

MAGIC OF THE NIGHT - PUTRAJAYA 25 -26 JUNE 2013

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The Tourism Office in Johor had taken great pains to organize this event for the IWA ladies. They had given a quota of 40 guests in total. However, since it was a Tuesday, only 25 managed to experience this once a year event. It was well planned and each detail was taken care of. It was a way of promoting Malaysia and selling the various products it has. I wish more ladies had joined in but I guess there will be another time. The best part was, it was free!! Unbelievable!!

We assembled at the Tourism Office on 25 June at 9.00 am. Everyone was on time and we left 15 minutes later. The journey was full of excitement, mystery and anticipation. We were chatting away merrily and before we knew it, we arrived in Seramban at about 1.00pm. Lunch time!!!!

We had lunch at a Seafood Restaurant. The food was delicious, with many varieties of food that one can think of. I had expected a 3- course meal and I thought they would shoo us off hastily. But no, it was a meal fit for the 'Queens'. The waiters were parading with yummy platters between tables almost endlessly. Probably, a 9-course meal?? After a hearty meal, it was time to go and we left the place, fully satisfied and happy.



Well, soon we arrived in Putrajaya and we checked into a new (3 months old) Everly Hotel. We had just enough time to freshen up, and we met at the lobby and hopped on to the coach again for the Floral Exhibition. Before the Exhibition, we had a brief tour of Putrajaya, a Federal Administrative Centre. The Lake, the Mosque, the Bridge and the landscaping are some breath-taking places we saw. Since time was running short, we made our way to the Exhibition hall.

When we reached there, I was surprised at seeing thousands of flowers (millions of petals) in one place. The unique colors and the variety of flowers were displayed from various countries. It was fascinating to see the variety, the intricate decorations, and the arrangements of the bouquets.



We were taking pictures in the beautiful settings, some, with ourselves in the front view, of course. The Exhibition was just awesome. Unfortunately, we just had an hour for this Exhibition. We had to rush back to the Hotel, freshen up and be ready for dinner and the main event.

We gathered at the Fuze Restaurant for a buffet dinner. Lots of chatting, taking pictures and joy was in the air. Not to mention good food. Everyone was tired, yet excited and all geared up to go.



We then left for the main event - The Magic of The Night. We got into the coach and it took us about 20minutes to get there. The event was held at The Putrajaya Lake. We were seated in full view of the Lake and were presented with some souvenirs and a magazine about Johor. The main attractions were the Dancers and the Music Performances, Boat Parade and the final Fireworks Show. Folk dancing, with the dancers dressed in national costumes "Sarong Kebaya" was an interesting cultural show.

The Boat Parade started with the first float belonging to our Host, Ministry of Tourism and Cultures. The float had a theme 'Visit Malaysia Year 2014'. The 14 floats (1 from China) were beautifully lighted up, each sending a message of the many attractive iconic designs and Heritage attractions the State had. Each float boasted of their natural resources with colorful, brightly lit replicas of various tourism attractions and inheritance in their States. A lot of cheering was going on and we too joined in. Of course, we cheered the loudest when the Johor float came into view. There was a sense of oneness and unity among the crowd, who had come in from different parts of Malaysia.



Well, as they say, good times have to come to an end and it did. The final colorful fireworks were a reminder that the informative, interesting and eventful evening means time to go....



We came back to the Hotel and bid good nights to each other and retired to our rooms.

Ladies walked in for breakfast in batches at about 8am onwards. It was a delicious spread of Continental and local dishes. Good start for our journey back, I guess. We took last minute photos at the Hotel and finally checked out at about 9.30am and headed back to Johor.

We all were getting ready to relax in the coach. It was an anti-climax scene as compared to a day before. How wrong I was!! Out of the blue, we had an unexpected guest who decided to give us a jolt. A bee!! It was buzzing around the coach. Some of us screamed, ducking so as not to get bitten. It did play hide and seek with us for quite a while before getting caught and thrown out of our party. We then returned to our slumber land.....

We reached Johor about 3pm. We collected our bags and bid good-byes and headed home.

PS : The thought of spending one night away from Johor with IWA ladies itself was an experience. More interactions created more comfort and friends. There was time and situations to promote friendships with each other while travelling, dining, and not to mention spending time in the rooms. Some new connections were made and some were strengthened. All ended very well.....

