



MGS NEWS LETTER

October - December 2013

Quarterly magazine of the Malaysian-German Society • for members only

Penang Active
Playing Golf

Family Matters

Homework - we can win the battle!

NEW

Travel
Northern Australia
Rajasthan 2



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Dear Members and Friends,

A committee of 13 people around chairman Wolfgang had a busy time preparing everything for a smooth **Oktoberfest on 19 & 20 October** for the past few months. This year we will enjoy live music by “Frankenräuber” who will be playing in Penang for the first time. Give them a warm welcome and you will for sure be rewarded with great music from Bavaria and all over the world. Buy your tickets in advance – as usual, our **members will enjoy the best price of RM 10 in the pre-sale**, while non-members pay RM 30. On the evening itself, the entrance fee will be RM 35 for everyone.

The new board of the MGS feels that there are a lot of things to question and try out new ideas. For this, we have formed some sub-committees, where we are open for members to join, if they want to contribute. Please see page ... for more info. Like us on Facebook at **MGS Penang** to get all the updates on our events from our new FB page, and follow us on Instagram at **mgs_penang**

Penang is all about food, and finally our newsletter team decided to start a new sequel of restaurant tips. It will be a random list of our team's recommendations – from hawker stalls to fine dining - we hope you like it.

There will be two events in this quarter, that I want to point out: our **Artworkshop for Teenagers** and the **Art Exhibition** by the German artists Barbara Auer and Gabriele Bürger in November, as well as our **Christmas Bazaar** on 1 December.

It would be great to see you around at our events or taking part in one of our committees.

Best wishes,

Petra Müller



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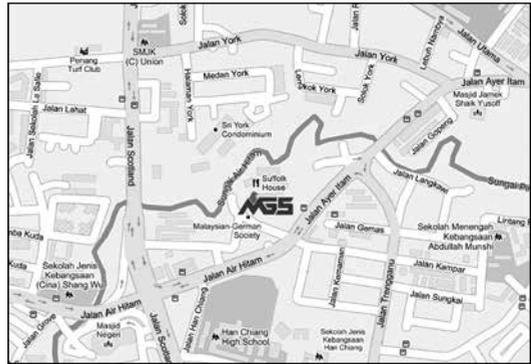
office@mgs.org.my

www.mgs.org.my

Opening hours office & library:

Monday - Friday: 10:00am - 1:00pm

2:00pm - 7:00pm



MGS Newsletter

Issue October - December 2018

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ELS Club Langkawi

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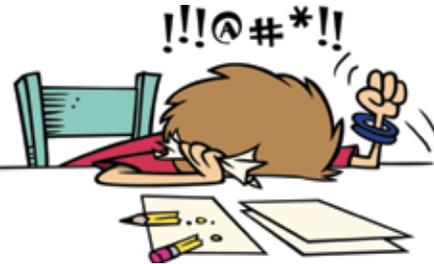
Ralf Touby, The Penang Institute

Printer

Pen'Ads (M) Sdn. Bhd.



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- Interventional Radiology
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- Low Dose Radio-iodine Therapy for Thyrotoxicosis (Hyperactive Thyroid)
- Maternity Packages & Antenatal Classes
- Medical Officer Services
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- Nephrology
- Neurology & Neurosurgery
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- Pharmacy
- Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery
- Psychology (Clinical, Educational & Counseling) & Neurofeedback Therapy
- Psychiatry
- Radiology & Imaging Dept:
 - PET-CT Scan
 - JT MRI (Upgraded from MRI)
 - CT Scan
 - Fluoroscopy
 - General X-ray
 - Mammogram
 - 3D Automated Breast Ultrasound (ABUS)
 - Cone Beam Computed Tomography (CBCT)
 - Ultrasound Imaging
 - X-ray Bone Densitometry (Dixa Scan)
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• PET-CT Scan



• CT Scan



• JT MRI



• Biplane Angiography System with Electrophysiology

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K.K.L.I.U.-0888/2016

October

19
FRI **Oktoberfest**

20
SAT **Oktoberfest**

November

06
TUE *Deepavali*

09
FRI **Movie Night**

17
SAT **Art Workshop**

18
SUN **Art Workshop**

20
TUE *Prophet Muhammad's
Birthday*

22
THU **Breakfast**

23
FRI **Opening of Art Exhibition**

January

01
TUE *New Year's Day*

21
MON *Thaipussam*

30
WED **Breakfast**

December

01
SAT **Christmas Bazaar**

25
TUE *Christmas Day*

February

05
TUE *Chinese New Year*

06
WED *Chinese New Year*



Oktoberfest

German Cultural Festival

Friday & Saturday
19 & 20 October, 7pm



Live Band
Franken
Räuber



Tickets & Venue: Malaysian-German Society • www.mgs.org.my • 04-229 6853
250B Jalan Air Itam • next to Suffolk House



A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER



It is the time of the year, when people think about our Malaysian-German Society more often! Yes, we are heading towards our biggest event in the year:

The Oktoberfest!

We are looking forward to another great festival to celebrate with you all here in Penang! When we start the evening with tapping the first barrel of beer and shouting: "O'zapft is", we hope that everyone will be around to party with us!

Come along on **Friday, 19 October & Saturday, 20 October from 7pm onwards.**

Please buy your tickets in advance at our office! Prices stay the same as last year:

pre-sales RM 10 for members
RM 30 for non-members

door price RM 35 for everyone

Check out our Facebook and Web-Site for more information!



Deutsche ökumenische Gottesdienste in Penang



Sonntag, 21 Oktober 2018 um 12:00 Uhr (der Ort des GoDi war zum Zeitpunkt des Drucks noch nicht bestätigt, bitte auf der Web-site www.dt-katholiken.sg/kl nachsehen)
Gehalten vom **katholische Pfarrer Hans-Jürgen Fogl**, der auch die Gemeinden in Kuala Lumpur und Singapur betreut. Er freut sich schon auf ein Kennenlernen / Wiedersehen in Penang

Samstag, 1 Dezember 2018 um 11 Uhr, Wesley Methodist Church, Jalan Clove Hall Gehalten vom **evangelischen Pfarrer Daniel Happel** aus Singapur

Interessenten wenden sich bitte an
Andrea Hunold: 011-2648 5904
oder andrea.hunold@freenet.de

INGOLF'S KNEIPE GERMAN RESTAURANT AND BAR

1/F Jalan Sungai Kelian, 11200 Tanjung Bungah, Penang. Tel: 604-899 5796

We are the oldest existing restaurant in Tanjung Bungah serving authentic German food as well as a wide variety of original western dishes.

We serve salads, appetizers and soups with continental flavours. Although available are tender steaks and speciality grilled items.

A must have is our rote grutze with ice cream.

You although find here a full range of Paulaner and Hacker Pschorr beers. We serve Draught Paulaner Weissbeer.

**INGOLF'S KNEIPE IS OPEN FOR LUNCH
TUESDAY TO SATURDAYS
WHEN A LIGHT LUNCH MENU IS BEING SERVED.**

Our Opening Hours are:

Monday
*3pm to midnight
Dinner from 6pm to 10.30pm*

Tuesdays to Saturdays
*12 noon to midnight
Lunch 12 noon to 2.30pm
Dinner 6pm to 10.30pm*

SUNDAYS WE ARE CLOSED

Alles auf Zucker (Go for Zucker)

Comedy, Germany 2004, FSK 6, 95 min



On Friday, 9 November

Mingle & chat 8:00pm

Start movie 8:30pm

Language German with English subtitles

Director Dani Levy

Actors Henry Hübchen, Hannelore Elsner, Udo Samel, Steffen Groth

First-class pool shark and all-around hustler Jackie Zucker is up to his ears in debt, again. He faces jail, divorce and general ruin. When word comes that his mother has died, leaving an inheritance, it's a stroke of luck. But according to his mother's will, before he can cash in, Zucker must first reconcile with his longestranged, Orthodox brother Samuel, who is arriving the next day, family in tow, expecting to sit shiva for seven days. Can Zucker, who has forsaken his religion and his non-Jewish wife, pass as observant? And can he sneak away to compete in a high-stakes pool tournament?



