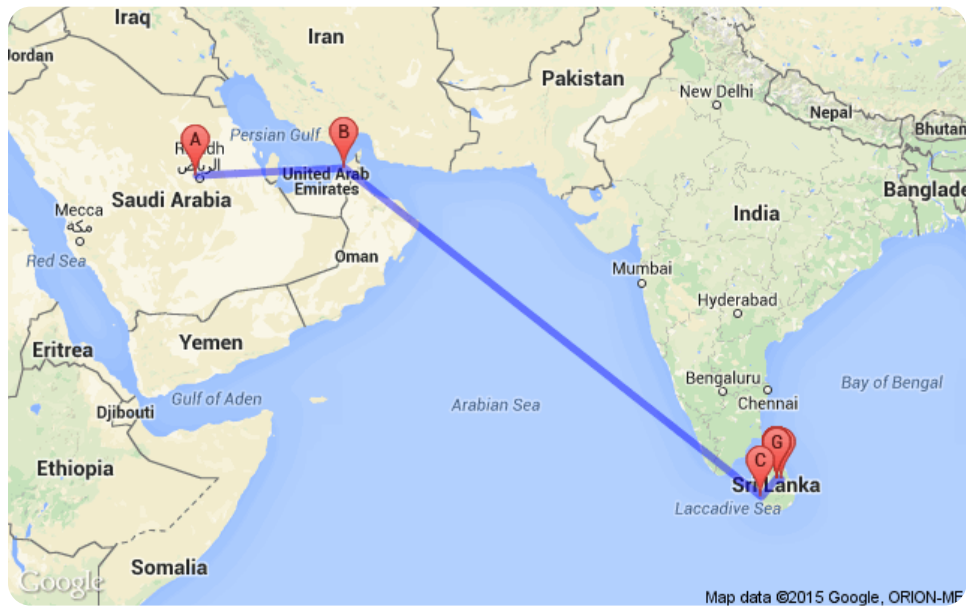


Drury Family Epic Summer Holiday

Fri 28 Jun 2013 - Thu 1 Aug 2013

28 Jun 2013 - 30 Jun 2013

June 28, 2013, 4:25 p.m.

Here we are at the start of our epic holiday in Riyadh international airport, having a snack before we board for Colombo Sri Lanka. And look at Matthews new hair!



June 28, 2013, 9:05 p.m.

Sharjah airport, only just in time for connecting flight. Must stop being so Yorkshire tight and spend a few more quid on a direct flight next time.



June 29, 2013, 3:35 a.m.

Landed at Colombo and was very popular with the currency exchange people with them all bidding for attention until they realised I was using plastic instead of cash, they seemed a little Moody's then lol. Met by our guide chandra who is such a nice guy. 4 hour drive to Habanara, we are all really tired but can't sleep there is too much to look at including hundreds of road dogs, nutters on motorbikes and elephants in the back of trucks. We stopped to sample some local jack fruit and king coconut drinks on he way.



June 29, 2013, 9:30 a.m.

Arrived at the hotel. It's fantastic had a lovely breakfast with lots of bacon and then had a walk around the grounds, there is so much wildlife giant squirrels, water monitors, monkeys, kingfishers etc. Matty loved the monkeys and their humorous raids of the breakfast bar. Had a cold drink at the bar and a little snooze this afternoon.



June 29, 2013, 3:30 p.m.

Went on a safari this evening, saw an eagle owl from our vantage point although the real thrill was our ride as she didn't run on petrol but bananas, and when 35 year old elephant "Menika" took us for an hour on her back and demanded a banana she got one.



June 29, 2013, 6:30 p.m.

A fantastic but tiring first day



June 30, 2013, 6:30 a.m.

Called at a textile printing place, had a tour of traditional factory showing us how they use wax dye to make things by hand. Of course gill bought a small souvenir, had to remind her we have another 7 weeks and at least 4 country's to go and I ain't carrying it all.



June 30, 2013, 7:30 a.m.

On our way to Sigeria. Gill isn't looking forward to this being afraid of heights.



June 30, 2013, 10:30 a.m.

