

Cartographic Conference GeoCart'2008 in New Zealand

Auckland, September 1-3, 2008

It all started with an e-mail containing the first call for participation at the GeoCart'2008 conference to be held from September 1-3, 2008 in Auckland, New Zealand. It was sent by Igor Drecki, the vice president of the New Zealand Cartographic Society and one of the main organizers of the conference. We decided answer the call, we registered a paper about 3D visualization of the Island of Rava and mustered courage to do a long travel.



GeoCart'2008 – Geospatial Vision: New Dimensions in Cartography

GeoCart is the national cartographic conference organized every two years (in principle) by the New Zealand Cartographic Society. The fourth National Cartographic Conference GeoCart'2008 was held at the University of Auckland, New Zealand, in September 2008. The conference was sponsored by the International Cartographic Association and gathered about 70 cartographers and GIS experts, mostly from New Zealand. There were also some Australians, and a handful of people had more to travel – from Austria, Croatia, Poland, Russia, Slovenia, Switzerland, Thailand and USA.

The theme of the GeoCart'2008 conference was *Geospatial Vision: New Dimensions in Cartography*. Since new geospatial technologies are being accepted well, ways our worlds can be visualized are changing. "In what way can cartography satisfy the challenges of emerging geospatial community which inhabits

the dramatically changing world...?" is the question answered by participants during the rich scientific and technical program, which resulted in three publications:

- Moore, A., Drecki, I. (eds. 2008): *Geospatial Vision: New Dimensions in Cartography*, Springer Verlag, Heidelberg.
- Drecki, I., Whigham, P. Moore, A. (eds. 2008): *GeoCart'2008 and SIRC 2008 Conference Proceedings*, New Zealand Cartographic Society, Auckland, CD-Rom
- Whigham, P., Drecki, I., Moore, A. (eds. 2008): *Proceedings of the 20th Annual Colloquium of Spatial Information Research Centre & GeoCart'2008*, University of Otago, Dunedin.

45 presentations (41 papers and 4 posters) were held during three days. In addition to well-received lectures by invited lecturers, there were also interesting lectures by other participants, divided by theme: Visual Exploration, Spatial Data and Knowledge Sharing, 3D Visualisation, Spatial Modelling and Data Mining, Spatial Analysis.

Besides lectures, the formal part of the conference included two exhibitions. The exhibition of products and equipment GeoExpo'2008 attracted seven companies which exhibited maps and/or demonstrated their accomplishments in geospatial technologies. Six maps by leading New Zealand cartographers and cartographic companies were exhibited within the National Map Exhibition.

The organizers also prepared an entertainment program. An ice breaker party was organized on the first day of the conference, which was an excellent opportunity to meet other participants in a pleasant and casual atmosphere. This was continued during the gala dinner on the second day. During the dinner, we were entertained by a band consisting of university professors (Mark Gahegan from the University of Auckland and David DiBiase from the Pennsylvania State University, USA). The atmosphere with pleasant company lasted long into the night. In conclusion, it was nice to participate in the conference and meet new acquaintances in addition to gaining new knowledge and experience.



New Zealand – Aotearoa – The land of the long white cloud

Magnificent natural beauties, fresh air, volcanoes and glaciers, long and desolate sand beaches, peculiar animal species, and vast fields with grazing sheep and cows. These few words can be used to describe the most isolated country on the planet – New Zealand. However, to enter the country, one needs a visa, and they are rigorous – it is forbidden to enter the country with fresh food, plants or anything bio-, and customs officers even examine footwear, which must not be muddy! All of this is due to nature and autochthonous flora and fauna, so all passengers are thoroughly examined at the airport.

Although the North and South Island of the country (together with smaller islands) have a total area almost five times greater than that of Croatia, only 4 million people live there, while there are 20 times more sheep. The people are kind and sociable, and are called Kiwis regardless of their race, according to their country's symbol, the unusual bird kiwi.

Kartografska konferencija GeoCart'2008 na Novom Zelandu

Auckland, 1-3. 9. 2008.

