## ESSENTIAL SINGAPORE

A savvy guide to maximising your visit

## ESSENTIAL SINGAPORE



Consistently ranked among the world's most business-friendly countries by the World Bank, Singapore is also one of the most culturally diverse nations in the world.

Besides reigning as a global finance and banking powerhouse, as well as a hotbed for entrepreneurial initiatives, this rapidly advancing city-state persists at the forefront not just of urban-planning, but also entertainment, art, pop culture and, of course, food and drink.

With a dizzing array of awardwinning food choices, world-class retail options and annual citywide celebrations, from Chinese New Year to the Grand Prix Season Singapore, exciting moments come fast and furious. So keep this guide handy and start exploring and enjoying today.





## IMPORTANT INFORMATION



#### **Drinking Water**

The water supplied by the Public Utilities Board (PUB), Singapore's national water agency, to all faucets across the island is potable. Singapore treats water from its reservoirs, and also uses modern technology to recycle waste water into clean water once again.

#### Electricity

Singapore's power supply runs an alternating current of 220-240 volts at 50 hertz. Electricity is supplied to the entire island at all times of the day, and blackouts are extremely rare.

#### Language

Shiok!

Although Malay is the national language of Singapore, English is the language of commerce and is spoken fluently by just about the entire population. English, Malay, Mandarin, Tamil, other Indian languages and foreign languages are taught in schools, while the Chinese population also speaks dialects like Cantonese, Hakka, Hokkien and Teochew.

Singlish (English influenced by Malay, Mandarin and Tamil sentence structure and peppered with Chinese dialect) is a widely used form of communication among locals, whom you can ask to speak slower if their Singlish is too fast for you.



SGD

#### Tipping

Tipping is not common, as many Singaporean establishments already include a 10% service charge. Increasingly, restaurants and bars are giving customers the option to tip by omitting the service charge. In this case, a 10% tip is appreciated.

#### WiFi

WiFi is available at selected hotspots in popular tourist destinations, MRT stations and even some bus routes. Need a mobile connection? Pop into a hotel or cafe and chances are you will be welcome to tap on the establishment's WiFi. Alternatively, SIM cards with mobile data are inexpensive and widely available at convenience stores, mobile phone shops and outlets of service providers.

#### **Currency Exchange**

Singapore uses the Singapore Dollar (abbreviated as SGD or S\$). Money changers can be found in Changi Airport, shopping malls and hotels. Automated teller machines (ATMs) across the country accept major credit cards like Visa, MasterCard and American Express.

#### **GST Refund**

Making a purchase of at least \$\$100 from participating outlets that display a "Tax Refund" or a "Tax Free Shopping" logo entitles you to a refund of the 7% Goods and Services Tax (GST).



Request a refund voucher when making your purchase, and present this voucher at Changi Airport's Tax Refund Counter, along with your purchases, receipts and passport, before you depart the country.

Visit www.customs.gov.sg for more information about the Tourist Refund Scheme.

## **GETTING AROUND**



## 🛱 Buses

Buses travel to almost every part of the island and fares start from 78 cents with an EZ-Link card (a pre-paid card used by public transport commuters), and from S\$1.40 for cash fares. For information on bus routes and related enquiries, call the TransitLink Hotline at 1800-225-5663 or visit www.transitlink.com.sg.

## Generation Trains

The world-class Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) and Light Rail Transit (LRT) trains here are air-conditioned and comfortable, and run from about 5:30am to midnight. Single trip tickets for adults start from S\$1.40 and can be purchased from vending machines at the stations. Or get a stored-value EZ-Link card and enjoy fares starting at just 78 cents. For information, call the TransitLink Hotline at 1800-225-5663 or visit www.transitlink.com.sg.

## 🚔 Taxis

There are several major taxi companies and services in Singapore, many with their own hotlines and apps. Book a cab by calling Dial-A-Cab at 6342-5222. Alternatively, you can SMS "BOOK-space>six-digit postal code" to 71222. Fares start from S\$3.20, and charges vary depending on type of taxi. Peak hour and tollway surcharges may apply.

#### Numbers to Note

Credit Card Services American Express: +65 6396-6000 UnionPay: 800-860-0028 Diners Card: +65 6416-0800 JCB: +65 6734-0096 Mastercard: 800-110-0113 Visa: 800-448-1250

#### Singapore Visitor Centre

You are welcome to drop by any of the Singapore Visitor Centres at these locations: 216 Orchard Road (next to orchardgateway@emerald) 8:30an-9:30pm daily ION Orchard Level 1 Concierge 10am-10pm daily Kreta Ayer Square, 2 Banda Street (behind the Buddha Tooth Relic Temple and Museum) 3am-9pm daily

For any queries related to your stay, call Touristline at 1800-736-2000, Mon-Fri 9am-6pm.

Emergency Hotlines Police: 999 Ambulance/Fire Brigade: 995 Flight Information: 1800-542-4422

Singapore

has

offshore

islands.

## SINGAPORE IN NUMBERS



The area of Singapore it was 581.5km<sup>2</sup> before land reclamation.

About 6,800 flights land at and depart from Changi Airport each week, making Singapore one of the most connected cities in Asia.

# There are over 500 START-UPS

at Singapore's BLK71 and JTC Launchpad, both in Ayer Rajah Crescent, affectionately called Singapore's Silicon Valley.





Changi Airport connects travellers to an amazing 3300 world cities.

## There are more than **7,000 MNCs** in Singapore.





Singapore is one of only three sovereign city-states in the world, the others being Monaco and Vatican City.

One of the largest in the world, the Fountain of Wealth at Suntec City occupies an area of **1,683.07m<sup>2</sup>.** 



Singapore's 164-ha Bukit Timah Nature Reserve has more tree species than in the entire North American continent.



Singapore is the 2nd most digitally connected country\* in the world. According to the 2016 Global Connectivity Index by Huawei.



## ORCHARD

Once a plantation where fruit, nutmeg and pepper grew abundantly, the Orchard Road precinct became a massive shopping belt as retail powerhouses like heritage department stores TANGS and Robinsons set up along this 2.2km stretch of road. Today, local treats, gourmet cuisine, world-class medical care and a cavalcade of retail options invigorate Orchard Road, alongside some of the city's best hotels.





#### SINGAPORE BOTANIC F **GARDENS & CORNER HOUSE** 1 Cluny Road, 6471-7138, www.sbg.org.sg

Recently awarded the status of UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Singapore Botanic Gardens is a 157-year-old green space that is perfect for jogging, picnics, horticultural exploration and even live concerts. While you're there, don't miss an elegant French-inspired meal at the Michelin-starred Corner House.



#### MANHATTAN

Level 2, Regent Singapore, 1 Cuscaden Road, 6725-3377, www.regenthotels.com

One of the world's top 50 bars, Manhattan is a glamorous cocktail specialist that brings the Art Nouveau and Gothic architecture of The Great Gatsby to life in vivid detail. Try their inventive, ever-changing cocktail list, inspired by the neighbourhoods of its namesake precinct.



#### **UMA UMA RAMEN &** THE HORSE'S MOUTH

#01-41/42/43, Forum The Shopping Mall, 583 Orchard Road, 6235-0855, www.umaumaramen.com

60 years of experience go into the fragrant soups and succulent meats at this tonkotsu ramen bar. Don't miss the mazesoba, or dry ramen options, as well as The Horse's Mouth, the stylish and secret cocktail bar downstairs.

## LES AMIS

#01-16, Shaw Centre, 1 Scotts Road, 6733-2225, www.lesamis.com.sg Housing over 3,600 wine bottles and

serving impeccable contemporary French food using the finest ingredients, Les Amis is a Michelinstarred restaurant founded in 1994. Opt for a multi-course degustation, and don't skip the desserts by their award-winning pastry chef Cheryl Koh.





## CAROUSEL

Lobby Level, Royal Plaza on Scotts, 25 Scotts Road, 6589-7799, www.carouselbuffet. com.sg

One of Singapore's favourite all-you-can-eat buffets, the extensive, halal-certified spread here ranges from local and Asian cuisine to French, Japanese and Mediterranean fare—not to mention three delightful dessert stations.



#### 🕒 TANGS @ TANG PLAZA 310 Orchard Road, 6737-5500, www.tangs.com

A veritable icon of the local retail scene, TANGS is a fashion-forward department store carrying apparel, accessories, homeware and more. TANGS also proudly supports Singaporean design talent, housing craft stationers Bynd Artisan, womenswear label Collate The Label and independent publisher Epigram Books, among others. Visit its Island Cafe for a Singaporeinspired meal.

#### INSIDER

#### Steven Goh



budget or taste. The numerous to add significant vibrancy access to the widest selection



## ORCHARD ROAD

#### ION ORCHARD

1 Orchard Turn, 6238-8228, www.ionorchard.com.sg

Behind its distinctive facade, this gargantuan mall houses multiple aboveground and underground levels of boutiques, ranging from local brands like In Good Company to international luxury labels like Jaeger-LeCoultre. For hungry shoppers, there are restaurants for every price range and cuisine, from Singaporean street food to Spanish tapas.



## CHATTERBOX

Level 5. Mandarin Orchard Hotel, 333 Orchard Road, 6831-6291, www.meritushotels.com/ mandarin-orchard-singapore

- Famed for its unforgettable rendition of Singapore-style chicken rice,
- Chatterbox also serves a wide array
- of Asian and international dishes,
- just above Mandarin Gallery's bevy
- of boutiques.



## MICHAEL KORS

#01-12/13 & #02-12, Mandarin Gallery, 333 Orchard Road, 6242-0555, www.michaelkors.com

The American designer's enormous new flagship store is the first in Southeast Asia to carry the menswear line on a dedicated men's floor—it features a pool table, too, Also available are womenswear, luxurious suede-lined accessories and a shoe salon.