Got to the top of Sigeria to the ruins of the kings palace on top. We had a fantastic guide and saw 1000 year old paintings and lots of monkeys. Gill was terrified as she isn't good with heights, we were so proud of her when she got to the top.



June 30, 2013, 11:30 a.m.

Snake charmer at Sigeria after watching a cobra dance we all had hold of a python.



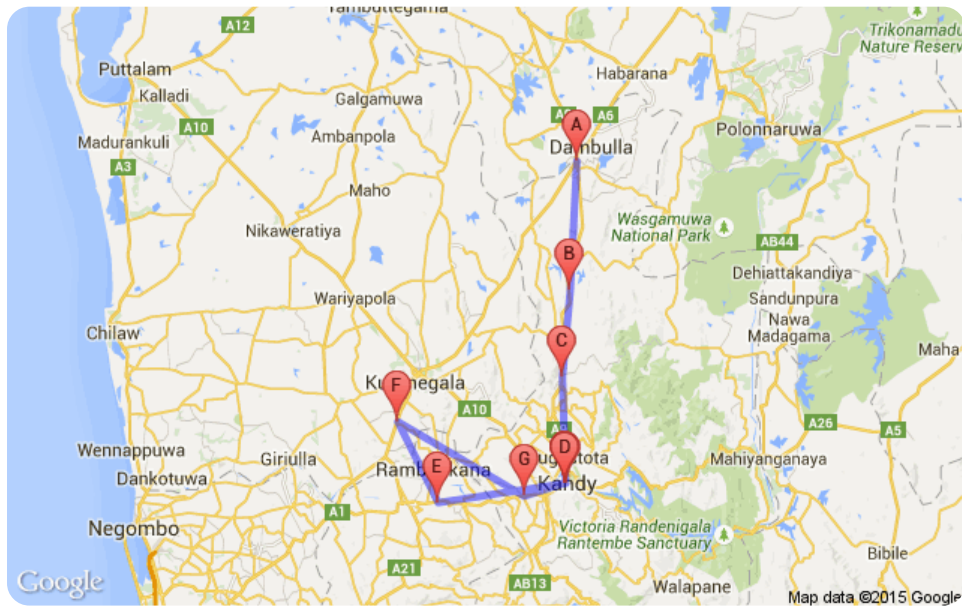
June 30, 2013, 1:30 p.m.

This afternoon we went to the ruins in Polonnaruwa. Lots of Buddhist and Hindu Temples. And lots of guys trying to sell us tat



June 30, 2013, 6 p.m.

On our way back we called at a wood carvers workshop and saw them making ebony elephants of which Matthew now owns. we then went to a spa and all had a full body massage and steam bath which was a new experience for Matty, before going back to the hotel for roast pork and beer for dinner.

01 Jul 2013 - 02 Jul 2013

July 1, 2013, 8:30 a.m.

Checked out of our hotel and set off to Kandy. Called at the Golden temple which was beautiful on the way.



July 1, 2013, 9:30 a.m.

we also called for some roadside fruit, coconut and red bananas and was treated to a display of all the uses for coconuts. Including fuel for oil lamps, and making strong rope besides the obvious cooking etc.



July 1, 2013, 12:30 p.m.

We also called at a spice farm and had a tour including much sampling and a herbal massage. That's 2 massage in 2 days, I hope gill doesn't think it is the norm from now. Also I was a guinea pig for a hair removal demo I think it was a ploy believing that if I had one hairless leg I would be forced into buying some product to do the other one. I don't think he's tried it on a Yorkshireman before.



July 2, 2013, 6:30 a.m.

Had a nice breakfast overlooking the river. I keep dropping hints to gill about going fishing but she is doing a good job of ignoring me and she even has Chandra winding me up about not going fishing with all this water around me.



July 2, 2013, 8 a.m.

On the way to the elephant orphanage we stopped at a bridge to see thousands of fruit bats asleep in the open. Very cool



July 2, 2013, 10:30 a.m.

This was one of the best experiences we have ever had. Spent the whole morning with elephants, we stroked baby elephants, and fed huge ones. Then sat back had a nice cold drink and watched the whole herd playing in the river. Awesome !



