

## Singapore = dull/sterile/no trees/no entertainment? - Not MD's reality

**S**ingapore is a dull sterile place without any trees or entertainment. This has to be one of the most over-used statements by so many of my ex-pat as well as even local resident pals in Singapore. While I might have agreed with this statement a long long time ago, 1 major thing happened to change this perception. That one thing was joining the Seletar Hash House Harriers about 5 years ago. I know too many whining and complaining types that of course wouldn't join the hash (they are lost causes) but others such as my good colleague Richard who recently joined and understand that Singapore is an absolute blast IF you find the right thing.

Singapore, in fact, has one of the most active and sizable hash communities anywhere in the world. And where there is hash, there usually is plenty of camaraderie and beer and we even manage to find jungle on most runs. And even though I mention the word runs, the hash has nothing to do with running (I know one friend who came and just did the run and went home likely to wan\*). The hash is also about drinking. But the hash isn't even really about the drinking (Halal Sgt Bilko doesn't drink lor). The hash is about camaraderie which goes across all racial, religious, political (just listen to Fukawe egging on Rainbow sometimes) and even economic boundaries.

I really found my "voice" at the hash thanks to Bollocks and General having a drink at the Pub228 almost 5 years ago. They told me I should join the hash and see what it is about. After several months, General asked me "what happened to that quiet guy" who joined the hash months ago (I did ask General what happened to that hairy guy I met years ago recently). The Seletar HHH is an excellent chapter through which I have discovered friends, Singapore places of interest, local islands of interest and an ability to say almost anything to anyone. I know many people that are part of groups such as country clubs, toastmasters and even some of those so-called secretive societies but at the end of the day, they all come to the hash. The SHHH is also a great brotherhood which has helped so many communities as well as their own over the years.

Some of the best memories include hilarious statements by Snake-eater and Nonok (both now hashing in another dimension), crazy diatribes by the whips, and of course serving on the committee. Another great place to really understand the hash has been going to some of the out-station runs such as Borneo and Tanjong Batu. Its like a traveling party which is kept just within control (usually).

SHHH is one of the first things I mention when I discuss Singapore life with friends and even people I am trying to recruit at work. They all have strange visions from watching too much CNN and listening to people that have never lived in Singapore. IF anyone reading this is not a member of the hash, then please find a chapter that is convenient to join on the web. If you are already a member, then on on.

**Microdick**