

## IWA Excursion to see the Christmas Lights in Singapore

On Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2013 the IWA photographic club arranged an excursion to see the Christmas lights in Singapore. The lights are an annual event in Singapore, with Orchard road lit up for a few kms. Malls and shops also do their bit and put up some decorations.

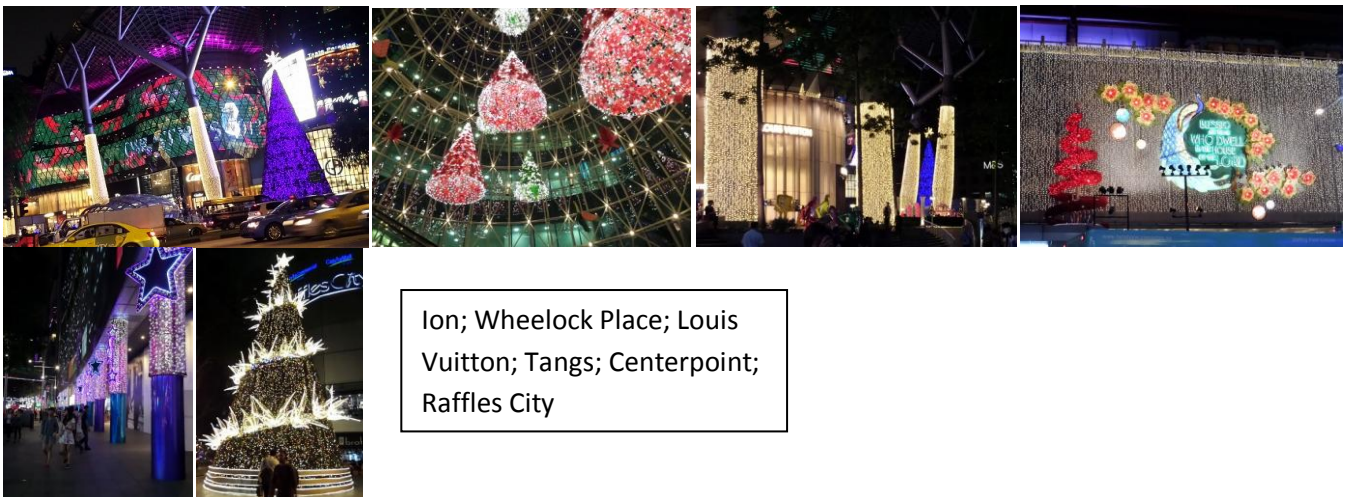
We met at JB Immigration at 15h30 on Wednesday afternoon, and went across the border by public bus, a first for many of the participants, including some of the locals!! The crossing was uneventful and went very quickly, and we were at Newton Circus by 16h30. From there we got the MRT to Orchard road.

We walked up Orchard Road to Tanglin mall where the street lights started, and also to have a look at the decorations the shopping centre had put up. Because it was not dark yet, we arranged to meet at 18h15 to start our walking tour. We started with the outside of Tanglin Mall, where the decorations are very Western – Father Christmas on a sled pulled by white horses, and a tree with huge presents around the base. The lights on the blue trees came on while we were there, and the street lights also started coming on.



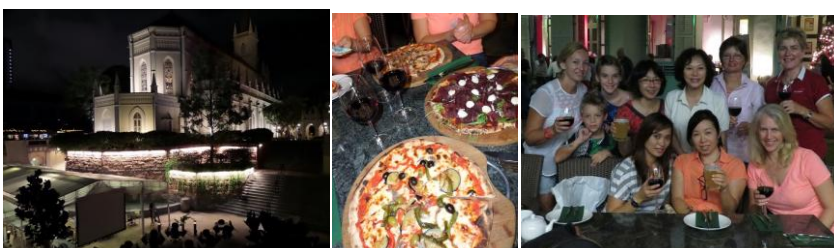
Tanglin Mall

We walked down Orchard road, taking pictures here and there. Some of the malls had nice decorations inside and outside, Wheelock Place and Ion being 2 of them. I think the tough economy is evident, as some of the malls had no decorations, or very sparse decorations, and the general feeling of the group members was that they were not as spectacular as in the past. (We only saw Orchard Rd, though, as there might be more decorations in the Marina Bay/Singapore Flyer area). There were people doing acts on the pavements, and, fortunately for us, the crowds were not too bad, so we could move fairly easily! We walked down to Centerpoint from where we got the MRT to Raffles City. This mall always puts up a beautiful tree at the corner, and this year was no exception!



Ion; Wheelock Place; Louis Vuitton; Tangs; Centerpoint; Raffles City

By this stage (20h30), tummies were rumbling, and we moved on to Chijmes where we were going to have dinner. We all agreed that a pizza place was a good choice, so we ordered a spread of food and wine, and had a very good time, albeit short, to enjoy our dinner!



Dinner @ Chijmes

The mini-vans were waiting to pick us up outside Chijmes to take us back to JB. We got home 2 hours after leaving the city, as the border was very jammed with cars! It was a very enjoyable outing, and the fellowship was great! Thanks to all who participated in the excursion!