

Living English In Singapore 2-5 March 2016

Singapore: perennially hot, a harmonious melting pot of different cultures and religions, a highly modern Asian country with a real point of difference – and the destination of a combined school trip of students from Jockey Club Government Secondary School (JCGSS) and Yuen Long Public Secondary School in early March, 2016.

The trip, scheduled between 2nd – 5th March, started early; with a flight departure of 8 am, our group of 36 felt well travelled simply getting to Hong



Kong Airport on time at 5.30am. There was a palpable sense of anticipation all the way to Changi Airport, and once off the plane we were met with the sweltering conditions and clean, green atmosphere of Singapore. To start with we had a meal to match the heat, a peppery beef soup (*Bak Kut Teh*) at a local restaurant, and then proceeded to get our bearings by seeing some of

the local sights around the Esplanade and at the beautifully picturesque Gardens at the Bay. Suffice to say, after a full day's travel (starting before 4am in Hong Kong!) followed by the absorbing grandeur of Singapore's central area, we were all quite keen to settle in and recharge at our hotel. This was postponed slightly by a quick trip to the local supermarket after arriving at the Hotel, an opportunity for students to fill trolleys with all manner of tasty yet equally unhealthy food Singapore has to offer. This supermarket was certainly a highlight for one or two of our group.





Day 2 saw us up early and out to explore some of the cultural hubs of Singapore. There was Henna painting at Little India, beef jerky buying at Little China, and a good chance to explore some of the unique elements a country like Singapore has to offer. The afternoon gave us another opportunity to do exactly that, as a City Hunt was organized in which students would have to complete a series of tasks at various locations around the city, all the while navigating themselves along the local MRT (Mass Rapid Transit). This provided some amusing experiences for our students, as certain tasks required them to interview fellow tourists and at times video record the

locations themselves, narrating as local experts. The final meeting point for the City Hunt was at the Maxwell Food Centre, well known for its diverse range of local and international cuisine. Another busy day of activity ticked off!

The third day of the tour had two main events; visiting the Singapore Institute of Management (SIM) and the highly anticipated visit to Universal Studios Singapore. The students were shown around SIM and all of its facilities, as well as being informed of some of the opportunities for potential international



students like themselves could enjoy. After this, we were all set free to explore Universal Studios at our own pace, with many thrills and spills enjoyed by many on the various rollercoasters and rides that were on offer. To cap the day off, we were then treated to the famed Wings Of Time light show down at Sentosa, which was quite a spectacle. Upon arriving back at

the hotel that night, everyone was equal parts satisfied, exhausted and excited by the day that we had experienced.

Our last day saw us exploring Singapore history at the Malay Heritage Centre, followed by a stroll over the impressive Helix Bridge and finally a tour of the NEWater clean water facility, which was interesting for all as we were able to learn about the highly technical filtration systems used by Singapore to create clean, sustainable water.

After another packed day our group then made our way to the airport and the flight home, where more than a few naps were had before our arrival time at 11pm. All in all, this trip was a thoroughly enjoyable, entertaining and enlightening experience for our students of an amazing, bustling and colourful country.

