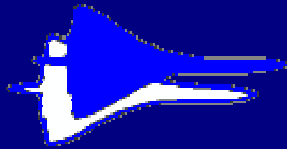


Edition 1/2009

Looking forward to meet you in Kuala Lumpur



WORLD AIRLINES CLUBS ASSOCIATION

WACA WORLD NEWS



The Executive Committee met in Montreal



President's Message



**Joining hands together to make WACA
move forward.**

Dear Interliners,

No doubt our association is shrinking to day with a decreased number of memberships coupled with the closing down of some clubs, whilst others are dormant with only few well wishers keeping the spirit alive.

We should all bear in mind that we are not the only organization facing such difficulty to day and the more so we form part of an industry which is at its worsen stage since the last decade resulting grand losses, high labour turnover and redundancies around the world. Traveling with ID tickets is no more a real privilege now as it is becoming very costly nowadays with all sort of taxes imposed.

Our association has been existed for the past 43 years and as you are fully committed and care for the association you would surely wish to see the WACA flag always up and obviously we need to adjust to CHANGE.

I am very pleased to have other most dedicated team members with me looking in the same direction to face the challenge in this ever changing world. During our last Executive Committee Meeting held in Montreal, we have shown a good sense of belongings to the Association and in the spirit of togetherness we have redefined our Vision and Mission which are:

VISION

To be the best recognized social organization for employees, family and friends in the airline and related industries.

MISSION

To organize local and international social events for active and retired employees, family and friends so that they will be united in friendship, good fellowship and mutual understanding and linked with social responsibility projects.

The team as one body is fully devoted to work towards this Vision and Mission and to bring results. The Executive Committee, in that same spirit, whilst adjusting with the present situation and upon the wish of the assembly is coming forward with a proposal of a new WACA structure to be presented at the assembly in Kuala Lumpur. We also wish to be able to implement, at minimum costs, the two main projects i.e. WACA ID Cards and a full fledged WACA Portal which we cherish for quite some time and to be used as tools for the benefits of the membership at large and to ensure the future of our association .

Our aim is to keep our present membership connected to each other and encourage new members to join the family and focus on our WACA Vision. We need to let bygones be bygones and forget our differences (if any) and live and let live in HARMONY.

Our next Annual Gathering will be in Kuala Lumpur, a city where all the cultures meet and we with our international background, let us make the most of it and be a showcase for others to follow our example.

Yours in interlining
Maga Ramasamy
President

Cairo and Nile Cruise - Enchanting Egypt

3rd – 10th November 2008

3 November – Cairo

On arrival in Cairo, in the midst of a bustling crowd, we were met off the plane by a smiling Egyptian holding a prominent WACA sign. We introduced ourselves and he, Sadek, soon led us to immigration but I stopped him momentarily to remind him we needed visas. He promptly handed us 2 entry visas and asked for our luggage stubs in return! He was going to get our suitcases for us while we completed immigration formalities. Once through, Sadek met us again with our bags and led us to a comfortable car to take us to our first destination. How cool!

The journey to the hotel was our first adventure. Cairo is a bustling city, even at night. Cars rushed along roads. Traffic signs and lane discipline seemed voluntary! We learnt that petrol was cheap in Egypt at less than US 50cents /litre! On the way, we had our first glimpse of some sights - the Citadel, the Mohammed Ali mosque all lit up and stood up impressively against a dark skyline. Along the way were shops that were still doing roaring trade. Sadek was quick to point out that shops open till midnight in the summer and 11pm in the winter months. Wow! Plenty of time for retail therapy, I thought!

The streets were still full of people going forth and back. Not surprising, as Cairo has a population of over 22 million and 3 million commuters! That is about 1/3 of the whole Egyptian population.

After just over an hour, we arrived at the Sheraton Cairo at 9.30pm. We were greeted by another guide, Deyaa who would spend the entire trip speaking to me in Mandarin as he was studying Chinese. He was elated to have a Chinese woman (me) to practise his verbal skills with! After getting our room sorted out, we proceeded to dinner where we met the rest of the group. It was lovely to connect with friends again and to feel part of a community, the WACA family, as opposed to going on a tour with complete strangers and taking pot luck as to whether you can get on with any of them for the entire trip. In this case, we were all happy to see some old and some new faces, knowing that we would all get along, some better than others!

4 November – The Pyramids

Breakfast was an elaborate affair of everything sumptuous and however healthy or unhealthy as one would like to make of it. There was time for housekeeping and getting some foreign exchange (1USD = 5.5 Egyptian pound). At 9am, we loaded our bags into our air con coach and all 44 of us boarded. Outside the hotel, I got my first glimpse of the River Nile, which was situated just opposite the hotel! What a wide river, with palm trees, colourful bougainvillea and morning glory adorning its sides and feluccas sliding slowly along its tranquil waters. It is a glorious day with temperatures in the mid 20C.

At 10, the bus eventually left the hotel. On board, Hamed, our local guide, introduced himself and gave us a briefing on our tour. Hamed gave a very good first impression, very cheerful, friendly and totally conversant in English. He encouraged us to ask questions about the history, customs and traditions of Egypt. The first question came from the back of the bus. "Where are we?" To which Hamed promptly replied, "India!" Ah! This guy has got a sense of humour. So, it looks like we're off to a good start! As the bus drove along, we noticed how busy the streets were with people, cars, bikes, motorbikes, horses and donkey carts. Hamed told us many fascinating details as we soaked up the sights.

