



GRAND TOUR IN MALAYSIA

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Kelly Cheung 5B (1)
Kammy Cheung 5B (2)
Phoenix Lam 5B (4)
Tiffany Law 5B (6)
Katy Liu 5B (7)
Carol Yip 5B (11)
Leslie Ng 5B (13)
Ben Ng 5B (14)

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Introduction

Our team went to Malaysia for cultural exchange. In these five days, we tried different kinds of local dishes and communicated with local students. We experienced the bugs and heat in Malaysia. The local people are proficient in different languages, such as Cantonese, English and Malaise, etc. We will keep this tour as an unforgettable experience in our memories.



We can admire the panoramic view of Penang from Kek Lok Si by stepping up to the top of the temple.

Malaysia- The multicultural city

Malaysia is a multicultural country with a mixture of cultures. People of different races like Chinese, Indian and Thai are living in Malaysia. Though the locals in Malaysia have a distinct culture, lifestyle as well as religion, they respect each other and live harmoniously. We observed that citizens were wearing different traditional dresses on the street. Due to this situation, the government actually provides different kinds of measures to citizens of different races or religion.

Quite a considerable number of Malaysian believes in Islam. They do not eat pork; people with diverse religion should separate in meals. As people in Malaysia have dissimilar culture, their mother tongues are different too. We visited the bookstore and realized that there was a separate zone of books in different languages like Japanese, Chinese, English and Bahasa Melayu.

Hong Kong is also a multicultural city, but there is discrimination of local citizens towards some minority groups like Indians. When comparing Malaysia with Hong Kong, the phenomenon of discrimination in Malaysia is not serious. Citizens see others of divergent races as normal people. They accept and respect each other. Therefore, Malaysia becomes a harmonious country. Hong Kong should learn from Malaysia in this aspect.



There are murals everywhere in Penang, which show the daily life of Penang citizens. Through the murals, we can understand more about the lifestyle in Penang.

History

(western culture)

Nowadays, Malaysia is a famous country around the world. However, before 1957, Malaysia was not a country and it was occupied by the western countries, for example " United Kingdom, Portugal". So, western culture affects the development of Malaysia a lot.

Firstly, about the history of Malaysia, The United Kingdom had occupied Malaysia for about 100 years. In 1824, United Kingdom recognized the potential value of Malaysia which it was a good location to produce gold, pepper and Chinese tea, so it decided to take control over Malaysia

after the Anglo-Dutch treaty in 1857. In the early 20th century, Britain utilized Malaysia as an economic asset while allowing the Sultans of individual areas some political autonomy. In 1945, after the Second World War, Britain returned to Malaysia while a lot of locals wanted independence and get out the control of Britain.



National Monument is to commemorate the struggle for freedom during World War II who sacrificed their lives for their country.

On August 31, 1963,

Malaysia, Sabah, Singapore

and Sarawak federated as Malaysia. In 1990, Malaysia remained alive in the protests of Indonesia and Philippines and it became thrive from now on.

Secondly, the western culture affected Malaysia; The United Kingdom affected Malaysia in different aspects, such as "architecture, food and language". For the Language, because Malaysia was one of the colonies of UK, it changed the language to English from Malay language. During the 1857-1957 period, the official language of Malaysia was English. The secondary and primary schools needed to teach English as well as the Malay language. Besides, in the political aspect, UK have affected a lot in the political structure of Malaysia. Compared with the structure of UK and Malaysia, they both had legislative, executive and judicial power for the branches of the government, the main factor why they were similar in the political structure is because Britain had taken over Malaysia for about 100 years.

History

(Chinese culture)

We have visited few temples in Penang, and we saw that all of them are similar with the Chinese ones or even the same.

As I know that there are 56 percent Malaysian, 23 percent Chinese and 11% indigenous. Under the influence of birth control, immigration, economic factors and other reasons caused by the proportion of the Chinese population declined.