July 2, 2013, 11:30 a.m.

Met even more new wildlife to touch which you wouldn't normally at the roadside on our way back to candy.



July 2, 2013, 1:30 p.m.

Stopped at the Gem workshop and gill and matt bought some stones while I tutted a lot. Who would have thought that matt would buy moonstone instead of call of duty game with some of his birthday money.



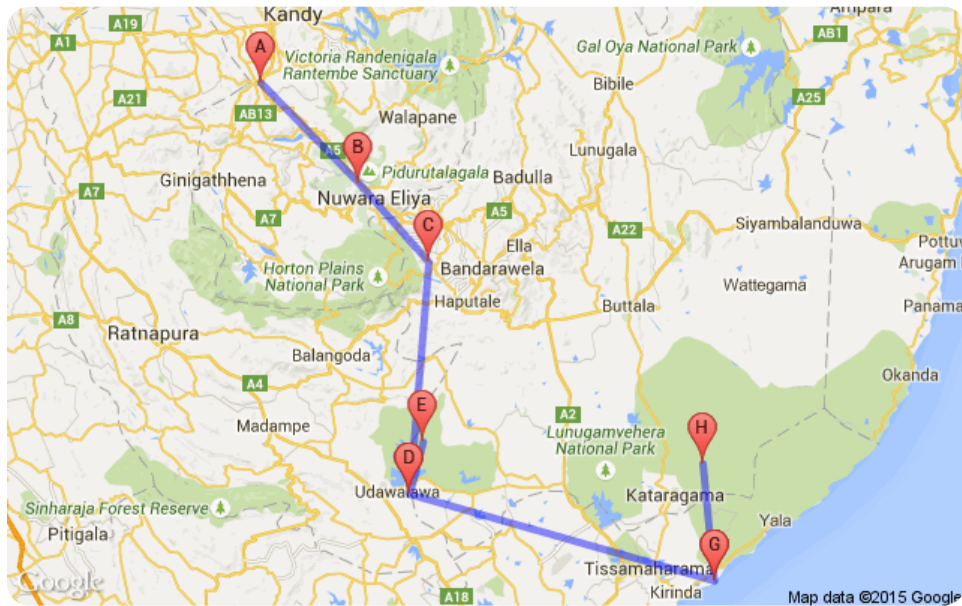
July 2, 2013, 4:30 p.m.

Went to a cultural dance show with fire eating and walking on hot coals, it was quite good.



July 2, 2013, 6:30 p.m.

Visited the Temple of the Tooth a seriously holy place if you are a Buddhist. Had a look at the relic and our guide gave us the history of Buddhism which was interesting. I'm not a religious person but I still felt good being here with all the people praying etc. Out of all the major religions Buddhism seems to make the most sense, but to be honest I think I will just remain a Jedi.

03 Jul 2013 - 05 Jul 2013

July 3, 2013, 9 a.m.

A long drive of 8 hours today to get over the mountains into the south was broken up by a few pleasant stops including playing in a waterfall



July 3, 2013, 12:30 p.m.

You all know I love a cup of tea so couldn't resist a guided tour of a tea plantation and of course a nice brew at the end.



July 3, 2013, 2:30 p.m.

Although it takes a long time to get over the mountain the views are amazing



July 3, 2013, 4:30 p.m.

Checked into our jungle hotel, loved the setting and the wildlife but didn't like the number of mozzies.



July 4, 2013, 5:30 a.m.

Got up early for our first ever wild safari. With a guide on board we saw eagles, elephants, snakes, lizards, buffalo and jackels to name a few. Top experience!



July 4, 2013, 2:30 p.m.

Believe it or not this afternoon was the first time since arriving in Sri Lanka that we have had a relax in the pool. Had a fun afternoon playing in the pool and had a few beers before dinner.



July 5, 2013, 11:30 a.m.

Had a nice breakfast and a couple of coconuts on the way to Yala national park, walked past a few crocodiles and checked into our jungle house which is the nicest place we have been up to now and is surrounded by wildlife.