Egyptian history dates back as far as 5000BC. Egypt is divided into Upper (the southern part) and Lower Egypt (northern part) but was unified under King Mena in 3200BC. The Nile Valley is the main source of life, as only 6% of Egypt is inhabited while 94% is desert.

We crossed the Nile to Gizzala Island, en route to our first scenic/historical stop – the Pyramids of Giza. Along this garden route, superb views of Cairo feast our eyes – minarets, domes and the Cairo Tower stand out. As we drove south, there were fewer cars on the road but more cattle and donkey carts. We could now see some farms and some dusty red brick buildings houses that look incomplete. Reinforcing rods stick out on top of the buildings. We learnt that there were there to facilitate building upwards as and when the family need arises!





20 minutes into the drive, the Giza pyramids peeped out from the distant hills! We are now driving west of the Nile. Pyramids are all built on the west side of the Nile. It is believed that as the sun goes down on the west, so does life and therefore, it stands to reason that the tombs must also be on the west!

Soon, we were standing face to face with one of Egypt's earliest civilizations and one of the Seven Wonders of the World. We gathered around Hamed and eagerly awaited our first history lesson. The pyramids of Kings Khufu, Khafre and Menkaure were

built some 4,600 years ago! They housed the tombs of kings and their sons. Smaller pyramids housed the queens and their daughters. Some of us ventured into one of the burial chambers to get a feel for the burial ground favoured by these early ancestors. To get there, one had to "climb" down a very steep and narrow corridor. To my disappointment, there were no tombs! They have either been moved legally to museums or stolen by tomb robbers for the treasures buried with these royalties. It is mind boggling to think how mud-bricks and limestone can be turned into pyramids of colossal sizes. Simply put, they were pushed and pulled up a ramps to the desired height, some of them towering over 130 metres.

Most impressive was a panoramic view of the 3 great pyramids together. Many of our group chose to ride on camels with the pyramids as backdrop. Oh, what a picture! As if that was not enough, we soon found ourselves face to face with The Sphinx! We learnt from Hamed that one of the king's son wanted a big rock removed but the workers thought it could be beautified by putting face to it and they succeeded. It is now one of the most popular photographic icon for tourists! So far, so good. Hamed has made our first history lesson very interesting with his enthusiastic approach. With enthusiasm like this, I think I am going to enjoy my real time history lesson of Egypt during the rest of this trip! Back on the bus and we head to lunch in an Egyptian equivalent of MacDonalds in busy downtown Cairo.

Our next stop was to a papyrus factory where we were shown how the earliest paper was made from the papyrus plant. Very interesting and many of us bought papyrus paintings

It was now after 5pm and time to head to the airport for our 7.45pm flight to Luxor to begin our cruise! We were told that the ride would take about 45 minutes. Not so. As soon as the engine started, we hit chaos. A huge traffic jam on the road to the airport! Traffic signs were definitely entirely voluntary. Cars were coming in all directions with some intrepid drivers using a railway line to try to bump their way in front of their competitors. Most of us have not seen anything like it. Panic struck. It was now an hour to take off and we were still stuck in traffic. Two people from the bus who had an earlier flight to catch had to de-board the coach with their bags and Hamed to run to the other side of the jam to the airport. Relief! The brilliance of our driver got us to the airport at 7pm. We got our bags out of the coach in and checked-in in record time only to find that the plane was delayed for 45 minutes.



We arrived in Luxor and a short drive brought us to our boat to start our cruise. After a late dinner at 11pm, we adjourned to our beds.

5 November – Luxor

The itinerary gives us one full day of sightseeing in this historic city. Our first stop was the Valley of the Kings, bright and early at 7am, to avoid the midday heat.

Luxor is a beautiful city, very unlike Cairo. We drove through flat straight roads, lined by colorful bougainvillea on one side and canals on the other. Beyond this were agricultural surroundings with geometrically laid out fields of wheat and corn.

There is not much sign of machinery as most farm are worked manually with donkeys or horses. Sugar cane is also a staple crop here. The other signs of life on the roads were children walking to school, donkeys pulling carts, some goats and cows. After about 35 minutes, we arrived at our destination, the west bank of Luxor.

The Valley of the Kings was chosen as a burial ground by ancient Egyptian kings to hide their tombs in secluded limestone hills. There are 62 tombs here, the most famous one being that of King Tutankhamun.

We managed to visit 3 tombs. To get to the burial chambers we had to walk through corridors that descend over a hundred meters or so. The walls on either side are decorated with intricate paintings and carvings, depicting symbolic accounts of the journey through the underworld.

A brief stop at an Alabaster museum satisfied the retail therapy of those with a passion for ornaments made out of this hard local stone.

Our next stop was Karnak Temple, the biggest temple in the world, the house of Amun, the God of all Egypt at this time. Building started in 2000BC and was completed in 300BC. The highlight of Karnak is the great Hypostyle Hall supported by 134 gigantic columns.



The next "must-see" was Luxor Temple, built around the same time as Karnak. God Amun used this as a resting place. It was also the house for his wife and son. The avenue of sphinxes leading to the entrance of the temple was particularly impressive. Fronting the entrance, the first pylon is decorated with scenes of Ramases the 2nd in battle.

