

DAY 22-24 – Sydney

Two days at sea and then finally back in Sydney. While at sea we did very little. We had 10 hectic days back to back of sightseeing, walking and hiking, very physical and very busy so we needed to R and R.



You see there are really two kinds of cruisers, those that love shipboard life and all that comes with it where the destinations are relatively unimportant and just minor distractions for something to do while in port. Then there are cruisers like us – where the ship is just an affordable and comfortable way to get to the destinations we want to see. Group one is seldom in their cabin, instead they relish everything the cruise ship has to offer, food, entertainment, games, etc. They will party on until the wee hours and have a wonderful time.

We, on the other hand, are only here for the shore excursions, so we spend a lot of time in our cabin hanging out, enjoying the view and staying away from the crowds - we really don't like people much. Fighting 2000 other people for hot tub time, bellying up to the bar, standing in line for the shows – it's just not our style.

So the last two days we barely left the cabin, but for meals, just enjoying the ocean view from our private balcony, watching movies on the laptop and reading. This is why we don't mind paying the extra money for a cabin upgrade to get space and a decent balcony.



The first day at sea was Australia Day – the equivalent to July 4 in the USA. Everyone donned their red, white and blue as well as painted Aussie Flags on their face and various other body parts.

There were various activities onboard to commemorate Australia Day, but again, we mostly hung out, slept and relaxed. That evening was the final

formal evening and Wendy just could not muster the energy to dress up like a

Barbie Doll. Instead we opted to stay in our comfy clothes and eat at the casual restaurant, retiring close to 10pm.



The second day at sea was a total repeat of the first day at sea. Only less sleep and more watching movies.

As we arrive into Sydney Harbour for our final day, the morning views were stunning!

To the left is a beacon restaurant you can only access via water taxi.

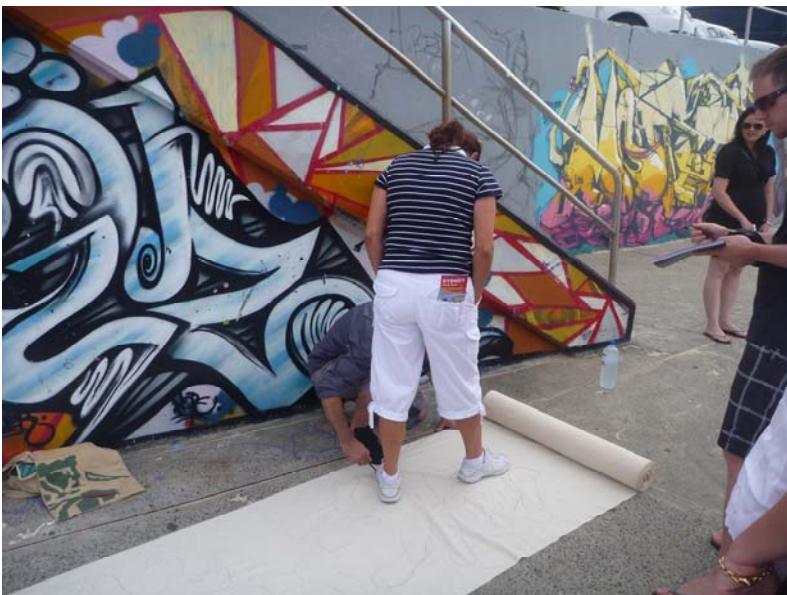
We docked at 8 AM.



Once we got off the ship we bought tickets for the Sydney hop on hop off bus, always the best way to see any city as far as I am concerned.



Our main destination was Bondi Beach (pronounced Bon-Dye), one of the most famous beaches in the world and renowned for its surfing.



At Bondi Beach, there was this artist who was creating a mile long canvas of peoples footsteps, Wendy volunteered to have her feet immortalized on this canvas.

We then went to Woolloomooloo (yes, that is the correct spelling) a suburb on the waterfront to try what is supposed to be the best meat pie in Australia.

Sucks, New Zealand had better pies. We also went to the Sydney Fish Market, it was an absolute zoo with people but very interesting.



At first glance, these prices look really expensive, but bear in mind that these prices are per kilo, which is 2 ¼ lbs! So not so bad.



We also drove up to the Harbour Bridge (called the "Coat hanger" which was built in 1923 – 1932.

You can take a tour and walk over the top of the bridge.

Look carefully at the curved top part of the bridge and you will see people walking over it – this was not for me, plus the "walk" takes 3 ½ hours and is NOT for the faint hearted – I

guess I resemble that remark! Wendy was all over it – however lack of time was on my side! ☺

We then wandered around the harbor (spelled harbour in Oz) front for a while.



And before retreating to our final night on the ship we watched a contortionist street performer climb into a tiny glass cage 16x16 inches.

Thus ends our tour of Sydney.

It is interesting to note that 25% of the entire population of Australia lives in Sydney.

Australia's population is a mere 20 million people – not many considering that the country is substantially larger than the USA! Hell, Florida alone, has a population of over 19 million.

Also, 80% of all Australians live within 60 miles of the ocean. Guess that tells you how much outback (desert) there is in the country.

Tomorrow we check out off the ship and take our flight back to

the USA at 2 PM arriving in Los Angeles the same day at 1 PM, and hour before we left Sydney – who said there was no such thing as time travel? Gotta love that crossing of the International Date Line. So the next time you hear from us we will be back in the good 'ole US of A.