

PREFACE

On behalf of the committee, by Ileen

Finally, we can present you the final report of the Study Tour '17: Malaysia & Singapore. This means all the work is done and this chapter of our lives is now over. For all of us travelers, this study tour was **more than three weeks of traveling**. At first it was a challenge for the committee to arrange the case studies and get all necessary financial support, after which the participants challenged themselves in working on and finishing their case studies. Due to everybody's hard work, we eventually got the financial means to go on the trip with the 24 of us.

58 meetings and over a year of preparations in our small office had to make sure the committee was ready for takeoff. With a script, everything planned almost to the minute, we departed to Asia. Of course, not everything immediately went according to our plan. At some moments, a sudden, quick discussion was needed to solve an issue or change the plan. Other times there was nothing to worry about but relaxing and enjoying the trip. We held meetings at the most random places: from **our bunkbeds in a hostel room, to bars or in a mall**. We appreciated how the group was sheepishly following us and adhering to our plans during our day programs, and we secretly liked telling **what time we were gathering again** for the thousandth time. At the same time, it was nice to see that the participants were curious and enthusiast about our destinations, and were looking themselves for things to do and to see.

Covered in a delightful mix of sunscreen and Deet, we wandered through bushes and city streets. We waited for busses, metros or just **fellow travelers still on the toilet**. We hurried to our appointments, to our airplane and - accompanied by travel guides - we hurried to **"take pictures then we go"**.

We discovered heights are not always scary, while the feeling of relying on one hanging cable is. We danced in empty cafes and enjoyed a drink on rooftop bars. We learned how life in Asia can be different from what we are used to, yet the **lively cities and astonishing sceneries** reassured us we were in a good place.

In this report, we will once again present to you the organizing committee. We will summarize the case studies the participants completed. Then, you will read about all the adventures we've been on in the summer of 2017 and the months before. This book will hopefully be a **trigger to relive memories** for all our fellow travelers. For all who helped us realize the study tour, we hope to show you our experiences and give you an idea of what you made possible.



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Colophon

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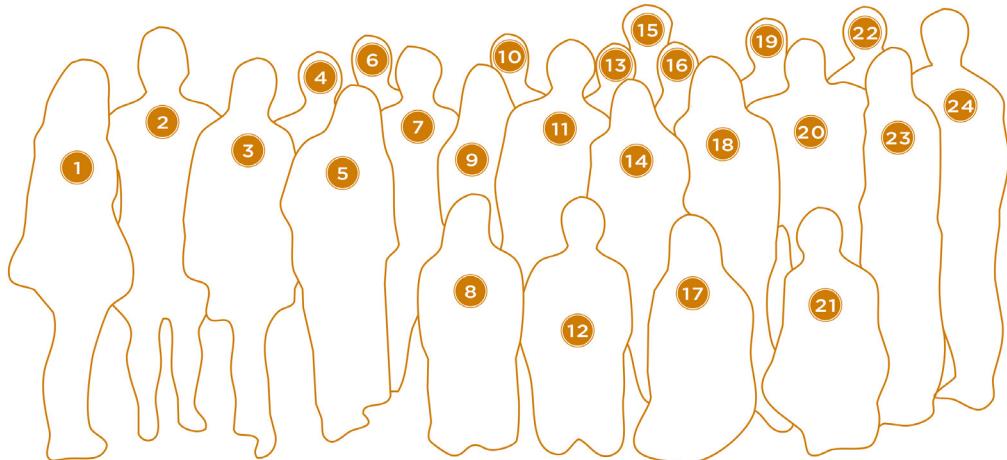
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WHO IS WHO



1. Anke van Rietschoten
2. Frank Schipper
3. Anoek de Jonge
4. Jobert Zoetbrood
5. Bo Drummen
6. Frank Vendrig
7. Kari Breider
8. Ellen Veldman

9. Juultje Naber
10. Martijn Claessens
11. Joost van der Heide
12. Benedetta Malagoni
13. Roxanne Boehlé
14. Mieke van de Veerdonk
15. Erwin Simons
16. Toby Serier

17. Fenna Wit
18. Ileen Smits
19. Paolo Franken
20. Raghav Mohan
21. Laura Nijenhuis
22. Pieter Loonen
23. Johanna Höffken
24. Patrick Janssen



COMMITTEE STUDY TOUR '17

Patrick Janssen, treasurer

After managing our finances for a year, during the study tour Patrick was also responsible for many other (unpredicted) tasks. Sometimes this was harder than expected, but it still felt right to take responsibility and most of all, the cocktail afterwards on a rooftop bar was extra satisfying. Patrick also enjoyed our time in the jungle, yet disliked the leeches and the fact that he didn't get to see any tapirs.

Bo Drummen, Program Coordinator

Bo, responsible for the program of the trip, knew the schedule by heart. This resulted in some stress in the preparations, as Bo knew all the weak spots in the planning. However, on the other side of the world, everything became a lot easier and more relaxed. From the moment we stepped in the blue curtained tour bus, Bo knew this trip would be an eye opener.

Benedetta Malagoni, External Affairs

From the second she stepped out of the plane in Amsterdam, Benedetta knew she wanted to go back. We visited incredible places, met wonderful people and ate the most delicious food. This trip also helped her realize that planning ahead is indeed necessary, but it is also very important to learn to go with the flow.



Ileen Smits, Chairman

One of Ileen's tasks as chairman was to keep the committee motivated to do their work. When all of that work finally became reality, an exhausted, yet fulfilled and very proud feeling emerged, not only while visiting beautiful places (rooftop bars, jungle boats, etc...) but also at random moments such as enjoying delicious meals with the group.

Toby Serier, External Affairs

While he normally doesn't bother planning, Toby was quite happy that these three weeks of his life were entirely scheduled beforehand. All the preparations turned out to be pretty convenient, giving him the opportunity to rest during the trip and fully enjoy it.

Roxanne Boehlé, Board Representative

At first, Roxanne was not quite sure about her level of involvement within the committee: was she going to actively participate, or just keep an eye on the group? Now, she is more than happy that she decided to join the trip, as it gave her great memories and led her to the most beautiful places. Unfortunately, these places also contained a lot of creepy animals.

Juultje Naber, Program Coordinator

As a program coordinator, Juultje made sure that no stunning view, interesting cultural hotspot or rocking nightclub was skipped during the trip. Back at home, when she hears 'Despacito', she is taken back to the beautiful landscapes of Malaysia, the thrilling cities we visited and most of all, it reminds her of the fun we had as a group.



CASE STUDIES

The Study Tour would not have been possible without the support and the hard work of both these companies and all the participants. The committee would also like to thank all the supervising teachers that supported the students in their assignments: *dr.ir. Raymond Cuijpers, dr.ir. Arjan Kirkels, dr. Gerrit Rooks, prof.mr.dr. Jan Smits and prof.dr.ir. Geert Verborg*.



Enexis

Anoek de Jonge, Ellen Veldman & Mieke van de Veerdonk

Enexis is interested in alternatives for natural gas for the internal heating of houses. Motivated by the Paris climate deal, they assigned Anoek, Ellen and Mieke to investigate the new possibilities for internal heating of houses and buildings. This case study is a validation that the future of heating houses lies in electric heating and in heating networks.

Dienst Huisvesting Joost van der Heide

& Anke van Rietschoten

The Real Estate Management department of the TU/e asked Anke and Joost to investigate the future of examination techniques, in order to assess the suitability of the facilities on campus. They started from the methods currently in use in order to define the possibilities for the future. In their final report they describe the advantages and disadvantages of the different examination methods for all the stakeholders on campus.



ABN AMRO Digital Banking Erwin Simons

Erwin worked for the Digital Banking department of ABN Amro on a large dataset containing information about online customer activities in the financial sector.

Erwin detected a selection of behavioral trends and explored different new opportunities for the bank based on his findings.



ABN AMRO Innovation Centre Pieter Loonen

The second assignment from ABN Amro came from the Innovation Centre. Pieter was challenged with exploring business models in a circular economy, looking for opportunities for the Dutch market. His research concluded that circular businesses are increasingly gaining momentum in world finance, thanks to their resilience to change.



CASE STUDIES

M&I/Partners

Fenna Wit & Frank Vendrig

M&I/Partners is interested in the developments in the field of healthcare robotics, they are currently acquiring knowledge to help care institutions adapt to these changes. Fenna and Frank conducted interviews with both producers and clients of healthcare robots in order to map the current state of this field.

M&I/Partners/



FOURTRESS



Fourtress

Jobert Zoetbrood & Raghav Mohan

Jobert and Raghav assisted Fourtress with the new EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which will have a large impact on the way that data is used, retained and transferred. They developed a decision tree that employees should follow when working with data during projects.

Waterschap Brabantse Delta

Kari Breider & Paolo Franken

Kari and Paolo joined the Innovation Team of *Waterschap Brabantse Delta*, to support their effort to spread an innovative mindset within this large organization. They worked on different events and initiatives for the employees, meant to help them explore the real potential of their ideas, like the innovation hackathon "Waterinnovatiedag".



TMC

Martijn Claessens

TMC group is working on an office robot named OBI1, designed to welcome and accompany visitors in their office building in Utrecht. Martijn provided the development group with a contemporary and useful advice regarding the social aspects of the robot, e.g. nonverbal communication and gazing behavior.



America Today

Laura Nijenhuis

Commissioned by America Today, Laura investigated whether RFID (radio frequency identification) would be beneficial for their business. RFID makes it possible to have a real-time location of every item, which reduces costs and human errors. Such a large investment needs first a thorough cost-benefit analysis. Laura helped set the first steps into the analysis, which America Today is now working on with other partners.