Sve je počelo e-porukom s prvim pozivom za sudjelovanje na konferenciji GeoCart'2008 što će se održati 1-3. 9. 2008. u Aucklandu na Novom Zelandu. Poruku je poslao Igor Drecki, potpredsjednik Novozelandskog kartografskog društva i jedan od glavnih organizatora konferencije. Odlučili smo odazvati se pozivu, prijavili smo rad na temu 3D vizualizacije otoka Rave i odvažili se na dalek put.

GeoCart'2008 – Vizija geoprostora: nove dimenzije u kartografiji (Geospatial Vision: New Dimensions in Cartography)

GeoCart je nacionalna kartografska konferencija koju Novozelandsko kartografsko društvo organizira (u pravilu) svake druge godine. Četvrta po redu Nacionalna kartografska konferencija GeoCart'2008 održana je na Sveučilištu u Aucklandu, na Novom Zelandu, u rujnu 2008. Konferencija je organizirana pod pokroviteljstvom Međunarodnoga kartografskog društva i okupila je sedamdesetak kartografa i GIS stručnjaka, većinom Novozelanda. Pored domaćina, najviše je sudionika doputovalo iz susjedne Australije, a nekoliko nas prevalilo je dalek put – iz Austrije, Hrvatske, Poljske, Rusije, Slovenije, Švicarske, Tajlanda i SAD-a.

Tema konferencije GeoCart'2008 bila je *Vizija geoprostora: nove dimenzije u kartografiji* (Geospatial Vision: New Dimensions in Cartography). Budući da svijet sa sve većim entuzijazmom prihvaća nove geoprostorne tehnologije, mijenjaju se i načini na koje se može vizualizirati



naše svjetove. "Na koji način kartografija može udovoljiti izazovima nastajuće geoprostorne zajednice koja nastanjuje svijet koji se dramatično mijenja...?", pitanje je na koje su sudionici u bogatom znanstvenom i tehničkom programu ponudili svoje odgovore, a sve je rezultiralo s tri objavljene publikacije:

- Moore, A., Drecki, I. (eds. 2008): Geospatial Vision: New Dimensions in Cartography, Springer Verlag, Heidelberg.
- Drecki, I., Whigham, P. Moore, A. (eds. 2008): GeoCart'2008 and SIRC 2008 Conference Proceedings, New Zealand Cartographic Society, Auckland, CD-Rom
- Whigham, P., Drecki, I., Moore, A. (eds. 2008): Proceedings of the 20th Annual Colloquium of Spatial Information Research Centre & GeoCart'2008, University of Otago, Dunedin.

U tri dana održano je ukupno 45 izlaganja (41 rad i 4 postera). Osim izuzetno dobro prihvaćenih predavanja glavnih govornika, zanimljiva predavanja priredili su i ostali sudionici, podijeljeni u po temama: Vizualna istraživanja (Visual Exploration), Prostorni podaci i prenošenje znanja (Spatial Data and Knowledge Sharing), 3D vizualizacija (3D Visualisation), Modeliranje prostora i rudarenje podataka (Spatial Modeling and Data Mining), Prostorna analiza (Spatial Analysis).

Osim izlaganja referata, službeni dio konferencije obuhvatio je dvije izložbe. Izložba proizvoda i opreme GeoExpo'2008 privukla je 7 tvrtki koje su na zidovima svojih štandova izložile kartografske radove i/ili demonstrirale svoja dostignuća u geoprostornim tehnologijama. U sklopu Nacionalne kartografske izložbe izloženo je tek šest izložaka karata vodećih domaćih kartografa i kartografskih tvrtki.

