

3/21/2010

## THE HOME OF THE SINGAPORE SLING

After a 22 hour flight from LAX to Singapore, I arrived not rested at all. I left Wednesday and got there Friday, with Thursday disappearing into the universe! Bonnie has turned in her cruising keys, so I am going it alone.

The next morning I set out to see what changes have taken place since my last visit 30 years ago. It turns out, plenty! The last time there were maybe six hundred thousand people. Now there are four million. To accommodate all the people, there are now 50 story apartment buildings. The freeways are full of cars using gasoline costing \$6.50 to \$7.00/gallon. The roads into the city have variable tolls to discourage travel at peak hours. Fifty and sixty story office buildings dwarf the previous structures.



They have just opened a skyscraper casino. The government charges residents \$100/day to gamble. It is supposed to control the people who cannot afford to lose money gambling!

Singapore is still a gigantic shipping hub. The harbor is filled with hundreds of ships anchored, waiting unloading or idle awaiting a load.

At mid-day I boarded the Azamara Quest for a Southeast Asia cruise. Much to everyone's dismay, the cabins were not ready until six-o'clock. Not until later did they tell us that the ship arrived with an outbreak of the Noro-virus, and was being sanitized from stem to stern! All bedding and curtains were replaced in all cabins.

After sailing from Singapore, the ship will have one day at sea before arriving at Bangkok, Thailand.

Dave