



Singapore Study Abroad Wintermester 2023 - 2024

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CVEN 423 - Geomatics
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First day in Singapore. Checked out the airport, supposed to be one of the best I think. Went over to the Jewel (a waterfall). It wasn't turned on. Darn. Got to know the people in the program while roaming around the airport. Went back to the Jewel. It's on. Yessir. Was absolutely beautiful. Spent the rest of the day visiting places and fighting to stay awake with my classmates. Had to beat the jetlag. Success.



Singapore

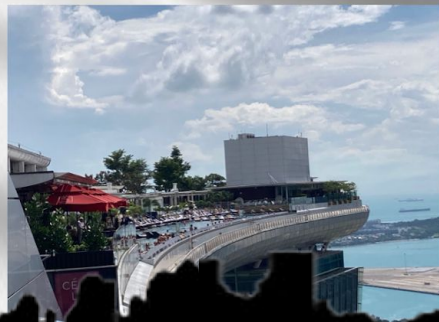
December 28th: The Jewel



Formed a group with the people I met. Success. **(1)** Went over to see the Merlion. Gorgeous. Saw a fancy building across the water, turned out to be Marina Bay Sands. Went to the top. Was very cool. The view was awesome. I could almost see my house (in the U.S.) from there. **(2)** Also saw some grass right below (Gardens by the Bay). Went down to get a closer look.



December 29th Pt.1: Marina Bay Sands



Went to the Gardens by the Bay. Very cool. **(1)** David and I saw a tiger. **(2)** Also found a stranger and we flexed. Cool dude. **(3)** Justin and I then saw some dinosaurs. They were friendly. Let us ride on their back. Awesome. Couldn't stick around though cause we had to go to The Three Peacocks (restaurant) for a fancy dinner. Had to cook it yourself. I'm a terrible cook. **(4)** It's ok though cause Justin showed me how to use chopsticks. Yessir.



December 29th Pt.2: Three Peacocks



Took the fancy Cable Cars over to Sentosa. **(1)** Found a sick view at the top. Went down to the bottom to the beach areas. They had Bungee Jumping. Yessir. It was raining though and expensive. **(2)** That's cool, my man David and I did the swing instead. Hung around for a bit but then headed over to Clark's Queue. Very cool. A lot of people, good music. **(3)** You already know my boy Jackson and I had to get on that slingshot. Was very cool. A highlight of the trip for sure.



December 30th: Sentosa



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Group and I explored malls around. Did some tourist stuff. **(1)** Got myself a nice souvenir. **(2)** Also met a great person at an Art Gala that knew what she was talking about when it came to Art. **(3)** Took a picture with Olaf. He's way bigger in real life than in the movie. **(4)** Headed off to celebrate New Year's by watching some fireworks at Marina Bay Sands. Gorgeous.



December 31st: New Year's Eve



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Singapore

January 1st

Had to recover from New Year's. (1) Took a bus ride and stopped when we got hungry. Bus ride was short.

January 2nd

Went over to Botanic Gardens. Very pretty plants.

January 3rd

Love museums. This one was very cool. Saw astronaut exhibits about Mars. Love space. (2) Took some awesome pics outside.



January 1st - 3rd: Arts: & Science Museum



Time to cook. I'm a terrible cook. It's OK though cause here they teach you. And they did. Was very cool. They taught me how to add something to food that my homemade meals were missing. Flavor. They were right. Made some delicious food. Probably the best I have ever made. Even provided the recipe once the class was over. Yessir.



Singapore

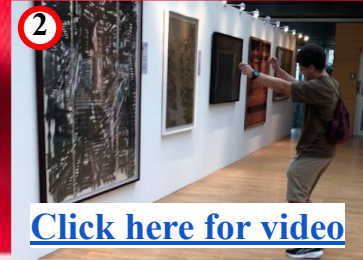
Visited another museum. This one was more art based. Showed the progression of art in Singapore throughout history. Had a good view on top of the building. **(1)** Also had a cool optical illusion of a chair. **(2)** My man David loved the art so much he paid tribute with some dance moves. Very nice. **(3)** Liked this painting cause it had elephants. Love elephants.



January 5th Pt.1: National Gallery



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Day's not over though. Went to East Coast Beach. **(1)** Rented the coolest bicycle I've ever seen. Said we'd ride around in it until our spirits broke (around 40 min). **(2)** Got some awesome pics of my man Jackson. Left to get ready for Karaoke night. Yessir. Sang until voice gave out. **(3)** Left around 2am but quickly came back cause we forgot something. Justin. He was fine though.



January 5th Pt.2: East Coast Beach



Singapore

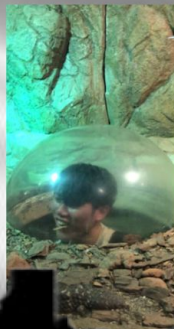
Went back to Gardens by the Bay with more time to look around. Went up the Supertree. Was very super. Headed over to the flower dome and cloud forest. Cloud forest was very cool. Avatar themed from the movie *Avatar*. Very cool. **(1)** Took some pictures with the flying lizard thing and hammerhead. Then went over again to Sentosa to go down the Luge. **(2)** Almost crashed. Was very cool.



