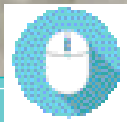


# THRILL OR CHILL AT CLUB MED CHERATING

MIKE SMITH FOUND HIMSELF CHILLING AT CLUB MED CHERATING BY FLYING FROM SINGAPORE TO KUANTAN ON FIREFLY'S TWIN-ENGINE TURBO PROP ATR 72-500. THRILL OR CHILL, YOU WILL FIND LOTS TO DO AT THE BEACHSIDE RESORT.

*Packet Guide*



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**A**fter a smooth flight on Firefly, direct from Singapore to Cherating, Malaysia we were greeted at the airport by Nico a friendly G.O. (Gentil Organisateur), who handed us our room keys and escorted us to a comfortable bus for the 45-minute transfer to Club Med Cherating where more G.O's were on hand with welcome drinks and ice cold towels.

### THE CHILL BEGINS

In no time at all we had finished a quick late lunch (yes I did have a beer - draft beers, house wines and soft drinks along with all meals are included in the price at Club Med!) and checked into our rooms in the longest wooden connected building in the world. Malaysia is famous for

longhouses on stilts, but this longhouse is an impressive 850 metres!

The main beach is great for strolling along, but the sea has strong undercurrents so it is not so great for swimming. Stick to the huge pool if you want to go for a swim!

### CHEEKY MONKEYS!

Club Med Cherating is set in a massive jungle campus which obviously comes with many advantages. For a start, there is an abundance of wildlife including long tailed macaques, gibbons, monitor lizards, wild boars and beautiful birds and butterflies. Secondly there is ample space to get away from the crowds and enjoy peace and quiet in the lovely grounds.

The long tailed macaques, although rarely aggressive, can be rather naughty particularly around the open-air breakfast tables and may follow you if you are carrying plastic bags or food, so beware! They have been known to scamper off with valuables.

Club Med has something for everyone. The buffet style food served in the main Mutiara Restaurant was varied and in general excellent. After dinner the hard working G.O's put on a cabaret show. It isn't first class entertainment, but it is good natured family fun and very popular.

### MORNING STROLL

I loved walking through the leafy lanes and jungle trail to the Sailing Club, Pantai Beach and the more intimate Rembulan Restaurant areas. The views were excellent with a nice

surprise in store namely - 'The Zen Zone'.

The Zen Zone is basically a chill out, quiet area for adults by a small infinity pool. It works! Great during the day or for a romantic evening cocktail.

### TIME FOR ACTION!

At Club Med you can be as active as you like or do nothing. All sports are free so take the opportunity to learn archery, play squash, tennis, badminton, soccer or basketball. There is a massive choice.

For thrill seekers the tree top challenge, flying trapeze and sailing





can get the heart pounding. Children can either hang out with their parents or make new friends at the well-equipped Kid's Land. Parents can leave them, well assured that they are in good hands, while they take time to chill.

### MEET ME AT THE POOL

The pool is a key gathering point. I enjoyed people watching as I sipped on a cold beer while others joined in the various exercises, swam or worked on their tans. Two groups were even having corporate team building events. Friday night saw more in-house entertainment and a large scale pub quiz to tease the mind.

### END OF THE TRIP!

All too soon my 48 hours in Cherating had ended and it was time to return to Singapore on a dull Saturday morning. Club Med is an ideal, convenient, short get away from Singapore. The location is good, the food plentiful and varied and there is plenty to do whether you want a thrill or simply to chill. The rooms need renovating, particularly the bathrooms, which I'm sure will be done soon. (But I hardly spent any time in my room anyway). Firefly is clearly the best option to get to Kuantan. ❖





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