#### **CRYSTAL JADE GOLDEN PALACE**

#05-22, Paragon, 290 Orchard Road, 6734-6866, www.crystaljade.com/goldenpalace

One of Singapore's most beloved institutions for a lavish family meal, this Michelin-starred restaurant is known for its Teochew and Cantonese dishes, with highlights such as barbecued pork with honey sauce, Peking duck, a range of abalone dishes and, of course, its signature dim sum. For a business meal, opt for their executive set menus.



#### Û) RAOUL AT ROBINSONS

260 Orchard Road, 6735-8838, www.raoul.com Browse the racks of Singaporean fashion label Raoul, which has enjoyed worldwide popularity since its inception in 2002, thanks to the sophisticated detail on its everyday formal and casual outfits, worn by celebrities such as Viola Davis, Kate Middleton and Jennifer Lawrence. Robinsons The Heeren also carries brands like Bang & Olufsen, Heidi Klum, Kenzo, Kurt Geiger, MVMT, Stella McCartney, The Library and Tiger of Sweden.



## 💙 κυνο

#02-01, Orchard Shopping Centre, 321 Orchard Road, 6733-8272, www.kuvo.com.sg

Taking its name from the French word cuvée, meaning "blend", modernist bistro KUVO boasts a bespoke cocktail bar and a dedicated wine bar, accentuated by Shoji-themed decor and delicious gourmet creations, such as the rum-infused Peridori and the refreshing Mt Berry.





#### **EMERALD HILL BARS** Orchard Road, Opposite Somerset MRT

Turn down the alley at Peranakan Place and you will find a quaint neighbourhood of restored and ornate Peranakan shophouses. Emerald Hill is also home to bars such as **Black Nut**, Ice Cold Beer and No. 5 Emerald Hill, which do brisk business every night of the week.

#### ALSO CHECK OUT: **Dempsey Hill**



Surrounded by lush greenery a short distance from the hustle and bustle of Dempsey Hill (housed in former army barracks) offers exciting dining options.

For Asian fare, try the famous black pepper crabs of Long Beach Seafood (25 Dempsev Road) and, in the same block, Samy's Curry



(25 Dempsey Road), which serves up flavourful Indian delicacies. For lavish, Western meals, particularly at lunchtime, there is farm-to-table pioneer Open Farm Community (130E Minden Road), chapel-turned-



restaurant The White Rabbit (39C Harding Road) and the leafy PS. Cafe (28B Harding Road), famous for its brunch offerings and desserts.

For drinks, there are well-loved establishments such as RedDot BrewHouse (25A Dempsey Road), which has its own brewery, Jiu Zhuang (6D Dempsey Road) and The Green Door (13A Dempsey Road), which boasts soothing greenery.







## MARINA BAY & CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT (CBD)

Singapore's historic epicentre and engine of the country's economy, Marina Bay is most famously marked by the distinctive Marina Bay Sands<sup>®</sup> integrated resort. The site of arts performance venues and five-star hotels, this area stretches from the white-collar watering holes of Amoy Street to the architectural wonder that is Gardens by the Bay.





## AMOY STREET BARS

Amoy Street, thear teok Ayer WATI Amoy Street cuts through the epicentre of Singapore's speakeasy, bespoke cocktail, craft beer and white collar watering hole district. Its standouts include bars like the hidden-away Spiffy Dapper, the always-busy Employees Only and Jigger & Pony, which is ranked in the World's 50 Best Bars list.



#### 🚺 LAU PA SAT

This Victorian-style structure with its signature filigree ironwork was built in the late 19th century, before Singapore was the banking hub it is today. The recently restored Lau Pa Sat cooks Singapore's most beloved local delicacies, and at night the adjacent Satay Street comes alive with stalls selling the namesake meat skewers.



## 🕲 ROSSI

#01-10, 16 Collyer Quay, 6536-1300, www.rossi.com.sg Fancy a finely tailored bespoke suit? Rossi has been making its garments in-house for three generations now. A revered institution of the business district, Rossi sources topgrade fabrics from around Europe and applies them to contemporary cuts, styles and patterns.

## CUSTOMS HOUSE

70 Collyer Quay, www.fullertonheritage.com There is more to this precinct than sky-high views. Part of the Fullerton Heritage hotel development, this lowrise colonial building houses several well-loved bars and restaurants that offer cool breezes and waterfront views. Highlights include drinks at Mexican restaurant **Super Loco** and elegant Asian brasserie **Longtai**.





## EVEL33

#33-01, Marina Bay Financial Centre Tower 1, 8 Marina Boulevard, 6834-3133, www.level33.com.sg

Opened by ardent beer enthusiasts, LeVeL33 houses vats that prepare its boutique ales and lagers high up in the sky. Its balconies offer an unobstructed view of one of the world's busiest financial centres. Dining options include gourmet and executive set lunch, dedicated beer snacks, Saturday brunch and Sunday roast.



## 🚺 LANTERN

Fullerton Bay Hotel, 80 Collyer Quay, 6597-5299, www.fullertonhotels.com

This swanky bar is named after the numerous Chinese lanterns that used to provide light for nighttime seafarers in the past. Along with excellent wines and Champagnes and all-day happy hours, this poolside establishment serves many variations on the mojito, the Singapore Sling and the margarita.

## LOCAL FLAVOURS AT ESPLANADE

8 Raffles Avenue, 6336-7025, www.esplanade.com

Contemporary performance arts venue Esplanade—Theatres on the Bay is also home to two exciting local food options: **Restaurant Labyrinth**, which delivers plenty of thrills by giving nostalgic Singaporean dishes the molecular gastronomy treatment, and **Makansutra Gluttons Bay**, a casual outdoor food hall serving classic hawker fare such as *satay* (barbecue meat skewers), Hokkien prawn *mee* (noodles) and chicken rice.





## MARINA BAY & CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT (CBD)

#### THE SHOPPES AT MARINA BAY SANDS®

10 Bayfront Avenue, 6688-8868, www.marinabaysands.com/shopping

With a distinctive Louis Vuitton island store on its waterfront, iconic Marina Bay Sands' huge, sun-drenched luxury mall carries the likes of Burberry, Chanel, Dior and Bottega Veneta, not to mention Singaporean labels such as beloved accessories brands Charles & Keith and Pedro, and crocodile leather goods maker Kwanpen. The mall also contains a theatre, personal shopping services and more.



## CELEBRITY RESTAURANTS AT MARINA BAY SANDS®

10 Bayfront Avenue, 6688-8868, www.marinabaysands.com/shopping Alongside world-famous international

Alongside world-ramous international brands, this enormous luxury mall is peppered with exciting celebrity chef restaurants such as **Bread Street Kitchen** by Gordon Ramsay, **Long Chim** by David Thompson, **Osteria Mozza** and **Pizzeria Mozza** by Mario Batali and **Waku Ghin** by Tetsuya Wakuda to name just a <u>handful.</u>



CÉ LA VI L57-01, North Sky Park Tower 3, Marina Bay Sands, 6508-2188, sg.celavi.com At the northern tip of Marina Bay Sand's surreal infinity pool, CÉ LA VI comprises an award-wining restaurant, the scenic SkyBar and a club-lounge

that has hosted many top DJs.



## G Bayfront Avenue, 6688-8888,

www.marinabaysands.com/museum Designed to look like a lotus and an uplifting palm, the world-class ArtScience Museum seeks out the intersections between the humanities and the sciences. Travelling exhibitions from around the world aside, on permanent display is Future World: Where Art Meets Science, a collaboration with Tokyo's teamLab involving a stunning, immersive 16-installation digital universe.



#### INSIDER



breathtaking view of the Marina Bay waterfront and skyline at The Lighthouse Restaurant & Rooftop Bar, which occupies the exact location where a beacon once guided mariners into the safety of the Singapore port in the 20th century."



#### 30 Raffles Avenue, 6333-3311, www.singaporeflyer.com

The Singapore Flyer offers a bird's-eye view of the bay, the city, and beyond to the neighbouring Malaysia and Indonesia on a clear day. This iconic observation wheel also has special packages for groups and couples looking to throw sky-high celebrations, with fine food and Champagne available.







#### THE FULLERTON MONUMENT TOUR

Besides actively collating old photos of Singapore, the Fullerton group of hotels also organises and leads tours around the Marina Bay district, providing participants with a retrospective look at Singapore just a few decades ago and how the modern metropolis came to be. The Fullerton Hotel Concierge, www.thefullertonheritage. com/tours

## GARDENS BY THE BAY

18 Marina Gardens Drive, 6420-6848, www.gardensbythebay.com.sg

Known for its towering "supertrees" that light up Singapore's skyline by night, Gardens by the Bay lets visitors take a break from the concrete jungle and enter the realm of verdant tropical and temperate flora—an unforgettable experience that is best topped by a meal at the picturesque restaurant, **Pollen**.



#### MARINA BAY GOLF COURSE #01-01, 80 Rhu Cross, 6345-7788, www.mbgc.com.sg

This state-of-the-art facility is Singapore's only 18-hole golf course open to the public. Overlooking the business district's majestic cityscape, the Marina Bay Golf Course also features a four-tier driving range with 146 bays, four practice greens, a pro shop, a wellness studio, a golf academy, buggies guided by GPS and night golfing options.

# CIVIC DISTRICT

The cornerstone of Sir Stamford Raffles' urban development plan, the Civic District was designed to cater to Singapore's growing needs as a major trading post. Its many historic buildings are still in use today: the Old Parliament House, Central Fire Station and Raffles Hotel still retain their original appearances. The Victoria Theatre and Concert Hall, built in 1862, was recently refurbished and returned to active use, as were the old City Hall and Supreme Court buildings, now the National Gallery Singapore, home to the world's largest collection of Southeast Asian art.





#### PERANAKAN MUSEUM 39 Armenian Street, 6332-7591, www.peranakanmuseum.org.sg

A museum styled as an intimate home, the Peranakan Museum depicts the opulent lives of the wealthy Straits Chinese of yesteryear—their homes, elaborate clothes, beautiful table settings and the Confucian influences visible at their altars.



