

1/5/13 Pre-Cruise Activity & Day 0 at Ft. Lauderdale: This is the first email from the 115 day World Cruise by Orlin and Barbara Stansfield in 2013. We are hoping you'll enjoy the trip with us. However, if you don't want to receive any more emails just let us know and we'll take you off the list. For those folks who would also like to read Internet blog websites for the 2013 World Cruise here is a list of web sites where they can be found.

<http://bet4102.blogspot.com> by Barb

<https://mrvideo1949.wordpress.com/> by Brad

<http://amazingvoyages2.blogspot.com/> by Jeff

<http://world.kweenkaren.com/> by Karen

<http://boards.cruisecritic.com/showthread.php?t=1757209> by Bill and Mary Ann

The itinerary for the cruise is shown below:

- Itinerary -

2013 World Voyage - m.s. Amsterdam



--The days at sea are not shown --

Day	Date	Port	Day	Date	Port
0	1/5/13	Ft. Lauderdale, FL	43	2/18/13	Hobart, Australia
3	1/8/13	Cartagena, Columbia	45	2/20/13	Adelaide, Australia
4	1/9/13	Panama Canal	46	2/21/13	Kangaroo Island, Australia
5	1/10/13	Crossing Equator	49	2/24/13	Albany, Australia
6	1/11/13	Manta, Ecuador	50	2/25/13	Perth & Fremantle, Australia
9	1/14/13	Callao (Lima), Peru	51	2/26/13	
10	1/15/13		55	3/2/13	Tanah Ampo, Bali Indonesia
11	1/16/13	Gen. San Martin, Peru	57	3/4/13	Ujung Padang, Indonesia
16	1/21/13	Easter Island, Chile	60	3/7/13	Puerto Princesa, Philippines
19	1/24/13	Pitcairn, Island	62	3/9/13	Manila, Philippines
22	1/27/13	Papeete, Tahiti Island	64	3/11/13	Hong Kong, China
23	1/28/13	Moorea, Island	65	3/12/13	
24	1/29/13	Bora Bora, Island	66	3/13/13	
26	1/31/13	Roratonga, Island	68	3/15/13	Nha Trang, Vietnam
29	2/3/13	Cross Intl Dateline	70	3/17/13	Singapore
31	2/6/13	Auckland, NZ	71	3/18/13	
32	2/7/13		73	3/20/13	Porto Malai, Malaysia
33	2/8/13	Tauranga, NZ	74	3/21/13	Phuket, Thailand
34	2/9/13	Napier, NZ	77	3/24/13	Colombo, Sri Lanka
35	2/10/13	Wellington, NZ	81	3/28/13	Victoria, Seychelles
36	2/11/13	Picton, NZ	83	3/30/13	Nosy Be, Madagascar
40	2/15/13	Sydney, Australia	86	4/2/13	Maputo, Mozambique
41	2/16/13		87	4/3/13	Richard's Bay, South Africa
			88	4/4/13	Durban, South Africa
			91	4/7/13	Cape Town, South Africa
			92	4/8/13	
			93	4/9/13	
			95	4/11/13	Walvis Bay, Namibia
			96	4/12/13	
			99	4/15/13	Jamestown, St. Helena
			101	4/17/13	Georgetown, Ascension Island
			105	4/21/13	Fortaleza, Brazil
			107	4/23/13	Belem, Brazil
			108	4/24/13	Crossing the Equator
			109	4/25/13	Devil's Island, Fr Guiana
			111	4/27/13	Castries, St. Lucia
			115	5/1/13	Fr. Lauderdale, Florida

In this first email we'll start out with a little recap of activities leading up to Day 0 and then cover the happenings on the Amsterdam after we boarded on Day 0 in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