Back on the cruise, we were treated to a sumptuous buffet. We ended the evening with a Galabia party – some of us could not resist the chance to look Egyptian for an evening and to try to belly dance. It was great fun to let one's hair down this evening! All this, as we cruised towards Edfu.



6 November – Edfu

We are now in Edfu, which is half way between Luxor and Aswan. Edfu is an important sacred site to the Egyptians as this is where the falcon god, Horus killed his bad uncle, who is depicted as a hippo- potamus, Seth. The temple was constructed in 231BC. Today, we ride in style, in a horse drawn carriage, through the town to the temple, and back – just like they did in the old days



So far, we have not had much chance to savour our boat until today. Arriving back at 10.30am, we were met at the entrance with hot towels and warm lemon drinks. Back in our cabins, we were “greeted” with innovative images of animals, such as crocodiles, snakes, monkeys and camels made from towels and toilet rolls! Such was the welcome we got from the cruise staff.



At 3pm, we proceeded to the bar where a surprise 80th birthday celebration for Don was being held. The hotel staff participated with drums and merry making. As Don strolled in, thinking he was meeting his love, Betty, we sang Happy Birthday!

Dancing and more singing ensued – we even made a Happy Birthday song to the words of WACA, WACA to you...

We continued our sunset sailing and docked just before dusk. A short walk from the boat brought us face to face with another impressive temple – the Temple of Kom Ombo – dedicated to the crocodile and falcon Gods. This must be one of the very few places in the world where one can see mummified crocodiles!

Kom Ombo temple is particularly beautiful and special at night. It is situated next to the river Nile and is lit by soft lights. What a romantic setting.



7 November – Aswan

There is a wake up call at 3am for those embarking on an optional tour to Abu Simbel temple and for the rest, a chance to lie in, enjoy the facilities on the boat or venture out for onto the streets.

I chose to stay on the boat and spent most of the day chilling out on the top deck, sipping “alcohol-free Martinis,” chatting and watching the water world go by....

In the afternoon, some took another optional tour to visit a Nubian village, which I was told, was highly recommended. The Nubians are a tribe of African descent with their own customs and traditions.

At dinner, the kitchen staff brought out their musical instruments and started dancing and singing. Soon, some of the ladies were invited to dance as well. A waiter brought a cake round to show the guests. Another birthday! This time it was Duncan's and we celebrated again! In the evening, we were treated to a spectacular Nubian show with many pleasant surprises for the audience.

8 November- Aswan –Cairo

The end of our stay on the cruise. After breakfast, all our bags were assembled in the lobby ready to be loaded onto our coach. Sightseeing in Aswan began with a visit to the widest dam in the world – the Aswan High Dam – built to control flooding, to generate hydroelectric power and to increase the amount of land for cultivation. As a result of the construction of this dam, Lake Nasser – the largest artificial lake in the world - was created. Many of the Nubian people, as well as many temples, had to be relocated.

Our next stop was a visit to an ancient quarry where the unfinished Obelisk lies - unfinished because a fault was discovered in the stone and the obelisk had to be abandoned.

Following lunch, we boarded a boat to the island of Philae to visit our last temple – the temple of Isis, the goddess of Love.

A special treat on a felucca ensued. We sailed on the blue waters of the Nile, soaked in the sights of Elephantine Island, witnessed the unique flora, watched white clad farmers at work and were serenaded by young Egyptian boys in their small rowing boats alongside us. We also cheered as our tour organiser and guides put on an impressive imitation of the 3 wise monkeys! We chitchatted and laughed out loud with new and old friends of WACA.



Dinner was another unique and wonderful experience. We boarded another boat to a Nubian seafood restaurant. The food was exceptionally good and the performance given by the Nubian dancers even more so. Nowhere have I seen such continuous twirling around for such a long time. More audience participation was invited on the floor and by the time we were ready to leave, some of us were exhausted from the merry making on the dance floor.

Our flight from Aswan to Cairo departed at 11.30pm. We arrived at the Sheraton Cairo in the early hours of the morning and it was hard to imagine anybody had more than 4 hours of sleep.



9 November – Cairo

Nevertheless, most of us had our adrenaline still pumping and this being the last day in Egypt for most, did not want to miss out on anything the tour had to offer. .

Our sightseeing tour, aka history lesson, continued. Battling Cairo traffic, we soon arrived at our first impressive sight. The Citadel was built in the 12th Century to protect Cairo from invaders and the mosque within it, is dedicated to Mohammed Ali.

No trip is complete without a visit to a local bazaar! The famous Khan El Khalili is a bazaar of gold, silver, brass and copper goods, exotic spices, trinkets and souvenirs of the Middle East. The cave like interiors of the little shops and narrow alleys behind medieval carved stone gates make this a particularly interesting tourist attraction. An hour in a treasure trove such as this is not enough for the diehard bargain hunters in some of us but it was better than nothing! We had lunch to see to before our next "must-visit" sight.

Save the best for last - to say that the Egyptian museum was the highlight of the tour is an understatement as all the sights we have visited so far are highlights of Egypt! It is impossible to view all the exhibits in this museum. There are over 140,000 on display! Hamed highlighted the most famous ones from the old, middle and new kingdoms and of course, the treasures of Tutankhamen. The Tutankhamen galleries themselves warrant a full day tour to do it any justice!

Our grand finale was dinner on board a cruising ship on the Nile, complete with shows of a whirling Dervish and belly dancing. There was nothing more one could ask for on this trip.