#### JEKYLL & HYDE 49 Tras Street, 6222-3349, www.49tras.st

Located behind an unassuming storefront, popular bar Jekyll & Hyde is a hit among locals and expats alike, mixing discerning cocktails and gin concoctions by night, while offering manicures by day.



#### NATIONAL GALLERY SINGAPORE

1 St Andrew's Road, 6690-9400 www.nationalgallery.sg

A feat of architectural restoration, the National Gallery Singapore houses the largest collection of contemporary Southeast Asian art in the world, as well as must-visit restaurants, such as Michelin-starred French fine dining venue **Odette** and **National Kitchen** by Singaporean celebrity chef Violet Oon.



The historic Capitol Theatre now contains a luxury mall where restaurants such as Parisian patisserie **Angelina** and London's famous **Four Seasons Chinese Restaurant** are flanked by fashionforward labels. Don't miss Singaporean boutiques SABRINAGOH, The Reckless Shop, Cortina Watch and Singaporean menswear specialists **Beniamin Barker**.





#### THE CIVIC DISTRICT TRAIL

This scenic tour covers Singapore's colonial history and its most memorable heroes. Available upon advance request, it covers sites like the Tan Kim Seng Fountain and the Old Parliament House. You can even opt for a river cruise. 6339-2114,





Level 70, Equinox Complex, Swissôtel The Stamford, 2 Stamford Road, 6837-3322, www.jaan.com.sg

Boasting glorious views of the city, French fine dining restaurant JAAN recently earned Michelin accolades, thanks to the efforts of rising star Chef Kirk Westaway, who sources high-grade ingredients from around the world to create delicate and delicious dishes.



#### CHIJMES Chijmes Caldwell House, 30 Victoria Street, 6337-7810, www.chijmes.com.sg

6337-7810, www.chijmes.com.sg Formerly a mission school, the beautiful buildings and leafy grounds of CHIJMES house a plethora of intriguing

restaurants and bars—such as the upscale Australian Whitegrass, Michelinstarred Cantonese establishment Lei Garden, Scottish restaurant Highlander and whisky bar The Single Cask.



#### 11 St Andrew's Road, 6337-6104, www.cathedral. org.sg

This 160-year-old Anglican church is also Singapore's largest cathedral. Sanctioned by modern Singapore's founder Sir Stamford Raffles, this neo-Gothic structure was struck twice by lightning but has been lovingly restored and preserved.



#### INSIDER



NARAJAN SINGH Senior Doorma Raffles Hotel

"Many national monuments and

heritage buildings stand in and around City Hall. When our guests ask for local recommendations, I suggest the humble coffee shop Alex Eating House on Beach Road, which is famous for its roast meats, such as char siew (pork), duck and soya sauce chicken."

INSIDER

I've been working here for eight

patronage has always been good,

because good food and drinking

to nine years and Boat Quay's

outlets are what Boat Quay is

synonymous with."

AH TENG

Yan Kee Noodle

"Boat Quay is my livelihood.



## THE SINGAPORE RIVER

Once the main commercial artery of Singapore—its banks lined with warehouses, street vendors and squatters—the Singapore River comprises Robertson Quay, Clarke Quay and Boat Quay, and has in recent decades changed completely. Following a nearly 10-year clean-up and revitalisation programme in the 1970s and 1980s, it is now a bustling recreational precinct, filled with trendy restaurants, bars, heritage buildings and even a museum. Many reminders of its historic past remain, however, in the form of iconic statues and stately buildings.





#### RED HOUSE SEAFOOD #01-14, The Quayside, 60 Robertson Quay, 6735-7666, www.redhouseseafood.com

This is one of the best places to enjoy Singapore's iconic delicacy, chilli crab, alongside a variety of fresh seafood, such as lobster, pomfret and bamboo clams. Established in 1976, Red House Seafood also has branches in Prinsep Street and East Coast.

#### CLARKE QUAY 3 River Valley Road, 6337-3292 www.clarkequay.com

Encircling a fountain, Clarke Quay is a nightlife hub. The four blocks of bars and restaurants retain the facades of old shophouses and godowns where shipments were once processed. Try New York pizza at **Motorino**, cocktails at **Red Tail** and dancing at **VLV**. Clarke Quay is also the new home of long-beloved club **Zouk**, named among the world's best.





#### **TONGKANG RIVERBOAT DINING** #01-06, Clarke Quay, 3D River Valley Road, 6333-4868,

To experience what life might have been like in the early days of the Singapore River, dine aboard a tongkang cargo ferry, where meats seared on hot stones, traditional dishes, contemporary creations, as well as beers and cocktails make for a truly memorable evening.



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#### 28 HONGKONG STREET 28 Hongkong Street, 6533-2001,

Located behind an unmarked door, one of world's top bars (and Asia's best) is buzzing with well-dressed patrons late into the night, even on weekdays. Along with delicious and strong cocktails by head bartender Logan Demmy, try their hearty bar snacks like the truffle mac and cheese balls.

## 🚯 BUMBOAT RIDE

6336-6111, www.rivercruise.com.sg Check website for boarding locations Hop on a bumboat for a picturesque view of the banks upon which the country's economy was built.





**KEVIN SEAH 55B/C Boat Quay, 6532-2018,** www.kevinseah.com Singapore's most famous suit and shirt maker also stocks stylish accessories from hand-rolled pocket squares and woven ties, to made-to-order shoes

DON'T FORGET!

#### FOOTSTEPS OF RAFFLES

This retrospective tour begins at the Raffles Landing Site, where the founder of modern Singapore is said to have landed. This eye-opening tour includes afternoon tea in his namesake hotel, followed by a cruise down the river. Departs from major hotels with free shuttle service. More information at www.citytours.sg



and off-kilter eyewear.

#### ASIAN CIVILISATIONS MUSEUM 1 Empress Place, 6332-7798, www.acm.org.sg

Site of the city courthouse during the mid-19th century, this neoclassical building housed government offices in the 1980s before being converted into a beautiful museum, showcasing a massive collection of Asian artefacts from China, India and across Southeast Asia. The museum also houses elegant Chinese restaurant **Empress**, a great option for a business lunch.

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## **BRAS BASAH.BUGIS**

Named after its seafaring settlers from Sulawesi, Indonesia, the storied district of Bugis is now a hotbed of culture and entertainment, offering many retail, food and drink options. The Bras Basah.Bugis precinct is lined with heritage buildings, art and design museums and the towering National Library building (incidentally, the rooftop affords a gorgeous view of the city skyline).





#### JANICE WONG AT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF SINGAPORE

www.janicewong.com.sg

Feted dessert virtuoso Janice Wong recently opened an eponymous restaurant in the National Museum of Singapore. The acclaimed founder of 2am: dessertbar in Holland Village showcases her finesse with dim sum and noodles in the 1,500-sq-ft space, alongside her sweet treats.

#### SINGAPORE ART MUSEUM 71 Bras Basah Road, 6589-9580. www.singaporeartmuseum.sg

The former St. Joseph's Institution is a treasure trove of thought-provoking contemporary art. A sizeable heritage complex built in the mid-19th century, the Singapore Art Museum is home to the Singapore Biennale and also holds social events frequently.





#### JW MARRIOTT HOTEL SINGAPORE SOUTH BEACH

30 Beach Road, 6818-1888, www.thesouthbeach.com.sg

Taking its name from the coast that used to run parallel to this road before land reclamation, the swanky South Beach complex features an architecturally impressive hotel full of food and beverage establishments like The Armoury and Vatos Urban Tacos.



#### **BUGIS AND LITTLE** INDIA TRISHAW EXPEDITION

precinct's important landmarks. Skilled and Sulawesi and Indian Bugis and Little India. Albert Mall, 3 New Bugis Street, www.trishawuncle om.se



#### GARIBALDI

1468, www.garibaldi.com.sg One of the most reputable Italian eateries in Singapore, Garibaldi's menu lists mouth-watering favourites from both northern and southern Italy. Garibaldi's chef also often customises bespoke meals upon request.

## CHIN CHIN EATING HOUSE

19 Purvis Street, 6337-4640 Besides cooking Singapore's famous Hainanese chicken rice to perfection, no-frills Chin Chin also offers other popular local dishes like sweet & sour pork, Hainanese pork chop, Hainanese mixed vegetables and prawn paste chicken.



## NATIONAL DESIGN CENTRE

111 Middle Road, 6333-3737, www.designsingapore.org This 120-year-old building that used to be St. Anthony's Convent now showcases the cutting edge of design. Exhibitions aside, visit multi-brand retailers Keepers and Kapok, which sell quirky trinkets, stylish accessories and designer pret-a-porter from both local craftsmen and international brands.



#### Y) **BUGIS STREET**

3 New Bugis Street, 6338-9513, www.bugisstreet.com.sg

Among the conservation shophouses of Bugis Village is Singapore's most beloved flea market, with nearly 600 stalls across three floors and many side lanes, selling affordably priced men's and women's fashion apparel, home décor, watches, cameras, phones and tablets



INSIDER



VEERASAMY Manager of Festivals & Precinct

"Don't miss the Singapore Night Festival in mid-August every year. The flagship event for the precinct is a large-scale arts and culture festival and a worldclass platform for local and international artists to present the arts, heritage and culture in the heart of the city."



3

Meaning "peace and tranquillity" in Malay, Sentosa is Singapore's best-known offshore island and has played a role in many historic events. While some relics of its old military fortifications remain, this island of leisure is now famous for its theme parks, adventure activities, beach clubs and golf courses. Across the Sentosa boardwalk, on the mainland, HarbourFront teems with culinary history—a residential neighbourhood with great food, historical religious buildings and green spaces for the avid naturalist.

