

23 August 2017

Singapore Senior Golfers' Society Social Outing

**2DAYS / 1 NIGHT SIGHTSEEING & SHOPPING TOUR IN
MALACCA, MALAYSIA**

17 TO 18 AUGUST

Twenty two SSGS members & their spouse went on a social outing led by President Dato' and Mrs Loh Ah Joo from 17 – 18 August 2017. Together they headed for Malacca on a sightseeing and shopping tour. There were no golf games lined up for this trip, and all the members had an enjoying time accompanying their spouse for the shopping and sightseeing activities.

Day 1 saw the group assembling at SICC Island car park to board our luxurious air-conditioned coach for departure promptly at 7.00 am. We reached the Tuas 2nd Link before 8.00 am despite the busy morning traffic and cleared the Singapore Immigration smoothly before proceeding to the Johor Immigration and Customs clearances. Next we had a hearty breakfast at the Yong Xin Restoran at Jalan Pahlawan which is famous for its abalone mee.

On the way to Malacca, we made a brief stop at the YoYo Native Food Products in Yong Peng, where we were treated to a free tasting of local biscuits, pineapple tarts and crispy fish fillet rolls. After our short break, we moved on to Malacca which was a 1.5 hour drive from Yong Peng. Our local tour guide, Eddie gave us a running commentary on the history of Malacca from its Portuguese, Dutch and British colonization as well as the rich culture of the **Peranakan** Chinese or Straits-born Chinese descendants of Chinese immigrants who came to the Malay archipelago (commonly referred to as Baba-Nyona). Shortly after we arrived in Malacca town, we were treated to a lunch at the Suan Nyona Restaurant. All of us thoroughly enjoyed the eight delicious dishes, complete with chendol as dessert. Some even had a special order of durian chendol.

Instead of sightseeing, we decided to check into Hatten Hotel for a free & easy afternoon. The hotel is a new 4 star hotel located in Malacca's city centre, with the two shopping malls of Mahkota Parade Shopping Mall and Dataran Pahlawan Mega Mall adjacent to it and at close proximity to the UNESCO historical and heritage site. The rooms were very spacious and well kept.

After an afternoon siesta, foot reflexology, body massage or shopping, we met at the hotel lobby to leave for our dinner at LTP Chinese restaurant. For the Chinese dinner we were served a nice spread of 8 dishes including assam fish, fried bean curd and

vegetable We also celebrated the birthday of August babies namely, our member Heng Chiang Meng and other members' spouse. The birthday cake that accompanied the celebration was a pleasant surprise for the birthday folks.

Day 2 kicked off with a hearty breakfast on the 11th floor of Hatten Hotel. Surprisingly, the restaurant was quite full by 8.00 am. Everyone enjoyed the breakfast where we had Western, Japanese and our all-time favourite Malaysian local food. After breakfast, we headed for the historical sights of St. Paul's Hills and the famous Red House. The climb up the hill was good exercise for all of us.

At the top of St. Paul's Hill, we discovered **St. Paul's Church**, which was once the prayer house of the Portuguese Catholics, and subsequently became the burial ground for their noble dead by the Dutch. The tombstones have Latin and Portuguese inscriptions on them. This was where St. Francis Xavier was buried in 1553 before his body was moved to Goa in India.

After the Portuguese captured Malacca, they built a fortress to defend themselves. The fortress, called **A'Famosa** suffered severe destruction during the Dutch invasion. What's left is just the entrance walls, still well preserved till today.



The **Stadthuys** (1650) was the official residence of the Dutch Governor. It now houses the Historic Museum and Ethnography Museum which has many traditional bridal costumes and relics on display. Nearby, one will also find the Christ Church built in 1753, another fine example of the Dutch architecture.

We continued the walking along **Jonker's Street**, once the rich man's street, is now a living proof of Malacca's rich baba-nyonya heritage. The buildings are immaculately constructed with elaborate carvings on its pillars and walls. The street is also famous for its antique shops. We ended sightseeing with lunch at the famous Formosa Chicken Rice Ball restaurant, where servings of chicken rice were shaped like golf balls. Together they were served steam and roasted chicken, cha siew, roasted pork and fish ball soup.

Many of us were tired after the sightseeing and heavy lunch and took the opportunity to catch a nap during the two-hour journey to Yong Peng. As it was yet the peak for durian season, we chose to drop by the Everyday Trading Durian stall along the old trunk road to Yong Peng. We were somewhat disappointed with these durians as they did not meet the expectations of the Mao Shan Wang ones which were exported to Singapore,

We continued with the journey southwards to Kulai and made a stop at the Aeon Shopping Mall for one more hour of shopping, after which we had dinner at Restaurant 88 in Skudai. Everyone enjoyed the 8-course dinner and we set off for the 2nd Link after collecting the pre-ordered otak otak through Eddie, our tour guide. We bade farewell to Eddie and thanked him for his services, as well as our coach captain, Batman for driving us safely throughout the 2 days. We had another smooth clearance at the 2nd Link Immigration clearance on our return. All in all, we were thankful for the good weather throughout the trip.

We arrived back at SICC Island location at 10.18 pm with all members enjoying the short break. New friendships among the spouses were also forged during the trip. Most importantly, some members felt that getting "domestic exit visa" from their spouse for future golfing trips might have been made easier because of this sweetener!



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