Osim radnoga dijela, organizatori su priredili zabavni društveni program. Prvog dana konferencije organiziran je domjenak (Ice breaker party), izvrsna prilika za upoznavanje ostalih sudionika u ugodnom i opuštenom ozračju. Druženje se nastavilo i na svečanoj večeri (Gala Dinner) organiziranoj drugoga dana. Za vrijeme večere svojom svirkom uživo zabavljao nas je bend u čijem su sastavu bili



sveučilišni profesori (Mark Gahegan s Aucklandskog sveučilišta i David DiBiase s Pennsylvania State University, SAD). Vesela atmosfera uz ugodno društvo potrajali su do dugo u noć. Sve u svemu, bilo je lijepo sudjelovati na konferenciji, a pored novih znanja i iskustava, stekli smo i nova poznanstva.

Novi Zeland – Aotearoa – Zemlja dugog bijelog oblaka

Veličanstvene prirodne ljepote, svježi zrak, vulkani i ledenjaci, duge i puste pješčane plaže, osebujne životinjske vrste, te beskrajna polja na kojima pasu ovce i krave. Tako se u nekoliko riječi može opisati najizoliranija država na planetu – Novi Zeland. No, osim što je potrebno dobiti vizu, za ulazak u zemlju postoje rigorozna pravila – zabranjeno je unošenje svježe hrane, biljaka i bilo čega vezanog uz bio-, a carinici čak pregledavaju obuću koja ne smije biti blatna! Sve je to upravo zbog osebujne prirode i autohtone flore i faune, pa svi putnici na aerodromu budu pomno ispitani i pregledani.

Iako Sjeverni i Južni otok te zemlje (zajedno s pripadajućim malim otocima)



imaju sveukupnu površinu gotovo 5 puta veću od Hrvatske, tu živi samo 4 milijuna stanovnika, dok ovaca ima dvadeset puta više. Ljudi su srdačni i druželjubivi, a neovisno o tome kojoj rasi pripadali nazivaju se kivijanci, po simbolu svoje zemlje, neobičnoj, ali veseloj ptici kiwi.

Povijest Novog Zelanda je relativno je kratka: on je posljednje naseljeno kopno na Zemlji. Prvi ljudi koji su se doselili na Novi Zeland bili su s prostora istočne Polinezije. To je bilo u 13. stoljeću. Polinežani su zemlju otkrili na svojim istraživačkim plovidbama, a kasnije su u malim skupinama počeli dolaziti na otoke. Danas poznati kao Maori, u početku su bili podijeljeni u brojna plemena, sve do dolaska Europljana koji su im dali ime Maori, što znači *obični*. Svoju novu postojbinu nazvali su Ao Te Aroa ili Zemlja dugog bijelog oblaka, kakva im se učinila kad su je prvi put ugledali. Bijeli moreplovci su tu zemlju udaljenu 2000 km od Australije prvi put ugledali 1642. godine i otad je počeli naseljavati, dok su u posljednjih nekoliko godina Azijati gotovo zaposjeli sve veće gradove, a posebno Auckland gdje u vlasništvu imaju bezbroj malih dućana i trgovina.

The City of Sails ili Grad jedrenja(ka) nadimak je Aucklanda zbog velike marine

u kojoj se nalazi najviše jedrilica u odnosu na broj stanovnika ikogej grada na svijetu. Nakon što smo se smjestili u hotelu, odlučili smo se za kratku šetnju prema središtu grada i večeru. Spustili do obale i u zgradi lučke kapetanije izabrali restoran, te smo se prvu večer u Aucklandu častili morskim plodovima u restoranu marine, pokraj replike novozelandske jedrilice koja je sudjelovala na America's Cupu.

Sutradan smo nastavili s razgledanjem grada. Preko Albertova parka uz koji su smještene stare i nove zgrade koje pripadaju aucklanskom sveučilištu zaputili smo se prema glavnom trgu Aotea koji je zamišljen kao središte kulturnog i noćnog života. Šetajući ulicama grada, primjećujemo razlike u kulturi i običajima njegovih stanovnika, a gradom vlada topla kozmopolitska atmosfera. Sve se to očituje u raznolikoj ponudi malih trgovina i suvenirnica, restorana i kafe barova, a najviše dolazi do izražaja na lokalnim sajmovima koji se održavaju u različitim dijelovima grada.