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## MOUNT FABER PARK & HENDERSON WAVES

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Telok Blangah Road and Henderson Road, www.nparks.gov.sg

Surrounded by residential areas, Mount Faber Park is a leafy respite, with several kilometres of walking trails. Stop by the sculptural **Henderson Waves**, which connects Mount Faber and Telok Blangah Hill Parks. Faber Point, the highest point in the park and a stone's throw from the cable car station, is the site of an impressive relief mural depicting local history and a small Merlion, one of only seven official Merlion statues in Singapore.

#### CABLE CAR FROM MOUNT FABER

Faber Peak, 109 Mount Faber Road, 6377-9688, www.faberpeaksingapore.com

A half-hour trip, the cable car ride from Mount Faber to Sentosa offers a priceless view of the HarbourFront neighbourhood and northern coast of Sentosa. Visitors now also have the option of continuing their cable car journey through Sentosa on the recently launched Sentosa Line.



#### 🚯 VIVOCITY & TANGS

1 HarbourFront Walk, 6377-6860, vivocity.com.sg

Singapore's largest shopping mall spans 1,500,000 sq ft and houses over 300 labels, from **fabindia** to **Armani Exchange**. Besides a variety of dining options, such as **Putien** and the famed white pepper crab at **No Signboard Seafood Restaurant**, it has a cinema on the rooftop, a playground and a wading pool. VivoCity also houses the second outlet of **TANGS**, which retails a wide range of apparel, homeware and appliances.





#### S.E.A. AQUARIUM™ Resorts World™ Sentosa, 8 Sentosa Gateway,

Resorts World™ Sentosa, 8 Sentosa Gateway, 6577-8899, www.rwsentosa.com

One of the largest oceanaria in the world, S.E.A. Aquarium<sup>™</sup> is home to over 100,000 marine animals from over 800 species. Enjoy a swim with the dolphins at **Dolphin Island** or relish a light and healthy meal at **Ocean Restaurant by Iron Chef Cat Cora**, located just beside the immense enclosure in the middle of the aquarium.



#### COASTES #01-05, 50 Siloso Beach Walk, 6631-8938, www.coastes.com

Casual and stylish at the same time, breezy beach bar Coastes offers seating, recliners and umbrellas right on the sand—a wonderful way to enjoy their selection of pastas, pizzas, burgers and refreshing cocktails.

#### INSIDER



#### ZHOU Senior Coordinator

Destination Marketing & Partnerships, Sentosa Development Corporation

"Sentosa has many exciting attractions and events so there's never a dull moment. After work, I usually jog or inline skate on the road along the beaches and enjoy the sunset. For thrill-seekers, there's indoor skydiving, a mega zip-line and an upcoming AJ Hackett bungee jump."



## HARBOURFRONT

#### GOOD OLD DAYS

#01-03/04, Beach Plaza, 60 Siloso Beach Walk, 6273-1743, www.sentosa.com.sg Designed in homage to traditional Singaporean houses, halal restaurant Good Old Days offers Singaporean favourites like beef hor fun, briyani, laksa and other dishes right in the centre of bustling Siloso Beach. Don't miss their affordable buffet.





IFLY SINGAPORE

#01-01, 43 Siloso Beach Walk, 6571-0000, www.iflysingapore.com An unforgettable gravity-defying experience, the iFly uses powerful upward winds to simulate the feeling of freefall skydiving. If you get comfortable, you can even attempt acrobatic aerial stunts.



**GOGREEN SEGWAY** 

There is no better way to explore Sentosa than on a breezy Segway. The Sentosa Segway Tour teaches participants how to ride a Segway and guides them through highlights of the island. 50 Beach View, 9825-4066, www.segwaytours.com.sg Book tours online



## CELEBRITY RESTAURANTS AT RESORTS WORLD™ SENTOSA

8 Sentosa Gateway, 6577-8888, www.rwsentosa.com Book a table to dine at Singapore's only three Michelin-starred restaurant, Joël Robuchon, local chef Sam Leong's Michelinstarred Forest, or Curate, a showcase for visiting international Michelin-lauded chefs.

## TANJONG BEACH CLUB

120 Tanjong Beach Walk, 9750-5323, www. tanjongbeachclub.com One of Singapore's most beloved beach clubs, this glamourous spot delivers great food, strong drinks and regular parties—all with great views of the sea. Gazing at the southern horizon of Singapore, its sun-drenched dining room is flanked by a pool, inviting day beds and sexy cabanas.





#### QUAYSIDE ISLE @ SENTOSA COVE

31 Ocean Way, 6887-3502, www.quaysideisle.com Possibly the most upscale corner of

the island. Sentosa Cove is home to Quayside Isle, a delightful promenade of stylish international restaurants and bars, retail options and, most excitingly, a close-up view of the peaceful marina.



#### WOOBAR AT W SINGAPORE 21 Ocean Way, 6808-7258, www.woobar.

wsingaporesentosacove.com

W Hotel's chic bar is popular among locals for its themed nights, such as Ladies Night, Boogie Woogie Nights and Free Flow Fridays-all of which come with a roster of live DJs and great deals on wines and cocktails.

#### ALSO CHECK OUT: **Gillman Barracks**



Formerly the guarters of the British Army's 1st Battalion, Gillman Barracks rededicated this lush compound to contemporary art.

Its resident galleries include world-famous establishments like Partners & Mucciaccia (6 Lock Road), Sullivan + Strumpf, Sundaram



Tagore Gallery (both at 5 Lock Road) and Yavuz Gallery (9 Lock Road) all housed in picturesque heritage buildings surrounded by greenery. Gillman Barracks is also home to the Nanyang Technological University Centre for Contemporary Art Singapore (43 Malan Road), which hosts worldtouring exhibitions and cerebral events.

Do catch one of the arts enclave's numerous special events, such as the popular Art After Dark



series, taking place on a Friday every other month. Galleries stay open till late, pathways are lined with pop-up stalls selling food and

drinks and street artists decorate the walls with murals.



Art aside, there are several notable food and beverage options

for those spending the day on the compound. Try brunch at Red Baron (45 Malan Road) or Masons (8 Lock Road), drinks at Nekkid (41 Malan Road). Handlebar (10 Lock Road) or Timbre (9A Lock Road), dinner at The Naked Finn (39 Malan Road) and ice cream at Creamier (5A Lock Road)

If history interests you more than art, sign up for the Art & History Tour that runs every weekend, as well as a History & Heritage Tour, which is conducted one weekend each month.

Gillman Barracks is located at 9 Lock Road. More information at www.gillmanbarracks.com

## CHINATOWN

Chinatown's old monikers—*kreta ayer* in Malay and *gu chia jwi* in Hokkien reference the buffalo-pulled water carts that would frequently traverse the streets. For centuries, Chinatown has been welcoming new Chinese immigrants. The Hokkien community used to be concentrated in the Havelock Road area, the Cantonese settlers in South Bridge Road while Teochew traders would live around Boat Quay. Today, Chinatown enjoys free WiFi and sports a different landscape where award-winning cocktail bars sit alongside antiquated clan association houses of the first Chinese communities, which provide assistance to their clan members to this day.





#### RESTAURANT ANDRÉ 41 Bukit Pasoh Road, 6534-8880, www.restaurantandre.com

#3 on the esteemed Asia's 50 Best list, the two Michelin-starred Restaurant André serves the gorgeous creations of André Chiang. The culinary artist's French training and cooking philosophy inspired by terroir and memory—shine at this 30-seater space located where Singapore's late former Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew once practised law.

#### THE CUFFLINK CLUB

6 Jiak Chuan Road, 9694-9623 www.thecufflinkclub.com

Staffed by a stellar cast of tenured chefs and bartenders who have honed their skills around the world, The Cufflink Club is a dimly lit and atmospheric cocktail bar that also serves plates inspired by history, literature and pop culture.





#### BUDDHA TOOTH RELIC TEMPLE AND MUSEUM

#### 288 South Bridge Road, 6220-0220, www.btrts.org.sg

Home to what is believed to be a canine tooth of Gautama Buddha, this lavishly decorated temple was built in 2007, and contains numerous Buddhist relics and a 420kg gold stupa on its fourth floor.





#### LIM CHEE GUAN 203 New Bridge Road, 6933-7230, www.limcheeguan.com.sg

Dried and cured slices of barbecued pork, bak kwa is served as nibbles to welcome guests in Chinese households. Specialist producers of this sweet jerky treat, Lim Chee Guan is a favourite among travellers who bring its bak kwa home for their loved ones.

#### SMITH STREET TAPS & THE GOOD BEER COMPANY

#02-62 and #02-58, Chinatown Complex, 335 Smith Street, www.facebook.com/smithstreettaps and www.facebook.com/goodbeersg

A pioneer in the recent trend of "hipster hawker" stalls, Daniel Goh's two craft beer joints sell an ever-changing international selection available on tap and by the bottle. Pairing them with this busy hawker centre's traditional and affordable food offerings like Hokkien *mee* (wheat noodles) and *char kway teow* (stir-fried rice noodles) is a great idea or try **Hong Kong Soya Sauce Chicken Rice and Noodle** (#02-126), home to the world's cheapest Michelin-starred meal.

INSIDER



LIM YICK SUAN Executive Director

> "Chinatown hosts annual festivals

such as the Chinese New Year light up, Chingay, Mid Autumn Festival , Hungry Ghost Festival and the Winter Solstice. The Sri Mariamman Temple also conducts an annual Fire Walking Ceremony in October. On Saturday evenings, visitors can view lion dance performances on Pagoda Street."

## CHINATOWN HERITAGE CENTRE

48 Pagoda Street, 6224-3928, www.chinatownheritagecentre.com.sg

At the centre of a bustling quarter where vendors hawk heaps of souvenirs, the newly redesigned and interactive Chinatown Heritage Centre sheds light on the lives of Singapore's early Chinese migrants, recreating the environments where they lived and toiled for a better life.



