

Volendam 2015/2016 Australia & SE Asia

This file covers two cruises from November 2012 to January 2016 and includes Australia, Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, & Burma

We began in Sydney, Australia and arrived to record heat levels for November, over 90 the day we arrived with winds coming from the west. It got cooler the next day.

First photo is the iconic theater



The cruise terminal (Note the cab fare from airport was about \$100 Australian)



The photo is of the famous Sydney Harbor Bridge. People were waving from the top as we sailed under



The first stop after two days at sea was Hamilton Island which is a private resort



The beaches and hotels



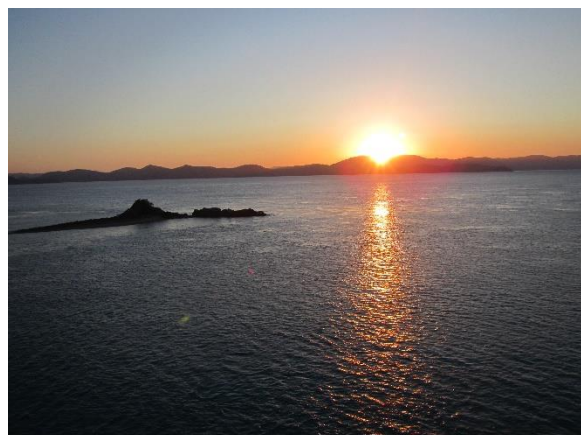
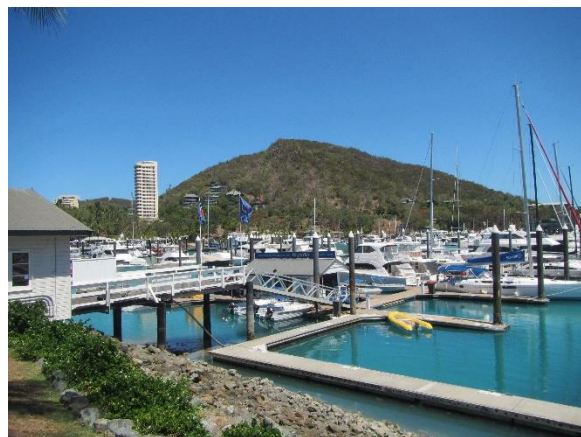
Victoria waited



While I snorkeled – this is part of the Great Barrier Reef



They had pools too



The next stop was Cairns



I went on a diving trip to a protected site on the Great Barrier Reef. It was a 90 minute fast boat trip then they anchored.



A great place to dive.





A rare sea turtle swam by



To the left is a giant clam. They would squirt and close whenever they sensed anything close to them.

I stayed in the water about three hours and don't see how one could drown with the salt.

The next stop after cruising between the GBR and the continent for several days was Darwin



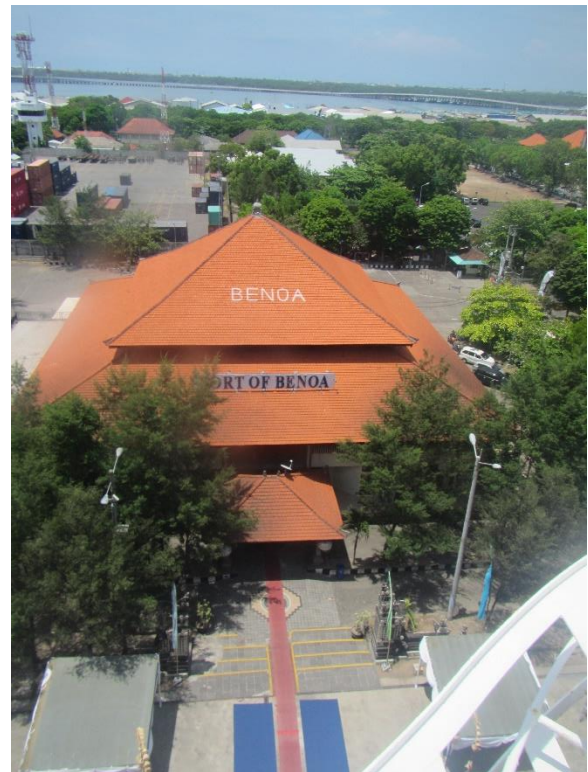
Victoria with Volendam in the port



This was the first chance to catch up on the Internet and hundreds of emails



After three more days at sea we docked at Benoa, Indonesia, also known as Bali



Victoria was on a shopping tour while I explored separately. First stop was the Royal Palace





While Indonesia is a Muslim country, in Bali Hinduism still prevails. As our guide said, "They have their religion, we have ours." It appears to work here.