WHAT HAPPENED BEFORE



A three weeks' Study Tour needs months of preparations; not only from the committee, but also from all the participants. All students joining the Study Tour went through a long process the months preceding the journey. Next to working on their case studies, they were involved in **a number of activities** organized by the committee, meant for the students and supervisors to get to know each other better, and to inform them about the trip.

On June 2nd 2016, the wonderful destination of our trip was officially announced and subscriptions were open. During the following months, the committee kept on working, looking for interesting assignments for the students. At the end of January 2017, **the group was finally defined**. Both supervisors had agreed to accompany us on our journey, and all the students were assigned to a case study.

A number of activities followed, starting with a dinner at Intermate, where the whole group was **together for the first time**. Later, the committee organized a

party in collaboration with the AC-Team, to get Intermate in the mood to travel the world. To prepare a cultural night for all participants, we teamed up with Studium Generale. The evening, held at Gaslab, was opened by **Brigitte Ars**, a journalist who wrote different books about Malaysia and Singapore, and their economic, social and cultural development. **Bas Kil**, who studies Innovation Sciences, talked about his experience in Singapore, having lived there for several months during an internship at the Dutch Embassy. He gave us some important tips, like the importance of business cards and how to properly hand them to others.

The event was closed with a **Gamelan workshop**, a music style originated around the Indonesian and Malaysian islands. It is a group activity, musicians come together and play on the rhythm of a large gong. We had a vast variety of music instruments at our disposal, some very simple, some a bit less intuitive in use. We are not sure about the quality of our performances, but we had some fun for sure!



LET'S GO!

TAKEOFF TIME

11-07, Schiphol

Author: Roxanne



YES! We are finally leaving the Netherlands to go on our Study Tour!

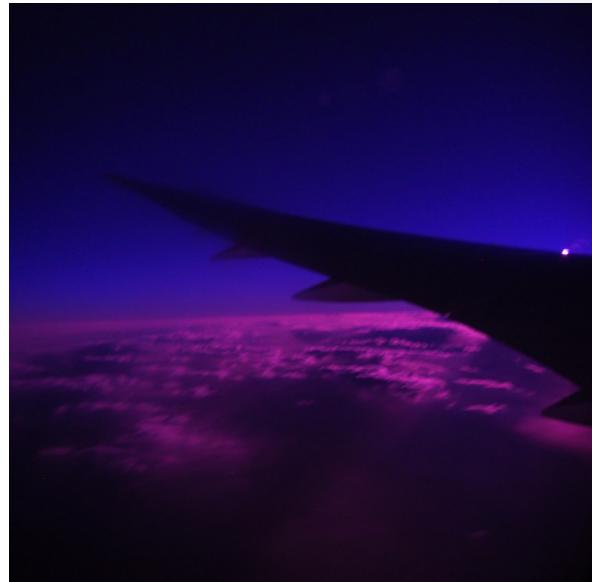
After all the work, all the preparations, all the case studies, the day has arrived. The day that we are leaving the student life in Eindhoven for 3 beautiful weeks in Malaysia and Singapore.

Most of the students already met at the train station in Eindhoven. Others were dropped off by friends or family at Schiphol airport. Most of our students were completely dressed up in lovely jogging pants and of course their cool new yellow sweater. We planned to arrive early at Schiphol, due to the extremely long queues in the previous weeks. Everyone weighted their suitcases on beforehand and we were all quite on time and ready to go. Even all passports were present, which is quite an achievement compared to other trips that Intermate organized.

"When we all walked happily out of the first plane..."

As prepared and on time as we were, this resulted in waiting at the airport for four hours sitting, walking, chatting, and charging our phones. Finally, it was time to start boarding, and to fly to our first destination, London Heathrow. Without any delay, this was an easy start of our tour. **So far, so good.**

When we all walked happily out of the first plane, ready to wait some more time at the airport, one of our students decided to take a sprint back to the plane we just left. Running, he yells something about having left his passport on the



plane. Did we hear that right? Was this a joke? Apparently not. Also, due to strict regulations, he was not allowed to get back on the plane to get it. After some talking with the staff, he luckily got his passport back.

No panic, no sweat. Then, finally, it was time to fly towards Kuala Lumpur. A 12-hours flight would include a night, morning and afternoon (including the time difference). So there was plenty of time to read all the information about the companies we would visit, and take a good nap. After a lovely dinner, we learned how to sleep (or at least try to sleep) in impossible ways. You can attempt just sitting and closing your eyes, leaning towards one of your neighbors, laying your head on the small table in front of you, or just watch movies all the time and not sleep at all. When the sun came up, there was a beautiful pink sky to look at through the small windows.





KUALA LUMPUR

OUR FIRST ADVENTURES

12-07, Kuala Lumpur

Author: Bo



After 12 hours of watching classic movies and testing all possible sleeping positions, we arrived at our first destination in Malaysia: Kuala Lumpur.

Leaving the plane and going to the baggage claim sounds like an easy plan.

Unfortunately, toilet breaks, a metro line from one part of the airport to the other, and different, long queues resulted in the first lost people and miscommunications. The vital importance of sudden toilet breaks was immediately very clear.

"We met our best friend for the coming days, Halim..."

After collecting both luggage and people, we headed out of the airport and met our best friend for the coming days, Halim. Our special guide in Malaysia was waiting for us with Benedetta. Discussing our plans for the evening with Halim was not an option, he already had a better plan for us and walked straight to the bus. This was the first of many times we would experience 'het Halimpje'; he was sure of his business and did not want his plan to be altered in any way.

With his blue bus, we drove from the airport to the hotel, which enabled us to see already a lot of the city. Halim took his chance and explained us all sort of things about Malaysia and its culture.



How large is Malaysia, what cars do Malaysian people drive, how expensive those cars are, how large is Kuala Lumpur, how many people live there, and lots and lots of other information. **We immediately felt welcome in Malaysia.**

The Swiss Inn hotel, situated in Chinatown, was our stay for the first five nights. A very nice accommodation, for Intermediate standards.

Giving some free time also yielded a stream of messages on groups chat. Are there any plans? What are people going to do? While most of us just wanted to relax a bit, some enthusiastic participants took the time to explore the beautiful Chinatown. They stumbled upon a nice temple, where they witnessed a small ceremony. **On their way home, they experienced the first haggling of the trip at the night market.**

Right before dinner, Anoek reached the hotel, meaning the group was finally complete. She took the lead and guided us to a nice Indian restaurant. Most of us discovered the taste of Indian food that night for the first time. With the expertise of Johanna at the one table, Raghav at the other, and a lot of daring souls at the third table, it was a special experience for everyone. We tasted mango lassi, naan, different vegetarian curries and of course a lot of rice.

I consider this a very brave start, trying out unknown foods, on the first night in a new country, without even the smallest idea of what would come to the table. Real explorers!

During the walk back to the hotel we were confronted with another repeated phenomenon this tour: the "cheap cheap, special price" shouting, non-English speaking taxi drivers. We wisely walked by them, as we should do the whole trip. After shopping for some beverages (which are terribly important in such a warm weather!), some snacks and sim cards, everybody went to bed early. We have officially started!



This day marked the first of many days to come where we would visit companies, governmental and educational institutions. After a delightful breakfast, we boarded the bus at 8:30 am sharp, to be driven to the **Malaysian Agency of Innovation** (Agensi Inovasi Malaysia; AIM), located in Cyberjaya, the Silicon Valley of Malaysia. AIM was founded by the government in 2010, with the main goal to create wealth for Malaysia by supporting innovation. After 2020 it will be disbanded, to make sure that AIM will not bother other ministries when their deadline is due. The prime minister of Malaysia attends every board meeting, to show that innovation is a top priority. A few insights into AIM that were shared with us included their circle of goals on how to create a thinking culture within Malaysia, how AIM educates SMEs about patents and legislation for their ideas and accompany them in this process. AIM also collaborates with Steinbeis, an international organization dedicated to the transfer of academic findings and knowledge into the field of business.

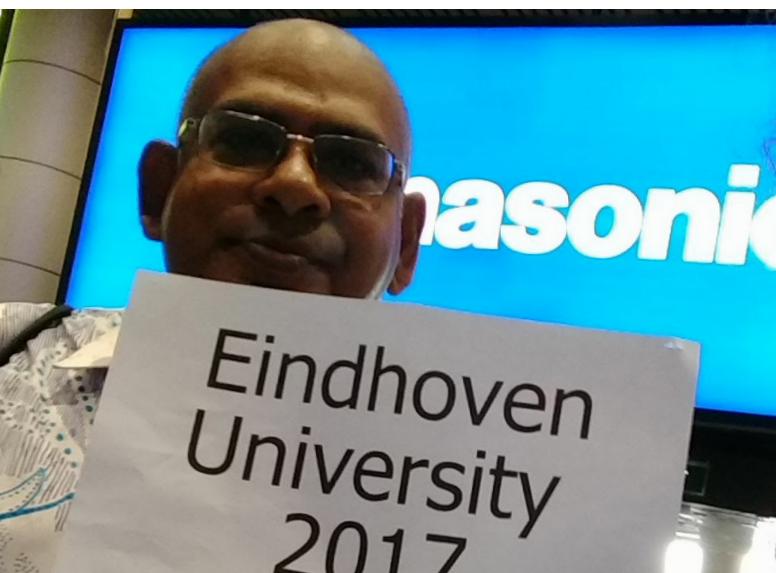
“...located in Cyberjaya, the Silicon Valley of Malaysia...”