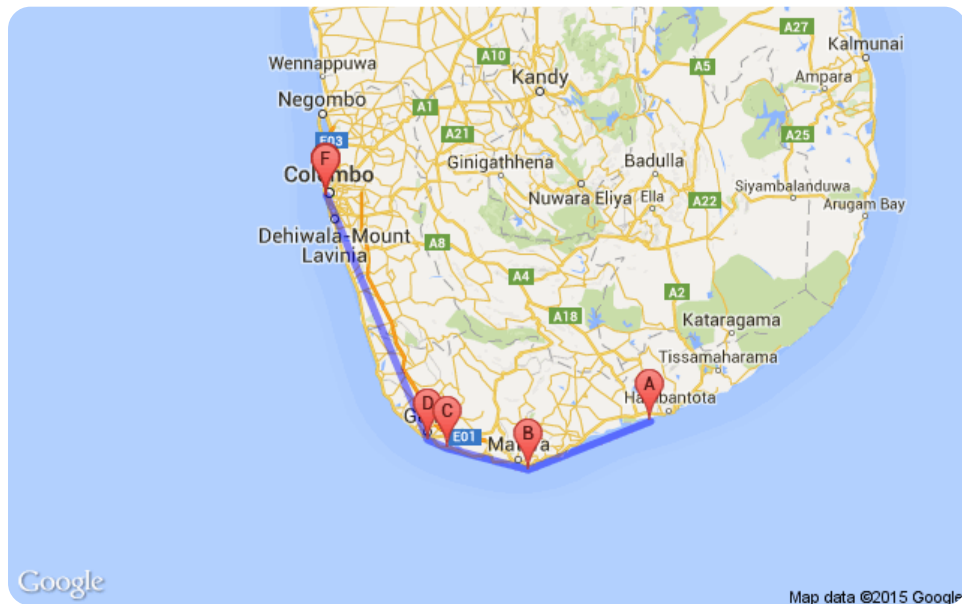
July 5, 2013, 4 p.m.

What an amazing adventure, we went on a safari into Yala national park. We saw buffalo, crocs, mongoose, monkeys, dear, wild boar, loads of birds but the icing on the cake was to see the rare and elusive Leopard. Which was my favourite experience up to now.



July 5, 2013, 8:54 p.m.

Played In the Indian Ocean for an hour after lunch, only paddling though it was at too rough to swim in.

06 Jul 2013 - 07 Jul 2013

July 6, 2013, 11 a.m.

Left the hotel to head to Colombo. However on the way we stopped at a natural phenomenon rock blow hole, it is where the waves are pushed up through a hole in the rocks. On the way back to the car matt had his first ice cream of the holiday.



July 6, 2013, 2 p.m.

After the blow hole we carried towards Colombo, but stopped again to see the tallest lighthouse in Sri Lanka. It is a working lighthouse so officially we weren't allowed to go up it, but with shifty handshakes we were climbing the ladders. Views were amazing when we got to the top as it is set on the most southern part of the island.



July 6, 2013, 4 p.m.

On the way again, but this time we stopped at a turtle sanctuary. Here they collect the eggs from the beach to make sure they hatch, but also buy turtles off sellers in the street or heal the injured all to be released back into the wild. We got to hold several types of turtles and even some that had hatched the night before. I think the three of us agree it was an amazing experience.



July 6, 2013, 4:30 p.m.

Final stop of the day was the fort at Galle. This was first built by the Portuguese then the Dutch invaded then the Brits invaded. Matt paid for a guy called Arsanka to base jump off the side of the fort (he did keep telling us it was his job) then spent the afternoon talking of having dreds and and jumping off things (Which he did manage to refrain from doing).



July 6, 2013, 8 p.m.

Finally arrive at Colombo after stopping again so we could play with a handmade fishing rod. After a long day we went to the mall next door and had fast food, even tho this is a five star hotel.