ART WORKSHOP:

Express Yourself

17 & 18 NOV 2018

3:00PM - 6:00PM

MALAYSIAN-GERMAN SOCIETY
250B, JALAN AIR ITAM

Are you **12-18 years old**
and interested in creating
your own piece of art —
in just a few hours?

Then join our art workshop on **17 & 18 Nov.**

Two German artists, **Barbara Auer** and
Gabriele Bürger will guide you on how to
translate various forms of communication
like gestural expressions, emotions or
attitudes into your very own artworks.

The motto of the workshop is
"**express yourself**". You can choose among
various types of art styles, like painting,
collage, printing or sculpting.

The best part: Your artwork will be displayed together with
exhibits by Barbara and Gabriele from **23 Nov to 2 Dec 2018**
at the **MGS**. After the exhibition you are free to take it home.

To sign up, please email us at office@mgs.org.my
or call us at **+604-229 6853**.

Age: 12-18 years old

Class size: 16 pax (max)

Requirement: none

Fee: RM100 (member)

RM120 (non-member)



www.mgs.org.my

Art Workshop and Art Exhibition

Gabriele Bürger and **Barbara Auer**, two artists from Germany will conduct an Art Workshop at our Society. Participants of the workshop will be able to showcase their produced artwork together with those of the two professional artists.



Express Yourself

Art Workshop for Teenagers
on 17 & 18 November, 3 - 6pm

!Content Received?

Art Exhibition

Opening Friday, 23 November, 7:30pm

Exhibition 23 Nov – 2 Dec 2018

“*The topic of my artworks is communication. My interests lie in foreign countries, cultures and the associated traveling which give me motivation for creative involvement. Communication with each other and finding ways of expression in between the obstacles of different languages and cultures is a requirement for peaceful coexistence.*”

Barbara Auer



BARBARA AUER

The visual depiction is the most original way of communication. With her drawings, German artist **Barbara Auer** creates expressive snapshots that cover a wide range of human encounters. Each picture has its own way of conveying its message to the viewer, always showing the contentual relation between the characters.

ART EXHIBITION

!CONTENT RECEIVED?

MALAYSIAN-GERMAN SOCIETY

23.11.2018 - 02.12.2018 • OPENING 23.11.2018, 7:30PM • 230B JALAN AIR ITAM

GABRIELE BÜRGER

"Eat faster or your rice will turn cold.."

"As long as you put your feet underneath my table.."

Hearing this usually sparks complex emotions, as everyone has heard those type of sentences in their childhood. The aim of German artist **Gabriele Bürger** is to deal with those "parents' sentences" that everyone knows and that triggers emotions of very special memories.



www.mgs.org.my

T: +604-229 6953

E: office@mgs.org.my

German Breakfast / Deutsches Frühstück

Five times a year our members and friends meet for German and international breakfasts held at our premises. There are always new people to meet and old friends to greet – not to forget the delicious food which is always prepared by a few of our ladies. Everybody is most welcome, especially those new to Penang.

Members RM 25,
non-members RM 30,
starts at 9:30 am

Thursday, 22. November



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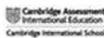
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Christmas Celebration & Bazaar



This year our society will celebrate Christmas on

**Saturday, 1 December
from 3pm onwards**

We would love you to join us for this joyful celebration. Homemade Christmas cookies, cakes, coffee, tea and the traditional German Christmas drink "Glühwein" (a spiced hot red wine), as well as some savoury German food will be available.

The musical entertainment will be provided by the Christmas Choir, and a variety of school music ensembles / bands.

Don't forget the "Weihnachtsmann"! Santa will visit with Christmas goodies for the children.

You can shop for handmade Christmas items and get into the Christmas spirit here at the Malaysian-German Society's colourful event!



Many little elves are needed to make this joyful event the merriest! We are looking for people to bake cakes, help with preparing or selling food, decorating the premises and much more.

If you want to help, please come along to the meeting on

Thursday, 1 November at 10am at the MGS. Please contact Gerlinde Krupp at 010-341 6016, kruppgerlinde@gmail.com or our office at 04-229 68 53 office@mgs.org.my.



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Nonstop you

Lufthansa

Die deutsche Botschaft informiert

Alle Deutschen, die im Ausland leben, können in eine Krisenvorsorgeliste aufgenommen werden. Die Aufnahme erfolgt passwortgeschützt im online-Verfahren. Über die Krisenvorsorge hinaus bietet die elektronische Registrierung die Möglichkeit, Informationen zu Bundestagswahlen und zu Wahlen zum Europäischen Parlament sowie sonstige Informationen der zuständigen deutschen Auslandsvertretungen zu beziehen. Eine Eintragung ist deshalb bei längerem Auslandsaufenthalt grundsätzlich zu empfehlen.

Alle Deutschen, die im Ausland leben, konnten auch bisher schon bei der für sie zuständigen deutschen Auslandsvertretung in eine Deutschenliste gemäß § 6 Abs. 3 des deutschen Konsulargesetzes aufgenommen werden. Durch die Einführung eines passwortgeschützten online-Verfahrens ist diese Registrierung jetzt noch einfacher geworden.

Bei der Eintragung in die Deutschenliste handelt es sich um eine freiwillige Maßnahme. Die Botschaft/das Generalkonsulat (Dienstort) rät, von dieser Möglichkeit Gebrauch zu machen, damit sie/es – falls erforderlich – in Krisen- und sonstigen Ausnahmesituationen mit Deutschen schnell Verbindung aufnehmen kann.

Darüberhinaus besteht die Möglichkeit, über die in der Liste zu hinterlegenden e-Mail-Adressen, z.B. auf anstehende Bundestagswahlen und Wahlen zum Europäischen Parlament hinzuweisen oder sonstige konsularische Hinweise zu übermitteln.

Die Möglichkeit der online-Registrierung ersetzt die bisher manuell geführten Deutschenlisten der deutschen Auslandsvertretungen. Wir bitten Sie daher, sich über das Internet elektronisch zu registrieren, auch wenn Sie in der sog. Deutschenliste bereits eingetragen waren. Sie werden künftig automatisch in regelmäßigen Abständen aufgefordert werden, Ihre Angaben zu bestätigen bzw. zu aktualisieren. Damit sollen Vollständigkeit und Aktualität der Registrierungen sichergestellt werden. Bitte beantworten Sie die Ihnen automatisch zugehenden Aufforderungen deshalb im eigenen Interesse. Zur Registrierung: <http://service.diplo.de/registrierungav>

The screenshot shows a web interface for the registration process. At the top, it says 'Elektronische Erfassung von Deutschen im Ausland'. Below this, there are several sections: 'Login' with fields for 'E-Mail' and 'Passwort', a 'Login' button, and a 'Hilfe' section. The 'Hilfe' section contains text explaining the purpose of the registration and providing instructions. There is also a 'Hinweis' section with a warning about data processing. The bottom part of the page contains a 'Herzlich Willkommen' message and a 'Hinweis' section with a warning about data processing.