## CHINATOWN



#### CHINATOWN FOOD STREET

#### 7 Smith Street, www.chinatownfoodstreet.sg Amid the stylish bars

Amid the stylish pars and modern restaurants of Chinatown, the stalls lining Chinatown Food Street offer affordable and essential Singaporean classics like satay, laksa, popiah, fish head curry and more by some of the island's best hawkers.

#### MAXWELL FOOD CENTRE

This former wet market has evolved into one of Singapore's most beloved purveyors of local food. Housing over 100 stalls, it has attracted international food celebrities such as Gordon Ramsay and Anthony Bourdain.





## 🔨 EU YAN SANG

#B1-05, Chinatown Point, 133 New Bridge Road, 6702-0180, www.euyansang.com.sg

Singapore's premier purveyor of Chinese herbs, Eu Yan Sang has outlets around the island. The traditional pharmacy's in-house experts are always on hand to advise how one can medicate ailments ranging from sprains and lacerations to colds and chronic conditions. Eu Yan Sang is famous for its brewed and bottled Essence of Chicken and Bird's Nest, which can be carried home through customs without any hassle.



#### CHINATOWN FOOD WALK

This insightful tour traces the steps of Singapore's Chinese migrants and expounds on the countless foods that they imported and innovated, as well as the influence of their traditions and religious beliefs. Chinatown MRT station Exit A, www.betelboxtours.com Every Tue 9:30am



#### SRI MARIAMMAN TEMPLE 244 South Bridge Road, 6223-4064,

www.smt.org.sg Singapore's oldest Hindu temple was built by Naraina Pillai of the British East India Company to honour the goddess Mariamman, who is believed to heal diseases and thwart epidemics. The main festival here is Theemithi, when devotees walk over glowing hot coals in exhibitions of faith.

#### CLUB STREET & ANN SIANG HILL

Between Chinatown and Telok Ayer MRT stations A bevy of bars and restaurants keep picturesque Club Street and Ann Siang Hill lively every night of the week. Discreet doorways in between these century-old shop houses lead to cosy rooftop bars and nondescript but solid speakeasies, such as the awardwinning **Operation Dagger**. These streets are closed to vehicular traffic on Friday and Saturday nights to create an alfresco experience.



#### ALSO CHECK OUT: Tiong Bahru



Tiong Bahru is one of Singapore's oldest public housing estates, built in the 1920s. Its low-rise Art Deco apartment blocks enjoy conservation status and a reputation as one of Singapore's most hip neighbourhoods, where the old and the new rub shoulders on every winding street.

One of the most densely packed streets here is Yong Siak Street, where independent bookstore **BooksActually** (#9) sells well-curated international



and Singaporean books alongside charming children's bookstore **Books in the Woods** (#3). Also on Yong Siak Street are the ever-busy coffee and brunch



spots Forty Hands (#78) and Plain Vanilla (#10) as well as the multi-label boutique Strangelets (#7). Have dinner at contemporary Japanese restaurant IKYU (#5) or the

gluten-free Open Door Policy (#19).

A short walk away, dig through new and used records at **Curated Records** (55 Tiong Bahru Road), have a

buttery kouign aman at Tiong Bahru Bakery (56 Eng Hoon Street), snack on a savoury waffle at Tiann's (#01-31,



75 Seng Poh Road) or enjoy a modern Japanese meal at the hidden **Bincho** (78 Moh Guan Terrace).

Tiong Bahru's traditional food options deserve special mention. The local favourite **Tiong Bahru Market** aside, try **Loo's Hainanese Curry Rice** (71 Seng Poh Road), **Ah Chiang's Porridge** (65 Tiong Poh Road), stir-fried delights at **Por Kee Eating House** (69 Seng Poh Lane) and many others.

Whatever you do, make time to walk around the meandering streets, pausing in grassy courtyards to take a photo and pet one of the estate's well-fed stray cats.

COCOTTE AT

The beautiful, design-

centric boutique hotel

Wanderlust is home

to the equally lovely

for their elaborate prix

trolley, which brings you

and free-flow Prosecco.

fixe Sunday brunch

endless French bites

French restaurant

Cocotte. They are particularly famous

WANDERLUST 2 Dickson Road, 6298-1188, www.restaurantcocotte.com

## LITTLE INDIA

Once the site of a major racecourse, where colonials mingled and enjoyed leisure time, Little India was also where Indian migrants raised livestock, traded and settled en masse. These days, Little India is still a vibrant stronghold for Singapore's Indian community, where traditional restaurants, sundry stores and houses of worship line the main thoroughfare of Serangoon Road, as well as the intriguing side-streets and alleyways that merit exploration. It is also seeing a rise in trendy businesses and restaurants.



## KOMALA VILAS

www.komalavilas.com.sg

This vegetarian Indian restaurant's popularity has resulted in numerous branches across town. Favourites from this half-century-old establishment include paper thosai (rice batter pancake), chapatti (griddle-cooked flatbread) and vegetable briyani (spiced, aromatic rice)



## INDIAN EXPRESS

38 Race Course Road, 6341-7429, www.indianexpress.com.se

A casual offshoot of the Michelinstarred Song of India, Indian Express does excellent naan (lightly leavened bread), curries and kebabs (spiced, roasted meats), with an emphasis on healthier preparations. Don't miss signatures like the chicken brivani and the creamy dessert malai kulfi (ice cream with saffron and nuts).



#### INDIAN HERITAGE CENTRE 5 Campbell Lane, 6291-1601, www.indianheritage.org.sg

With an embellished door comprising over 5,000 engraved elements, the Indian Heritage Centre is a highly photographable building, home to documents, photographs, stories and other artefacts. It also conducts tours and heritage-themed events.





#### GEMS OF LITTLE INDIA

www.rubydottrails.com, departs from Little India MRT Station at 9:30am on Thursdays



THE BANANA

LEAF APOLO

54 Race Course Road,

A vaunted icon of Little

prides itself on a perfect

rendition of its namesake meal, served on banana

leaves, true to tradition.

skewer-roasted chicken

mutton curry and naan

tikka (small pieces of

are not to be missed.

meat or vegetable),

Other dishes like

India, this restaurant

6293-8682, www. thebananaleafapolo.com

#### SRI VEERAMAKALIAMMAN TEMPLE 141 Serangoon Road, 6293-4634, www.sriveeramakaliam

Named after Kali, the Destroyer of Evil, Singapore's early Indian migrants built this temple to implore this goddess for protection in their adopted country. Donations have contributed to the increasingly elaborate facade of this temple, which now includes a new front tower and eight major domes.

## **MUSTAFA**

www.mustafa.com.sg

Singapore's most famous 24-hour shopping centre, Mustafa is a go-to for locals and tourists alike, stocking everything from electronics and luggage to DVDs and pantry items. Once a modest store, Mustafa now spans a whopping 400,000 sq ft across three wings.



INSIDER



VADIVEL

"To me, Little India is a place

where Indians come to enjoy themselves. You can especially see this every Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Come to Rex on the weekend, when we release a new movie, which usually attracts huge crowds."

30

## **KAMPONG GLAM**

The historic heart of the Malay aristocracy prior to colonial rule, Kampong Glam retains many elements of its past. The old palace of the sultan, or the Istana, is now the Malay Heritage Centre, and the Sultan Mosque sits alongside carpet shops, Malay restaurants, independent art spaces and clothing boutiques—making this one of the city's most colourful and cultural neighbourhoods.



## BAR STORIES

55-57A Haji Lane, 6298-0838, www.facebook.com/ barstories.sg A hidden, second-floor bar on an otherwise bustling indie Haji Lane, Bar Stories specialises in bespoke cocktails—bartenders ask you about your preferred spirits and flavour profiles, then customise a drink just for you, often to dramatic effect.





#### SIFR AROMATICS 42 Arab Street, 6392-1966, www.sifr.sg

A beautiful new-age perfumery, Sifr is run by Johari Kazura who is schooled in traditional techniques, blending bespoke fragrances from a selection of natural and synthetic components. Sifr's ready-made products include bath accessories, moisturisers, scented candles and bottled perfumes.

## SCENE SHANG & SUPERMAMA

263 and 265 Beach Road, shop.sceneshang.com and www.supermama.sg

Browse the wares of two stylish Singaporean boutiques that sit next to each other on Beach Road. The Art Decostyle furniture and homeware at Scene Shang carry touches of Southeast Asian design elements. Next door, Supermama is a collection of memorabilia inspired by life in Singapore.



#### UNNAMED TEA SARABAT STALL

A lesser known gem of Kampong Glam, this nameless drink stall makes *teh sarabat* (pulled tea with milk and sugar) that many claim to be the best in Singapore. The stall's *teh* halia (ginger tea) also enjoys immense popularity.



#### SULTAN MOSQUE 3 Muscat Street, 6293-4405,

3 Muscat Street, 6293-4405, www.sultanmosque.sg

Formerly the mosque of the royal palace, the gilded Masjid Sultan was originally built in 1824. Its dome bases are made of soy sauce glass bottles donated by poorer members of the congregation. The guides who facilitate tours through this grandiose compound are fluent in English, Japanese, Malay and Mandarin.



# 40 × 5

#### INSIDER



HARNEIS HADIR General Manage Malay Heritage Centre

"One cannot say enough about

the food in Kampong Glam, whether you enjoy traditional Malay or Indian food, or Mexican, Lebanese, Turkish and even Western cuisine. Come by the Malay Heritage Centre, which used to house the Istana Kampong Glam and is steeped in culture and heritage."



#### NOX - DINE IN THE DARK 269 Beach Road, 6298-0708, www.noxdineinthedark.com

By serving dishes in pitch darkness and not sharing the menu ahead of time, Singapore's answer to the dine-in-thedark trend heightens the senses of diners, who are then able to relish their meal with greater depth.

