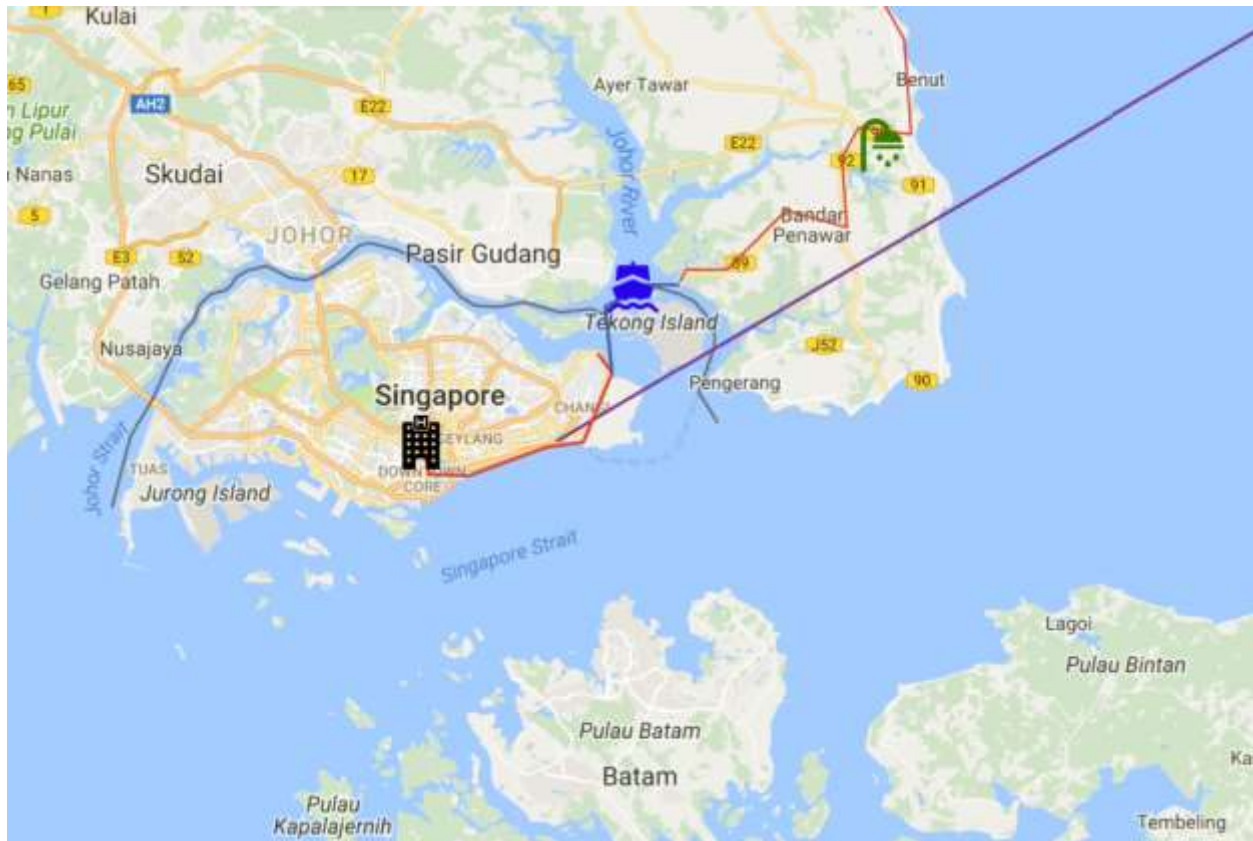


## Season 6 – Part 4. Singapore.



Su 20.3.2016, day 252. Flight to Singapore and ride into the city.

After a short 2 or 3 hour sleep I got up at the crack of dawn just after 5am to have enough time to be ready to take the private van that we had booked for 7am. I blearily started packing up my sleeping bag, mat and clothes. A last time I cleared out termites that had started building a nest under my stuff and chased a huge Huntsman spider out of my dirty wash bag. Soon afterwards we had the tent packed away and were ready for take-off.

