

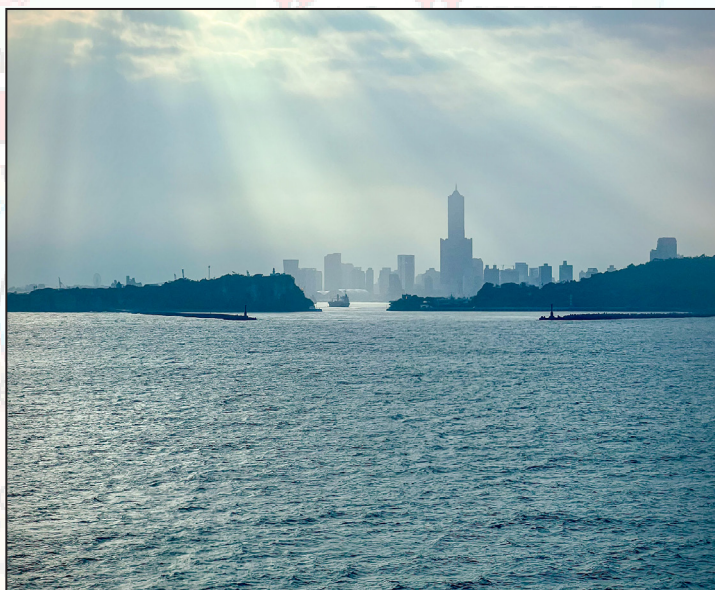


NEW ZEALAND 2024 / 2025

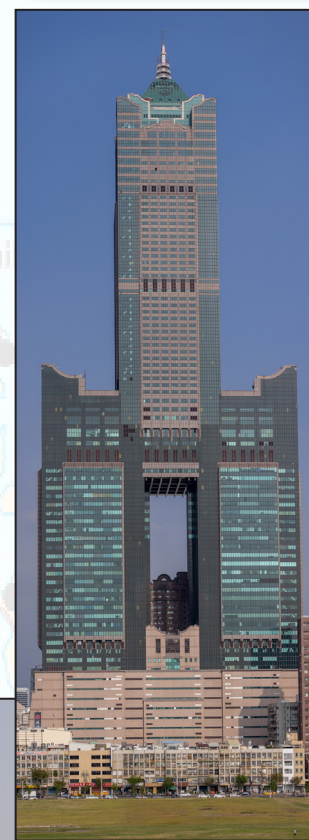
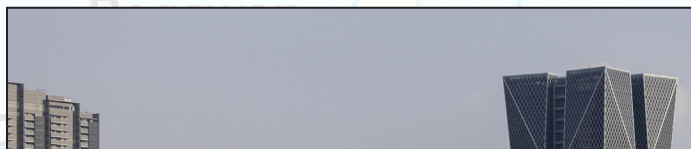
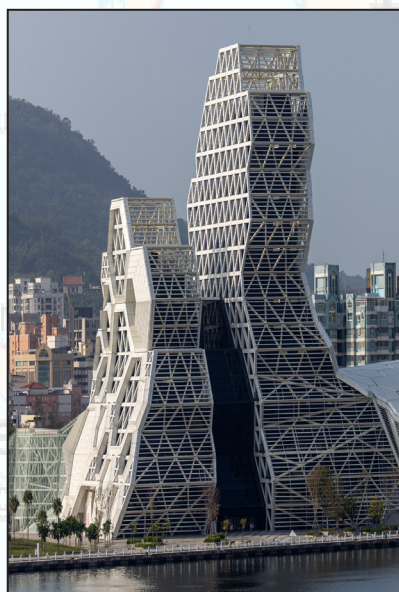
PART IV: JAPAN TO JAKARTA



Bad weather between Naha and Taiwan had us again change course and instead of stopping at the port near Taipei we went on to Kao-Hsiung at the south eastern tip of Taiwan, a very protected harbor with a vary narrow entrance.