## **KAMPONG GLAM**



#### WARONG NASI PARIAMAN 738 North Bridge Road, 6292-2374,

www.pariaman.com.sg

With over 50 years' history, the casual and ever-busy Warong Nasi Pariaman is one of Singapore's longest surviving nasi padang (rice with Padang-style curries) stalls. Order sharing portions of ayam korma (chicken curry) and ikan bakar (grilled fish) to enjoy with a group

## **Ο** MAISON IKKOKU

20 Kandahar Street, 6294-0078, www.maison-ikkoku.net

This pretty second-floor cocktail bar is just across the street from the Malay Heritage Centre. A highlight here is sitting out on the cosy little balcony with a beautiful view of the Sultan Mosque dome. An establishment of dual talents, Maison Ikkoku sells quality coffee by day and captivating cocktails by night.





#### RICH AND GOOD CAKE SHOP

This rustic, pastelhued shophouse bakery specialises in traditional pastries that have a sentimental place in the hearts of Singaporeans. The Rich and Good Cake Shop is best known for its Swiss rolls, which make for delicious souvenirs for friends back home. 24 Kandahar Street, 6294-3324, www.facebook.com/ richandgoodcakeshop



#### DONG PO COLONIAL CAFE 56 Kandahar Street, 6298-1318, www.dongpocc.com

This retro Chinese establishment serves traditional tea and breakfast items that were once commonplace in early Singapore, while offering glimpses into the past through vintage toys that are also available for purchase.



73 Sultan Gate, 6396-6646, www.mamanda.com.sg The restaurant at the Malay Heritage

Centre, this beautiful yellow house serves a traditional Malay banquet feast with refinement and bold flavours. Try their *nasi ambeng*, which involves rice served with traditional Javanese curries and vegetables.





#### **MALAY HERITAGE CENTRE** 85 Sultan Gate, 6391-0450,

www.malayheritage.org.sg

This former palace and its lush lawns now serve as a picturesque repository of Malay culture and history. Built by Sultan Ali in the mid-19th century, this complex, garden and event space was meticulously restored piece by piece to its former glory in 2012.

#### ALSO CHECK OUT: Kallang



At the confluence of the Rochor and Kallang rivers, Kallang is an underrated neighbourhood that brims with hidden treasures surrounding Kallang Riverside Park.

Amid modular architecture, eateries like Michelin-starred **Hill Street Tai Hwa** 

Pork Noodles (#01-12, 466 Crawford Lane) feed a sleepy township, while excellent cafes like **Tolido's Espresso Nook** (#01-63, 462 Crawford Lane), **The Bravery Cafe** 



(66 Horne Road), and former hardware store-turned-cafe and bar **Chye Seng Huat Hardware** (150 Tyrwhitt Road, 6369-0609) will perk you up with some of Singapore's best coffee. Beer lovers should try the friendly and well-stocked **Druggists** (119 Tyrwhitt Road, 6341-5967) and **1925 Microbrewery** (369 Jalan Besar, 6294-9215) which has vats of



house-brewed ales behind the bar. For cocktails and Japanese-inspired snacks, there is **The Refinery** (115 King George's Avenue).

Make a trip to Golden Mile Complex (5001 Beach Road), a

stronghold of Singapore's Thai community. Next door at Golden Mile Tower is **The Projector** (6001 Beach Road), a restored cinema that screens art films and hosts festivals throughout the year.



And if you are exploring Kallang Riverside Park (5 Stadium Road), try your hand at dragon boating on the river. (More information at www.sgba. org.sg.) Across the river, the impressive Singapore Sports Hub (Stadium Drive and Stadium Walk, www.sportshub. com.sg) offers other sporting options, including an aquatic centre and a rock climbing wall. For a stylish dinner, try Kilo Kitchen or Camp Kilo Charcoal Club, both nestled in the park at 66 Kampong Bugis (6467-3987).

## **KATONG & JOO CHIAT**

Named after Straits Chinese tycoon Chew Joo Chiat, this serene neighbourhood is replete with Peranakan cuisine and colourful architecture. A district best known for its conserved historic shophouses, Katong and Joo Chiat were home to wealthy Peranakan communities as well as Eurasian families. The area has a Catholic church and prestigious mission schools in the neighbourhood and is beloved for its rows of traditional eats, contemporary bars and proximity to the beach.



## 🗯 GEYLANG SERAI

The Malay quarter of Geylang Serai teems with life around the clock. Geylang Serai Market and its surrounding Indian Muslim coffee shops offer plenty of delicacies. During the Ramadan fasting month and Hari Raya celebrations, the neighbourhood buzzes with a famous night market, or pasar malam, as it is known in Malav.



#### THE INTAN 69 Joo Chiat Terrace, 6440-1148,

This private Peranakan museum holds tea sessions arranged upon request. Held over traditional confectionery, conversations with founder Alvin Yapp are an intimate way to learn about

Peranakan culture.





#### PERANAKAN SUPPER

Joo Chiat's food options could take days to explore, but if you have three hours, join this stroll past the area's distinctive shophouses and try famous Peranakan, Chinese and other dishes. 8338-3571, www.woknstroll.com.sg



#### **KIM CHOO KUEH CHANG** 60 Joo Chiat Place, 6741-2125, www.kimchoo.com

Lee Kim Choo and her progeny prepare Peranakan cakes and condiments fresh every day, using recipes passed down through generations. Unsurprisingly, their wares are beloved islandwide.

## NINE THIRTY BY AWFULLY CHOCOLATE 131 East Coast Road, 6345-2190, www.ac9thirty.com

Famous for their indulgent chocolate treats, Awfully Chocolate's restaurant serves contemporary fusion fare, with dishes like the laksa tagliatelle (pasta with Singaporean spicy curry sauce) and braised beef karubi (boneless short rib). Don't miss dessert, of course, like their sinful chocolate truffles, or chocolate martini with a potent kick.



## RUMAH BEBE 113 East Coast Road, 6247-8781, www.rumahbebe.com

Besides organising classes and tours, "Bebe's House" is also lauded for its beaded and handmade Peranakan slippers and embroidered kebaya made in the unmistakably meticulous and opulent style of the Straits Chinese. Indulge in an authentic Peranakan meal here too, especially its colourful kueh.





## **BABA CHEWS**

#01-01, Katong Square, 86 East Coast Road, 6723-2025, www.facebook.com/babachewssg Peranakan restaurant Baba Chews is housed in the beautiful former Joo Chiat Police Station building, part of the brand new Hotel Indigo. The sun-drenched, retro interiors and the sprawling bar are a great space to enjoy head chef Alvin Leong's traditional dishes as well as some fusion variations.



## ZAFFRON KITCHEN

137 East Coast Road, 6440-6786 www.zaffronkitchen.com

A member of Michelin's Bib Gourmand list. the 96-seat eatery skips the traditional drapery and serves hearty Indian fare in a brick-walled, industrial-chic space. Meaty dishes aside, they have a good list of vegetarian *tandoori* dishes cooked in a clay oven, such as the vegetarian seekh kebab (grilled skewered meat) and tandoori gobi (cauliflower).



#### **KATONG ANTIQUE HOUSE** 208 East Coast Road, 6345-

A perfectly preserved Peranakan house along East Coast Road, Katong Antique House is curator Peter Wee's personal home and labour of love, saturated with Straits Chinese furniture, ornaments and other *objets d'art*. Entry is by appointment only, so do call ahead.

#### INSIDER



PETER WEE

## HOLLAND VILLAGE

Contrary to popular belief, Holland Village is not named after Dutch settlers, but after actor and architect Hugh Holland. Stroll down its tree-lined streets and you will find dozens of cafes, bars and boutiques. Opposite the main road, Chip Bee Gardens is a charming and quiet annex, with laidback brunch spots, spas and ice cream shops.



## 

## 31 Lorong Mambong, 6462-4288, www.walawala.sg

Wala Wala is filled with music every night of the week and is where many notable Singaporean musicians have cut their teeth. Order from their extensive food and drink menu and watch the birth of the next new star



## 243 Holland Avenue, 6208-6845, www.fullofluck.club

This retro-chic restaurant has gained a following through its modern take on dim sum, roast meats and noodle dishes. Try the chilli glazed fried fermented bean paste chicken wings, poached wontons in chili soy and traditional Chinese buns reborn as burgers, along with an Asian craft beer.





#### 2AM:DESSERTBAR 21A Lorong Liput, 6291-9727, www.2amdessertbar.com

Singaporean pastry chef Janice Wong's first enterprise is, after nearly 10 years, still Singapore's most exciting dessert and nightcap restaurant-and has recently branched out to Tokyo and Hong Kong. Resembling a moody, elegant bar, this creative establishment recommends a premium spirit to pair with each sweet treat.



#### 🚺 DA PAOLO PIZZA BAR #01-46, 44 Jalan Merah Saga, 6479-6059, www.dapaolo.com.sg

Da Paolo is an old neighbourhood favourite along the eclectic, leafy Jalan Merah Saga, run by tenured restaurateurs Paolo and Judie Scarpa, who serve a satisfying selection of hearty Italian pizza and other antipasti and mains.



#### LOCAL DESIGNERS

Jalan Merah Saga, www.ongshunmugam.com and www.bvndartisan.com

Opposite the Holland Village strip, Chip Bee Gardens houses two Singaporean design workshops: a glass-paned atelier lets you watch fashion house Ong Shunmugam (#01-76, 43 Jalan Merah Saga) at work. And Bynd Artisan (#01-54, 44 Jalan Merah Saga) uses traditional leatherwork to produce accessories and notebooks.

#### THE MONOCLE SHOP AND CAFE

74 Jalan Kelabu Asap, 6475-1816, www.monocle.com

International lifestyle bible Monocle has a small outpost in Holland Village, tucked away among private houses, selling its full range of curated accessories. The cashier doubles as a barista, and the Monocle country editor is also hard at work on the premises.



#### INSIDER



Over the three

SAM THAMBI

it has been

here, our magazine shop has grown larger and has become somewhat of a look at our wide selection of

#### ALSO CHECK OUT: one-north



of Singapore, the neighbourhood of several start-up hubs.

