

DAY 18 – Napier, New Zealand



Napier is a quaint seaside town on the North Island. In 1931 Napier was completely destroyed by an earthquake and the entire city had to be rebuilt from the ground up. This was achieved in just two years and because the whole city was built in the same period, all buildings have a design from circa. 1932 – that is the art deco period.

The residents of Napier have taken this fact and really played up to it and tried to maintain this look and feel for the city.



Obviously a huge cruise ship visiting town is a big deal so they laid on a 1920s band, dressed up in era clothes and parked a whole line of antique cars from the 20s and 30s right next to the ship.

We had no real plans as our stay in this town was only 5 hours, so we went ashore and did our own walking tour which was fun. We were on a mission to find the

perfect meat pie and achieved success in finding the best tasting pie so far on this trip!

We also wanted to restock the illicit booze supply in our cabin but after 2 ½ hours of walking still had not found a bottle store. Dammit, it must be a dry town! We had enough for tonight but we HAVE to find a bottle store tomorrow.



We set sail at 1 PM and had a beer at the bar, then retired to our cabin for a mid afternoon nap. A pretty easy day. Tonight was formal night so we dressed up for dinner remembering this time to get a picture.

The weather has been really good to us the last few days. New Zealand in summer time is very unpredictable. If the sun shines it is in the seventies and very comfortable. This we have had almost every day and it has been shorts weather.

But when the clouds come it gets very chilly and the wind is icy cold. New Zealand is very firmly in the "roaring 40s" (the latitude) so there is a lot of wind.

This evening we were treated to a



flock of Albatrosses cruising next to the ship for several hours, just gliding millimeters above the wave tops not once landing or stopping to rest.

I guess they were riding the pressure wave caused by the cruise ship.



Statue downtown of a 1920s chick



The grand hall on the cruise ship



The old cars lined up next to the ship



Leaving the port

Tomorrow we are on a full day tour doing some exciting things, watch this space!!