Elektronische Erfassung von Deutschen im Ausland

Login

Registrierung
Anmeldung
Mein Passwort

E-Mail:

Passwort:

Login

Hilfe

Bitte geben Sie zum Login Ihre E-Mail-Adresse und Ihr Passwort ein.
Achten Sie dabei auf Groß- und Kleinschreibung!

Falls Sie sich zum ersten Mal anmelden möchten, klicken Sie sich zuvor anmelden registrieren. Klicken Sie dazu auf Registrierung.

Hinweise

eine effektive Kontaktstelle mit und Unterstützung durch deutsche Auslandsvertretungen in Notlage gewährleisten, dass Namen, Aufenthaltsorte und Einreisekategorien von Deutschen im Ausland und ggf. auch ihre im Ernstfall zu kontaktierenden Personen im Ausland bekannt sind.

Die deutschen Auslandsvertretungen führen dazu anhand Ihrer Angaben Krisenvorsorgelisten der im Notfall am schnellsten erreichbaren deutschen Konsulate auf. Grundlage dafür ist § 6 Abs. 3 Konsulargesetz. Sie ermöglichen eine Registrierung zur Eintragung in Maßnahmen der Krisenvorsorge und -reaktion sowie darüber hinaus auch für sonstige Auslandsdienstleistungen.

Herzlich Willkommen auf der Startseite der Elektronischen Erfassung von Deutschen im Ausland (Elefant)!

Im Folgenden werden Sie durch die Schritte der Elektronischen Erfassung von Deutschen im Ausland (Elefant) geleitet.

Zur Erfassung Ihrer Daten in Elefant ist eine einmalige Registrierung nötig. Geben Sie dazu bitte Ihre E-Mail-Adresse sowie ein freigelegtes Passwort ein. Anschließend wird Ihnen per E-Mail ein Link zur Registrierung Ihres Logins zugesandt. Klicken Sie auf den in der E-Mail enthaltenen Link und geben Sie Ihr Passwort ein, um das Register zu erstellen.

Nach der Aktivierung Ihres Zugriffs erfolgt die Erfassung Ihrer Daten. Geben Sie dazu die Daten zu Ihrer Person, Ihrem Aufenthalt, den Sie registrierenden Personen und Kontaktadressen in Deutschland in die dafür vorgesehenen Felder ein. Sollten können Sie durch Login jederzeit auf Ihre Daten zugreifen, um Änderungen oder Aktualisierungen vorzunehmen.

In der rechten Spalte finden Sie eine Bedienungsanleitung, die Ihnen die einzelnen Schritte erläutert. Bitte lesen Sie diese sorgfältig durch.

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Dear Members and Friends,

For a few of our sub-committees we are still looking for volunteers. Please get back to us if you feel you could be able to help:

- **Newsletter** (Petra): we are looking for people who can help in compiling our quarterly Newsletter. Write articles, ask friends for contributions, have new ideas which areas to implement. Reminding regular contributors to submit and edit the articles.
- **Membership** (Gerlinde): what is your idea of the MGS membership? We are looking for a creative team to set up new components of membership, find shops & restaurants who want to give benefits to our members, catch up with new members, etc.
- **Social Events** (Gerlinde): For the social events during the year, we are always looking for volunteers to help out on the event itself. But also for the planning we need a dedicated team of organisers to make it successful. The next event on the schedule is our famous Christmas Bazaar. Please sign up, if you would like to help!
- **Maiball**: Our annual MaiBall needs to be organised. We are looking for people to find sponsors and make all the arrangements with the band, DJ and hotel and arrange this great event together with the team.

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On Saturday, 7 July, the MGS took part in the celebrations of Georgetown having been a UNESCO World Heritage Site for 10 years. There were numerous stalls and performances in the city and some roads were made available to pedestrians only. We participated with a card game (Quartett / happy family card game) on the theme of the MaiBall. People could learn about German customs in the month of May and even learn to speak a bit of German. The participation was overwhelming: we had prepared prizes for about 300 people taking part and these were all gone by 10pm, while the official end of the event was 11pm.



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Penang Expo on 22. September



Carmen, Birgitt, Linda and Petra had a busy morning at the G-Hotel Kelawai, promoting our Society's events and the German courses. This was the first time the Oktoberfest tickets were on sale this year, and quite a number of people took the chance to buy them. Visitors also got the chance to sign up as new members and find out more about the society.

Talk about Low-Carbs- Heigh-Fat Keto Diet and Intermittent Fasting

Ralf Touby held a very informative talk on 22. September in our premises. He explained how the diet of our modern life triggers obesity and a lot of diseases, like diabetes, fatty liver, etc. He explained what sugar does to our body and how he managed to sustainably loose a lot of weight after he was himself diagnosed as obese in December 2017.



Hallo liebe Bücherfreunde,

Wir bestellen demnächst wieder Bücher, Hörbücher und DVD's für die MGS Bücherei. Gerne folgen wir Eueren Anregungen: falls ihr einen Vorschlag oder einen Wunsch habt, dann schreibt doch bitte eine E-Mail an das MGS Office.

Die Bücherei ist montags bis freitags von 11 – 19 Uhr geöffnet, wenn Ihr uns persönlich treffen wollt: wir sind immer am Freitag von 9 bis 11Uhr für euch da.

Liebe Grüße,

Sandra und Cordi



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Benefits of your membership

- Free use of our extensive German library (not only books, but also audio books and DVDs)
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- Membership discount on tickets and fees for our events and activities

As a member, you may use the MGS premises for your own functions. Come here for your birthday parties and other celebrations. A small donation applies. Please contact the office for further information and booking.

The MGS expects a minimum donation for the usage of:

- Outside area and bar
- per day RM 150
- Outside area and bar, ground floor hall and kitchen - per day RM 250
- Hall 1st floor - per hour RM 50
- Classroom - per hour RM 50
- Classroom with use of SMART board
- per hour RM 75

For private use at home:

- Festzeltgarnituren (tables and benches) - per set RM 20
- Plates, bowls, cups, glasses, cutlery per 20 pcs. RM5

The used facilities and items have to be returned in the same condition as before the usage. If cleaning is required, RM 20 per hour will be charged. Any loss or damage to premises or items will be charged according to the lost/broken items list or according to the actual cost for repair or replacement.



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Thanks to the generosity of the visitors of our MaiBall 2018, the MGS was able to sponsor two girls at the **Ramakrishna Ashrama orphanage** again for the coming year.

16 year old **Jeevatharsni** and 17 year old **Thayaalaneey** are happy to receive our support for another year.

The Ramakrishna Ashrama orphanage on Scotland Road provides shelter, education, culture, religious and social platforms for orphans and under-privileged children of the Indian Community. The Ashrama houses a boys' and girls' dormitory, a Tamil primary school, a kindergarten, a hall, a temple and a field for sporting activities. For RM 1500 you can sponsor a child for a whole year.

Currently there are 42 children from 6 years onwards been taken care of in the orphanage, 25 boys and 17 girls. The orphanage admits orphaned children who have lost either one of their parents and children from broken families who are poor and need help. These children

are victims of circumstances and need all the help they can get, from society, and the Ashrama endeavours to do its best to help them.

If you would like more information about the Ramakrishna Ashrama or want to sign up for a sponsorship, check out www.theramakrishnaashramapenang.org or call 04-227 0869.