There were several interesting building around the harbor.





NEW ZEALAND 2024 / 2025

PART IV: JAPAN TO JAKARTA

We left Kao-Hsiung harbor by the narrow passage the next morning and to much better weather, although crossing the Taiwan Strait and South China Sea on our way to Hong Kong put us in rough seas yet again.



By the time we got into Hong Kong there was enough protection from the rough seas that they calmed significantly. Being a busy port there was a lot of traffic and anchored ships to avoid going into Hong Kong.



We berthed in a nice central location where it was easy to walk off and get lost in the city.



NEW ZEALAND 2024 / 2025

PART IV: JAPAN TO JAKARTA

We walked along the shopping area on Nathan street and then escaped the chaos into the more tranquil sculpture walk and garden of Kowloon Park.

The sculpture walk and garden is a landscaped area for permanent and temporary display of sculptures made by local and overseas artists.





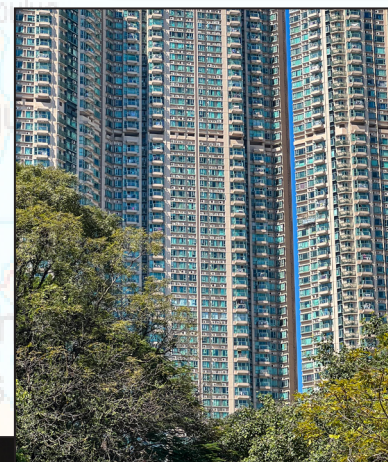
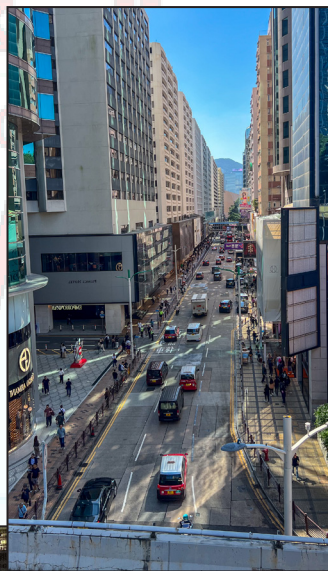
NEW ZEALAND 2024 / 2025

PART IV: JAPAN TO JAKARTA

From Kowloon Park it was a short walk back to the ship through the dense forest of tall buildings.



