keeping temperatures on deck comfortably cool even though we were not too far from the equator. A fog bank enveloped some of the islands off the coast and the ship's fog horn was sounding.



By 8am we were docked in Callao which is the port facility for Lima. Callao has a long history of providing port services for a wide region of South America including land



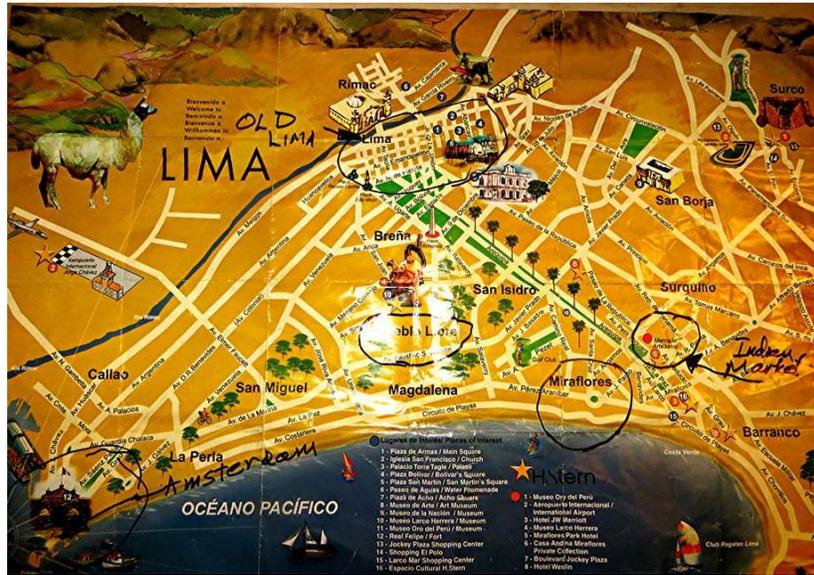
locked Bolivia. An interesting first sight was a huge car carrier ship tied up with cars being rapidly driven down the ramp at the rear of the ship as shown on the left.

A large parking lot on the dock was soon filled with the newly arrived cars.

No sooner was the first ship emptied than it steamed out of the harbor and another car carrier arrived. The securely closed interior of these car carriers protects the cars from salt water damage during their transport to ports of the world.



For our sight seeing in the Callao–Lima area we were using the map shown below. The Amsterdam was docked at the Callao port location on the lower left side. We teamed up with Roy and Gayle this morning and caught the free shuttle bus that took us along the coast to the community of Miraflores. The first thing we noticed was that traffic drove on the right hand side of the road. The drive through thick traffic took about 45 minutes even though it was only 5 or 6 miles. We were dropped off at the Marriot Hotel in Miraflores.



The Miraflores community is an upscale part of Lima with fairly new high-rise apartments and business buildings. Once we were dropped at Miraflores we briefly explored the shopping center that faces the ocean. Then we headed for the “Indian Market” shown on the map above. Barbara had heard of the Indian Market as a good place to shop for Peruvian Indian crafts. A lady who was part of the shuttle bus operation pointed us in the right direction to reach the Indian Market. After a ten block walk down Ave. Larco and a right turn at Ave Ricardo Palma we arrived at the Indian Market.



With her shopping instincts set on maximum, Barbara sprung into action. We could only hope that Gayle might provide some moderating influence.



The textile displays were awesome but our purchases were limited to just a few souvenirs. We called an end to the Indian Market shopping and headed back along the busy street to the Miraflores shuttle bus pickup spot.



We saw this whimsical statue of a bull along the way.

This quaint cart was on display and caught our eye as we walked along



Sidewalk food vendors were plentiful but there was also many of the traditional fast food restaurants like MacDonalld's and Pizza Huts.



The South American cities we have visited on this cruise have sometimes reminded us less pleasant aspects of the Mexican town of Tijuana back in the 1960s. However, these cities seem a bit more prosperous with no obvious homeless people and beggars. The streets are also kept very clean of trash and dirt. Scrubbing of sidewalks was a common sight, as shown below.



We were impressed by the contrasts we saw along the way. From cosmopolitan cultural exhibits advertised by the poster on the right to brightly painted modest homes lining the street, as shown below.



With our high dependence on things electronic in the modern world we cringed when we saw frequent tangled nests of wires like these on the right.



We returned to Miraflores and caught our shuttle bus back to the Amsterdam. We were lucky enough to see a gasoline price sign as shown on the left. The prices show the cost per gallon in terms of the Peruvian Nuevo Sol. At the current exchange rate the price for a gallon of 90 octane regular gasoline was about \$4.85 USD and the 95 octane gas cost \$6.26 USD per gallon; slightly higher than typical in the US.

Back at the Amsterdam there was a convenient Peruvian craft market set up on the pier. After a short amount of browsing we returned to the ship.



In the evening we had a celebration of Bob's birthday in the dining room. Yesterday Bob had

mentioned that back home in Adelaide, Australia it was already his birthday, courtesy of



the International Dateline and Australia's westward location. Today, on his actual birthday for our location, Jessie had arranged for a beautiful chocolate birthday cake with candle. In the picture below, our steward, Gede, along with his fellow stewards are delivering a rousing "Happy Birthday" song for Bob.

Later, Teo, our wine steward, came by to deliver his own special humor. While chatting he made a rose for each of the ladies out of a paper napkin, as shown on the right.

This fine celebration finished off our first day in Callao and the community of Miraflores. We are looking forward to tomorrow and a tour of the old city of Lima.

