



# NEW ZEALAND 2024 /2025

## PART V: BALI, DARWIN & PAPUA NEW GUINEA

We couldn't get out of Jakarta fast enough. The air pollution was awful. It was only an hour or so of standing outside on the ship balcony before I felt the affects of it on my breathing. Monsoon rains arrived just as the ship was preparing to leave. It was possibly the heaviest rain we have ever experienced. Experiencing monsoon rain was interesting, kind of like watching a train wreck, where one knows it is a bad thing but can't keep from watching.

The air cleared up greatly soon after we left Jakarta, but it was too late as I began suffering a head cold and sinus event... one of four I would endure on this trip.

For the next day or so we cruised towards Bali, enjoying the clearer sky, cloudy sea landscapes and nice sunsets.



We made Bali in the morning hours to yet more clear air and were escorted into the Benoa harbor by Pilot and the Sea And Coast Guard.







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We docked in Benoa, Bali's busiest harbor and cruise ship terminal. The Benoa area is adjacent to Denpasar, the capital of Bali and it's largest city. Benoa is a busy commercial harbour and along with the Benoa Peninsula is also considered the Bali's water sports capital. We watched some of this activity from our ship over the two days we were there.



Dinner cruise boats above and to the right.

We docked next to Jorge Lemann's 200 foot luxury explorer yacht Anawa. Twenty crew members service twelve guests in six cabins. The twenty crew have ten cabins to themselves. It seems that it would be a slightly more upscale method of travel on the Anawa than our current method of travel.

Mr. Lemann is a Brazilian / Swiss investment banker, businessman, and former tennis player. He co-founded investment firm 3G Capital. The firm is known for its investments and ownership in Anheuser-Busch InBev, Burger King, Tim Hortons, Hunter Douglas, Kraft Heinz, Skechers, as well as partnering with Berkshire Hathaway for its acquisitions.







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In Bali we took one of the few ship provided shore excursions we opted for, most of the time choosing to be on our own for walks near where we docked or arranging our own transportation to sights of interest. This ship provided one would include a bird park that was quite far away and required driving through the traffic mayhem of Denpasar. We considered our own transportation to and from the bird park, but the safety of insuring the ship would still be there upon our return due to unforeseen and problematic traffic delays and just having to deal with Bali traffic for that much of a distance had us concerned, so we opted for the ship's tour. It also included a couple of other interesting stops that while not of great interest might still be enjoyable. One of those stops was a Balinese dance performance. We hoped the dance performance would be different from the one we had seen on a previous trip to Bali years ago... and it was.







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I had a feeling that this character was going to produce a little mayhem in the story line. She just had that look about her.... and the weapon poorly hidden on her back was a clue too.



Balinese dance is dynamic, angular, and intensely expressive. Balinese dancers express the stories of dance-drama through bodily gestures including gestures of fingers, hands, head, and eyes. Throughout the performance, I felt as though the characters would periodically look directly at me and wonder if these momentary gazes from the actors are stylistic of Balinese dance and if others were experiencing this same feeling.



After I noticed a periodic gaze, I would then try to catch that gaze in my photographs as well. I was successful on a few occasions.







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The ship excursion also dumped, abandoned and stranded us for an extended period of time in the obligatory batik factory (gift shop). It was definitely a 'high-end' gift shop as they had air conditioning which we stood under and soaked up for the duration of our incarceration.

As I mentioned already, our main reason for the shore excursion was a visit to the Bali Bird Park, a sanctuary for birds from all around Indonesia. We saw a lot of birds that were lifers (birds we have never seen before), albeit all captive in some way.

Here is a link to their web site for more information:

<https://www.balibirdpark.com>  
(or just click on the text).



