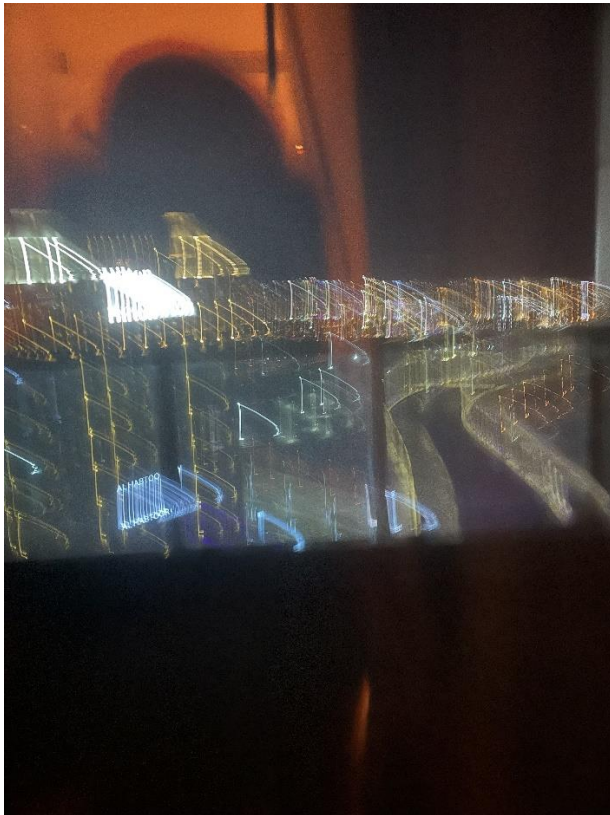


# Updated December 15, 2024 (Sunday)

## Dubai

We had an 8 hour stop in Dubai on the way to Cape Town. If anyone (me included) had a preconceived notion about what a city in an Arab country would look like, Dubai is about 100% different. It is a modern metropolis. Many buildings over 50 stories tall including the tallest in the world. That one has flashing lights at many levels up and down the outside. The freeways are 7 lanes in each direction. Dress is very western. There are some women in traditional dress, but very few. I have seen more in France and England than I saw here. There is a lot of what you would expect to see elsewhere in the world including a major conservation program run by the local aquarium. The picture below is the only one I took, but it was about 1:30 AM and we were off a 16-hour flight, so it is what it is.



The airport is a major hub. We were given a hotel room during our stopover and returned to the airport about 1:30 AM for a 4:00 AM flight. The Emirates lounge was large and crowded. We had some trouble finding seats together. There were dozens of flights taking off at that time.

## Cape Town

Another short 10-hour flight and we got to Cape Town. Luckily, we stayed at the Waterfront (i.e., tourist area) with a constant presence of security guards. It's one of the few places in the city (so we were told) where it's safe to wander at night. Not that we did so, but we could have. The other good point is that it was across the street from where the cruise ship docked.

We did book a tour the next day that took us on a drive including the Cape of Good Hope. That's it below, the most Southwestern point in Africa.



The southern most point is about 50 miles away and is technically the dividing line between the Indian and Atlantic oceans. Our guide told us that the currents of the warm waters of the blue Indian Ocean push themselves into green Atlantic waters territory. They meet near the point we are now. You can sometimes see a dividing line in the water.



There is a faint line toward the top of this picture that we were told might be the war of the oceans.

Other nearby scenery.



## Cruise – South Africa

The cruise started and everything was fine, all the way up until the first day that we were due in port. It was the only day we had booked a safari. Mossel Bay is a small port. We needed to drop anchor and take tenders from the ship. We arrived to weather with high swells which, as it turned out, were too high to drop anchor. So we entered the port and immediately departed. Not a great start but sailing in those waves did open up what I called the ship's obstacle course. A successful run is walking down 5 flights of stairs without using the hand railing. Not an easy task to complete nor a safe one to attempt.

The next day was a successful docking at Port Elizabeth and a tour of Penguin Island. Good news and bad news. The good news is that we made it to the port OK. The bad news is that the tour was cancelled. But all was not lost. We contracted with a nice local at the dock and he drove us to a very small game reserve about 25 minutes outside of town. He showed us pictures of his family and we talked about a lot including corruption in the South African government. Didn't see a lot of wildlife, but we did get a small taste.





Sorry if the picture quality is not the greatest.

## Cruise – Mozambique

Our next stop is Mozambique. You may have heard that the country recently had an election with results that have caused some unrest. Actually, a lot of unrest and riots. Inauguration is the day we are scheduled to arrive. That has been updated to the day we were scheduled to arrive. Too dangerous. Instead, we will have four days at sea until Madagascar.

Summary to date:

- First port canceled due to rough seas
- Second port tour was cancelled
- Third port cancelled due to political unrest
- The ship has good wine