Grad se diči i najvišom građevinom južne hemisfere – 328 metara visokim Sky Towerom koji služi kao telekomunikacijski centar, ali i turistička atrakcija. Poseban je doživljaj promatrati grad s dva staklena vidikovca tornja odakle pogled seže i do

82 kilometara u daljinu. Uz kavu i kolačić sigurno smješteni u restoranu na vrhu tornja promatrali smo turiste koji su odlučili doživjeti jednu od dvije ekstremne ponude – sky jump i sky walk.

Sutradan smo dobar dio dana proveli u aucklanskom muzeju. Muzej je smješten na iznimnom položaju – velikom parku koji se zove Auckland Domain, na jednom mnogobrojnih vulkanskih brdašaca na kojima je nastao Auckland. Tu se nalazi i botanički vrt, s jezerom, potocima, i mnoštvom različitih biljaka, te Zimski vrt (Wintergarden) prepun šarenog cvijeća i egzotičnih biljaka.

Osim impozantne neoklasicističke zgrade u kojoj je muzej smješten, oduševila nas je i njegoa unutrašnjost. Tu posjetitelji mogu saznati sve o povijesti Novog Zelanda, a zasigurno najupečatljiviji dio muzeja je svakako onaj koji prikazuje Maore, njihovu kulturu i običaje (Maori Court). Uz to, uživali smo u predstavi o maorskoj kulturi (Maori Cultural Performance) koja se svakodnevno održava za posjetitelje muzeja.

Zanimljivo je da su se hrvatski iseljenici izvrsno slagali s Maorima, te još uvijek postoje sjećanja o društvenim i kulturnim vezama sačuvana i predana

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New Zealand has a relatively brief history: it was the last piece of land on the Earth to become inhabited. The first people who inhabited New Zealand were from East Polynesia, in the 13th century. The Polynesians discovered the country during their exploration voyages, and later started coming to the islands in larger groups. Nowadays, they are known as Maori. At first, they were divided into numerous tribes, until Europeans came and named them Maori, which means *ordinary*. They called their new homeland Ao Te Aroa or Land of the Long White Cloud, because it looked like when they first spotted it. White sailors first saw the country, 2000 km from Australia, in 1642 and started inhabiting it, while Asian people have lately occupied all major cities, most notably Auckland, where they own a great number of small shops.

Auckland is nicknamed the City of Sails because of a large marina with the most sailboats in the world in relation to the city's population. After accommodating at the hotel, we decided to go for a short walk toward the city centre and to have a dinner. We reached the coast and chose a restaurant in the port authority building. We had seafood next to a replica of the New Zealand sailboat which participated in the America's Cup.

We continued sightseeing the next day. We passed Albert's Park with old and new buildings belonging to the University of Auckland and went toward the main square Aotea, the centre of cultural and night life. Walking through the city, we noticed differences in cultures and habits of its residents, and the atmosphere was warm and cosmopolitan. This reflected on the supply of small shops and souvenir shops, restaurants and cafe bars, and mostly local fairs held in different parts of the city.

The city boasts the highest building in the south hemisphere – the 328 meter Sky Tower, serving as a telecommunication centre, as well as a tourist attraction. Seeing up to 82 kilometres in the distance and observing the city is a special experience. We had coffee and biscuits in the restaurant at the top of the tower and observed tourists who settled on one of two extreme offers – sky jumping and sky walking.

We spent a good deal of the next day at the Auckland Museum. The Museum is situated in an extraordinary position – a large park called Auckland Domain, on one of many volcano hills on which Auckland originated. There is also a botanical garden with a lake, springs and numerous plants, as well as the Wintergarden full of colourful flowers and exotic plants.

In addition to the impressive neo-classicist building of the museum, we were also thrilled by its interior. Here, visitors can find out everything about the history of New Zealand, and the most distinct part of the museum is certainly the one representing Maori, their culture and customs (Maori Court). In addition, we enjoyed the Maori Cultural Performance, held every day for visitors of the museum.