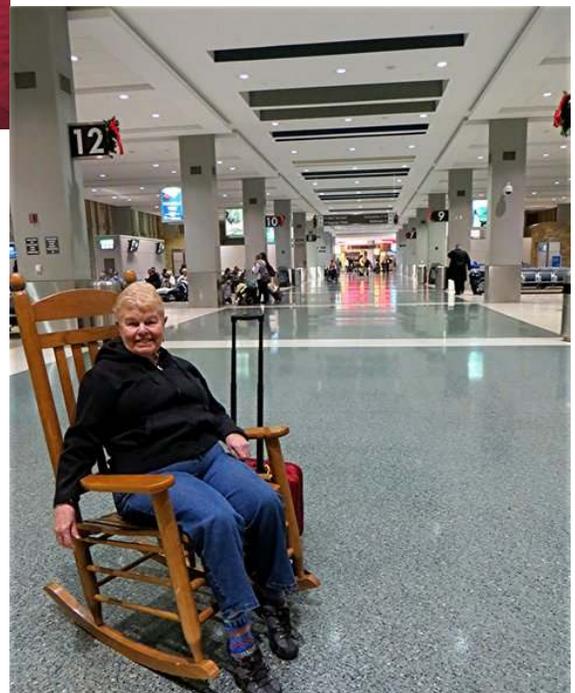
On January 3rd our son, Steve, and grandkids, Andrew and Emily, picked us up and took us to the Hilton Hotel at the Airport in Knoxville, TN. It has long been our tradition when visiting various ports to document the local cost of that universal commodity, regular gasoline. Near home we shot this picture of gas prices posted at our local Raceway service station. The price of \$3.079 per gallon is the lowest it has been for some time.



Along the way to the hotel we stopped at a restaurant had had a Bon Voyage dinner as shown on the left.

Barbara, Andrew, Emily, Orlin Steve

On the morning of Jan. 4 we caught a 7am US Airways flight to Ft. Lauderdale from Knoxville, Tennessee. Barbara couldn't pass up an opportunity to briefly relax in a handy Tennessee Rocker before catching our flight.



When we arrived in Ft. Lauderdale we caught a shuttle to the Westin Hotel where our Travel Agent, Cruise Specialists, provided complimentary rooms for their clients. At the Westin Hotel we met friends, Roy and Gayle Brown who were also going on the World

Cruise. We were joined shortly by Tennessee friends, Rick and Gail Dunbar, who had driven several hours from their Florida winter escape nest to wish the Browns and us a Bon Voyage. The three couples shared a Rhone River cruise a few years ago and since then Rick has dubbed our little group the “River Rats”. A picture of the assembled River Rats is shown on the left.



Roy, Rick, Orlin Gail, Barbara Gayle

We knew we were in Florida while strolling around the hotel grounds and saw this warning to avoid the alligators. Later, we attended a Bon Voyage cocktail party and dinner sponsored by Cruise Specialists at the Westin Hotel. The assembled traveling clients filled a good sized conference room.



1/5/13 Day 0 of the 2013 World Cruise: Day 0 had finally arrived and months of preparation would hopefully pay off. The Amsterdam didn't arrive at the port until about 7am this morning and between 7am and about noon the crew performed a miracle of getting the previous cruise passengers safely and comfortably off the ship, the rooms prepared for new guests, and supplies loaded for the next cruise.

Meanwhile, after spending the night at the Westin Hotel, this morning we eagerly gathered in the lobby to catch a shuttle bus to Port Everglades where the Amsterdam awaited us.

Fortunately, Shannon Nelson, our Cruise Specialists travel consultant from the Seattle office was there and we had a nice chat before saying goodbye.



Orlin Shannon Barbara

At 11:30 we boarded a shuttle bus and headed for Port Everglades and the Amsterdam. We arrived at the Amsterdam about noon and joined hundreds of other folks patiently waiting to be checked in to the ship.

This would turn out to be the most painful part of the whole process of meeting the ship. We waited in line for about 2 hours with the folks shown in the picture on the right.



While we were waiting in line, Cruise Director Bruce Scudder, came out to say hello to the passengers.

As shown in the picture on the right, there were young children on board. Later we saw about 8 teenagers playing ping pong on the Lido Deck of the Amsterdam. Not a bad adventure for such a young age!



Later Cruise Hostess, Adele Scholtz, joined Bruce. We had become acquainted with Adele and Bruce on a previous cruise and it was good to renew acquaintance.

