

Name: Seine Michael Eton
State: Sarawak
School: SMK Kidurong
Group: 1 (Forms 1-2)
Topic: American Pen-Pal

American Pen-Pal's Visit to Malaysia

Summer vacation had just started and I was at home, relaxing and drinking a cup of tea. I then stepped out of my house to pick up the mail from the mailbox. There was a letter in the mailbox, and it was for me. Apparently, it was from my pen-pal, Adam, who lives in the United States of America.

I went back into my house and read what he had wrote. It started with the usual greetings and then onto the main point of the letter, Adam planned to visit Malaysia and was asking if he could stay at my place for four days. I was quite thrilled and asked my family if they were fine with it. My parents said that it was fine, but Adam and I had to share my room since our house was small, and we didn't have a guest room.

I mailed Adam about it and then a few days later he and I were roommates. Adam looked very excited to be in Malaysia because it was his first visit here. I gifted him a plain white T-shirt because his current clothing would make him not fit it with the locals. Since I gave him a gift, he gave me one too. He got me a keychain of a bald eagle, America's mascot.

On the first day of Adam's visit, I decided to show him the streets of Kuala Lumpur as well as the shops and food stalls. We decided to walk there after we had breakfast, and I was given some money to treat him. He was quite athletic and walked faster than me. It was difficult to catch up with him sometimes, but he stopped frequently because he was admiring the views around him on the streets of Kuala Lumpur. He also asked me questions about things he did not understand here, such as the local food that people were eating at the cafe. He looked extremely confused and a bit culture-shocked by all these new things, so we decided to take a break from our exploration and settle down for a while at a nearby cafe. The cafe was owned by my uncle, Mr. Alister. Apparently, Adam didn't study the Malaysian language, so I had to do all the talking and translate words to him.

At the cafe, he decided to order a cup of water while I ordered "Teh Tarik". When our drinks arrived, Adam stared at my drink and soon after asked me about it out of curiosity. I told him that the "Teh Tarik" was one of Malaysia's national beverages, and it

literally means “pulled tea.” Adam was intrigued by it and told me that he wanted to try to order it the next time we stopped by at a cafe.

After we had our drinks, we decided to go sightseeing at the Petronas Twin Towers. We took a taxi there and upon arriving, Adam took multiple photographs of the Petronas Twin Towers. I told him about the fact that the towers were taller than the Empire State Building in New York, but he disagreed and soon after we were in an argument about which was taller. We then settled down on a nearby bench and checked it together on our phones. Apparently, the Petronas Twin Towers are 451.9m tall, while the Empire State Building is 443.2m tall. That means the Twin Towers are taller by 8.7m. Adam apologised to me for being wrong, but I could forgive him easily since the difference between the heights were quite small.

After sightseeing around the Petronas Twin Towers, we decided to move on and go to the Kuala Lumpur Tower which is lower than the Petronas Towers, but it is just as interesting. We both had our phones on and were reading about it on the same site so we wouldn't have another argument. The Kuala Lumpur tower is 421m tall, and it is built for communication purposes. But, it also has a restaurant at the top. Adam seemed eager to go in and eat something, but he couldn't because we were short on time. At last, the sun was setting, and we both decided to go home. Adam waved his hands at the cityscape as we drove back into the neighborhood. Tomorrow he had to go back to his country.

The very next day, I decided to do one more thing for Adam before he left, and that was to make sure he tried the Teh Tarik. Adam had already packed his belongings and was ready to leave, but I asked my father to give us a lift to Mr. Alister's cafe to get a drink for Adam. At the cafe, the Teh Tarik came quickly because it was quite early and most adults were at work at that time. Adam took his first sip of the beverage and told me what he thought it tasted like. He said it tasted like a very creamy and milky tea. He drank it all the way to the bottom and looked quite satisfied. I was glad that he enjoyed the drink and soon after we returned home to pick up his luggage and send him to the Kuala Lumpur International Airport.

We drove to the entrance of the airport and dropped Adam off there. We said our goodbyes with a smile on our faces. Before he left, I told him to mail me back once he got to America. He promised me that he would, and my family and I went back home. I will be eagerly waiting for his mail and his next visit.