To the left is an interesting, and very non-Islamic statue across from the palace

Below photos are at Tanah Lot Temple. The two areas are reported to be the most photographed on the Island



This is at a monkey park we stopped at. Not very exciting but the statue was interesting.



Sunset in Bali



At the Bali port



Arriving in Semarang, Java, Indonesia



This is part of the official greeting party at the port.

Then came Borobudur, an amazing temple we previously had never heard of. It is very large and has over 500 Buddha statue. They say it is the model for Angkor Wat in Cambodia. The skirts were required for anyone on the temple grounds.





Borobudur is not to be missed if you get to Java!!! Amazing place you probably never heard of.

First timers crossing the Equator had to
“Kiss the Fish” and got dunked



On board Asian festivities



A family photo with King Neptune



Flying a the Jolly Roger



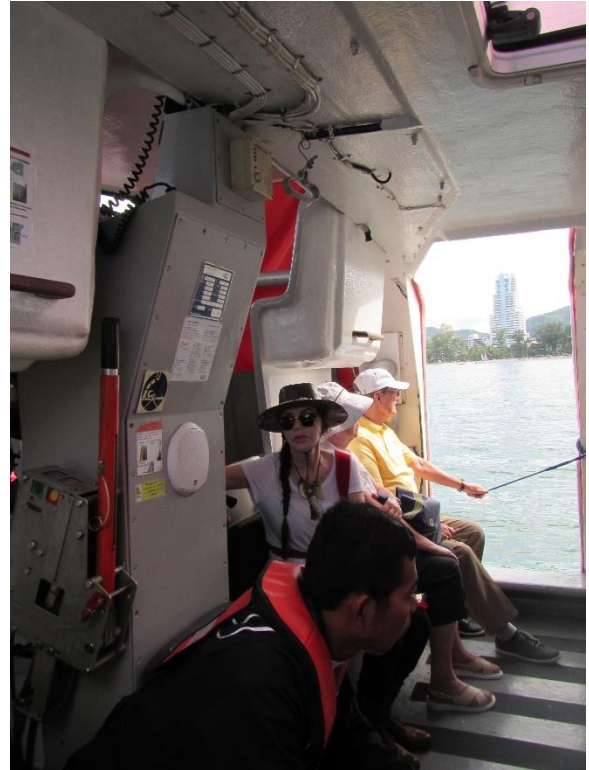
And then came Singapore and we flew out
on 9 December



But flew back on 21 December
Interesting architecture



The first stop was Phuket, Thailand where
we were shuttled ashore



Swimming on Christmas Eve
(After catching up on the Internet)



Lots of folks trying this



Christmas decorations everywhere



Great beaches with warm water



Rangoon, Burma (Again)
Now Yangon, Myanmar



Shwedagon Pagoda
Buddha's Footprint



Far more and better photos are available on
the Burma trip link

Then four ports in Malaysia
Second Penang a bustling city

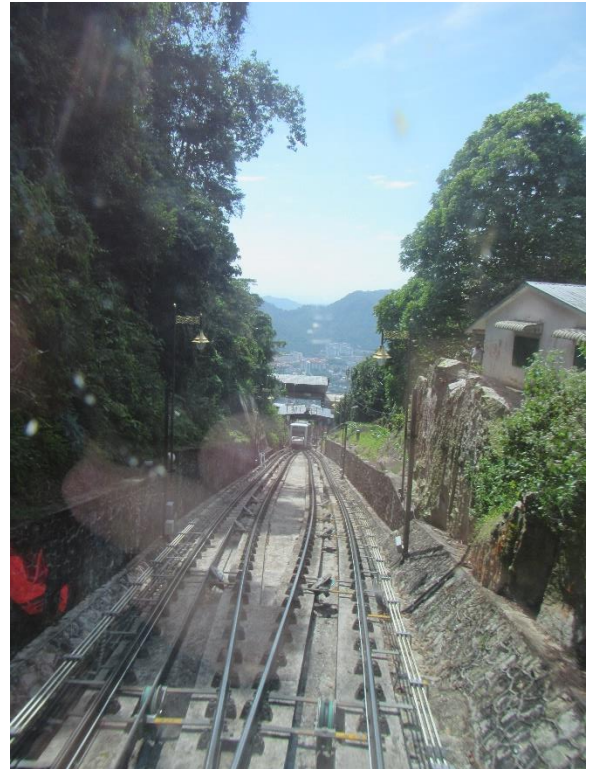


This is the city from above. It has had
amazing growth in past few decades.