German Classes



Neu: Deutsch Konversationskurs

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What is the benefit of a conversational course?

Practice is the most important thing when learning a new skill. When learning a foreign language we tend to stop practicing after we've reached a certain goal. As with any other skill, our language proficiency will decrease if we do not use it regularly.

A conversational course is especially good for those who would like to practice their German language skills in a group and get a better understanding for the use of vocabulary.

MGS conversational courses:

Duration: **8 weeks,**

- Small group size
- Practice conversation and presentation skills
- No pressure

26 Oct – 14 Dec

Time: **Fridays, 7-9pm**

Fee: **RM 260**

Discounts: You will pay a **course fee of RM 200 only**, if

- You bring a friend
- You are enrolled to another MGS course already

Please contact our office for more information and registration:
office@mgs.org.my or 04-229 6853

New courses starting in October are going to be an A1 intensive course and our newly offered conversation course.

A1 Intensive

2 October – 14 December

Tuesdays – Fridays, 7 – 10pm

Conversation Course

26 October – 14 December

Fridays, 7 – 9pm

After that, the next start of German courses and new intake will be in January 2019.

The follow-up course for the above mentioned A1 intensive course (A2 intensive) will also start in January 2019.

Please contact our office for more information and registration.



A2.1 Saturday



Celebration after successfully completing that B1 class



Zur Unterstützung des Lehrers für den **Deutschklub** an der **Wesley Methodist School Penang (International)** suchen wir eine Assistenz, um zwei Mal wöchentlich einen spielerischen Unterricht zu halten.

Der Stunden werden vom jeweiligen Lehrer vorbereitet, und Ziel dieses Wahlfaches ist es, die Schüler spielerisch in Kontakt mit der deutschen Sprache und Kultur zu bringen.

Es werden keine Lehrbücher verwendet und auch keine Tests geschrieben.

Dienstags von 14:00-15:30 Uhr (13-15 Jährige)
Mittwochs von 14:00-15:00 Uhr (10-12 Jährige)

Erfahrung im Unterrichten von Kindern ist von Vorteil, aber nicht Voraussetzung.

Wer Interesse hat, wendet sich bitte an unseren Office Manager, Jascha, der genauere Informationen zum Ablauf und zur Bezahlung geben kann: **manager@mgs.org.my / 04-218 9435**





Playing Golf in Penang

ELS Club, Langkawi

If you are looking for an outdoor activity in Penang, playing golf can be a great option. Within a distance of 60 km, you have a choice of 8 courses with 18 holes for every level of players, from beginners to advanced. The landscapes of the golf courses are beautiful, they are well maintained and rich in variety. At Penang Golf Club at Bukit Jambul – the only one on Penang Island itself – you are also able to take classes on their practice/driving range.

Some of the clubs offer a temporary membership, but all of them offer to play even without a membership, just as a walk-in player. You do not need to have a 'handicap' or a licence. Buggy fees and green-fees vary in every one of the respective clubs.

A typical membership will cost below 15,000 RM and green fees are usually less than RM 150 per person on weekdays plus about RM 50 for a buggy. On the mainland, the most popular ones are Kristal, now known as Mountain View, Bukit Jawi, Kulim Golf and Country Resort and Penang Golf Resort.

For Golf equipment the MST chain of shops all around Malaysia or at Penang Udini Square can offer everything a golfer needs. It is recommended to get a discount card at their cashier and visit them during their special sales.

What is a handicap?

Wikipedia: A golf handicap is a numerical measure of a golfer's potential ability. In stroke play, it is used to calculate a net score from the number of strokes played during a competition, thus allowing players of different proficiency to play against each other on somewhat equal terms. In match play, the handicap difference between players is used to determine the number of strokes the high handicap player should receive from the low handicapper during the playing of their round. The higher the handicap of a player, the poorer the player is relative to those with lower handicaps. Official handicaps are administered by golf clubs with regional and national golf associations providing additional peer reviewing for low and very low handicaps respectively. Exact rules relating to handicaps can vary from country to country.



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Penang Golf Club

No 2, Penang, Jalan Bukit Jambul
11900 Bayan Lepas ☎ 04-644 2255
Golf teacher: Shaw Fatt 017-478 9448

On the mainland:

Penang Golf Resort

1687, Jalan Tun Hamdan Sheikh Tahir
13200 Kepala Batas ☎ 04-578 2022

Bukit Jawi Golf Resort

691 Main Road, Sungai Bakap
14200 Seberang Prai ☎ 04-582 0759

Mountain View Golf Resort

Lot 340, Mukim 3, Jalan Valdor
Sungai Bakap, 14200 Seberang Prai
☎ 04-583 3777

Kulim Golf & Country Resort

Persiaran Kulim Golf, Kulim Hi-Tech Park,
09000 Kulim ☎ 04-403 2828

Harvard Golf & Country Club

08100 Bedong, Kedah Darul Aman
☎ 04-450 0670

Cinta Sayang Golf & Country Club

Persiaran Cinta Sayang, 08000 Sungai
Petani ☎ 04-441 46 66

Permaipura Golf & Country Club

08100 Bedong, Kedah ☎ 04-459 4000

On Langkawi Island:

99 East Golf Club

Jalan Bukit Malut, Mukim Ulu Melaka,
07000 Langkawi ☎ 04-955 1153

Gunung Raya Golf Resort

07000 Langkawi ☎ 04-966 8148

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Information compiled by Petra Müller, Sadie Andraschek and Brice Chagrin de Saint Hilaire and gathered from Agssglinks.com.my. Picutres by Sadie Andraschek and Kurt Nöding.



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YOUR INTEGRATED MANUFACTURING PARTNER

Homework - We can win the battle!

by Evgenia Videnmaier-Zink



Are you experiencing fights with your kids over homework almost every day? Do you find you keep asking yourself questions like: “Is it my responsibility, or his? How many times should I say it? Am I getting too involved?” Are you fighting about the same things, over and over, and do you have the feeling nothing is changing? Every parent who has children at school has probably had some “homework battles”.

But how does homework become a battle?

There are several reasons that a struggle can begin, the most likely is that your child would rather be playing, texting with friends, or doing anything other than homework and, when the parents force them to do it, the children push back. The result is a vicious cycle, that starts with parents becoming angry and using force to get homework done, then children becoming more resistant (unconsciously). So what should we do?

Some practical tips:

There is no secret formula to answer this question but there are some approaches that could help in every family, depending on the age of the children, their maturity, their schedule and their environment.

- Start from an early age to talk about the importance of schoolwork. It is their job, while our job is to do errands, to cook, to go to work and do it properly, helping the children understand that going to school is a very normal part of our lives.
- Set a homework time with your child and keep this schedule. If this doesn't always work, then you can change it to suit yourself (within your rules). After homework time, they should always be allowed to do what they want, whether it is playing, or pursuing a hobby to relax. In cases when your child has less homework or no homework, you could set a reading time first. They could read book or magazine and then they could play. (Don't overdo it with reading time though, free time and playing outside is very important, too)
- I have had good results by setting an alarm clock. For example, put 20 minutes on your timer and say: "I'm

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09-11-2016

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sure you can do this homework in less than 20 minutes and, when the alarm clock rings, you can play!” or “How much time do you think you need for this, do you want to see if you can be ready in 20 minutes?” Try something like this in a fun way. You can make it into a game between you and your child, saying, “Let’s see who is ready first...”