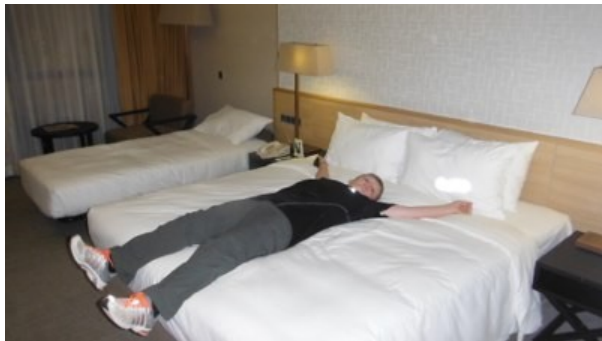
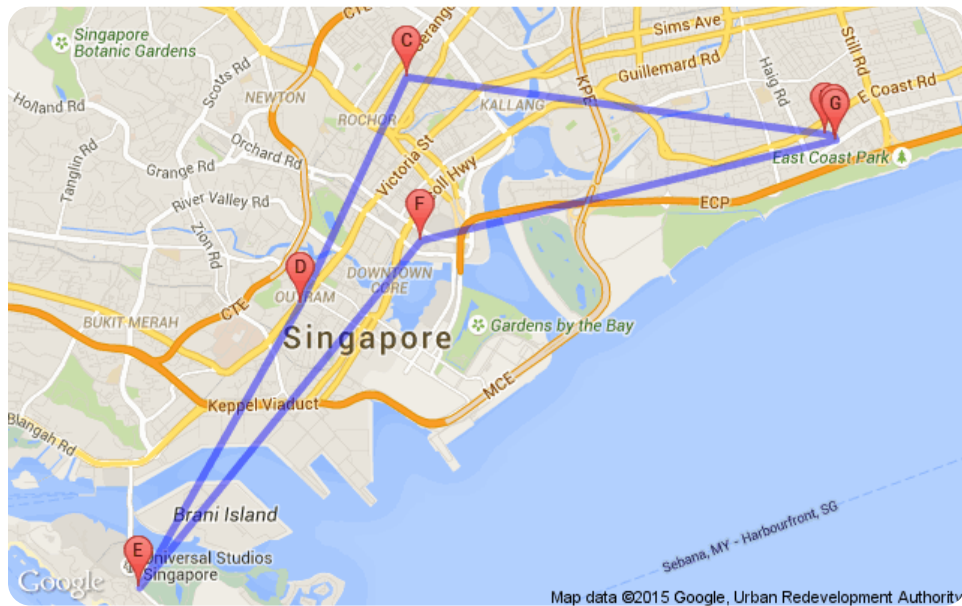
July 7, 2013, 11:30 a.m.

Day in Colombo, had a city tour and saw the Whitehouse (replica of the American Whitehouse). Went to a mall and gift shop, matt even managed to look for a toy shop on the Internet, which Chandra found. Then relaxed this afternoon and this evening had room service.



July 7, 2013, 9:43 p.m.

Last night in Sri Lanka and we are already talking about a return trip. Had a little in room dining to finish off our trip.

08 Jul 2013 - 14 Jul 2013

July 8, 2013, 10 p.m.

Lovely flight to Singapore. Emirates is defiantly best airline we have ever used, even the food was good. Arrived at our new hotel and base for the next week safe and sound.



July 9, 2013, 4 p.m.

Decided to have a lazy day today as we have been so active, had a lay in then watched some tv and planned operation Singapore. Soon got itchy feet and went for a look around the local area. Had our first taste of the food which I loved, gill even tried some octopus.



July 10, 2013, noon

Off early for a full day of shopping, went to little India and then on to some massive malls. Went to cinema to watch World War Z, I forgot how much I miss cinema. On way home called in food court for a selection of local treats. I LOVE the food here!



July 11, 2013, 6 p.m.

A full fun packed day today, mini golf, a visit to china town, a cable car ride and even a go at fishing for prawns.



July 12, 2013, 10 a.m.

We were up early for a full day in the Universal Studios Theme Park, transformers ride, best ride ever - FACT! Had an amazing day.