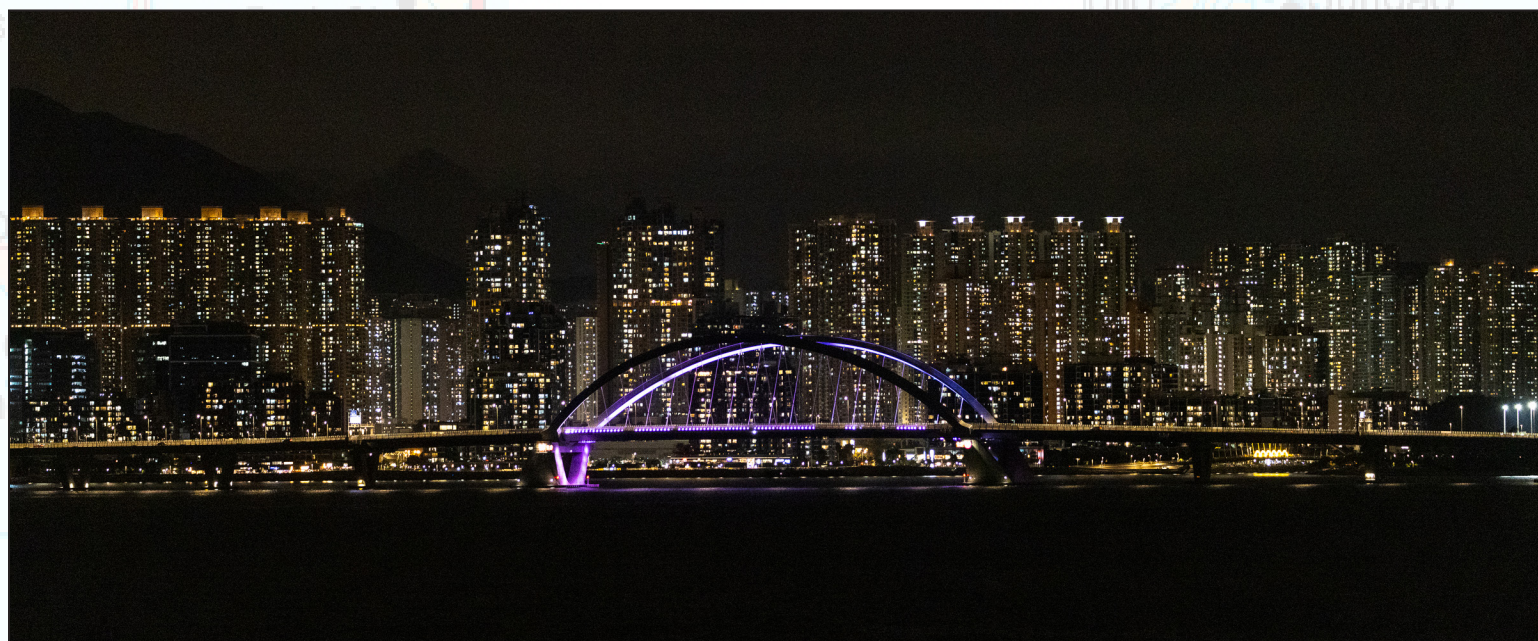
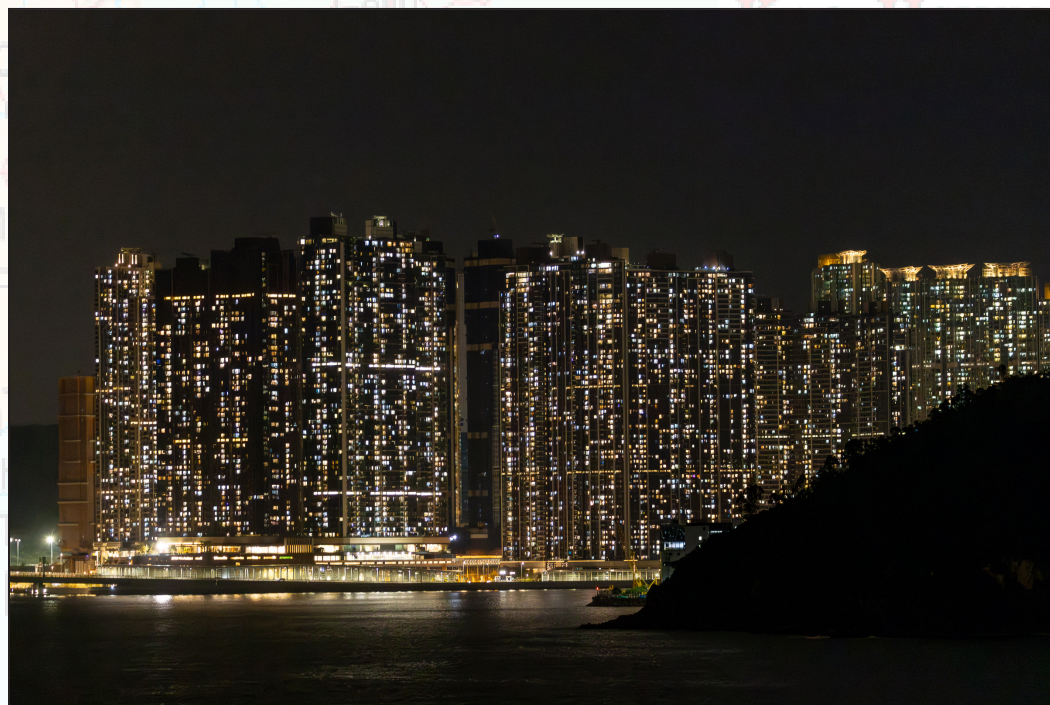
That evening, perfectly timed by the ship crew, we left Hong Kong to the night city lights and the daily waterfront light show.