It is interesting that Croatian emigrants had excellent relations with Maori, and there are still memories of social and cultural relations passed to younger generations, as well as the phenomenon of numerous marriages between Croatians and Maori. To designate their relations with Croatians, Maori called Croatians Tarara. Some linguists state Maori were attracted by the hard "r" they heard in Croatian. They called Tarara the country Croatians emigrated from, so in Maori vocabulary, the country Tarara lies between Italy and Greece. It was interesting to find out Maori read letters Croatian emigrants received from their homeland, even though they did not know a word of Croatian, but Croatians could understand them and receive news from Croatia because of similar way of pronouncing. The museum also contains a well-supplied souvenir shop, and chose some Maori handicrafts.

After the museum, we decided to visit something completely different – Kelly Tarlton's Underwater World and Antarctic Encounter. It is a small museum about Antarctica research, a zoo with penguins, an aquarium with various small and large fish, notably sharks and rays. One is also able to swim or dive in the pool with rays and sharks.

On the last day, there was a concert at the City Hall consisting of Tchaikovsky's Concert for Violin and Orchestra in D Major and Brahms's Serenade.

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

The far travel to New Zealand included another station – the exotic Malaysia capital of Kuala Lumpur. Our first encounter with Kuala Lumpur was, however, not planned. The flight from Kuala Lumpur to New Zealand was cancelled. It was an ideal opportunity for the first encounter and a brief insight into what awaited us on the way back – a multicultural city of green oases, traffic jams, colonial quarters and contemporary skyscrapers.

Kuala Lumpur or KL, as it is referred to by inhabitants of that part of world, is the largest city and the capital of Malaysia, a country situated in heart of Southeast Asia. Approximately two million inhabitants of Kuala Lumpur make it a city bursting with energy, which we experienced on the streets of exotic Chinese and Indian quarters, in beautiful green parks and rich shops of huge shopping centres.

Both times, on the way to Auckland and back to Zagreb, our visit to Kuala Lumpur started and ended at the magnificent airport KLIA (Kuala Lumpur International Airport), one of the most modern and best airports in the world. The airport is located in Sepang, 75 km from Kuala Lumpur. The city can be reached by the superfast train KLIA Express, which can reach the city centre in about twenty minutes, or by taxi.

The first thing we saw when we arrived in the city was the incredible Petronas Towers, which are sort of a symbol of Kuala Lumpur, dominating the sky above the city. The Towers are 425 meters high and were the highest building in the world until recently. They were constructed to represent Malaysia's wish to become the commercial and cultural centre of Asia. They each have 88 floors, according to the Chinese number symbolizing prosperity.



KLIA (Kuala Lumpur International Airport)



Kuala Lumpur, 2008

The Petronas Towers are somewhat of a centre of the newly constructed part of the city with numerous business buildings and hotels, one of which we were accommodated at.

We also visited Menara Kuala Lumpur, one of the largest telecommunication towers in the world. It is shaped like a needle, with a dome shaped like a bow. It offers a 360 degree wide view of the city panorama. We climbed up, the view was gorgeous on the condition of good visibility. The tower also features a revolving restaurant, bars and a souvenir shop. Since we experienced something similar in Auckland, we were not so much excited that time.

We visited another peculiar high place we will surely remember. It can only be reached on foot by going up 272 steps, meanwhile avoiding monkeys aggressively seeking food from tourists. The place is Batu caves with a holy place of the Hindu, and it is located outside the city.

The old city centre contains a colonial quarter with the Merdeka Square. When we first came to Kuala Lumpur, the square was very crowded, and neighbouring streets closed for traffic. The reason was the rehearsal for a performance to be held on August 31, 2008 on the occasion of the Independence Day of Malaysia. We watched the rehearsal, took some photographs and looked around the square. The square itself is really a nicely pruned grassy cricket field, surrounded by colonial buildings, from which English colonizers used to manage Kuala Lumpur. The rich colonial history of the city is still visible in the architecture surrounding it, and nearby there is the Royal Selangor Club, which used to gather only British citizens. A 100 meter banner rising from the square is the highest banner in the world and indicates the place where Malaysia became independent in 1957.