Moluccan Cockatoo



Orange-Winged Parrot





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Green Parrot



Yellow-Crested Cockatoo

Scarlet Macaw



Palm Cockatoo







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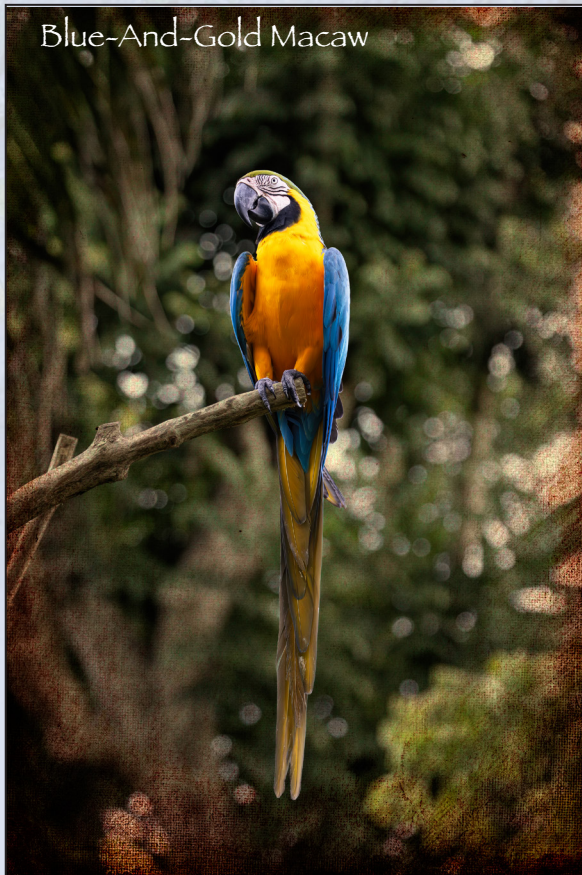
Southern Ground-Hornbill



Chattering Lory



Blue-And-Gold Macaw



Gray Crowned-Crane







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Scaly-Breasted Munia



Cattle Egret

**10 AGUSTUS 2024**

**WUKU MINGGU**

**SENIN**

**SABTU**

**INOKEL**

**MIMA**

**MANUK**

**TARU**

**BUKU**

**WONG**

**LPD. DESA ADAT KEBON**

**KANTON: DABAR SEMI DESA ADAT KEBON, SINGAPURU**

**DAKUN: TABUNGAN: DOPBOTO - NAYOTI**

**LPD. Ngudate Kerabajaan Sonetani Sami**

I noticed this calendar at a place we stopped and asked about it. All the text (front and back) are the rules, traditions and such related to the many things that days and dates dictate what can, can't, should, did, etc., happen.

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**PANCADASA PARAMITING PRABHU**

**Aturan Kepemimpinan Mahaputuh Gajah Mada**

... (text continues) ...

**DAFTAR KATA**

**TRIKSI AMAR: KEMERDEKAAN REPUBLIK INDONESIA RI 29**

**17-8-2024**





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Our ship was docked almost directly under the I Gusti Ngurah Rai Bali International Airport flight path so I enjoyed watching and photographing the air traffic. There were many themes and logos I had never seen before, including Darth Vader's private jet (below, right).



There was plenty of interesting commercial marine traffic to watch from the ship as well.



After Bali we spent two days and three nights cruising across the Indian Ocean and Timor Sea, making our way to our next port of call in Darwin, Australia.







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In Darwin just for the day, we took another ship organized trip to a wildlife park outside of the city to see their birds.