All the Green Warriors were up and so we started to say good-bye to everyone. Last selfies and group pictures were taken, some tears flowed. Finally, we were in the van, we waved good bye and took off.

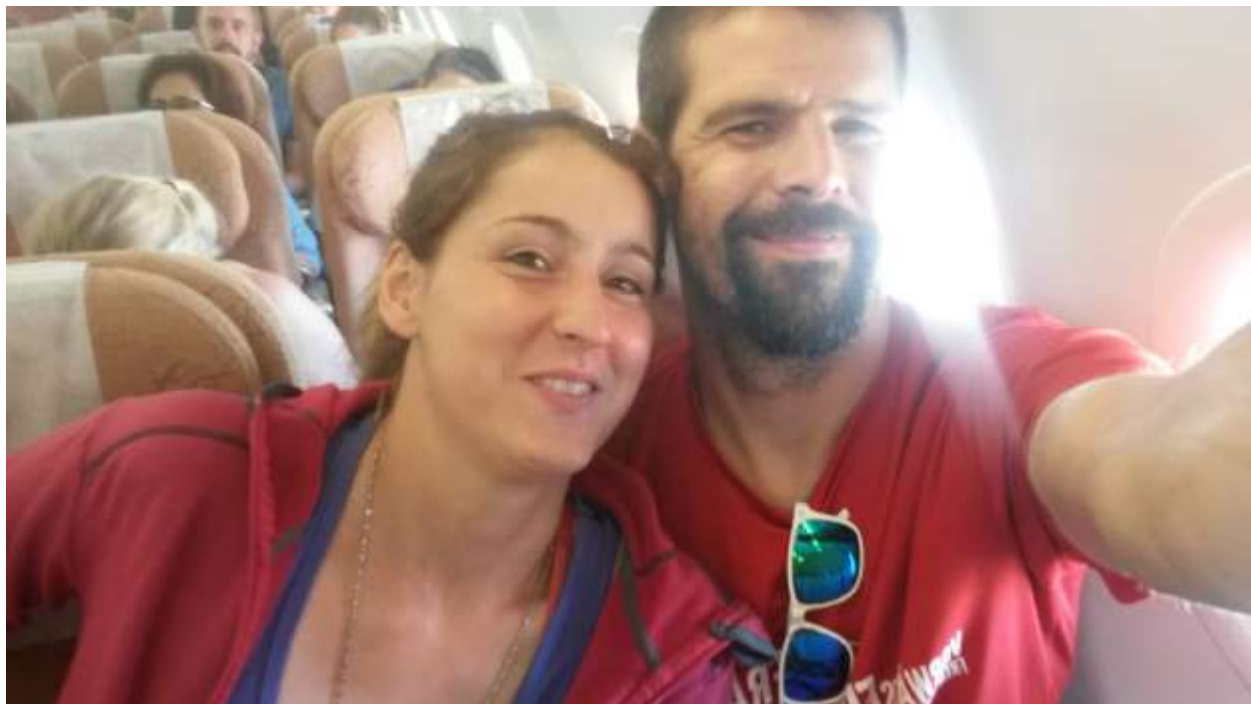
It soon struck me, that I never checked if all our bags had been packed away in the van by our driver. I decided to ask the driver to stop and have a quick look. I immediately saw, that we had completely forgotten to pack the trailer! What luck that I thought of checking! So round we turned. Everyone laughed as I ran back to our campsite and returned with the trailer. It would have been a catastrophe if we would have forgotten it!

I couldn't really sleep during the 3h drive to Kalibo airport at the driver drove like a bat out of hell, sending us bouncing all around the van. Those white van drivers must be direct descendants of Kamikaze pilots!

We arrived at the airport 4h before our flight and stood in line in front of the security check at the entrance surrounded by the absurd amount of luggage we were hauling along with us.

