

SINGAPORE

We dock at Singapore at 6 am, and can immediately see what a modern clean city this is. The skyline shows tall buildings of mirrored glass, and a cable car overhead runs through the 15th floor of one of the skyscrapers.



Our breakfast is taken on deck, where we have mobile phone queries from 2 fellow passengers. As we get further away from home, the number of passengers' phones that do not work is growing. We explain to all of them that they need a quad band phone, need to have their sim card opened up for roaming, and PAYG customers need at least £50 - £100 worth of credit in their phone.

When we have finished talking, we get ready to go ashore. The Van Gogh is hooked up to an airport-type walkway, and we travel through the cruise terminal on walking pavements.

Waiting in the queue to show our passports are several members of the computer club, who wish us to help them buy a duty-free laptop. The first shop we come to in this huge shopping area, suddenly sees an influx of Van Gogh passengers all wanting to buy their first laptop!

Eventually everyone is satisfied, (including us), and we retrace our steps back to the ship to drop off our new laptop. When we finally make it back out into the city, it is already 3 pm.

As we need to return to the ship for 7pm, we will not be able to go into Singapore itself, so we decide to stay around the very nicely developed harbour side area. We take a return trip on the cable car, travelling high above the harbour front from Mount Faber to Sentosa Island - a resort/fun park. We have a different view of the Van Gogh looking down on its decks and funnel.

Next, it is back to the harbour front area to buy some printer cartridges. We brought 3 colour, and 2 black ink cartridges with us, but this was not enough for the large volume of printing that we have been involved in. We are disappointed to find that our new printer is not sold in Asia, and therefore there are no suitable cartridges available. We resort to buying a new cheap printer, and extra cartridges to use as far as Cairns.



After a welcome cup of coffee in Starbucks, we eventually get back to the ship just in time for the 7pm sailing. A massive queue of passengers, waiting to board another huge cruise ship, almost stops us from boarding the Van Gogh. Fortunately, we are wearing our Travelscope Guest Lecturer badges, and we are waved through to the front of the queue!

We have only spent a few hours here in this beautiful city, and we are sure that we will return one day and spend far more time here.