- Some kids like to do their homework in their own room, some prefer to be near to us, doing homework on the kitchen table. When it’s homework time it should be quiet in your house. Take a book and read while they are doing homework or do something you have to do on your computer, noticing how nice it is that you are working together.
- Sometimes children have a lot of homework over weekends. Personally, I don’t think this is good, after five days of work they deserve some free time. Still, what to do if they do have homework? Talk with your child, does he/she prefer to do homework on Friday, so that the rest of the weekend can be free? Or do they prefer to take some time out for it over the weekend? Always try out what works better for you and your family, but be firm on what you agree.
- Make sure you are informed about your child’s homework. It is important to know what homework they have, but you must also be sure to check answers like : “we have no homework today,” or “the teacher said we don’t have to do it, it is optional,” or “my teacher never checks the homework anyway,” or “I finished it at school.” Yes, our children can have creative excuses about not doing homework.

It is not that they are not motivated, motivation is something we have been born with, but our children are motivated to do what they like doing. For that reason it is better to focus on their behaviour first and not on their motivation and, slowly, there should be an improvement in homework too. What you can do is take advantage of your child’s motivation, for example if they have something they’d like to earn. Depending on their age and their maturity, there is a big spectrum of children’s wishes, starting with having an ice cream or extra time for something they want to watch on tv, right up to their driving licence!

We have to remember that our children come home from school, where they work and play the whole day, tired and exhausted. So they need to feel free and less burdened at home. In school they have structure and consequences, and that is why it is important that we continue to give them structure at home, too. Parenting is mostly about creating constructive habits which make it possible for results to happen, but it takes time.

As always, it is easier to say than to do, and reading this doesn’t mean you will win the “battle” tomorrow. It could give you some ideas, though. Maybe by reading this, you can develop your own creative ideas to help yourself to “win the war” soon.

Evgenia Videnmaier-Zink was born in Athens and has studied communication science, social education and familial therapy in Italy and Germany. She has been a social education worker in kindergartens and secondary schools in Berlin and worked as a freelance family therapist.

Restaurants Tips

Jawi House

recommended by Petra Müller

Delicious Jawi Malay food in great ambiance in the historical centre of Georgetown. One of their signature dishes is lemuni rice, which is cooked with lemuni leaves and blue telang flowers.

*Jawi Peranakan are the offspring of Indian, Arab, Turkish and Persian migrants who married local Malay women. Jawi is a term used by Arabs to mean "Muslims of Southeast Asia", in particular Malays who used the Jawi Arabised script, since the 11th to the present century.

Jawi House
85 Armenian Street
10200 George Town
016-335 0295 or 04-261 3680
info@jawihouse.com

Open from Wednesday to Monday, 11am – 10pm



Bistro Tang

recommended by Helle Scriver



This bistro is a unique place right in the middle of busy little India - the perfect place to have lunch, or maybe just a cup of coffee. We highly recommend you try the Singaporean laksa, while enjoying the beautiful local vintage interior.

Bistro Tang
82-A Penang Street
10200 Georgetown
04-250 8383

Open daily: 11:30am – 10pm

Urban Daybreak

recommended by Eva Rothmeier



Are you a breakfast-lover or someone who likes to brunch for hours? Then Urban Daybreak located at Lebu Pantai is the place to be for you. This Australian-inspired cafe serves their delicious breakfast meals throughout the day and offers something for every taste. Do you like it hearty to start your day? Then try out "The really big breakfast" or "The Fried Chicken Waffle". The ones who love a healthy breakfast should definitely try the "Acai Bowle" or the "Avocado Smash" and the "Prospector Hot Cakes" will convince all who like it sweet in the morning. Complete your breakfast with one of their juices and a good coffee or tea and the day is your friend.



As space is limited it's better to make a reservation, especially at the weekend.

Urban Daybreak
338, Lebu Pantai
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Special restaurant tip from Dr. Joachim Dirks:

Eating in a Galaxy far, far away...



On the left: the Chef. On the right: a happy eater

Those of us who believe that Penang offers all sorts and tastes of food, I think have not yet been to a place like the **Kikubari** in KL. I am not a particular foodie. That's why I can say without hesitation: this was the best food I have ever eaten - sorry, Mum!

The Chef, Junie Wong, travelled the world and worked in a 3-star Michelin restaurant before starting this restaurant a year ago. Together with her team she is combining Japanese cuisine with international ingredients. It's hard to describe, easier to try it.

Since the newly opened Sofitel is just around the corner we stayed over at this Hotel. Christiane and I tried to eat as many dishes as possible and to take as many pictures as we could. They have a great selection of wines as well as Sake!

The atmosphere in the restaurant is very relaxed. It offers only about 30 seats and at the counter you are very close to all the action happening in the kitchen. The staff is very friendly and courteous. In my opinion, the Kikubari is worth a day trip!

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6 Jalan Damanlela, Damansara Heights
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Dress code: smart casual (no sandals, singlets or shorts for men)



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Wagyu beef tartare, grade 4



The best chicken I ever ate

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1. To supply Penangites with information about significant issues in order to promote public participation;
2. To encourage discussion about various aspects of Penang's fate and fortune;
3. To profile Penang personalities who have contributed, sometimes in unassuming but critical ways, to the reputation and wellbeing of the state;
4. To put the spotlight on ordinary Penangites who otherwise go unnoticed, but who nevertheless define the culture of the state in essential ways;
5. To highlight the importance of Penang as a generator of culture, education, industry and cosmopolitan values;
6. To emphasise present trends in the arts, industry, politics and economics which affect the immediate future of the state and country; and
7. To offer reliable socio-economic data for the benefit of decision makers in government and the private sector.

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Living in George Town: Even Deep Roots Eventually Move

by Julia Tan



30, Stewart Lane is home to (at least) three generations

There may be an abundance of media reports on evictions and “Disney-pocalypse” in George Town, but the reality is actually much less dramatic.

30, Stewart Lane. The house has been in the family since 1954, or thereabouts. It was built much earlier of course – Stewart Lane being part of an old quarter – and was purchased by my great-grandfather to house his multiplying progeny a year after my father was born. (He was born on Leith Street, at the school quarters; my great-grandfather was a teacher at the nearby St. Xavier’s Institution.)

Today, my Second Granduncle still lives there with his children and grandchildren – all eight of them under one roof. The house has become synonymous with family gatherings, Christmas and Chinese New Year. (My

Second Grandaunt, always wearing a kebaya, is a fabulous cook. When I went to chat with my uncle Nico Tan Seang Bee for this story, she was frying assam prawns for lunch. The piquant scent of cooking tamarind reminded me dearly of my own grandmother’s kitchen.)

For Seang Bee, living in George Town has many plus points: “The church is just here, as is the school, the market... Moving around is easy on foot or by bike – not so much for cars because of the limited parking space.”

It wasn’t so quiet back then, but for a long period, it was. Seang Bee misses his old neighbours. “When we were small, we played with the other kids in



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our neighbourhood – kalitoi, marbles, picture cards... When it flooded, us kids would jump into the floodwaters for a swim.



(Left to right) Three generations. Cecilia Kok Sweon Kee, Nico Tan Seang Bee and Cayden Tan Yu Xin

"Given a choice, if I had millions to spare, I would redo this house and stay here. I would. But to earn that kind of money is not so easy, and between renovating this house and moving to a new place, hasslefree, I pick the latter."

"In the evenings, folks would come out of their houses to *phah-khoh* (chat). Your great-grandmother," he says, pointing to a photo on the wall, "would sit at the *goh kaki* (five-foot way), when the sun wasn't so hot. The neighbour opposite used to sell koay teow th'ng just outside their house, and we frequented their stall quite a bit. We used to call her *koay teow soh* (koay teow auntie)," Seang

Bee recalls.