Check-in for our flight was not yet open and there was nothing whatsoever inside the airport, no restaurants or cafés, no toilets, not even a place to sit down. But everyone working at the airport was intrigued by us and our luggage and came over to ask us where we were going, where we are from, etc... Soon they brought us two chairs to sit down and so we sat there on our two little chairs while everyone else queued up for check-in and then disappeared through the security check. When the check-in opened we were soon surrounded by all our friends, from cleaners, security staff, tour guides who all helped us tape up our boxes, helped us put everything on the scales and read out the weights of all our bags. The total weight was 106 kg, so 46 kg over limit, which cost us 350 USD. This was pretty much what I expected, so no worries. Actually I was quite relieved everything went so smoothly.

The flight with Silk Air was nice, brand new aircraft, good food and quite a lot of space. Finally I got an hour or so of sleep. The approach to Singapore was quite spectacular as the bay was filled with hundreds of anchored super tankers, bulk carriers and container ships. Doubtlessly a consequence of the slow-down of the world economy and resulting gross overcapacity of the shipping lines.



We had two different ideas on how we were to get down town from the airport. I wanted to assemble the bikes at the airport and ride into town, while Siria wanted to pack everything into a taxi. Siria agreed to go along with my plan, so I started to assemble the bikes. I DID know that there was only a highway leading away from the airport, however I also knew that after only two or three km we could get off the highway and would be able to take a bike path all the way into the city along the ocean. I also saw on Google Streetview that there was a good shoulder on the highway, so I assumed it would be no problem. So off we went, slowly getting used to riding on the left side of the road. Soon we arrived at the first highway exit where we had to go straight. The problem was that there were two lanes turning left that we had to cross in order to go straight. The flow of traffic, mostly taxis from the airport was

absolutely incessant. So there we stood, watching the constant onslaught of traffic. How in hell were we going to cross these two lanes? Slowly panic started to creep over me. We finally turned round and pushed our bikes back a few hundred meters to a bus stop, where we hoped we could maybe put our bikes on one of the busses. But no way. Finally we decided there was nothing else to do, but to take the exit, but this would bring us onto the main highway system out along a completely wrong direction and it was fully unclear if and how we would be able to get off the highway as it seemed that there were only big highway crossings coming up. But we had no choice, so we turned around again and headed off up the highway. Just before the exit I looked back and saw that there was a small break in the traffic, so I called out to Siria to cross the lanes. So over we went. Some of the cars that were passing us left and right bipped at us, but the rescuing highway divider got closer and closer and soon we had made it. Poor Siria's nerves were shattered and she was shaking. What a nasty experience!

The ride into Singapore somewhat compensated the nasty start to our ride. There was a perfect bike lane all along the coast through a wonderful park with huge tropical trees. The anchored cargo ships out in the bay looked like a huge city. We arrived at Gardens at the Bay at around midnight and biked through wonderful parks and a huge sports complex. As we got closer to the hostel we were chatted up by two young bikers who wanted to know where we were from and where we were going. They ended up riding with us guiding us to the hostel. We were both dead tired, but also famished. The hostel was in little India, so we stopped at a curry place for a great spicy Indian spread. It was just after 1am when we finally arrived at the hostel, only to find that the door was locked and there was no bell or concierge to let us in. This was a fine how-to-do! What were we going to do? Sleep the park? Spend a fortune on another hostel or hotel? There was however a keypad at the door, so I had a close look and saw that the number 2 was completely worn, while all other numbers were not, so I simply tried the code 2222 and bingo, the door opened! What a stroke of luck!! It turned out that the reception closed at 1am, but after some time the girl who had been on duty turned up. She was very friendly and the huge amount of stuff we were carrying didn't faze her at all and she let us bring in our bikes and park them in front of the emergency exit. What a day! We had a delicious shower and finally fell into bed, completely exhausted at about 2am.



Mo 21.3.2016, day 253. Singapore.