Lunch consisted of chicken with rice. Following our lunch, we stayed in Cyberjaya and moved to the **Asia Pacific University of Technology & Innovation** (APU). We received a warm welcome

in their completely new building, with its flourishing and open plan architecture. The three photographers capturing our visits made us feel like VIP's. The afternoon started with some presentations about the University, the students and their accomplishments, which the teachers were very proud of, of course. We continued with a tour of the new building, which unfortunately wasn't quite finished yet, as only three out of the seven floors were in use. The main attractions were the gaming room, equipped with several high-spec PC's, and the library, furnished with cozy sleeping and relaxing spots.

We rounded up our visit with the ritual group photos in front of the university, to ultimately go back to the hotel in Kuala Lumpur. Back there we had short **preparatory lecture by Dr. Frank Schipper** about palm oil production and its many uses, as a visit to the Round table of Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) was on the schedule for the following day. In the evening everyone was free to enjoy the fine food culture of Malaysia and get a good night rest.







PALM OIL, DUTCH-NESS AND COOKING

Author: Johanna

14-07, Kuala Lumpur

The 4th day began relatively late: the "official" time to meet was set for 9.30 am – which in practice meant that by 9.45 we were all there, gathered more or less sleepy in the lobby of the Swiss Inn Hotel. This time the "study trip quarter" (in reference to the academic quarter or the *Brabants kwartiertje*) was also caused by the fact that we had to make sure that everyone would carry a passport - as we had official visits on the day's program. Once we were all ready to go, we set out to venture into Kuala Lumpur by using the public transport. We followed Toby with his path finding skills to the metro station. After a short quest to find the rest of the Study Committee, who had already gone to organize tickets, we were on our first metro ride through KL.

The **Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil** (RSPO) was the first agenda point. After being welcomed at their headquarters we were led to the presentation hall, which was obviously cooled down to a temperature that felt to be in the range of -10°C (for some of us at least). After the AC (not "airco"- as we kept saying) was switched off, we enjoyed several presentations by RSPO, which gave us insights into different departments of the organization. We could also engage in discussions with the presenters (informed also by Frank's "prep" and info talk the night before). Had we had more time, we would have discussed much longer about both the role RSPO and we as

consumers can play in the certification, promotion and use of sustainable palm oil. After a 15 minutes break to find food and eat it (no food or drinks in de metro!), we traveled to our next agenda point: **the Royal Embassy of the Netherlands**. And how fortunate that we made sure to carry our passports! At least the first 10 passports were meticulously checked and numbers noted down - until the security guard gave up- and let us pass without any further ado.

"...a temperature that felt to be in the range of -10 °C..."

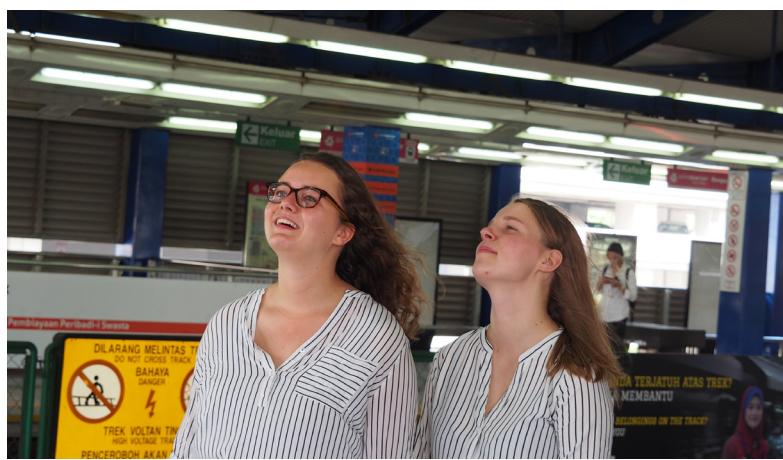
The meeting consisted of a presentation by an employee of the Embassy's NFIA and about diverse aspects, ranging from Dutch-Malaysian business cooperation to socio-cultural aspects (tensions?) in Malaysia, followed by a more informal Q&A session with a "kopje koffie" and "koekjes". Later some of us thought: "hadn't I eaten so much of them!" - as our next date was **a cooking workshop!**

We were welcomed by a lady moderator who prepared us for cooking (opening with: "maybe some of you never entered a kitchen..." looking some of us up and down). **We also received gifts** in the form of colorful cloths, that would accompany many of us throughout the trip and help us enter temples and mosques.

The cooking was intensive and filling indeed – throughout the next four hours we prepared no less than four different dishes. There was a strict order to follow first the two chefs would demonstrate how to prepare each dish. Their cooking was commented by the moderator lady who would translate and add insights and tips. Then it was our turn to cook, in groups of two at our own stoves.

We rolled out of the workshop, filled with food and many new inputs, insights, views, tastes and experiences, and happily ended the day with **a drink at the Reggae Mansion**.







HOP-ON, HOP-OFF

Author: Paolo

15-07, Kuala Lumpur

Saturday the 15th of July, the first day we could finally sleep in a bit. Also, no need for formal clothes as it was the first day on which we did not visit any companies. This would be the day we could go and explore the city of Kuala Lumpur.

After breakfast we all got on a hop-on hop-off bus which would be our means of transportation for the day. Though officially the program did not oblige us to go with the whole group, we still all went on the same bus. After driving around for some while in the bus, and driving around the Kuala Lumpur Central Station three times, we got off at the bus at Istana Negara, the national palace. The palace was on top of a hill and could be looked upon from a large square. Though most of us got somewhat used to the heat, the heat on the square was still too intense for most of us. **For some other tourists we were a bigger attraction than the palace**, as they made pictures of us and wanted to take photographs together with us. The hop-on-hop-off bus would wait for 20 minutes, but most of us, including me, did not make it back on time and missed the bus back. We searched for some shade as we waited for the next bus to arrive.

From this point on, everyone went their

“Buildings of more than 20 stories high seemed tiny...”



own way. Some, for example, wanted to taste **the worst smelling fruit of them all: durian**. Others wandered through the city. The location we all met each other again where the Petronas Towers. After gathering at the bottom of these enormous towers, we went in together. The first stop was the bridge at the 41st floor which was already at 170 meters above the ground. The view from the bridge was already gorgeous, but then we went to the 86th floor: **a 360 degree view at more than 400 meters**. It was amazing to see. Buildings of more than 20 stories high, which are considered large in the Netherlands, seemed tiny. It was a shame we could only stay for 15 minutes. After this amazing experience we took a walk to the restaurant in the Pavilion mall. At arrival it turned out we were too late for our reservation. But luckily for us, the neighboring Japanese restaurant did have place for our group. After dinner everyone parted again. Some went shopping, some went out for a drink and some just went to bed.



TOURISTS IN KL

16-07, Kuala Lumpur

Author: Joost



Today we visited several different touristic places, to create a better feeling and idea of Kuala Lumpur.

After the 75 minutes train ride to the Batu Caves, the common feeling was "WOW, b-e-a-utiful!" To visit the caves, we had to walk 272 steps. This was an experience on its own, because the monkeys walked with you and the locals asked if every tourist could carry a bucket with sand for the renovation on top of the hill. This displays the culture of Malaysia very well: everybody just helps. Next to the steps we saw the largest Murugan statue, in gold. When reaching the top of the stairs, there was a huge open cave, with a Buddhist temple in the middle, and a "dark cave". In the huge open cave, the air humid was high, and the monkeys were still everywhere. **When looking up, you could see the forest, where monkeys were swinging from tree to tree.** The whole cave was crowded with tourists from all over the world. The Chinese tourists enjoyed making pictures of us and wanted to pose with us, which was both flattering and annoying.

In the "dark cave" it was so dark, we could not distinguish if we had our eyes open or closed. Luckily, everybody got a little flashlight. The dark cave had little spiders and a lot of bats. You could hear the bats "tsjilp" while walking through the

cave. The air humid was almost 85%-90%, and it was so warm we all became even sweatier than we thought was possible.

All sweaty but enthusiastic of the experience we left the Batu caves, and everybody bought some lunch. It is interesting how the Malaysian people do not ask a lot of money for their food, although there are many rich tourists. Malaysian people seem righteous.

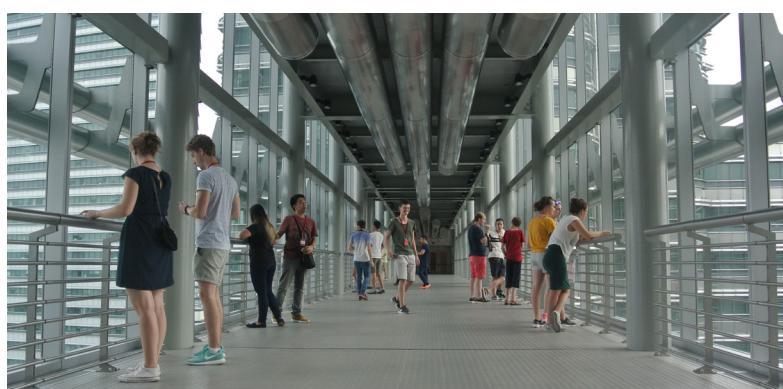
The next stop was the National Mosque. This notional mosque is enormous: it has a capacity of 15,000 people and it is situated in a large and beautiful garden (of almost 13 acres!). The Islamic church required a robe for the men and women. As a man, long trousers were also okay. The whole mosque consisted of white and gold, **and for the second time that day, we all had a WOW-experience.**

The last stop of the day was a bird park in the lake gardens. The bird park was a big garden with a net around it. Everybody was enthusiastically making pictures of the birds, and sometimes we could even hold the birds.

Tired and exhausted of the day, everyone left for dinner. Some went to McDonalds and others went to Jalan Alor. Jalan Alor is a busy street, where no cars are allowed, everybody wants you as a guest in their restaurant and (spicy!) local food is served on the streets.