There's no stopping nostalgia when it comes: "We were among the more financially comfortable families living here back then, and we had the only black-and-white TV on this street. Every time we switched it on to watch one of those Chinese series, our neighbours would come and watch too; those we didn't know so well would stand outside and peer in through the windows. I remember those *Siu Fong Fong* shows – whenever it came to an emotional scene, the lights would be switched off. The moment the lights came back on, you would see red, puffy eyes all round," Seang Bee says with a laugh.

Now, there are only a few residential houses left along Stewart Lane; a lot of the units have been converted into hotels, motels, cafes. "I think there are only four houses here that still belong to and are inhabited by the owners; the rest are commercial or rented,"



Seang Bee muses



(Left to right) My great-great-grandparents, Por Bong Chee and Tan Teow Lim

Stewart Lane today is synonymous with tourists and backpackers looking for a watering hole. I ask Seang Bee if he finds this annoying, but it doesn't seem to bother him. "At midnight, when the nearby pubs close, some tourists can get very rowdy, but only for the few minutes that they pass by. It usually doesn't get too busy here, even during the day. The tourists will come, snap a few photos of the murals and leave – unlike Armenian Street, which has many shops and stalls selling trinkets and souvenirs."

Seven Terraces is along the same row. Seang Bee remembers a time when they made and sold bright pink *miku*, or festive buns, there – among other traditional trades.

Houses along the row go for millions today. At 1,900 sq ft or so, we're looking at figures above RM2mil. Two years ago, Seang Bee had actually found a buyer for the house on Stewart Lane, but because of an old council plan – presumably predating the 2008 Unesco World Heritage Site listing – to widen the road, the transaction fell through. "We managed to convince our father to sell the house, and we had actually bought a duplex near the university – it's ready and we can move in anytime," he says.

I ask him why he wants to move out of the Stewart Lane house, and Seang Bee replies that it was only a matter of time – even his neighbours are looking to sell as well. "I just want to have the family together – sell the house, distribute the money and still have a roof over our heads.

"For me, I would also like to move for the sake of convenience," he says, stressing that this is his own sentiment. "There have been a few more interested parties, but we're still waiting for the right deal. We actually had an Australian come and look at the house, but it was too small for him and he bought a unit at Argus Lane, just behind us. It's a bigger unit and he even built a pool behind the house!"

Having lived in George Town most of his life, he and his family have found ways of adapting modern lifestyles to an old (if somewhat rigid) setting. Parking space is the most obvious issue, and Seang Bee's family circumvent this by parking at the back alley behind the house. "It's true that parking space is limited, but because we stay here and our neighbours pretty much don't have cars, we take up the back lane."



The family's hall of fame

It can become a problem when relatives visit though – and we are many. The surroundings have indeed become commercialised; it wasn't residential anymore. But even before that – before the Unesco listing – things had already been quiet. Taking the example of Seven Terraces, Seang Bee says that the row of houses was in a dilapidated state, with barely anyone living there when the new owners took over for a bargain. "It was an eyesore," he admits. "It's a good thing that they refurbished everything." He continues: "Actually, much good has come out of the Unesco listing. Investors see the opportunity and come and refurbish our buildings – many of them neglected – and convert them into something nice. If you think of the Seven Streets Precinct, a lot of the houses were in ruins – real eyesores. Now, they have been refurbished and converted. Vacant, dilapidated houses are given new life. It's a good thing – to me anyway.

"Although a lot of the buildings have been taken over by foreigners, at the same time, you need to have a lot of money to refurbish these houses. Can the locals afford it? Would they want to do it – to even do something as simple as paint the houses?"

"Given a choice, if I had millions to spare, I would redo this house and stay here. I would. But to earn that kind of money is not so easy, and between renovating this house and moving to a new place, hassle-free, I pick the latter," Seang Bee admits.

I tell him that if and when they do make the move, I am going to miss the family gatherings at the house, where hot food is always available. He confesses



Original floor tiles and one enthusiastic boy

that Second Grand aunt is getting older and can no longer spend much time in the kitchen to cook anymore. (Festive seasons dictate cooking from sunup till midnight.)

"We have to move on. I believe in staying in a modern house, in staying in a better place," Seang Bee says. He continues after a heavy pause: "Of course there will be memories of this house, but all good things have to come to an end. You just have to try and remember. And take more photos."

Julia "Bubba" Tan is deputy editor of Penang Monthly and head of the Publication and Publicity Unit at Penang Institute. She is still working on her zombie apocalypse novel.



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Beginners Guide to Running – Quick tips

by *Conor McManus*

Running is a great way to get back in shape. However it can be daunting if you are starting out for the first time. Here are some tips to help you get started:

1. Medical Checkup

Before you take up any exercise it is advisable to have a full medical checkup. This is to rule out any potential health risks.

2. Goal

You need a target to aim for so sign up for a race to keep you motivated. For your first race it's best to aim for a short one like a 3 or 5km. Why? Because this is realistic and achievable goal and you can move to longer distances later when you have raised your fitness levels and built up your confidence

3. Shoes and clothing

You don't need to spend a lot of money on running gear. Start by buying a pair of shoes that fit your feet and gait to prevent injury. It is recommended that you get your shoes from a shop or supplier who has good knowledge on running so

that they can provide you shoes that fit your specific feet. Don't just buy shoes because they look good or are expensive. For clothing there are lots of options on the market. For warm weather like Malaysia your aim will be to keep as cool as possible so no need to go overboard with layering or full body compression gear. Keep it simple: quick drying shorts and singlets are best. Same for socks: comfortable well fitting sport socks will do.



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4. Join a group

Runners are generally friendly, sociable and supportive people. When you join a group, you will get to meet like-minded runners or beginners with the same fitness level who you can train with. This is also safer and more motivation as you can keep each other going.

5. Cross Train

It is best if you also build up your general fitness as part of your new fitness program. This can help prevent injury and improve performance. Examples of cross trainings are calisthenics, strength circuits, suspension training, body pump etc.

6. Get professional coaching

A competent coach will listen to your problems, answer your questions and help develop your running form. They can also give you advice on nutrition, lifestyle and fitness programs, that are suitable for your needs.

7. Start slowly

Start by walking for a period of time, say for 10 to 30 minutes. Once you can walk comfortably for 30 minutes, start to add some short running intervals of 2 minutes. As your fitness levels progress, lengthen your running intervals until you can run for 30 minutes. Walk or jog 3 times per week. As your fitness builds, you can raise this to 4-5 times per week. Aim to be consistent for best results

8. Good Nutrition

If you are doing more exercise, your body will also need nourishing. So try to nourish your body well by cutting out the processed foods from your diet in order to maintain a healthy regime. For example, replace sugary drinks with water, eat more fresh fruit and vegetables, brown rice, whole meal carbohydrates, nuts and lean proteins.

9. Sleep

Sleep is important! Your body needs recovery, so aim for 7- 8 hours of sleep each night.

Wishing you all the best in your running journey! Once you start you won't look back.

Commit Focus Believe & Achieve!



Conor Mc Manus is a Health & Fitness Coach and co-founder of Warrior Fitness & Adventure. He can be contacted at conor@warriorfitnessadventure.com or +6 012 459 4728





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Everyone finds a simple bowl of yoghurt with granola topping delicious, but sadly granola often contains a lot of sugar and unhealthy fats. Luckily, making your own sugar-free granola is no rocket science.