I woke up at about 10am after a delicious sleep. Breakfast at the hostel was simple but very good. Great coffee, toast and fresh fruit. We left the hostel at about midday, went to a laundromat to do the washing and then went to a nearby mall, sat in Starbucks and caught up on a pile of administrative stuff that took frustratingly long due to the slow and unreliable internet connection. At about 8pm hunger drove us out, so we went to another curry place for some Dal and Nan bread. We bought ice cream and chocolate for desert and strolled back to the hostel. What a slow relaxing day!

























Tu 22.3.2016, day 254. Singapore.

After quite an early start to the day, we headed off for some extreme sightseeing. We walked through little India, took the tube to little China, had something to eat, walked back through downtown and all along the bay to the gardens at the bay and back downtown. Went for something to eat and a coffee, then headed back to the gardens by the bay to get the night views. We finally ended up going into the Marina Bay Sands Hotel to have a look round. This is really quite a spectacular building, apparently it is the most expensive building in the world (but I'm not sure how that was evaluated). We were really tired and so decided to skip the visit to the roof top park of the hotel, also we didn't feel like lashing out 20\$ per person just for the views.



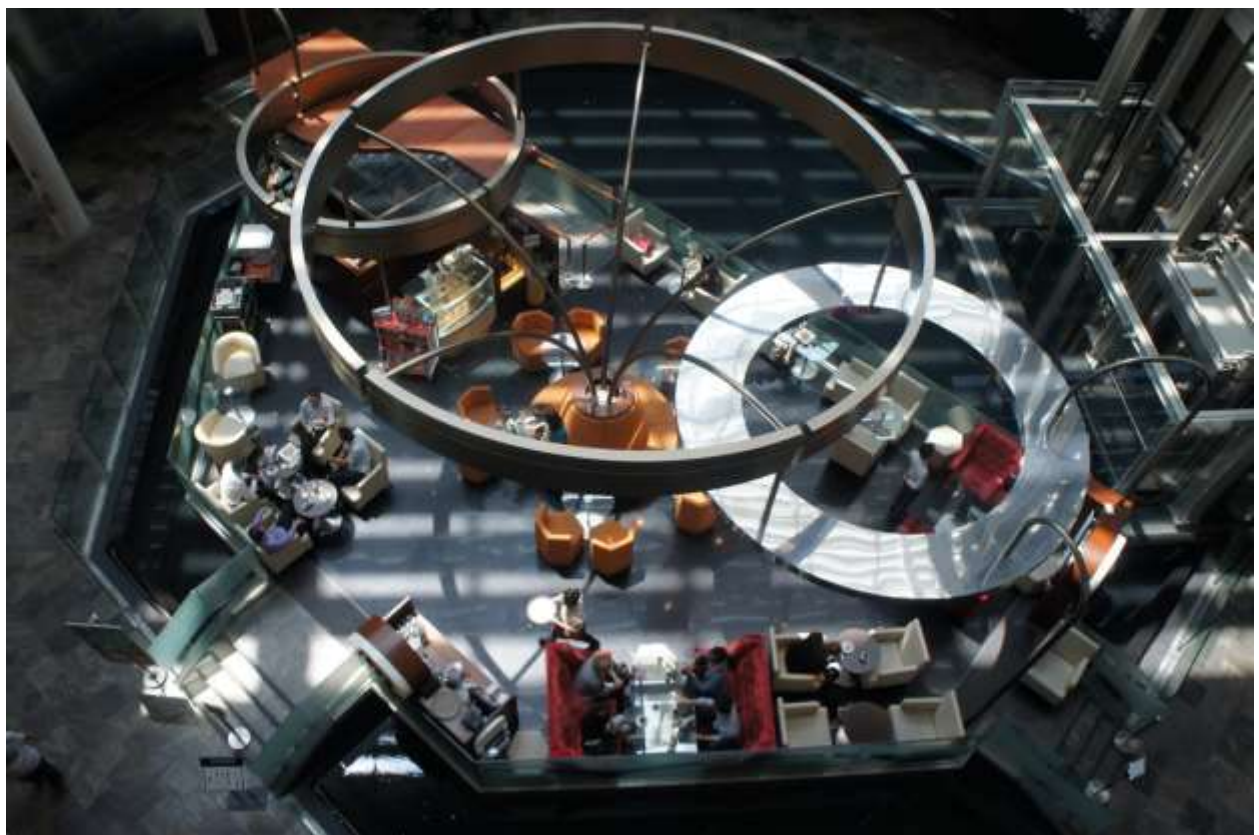






































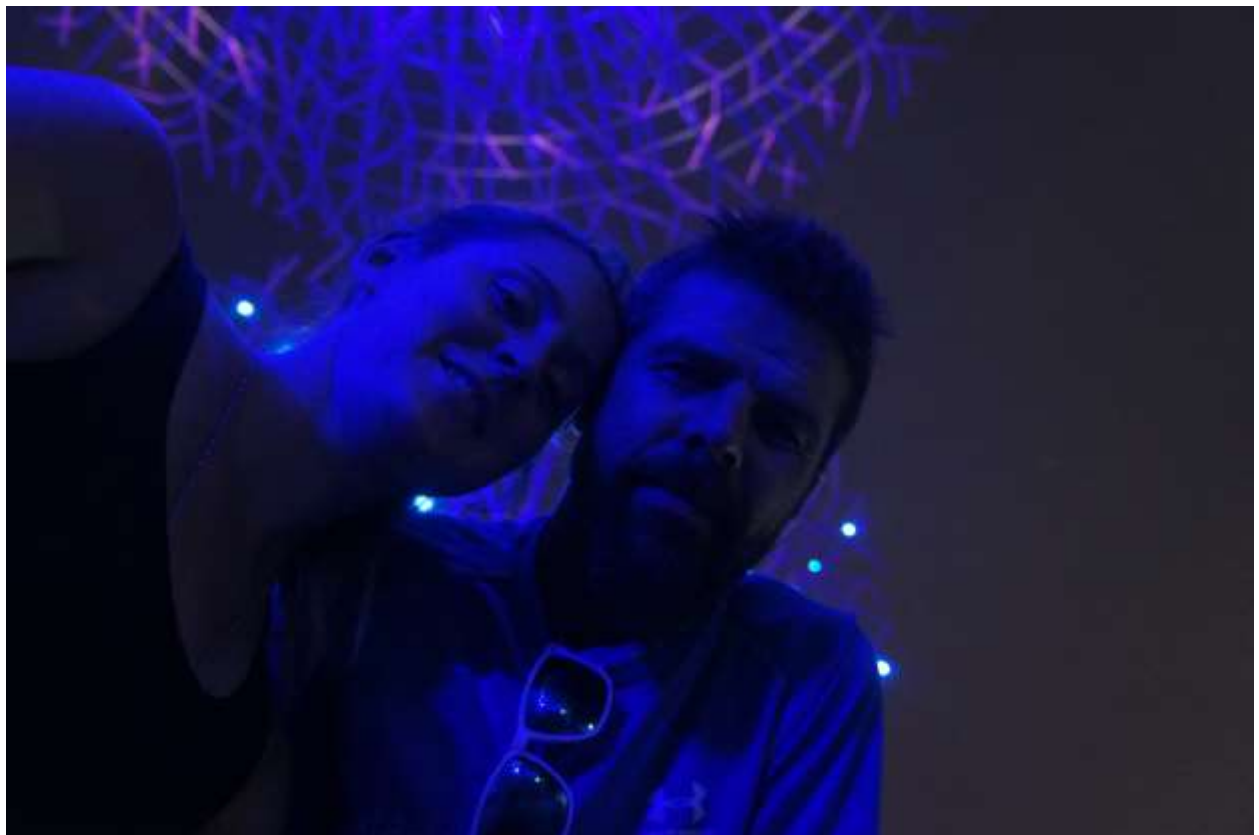


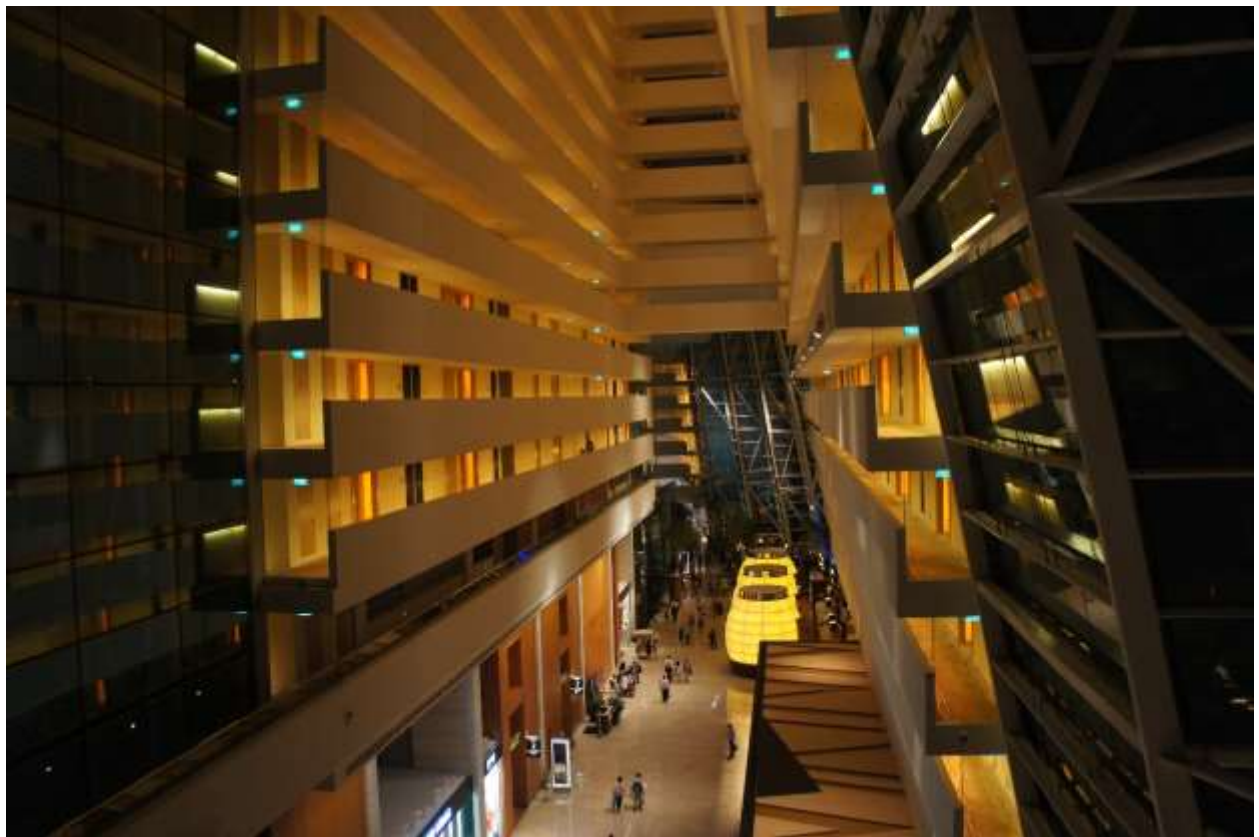
















No smoking

**Fine \$1000**



No eating  
or drinking

**Fine \$500**



No flammable  
goods

**Fine \$500**



No durians



We 23.3.2016, day 255. Singapore.

We decided to check out Orchard Road, famous for its shopping malls. This was truly amazing! I have never seen such a density of huge shopping malls! I had a list of things I wanted to check up on such as a new camera to replace my old Sony, that is starting to show some wear and a few other things. After about 2h of searching for the right mall, then searching in the malls for the right shop I was completely worn out. I have no idea how people can enjoy this.

Afterwards we took a bus and had a wonderful long walk through the botanical gardens. These were truly splendid and well worth the trip.