Everybody was sad this beautiful and touristic Sunday was our last day in Kuala Lumpur. To get a final feeling of the busy, warm-hearted city, we had a drink on top of a building: the Heli pad lounge bar. The view on the 37th floor was amazing. Not only the Petronas towers, but also many other buildings could be seen from this beautiful perspective. This was the last time this day everyone had the WOW-experience. **Everybody could not stop taking pictures,** and by this time I am sure you have seen at least one picture of the Heli-bar on Facebook/Instagram or somewhere else. Extremely exhausted, everybody went home.







MELAKA

癸卯年六月十九吉日



MEETING MELAKA

Author: Patrick

17-07, Melaka

As the day officially started, some of us were still making their way back from the best rooftop bar we visited during the entire trip. The Heli Lounge Bar had its terrace on a helicopter platform, on top of the 34th floor (of a hotel, I guess?), and it had no railings or taller buildings blocking the sight, resulting in a spectacular view over the city underneath. Sadly (for us, but fortunately for our wallets), the bar closed at midnight, so we were forced to go home, as we would be travelling to Melaka early in the morning. After a long wait, a medium-sized walk and a short Uber ride home, we got into bed for five hours of glorious sleep.

The bus ride from KL to Melaka was short and quite uneventful. It took around three hours. The accommodation was a quaint boutique hotel, which was inside a house which had once belonged to the descendants of a philanthropist and rubber plantation owner.

After a quick lunch, we began a four hour long **walking tour through the historic center of the town**, which, conveniently,

red, to commemorate the Dutch colonial era. The historic center also housed lots of traditional **Chinese and Indian temples**, as a quarter of the inhabitant of Melaka are of Chinese descent. Interestingly, the town also featured a Blacksmith Street, which had a single functional smithy, operated by **88-year old Chin Chim Sin**. In the early evening, we enjoyed a nice dinner with the entire group at the



“...the Dutch built the town’s most famous landmark...”

was located right next to our hotel. During the tour, our guide told us stories about the history of Melaka. Melaka was under Portuguese control from the early 16th century, until it was captured by the Dutch in 1641. During their century-and-a-half spell of colonial control, the Dutch built the town’s most famous landmark, the Stadthuys, located in a place called **Red Square**, as its bricks were painted a bright red. The Stadthuys served as the office of the Governor of Melaka during the Dutch occupation. The oldest Protestant Church of Malaysia, called Christ Church, is located on a nearby hill. The Anglican church was originally built as a **Dutch Reformed church**, but when the British took over the town, it was converted to serve the needs of the Church of England. It was also painted

Geographér Café, which served the local cuisine. At night we also discovered Melaka’s greatest tourist attractions: the ‘Despacito/Hello-Kitty’ rickshaws. Very popular among the Asian tourists, dozens of rickshaws drove around the city covered in stuffed animals and Christmas lights, equipped with speakers playing 2017 undiscussed number one hit, ‘Despacito’. Afterwards, the group moved to a bar across the street. There, the committee arranged drinks (taking advantage of their very convenient ‘buy one, get one for free’ happy hour deal) and entertainment in the form of **enthusiast dancing committee members**. For some of us, that was the end of the evening and they retired to their rooms before midnight. For others, however, the evening had just begun.







UTEM AND GREENTECH

Author: Anoek

18-07, Melaka

The university visit at **UTEM, University of Technology Melaka**, made us wake up early. It is a public university founded in 2001 and has 11.768 enrolled students at the moment. Especially our Psychology and Technology students were interested in the robotics labs. The day started, as usual, with a word of welcome and a general introduction about the university. The professor took some time to tell us about the different board members of the University, he also listed some prizes the university had won in different fields, and the alliances with foreign organizations and companies were discussed. They showed us their IT lab, which unfortunately was going through some renovations and was not finished yet. The robotic lab was more exciting, showcasing three working robots built by the students. The focus of their research was mostly on the mechanics behind robotic motion. They showed us how one of their robot arms could lift a little ball. After the labs, we moved to a conference room where we were welcomed by the dean. For the first time in our trip, we experienced **the importance of hierarchy** in the Malaysian culture. Our supervisors Johanna and Frank were invited to sit in the front, and received presents. He offered us a tasty and abundant lunch, and was very interested in what it is like to study and teach in the Netherlands. After lunch we went to the **Green Technology Corporation**, a company especially interesting for the Sustainable Innovation students.

Everyone in the office was dressed up in very traditional garments, because of the Idul Fitri feast, the celebration of the end of Ramadan. For the second time this day, the chairs in front of the room were reserved for

the supervisors, and they were thanked for their presence with gifts. It was very interesting for us to experience directly how different cultures can be.

“...Don’t mess with Melaka...”

The CEO of the company, who was wearing a nice pink gown, introduced the company to us. Later, one of the colleagues presented some of their bigger projects. GreenTech was founded in 2013 as a government agency which focuses on sustainable projects in the surrounding of Melaka. In 2030 they want a 45% reduction of emissions in the province. They work together with the Rockefeller foundation, which also has an alliance with The Hague, to make cities more resilient. Because **the city of Melaka works as a pioneer city for the region**, they receive a lot of fundings from this foundation and the government. An example of a large project by GreenTech is the **rehabilitation of the river** which flows through Melaka. This used to be dirty and filled with garbage, but is now cleaned up and transformed into a tourist attraction. They also work on different energy efficiency projects and they built a solar power plant. They collaborated with Philips on a project about street lighting. In my opinion, their most original project was the waste separation plan with the slogan ‘Don’t mess with Melaka’...

We finished our day with a lovely dinner in town just **next to the clean riverbank!**



A photograph of a large tree trunk in a dense tropical forest. The trunk is covered in moss and lichen. Sunlight filters through the dense canopy of leaves above, creating bright highlights and deep shadows. The overall atmosphere is lush and green.

TAMAN NEGARA



RAINY RAINFOREST

Author: Pieter

19-07, Taman Negara

Today started as early as 3:30 a.m., when we were woken by our alarm clocks. Somewhat less than 45 minutes later we were all in the bus. The journey ahead would be six hours by bus to Kuala Tembeling, where we would take boats to our resort in Taman Negara, the tropical rainforest. The bus journey started nice and peacefully with most people sleeping for the first part of the trip. At some point we stopped for breakfast. The food was good, but the super spicy beef would later turn out to be a little too enthusiastic for my stomach to handle at eight in the morning. Frank V. (Koos) had **the most adventurous breakfast** of all, an ABC. The letters ABC turned out to stand for the main ingredients of the dish, with A being unknown, B being beans and C being corn. It also included a tower of oddly colored ice cream. It looks and sounds disgusting, but it actually tasted better than we expected it to.



After breakfast, the bus driver apparently became afraid that we would miss our boat as he started driving extremely fast. **Bumps and turns didn't stop him**, and the people sitting in the back of the bus got pretty shaken up. Thanks to the extreme driving, we were all very much awake when we arrived, on time for the boat. Almost one and a half hour too early, actually.



The boat trip was well worth waiting for. In two long motorized boats we traveled upstream for almost 2.5 hours, and it was amazing. At several occasions we saw groups of **water buffalos** bathing in the river. It was a beautiful way of getting to the resort. Nevertheless, most of us were really happy to arrive, not in the least because we could finally visit a bathroom. The resort was spread over quite a large area. Our rooms were located on the far side of the resort. After having claimed a nice bed we had a few hours for ourselves. Most people went for a swim in a nearby river, some decided to take a nap instead. After the free time **we had dinner on a floating restaurant** across the river. The restaurant was owned by the same man that would be our tour guide for the following days, Rusli. Afterwards we headed back to the resort-side of the river, for a nighttime walk in the jungle to spot wild animals. The chances of spotting an actual animal seemed close to zero, as there were dozens of people walking the exact same track at the same time. Any animal with functional senses would probably stay at least a mile away. On top of that, **it started raining pretty heavily** right after we left. After a few minutes everyone was soaking wet. We hoped to see tapirs, but all we got was a snail, a spider, a stick insect and wet shoes. Maybe the rain was part of the experience; we are in a rainforest after all.



WATER FUN IN THE WOODS

20-07, Taman Negara

Author: Raghav



Our second day in Taman Negara was packed with activities. During breakfast, we shortly celebrated **Anoek's 23rd birthday** with a birthday cake and a mix of Dutch and English birthday songs. After breakfast, we met up with Rusli and his son, who would guide us for the day. We took boats towards the entrance of the forest. Here, Rusli explained that the forest was filled with diverse plants that contained resin, oils and other resources. After his general introduction to the ecosystem, we took a pretty long staircase towards the forest canopy. After 15 minutes, we reached the forest

shoots got us indeed wet, the largest part of the work was done by our guides, rocking the boats to get as much water as possible on the boats, or aiming at the opposite boat with their paddles. **In our soaked clothes, we arrived at an Orang Asli village**, where Martijn became the first black leech victim of the trip, with many more to come. The Orang Asli are native folk who live in small communities and survive in the rainforest through their hunting skills. At the village, one of the Orang Asli demonstrated making a fire using elements only found in the rainforest. We also got an interactive

"Hitting the target symbolized that a man is ready for marriage..."

canopy and started a **300 meters canopy bridge** walk. The bridges consisted of a single plank of wood supported by a net tied to the surrounding trees. The canopy bridge was 40 meters high and it gave a stunning top-down perspective of the forest. We were quite a bit above ground so Paolo had to face his fear of heights. He bravely mastered the courage to make it to the end. Meanwhile, **Erwin and I enjoyed rocking the bridge. Anke, who was stuck between us, was not pleased.**

After the canopy walk, we left the rainforest and took a boat to the rapid shoots, and all our phones and valuables were stored inside a plastic bag. We were preparing to get wet. Although the

demo of blowpipe shooting. We all took a shot at the target. Hitting the target symbolized that a man is ready for marriage and, needless to say, not all of us were successful. Around noon, we left the village to get some lunch and gratefully changed out of our wet clothes. During the lunch, Anoek received her second surprise birthday cake.