A Hindu Temple on the hill top



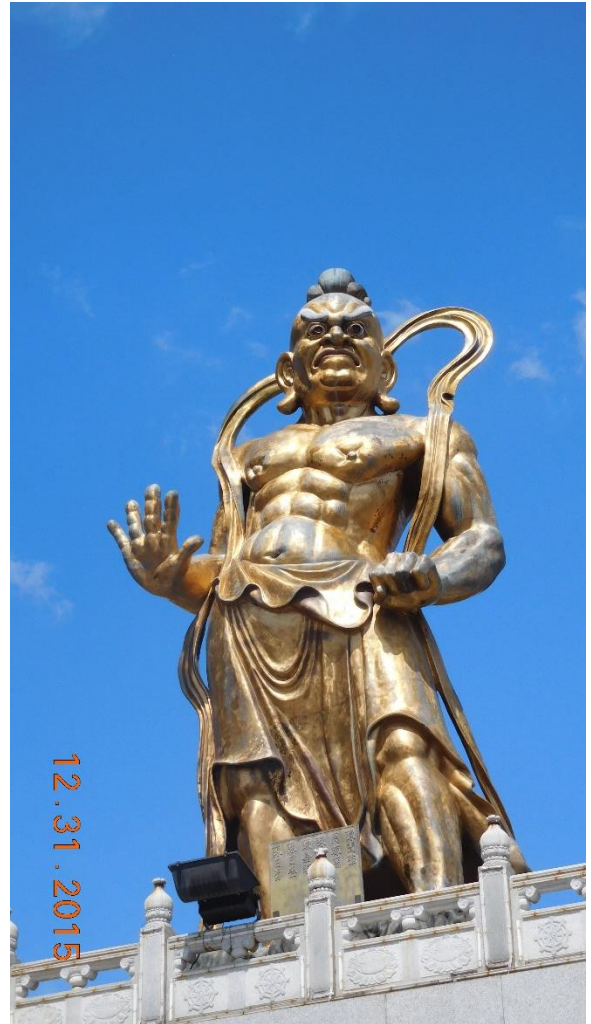
The downhill tram meeting one coming up

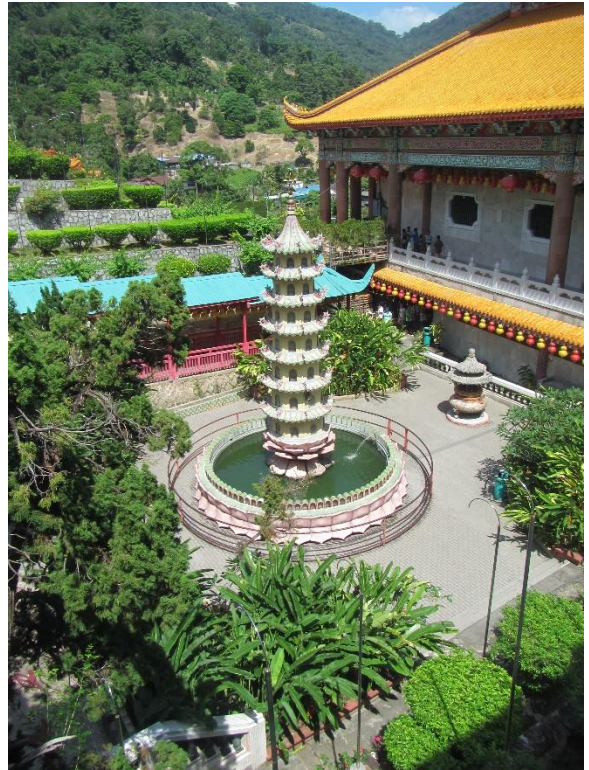
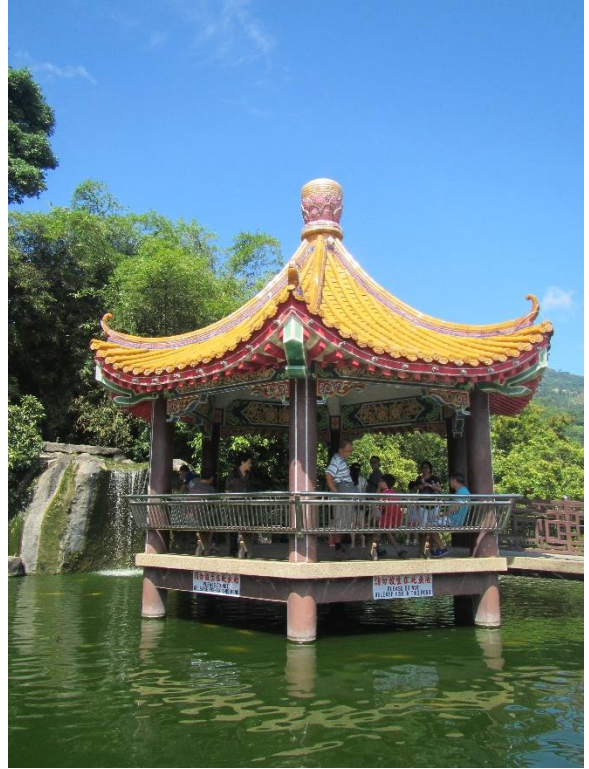