Nowadays, Kuala Lumpur is one of the quickest developing cities in Asia, and the first thing we noticed is that it is also a

city full of diversity whose historical heritage like small traditional shops, minarets and domes are a perfect fit to the brightness of modern skyscrapers. Wanting to feel the traditional spirit of the city, we strolled through the centre of the lively Chinese quarter and the Little India quarter, and tasted exotic Malaysian cuisine in a restaurant which offers not only traditional food, but also entertaining performances full of singing and dancing in colourful Malaysian folk costumes.

We spent three days in Kuala Lumpur, but numerous notabilities, together with neverending entertaining content made the time pass very quickly. 14 days after leaving Zagreb, we were back, but with souvenirs and full of impressions from a fantastic journey to the other part of the world!

*Ana Kuveždić
Miljenko Lapaine*

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Batu Caves / Batu spilje, 2008

mlađim naraštajima, a poznat je i fenomen brojnih miješanja brakova između Hrvata i Maora. Da označe svoj odnos s Hrvatima maorski govornici Hrvate su nazvali posebnim imenom – Tarara. Neki lingvisti tvrde da je Maore privuklo oštro “r” koje su čuli u hrvatskom jeziku. Zemlja iz koje su Hrvati emigrirali nazvali su Tarara, tako da u maorskom rječniku i sada postoji zemlja Tarara između Italije i Grčke. Zanimljivo je bilo saznati i to da su Maori čitali pisma koja su hrvatski iseljenici dobivali iz domovine premda nisu znali ni riječ hrvatskog jezika, ali su ih zbog sličnog načina izgovora pročitanih riječi Hrvati mogli razumjeti i na taj način dobivali vijesti iz domovine. U sklopu muzeja nalazi se i dobro opremljen dućan s bogatom ponudom suvenira, pa smo i sami odabrali nešto maorskih rukotvorina.

Nakon muzeja odlučili smo posjetiti nešto sasvim drugačije – atrakciju Kelly Tarlton's Underwater World and Antarctic Encounter. To je mali muzej o istraživanjima Antarktike, zoološki vrt s pingvinima, akvarij s raznim malim i velikim ribama, među kojima se posebno ističu morski psi i raže. Posebno se nudi i plivanje, odnosno ronjenje u istom bazenu s ražama ili morskim psima.

Zadnju večer oprostili smo se od Aucklanda Koncertom za violinu i orkestar u D-duru Čajkovskoga i Brahmovom Serenadom slušajući koncert u Gradskoj vijećnici.

Kuala Lumpur, Malezija

Daleki put na Novi Zeland uključio je i jednu usputnu stanicu – posjet egzotičnoj malezijskoj prijestolnici – Kuala Lumpuru. Naš prvi susret s Kuala Lumpurom, dođuše, nije bio u planu. Naime, let iz Kulala Lumpura za Novi Zeland bio je otkazan. Bila je to idealna prilika za prvi susret i tek kratak uvid u ono što nas u povratku očekuje – multikulturalni grad zelenih oaza, prometnih gužvi, kolonijalnih četvrti i suvremenih nebodera.

Kuala Lumpur ili KL, kako ga skraćeno zovu stanovnici ovoga dijela svijeta, glavni je i najveći grad Malezije, države smještene u srcu jugoistočne Azije. Približno dva milijuna stanovnika Kuala Lumpur čini gradom koji pršti energijom, koju smo u jednakom intenzitetu doživjeli na ulicama egzotičnih kineskih i indijskih četvrti, u prekrasnim zelenim parkovima i raskošnim trgovinama ogromnih shopping centara.

Oba puta, na putu prema Aucklandu i na povratku prema Zagrebu, naš posjet Kuala Lumpuru počinjao je i završavao na veličanstvenom aerodromu KLIA (Kuala Lumpur International Airport), jednom od najmodernijih i najboljih aerodroma na svijetu. Aerodrom je smješten u mjestu

Sepang udaljenom 75 km od grada. Do grada se može doći superbrzim vlakom KLIA express koji za dvadesetak minuta stiže do središta grada, ili taksijem.