After the lunch, we took smaller boats and started a more relaxing journey through the forest river. Our first destination was **an emergent 85 meters high tree**. Our second destination was a fish sanctuary. For our final destination, we took a winding jungle road along the river. The walk was long but the destination made up for it. It was **a beautiful natural swimming area** near the riverside where we dove, swam and massaged our necks at the rapid shoot. Here I was unlucky and got a tiny stone stuck inside my foot, which I painfully removed and disinfected. At around 17:30 we left the swimming area and took a long boat ride back to the resort with painful, happy and special memories. At around 18:30 we met up for a delicious dinner buffet. After dinner, some stayed up for a drink, while others got into bed. It was an unforgettable and eventful day.







CAMERON HIGHLANDS



REFRESHING RESORT

Author: Toby

21-07, Cameron Highlands

We were moving into the jungle to find the materials to make a blow pipe for the Orang Asli. We were enjoying our walk, but we could not find any of the materials we needed. **At that moment, Pieter woke up from his dream.**

After a long night of sleep we woke up in our bunk beds in Taman Negara and we discussed our dreams. We had all been dreaming about animals, especially about the leeches that were hanging on our legs the evening before. Only Pieter dreamed about something nice that we did the day before. We had very nice experiences in Taman Negara, so why did we only dream about the unpleasant things? Maybe because of the humidity that gave our rooms a "musty" scent.

"...the bus driver would turn on the rocket engines..."

We packed our bags, had breakfast and crossed the river. On the other side **our two very different guides, Rusli and Halim** were waiting. We said goodbye to Rusli and his son and walked to Halim's "**rollercoaster**", the bus. On every hill, the bus driver was speeding when we were going down, in order to be able to get onto the next hill. If, for some reason we had to slow down, the driver would turn on the rocket engines to get up the next hill. We stopped a couple along the road, including a nice break for tea and scones at a café with a beautiful view over the Cameron Highlands. After a couple of night in bunk beds in the hot and humid jungle, we were positively surprised to arrive at our resort. We found ourselves on the top of a hill, breathing fresh air, in very luxurious apartments, with nice large couches and comfortable beds. After Pieter claimed a single bed, **Raghav and I were left with the XXL-super-mega bed with our own bathroom**, which we did not complain about. We then realized that the indoor swimming pool would close soon, so we hurried to



put on our swimsuits and jumped in the pool without showering nor reading the house rules: **showering was mandatory and jumping was not allowed.**

That evening, we had a Thai meal, for a change. The four dishes arrived quite quickly, one after the other, and were delicious. After such a fast and fulfilling dinner, I honestly expected an exciting night ahead of us. Unfortunately, the resort's "discotheque" was closed for the night, so we ended up enjoying some drinks at the lobby's bar and most of us headed to bed at a reasonable time.



TINY BUSSES AND TEA BUSHEs

22-07, Cameron Highlands

Author: Laura



Sleeping in. Hurray! today we got to lay in bed for an hour more than we were used to! Some sporty types amongst us still woke up early to go for a morning swim. Such a luxury to have a swimming pool in the resort! After a very delicious, and the most elaborate breakfast so far, we hopped on the 'bas' (bus) at 10 o'clock. We enjoyed our drivers skills once again, while driving through strawberry and cactus plantations. We had to change buses, as our tourist bus was way too large to make the turns through the hills of the tea plantation we were going to visit. What we needed was nice, old **yellow 'bas sekolah'**, a school bus, which unfortunately did not feature any seatbelts and did not exactly convey a sense of safety. Our destination was **BOH: Best Of Highlands** tea plantation.

The plantation was very, very green. All the photos we took of people in front of the tea plantation looked like we took them in front of a green screen. The driver warned us to be careful of snakes when walking through the plantations, which scared some of us. Halim told us some facts about tea: tea originally comes from China, black tea is actually fermented green tea, Malaysian people do not want to work on the plantations (which is considered a **DDD job: dull, dirty, dangerous jobs**), so foreigners come in to harvest the tea. At BOH, a part of the factory is made visible for visitors, so we got to see some steps of the production process of tea.

"All the photos we took of people in front of the tea plantation looked like we took them in front of a green screen."

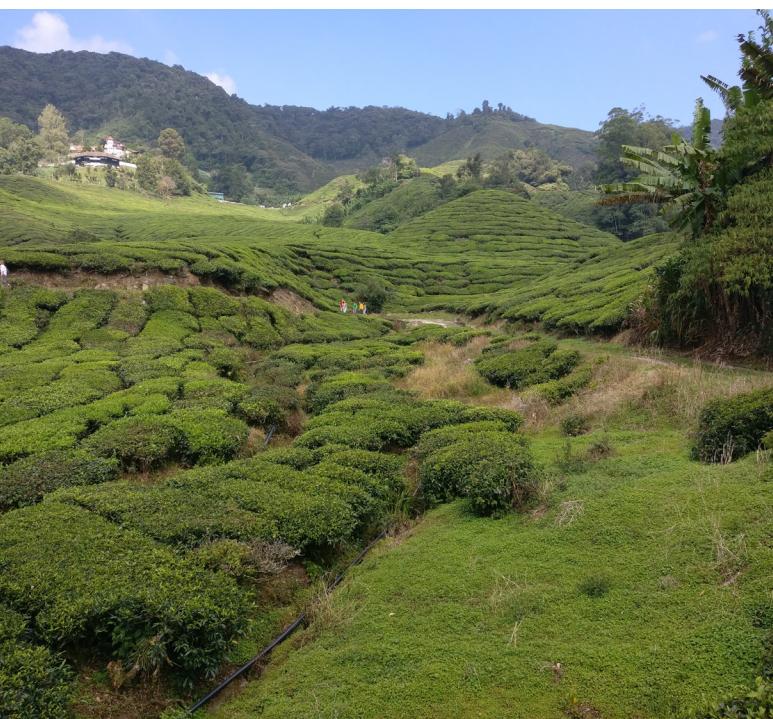
After driving back to our large tourist bus, we said farewell to the school bus. We then visited a **bee farm**, equipped with characteristic tourist shops selling all kinds of honey or strawberry inspired products. Next, we went to the market, on the side of the road, where lots of strawberries and tea were being sold.



The visit ended with some time for lunch at the local village. Once we were back at the resort, we enjoyed a swim at the pool, including some aqua gym. Some people decided to **hike through the jungle** instead, and arrived at the resort just in time for dinner.

In the evening, we dined together, luckily the resort had a few restaurants because there were not a lot of other options at walking distance. Just like the Thai restaurant the day before, this food also was very good (especially the dessert)!

Disco time! Today, the resort's staff managed to arrange a 'DJ' for us, so the 'disco' (in the basement of the resort, it was quite large actually) was opened! This DJ still worked with CD's, and the bar ran out of cocktails sooner than we run out of our dancing vibes, but nevertheless we had a really fun night!



PENANG





TEMPLES TOUR

Author: Anke

23-07, Ipoh and Penang

Time to travel again. Today we are saying goodbye to the Cameron Highlands and moving to the island of Penang. Before leaving, a little group of people wanted to see **the sunset over the highlands**. At 6 a.m. a group of six people gathered by the lobby to wait for our ride up the

of 20 minutes to look around and take pictures, as real tourists are supposed to do. With some sleepy faces after the long drive and the heat after all those hours in the air-conditioned bus, we stepped out, enjoyed the wonderful architecture, and of course, took some pictures.

“...some of us ended up running up the stairs to find out...”

hill, a big jeep appeared with a beautiful luminous pink gear shifter. Our guide, who was also our driver, Mr. Satu drove us to a height of 1800 meters, which took 30 minutes over steep winding roads. When we arrived we were standing in the dark in the middle of a vegetable plantation. The sky was already getting lighter, so we went looking for a good spot to enjoy the full sunset. As the time passed, **the air became all kinds of different colors** and we could see more and more about the plantation we were standing on. Together with four other Japanese people we were the only lucky ones enjoying the sunset. At 8:00 a.m. we were back at the resort, in time to eat some breakfast before we had to go in the bus to leave for Penang. The drive started through the highlands and the tea fields but, as we drove towards the coast, the landscape became flatter and the roads less steep and winding.