NEW ZEALAND 2024 / 2025

PART IV: JAPAN TO JAKARTA



JAKARTA



NEW ZEALAND 2024 / 2025

PART IV: JAPAN TO JAKARTA

As we worked our way across the South China Sea we saw some interesting boats.



From one of our shipboard sunset spots we enjoyed another one or two on our way to Vietnam.





NEW ZEALAND 2024 / 2025

PART IV: JAPAN TO JAKARTA

Another route change due to bad weather and we altered course directly to Ho Chi Minh City and bypassed Nha Trang.

Ho Chi Minh City is far enough inland that there was plenty of interesting river activity and life to see on our way in and out of our city center docking spot.





NEW ZEALAND 2024 / 2025

PART IV: JAPAN TO JAKARTA



Living quarters on a couple of the river cargo-barge-ships.





NEW ZEALAND 2024 / 2025

PART IV: JAPAN TO JAKARTA

We docked just behind several dinner cruise boats.



Ho Chi Minh City's 10 million people are pretty densely packed. Below, the Vincom Landmark 81 building towers above other tall buildings. It is the tallest building in Vietnam and second tallest in Southeast Asia.





NEW ZEALAND 2024 / 2025

PART IV: JAPAN TO JAKARTA

We took a short walk in the heat and humidity, but wilted very very quickly, retreating to the air conditioning on the ship.



This was possibly the most humid and hot we have ever been during the Christmas holiday season.

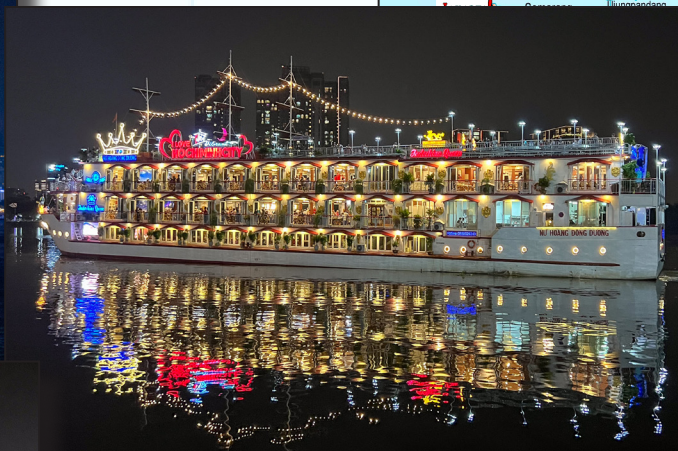
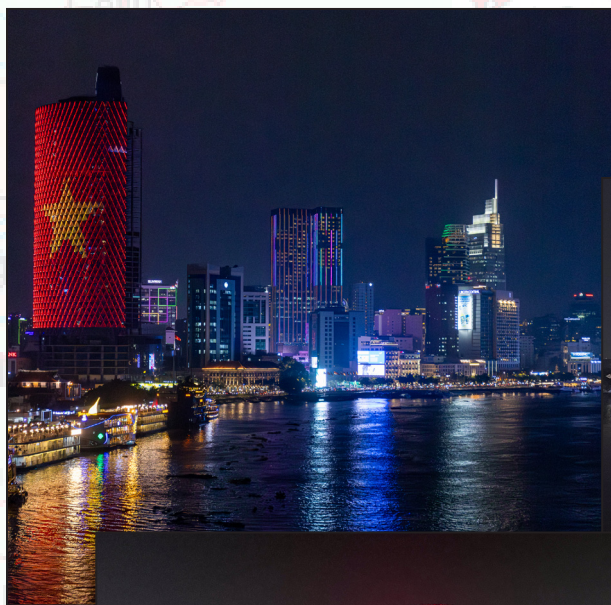
We were too hot to try the broken rice.