Summary

This trip is one of a kind. I rate it 10/10! Egypt is a special place and this trip is even more special. It was very well organized. The tour operator (Sayed and co.) was most helpful and attentive. Hamed is the best tour guide one could ask for – he was knowledgeable and enthusiastic about his work. His passion made it interesting to listen to him.

Last but not least, this trip has been a real-time history lesson with all of the fun and none of the stress of exams! From Nubian dancing to the treasures of Tutankhamun, from felucca to Cairo traffic, we have savoured it all and we are richer as a result of this wonderful trip.

Evelyn Lim
Honkong Interline Club

Our Nile Cruise...



We all (I think) had a FABULOUS time. I would like to commend our guides for all the "above and beyond" services provided. As you may realize, some of us had problems getting in and out of Cairo. There was always someone available to help out/retrieve back from airport when unable to make flights.

Sadek practically lived in the lobby during these times. All - Deyaa, Mahamed, Sadek and hamed - were incredibly helpful. Please forward to the head of agency or provide contact information and I will do so.

Gerry and Bill Kain



SEYCHELLES

Life is full of choices... Why not Seychelles...?

The Africa, Indian Ocean Islands & Middle East Region has chosen Mahe Island on the Seychelles to hold their Regional Meeting, from 29th of May to 31st of May 09.

Come and join them at one of the most spectacular settings in the world!

All members of the Indian Ocean Islands Interline Club will be happy in hosting you!

And if after there you want to continue and spend

some more days on the next tropical island, always received with a warm welcome by our friends of the Paille-en-Queue Social Club of Air Mauritius,

Dado's Nest 2009

is waiting for you!
From 01 June to 06 June 2009

**For more information, please
visit the Calendar of Events on
our website www.waca.org**



Syria, an ancient land of mystery and wonder.

The past meets with the present, like the sands of the desert, time merges and moves and stands still all at once.



Syria is a land of intrigue, surprise and most definitely smiling faces. With the echos of English being spoken by a group of 11, we were most welcome as few westerners truly know the jewel they are missing in not discovering Syria. We were a rare English group as we set out to venture into this 'new' and exciting land. A place like no other as we literally were able to walk, touch and breathe in the past, living and seeing it surreally in the present! And just as we were awed and amazed at the sheer grandeur of ruins and keys to the past which were and are being presently and painstakingly unearthed, the Syrians stretched out a very welcoming hand and smile behind every corner as they were amazed to meet a such a rare group of Canadians, Americans and who can forget the lone representative from Jamaica.



Our guide was eager to share his thoughts, teach, learn and talk with us. He was more than open and willing to answer any and every question we posed. From amphitheatres to waterwheels, castles to the historic relics of those that came, conquered and help build history, these was our staging blocks.



Syria is a land where time stand stills, excavations unlocking generations and lives of its past, while at the same time opening our minds to a future of new friendships and people who we need to understand and who crave to understand us.

Melissa D'Souza

Greetings from Edmonton,

As it is almost two weeks since I have arrived back home safely, I would like to thank you, Yousef for all your assistance with the travel and hotel arrangements for Dorothy and I. It was wonderful to see you and your wife again, along with some of the other members from the Jordanian Club. Thank you for the warm Jordanian hospitality. It was also great that you were able to be in Egypt....The Hotels in Syria, Jordan and Cairo were great and also conveniently located. I loved the cruise and only wished it could have been longer. I think the WACA packages in the Middle East are the best. Good luck with your travel business and Best Wishes to you and your family for the coming Holiday Season.

Best regards,
Linda Schartner
Edmonton Interline Club

Syria Inaugural?

Welcome on board ladies and gentlemen to the 'Discover Syria' inaugurals hosted by the Jordan Interline Club. You have been specially privileged to be the participants based solely on,

1. Your inquisitiveness
2. Your ability to pay
3. Your patience to acquire the numerous visas and withstand the onerous airport security checks.

Of course based on the fore-going you are free to offer harsh criticism or kudos without the possibility of reprisal. Don't be shy-we want to hear from you. Sounds somewhat like an advertising campaign-don't you think? Could the writer be secretly employed Jordan Interline Club, whose most recognizable face is Yousef?-The same one that was unceremoniously thrown into the azure waters of a bahama beach by his crew at the annual general assembly? Read on, the answer to all the above may be revealed below!

The unabridged quotations appear below.

Winston Marshall
Jamaica Interline Club



Syria – a pleasure to visit such a safe, warm and friendly country. My advice would be for one to study the culture prior to their visit as this would make their stay much more enjoyable.

Peter

Syria – a unique country with a culture and history dating back thousands of years - to man's earliest civilizations. A must see for the enquiring mind!

Esme and Allwyn Lall

Thank you Jordan Interline Club for a fabulous trip to Syria. I enjoyed the camaraderie and sensitivity of my tour mates. Our tour guide, Ahmed Hassan, was great with lots of details about sites and provocative in discussions.

Mush kool

Dorothy

A trip not to be missed exploring the history of past civilizations and their relevance on today's society. How enjoyable it was to experience the food, culture and breathtaking views.

Linda

The interline trip to Syria was very good with lots of history and archaeological sites. We were given a great insight to a progressive and developing Middle Eastern country.