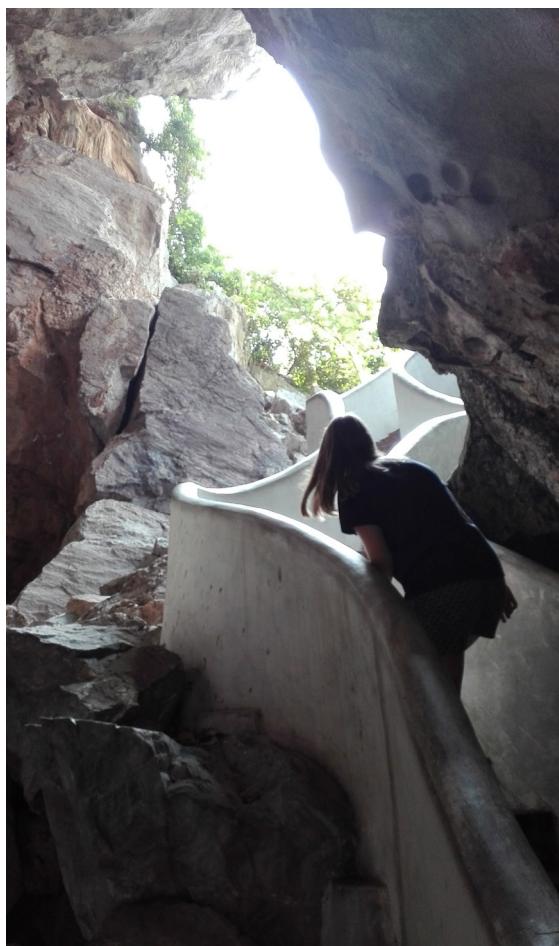
During our trip, **we stopped in Ipoh, homonym to our building, to visit two cave temples.**

Our tour guide, Halim, dropped us at the first Chinese cave temple, and gave us the luxury

After 20 minutes, it was about time to move to the next temple. **For the next cave, we only received 15 minutes.** It was nearly impossible to explore the whole cave in 15 minutes, as it was much deeper than the first one, and had a long, steep staircase through the mountain on top of the cave. Many of us wanted to see where the stairs would come out, so some of us ended up running up the stairs to find out, and then came down with very sweaty shirts.

After all that physical activity, we could rest for some hours in the bus again. Penang is an island close to the coast of Malaysia. The main land and Penang are connected by two bridges. To get to our destination, **we crossed the eldest bridge, which is 13.5 kilometers long** and end in Georgetown, the main city on this large island.

After checking in at our hostel, it was already time to go look for a place to have dinner. In small groups we decided to have dinner and **drink a beer on Love Lane** where the bar owners clearly like happy hours, as they make it last the whole day.



JOURNEYING AROUND GEORGETOWN

24-07, Georgetown

Author: Erwin



After the first night in Penang, we went to try out the breakfast provided by the hostel. While we had been spoiled with great breakfast buffets in previous locations, the breakfast here consisted of either toast or cornflakes with milk: back to the cheap student lifestyle.

First up on the program today was Penang hill. We had a new bus, meaning **we also had a new guide: May**. May was a very cheerful guide that enjoyed telling us as much as she could about Penang and Georgetown. With jokes like "Now is July, but May is still here!" we drove to the hill. The committee had a surprise for us, we wouldn't go up the hill by train, as tourists usually do, but in jeeps, cool! When we arrived the jeeps actually turned out to be the only choice, as the train was under maintenance. This meant that pretty much no one was visiting the hill, except for us, giving us all the space to wander around and **enjoy the astonishing view over Georgetown and the rest of Penang**. Sad part was that few visitors also meant that all the stores and attractions were closed. An hour later, as we drove back, some people sat on the back of the pick-ups, making the ride even more adventurous.

"Now is July, but May is still here!"

Next stop: the **Kek Lok Si temple** (or Kellogs temple, as some misunderstood), one of the biggest Buddhist temples of Malaysia. It is built on a hill, so getting to the entrance from the parking lot in the burning sun was already quite a challenge. Our guide had already told us that **we would see a lot of turtles**, which is a symbol for long life in the Chinese culture. And indeed, while walking to the temple, we came across a pool with probably over a hundred turtles. May walked with us to show us around and give some additional information. The temple was very large, we even needed to use a cable car to get to the top.

After the temple, the tourist part of the day was concluded, and after a quick lunch at the food court we moved on to **KDU Penang University College**. We were welcomed by the deputy vice-chancellor Dr. Brian Imrie, who talked about the school and about how it is to live and work in Malaysia as a foreigner, which was very interesting. In the room, about 10 to 15 students had already joined us and they were responsible for the rest of the program. They first had a small introduction about Malaysia in general, where their presented highlights were almost completely matching with where we had already been, making us feel satisfied about our journey so far. We then played a game meant to learn each other's names, followed by a **painting activity called "Batik"**, typical of the region, and some general chatting between the students. We ended up staying there way over time because we were having such a good time.



In the evening the group split up, trying out all the local street foods and enjoying a beer in the food court with live music. The evening was concluded at a rooftop bar at the edge of the city, with view over the shore, waiting for midnight to **celebrate Fenna's birthday**. A nice birthday song with a cocktail and the view over George Town by night, what more could you wish for on your birthday.





STUPEFYING STREET ART

25-07, Georgetown

Author: Frank Schipper



The last full day in Penang started off on a festive note: **A choir awoke Fenna for her 21st birthday**, while she was wearing a cheerful pink polka-dot hat for the occasion. After the festivities we left for **Piktochart, a company that made us feel instantly at home**: the office had a strong Strijp-S feel to it. Its concrete walls and industrial outlook housed several spaces with the aim to nurture creativity. Musical instruments and games provided opportunities for diversion. Essentially, the office was one big loft with a couple of rooms on opposite sides of it. From the 20th floor we could appreciate the sea, the green hills, and the Georgetown cityscape.

Piktochart is "an intuitive, easy-to-use infographic platform that helps non-designers create beautiful visuals." From 1000s of users in 2012, the user community of Piktochart has already grown to an astonishing nine million users by 2017. Currently the company has 55 employees, and 14 staff members working from a distance, allowing the company to serve users 24/7. For Malaysian standards, the organization is rather flat and nurtures a start-up culture. Quick growth of its numbers of users came on the basis of sticking to a number of core values: Humble, Open

"...fabulous pieces of street art decorate the streets..."

up, Passion, Excellent, Fun-loving, User-focus, Love.

After the general presentation of the company, three speakers highlighted how they contributed to Piktochart's results on a day-to-day basis. A front-end developer, back-end developer and user interface UX-designer gave further texture to what this 'hopeful' attitude means in actual programming and design practice. What became clear is that users were put central for Piktochart's products, likely one of the key factors explaining the company's rewarding success.

After an educative morning, we returned to the center of town for **a free afternoon**. We reassembled at dinner time at a fine food court on the seaside. Here the committee divided the group in teams of five members each. The assignment given to each team was related to one of Penang's outstanding qualities as a city. Throughout the city center, fabulous pieces of street art decorate the streets and back alleys. **The art comes in two kinds: murals of various sizes and themes and a large number of equally diverse iron caricatures.** They both popped up after Penang's designation as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2008. The task of each of the teams was to search and find street art and photograph members of the team alongside with the art itself. At the end of the competition we assembled at **a karaoke bar** in the vicinity of the hostel. Here the committee worked hard to assign a winner of the competition on the basis of the creative input it received whilst the rest of us sang through the night enjoying some well-deserved Tiger beers. For me, getting to know the city through its art was a creative and highly entertaining highlight of the study tour overall.





SINGAPORE

SPEEDING TO SINGAPORE

26-07, Penang and Singapore

Author: Kari



"Eventually, we all made it just in time for the plane to leave..."

With our bags packed, we left the hostel in Georgetown and took the bus towards the airport. **We thought we had more than enough time** until we had to board the plane, but unfortunately we came across some trouble. First we needed to queue to get the boarding passes and suitcase labels, and then we got in a huge line to drop our suitcases. Next, we still needed to go through passport control and customs. Everything took more time than expected, resulting in quite a bit of stress. **While some of us were still going through customs, others arrived at the gate, barely on time.** Eventually, we all made it just in time for the plane to leave Penang. Luckily we weren't bored while waiting in line, Roxanne made sure of that. She made a perfect demonstration on how to fall on the ground while sitting on a suitcase.

Once landed in Singapore we got some free time at the airport since the bus that was going to get us got stuck in traffic. Some of us took the chance to update our diaries, get some coffee or change the remaining Malaysian Ringgits into Singaporean dollars. Once the bus arrived, we noticed how nice it smelled and how the seats were so much smaller than the bus in Malaysia; there was barely any leg room. I can imagine Erwin being happy that it was just a short trip.

Our hostel was located in Little India, not far from a shopping mall and next to some really shady clubs that none of us (that I know of) dared to go inside. In front of the shopping mall there was the subway which we took to get a first impression of the city. **With our beloved Benedetta as our tour guide,** we went a food court somewhere in the centre of the city. It reminded us a bit of Malaysia: it was similar to the ones there but with one major difference, **if you looked up towards the sky you would be surrounded by skyscrapers** and be reminded that you are in a really big city again.

After dinner we continued our tour to see a light show at Marina Bay Sands. **There were a lot of light beams, water jets and speakers.** Sacrificing our hearing for sitting on the first row was totally worth the spectacle we were given.

We ended the evening with a drink at Japanese-styled second-floor rooftop bar Kinki, looking out on Marina Bay. It was not as impressive as the Heli bar in Kuala Lumpur, but they made some really nice cocktails with ingredients no one knew what they were.

We were all pretty tired so we all went back to the hotel and called it a night, since the next day we had to be fresh and awake for our visit to the university.





UNIVERSITY TOUR

Author: Mieke

27-07, Singapore

After the first night in our rather squeaky beds we woke up in Singapore for the first time! A day of adventures at the National University of Singapore awaited us. We took the MRT (not MTR), meaning Mass Rapid Transit, to the stop closest to the university. However, closest never means close enough if you want to arrive at your destination dryly, implying without any sweat spots.

The first stop on campus was the Energy Studies Institute (ESI). This institute focuses on **energy economics, energy and environment and energy security**. We received a lot of information on the energy developments and regulations in Singapore. The ESI was set up because there wasn't really a ministry of Energy in Singapore.