Gradually we moved closer to the all-important check-in counter.



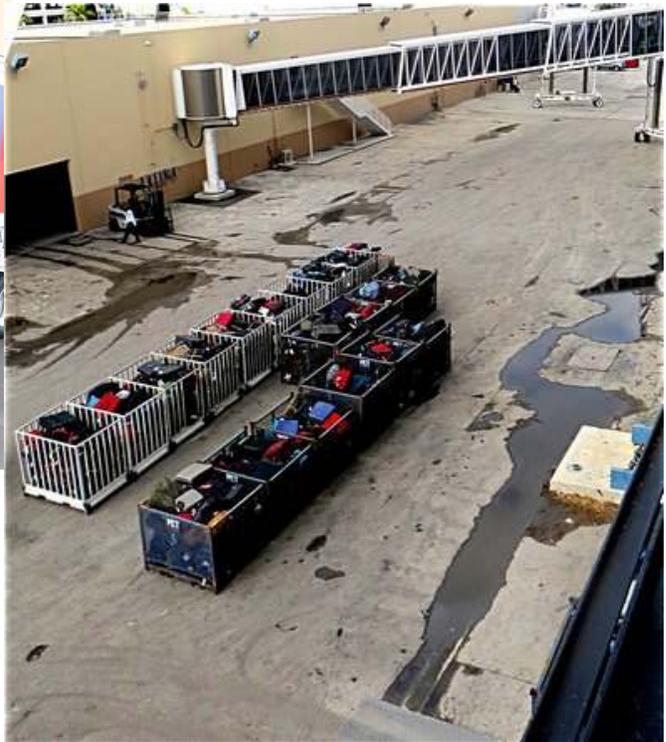
We handed over our passports and the essential “Yellow Card” showing we had the required yellow fever vaccination. Then, at last, we received our room keys and headed for the gangway of the Amsterdam. We settled in to our “Ocean View” stateroom (#2630) with a huge sigh of relief. We could live with this for the next 115 days!



Our room stewards, Ruli and Reindra soon arrived to welcome us on board and offer to help us get comfortable.

One thing missing from the stateroom was our luggage. We had hoped to see it all piled in the room when we arrived.

Apparently the huge job of loading all the luggage onto the ship was taking longer than planned. Bins full of luggage were still on the pier when the official sailing time came at 5:00pm. In addition, there was nearly a traffic jam of cruise ships trying to leave the harbor at this time so our departure was delayed.





Even though we had not left the pier, the Sail Away party was underway on the Lido Pool Deck which was decorated with flags from all the nations of the world. An excellent band was belting out familiar tunes from the 60s and 70s and we couldn't resist stepping to the rhythm even in our tennis shoes. We spied friends Karen and Aldona enjoying the scene poolside and took their picture.

We were at dinner when the Amsterdam left the pier at 6:30pm.

Thanks to our dining room manager, Presti, and coordination by Cruise Specialists we ended up at the dinner table we had requested (#36) with our good friends Roy and Gayle. Our table was set for 6 people and shortly a friendly Australian couple, Bob and Jesse, arrived to take the remaining chairs. The conversation flowed easily and soon it was obvious we would have good table mates all the way to Auckland (6 Feb.), New Zealand where Bob and Jesse will leave the ship. Our other cruising friends, Bob and Esther will be joining us at the table when we arrive in Hong Kong (11 March).



Jesse Barbara Orlin

Gayle Roy Bob

Part way through dinner there was a little commotion in the dining room and we saw that some ship's officers were handing out long stemmed roses to the ladies.

Soon Presti, showed up with a rose for each of the ladies at our table. Of course, we had to get our picture with Presti whom we had met on a prior cruise.



After dinner we returned to our room and joyfully saw that our luggage had arrived. The next hour was filled with removing items from the suitcases and trying to find a logical place to store them in the closets and drawers of our room.

With that job done we took a quick stroll around the Promenade Deck and then turned in for the night. Day 0 had been a success and thankfully everything was in place for our World Cruise Adventure.