Mark

Though highly unknown through the eyes of many in the western world, Syria is a country of many pleasant surprises. Damascus, being the oldest inhabited city balances itself out with the brilliant shine of "bling" through its historic souks, architecture and people. An abundance of smiles and a welcome around every corner.

Melissa

The ruins of Palmyra and Apamea were great. The castles of Krak Des Chevaliers and the Aleppo Citadel were magnificent.

Vincent

The tour of Syria brought to reality the mystic history of the Middle East. The survival of the people through centuries proves that we, as a race, will continue despite political upheaval and distractions of the values we uphold. Best educational trip for everyone.

Betty

Do you know of the character 'Pig Pen' in the cartoon 'Charlie Brown', who would be surrounded by a cloud of dust even if he were walking on polished marble? Well, with the sun setting in the lunarlike landscape of EBBLA, I watched in fascination as my fellow travelers, led by a blond Canadian, each kicking up more dust than ten pigpens and wondered, "What would the inhabitants have thought if they could see this now?"

Winston

A very special Birthday

Heather Voget celebrated her 80th Birthday at the Christmas party of Sydney Interline Club, held at the Marriot hotel in the city and where over 150 interliners were present.



She was presented with the plaque and made an OBE (Over Bloody Eighty)

A really memorable day!

John Aarons
RVP Far East and Australasia

If you are planning to visit the Interline Celebration in October, then jump at the chance to join one of the wonderful tours offered by the Singapore Interline Club!

The Singapore Explorer

30th September – 04th October 2009

The best opportunity to feel the spirit of this wonderful metropole!



The Parameswara Sojourn

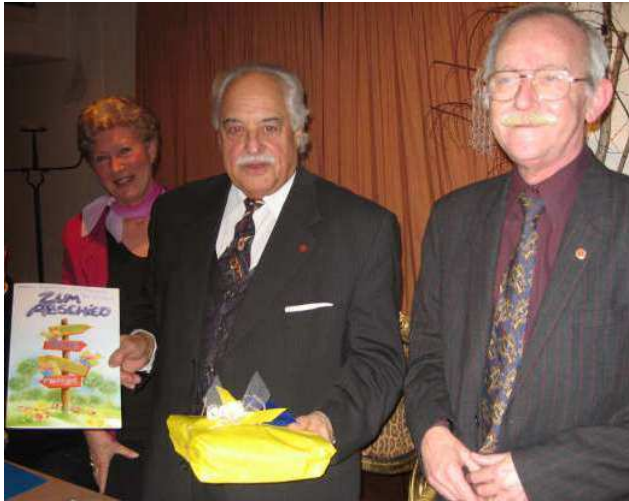
9th to 11th of October 2009

Visit the historical city of Malacca and enjoy the beach of the Desaru Beach Ressor



For more information visit www.waca.org

Honors for a long term office



Left to right.: Mia Zwahlen, WACA Rep, Peter Gilardoni, Past President, and Eugen Meier, new elected President



During the lately held General Assembly of the Interairline Club Zurich, Peter Gilardoni - a name and a man well known in the WACA-family - retired as president, but - of course - he will remain an active member of the club. He was president of our club for 18 years. During this long time, he steered the ship IACZ safely through all the storms in the airline industry.

In appreciation of his great merits he was appointed as president of honour by acclamation at the end of the assembly

Do you know the Islands of the Azores, just in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean? The Interline Club of Portugal wants to commemorate there its birthday with you!

Grande Festa 2009

22 – 25 October 2009

You will find a harmonious convergence of majestic scenery with the human warmth and way of life that is both timeless and contemporary



22nd PASSAROLA GOLF CUP TOURNAMENT

20. – 24. October 2009

Golf Game at Batalha Green

For more information please visit www.waca.org

Interline Celebration in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Dear All,

The preparations for the 2009 Interline Celebration in Kuala Lumpur are progressing well. The event, which is hosted by WACA, is expected to draw a big crowd, given the amount of feedback and registrations received so far. So far, we have about 130 people registered for the main event. The Post Interline Celebration tour Borneo Adventure was sold out within days of publication. Subsequently, an additional package B was sold out as well within a week. Package C was then launched and this is almost sold out as well.

With regards to the pre tour – Langkawi Getaway, we already have 26 registrations for this tour and the Airline Club of Singapore have also organized 2 tours to coincide with the Interline Celebration. The 2 tours are the Singapore Explorer, which will give Interliners a taste of vibrant Singapore, prior to the KL event, and the Parnameswara Sojourn, which is ideal for Interliners short on time and budget, to visit historic Malacca and have a relaxing day at the beach, before they take their long journeys home.

This year's event is held at the Palace of the Golden Horses, a well known hotel which hosted the APEC meeting in 1998 and is the Malaysian Government's de facto state guesthouse. The hotel is located next to a beautiful lake with a world class golf course which hosted the 1999 World Cup and is surrounded by greenery. Conveniently located just 20 minutes from downtown Kuala Lumpur, the hotel is also close to the administrative capital of Putrajaya and Kuala Lumpur International Airport, one of the best Airports in the world.



Apart from Singapore, Malaysia boasts South East Asia's best infrastructure. Travelling within Malaysia is very easy as the country is crisscrossed by modern expressways and the country is served by at least 5 International Airports (not including domestic Airports like Sandakan and Langkawi).