Prvo što smo ugledali dolaskom u grad nevjerojatni su tornjevi Petronas, svojevrsni simbol Kuala Lumpura koji dominiraju nebom iznad grada. Čak 425 metara visoki tornjevi do nedavno su bili najviša građevina svijeta, a izgrađeni su kako bi predstavili želju Malezije da postane trgovački i kulturni centar Azije. Imaju po 88 katova, što je u skladu s kineskim brojem koji Kinezima simbolizira prosperitet. Tornjevi Petronas zapravo su svojevrsno središte novoizgrađenoga dijela grada u kojem se nalaze mnogobrojne poslovne zgrade i hoteli, a u jednom od kojih smo i sami bili smješteni.

Posjetili smo i Menara Kuala Lumpur, jedan od najvećih telekomunikacijskih tornjeva na svijetu. Ima oblik igle, a na vrhu se nalazi kupola u obliku luka. Pruža 360 stupnjeva širok pogled na panoramu grada. Popeli smo se gore, pogled je prekrasan uz pretpostavku da je dobra vidljivost. U tornju se nalazi i restoran koji se okreće oko svoje osi, barovi i trgovina sa suvenirima. Budući da smo nedavno imali sličan doživljaj u Aucklandu, ovaj nas je ostavio prilično ravnodušnim.

Posjetili smo još jedno mjesto neobičnog izgleda i prilične visine, koje će nam ostati u dubokom sjećanju. Do njega se dolazi samo pješice uz 272 stepenice, a izbjegavajući majmune koji agresivno traže hranu od turista. Riječ je o Batu spijlami u kojima se smjestilo svetište Hindusa, a nalazi se izvan grada.

Stari centar grada krase kolonijalna četvrt čije je središte trg Merdeka. Gužva na tom trgu na dan našeg prvog posjeta Kuala Lumpuru zaista je bila velika, a

okolne ceste su bile zatvorene za promet. Razlog tome bio je generalna proba za priredbu koja će se održati 31. 8. 2008. u povodu Dana nezavisnosti Malezije. Pogledali smo tu probu, malo fotografirali, i zatim prošli oko trga razgledavajući. Sam trg je, ustvari, lijepo podšišano travnato igralište za kriket, okruženo kolonijalnim građevinama iz kojih su upravljali engleski kolonizatori. Bogata kolonijalna povijest grada još uvijek je vidljiva u arhitekturi koja ga okružuje, a u blizini se nalazi i Royal Selangor Club u kojem su se nekad smjeli okupljati samo britanski građani. Stometarski stijeg koji se izdiže sa trga najviši je na svijetu i označava mjesto na kojem je Malezija postigla neovisnost 1957. godine.

Danas je Kuala Lumpur jedan od gradova s najbržim razvojem u Aziji, a ono što smo odmah zapazili je da je ujedno i grad pun različitosti, čije se povijesno naslijeđe poput malenih tradicionalnih trgovina, minareta i kupola savršeno uklapa s blistavim sjajem modernih nebodera. Željevši osjetiti tradicionalan duh grada, prošetali smo središtem živahne Kineske četvrti i četvrti Mala Indija, te kušali egzotičnu malezijsku kuhinju u restoranu koji osim tradicionalne večere nudi i zabavnu priredbu punu pjesme i plesa u šarenim malajskim nošnjama.

Sve u svemu, brojne znamenitosti zajedno s beskrajnim zabavnim sadržajima bili su dovoljni da nam tri dana, koliko smo ukupno proveli u ovom gradu, prođu brzinom munje. Nakon ukupno 14 dana vratili smo se kući sa suvenirima i mnoštvom dojmova s fantastičnog putovanja na drugi dio svijeta!

Ana Kuveždić
Miljenko Lapaine