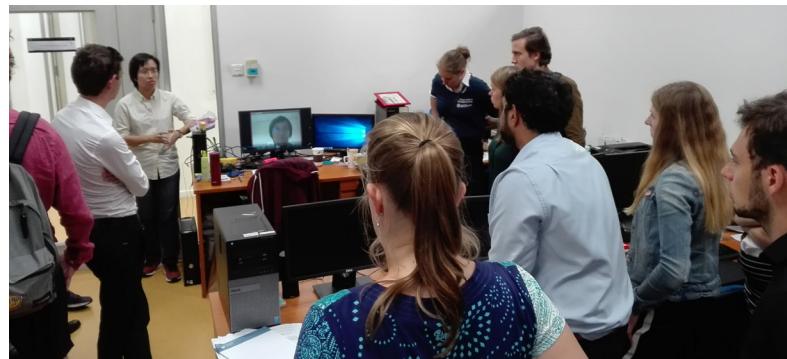
Although the talk was certainly very interesting, some still seemed to have some trouble feeling comfortable in the room. Not because of the speaker, but because **the airco inside was freezing, a recurring problem on this study tour**.

After the serious part of the presentation the conversation changed to discussing some more general topics on Singapore. Because Singapore is such a small nation it feels constant pressure to prove and defend itself. Some problems that Singapore has are related to the aging of the population. Therefore, Singapore now has things like a **baby bonus and fertility advertisement**, which is pretty odd for us to hear.

After the first talk, it was time for a big lunch and the next visit: The Social Robotics lab! We got an intimate presentation about their work. We could see some of the robots they work with and we had the opportunity to see more about their research.

After the serious program of the day, it was time for everybody to come up with their own plan, which led to some dramatic split-ups in the MRT. My plan started with a visit to the famous Gardens

"Singapore now has things like a baby bonus and fertility advertisement..."



by the Bay, a sort of **mystical garden in the middle of the city**. When walking over the skywalk the gardens also give you a beautiful view of the Marina Bay Sands (you get a good view of this from pretty much anywhere in the city actually). After the Gardens by the Bay, we continued our trip onto another touristic attraction close by the bay, the Forest Dome. The Forest Dome and the Flower Dome are two artificial nature grounds. Although pretty impressively made, **it's just not as cool as a real rainforest**.

The idea after this journey by the bay was to go for dinner in Chinatown, but why would you do that if you could also go to the sky bar on top of the Marina Bay Sands. So, that became the new plan! **Surprisingly, on top of the Marina Bay Sands you couldn't get a view of the Marina Bay Sands**. It was a pretty impressive view though. The last thing to do then was to get dinner in a food court (because where else could you afford dinner in Singapore) and go to bed.







BUSINESS IMPRESSIONS

Author: Frank Vendrig

28-07, Singapore

Asia kept on wreaking havoc on our health. Today it was Paolo who spent the morning in bed fighting a battle with his belly, and Johanna was still angry at South East Asia's rabid use of air conditioners. Nearing the end of our journey, we were growing increasingly tired and weary. However, **this day was not meant for restoring our strengths.**

We had a very busy schedule and needed to be fit and awake. In the morning, we visited the Singaporean office of a trendy Australian IT company called Tigerspike. In the afternoon we traveled to the Dutch embassy, where we met with the Dutch Innovation Attaché. Since it was a Friday, we could not let the night slip by. Most of us spent it exploring the nightlife this city has to offer, while others enjoyed the fine tunes of the Singapore Symphony Orchestra.

"Since it was a Friday, we could not let the night slip by."

Tigerspike had four talks prepared for us, in which the four speakers laid bare how the company operates and why they think their methods set them apart from the competition. They discussed projects, **UX design** (which acts as a good summary to the HTI course with the same name), how to measure success, and how the technical team works. Especially the P&T and HTI students seem to quickly wake up. A number of people asked about possibilities for internships. Internships are a bit tricky in Singapore, but luckily Tigerspike is about to open up a branch in the Netherlands. This office is quite international, illustrated by the four speakers representing four nationalities. Around the final presentation, a Deliveroo guy walked into the office and some of us started to get excited. Free lunch? No, unfortunately. Disappointed, we resorted to eating delicious and cheap food at a nearby food court (**we really need these back home!**).

At the **Dutch Innovation Attaché** we learnt about how Dutch companies are assisted when undertaking the exciting endeavor of starting up a business abroad. The lady who gave the presentation explained that the Singaporean government is heavily interested in making Singapore a **'Smart Nation'** (which is, as we learned, exactly the same as a smart city, for a city-state like Singapore). This all made sense to us, as Singapore's largest natural resource seemed to be CCTV cameras. This Smart Nation strategy offers plenty of opportunities for Dutch companies, and the Innovation Attaché tries to stimulate Dutch companies seizing these opportunities any way they can. After leaving the Embassy, **we divided into Team Finer Arts and Team Party**. Team Finer Arts got their ears treated to the tunes of Meldelssohn and Brahms, played by the **Singapore Symphony Orchestra** in the Esplanade concert hall. This beautiful building is known as the Durian, because, well... It looks like a durian fruit. No wonder Frank Schipper joined. In the meanwhile, Team Party managed to reach **Holland Village**, a neighborhood not frequently visited by tourists, offering a nice peek into the real Singaporeans' lives. Holland Village is also known for its bars, where Singaporeans and expats enjoy a drink (or two) in the weekends. At the end of the evening, Team Finer Arts rejoined Team Party and fused into Team Metro. We got some more drinks, but after such a long day, **most could not ignore the siren song of their beds.**



CULTURE IN THE CITY

29-07, Singapore

Author: Ellen



Today is our 4th day in Singapore, a city we are very much enjoying. Everything is modern, beautiful and clean. On the other hand, rules and regulations appear to be stricter than we are used to. But as long as we behave, and do not drink water in the metro, there is nothing to worry about!

Today we could sleep a little longer than usual. **We were supposed to leave at 10.30 am, so obviously, half of the group arrived at 10.30 at the breakfast room.**

At 10.45, the largest part of the group was ready to leave. At 10.55 we were only still waiting for the 'I've forgotten something!' or 'As we're still waiting, I'll just go to the toilet' kinds of people. Finally, at 11:00, the group was complete and we left for the metro station. The metro in Singapore is full of ads that show how to be a good traveler and citizen, such as **stand-up Stacey and bag-down-Bennie.**

Our destination for the morning was the **Housing & Developing Board (HDB)**, the public housing organization of Singapore. Without any introduction or presentation, we were left free to walk around in the showrooms of the different kinds of apartments Singaporeans can buy, as they are open for the public. We were not alone, as dozens of Singaporeans were exploring the apartments with us, looking for the perfect fit for their families. We ended up splitting into small groups to tour around the rooms. Kari and Toby, for example, stayed for a while in the 3-room apartment, discussing about the

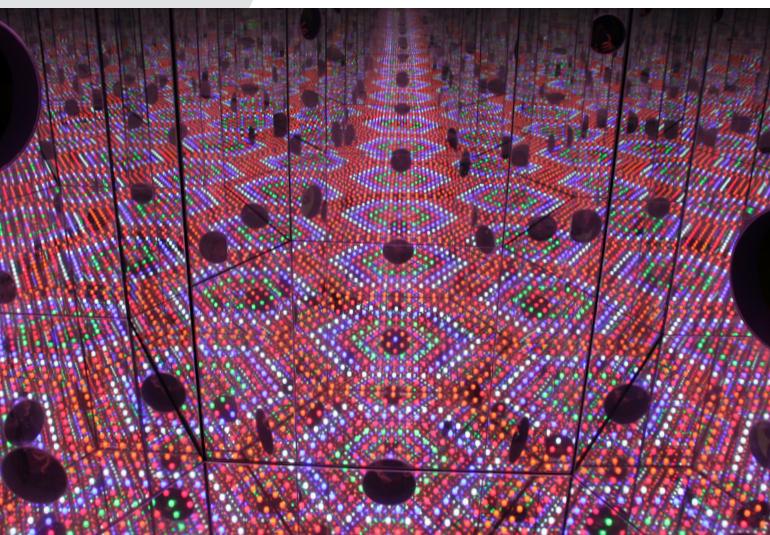
placement of the table. In the meanwhile, Roxanne and Patrick were analyzing the wardrobe of the 4-room apartment. Mieke and Ileen quickly agreed to settle for the large 2-room apartment.