Although Malaysia is a majority Muslim country, the country's religious outlook is quite secular and there are large minorities of non-Malays, such as the Chinese, who make up around 25 percent of the population, the Indians (7 percent) and the indigenous people of Borneo, who are more likely to be Christians (10 percent). In fact, during Ramadan, business goes on as usual in Malaysia. In cities like Ipoh, Penang and Kuching, the Chinese are the overwhelming majority, whilst they make up the largest ethnic group in Kuala Lumpur. Malaysians are a very down to earth people and can be one of the friendliest people you will find in Asia. Malaysia is divided into 2 parts, Western Malaysia, which is based in the Malay Peninsula and Eastern Malaysia, which is part of Borneo.



Both Singapore and Brunei have close connections to Malaysia, the former left the Malaysian Federation in 1965 and the latter refusing to join it because of its oil wealth. In fact Malaysian Airlines and Singapore Airlines used to be one airline known as MSA. Malaysia-Singapore-Airlines was broken up in 1972. The country used to be a British colony, prior to independence after the Second World War. As a result, most Malaysian institutions today are based on British models, with English widely spoken across Malaysia, albeit with a distinctive Malaysian accent.

During the preparations for the Interline Celebration, we have been working closely with the Malaysian Ministry of Tourism. The Malaysians have been very pro-active in supporting WACA and have kindly assisted us in the presentation of the Interline Celebration. In addition, we are in discussions with Malaysia Airlines to offer ID tickets to airline staff who do not have Interline Agreements with them and to Retirees of defunct airlines. We hope to be successful in this respect.

Meanwhile, if there are any questions regarding the upcoming Interline Celebration in Malaysia, please do not hesitate to contact me or any member of the EC.

Yours in Interlining and see you in Kuala Lumpur!

Julian Chau
Secretary General
engcit@netvigator.com

The 42nd WACA Interline Celebration

It all began in the Middle of the 19th Century when a group of tin prospectors came to settle around the convergence of the Klang and Gombak River. This marked the foundation of Kuala Lumpur and its share of growth and setbacks to become the metropolitan centre of today. And at this place, the capital of Malaysia since 1896, the World Airlines Club Association is organizing the **42nd WACA Interline Celebration** in the “Palace of the Golden Horses”



A warm welcome to interliners from all Clubs worldwide to this main event of our yearly program! An exciting program – including the **42nd Annual General Assembly** – is being prepared for your stay from **04 – 09 October 2009**.

Beside the wonderful Tours “**The Singapore Explorer**” and “**Parameswara Sojourn**”, organized as pre- and pos-tours by the Singapore Interline Club, WACA prepared two more excellent options to extend your visit:



Langkawi Tropical Getaway

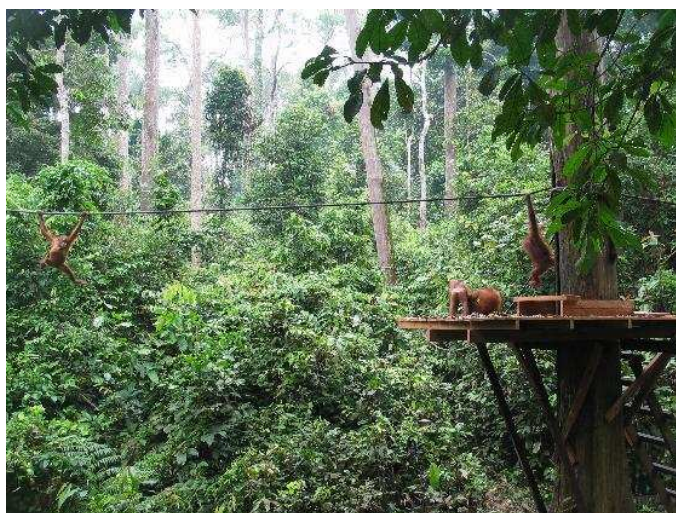
Enjoy this idyllic island and stay at the Berjaya Langkawi Beach and Spa Resort from 30. September to 04 of October.

Last but not least, the three packages of our

Borneo Adventure

This customized tour is designed to give the interliner a chance to experience the best of Sabah, Borneo, the “Land beneath the Winds”.

You will find all brochures, details and registration forms of these events visiting our website www.waca.org



San Diego Interline Club Gray Whale Watching Weekend February 20th to 22nd, 2009



The San Diego Interline Club had its first International environmental event on the weekend of the 22nd of February with the presence of six out of town interliners that join the locals for what proved to be quite an experience and a lesson on how to turn an almost cancelled event, into an educational, friendly and fun filled weekend.

My introduction to the "enlightening" started with my re-education on the "ancient" (not to say pre-historic) art of flying on stand-by basis. Thanks to the "family fare" and then to the especial fare for "parents-in-law" [I Looove my son-in-law] I'm being lucky (and grateful) enough to fly, for the past ten years, on tickets with right to reservations.

After being "bumped" from a few flights, rerouted, sleeping (my favorite travel mode) in very uncomfortable seats on various departures gates of the same amount of Airports and sitting on the "back" of a MD80 with the engine right into my ear I made it to San Diego and back to Montreal, tired but in one "piece".



Was it worth to travel for 24 hours to participate in an event of 48 hours? You bet your sweet...that not only was it worth but also a pleasure to spend those few hours with a group of local interliners that under the leadership of the Sand Diego "dynamic duo" refused to give up and against all odds

they were capable of achieving success.

