

# Grand 2009 Australia, New Zealand & South Pacific Voyage (Sept. 30 – Dec. 2, 2009)

Journal of Orlin and Barbara Stansfield



**ms Amsterdam**



## **Introduction:**

This is a journal of Orlin and Barbara Stansfield describing the preparation and personal experiences during the 63-Day Grand Australia, New Zealand & South Pacific Voyage on the Holland America ms Amsterdam in 2009.

**Deciding to Go:** Late in 2008 we learned about the 63 Day Australia, New Zealand & South Pacific Voyage on the Holland America ship ms Amsterdam ("ms" means "motor ship" - diesel engines drive the ship instead of steam turbines found on other ships). We had been on the Amsterdam for long cruises before and we liked the ship. The itinerary for this 63 day cruise is a round trip from Los Angeles. It includes some of the ports we had visited previously but many will be new to us. The major selling point was that eight New Zealand ports of call or scenic cruising sights that were on the itinerary. We have

been to Australia twice but New Zealand had eluded us. Many people had told us about the beauty of New Zealand and this looked like our big chance to visit that country without having to endure an 18 hour plane ride. There were worries about the current economic downturn we are living through but taking account of our senior citizen status we weighed the dwindling years of good health remaining against the near term financial pain and finally decided to take this voyage.

**Cruise Itinerary:** Some of the passengers on the cruise will board the Amsterdam in Seattle, Washington and start the cruise four days before we do. They are taking the 67 Day Voyage while we are taking the 63 Day Voyage. Below is a map that shows the ports we will be visiting. After leaving Los Angeles we head south to the island of Nuku Hiva then west to several South Sea Islands and Cairns in Australia.



The dates for visiting each of the ports are shown in the table below.

**2009 Itinerary**  
**63 Day, Grand Australia, New Zealand**  
**&**  
**South Pacific Voyage**  
**(Holland America - ms Amsterdam)**

Cruise Day	Week Day	Port
1	Wed 30 Sept.	Los Angeles
2-7	Thu-Tue 1-6 Oct.	At Sea
8	Wed 7 Oct.	Nuku Hiva, Marquesas Islands <sup>1</sup>
9	Thu 8 Oct.	At Sea
10	Fri 9 Oct.	Papeete, Tahiti , Society Islands <sup>2</sup>
11	Sat 10 Oct.	Papeete, Tahiti & Moorea, Society Islands <sup>1</sup>
12-13	Sun, Mon 11-12 Oct.	Bora-Bora, Society Islands <sup>1,2</sup>
14	Tue 13 Oct.	Raiatea, Society Islands <sup>1</sup>
15	Wed 14 Oct.	At Sea
16	Thu 15 Oct.	Rarotonga, Cook Islands <sup>1</sup>
17	Fri 16 Oct.	At Sea
18	Sat 17 Oct.	Pago Pago, Tutuila Island; America Samoa
19	Sun 18 Oct.	At Sea
20	Mon 19 Oct.	At Sea & Crossing the International Dateline <sup>3</sup>
21	Tue 20 Oct.	Suva, Viti Levu Island, Fiji Islands
22	Wed 21 Oct.	At Sea
23	Thu 22 Oct.	Port-Vila, Vanuatu
24-25	Fri-Sat 23-24 Oct.	At Sea
26-27	Sun-Mon 25-26 Oct.	Cairns, Australia <sup>2</sup>
28-29	Tue-Wed 27-28 Oct.	At Sea
30	Thu 29 Oct.	Brisbane, Australia <sup>4</sup>
31	Fri 30 Oct.	At Sea
32	Sat 31 Oct.	Sydney, Australia <sup>2,4</sup>
33-34	Sun-Mon 1-2 Nov.	Sydney, Australia <sup>4</sup>
35	Tue 3 Nov.	At Sea
36	Wed 4 Nov.	Melbourne, Australia <sup>4</sup>
37	Thu 5 Nov.	At Sea
38	Fri 6 Nov	Hobart, Tasmania, Australia <sup>4</sup>
39-40	Sat-Sun 7-8 Nov	At Sea
41	Mon 9 Nov.	Milford Sound, New Zealand <sup>1,5</sup>
42	Tue 10 Nov.	Dunedin, New Zealand
43	Wed 11 Nov.	Christchurch, New Zealand
44	Thu 12 Nov.	Wellington, New Zealand
45	Fri 13 Nov.	Napier, New Zealand
46	Sat 14 Nov.	Tauranga, New Zealand
47	Sun 15 Nov.	Auckland, New Zealand

## 2009 Grand Australia, New Zealand & South Pacific Voyage, Itinerary (Continued)

48	Mon 16 Nov.	Bay of Islands, New Zealand <sup>1</sup>
49-50	Tue-Wed 17-18 Nov.	At Sea
51	Thu 19 Nov.	Nuku'alofa, Tonga <sup>1</sup>
52	Fri 20 Nov.	At Sea, Crossing the International Dateline <sup>3</sup> ; & Apia, Upolu Island, Western Samoa
53	Sat 21 Nov.	At Sea
54	Sun 22 Nov.	At Sea, Crossing the Equator <sup>3</sup>
55-56	Mon-Tue 23-24 Nov	At Sea
57	Wed 25 Nov	Kona, Hawaii <sup>1</sup>
58	Thu 26 Nov.	Honolulu, Oahu, Hawaii
59	Fri 27-30 Nov.	Hilo, Hawaii
60-63	Sat-Tue 28-30 Nov. & 1 Dec.	At Sea
Cruise Over	2 Dec.	Arrive and Disembark at Los Angeles

Footnotes:

1. Tender Required
2. Overnight
3. Cruising Only
4. Visa Required

**Journal as a Blog:** A journal on the Internet is frequently called a "blog" where the word is derived from "weB LOG". Our son, Steve, who is a computer guru, set us up with blogs for three long prior cruises in 2007 and 2008. Those can be viewed at [www.2007gwv.thestansfields.com](http://www.2007gwv.thestansfields.com) , [www.2008AsiaAucruise.thestansfields.com](http://www.2008AsiaAucruise.thestansfields.com) and [www.2009voyageofthevikings.thestansfields.com/](http://www.2009voyageofthevikings.thestansfields.com/) . We had considered not writing a blog for this 2009 cruise to Australia and New Zealand. However, Barbara, not looking forward to Orlin pacing the cabin floor looking for something to do in the evening hours, prevailed in launching this fourth cruise blog.

During the cruise we will prepare our daily journal entry off-line with lots of pictures and then upload the information to our website with (hopefully) the use of minimum on-line time. When viewers go to our website, which has the address of [www.2009aunzcruise.thestansfields.com](http://www.2009aunzcruise.thestansfields.com) , they will find a listing of individual files labeled to identify the day that each file describes. The prior cruise blog format will be retained in that the most recent entry will be first on the list so that it is easy to find and open. Similar to usual blog format a viewer wanting to read an earlier entry will have to scroll down the list to the desired day of the cruise and then mouse click to open and read the file.