Historically, Chinese are the dominant on economic and commercial aspects in Malaysia community, accounting for Penang, Ipoh, Taiping, Kuala Lumpur, Johor Bahru and the majority of the population that means Chinese has great influence and high status in Malaysia history. Ipoh and Penang retain the rich tradition of Chinese culture. Therefore, there are many temples in China were moved to Malaysia.

The most memorable thing that we remembered is the Leong San Tong Khoo Kongsi, the gorgeous sculpture in the temple really made us feel amazed since those sculpture were carved in hand-by-hand and have no difference between the temple I have seen in China.

Leong San Tong Khoo Kongsi, or Khoo Kongsi for short, is one of the most distinctive Chinese clan associations in Malaysia. It is well known worldwide for its extensive lineage that can be traced back 650 years, as well as its closely-knit and defensive congregation of buildings and a magnificent clan house.

Surprisingly, famous as it is, its location appears to be unknown to many Penangites. It is situated at the southwest of Georgetown, and its pivotal building, Leong San Tong, is hidden amidst the crowded gridiron of terrace houses and shop houses. To make it to Leong San Tong, which is perhaps the most majestic clan house in South East Asia, you will need to tread through an alley between two rows of 19th century terrace houses and bypass the opera stage, before you see it stand majestically on the granite square. [1]



There are total of five Chinese Kongsi in Penang including Khoo, Tse, Yang, Lam and Chan Kongsi.

[1]History- Khookongsi

<http://www.khookongsi.com.my/history/introduction-of-leong-san-tong-khoo-kongsi-penang/>

Architecture

On the 5th day of the tour, we went to the Putra Mosque. The Putra Mosque was also named as the Masjid Putra in Malay language. It is located in Putrajaya next to the office of the Malaysian Prime Minister and a man-made Putrajaya Lake. Its construction started in 1997 and completed in 1999. The construction cost of it was around MYR 250 million (USD 80 million). Putra Mosque was in Islamic, modern, Mamluk (arch) and Moorish style. It was influenced by the Sheikh Omar Mosques' design in Baghdad. The pink-domed mosque is constructed with rose-tinted granite. And the basement wall of it resembles the King Hassan Mosque in Casablanca, Morocco. That is gorgeous. The Putra Mosque includes three main functional areas, the prayer hall, the Sahn and the courtyard. In addition, there are some learning facilities and function rooms. There are 9 domes in total. The outer dome is 50 m high. Moreover, there is a minaret with 116 m high. And the five tiers there represents the Five Pillars of Islam (testimony of faith, prayer, support of the needy, fasting during the month of Ramadan and the pilgrimage to Makkah once in lifetime for those who are able). The mosque can accommodate about 15,000 worshippers at the same time. In front of the mosque, there is a large square with flagpoles flying Malaysian states' flags.



Masjid Putra is the largest mosque in Malaysia. Masjid Putra. Also, there are three-quarters of the main building was built on the water, it is also known as 'water pink mosque'.

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¹ Tourism Malaysia

<http://www.malaysia.travel/en/nl/places/states-of-malaysia/putrajaya/putra-mosque>

Food culture

Malay food is strong-flavored, spicy and aromatic, combining the rich tastes of the many herbs and spices commonly found in Southeast Asia. It is one of three major cuisines in Malaysia, and together with Chinese and Indian food, continually delight visitors to the country with its incredible variety and flavors.

There is a very popular dining setting in Malaysia, which is Dai Pai Dong. Dai pai dong is a type of open-air food in Malaysia. The stalls have two types: operating in daytime and those doing business at night. The *dai pai dong* which operate at night usually sell seafood and other more costly dishes. We went to the night market and noticed that most of the stores are Dai Pai Dong. The resident in Malaysia seldomly go the restaurant for dinner but go to the street or night market for dinner. Dai Pai Dong is everywhere. The tour guide told us that Malaysian's usually go to Dai Pai Dong. Having a bowl of noodles is their daily diet. Moreover, there are many choices of food in Dai Pai Dong. One of the most popular food is Dong Yam Gong.