On Ayer Rajah Crescent are two of the most well-known ones: BLK71 and JTC LaunchPad @ one-north, whose diverse start-ups and incubators cover biomedical, pharmaceutical, cleantech and engineering initiatives, bring the total number of start-ups on the crescent to about 500.

Also on Ayer Rajah Crescent, "hipster-hawker" food truck park Timbre+ (73A) comprises Japanese, Indian, Singaporean, French and other stalls in a lunch hall setting.



Mediacorp, Disney's Sandcrawler and Infinite Frameworks Studios®. which handles the post-production of many Hollywood films, have complexes here, and actors and crew can be often spotted enjoying a cold one at

**DSTLLRY** (#01-01, 21 Media Circle) or coffee at cafes like One Man Coffee (4 Fusionopolis Way) and Envy Coffee (1 Fusionopolis Link).



If a historic atmosphere is what you are after, it's worth exploring Portsdown Road, east of one-north and famous for its black-and-white colonial mansions, as well as the modest but historic colonial-era hangout spot ColBar Eating House (9A Whitchurch Road), which sells simple Continental platters, alongside savoury Asian stir-fries.



Further north, pay a visit to the eateries of Rochester Park and The Star Performing Arts Centre and its adjoining mall The Star

Vista (1 Vista Exchange Green), which contain many affordable food options and regularly host performances by international artistes. and musicians.

# **CHANGI**

Purportedly named after a tree found in the area, Changi, which sits on Singapore's eastern tip, used to be a landing point for tigers which would swim to Singapore from neighbouring islands. This far-flung corner of the islandbest known among tourists for its eminent, award-winning international airport—offers plenty of other charms for nature lovers, joggers and cyclists, food enthusiasts and history fans.





#### Ô) **CHANGI CITY POINT** 5 Changi Business Park Central 1, 6511-1088,

www.fraserscentrepointmalls.com Changi City Point is one of eastern Singapore's largest shopping destinations, offering not only a vast array of food options, but also numerous factory outlets where goods are retailed at attractively marked-down prices.



## THE CHANGI MUSEUM & CHAPEL

1000 Upper Changi Road North, 6214-2451, www.changimuseum.com

This museum dedicated to World War II's prisoners-of-war also houses many relics that once belonged to POWs of the Japanese Occupation, as well as nearly 5,000 records of registered Civilian Internees.

#### ANJAPPAR

#02-07, 51 Changi Business Park Central 2, 6777-6777, www.anjappar.com.sg Anjappar's signature style of South Indian

Chettinad cuisine has made fans out of many Singaporeans. Its rich flavours are very popular with Changi's office workers.



#### THE COASTAL SETTLEMENT 200 Netheravon Road, 6475-0200, www.thecoastalsettlement.com

While tricky to get to without a car or taxi, this quirkily furnished, sundrenched heritage house-turnedrestaurant has a loyal following at all times of the day, thanks to its verdant and scenic locale along colonial Netheravon Road. Particularly popular for brunch, this place sees returning customers lounging for hours.





## CHANGI VILLAGE HAWKER CENTRE

2 Changi Village Road

The quaint Changi Village is dominated by antique houses built during British rule, as well as rustic coffee shops and restaurants. The neighbourhood's food centre offers great local dishes. The nasi *lemak* (coconut rice with chilli paste and dried fish) is the most renowned.



## LITTLE ISLAND BREWING CO

#01-01/02, 6 Changi Village Road, 6543-9100, www.libc.co

When exploring Changi Village, stop by for a very affordable pint made onpremises by one of the many excellent microbreweries that call Singapore home. This cool, industrial-style warehouse space also houses a pub, where you can order drinking snacks, brunch and everything in between.

#### INSIDER



FRANCIS LI

recommend every visitor to visit food at the same time within its

#### ALSO CHECK OUT: Pulau Ubin



A 15-minute bumboat ride from Singapore, Pulau Ubin is one of the last places to see village life in Singapore as it used to be before the country's massive urban redevelopment. Beyond scenic bicycle trails and delicious seafood, the island, named after its large granite quarry, packs a number of

Trek through its rubber trees, which used to be commonplace throughout Singapore and the Malayan Peninsula, and you will be surprised by the stunning beauty of Pulau Ubin's Blue Lake and granite quarry. Walk round the shore of the latter and you might find a huge statue of the Taoist Goddess of Mercy, Kuan Yin, which was carved by devotees out of the local granite.

One trail leads to the mangrove wetlands of Chek Jawa, where tiny crabs take refuge in the mud while sand dollars speckle the seashore.



(Guided tours of Chek Jawa are available) There is also a sensory trail, on which visually impaired visitors to the island are invited to take in Pulau Ubin's many sounds and smells. To the delight of weary trekkers, chilled coconuts are available as refreshment in Pulau Ubin's kampong houses.

The island's intriguing remnants of the past include the disused House No. 1, which is Singapore's only traditional



Tudor-style house, as well as the spooky **German** Girl Shrine, where believers offer dolls and other toys to the shrine's resident spirit,

believed to be a fraulein who fell to her death during the First World War, in exchange for good fortune and success in business. One of the best views of the island and its surrounding land masses can be enjoyed on top of the 20m-tall Jejawi Tower, from which one can spot the island's many macaque and wild boar packs.

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## **MUST EAT**

Singapore's myriad iconic dishes would keep even the most devoted foodie busy for months. These 10 traditional local favourites, though, are a strong start.

#### BAK CHOR MEE

A south Chinese minced pork noodle dish that locals never get tired of, *bak chor mee* often comes with meat and fish balls as well. Try it at the Michelinstarred hawker **Tai Hwa Eating House**. #01-12, 466 Crawford Lane



#### **CHAR KWAY TEOW**

A savoury, stir-fried and seafoodladen dish, **Maxwell Food Centre** serves great *char kway teow* in the heart of town. Marina South Delicious Food, #01-35, Maxwell Food Centre, 1 Kadayanallur Street





#### CHICKEN RICE

A combination of fatty rice and juicy chicken, this is one of Singapore's most famous dishes. Created by migrants from Hainan, it can be enjoyed at hawker centres islandwide. Try it at **Boon Tong Kee**. 425 River Valley Road, 6736-3213, www.boontonkee.com.sg



#### KAYA TOAST

The essential ingredient in this traditional breakfast is a pale green jam made with eggs, coconut and pandan that is spread over bread toast and topped with a thick slice of butter, washed down with local coffee or tea. Try it at **Ya Kun Kaya Toast**. #01-01, Far East Square, 18 China Street, 6438-3638, www.yakun.com



#### **CHILLI CRAB**

Lovers of spice and seafood should not miss this succulent dish. Prepare to get messy and be sure to soak up the rich sauce with the bread-like *mantou*. One of the best versions is at **Jumbo Seafood**. #01-01/02, Riverside Point, 30 Merchant Road, 6532-3435 www.jumboseafood.com.sg

#### DURIAN

As polarising as it is delicious, the unofficial national fruit is one you will either love or hate. When in season, several varieties of durian are available at **Ministry Of Durian.** #01-05, Prestige Point, 398 Upper Paya Lebar Road, 9137-1245, www. ministryofdurian.com.sg



A truly Singaporean dish, *laksa* comprises white vermicelli served in a spicy curry-like soup.

A popular *laksa* eatery is **328 Katong Laksa**,

which has now opened

51 East Coast Road, 9732-8163

more outlets around

the country.

LAKSA



Nothing like the Western counterpart that shares its name, Singaporean carrot cake is a fried radish dish flavoured with spring onions and eggs. Try it at Seng Heng Carrot Cake. #01-24, Alexandra Village Food Centre, 120 Bukit Merah Lane 1







#### SATAY

No one does barbecued meat on a stick like Singapore. The most famous satay stalls run parallel to Lau Pa Sat, where a busy downtown road closes at night to turn into Satay Street. 18 Raffles Quay, www.laupasat.biz



#### PRATA

A universally beloved Indian meal, the rich and flaky flatbread is best enjoyed with a chicken or fish curry gravy. Some of the best are served at **Tekka Market**. 665 Buffalo Road, take the MRT to Little India station





## **MUST BUY**

Before you leave, pick up one of these portable pieces of Singapore's unqiue culture, heritage and contemporary design.



#### PERANAKAN TILES

The wealthy Peranakans (Straits Chinese) would intricately decorate their homes with these beautiful tiles. Get yours from the **True Blue Shoppe** at the Peranakan Museum. 39 Armenian Street, 6337-7454, www.peranakanmuseum.org.sg

UNIQUE COFFEE TABLE BOOKS

A variety of unique local art books

are displayed at the gift shop at

photography gallery **Deck**. 120A Prinsep Street, 6734-6578, www.deck.sg



#### SINGAPOREAN LITERATURE

Stocking an eclectic collection of Singaporean literature from past and present, **BooksActually** offers a variety of engaging reads by local authors. 9 Yong Siak Street, 6222-9195, www.booksactuallyshop.com



#### SCENTED CANDLES

Design store Naiise stocks a delightful array of uniquely Singaporean products. Try the **TWG Earl Grey Scented** Candle, which packs 4kg of aromatic oil and burns for 60 hours.

