

MV Monthly

The latest news from our volunteers and the museum

Nr 4 - February 2014

Latest stats

November was a bit quiet: only 84 people joined our tours. It's always a quiet month though - in the four years we have been keeping stats, only in november 2010 we had more visitors. Next month: the totals for 2013!

Mentor System starts this month

Starting this month, trainees of the latest batch will be coupled with a mentor: an experienced guide, who'll help them gain confidence before guiding on their own. Trainees will follow their mentors on tours and ideally will do part of it to get more experience. The program should take about three months or as long as it takes the mentor to take the trainee around for three tours.

Oops... We need to be able to count on you!

Sorry, we're going to have to put a stern face for a minute. The thing is: it happens a little too often that MV's put their names down for something they end up not doing - be it guide duty, a Focus-trip or a language course. Please think before you put your name down: we might be volunteers, but that doesn't mean that we can ignore commitments. Of course we understand sometimes things come up, but then please let us know in time. More on that on page 2.

Book Club: 11 Feb

The Book Club is reading *And The Mountains Echoed* by Khaled Housseini this month. Want to join the discussion? Please email Angela at naylorangela@gmail.com



Pot Luck Lunch 2014





Cell groups to prevent no-shows

Nobody is perfect and Museum Volunteers are of course no exception. Sometimes we offer to guide on a certain date, only to find out later that that date is very inconvenient. Finding someone to fill in for you is not always easy - although we are lucky to have more guides than ever, that big number also means that people often feel less responsible: 'someone else will solve it'. Well, all too often nobody does.

To keep the lines short, Ashok will start forming so called 'Cell Groupings'. A group of four people will be the first responsible to find a replacement amongst each other when one of them is unable to do their guide- or frontdesk duties.

Ashok will be the one contacting you to put you in a group with people you know and are reasonably close with, so contacting each other will be as easy as possible. This way we hope to keep the still regularly occurring 'no shows' to an absolute minimum.

More info? Please contact Ashok at ashok_sheth@hotmail.com

MALACCA (AND WHY BEING AN MV IS FUN)

"It's 7 sharp, and we all meet in front of the Muzium Negara. I try to be discrete, but everyone comes to smile to me and I quickly discover the great team of the future guides.

We smoothly arrive in Malacca and jump on the boat to the Malacca river where we discover the magnificent frescoes showing the history of the town painted on the walls of the houses. Visiting Malacca is always a real pleasure because the atmosphere here is timeless, peaceful and harmonious, but having studied the whole history brings a different view that every one seems to enjoy.

Malacca is timeless

The weather is great and even hot, but everyone is getting sure that I have enough shade, water, and breeze. I have never seen Mum with so many assistants! Even the big lizards came out of the river to say 'selamat pagi' to us!

We jump out of the boat and meet our lovely guide. He is a Baba Nonya which is the perfect mix between Chinese and Malay culture. We listen to his fascinating stories in the shade of the Malacca trees, the same trees who gave the town its name. A town named after a tree can only be a lovely place.

Behind us a car park project is stopped because some vestiges of the fortress appeared during the building project. I like to see that the cars do not have 100% power in Malaysia!

Heart close to the stomach

We walk to the beautiful Christ Church built in 1753, but on the way we can't resist the temptation and sit down to sip a té tarik and share a cendol. It's important to have a head filled with knowledge, but Malaysians have the heart very close to the stomach and all occasions are good, anytime to enjoy life with food and it's why the country is so attaching.

We now go to the Raja House and the famous Puerta de Santiago.

This gate has been built in 1511 by the Portuguese. I noticed that everyone in the group observes it very closely, they all seem to know a lot about it... I am pretty sure none of them are old enough (not even Mum) to see it during its construction, so I wonder how they know so much about it. Maybe, they have been told a lot about it in class...

Saint Francois and the crazy crab

The most athletic part of the group climb the stairs of bukit Saint Paul. I am only 8 years, but I feel I can do it, let's go, jom! The effort is worth it! The view is beautiful up there and the breeze is so refreshing that I enjoy listening to the crazy Crab story our funny guide told us.

You don't know it ?

Here it is : Once upon a time, Saint François Xavier was sailing on a boat from Indonesia. A big storm was on and the religious man prayed to the Celestial forces to calm down the winds. His crucifix fell in the rough water. When the priest arrived alive on the shore, he saw a crab with his crucifix in its claws. Saint François Xavier blessed the shellfish and since then, in the Malacca Straits you can find crabs with a cross on their shell!

We finally visit the Hang Tuah village where the future guides tried to do silat, that was scary.

We all got back to Kuala Lumpur and I now understand why Mum has such pleasure to meet her classmates on Tuesday mornings."

Nino Besançon,

the youngest volunteer trainee of museum Negara.