Love the zoo. Love animals.
(1) Saw a kangaroo. Was 15 ft away from us. Nothing in between. He could've knocked us out. He didn't though. He was just chilling.
(2) First time I've seen a white tiger. Didn't know they came in that color. **(3)** Saw some more elephants. Yessir.
(4) Also saw this poor lion trip. Felt bad but it was funny.
(5) Mumba the sea lion gave us a great show. **(6)** Checked out the night safari and show.
(7) Albino racoon. Didn't know they came in that color.

Singapore Zoo

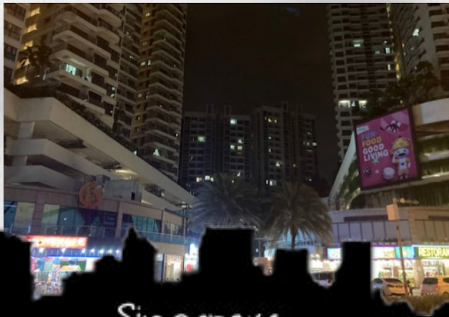
January 7th: Singapore Zoo



Singapore

Group and I took a day trip to Malaysia. Rented out a fancy resort which was really cheap for what we were given. Felt like a spa day. Went in the pool. Checked out the local area. Very nice, relaxing day.

January 8th: Malaysia



Singapore

Had the Halliburton meeting today. They have a huge office, very fancy. **(1)** Thanked our bus driver cause he booked it. Next was the Singapore Flyer. **(2)** Experienced the time-capsule area beforehand. Got to learn about the history of the Flyer. **(3)** My man David did the worm. Very fancy. **(4)** Managed to take a timelapse of the ride. Very cool. **(5)** Also got to see our professor get off just as we got on. Nice guy.



January 9th: Singapore Flyer



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Singapore

January 10th

Visited the National Museum that goes in depth about the history of Singapore. It was really cool. **(1)** Got to see an actual tank. Didn't get to ride it though. Got to learn about what happened to Singapore during World War II.

January 11th

Visited the University in Singapore. Met the dean. Nice guy. **(2)** Went out later and ran into other people from Texas. They went to UT though.



January 10th - 11th: National Museum



Had a fancy lunch at the Ritz-Carlton. Very good food.

(1) Said our first goodbye to my man Brendan. Was an honor. Got to have a fancy dinner at Asia Square. **(2)** Even more good food. **(3)** Said goodbye to my man Giannis, thank you for putting up with me. Trip was coming to a close and we celebrated with some good food, good people, good times.



January 12th: Farewell Dinner



Singapore

Trip wasn't over yet though. Remaining group went out one last time. **(1)** Took some awesome pics at Marina Bay Sands. Then headed over to Marques. Good place, great DJ. **(2)** Final group picture for the trip. **(3)** Also took a pic with this guy, the cashier of the 7-eleven next to our hotel. Nice guy. Next day, only me and Jackson left. **(4)** Found a transformer. **(5)** Had a massage. Bought some souvenirs. **(6)** Went home.



January 13th: Last Call



Singapore

Final Thoughts

Before

To be honest, I was on the fence about doing this trip. I thought maybe there are other stuff I could spend my money on. What got me to jump on though is that I got into the mindset that years from now I would not think about how much I spent on the program but would rather remember the experience and what I got out of it. Besides, I did not think I would go out of my way to visit Singapore on my own so I saw this as an opportunity to visit.

After

Looking back now, I am happy to say it was very worth it. This experience succeeded my expectations. I got to meet some great people, explore the culture of Singapore, and try foods I never would have on my own. The spark I had for travelling beforehand was strengthened by this trip. It has pushed me to want to go explore other countries, to see what else I can witness. When I think back to this trip, I will think of the friends I made and the laughs we shared throughout our experience. I will hold this trip in adoration as I consider this a highlight of my degree.

Thanks

Thank you, Professor Paco, for your stories and your patience with my slow computer. Thank you, Giannis, for being one of the best tour guides. Thank you, Nathan, for always having a plan for the day. Thank you, David, for being an awesome roommate. Thank you, Justin, for keeping things entertaining. Thank you, Jackson, always knowing which way to go. Thank you, Preston, for telling us your stories. Thank you, Brendan, for letting me borrow your charger. Thank you, Hayden, for letting me be your guest in the AMEX lounge.

Advice

If you are unsure about going due to the cost, I recommend looking into scholarships since it helps reduce the price. I'd also speak to those who have already done a study abroad to help with the decision. If you decide to go, I'd recommend being open to visiting new places, trying different types of foods, and meeting new people. Take as many pictures as you can, but remember some moments are better captured as a memory. Reach out for more info:

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