Friday, while Salam, under the expert "guidance" of her "Shopping Guide" Tina, went shopping, I decided to continue my re-education tour visiting the USS Aircraft Carrier "MIDWAY" and revive the times of my childhood when scenes seen in the movies induced me in a carrier with the airline industry

Today, the "MIDWAY" is a museum run by Veterans of the past wars in which the USA was involved. You can actually meet veterans of the



Pacific war against Japan, Vietnam and the Gulf war and hear their stories and "tales" from their times while in the navy. You can see "fighters" from the early WWII to the modern F18 (from the famous and most decorated war ship in the US Navy history the USS ENTREPRISE).

I had board the Midway at twelve noon and had given "rendezvous" to Tina and Salam for 3:30. By the time Salam called me on her mobile I was still going in circles, trying to find my way to the flight deck, deep inside that "floating city". The ladies, very graciously, gave me another hour to finish my tour.

From there we stroll down to the nearest restaurant for a drink and a late lunch. We past a series of sculptures honoring Bob Hope and the sailor kissing a girl in New York City on the day that WWII ended.

After our late lunch, Tina drove us back to the hotel.



It was time to, officially, start our Gray Whale weekend. At 7:00PM, we join the members of the SAN in the hospitality suite and after registering I mingled among the participants, meeting old friends and start making new ones.

For some, the night was short...too many "commotions" (age had nothing to do with it) and I had to wake up early in the morning to initiate the second part of my "education" tour...I had a "date" with the whales and had

also all the intentions of not breaking it!

Somehow I made it to the restaurant (can even recall the hours) and after an excellent breakfast (wanted to be prepared just in case my stomach would be in disagreement with the Pacific), we were transferred to the pier for our three hour sea safari.



For those that are experienced with safaris, know that it is all a question of luck...we can see the species we want as well we can spend all our time looking for it with poor or no results at all, that is the golden rule of observing wild life on its habitat. So, my expectations weren't set too high, especially knowing that it was the end of the migratory season for the Gray whales.

I board our cruise ship and made myself comfortable and ready to enjoy the cruise with or without whales.

As previously mentioned, we did see "tons" of dolphins, the playful ones, the "lazy" ones and even the rare species of "white dolphins" ...but the gray whales missed the appointment!



They had decided that they had better things to do with their lives than being a "show" to a "bunch" of tourists.



Lunch, after we disembarked, was "served" picnic style in an attractive "village" set on a sea-side area of the San Diego City.

After lunch and having stroll along the "village" was time for us to return to the hotel and get prepared for the second "highlight" of our weekend, the "mystery theatre" dinner.

Once again I do not recall the time or what I had for dinner...too busy "laughing myself silly" (as promised in the brochure) to have any other thoughts in my mind and my table, as a team, failed "shamefully" to solve the mystery.. The contents of the show shall remain a mystery...for me to know and for you to find out...

My hat is off to the San Diego Interline Club, to all its members for the hospitality and friendship displayed and last but not least, to Don and Miriam for a lesson on "When there is a will there is way". Their enthusiasm and determination made the weekend one that I will remember for the great "job" done in organizing an event that combined friendship, fun and informative opportunities.
Thank you San Diego Interline Club

Francisco Valdez
RVP North America



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QUEBEC WINTER CARNIVAL

FROM PLUS 13 CELSIUS IN AMMAN TO MINUS 13 CELSIUS IN MONTREAL

After a long night flight from Amman, I was introduced to the Canadian Winter with freezing temperatures in the early hours of the morning of the day of my arrival in Montreal....BRRRRR, poor Salam!!!!



But soon, the warm welcome from the Montreal Interline Club representatives made us to forget the weather and join the locals as if we were part of the "gang" and used to the extreme temperatures we were experiencing.



As soon as I walked into the hospitality suite I felt relaxed among the MIC members, especially with the Bar tenders Roger Sutton and Stan Fafoutis (Roger and Stan's Bar opens from 00:01 to 23:59)

preparing and offering us the essential (drinks that is) to keep us warm... Dinner (finger food) was served on the hospitality suite and prepared by the MIC members under the supervision of, as Chico often referred, Kitty Winterbotham "the catering department". And what a fantastic "job" they did! Thanks to them, I already have an appointment made with my treadmill....



The gathering of interliners from the Gatwick, Florida, Pittsburgh, Detroit, San Diego, Vancouver and of course from the Jordan Interline Clubs brought back memories of the happy days were interliners from all over the world used to greeting each other under the hospitality of the host Club.

The next day was the North America Regional Meeting and the RVP N.A. had invited us, out of town interliners, to attend and participate in the meeting, especially in the afternoon session. To me, it was quite an experience to see how other Regions conduct their business and "tackle" the problems that so many interline Clubs worldwide are facing at the present time.



A tour of the Montreal followed the working session which was enjoyed by those interliners that took it... others that should remain nameless decided to relax and catch a nap before our farewell dinner. A four course dinner, a delicious cake to celebrate Kiki's birthday and ...my treadmill was upgraded to a much more serious workout exercises...



After breakfast, we were "transferred" to the Central Station, for our train to Quebec City. Somehow the Montreal Interline Club managed to serve sandwiches (once again thanks to "Mother" Kitty) and have an open bar going for three hours on a train that had catering and bar services... Needless to say that we arrived in Quebec City well rested, well fed and well

warmed up! We check-in at Hotel Chateau Laurier and by six o'clock, we all met again for the welcome cocktail and...what else but another delicious four course meal (by then I had given up on my workouts and did like everyone else...enjoyed the meals and forgot all about gained calories)!