In this Newsletter we have two granola recipes for you: the first, in which the sweetness comes only from applesauce, was offered at the German Breakfast, while the second shows how to make a low carb version with coconut palm sugar.

Crunchy Granola with Applesauce

- 2 cups rolled oats
- 1/2 cup almonds, chopped roughly
- 1/2 cup hazelnuts, chopped roughly
- 1/2 cup sunflower seeds
- 1/2 cup pumpkin seeds
- 1/2 cup flaked coconut
- 1 cup (homemade) applesauce
- 3 tsp cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp vanilla extract

Preheat the oven to 170° C (top and bottom heat).

Mix all the ingredients in a big bowl. Use your hands to mix it well.

Spread the granola on a baking sheet covered with baking paper and bake for 40 minutes, stir halfway.

Let the granola cool completely and store it in an airtight container.



Nuts Granola - Low Carb

- 2 cups mixed nuts, chopped roughly
- 1/4 cup flax seeds
- 1/4 cup sunflower or pumpkin seeds
- 1 cup coconut flakes
- 1 tsp vanilla power
- 1-2 tsp ground cinnamon
- 4 tsp coconut palm sugar

Preheat the oven to 100° C.

Mix all the ingredients, spread them on a baking sheet covered with baking paper, and bake for about 1 - 1.5 hours, stir halfway.

Guten Appetit!

Northern Australia

by Dr Joachim Dirks

When we discussed where to go for our yearly vacation trip, two destinations came to our mind: Africa and Australia. They both start with the same letter but that's about it what these continents have in common. We decided to go to Australia, mainly due to practical reasons. Only a small time zone difference, many, almost direct available flights, good infrastructure.

Compared to Africa, however, wildlife in Australia has less variety. We started in Darwin, the center of the northern part of the Northern Territory. From there we drove into Kakadu National Park, a huge area full of spectacular views. The further we drove into the park, the less people and cars we saw.



Instead, we got to spot rare birds, like the black neck stork or the Spoonbill, which is really rare and on the IUCN red list of endangered species.



We spotted many crocodiles...



...as well as Kakadu.



A baob tree at the entrance of the BULLO River station.



Sometimes, a dingo followed us.



We witnessed a spectacular sun set at the Broome sunset beach.



We had the honour to stay a few days at the BULLO River station, which many people know by the famous book of Sarah Henderson "From Strength to Strength".



One of the many beautiful gorgeous on our way.



The famous Kookaburra.



In the middle of Kakadu national park.





WEATHER

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Max. 31°C

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SUNRISE 5:53am

SUNSET 5:05pm



On their recent journey, **Christiane and Joachim** explored the more remote northern part of Australia and were overwhelmed by its wildlife and beauty.



A Kormoran drying his wings in the sun.

Rajasthan part 2

by Jim Herrler

...on the road

I had tried very hard to book a flight from Jaisalmer to Jaipur. There is an airport, a former military one, and I have seen pictures of the finished terminal. However, despite lots of comments about 'opening soon' dating from 2012, it still isn't. So, we faced our longest drive of the trip. Long enough we had to break it into two with a stop in Nimaaz and it would still be an 8-hour trek just to get there. Although it didn't take long to leave the desert, the villages along the way had that same forlorn look; families living on the side of the road, cows and goats and dogs. I had been keeping a road kill count and got to three dead cows, five dead dogs, a goat and a lamb. Then, we saw our first dead guy and it wasn't funny anymore. We think he was punted off his scooter by one of the big trucks and lay in a crumpled heap on the roadside surrounded by about 20 people. He was the first but wouldn't be the last.



Field breakfast

We hit Nimaaz at dusk and promptly got lost. With instructions via mobile phone we finally made it to our hotel (The Lakshman Sagar) an hour later in the dark. Tonight, we were splitting up as the 5-star tented hotel only had one room for Hubert and Nicole. We were a bit nervous about that but we were in for a pleasant surprise. This small property with 8 bungalows is a former hunting lodge. The trek to your room up and down rocky trails by flashlight is daunting but the charming stone

and mud hut we found was very cool with a large bedroom, living room with fireplace, a nice big terrace with plunge pool overlooking a small lake and Australian Shiraz in the fridge. We were invited to have cocktails at a large fire pit in front of the main building where we met an American who was doing a bit of a tour following his brothers wedding in Delhi. Dinner was lovely and sleep came quickly in the total silence except for a roaring fire they started for us.



Farmer's kids

Good thing we slept as we were up for the nature walk at 7:30. Equipped with hand-whittled walking sticks we walked the cliffs around the lake following a herd of antelope that were just below us. Then, we descended the hill and walked through a field to have our 'Field Breakfast'. The lodge arranges for a local farmers wife and daughters to cook a traditional breakfast outside that's served on a white tablecloth with white cloth covered couches. No idea all of what we ate but there was fresh buttermilk that Ellen churned (a bit), various breads with yoghurt and ghee. It was really different, very good and the farmer's kids were charming providing me with the best picture of the entire trip. Great place. Not 5-star but so glad we got to see it and experience a little bit of real life.

Another six hours to Jaipur

On the road again. This time another six hours to Jaipur with a stop in Pushkar. A little town famous for its camel fair and auction that brings 50,000 camels to dress up and sell in November. Pretty good turnout given there are only 14,000

people living in Pushkar. The town also has one of the few Brahmin temples (locals say it is the only one but there are four more in India). Legend has it, Lord Brahma shed a tear on the death of his wife and one of the tears created a pond. That rather large pond now has 52 'ghats', bathing places for the worshippers who arrive at the rate of 6,000 a day. We go to the temple and I take a pass as it requires removing shoes for the 10th time and a half block walk through the cow crap filled street to the temple. By the look on the faces of my compatriots when they returned, I made a good call. Nicole threw her socks out of the window of the van.

So much for Pushkar. We speed along to Jaipur. The capital of Rajasthan this city feels different. Perhaps because it was the first planned city in India, divided into seven sectors separated by broad boulevards 34 meters wide. We arrive at the Oberoi Rajvillas, a 32 acre property complete with its own restored 280 year old temple and a Rajasthani mansion that now serves as its spa. The drive from Pushkar was less than 5 hours and we settle into our tented villa, dinner and an early night.

Amber Fort

The next morning we head out to The Amber Fort, the most spectacular we've seen so far; especially with the added attraction of an elephant ride to the top. They use 100 female elephants for the steep uphill trek and you sit sideways having stepped into the 'howdah' from an elevated platform. We are told to pay the 'mahout' (the person who steers the elephant) a 50 rupees tip. I give him 100 and he complains. He wants 200 or he won't let us off. For some reason I feel I'm being gouged for the extra \$1.50 and I refuse. It takes the cops to move him along for our exit.

Travel | Rajasthan part 2

The fort, built in 1592 is fabulous. The Hall of Mirrors has inlaid pieces of mirrored glass by the thousands. It is said; the light of one candle reflecting from all the glass can light the huge room. The museum is excellent and while everyone is in the bookshop I pet a cobra outside. Yes, one of India's million remaining snake charmers has set up shop on the exit ramp. While their craft was banned in 1972 due to cruelty to the cobras, these remaining ones formed a union and continue today although largely as snake removal specialists. This particular snake has had its venom glands removed that shows by the indentations behind the eyes, some have their mouths sewn shut or their fangs plugged with wax or broken off. Still, it is quite a rush to see it rising from the basket and spreading its hood.