NEW ZEALAND 2024 / 2025

PART IV: JAPAN TO JAKARTA

That night we took a walk in the cooler evening temperatures and watching the dinner cruise boats coming and going from the pier we were docked at.



That night was Wendy's birthday and the ship's crew decorated our room accordingly.





NEW ZEALAND 2024 / 2025

PART IV: JAPAN TO JAKARTA

We exited Ho Chi Minh City by the Saigon River. There was still plenty of new stuff to see as we traversed our way back to the open sea and continued on south to Singapore. We got various views of the Landmark 81 and the high-rise buildings in front of it for a long time.

As near as I can figure out, the complex below is (or was) the L'Amour Film school and studio. The Google Earth images I find now, dated 12/22/2024, just a month and a few days after I took the image on 11/12/2024, is gone. From the little information I can find now, it appears it was used to take wedding photographs and eventually films. A new high rise complex has probably replaced this landscape already.



There was lots of floating vegetation in the river that would catch all sorts of garbage and debris, some being more useful than others.



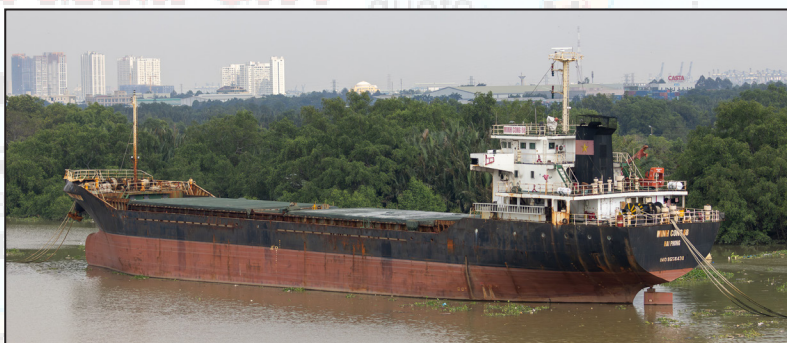


NEW ZEALAND 2024 / 2025

PART IV: JAPAN TO JAKARTA

We saw some massive new bridge construction projects on the river going towards the sea.

This may be a ship recycling center as the ships in the image below don't look very seaworthy.



There is plenty of aquaculture going on in the Saigon River delta too.

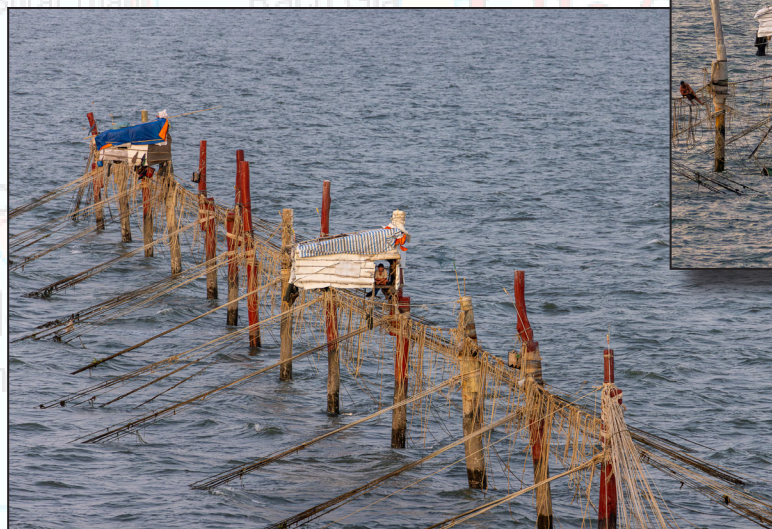




NEW ZEALAND 2024 / 2025

PART IV: JAPAN TO JAKARTA

When we left the Saigon River and entered the South China Sea I was fascinated by these offshore shrimping structures and the stilted shacks for the crew. I wondered what the ride in one of those isolated shacks might be like during stormy weather.