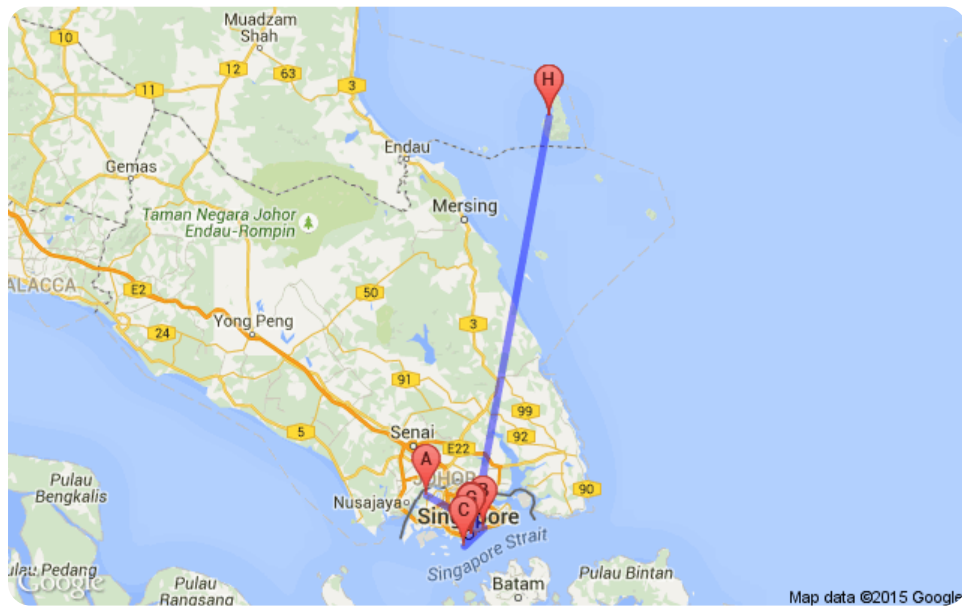
July 13, 2013, 4 p.m.

Having such a good time here in Singapore have decided to extend our stay a few days longer. Took Matthew to a local Gaming tournament today and he spent some of his birthday money. Then we went to the famous raffles for a singapore sling.



July 14, 2013, noon

Had a day in the hotel to relax and recover from our full day on Sentosa. Time by the pool and a few movies.

15 Jul 2013 - 19 Jul 2013

July 15, 2013, 3 p.m.

What a brilliant day, we did all 3 of Singapore's Zoos in One day. Highlights included seeing pandas, stroking lemurs and playing tug of war over our zoo map with squirrel Monkeys. Also the night zoo was cool, seeing big cats being active instead of sleeping was brilliant.



July 16, 2013, noon

Had another lazy one today planning our next stop on our tour, we decided on Tioman Island. Went to see Pacific Rim and the cinema which was good.



July 17, 2013, noon

Went back to Sentosa island for another fun packed day. We loved racing down the hill on a luge, we played against each other before being taught a lesson by the pro staff at lazer tag. We walked across a rope bridge to the most southern part of continental Asia before having a few hours in the water park on some awesome slides.



July 18, 2013, 2 p.m.

Had a real treat for our last day in Singapore. We checked out of our hotel and checked in to the Marina Bay Sands which was the most expensive hotel ever built. To say its impressive is a serious understatement, the only down side was that today was raining and the worst weather we had seen up to now but we still had a great time.



July 18, 2013, 4 p.m.

So much fun in The Marina Bay sands infinity pool!



July 18, 2013, 9 p.m.

We were so lucky the week we spent in Singapore, Andrew Lloyd Webber's Phantom of The Opera was on tour and we managed to get some tickets. Spent the night in one of the worlds best hotels and saw our first show together, life is good!



July 19, 2013, 6:30 a.m.

Up for an early morning swim in the infinity pool (which was freezing) before heading to the airport.