One of the most unforgettable moment in Malaysia which is the desert in the Fourth day. We went to a restaurant, which sold local food, such as Dong Yam Gong soup. It also called Tom Yam. It is a Thai food but it have been widely spread to the nearest countries such as Cambodia and Malaysia. Tom yum paste, that made by crushing all the herb ingredients and stir-frying in oil. Seasoning and other preservative ingredients is commonly used as well.



Bak Kut Teh is one of the local foods in Malaysia. It is made of spices, bone and Chinese herbal medicine. It becomes a common dish among Malaysian.

Lifestyle

In Malaysia, as the weather is hot. People in Malaysia normally buy a bag of cold drinks and put it in front of their car. A bag of cold drink almost become part of Malaysian's life. They love to drink the cold drink through the plastic bag but not a plastic bottle as it is more convenient. What is more, Malaysian love to eat a dessert call Momochacha that is a dessert full of ice. We have tried it there and it tasted good. Most importantly, after eating the Momochacha, it really coded down us. Other than that, Malaysiaus also keep an old tradition of Hong Kong, which is the vending stalls culture. Malaysia love to eat in vending stalls with their family when they are free. Unlike HongKongers, Malaysian actually are not interested in trying food from other countries. When they go travelling, they will miss the food in Malaysia. When they come back to Malaysia, they will immediately go to eat Laksa or pho with their family. Malaysian will not choose those foods from other countries, instead, they would choose to eat local and traditional food.



Gurney Drive is a food paradise of local Malaysian food. We can enjoy the food within a small budget of money and be a Malaysian in Gurney Drive!

Modernization

The Petronas Towers, known as the Petronas Twin Towers, are twin skyscrapers in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Twin Towers are the tallest buildings in the world from 1998 to 2004 and remain the tallest twin towers in the world. (Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat (CTBUH)'s official definition and ranking) The buildings are a landmark of Kuala Lumpur, along with nearby Kuala Lumpur Tower.

The towers were designed by Argentine architect César Pelli. He chose a distinctive postmodern style to create a 21st-century icon for Kuala Lumpur. The Petronas Towers and the Kuala Lumpur Tower dominate the skyline of Kuala Lumpur's Central Business District. The first image that the towers gave us was majestic and eye-catching. We could not wait to take the group photo to make it a collective memory. After that, we had free time to shop in the center, but we found out that the shopping mall was a like Hong Kong's. It likes Lapham Place and Popcorn that full of chain stores. Through this, we can see how globalization has been affecting the world.



Kuala Lumpur City Centre (KLCC) is the most famous landmark in Malaysia. It includes office and shopping mall. Also, KLCC is the Malaysian pride

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² KLCC- Kuala Lumpur City Centre
<http://www.kuala-lumpur.ws/klareas/klcc.htm>

Reflection

Kelly Cheung

During this five days' tour, I built a stronger relationship with my classmates, class teacher and Mr. Yu. The local tour guide explained a lot of history about different places in Malaysia, it really broadens my horizons. During the tour, I realized that there is a great difference between Penang and Kuala Lumpur, lifestyle, quality of life, inter personal relationship among the citizens. I hope our class can have a tour again to a different place to learn outside the classroom.

Katy Liu

The trip, it allows our class have a chance to gather together and have lots of fun. We visited many scenic spots in Malaysia. We had to wake up in the early morning and the weather there was hot. However, we still enjoy the tour. The tour let us know more about Malaysia and I really enjoy it. There were many memorable moments and I will never forget every moment in Malaysia.

Tiffany Law

Actually this was the first time I had been to other places out of China. I was quite excited before the trip. During the trip, I discovered that the differences of culture between Malaysia and China. It is believed that my horizon were broadening after the trip. A big thank you that provided this opportunity for me to explore the world.