NEW ZEALAND 2024 / 2025

PART IV: JAPAN TO JAKARTA

The seas were finally calm and smooth on the South China Sea as we headed south to Singapore.



We docked in Singapore near fellow Puget Sound resident Yahn Bernier's yacht Lunasea. Somewhere on board there is probably one of his Ferrari cars (maybe it has been here since the September Singapore Formula One Grand Prix). Seems being a gaming programmer can lead to fun toys... and lunacy.





NEW ZEALAND 2024 / 2025

PART IV: JAPAN TO JAKARTA

We took a tour of the city and it's skyscrapers. It was hot and humid but we enjoyed it, with Wendy feeling it was her favorite stop of the trip so far. It had, by far, the largest indoor shopping mall we have ever been in... and right at our docking spot... how convenient! I resupplied my in-room wine cellar to the maximum allowed (6 bottles) from a wine shop in the same shopping center.

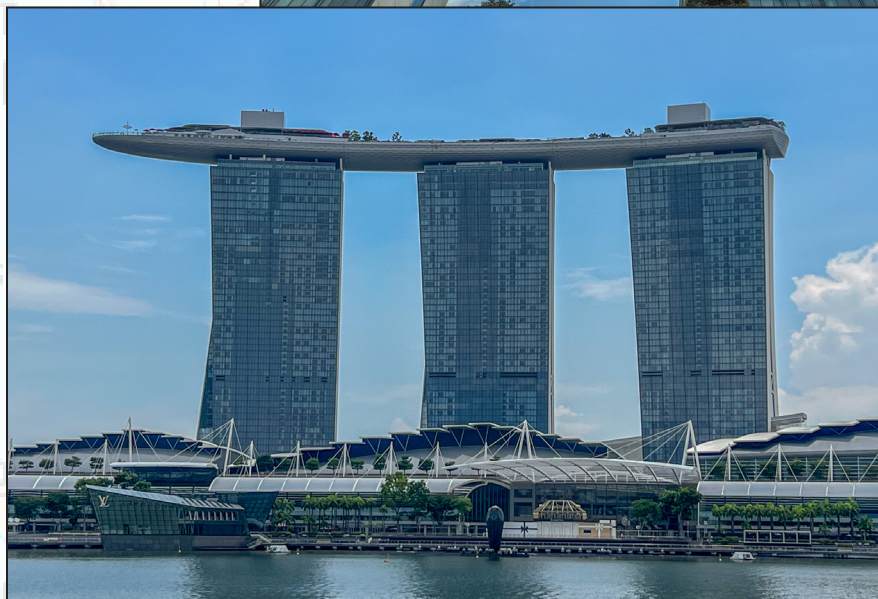




NEW ZEALAND 2024 / 2025

PART IV: JAPAN TO JAKARTA

The famous Marina Bay Sands building with the 'ship' top.