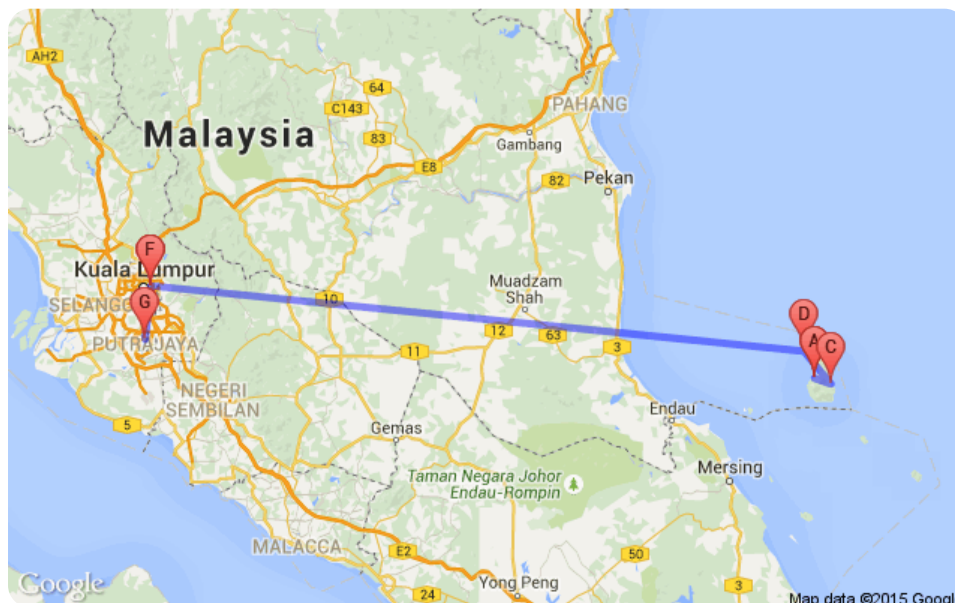
July 19, 2013, 1:30 p.m.

Arrived at Tioman Island, on a tiny plane (48 seater). It looks stunning (the island, not the plane, the plane looks like an air fix kit)



July 19, 2013, 4:30 p.m.

Had a cocktail at the beach bar, before doing a little snorkelling.

20 Jul 2013 - 26 Jul 2013

July 20, 2013, noon

Our chalet is on the beach and next to the pool and the bar so had a relaxing day between snorkelling in the sea and playing in the pool. Had some top local grub for lunch.



July 21, 2013, 4:30 p.m.

it was only a few feet long but still very cool.

We all decided to do what we individually wanted today, Gill went to the spa, I went fishing and snorkelling and Matthew relaxed in the chalet nursing some sunburn from yesterday. I had a brilliant experience swimming with my first shark and I even managed to get a pic of it,



July 22, 2013, 11:30 a.m.

Went across the island today to a turtle sanctuary and am proud to say we did our bit to help, a Turtle laid eggs last night and we sponsored the hatch, in 2 months time there will be approximately 80 little Drury Turtles heading back to sea, Who knows in 30 years one may come back to lay eggs of its own, carrying on the family name.



July 23, 2013, 12:45 p.m.

Had a full snorkelling tour today. 4 different sites which was brilliant except for a new family experience - we all got stung by jelly fish, lucky only little ones that irritated rather than hurt but at least we are classed as proper snorkelers now.



July 24, 2013, 9 p.m.

Arrived in Kuala Lumpur this afternoon. Our hotel is perfect, it's cheap, lovely and smack in the middle of everything. Went for a walk and saw many things, had a fantastic hawker meal and had fun answering Matthews questions about the lady's of the night.