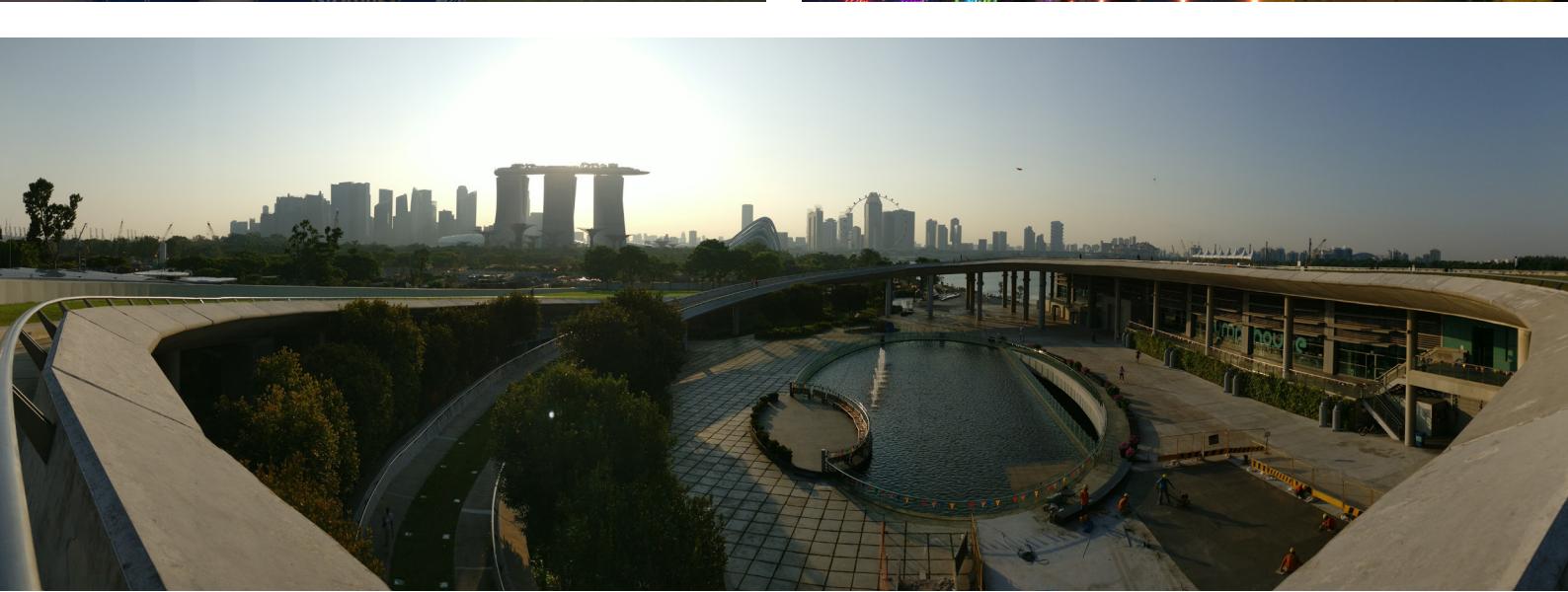
"...‘As we’re still waiting, I’ll just go to the toilet’ kinds of people..."

After the tour, we had lunch and then traveled to Clark Quay, from where we walked towards a jetty to get on our **traditional bumboat for a peaceful river cruise.** We had a whole boat for ourselves, which meant plenty of space both outside in the sun and inside to enjoy the cool breeze. The cruise was accompanied by a recorded voice that told us everything about the places we were bobbing along. Halfway through our cruise, the bumboat suddenly stopped and the crew invited us to get off. Thanks to the sharp committee, we could calmly finish the inspiring and relaxing tour.

There was a third activity on the program: the **National Museum of Singapore.** Once arrived, however, it turned out that the prices were higher than expected, so everyone was given the choice to either stay and visit the museum, or leave to visit some of the many others tourist attractions. I decided to stay, and enjoyed a journey through Singapore's history.

The evening was free. **Some of us went on the Singapore Flyer,** the giant Ferris wheel, some others visited an exhibition by Yayoi Kusama in the **National Gallery**, while others were entertained by a **jazz band at the Marina Bay.** From different parts of the city, we all witnessed an event we had not been prepared for: **the official rehearsals of the parade to celebrate Singapore’s National Day, on August 9th.** It was majestic: military aircrafts were parading, there was a great firework show, huge crowds of people were moving around all wearing red and white, we even saw a drone light show!





ARTIFICIAL RELAX

30-07, Singapore/Sentosa

Author: Fenna



It was our fifth day in Singapore and the before the last day of our trip. The main objective of the day was to **relax**. We did not have to wake up early and during the day we could do what we wanted. Most of us used this time to go to the beach of Sentosa, but others went to the Zoo or used the time to do some work in the library.

Sentosa, also called "**the state of fun**", is a small island (the surface of Sentosa is just a bit bigger than the surface of Terschelling). The island is filled with touristic attractions, including a waterpark, a theme park, an attraction park, an amusement park, a golf course, an underwater world and a fort. However, **we just spent our time lying and swimming at the beach**. The island is connected to the mainland by a bridge and a funicular. To reach Sentosa, we took the funicular from Harbour Front. From this funicular you have a nice view of the sea, the harbour of Singapore and the island Sentosa itself. Some of us decided to first go to Mount Faber with the funicular and **enjoy the view** over there and a cup of coffee, others went directly to the Siloso beach.

The beach was sandy and artificial. From the beach, our view was on several small

"Almost all of us got sunburned"

islands in the sea that stopped the big waves made by all the ships that are sailing over the sea to the harbour and back. Those islands were covered with big rocks. Since some of those rocks were broken we could see that those rocks are hollow, made of plastic and glued on the island. **We had refreshing swims in the very salty sea**, climbed on those small islands and lied down on the beach and tanned.

At the end of the day, **almost all of us got sunburned** and it was time to leave the beach. We had a barbecue together at Wave House Sentosa near the Siloso beach. **We barbecued the meat ourselves** in different shifts, had some drinks and watched the experts surfing on some artificial waves over there.

We took the funicular to get back to the mainland again and went to a terrace with the whole group where we enjoyed some live music and a drink that we got from the committee. Then the last evening in Singapore was over and everyone went back to the hostel to have some rest before we will travel back home tomorrow.





DEPARTURE DAY

Author: Jobert

31-07, Singapore

All good things come to an end. After three weeks of tropical heat, vibrant cities and inspiring company visits, today would be the day that our Asian journey would end. Having spent such a long time so closely together, it promised to become an emotional day, given that our paths would now diverge. About half of the group would take the plane home. The other half would continue their travels in the East, going to a variety of places, including India, Thailand, Japan and again Malaysia.

"No one had left their passports behind..."

The day started in a very slow-paced manner. Today was actually the first day without a set deadline for waking up, meaning that most of the group slept until around 10 o'clock. We would have a farewell lunch at 12:30, meaning that there were a couple of hours left to fill. This time was mainly spent visiting local shops and malls in Little India, where our hostel was located.

At 12:15, everyone gathered at the lobby, from where we would walk towards our Himalaya-themed restaurant to **once again eat a lovely meal of rice and chicken.** While waiting for the food, occasional words of wisdom would be spoken (Benedetta: "If there is no naan included, then there won't be any naan."). The food arrived rather late, which was unfortunate since some people had to leave quickly to continue their personal travels. Therefore the meal was interrupted several times for the closing speeches. First of all, the participants of the study tour thanked the committee for organizing the trip, and handed them a bowling set, for which each bowling pin symbolized a committee member. Then Frank and Johanna were being thanked for accompanying us during this tour, for which they also received a nice variety of highly useful presents. Lastly, the

committee thanked all other participants for the last weeks. We then left our bags at the restaurant to make a final group picture at a nearby field, which meant that we had to **wear our beautiful yellow vests at a temperature of 33 degrees Celsius.**

After that the first round of farewells started, as some people had a plane or train to catch. **A large amount of hugs was given, and not everyone could keep their eyes dry.** Having said goodbye, the majority of the group had to spend another four hours before the bus to the airport would leave. Most of the people didn't have any big plans as they already had visited the majority of the highlights of the city, meaning that they spent their time in shops or cafés.

At the airport everything went smoothly. We had more than sufficient time to catch the plane, and **no one had left their passports behind.** We ate a final meal of delicious Asian food (for the majority of the group this was a menu at the Burger King), and then sat on the ground waiting for the opening of the gate. Time to board. Time to depart Singapore.







DIARY OF A FLIGHT

Author: Juultje

01-08, Schiphol

00:00 Singapore time, August 1st.

The last diary of our study tour.

We will be sitting, lying or standing in this Airbus A380 for another 12 hours. The biggest dilemma occurs: What movies should we watch? Jobert has troubles with this complicated issue. I started with *La La Land* on my way to Kuala Lumpur three weeks ago, but did not enjoy it, while Frank thought it was a master piece. Luckily, Frank finds a solution to Jobert's problem: one simple question. Does Jobert feel more like a 40-year old man, or a 20-something lady?... Jobert ends up not choosing for *La La Land*, to Frank's disappointment.

00:10 Fenna feels sick, but the 'seatbelt fasten' sign is switched on, so she cannot go to the toilet.

00:13 'seatbelt fasten' signs is switched off, Fenna sprints to the toilet.

00:15 some delicious smelling dinner is being served when Fenna returns from the toilet.

00:16 the scent is too much for Fenna, so she is off to the toilet again.

00:17 the flight attendant removes Fenna's food to prevent her from getting sick again.

00:18 everybody can relax now.

01:00 the lights are being switched off, so most people start their beauty sleep.

02:00 everybody is asleep.

03:00 it is dark outside.

04:00 it is really dark outside.

05:00 everybody is still asleep.

06:00 idem.

07:00 nothing changed from last entry.

08:30 I need to use a restroom. The only available restroom is in the other aisle, so I walk through the airplane kitchen to the restroom. Just when I arrive there, we fly into some turbulence. I am being send back to my chair by a flight assistant. Suddenly my chair feels really far away on this bumpy ride. Once in my chair again, the turbulence is gone and I can try again to use the restroom.

08:45 Second attempt to going to a restroom.

09:00 I have succeeded! My quest for a toilet has ended.

06:30 British time. After a smooth landing at Heathrow Airport, we have to transfer to our next flight to Amsterdam. While waiting at the gate, a new dilemma: it is time for coffee, or is it time for a drink? A healthy person would say it's neither, but we are exhausted so both options sound perfectly fine. At Heathrow Airport we have to go past customs once more. Raghav makes the horrifying discovery that his jar of peanut butter is not allowed in his hand luggage. So the peanut butter has to stay behind, we all dispair.

After a short flight, we land on the Polderbaan, we then have to taxi for another 15 minutes over small rivers and the highway.

Most people are being picked up by their family or partners, so a select group takes the train back to Eindhoven.

With this exciting 24 hours of traveling, The Study Tour 2017 comes to an end.



WORD OF THANKS

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Koen Drummen, who designed our wonderful logo.

Hans van Pruissen, our trustworthy travel advisor.

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