NEW ZEALAND 2024 / 2025

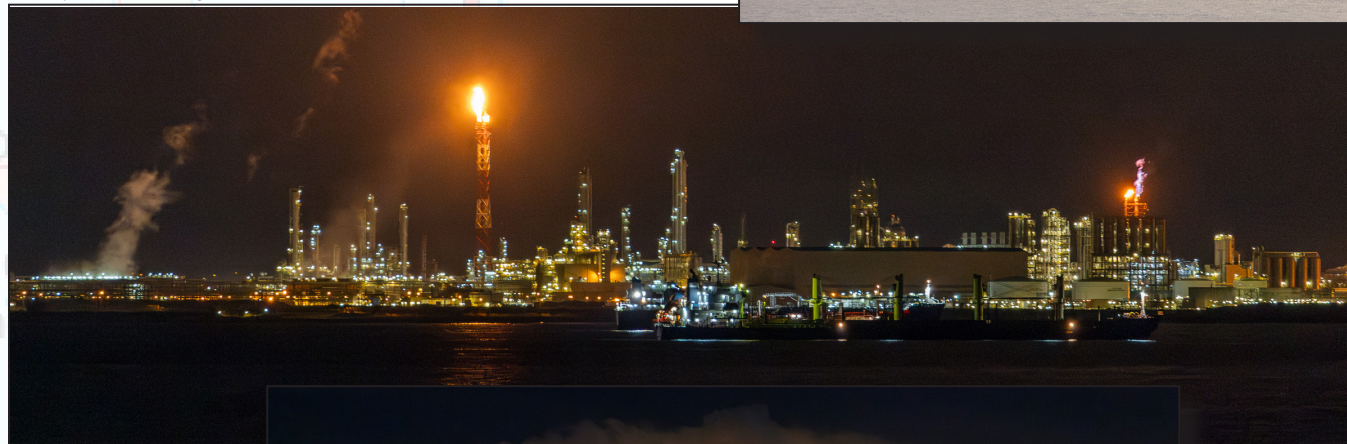
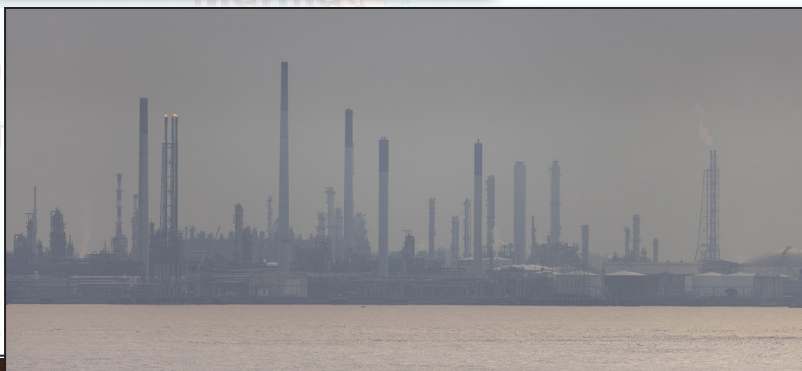
PART IV: JAPAN TO JAKARTA

We left Singapore in the fading evening sunset, threading our way through a mass of ships anchored there.



It wasn't long before we were passing by all the refining facilities that make up a part of Singapore's highly developed mixed market economy. The oil industry makes up 5% of Singapore's GDP, with Singapore being one of the top three export refining centres in the world. Singapore is the pricing center and leading oil trading hub in Asia.

As night fell, the landscape of all the refinery facilities we were passing by took on a more surreal, sinister, dark, and thought provoking look. Yet, it was still an interesting and an oddly entrancing look.





NEW ZEALAND 2024 / 2025

PART IV: JAPAN TO JAKARTA

On our way to Jakarta from Singapore, *Trusty Shellbacks* of the ship (those that have crossed the equator before) organized a *Court of Neptune* and inducted *Slimy Pollywogs* (those who have not crossed the equator before) into the mysteries of the deep on the pool deck of the ship (slimed them with who knows what and made them kiss a dead smelly fish)... the traditional crossing the equator event on board ships.



We celebrated with a dignified dessert and espresso that evening instead.

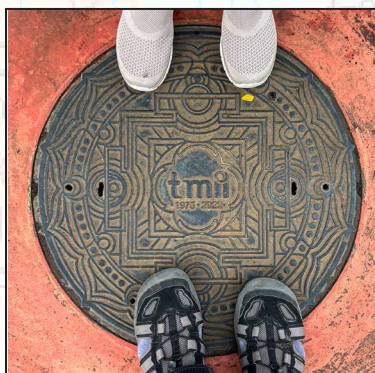




NEW ZEALAND 2024 / 2025

PART IV: JAPAN TO JAKARTA

As we came into Jakarta, I saw a few of this type of interesting fishing vessel.