Carol Yip

This programme provides an opportunity for King Ling students to gain insights into Malaysia's history and culture by visiting various parts of it. Through traveling around Penang, Kuala Lumpur and Ipoh. I learned a lot about Malaysia's history and its background. For me, Malaysia is an interesting country; it is integrated with different cultures. The citizens do not only speaking Malay but also English and Mandarin. It was so nice and convenient to communicate with the locals.



Lost World of Tambun is a theme park which include a zoo, water park and a large motor games area. We can see or even play with some animals which we have not seen before.

Kammy Cheung

Malaysia is a spectacular city that involves different cultures in between. Besides only their food culture, their buildings are also gorgeous. The historical temples are preserved well. Once we went to a temple called Leong San Tong Khoo Kongsi. It showed the Chinese Calligraphy and paintings. There was a sculpture which is called The Twenty-Four Folklores. It inspired me a lot in how children love their parents. Moreover, it reflects the traditional family culture. I am not sure if it is too extreme, but the spite is worthy of appreciation. Comparing with nowadays' people, we are lack of the awareness of respecting the elderly. The issues of priority seats and the argument of universal retirement protection scheme, I believe we need to learn this spite.

Ben Ng

In this Malaysia trips, I made many happy memories with my classmates. Besides, I also learnt a lot of cultural background of Malaysian, for example, their Architectural Culture, their food culture and the relationship between Hong Kong and Malaysia on the cultural background. Malaysians keeps many old traditional buildings and culture of Hong Kong. Moreover, I can find part of old Hong Kong in Malaysia

Phoenix Lam

I think the worst memorable things in this trip was really the architecture in Malaysia, because there are so many Chinese style buildings in Malaysia, which reminds me my hometown a lot when I stayed in Malaysia. Apart from the Leong San Tong Khoo Kongsi, there are 23% Chinese in Malaysia, therefore, there are many Chinese houses. The temple would not be worse than the Chinese one, but similar with the temple I have seen in China, which made me feel excited.

Nevertheless, regrettably, almost all meals I tried in Malaysia were Chinese cuisines, although they were delicious, I would rather choose to try more local food in Malaysia.

On the second day, we visited the KDU University College to have the exchange program. Four KDU students came on that day; they were from different places, which made me quite surprised. I didn't know this is such an international university. There was a local student and he had talked about many cultural differences between China and Malaysia.



Jackfruit is a common fruit in Malaysia. Since the weather in Malaysia is hot and wet, it is satiable for planting jackfruit. During July to September is the fruit maturity of jackfruit.

In this trip, I really learned much in the Malaysian history, and I noticed that there were really many similarities in Chinese history and Malaysian history which was amazing that I've never realize before. Moreover, I have made new friends in KDU University College, who we still have contact now. It was really an unforgettable and knowledgeable trip for my classmates and me.

Leslie Ng

For me, I think this trip was very meaningful, because it broaden my horizons. I can visit a lot of historical sites and museum in Malaysia, such as "colonial Penang museum". This museum not only let me know more about the history of Malaysia, it also reminded me about the scourge of war and we should never let it happen again in the future. In addition, this trip is my first time to



Our group try to take a photo as models in KDU University College.

stay away from my family. Although it was not a long period of time, I learned how to become more independent after this 5 days' trip. If I do not attend this trip, I will not realize that families are very important to me. This trip was my first time to take airplane and this experience were really memorable to me, because maybe I do not any chances to take airplane so I will treasure these opportunities and be thankful for school provided such a opportunities for me.

Furthermore, this 5-days trip can help develop the relationship between my classmates, and me because we played together, and together in this 5 days. When we came into some difficulties or troubles, we decided to solve it together. In this trip, I realized that team spirit is the most important thing in the world, because in the second day of the trip, we needed to share opinion with the university students in Penang. We needed to perform a performance to them, although we did not prepare it well, we still performed bravely and we received their applause from the university students. Finally yet importantly, this trip was one of my unforgettable experience, I hope that I can have another trip with my classmates and teachers.