Cobra at Amber Fort



Amber Fort

We are liking Jaipur. It is known as the 'Pink City' as the buildings were all tinted rose pink after an experiment with different colors to cut down the sun's glare for a visit by the Prince of Wales in 1876. Next up we head for the 'Palace of the Winds', an extraordinary 5 story façade built in 1799 with 953 lattice covered windows to allow the royal ladies to view the street unseen. But, it is a façade with only small rooms and access corridors behind it. The lattice is designed in such a way as to create a 'venturi' effect cooling the small interiors. Traffic in this area is horrible and getting out for a closer look is impossible on this day. We missed the small museum inside.

Jaipur is known for its shopping

Nicole remembers a place from a previous visit and we wind up seeing everything Jaipur has to offer under one roof. First we are shown block printing; hand made blocks, five or more in succession, dipped in different colored dyes and applied perfectly to cloth in layers. Then, a woman weaving carpet on a loom followed by a man torching the back of a carpet with a gas flame



Oberoi Agra

to remove all the bits. We are taken upstairs and shown fabulous carpets; some that take a year to make. One was a gorgeous 8 by 12 blue grey and he was asking \$3,000 USD. Unsure of our sizing needs we pass and it was a mistake. In the courtyard dozens of workers are assembling, staining, distressing furniture while others are hand carving elephants the size of a small car. The hand block printing guy calls me over on the way out and gave me the little elephant he created for us. A place where you could spend hours. We did.

We had a final dinner with Hubert and Nicole in the Oberoi's Indian restaurant as they were heading off to see tigers in Ranthambore and we were going on to Agra. The restaurant staff took us into the open kitchen where we were shown how to make their wonderful 'Naan'

bread by slapping it on the walls of a Tandoori oven. In the morning we saw our friends off and Ellen went to meet her sandalwood bead supplier in town. Getting to his factory was an adventure in its own right but successful in the end. The government tightly controls endangered sandalwood releasing from its own warehouse stock annually. Big business. Most go into the large and elaborate carvings, the scraps made into beads. This one guy buys 60 tons of it a year.

On to Agra and the Taj Mahal

Jaipur to Agra is one of our shorter trips and Ellen and I are alone with Mr. Singh now as Hubert and Nicole have another car. We are staying at another Oberoi, the Amarvillas, which is directly in front and 600 meters from the Taj we are told. It's not. It would be more like 1,200 meters, if you could even see it through

Travel | Rajasthan part 2

the smoke and fog. While the grounds here look lovely this is not the most impressive of the Oberois we have stayed at. It feels older and more than a bit tired. Our guide advises us that the fog and smoke could burn off the next day by around noon and to see Agra Fort and the Baby Taj first. Turned out to be good advice as in the morning we couldn't see 100 feet. It is winter in Rajasthan and, in the morning, people light hundreds of small fires on the street for warmth and cooking. Mixed with the fog it hangs like a blanket over the city.

Agra Fort is enormous. Its 70-foot tall red sandstone walls date from Akbar's rule in 1558 but there was a fort on this spot since the 11th century. Shaped like a bow or a crescent, it once had 500 buildings within its walls but most were destroyed by Shah Jahan, Akbar's grandson, for his more preferred

white marble. Now, only 30 red stone buildings remain. This place has an amazing history but it will always be best known as the prison where Shah Jahan's son kept him for the last 8 years of his life. Everyday he could stare at the Taj Mahal downriver where his beloved wife Mumtaz was entombed before joining her in 1666 when he died at age 74.

Finally we arrive at the Taj Mahal. Built by Shah Jahan in 1632 as a memorial for his wife Mumtaz who had died giving birth to their 14th child.

The Taj was built from white marble dragged by elephants from quarries 400 KM's away. It took 20,000 workers 12 years to build and created much discontent as Shah Jahan diverted food from locals to his craftsmen. It is nothing less than spectacular but it is when you





get up close that you are completely overwhelmed. Time to speak of 'Pietra Dura'. At the Taj and other palaces it is the art of carving out intricate patterns in marble and filling them perfectly with inlays of precious and semi precious stones. The entire face of the Taj is covered in it. It appears seamless with no rough edges or grout showing. Practiced in Italy from the early 17th century and dating back to Roman times it was adapted by Indian artisans and is still a major industry in Agra today.

The Taj is without question one of the most beautiful structures in the world, full of mystery and rife with optical illusions created by its Persian architect. The four minarets lean slightly outward in order that views from a distance keep them perfectly straight. It also ensures that in an earthquake the minarets would fall outward v/s on to the Taj itself. Then, there is the enduring love story of Shaw Jahan and Mumtaz who met at ages 14 and 15, lived a fantastic life that ended sadly until they were joined again and remain forever in the crypt below the Taj floor.

And then, we are done.

The 200 KM's back to Delhi are on a new superhighway, almost empty due to the heavy tolls. Now the trip takes less than three hours versus the 7 hours on the old road. Just as our driver is telling us this we come upon a horrific accident, a shock as we have seen almost no cars or trucks. It seems a few hours ago 7 big trucks and 3 cars barreled into a wall of fog leaving a field of carnage; dumped loads, crushed cars and smashed trucks. From the look of it, many fatalities and for the next few miles we saw flattened cars being dragged to the next exit by tractors. Road kill count went way up we think.

And that is India, more particularly Rajasthan. Shocking poverty, endless piles of garbage, filthy streets, thousands of wandering cows and crumbling infrastructure all covered in the grime of life. Then, there are the gorgeous Oberois, the unforgettable Umaid Palace, the incredible forts and, finally, the sheer beauty and elegance of the Taj Mahal. And, in the end, Hubert and Nicole saw their tiger. Just one but the biggest and oldest in the park walking slowly right beside their open truck. Damn, sorry we missed that. Rajasthan. You won't like all of it but you have to see it. It is spectacular.

Jim and Ellen both had long careers as marketers in Canada. They moved to Singapore 12 years ago, then lived and worked in Shanghai, later moved back to Singapore with their own company and now live in Penang.



Ralf's Ramblings

Back in the days when the most exciting computer game consisted of a white dot bouncing between 2 white bars, the term WYSIWYG was coined. (WIZ-ee-wig) is an acronym for **"what you see is what you get"**. In computing, a WYSIWYG editor was a system in which text and graphics could be edited into a form closely resembling its appearance when printed or displayed.

How nerdy computing was in those days! I mean who would come up with an abbreviation such as WYSIWIG other than a guy like the one in this picture (and NO, this is NOT me!!)

Since then, we have come a long way and take it for granted that we will 'see what we get' when creating documents on a computer.

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When dealing with attractive subjects of the opposite sex, however, WYSIWYG often does not apply. Take the wonder bra, for example. When the promise of 'wonder' is met with 'reality', you quickly discover that 'what you see is definitely NOT what you get'! The only wonder is the realisation that, suddenly, your hands appear to have become much bigger. Tip: google 'boob trick' for some shocking revelations – or inspirations.



WYSIWYG

in the end! By then, men are usually in a confused state of mind and will cherish you the way god intended you to be. So all is good!



And to be fair, WYSIWYG tricks are being played by men, too. There is nothing more embarrassing than wearing a nice, manly 'Lederhosen' outfit to the Oktoberfest, while having 'chicken legs'.

A Bavarian nature-boy has to have masculine calves! So there is quite an interest in both calf implants as well as padding for socks, to boost the appearance of the calves. But then again, it's not the size of a man's calves that really matters... is it?

Cheers,
Yvonne's Husband



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BEING AHEAD



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