After dinner it was our introduction to the Quebec Winter Carnival and



we walked the short distance from the Hotel to the Ice Palace (home of the Winter Carnival Mascot "Bonhomme"). We soon learned that dancing, more than an entertainment, was a necessity in order to keep ourselves warm and not turning into "popsicles".

A visit to the Ice Palace was a must and unavoidably, some of us had photos taken with the "Bonhomme", while others...well, prefer to be young again....and try sliding down on a slide carved on ice.

And as soon as we return to the hotel, some run to the fireplace at the hotel lobby to "defrost", while others went straight to the "de-icing station" and defrosted with the "anti-freezing" that Roger and Stan were serving.



We departure, for a full day tour of Quebec City, Montmorency Falls and of course a visit to the famous Ice Hotel, after breakfast. The Ice Hotel was, for many of us, one of the highlights of our participation in the program and we surely weren't disappointed. From its constructions (explained to us by the Hotel Tour Guide) in the beginning of the winter to the ornamental sculptures carved on ice to the now famous, among us, "welcome cocktail served on a glass carved on ice", the Ice Hotel proved to be an experience worth to try at least once in your life time.

Your overnight at the Hotel can also be quite an experience. You sleep in "sleeping bags" (room temperature is a constant -10 Celsius) and the rooms do not have neither toilet (toilet facilities are port-o-potties with heaters) nor doors (so no monkey business) but they have an agreement with an adjoining hotel that if it is too cold for you



during the night you can move into a room into the hotel.

After the visit to the Ice Hotel we proceed to visit the Montmorency Falls where we had time to "explore" the falls and its surroundings. After lunch, was time for us to get back to Quebec City and witness a group of "courageous" individuals taking a "bath" in the snow... Crazy "Canucks"



Our sightseeing was completed with a visit of the "Old" Quebec and some of the landmarks that makes Quebec City one of the most romantic and historical cities that I have ever visited. Upon our return to the Hotel, a surprise was waiting us: Chico, our tour leader had arranged roses to be delivered to the hotel and to celebrate Valentine's Day, he offered one red rose to all and each one of the ladies in the group.

Tonight and simultaneously is our farewell dinner, Valentine's Day dinner and what else but another birthday celebration. Aubrey was celebrating his 75th birthday. Besides the cake (oh... those calories) the "festivities" were marked by our tour Guide, Marguerita, singing a song in polish dedicated to the "birthday boy".

After dinner was time for us to join the rest of the "world" and watch the night parade marking the return of the "Bonhomme" to his Ice Palace and the closing of the Quebec Winter Carnival celebrations.

Sunday, our last day in Quebec City, was a day at leisure in order to allow us to do and see whatever would please us the most. After a late breakfast I choose to stroll through the site where the last activities of the Carnival were taking place. The place was packed with last minute visitors and the highlight of the events (most of them designed for a much younger crowd) was the finals of the Derby, where sleighs pulled by one horse, competes against each other and against time, on an obstacle course.

That night we gathered again to have our last dinner (picnic style) as a group in the Roger and Stan's "de-icing" station. Sadly, it was time for us to start saying our farewells to each other. We will be returning to Montreal and our countries of origin early in the morning.

The Montreal Interline Club is renowned for its "packages" and hospitality and they certainly lived up to their reputation ...THANK YOU MIC for making me feel like one of your own (helping during the Regional Meeting and assisting Kitty on the "catering department") and for a fun, friendly and relaxing weekend. An experience I will always remember very profoundly.
Yours in friendship

Salam Shahatit
Jordan Interline Club

Editorial



Dear Interliners,

After a seldom long and cold winter here in Europe, we are anxiously waiting for some sun, for some warmer days. I cannot believe that the first quarter of this year is already nearly gone. Time is rushing so quickly that we didn't realize it.

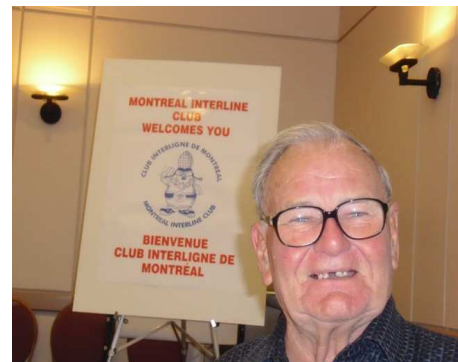
Unfortunately, this year will be a very hard one for all of us.

The economical crisis worldwide has also fully affected our aviation industry and still we do not know which negative impacts we still have to handle until an improvement. Even though, we at the Airline Clubs Association are trying to reduce these negative impacts as much as possible, offering again a much diversified program – each one of you will find something interesting to spend your vacations or a weekend with friends.

End of February, all EC members met in Montreal, where our friends from the Montreal Interline Club have made all efforts to make our meeting a full success, joined to a warm welcome and home-hosting by our interline friends. A very warm "Thank you" to Aubrey Winterbotham, Chico Valdez, and all members and their families from the Montreal Interline Club! That was the real spirit of interlining!

In this edition of our WACA World News I tried to introduce some modifications and hope, that you will like it. Please let me have your critics, comments and suggestions – they will help me to further develop this instrument, which is one of our main channels of communication!

Yours in interlining
Rosemarie Mamede
V. P. Public Relations



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