

Hello Mount Faber

Mount Faber, one of the very few places that have “Mount” in Singapore, connects HarbourFront and Sentosa Island by cable cars. The sunset over the ocean in the evening is one of the most attractive sceneries, particularly for a date. Many of you must have seen the world’s tallest Christmas Tree. Mount Faber was just a place for taking a cable car to Sentosa. Now it has transformed into a commercial business area where you can see a restaurant, event venues, and shops that are full of the original products. All these are run by Mount Faber Leisure Group Pte Ltd, and Susan Teh (Chief Executive Officer) is the center of the activities. Susan, only in her thirties, comes out with creative ideas. This month, 4 kids reporters visit Susan at Jewel Box on top of Mount Faber. They enjoy the cable car ride, too.

What is the history of Mount Faber?

It goes up to 1844. Mount Faber was once Blangah Hill and it had a British Army camp here right here. Mount Faber found a path to the top of the hill and the place was named after Mount Faber – Mount Faber.

When did you start the cable car operation?

The Singapore government decided to connect Mount Faber and Sentosa Island by cable cars. The Official operation begins in 1974.

What is the height and length of the cable cars?

It is about 70m high from sea level. The highest point is almost 90m. it is 1.75km from Mount Faber to Sentosa Island and one way takes about 20 minutes. The speed of the cable car is adjustable. The cable cars operate slower when there is a passenger on a wheel chair or an elderly one.

How many people come to enjoy the cable cars every year?

15 million people ride the cable cars alone every year. Jewel box receives about 20 million people. 88% of the visitors are foreign tourists...12% are the locals.

How many cable cars are there?

There are 72 cards and there are the ordinary ones. There are also 16 special cable cars that are grey in colour and have transparent glass floor that you can see through. There is one VIP cable car that is gold in colour. Altogether there are 89 cable cars.

Which ones are actually moving, the cable cars or the cable wires?

You can see two ropes; a upper rope is to hold the cable cars safely and tightly, and a lower one to pull the cable cars. This dual rope operations ensures the safety of all he cable cars, in case there is something wrong with one cable, the other is able to hold the cable cars.

Is there any air-conditioning in the cable cars?

No, there isn’t when we conducted a survey to the tourist eight years ago in order to see whether the cable cars should have an air conditioning, we discovered from their

response that we would not need one. The reason for this is that many tourists would like to enjoy natural breeze at 70m height.

When do the cable cars stop?

We suspend the operation whenever there is a malfunction in the operating system. Every suspension must be reported to the manager, even though it is only for 10-20 seconds. Lightening and thunders can be a cause for suspension as well, however, the operation will be normal if it is just rain or wind.

How do you save passengers in emergencies?

We conduct emergency drills twice a year at Singapore Civil Defense Service center. We learn how to evacuate passengers safely through a helicopter and DART. A helicopter hangs out a cage to a cable car and someone in the cage had out his hands to help the passengers to come out to the cage. You notice that the distance between the cable car and the terminal building is too close for a helicopter to approach. The DART will then come to save passengers. DART area special group of professionals called Disaster Assistance and Rescue Team.

How do you dine in a cable car?

It is called Sky Dining and our cable cars are the only cable cars that have this service in the world. We put a small dining table between the two seats and the dinner is served at the Jewel Box, that is our main station. You can enjoy 1 to 3 round trips with dinner service. At first trip, you will enjoy an appetizer, and the second trip a main dish, and the last trip a dessert. You can have an appetizer and a main course together so that you have more time to enjoy the view and the dessert.

How are the fares like?

(laugh) You may enjoy an extra trip if you wish.

Is the world's tallest Christmas tree going to be put up again this year?

A good question. Did you come to see it? This was quite a success. We need someone whom can sponsor the tree, though. I really hope we can do it again this year. Maybe you can collect donation for us at school, a dollar a day?

How do you work with Sentosa Island?

We had regular meeting with Sentosa Island. We talk about marketing events and new ideas.

Where can we enjoy the best view of the sunset down to Sentosa?

You can see it right from here. Also you can see it from the observation deck, Faber Rock and from a cable car.

What is your dream and what is our new plan?

There are many new plans. I would like to introduce Jewel Box to all over the world. I represent Singapore for the tourism and was interviewed by Fox Channel in New York. I want to have all foreign tourists to come to the jewel Box. Jewel Box will not only be an

entertaining place. In the future, it will be a large scale of multiple business/commercial complex where you can enjoy dining, shopping, exhibition, business networking. It will even have a hotel. Jewel Box branding is my first priority.

Thank you very much

Kids reporter “we learned that Susan is fond of Japan. She would like to see Jewel Box service quality to be somewhat like the ones in Japan. We are very sure her work experience at Japanese company and her experience in Switzerland, Germany and Finland will help Jewel Box grow. We will watch our Jewel Box and happenings at Mount Faber. Please check our Egg Toilet at Jewel Box too.

Kids reporters comments

First we are nervous to meet Susan for the first time, But we enjoyed asking her a lot of questions at the end. We would like to visit Mount Faber and Susan again. (Taro from Canadian International School)

I was not sure if I did this interview well in English. The others did very well. The Egg Toilet was the most exciting thing to see. I remember them every time I go toilet these days. (Rei from Anderson Primary School, Changi)

I truly enjoyed this interview session. There were a lot of things to ask and to see. The evening view was particularly beautiful and I would like to ride a cable car to see it once again. I saw the Christmas tree last year and I really wish that it would be there this year. Dining in a cable car with my family is my next plan and I really look forward to it. It was quite surprise to know that Egg Toilet cost \$5,500 each. I saw them but did not use them. (Yuri from Japanese Elementary School)

I never know much about Mount Faber before. I was excited to know all of it this time. I have lived in Singapore more than three years by now, but I realize that there are many new places to me. I would like to explore them. (Kaede from Japanese Secondary School)