And a Mosque at the top of Penang Hill



Kek Lok Si Temple
The largest in Malaysia with Ten Thousand
Buddha statues and gardens



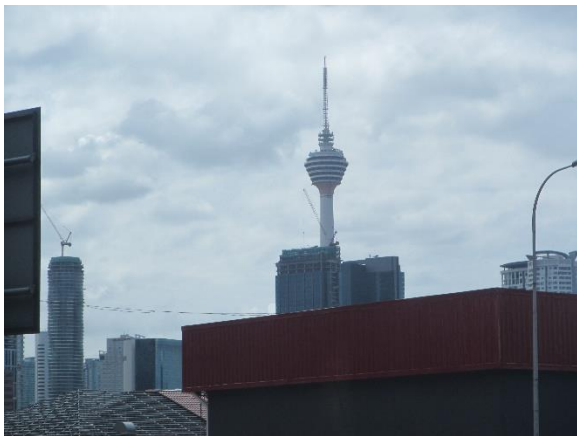


Next was Port Klang near Kuala Lumpur
An amazing very modern city

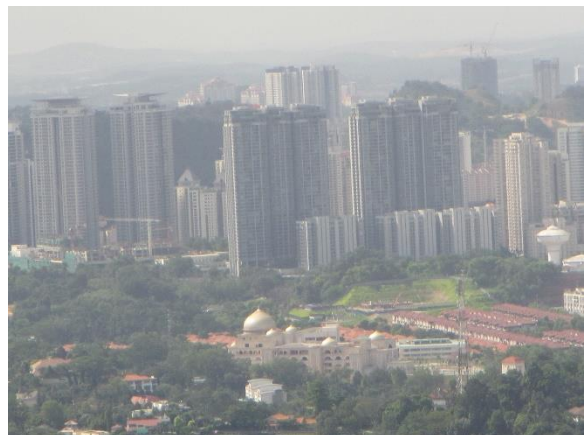
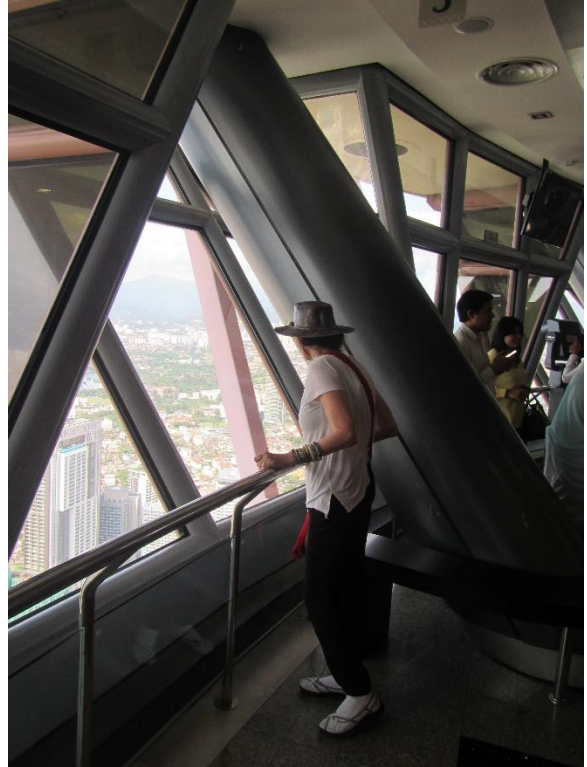
Petronas Towers – the tallest twins in the world (1,483)



KL Tower at 1,381 feet.
We went to observation deck at about 1000'



In all directions we could see modern buildings with a pretty good infrastructure.



The Batu Caves were a highlight. They are located in Gombak, 13 KM north of Kuala Lumpur. The statue of Hindu god Murugan is 140' tall. At festival times this is a major religious site and very crowded.



There are 272 steps leading up to the cave



The center right photo shows the opening as seen from inside the cave. There are several small temples there as well.



Malacca

A modern conveyance



But this is what we found



Officially this is a Muslim country but we found Christmas Trees everywhere. You would recognize most of the stores.



Finally we returned to Singapore



And there are rules
(lots of rules but they seem to work)

Little India