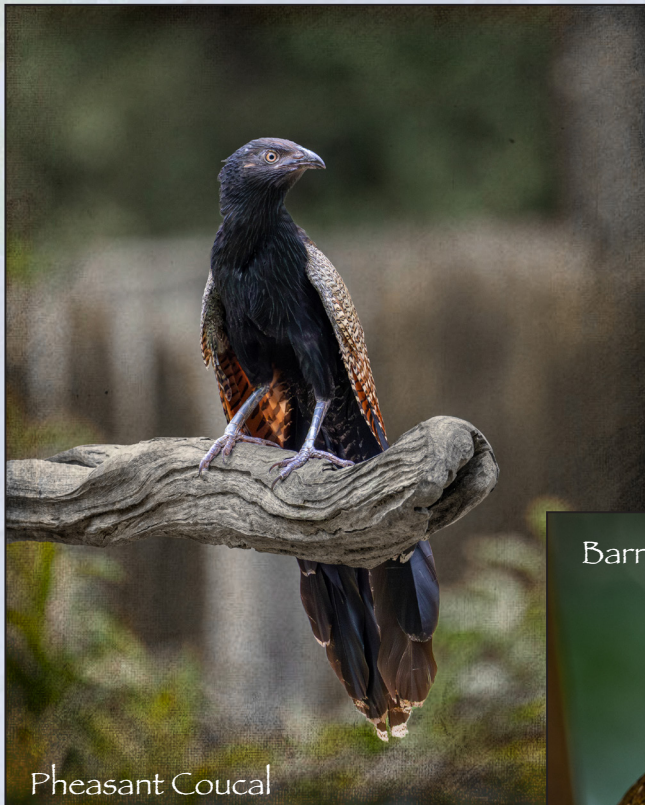






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We returned from the wildlife park later that afternoon and were chased out of Darwin by stormy weather. We sailed east into the Arafura Sea, through the Torres Strait (between Australia and Papua New Guinea) and into the Coral Sea. It would take us another three nights and two days following this route to make Port Moresby in PNG (Papua New Guinea).



The next day, as we passed through the Torres Strait with Australia just off our starboard and to the south, we were greeted by many Australian Pelicans. They were supposed to escort us through the strait and into the Coral Sea but abandoned us at the first sight of seafood. Typical birds!







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Met by a friendly pilot boat from Port Moresby, we entered and docked uneventfully.

Port Moresby has had the reputation of being the most dangerous city in the world. While I'm not sure how it ranks on this visit, it is still considered one of the most dangerous cities in the world.

We visited PNG in 1997, flying into Port Moresby from Australia. We stayed only a couple days in Port Moresby in order to catch another flight up north to Madang. In Madang we connected up with some guided tours. On that trip, over a few weeks, we experienced one of the famous Highlands Sing Sings, cruised up and down part of the Sepik River, then took another cruise from Madang out into the Solomon Sea and Trobriand Islands. We tried not to do anything without knowledgeable local guides to keep us from putting ourselves in danger then (with a couple of memorable exceptions) and it would be the same this time.

By a ship organized tour we stopped at the Port Moresby (Bomana) Cemetery. It is a Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery dating from World War II. The cemetery contains the graves of those who died in the fighting in the former Territory of Papua and on Bougainville Island. The remains of 3,824 Commonwealth soldiers, 699 of them unidentified are buried in the cemetery; as well two others: a Dutch citizen and one burial not related to the war.







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These are some of the birds we were able to see on our Port Moresby stop.



Black-Capped Lory



Southern Cassowary



Blue-Winged Kookaburra



Slater's Crowned-Pigeon

To the right, not birds of course, but flying mammals... Black Flying Foxes (also called Black Fruit Bats).







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Having survived our day in dangerous Port Moresby and deposited back on board to the relative safety of the ship, we were escorted by friendly locals and pilot boat crews back out to sea, belying and giving one reason to question the Port Moresby reputation of being so dangerous... unless THAT was a ploy?



The next morning we entered Milne Bay on our way to Alotau at the southern tip of PNG. We began seeing many of the small canoes with outriggers that we remembered from past PNG adventures. The ones in the image to the right seemed to be fishing around that tall navigational marker / light.



We were welcomed to Alotau by the Welcome Swallow to the right.







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There were several ship organized tours for the day we were in Alotau but we did not go on any. The image to the right shows the tours buses / vans all lined up next to the docked ship, waiting for the their ship board customers.

We did see a grocery store within sight of where we docked, a couple blocks away, so we took a chance (along with a few other shipmates) to check it out on our own. As a precaution to any the aforementioned PNG dangers, we always walked next to shipmates that we felt we could easily outrun if necessary.

Back on the ship after our Alotau grocery store adventure, I enjoyed watching and photographing all of the small boat activity around the ship.







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After Alotau we head south and to Australia again. After a few stops along the east coast of Australia we will head east across the Tasman Sea to New Zealand. The next travelogue will be about that leg of our adventure.

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