By the time we entered the harbor where we were docking the air was so smoggy one could hardly see anything. Breathing the air just for the day we were there gave me a sinus issue that took a month to clear up.



We saw that Indonesian Airlines is still flying DC-3s.





NEW ZEALAND 2024 / 2025

PART IV: JAPAN TO JAKARTA

I tried to make friends with a hot and tired cat. It was not impressed and could have cared less. CAT!



This display reminded us of our past travels in Papua New Guinea, which we are going to stop at later on this trip, (albeit only for a few hours, rather than weeks as before).



Back on the ship after our smoggy, hot, humid, congested, and monsoon rain flavored visit to a couple sites in Jakarta, we could not wait to continue on to our next stop in Bali after a couple days at sea.

The Jakarta pollution did offer to dramatically colorize the sunset that evening, (or was it a moonrise, we are not sure).





NEW ZEALAND 2024 / 2025

PART IV: JAPAN TO JAKARTA

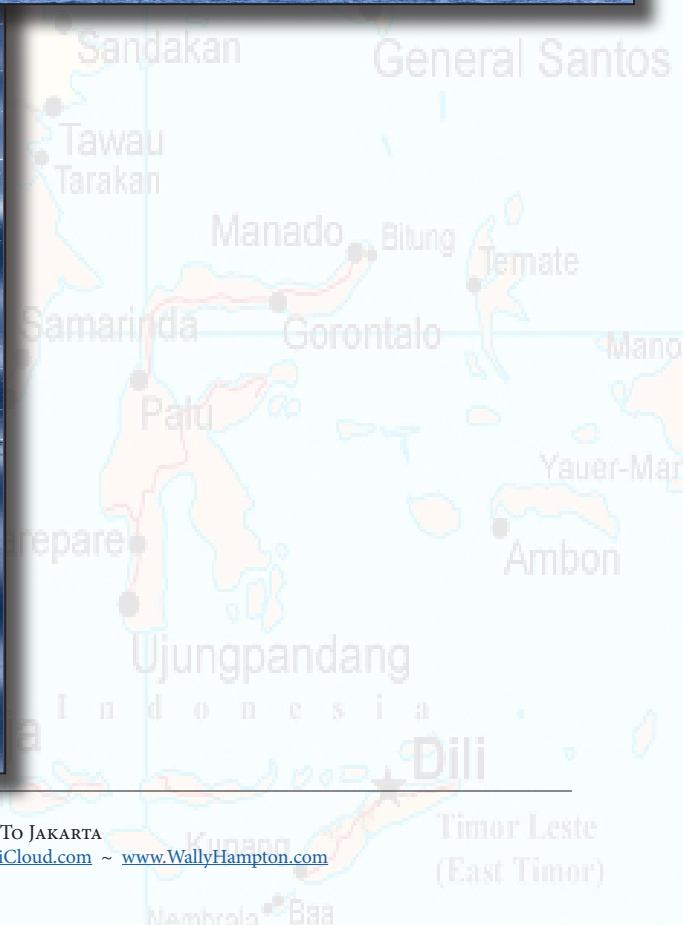
The next couple days in the Java Sea brought better air, but it was too late and I suffered the affects of the Jakarta air for the next few weeks.



Birds We Saw In The South
China Sea, Saigon River And
Java Sea



Brown Booby diving for a meal...





NEW ZEALAND 2024 / 2025

PART IV: JAPAN TO JAKARTA



Square-Tailed Drongo-Cuckoo



Black Kite



Javan Pond-Heron



NEW ZEALAND 2024 / 2025

PART IV: JAPAN TO JAKARTA



White Heron



Javan Pond-Heron



White Heron

.END