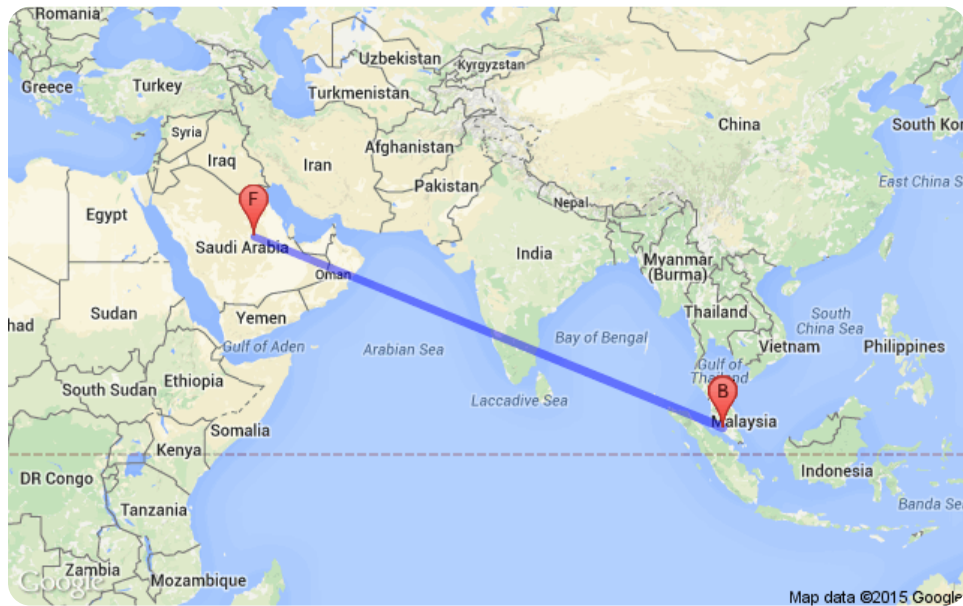
July 25, 2013, noon

Sent the whole day at the time square mall today, it's amazing. 10 story's with a theme park, an I max cinema (which we had to try so went to see Wolverine in 3D) an archery range and the world largest gum all machine.



July 26, 2013, 9 a.m.

Went to the communication tower went to get the ticket but was advised as storm starting it would not be advisable to go up. However they did have a formula one simulator which we all had a go on. Then headed to the city centre to to Petronas towers, as the storm had stopped we tried to go up, but was told we had to book in advance. Three towers attempted, three towers failed.

27 Jul 2013 - 01 Aug 2013

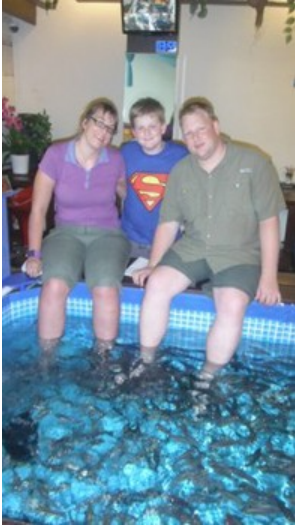
July 27, 2013, 9 a.m.

Went to Batu cave, which is where Hindu temples are set within a cave and have resident monkeys that try to steal any carrier bags that may have food. Lee had such an encounter while Matt and I laughed. We also had a tour of the dark cave which has a resident cave dog, bats and cave snails and one part of the cave where your eyes will never adjust so actually pitch black.



July 28, 2013, 9 a.m.

Went to Sunvalley park, which had a zoo, water park and rides. Matt got up close and personal with some rabbits. We spent the afternoon in the waterpark, where Lee and Matt went on the water slides and we went on the water rapids at least three times straight after each other, but we avoided the scream park (thought to be too scary by some).



July 29, 2013, 2:24 p.m.

Went to china town, where I picked up a Kath Kidston bag for a bargain and Matt kept getting called Superman because of the t-shirt he was wearing. Lee also tried having his feet nibbled by fish for the first time (not my fault he didn't catch one with his big toe), wasn't to Matts liking so he had his hands done instead.



July 30, 2013, 12:30 p.m.

Did some shopping and had to buy a new suitcase, to bring extra things home. Also went to the cinema to watch Despicable Me 2, the minions were funny. Matt also found a restaurant he loved where you got to cook your own food at the table, Lee cooked the fish course, I cooked the meat and Matt was in charge of the bacon mmmmmm.



July 31, 2013, 4:53 p.m.

Last full day in Kualua Lumpur I managed to go shopping, however unsuccessfully while Lee and Matt chilled out in the hotel. Then all out in the evening for a last bit of shopping.



Aug. 1, 2013, 10:30 a.m.

Flew back to Riyadh, we decided we had seen and done so much that we didn't want Thailand not to be special. We have had such a great holiday but we have to admit it was great to sleep in our own beds again.