#02-23, Clarke Quay Central, 6 Eu Tong Sen Street, www.naiise.com

#### **BAK KWA**

Sweet barbecued pork slices are especially popular during the Chinese New Year and easily available in Chinatown. The versions by Lim Chee Guan (203 New Bridge Road) and Bee Cheng Hiang (189 New Bridge Road) are popular. www.bechenghiang.com.sg and www.bechenghiang.com.sg







#### STYLISH APPAREL

Rows of edgy boutiques line Kampong Glam's Haji Lane (near Bugis MRT). Have a browse through shops like Modparade (68 Haji Lane) and Soon Lee (73 Haji Lane) for a special, on-trend find. www.modparade.com and www.soonlee.sg



#### PERANAKAN KUEH

Singapore's various ethnicities have created myriad cakes, or *kueh*. Bring home these delightful confections from traditional precincts like Kampong Glam and Joo Chiat—or make a quick stop at any **Bengawan Solo** branch. B4-38, ION Orchard, 2 Orchard Turn, 6238-2090, www.bengawansolo.com.sg

## **ARTISANAL TEA**

Purveying over 1,000 types of tea, world-renowned Singaporean brand TWG offers both Singapore-inspired blends and international varieties pick some up on your way home. #01-22, Republic Plaza, 9 Raffles Place, 6538-1837, www.twgtea.com



#### BEAUTY PRODUCTS The distinct flavour

of Southeast Asian-style black coffee, known as *kopi-o*, is now available as a lip balm at **Shophouse Sixtyfive**. Available online at www.shophousesixtyfive.com or at Naiise at #02-23, Clarke Quay Central, 6 Eu Tong So Street, www.naiise.com



## **MUST DO**

Not to be missed, these are the best of Singapore's cultural enclaves, eclectic experiences and modern attractions.



#### **1** SOUTH INDIAN BREAKFAST IN LITTLE INDIA

**3** A RIDE ON THE SINGAPORE RIVER Explore the birthplace of commerce in Singapore from another angle.

In one of Singapore's most iconic precincts, tenured teh halia (milky ginger tea) and thosai (rice crepe) specialists feed innumerable mouths alongside hardworking spice and jewellery merchants.



2 A WALK THROUGH KATONG Take a walk through this historical and multicultural neighbourhood that teems with heritage, beautiful architecture and excellent food.



#### THE BEACH CLUBS OF SENTOSA

Lounge at beach clubs like FOC Sentosa (110 Tanjong Beach Walk, www.focsentosa. com), Coastes (#01-06, 50 Siloso Beach Walk, www.coastes.com), Mambo Beach Club (40 Siloso Beach Walk, www.facebook.com/mambosg), Tanjong Beach Club (120 Tanjong Beach Walk, www.tanjongbeachclub.com) and Wave House Sentosa (36 Siloso Beach Walk, www.wavehousesentosa.com), which attract families and partygoers all week.



#### CATCH A WORLD-CLASS SHOW

Singapore's state-of-the-art theatre facilities are second to none. The so-called "durian-shaped" Esplanade — Theatres on the Bay (1 Esplanade Drive, www.esplanade.com) hosts annual international arts festivals, as well as international musicians and dance companies.





#### **6** WALK THROUGH SINGAPORE HISTORY

Enjoy the Fullerton Heritage's (The Fullerton Hotel, 1 Fullerton Road, www. thefullertonheritage.com) collection of photos, which have been meticulously restored and stunningly document Singapore's development over the years.



#### DRINKS WITH A VIEW Have a drink atop One Raffles Place, v

Have a drink atop One Raffles Place, where sky-high bar **1-Altitude** (Level 61, 1 Raffles Place, www.1-altitude.com) offers a majestic view of the sprawling business district and Marina Bay.

8 A TRIP TO GARDENS BY THE BAY

Soak up 101 hectares of greenery and a growing number of temperate and tropical flora species at this awardwinning attraction. 18 Marina Gardens Drive, www.gardens bythebay.com.sg



## **RECOMMENDED ITINERARIES**

A business trip to Singapore does not have to be all work and no play. Singapore is compact and filled with exciting things to see and do—even a short outing will be rewarding.

#### **Full-Day Itinerary**

Start with a traditional Indian breakfast of spicy *thosai* (rice crepe) and savoury *vadai* (lentil doughnut) at Little India institution **Komala Vilas** (76 Serangoon Road, www.komalavilas.com.sg) and stroll along the vibrant streets.



Singapore's futuristic and verdant **Gardens by the Bay** (18 Marina Gardens Drive, www.gardensbythebay.com.sg) is an award-winning icon in sustainable architecture as well as a great place to stroll and smell the flowers.

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After enjoying the city from the ground, enjoy it from the sky. The Sands SkyPark® of Marina Bay Sands® (Tower 1, 10 Bayfront Avenue, www.marinabaysands. com), the distinctive "boat" atop Marina Bay Sands, has jaw-dropping panoramic views and stylish restaurants, like Jason Quek's Sky on 57 (www.justinquek.com/sky57).

- Even a short trip to Singapore should involve a shopping spree on Orchard Road, where **Robinsons** (260 Orchard Road, www.robinsons. com.sg) **ION Orchard** (2 Orchard Turn, www.ionorchard.com) and
- \_\_\_

Enjoy regional art at the **National Gallery Singapore** (1 St. Andrew's Road, www.nationalgallery.sg). Once home to the former City Hall and Supreme Court, the magnificent neoclassical-style building houses the largest collection of modern Southeast Asian art in the world.

other malls stock a range of labels.

Local confectionery can also be

bought along this stretch.



The National Gallery Singapore also houses world-class dining options, such as Singaporean celebrity chef Violet Oon's **National Kitchen** (1 St. Andrew's Road, www.violetoon.com), which offers both traditional local fare as well as beautiful views.













See the birthplace of Singaporean commerce by taking a bumboat along the Singapore River. Stop at **Clarke Quay** (3 River Valley Road, www.clarkequay.com.sg), the city's most famous nightlife spot, for evening drinks and live music.



After-party supper is a timehonoured tradition in Singapore, and several places are open late at night. Try the ever-bustling **Swee Choon Tim Sum** (183-191 Jalan Besar, www.sweechoon.com) or the consistently reliable **Spize** (several branches, www.spize.sg) which serves Malay, Indian and Western dishes.

#### Half-Day Itinerary



Have a quick shopping expedition on the quieter edge of **Orchard Road**, where options like **Palais Renaissance** (300 Orchard Road, www.palais.sg) house shops selling art, carpets, jewellery and other special items.



Singapore's multifaceted culture is best enjoyed by visiting the **Chinatown Heritage Centre** (48 Pagoda Street, www. chinatownheritagecentre.com.sg) and **Sri Mariamman Temple** (244 South Bridge Road, www.smt.org.

sg), both in Chinatown.



Club Street and Ann Siang Hill are full of great options for dinner and post-dinner drinks. Tong Heng Bakery (245 South Bridge Road, www.tongheng.com.sg) nearby sells some of the best egg tarts in the citv.

Hungry for more local cuisine? You can't go wrong with supper at Maxwell Food Centre (1 Kadayanallur Street), which is located nearby.



Clarke Qua







## **TOURS WITH MORE**

Singapore may be small but in many ways, it is a city-planning example for the rest of the world. Take one of these tours to learn more about how this city-state stays ahead of the times.



#### PUB: NEWater Visitor Centre Tour

From filtering used water to desalinating sea water, Singapore's water management programme is exemplary. The Public Utilities Board (PUB) provides a comprehensive tour of how Singapore safeguards, recycles and sanitises its modest water supply for its large population. www.pub.gov.sg



Khoo Teck Puat Hospital Tour Ten-year-old Khoo Teck Puat Hospital is one of the finest examples of Singapore's public healthcare system. The interactive tour shows how the main hospital of northern Singapore provides state-of-the-art healthcare for over 700,000 people as well as how they employ exemplary management and environmental practices.



#### URA City Planning Tour

The Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA)'s expert guides will explain Singapore's remarkable urban planning history during a guided walk through the Singapore City Gallery and its 50 interactive exhibits. Call ahead for corporate or tourist groups. www.uragov.sg/uol/citygallery



Zero Energy Building Tour Singapore takes sustainability very seriously and is a leader among world cities in green innovation. Pre-arrange a tour at the Building and Construction Authority and learn all about solar energy systems, solar chimneys, rooftop gardens and other cuttingedge technologies.

#### www.bca.gov.sg



#### iExperience

Singapore has in recent years adopted a Smart Nation policy, using technological advancements and big data to improve the lives of Singaporeans. Take a tour of the Information & Communications Technology Experience Centre at Esplanade Xchange for a look into how businesses and government organisations innovate smart technologies. www.iexperience.sg

## **APPS FOR TRAVELLERS**

Access maps, insider tips and other conveniences with these tried-and-tested mobile apps and publications.

#### Alipay



This Chinese third-party payment app is becoming increasingly universal. Payment can be sent to almost any merchant or debtor via the Alipay app, making it a great solution for travellers with overseas credit cards.

Available free for iOS and Android.

#### Chope



Taking its name from a tongue-in-cheek Singlish word that refers to reserving a table at a hawker centre, Chope is Singapore's leading restaurant booking app. Search from hundreds of eateries, place a booking and receive a confirmation for your big night out. Available free for IOS and Android.

#### Goru



Lauded for its extensive documentation of the best things to do and places to visit in Singapore, Goru also allows users to make restaurant and hotel bookings via the app. Goru Data gets you a Singapore data plan without changing your SIM card. Available free for IOS.

#### SG Buses



Well-known among locals, SG Buses uses geolocation to list the nearest bus stops, the buses that stop at each stop, as well as the expected arrival times, so you can plan your trips more efficiently. Available free for iOS and Android.

#### Singapore Heritage Trails



This interactive and easy-to-use mobile app brings foreigners and locals alike through Singapore's most enchanting walking routes. The app tells the history behind each road, building and landmark, and also allows users to leave their own comments about each site. Available free for IOS and Android.

#### Travel Door



A great resource for travellers from Japan, this offline mobile app offers a Japanese-language guide to Singapore, with maps, top attractions, venue details and other useful information. Available free for 105 and Android.

#### TripAdvisor



TripAdvisor has catalogued Singapore down to a tee, listing the best eateries, attractions, hotels, travel routes and more. Users are encouraged to leave their comments on each experience for the benefit of other travellers.

Available free for iOS and Android.

## **CHANGI AIRPORT: A DESTINATION IN ITSELF**

An 11-time winner of the World's Best Airport by Skytrax—most recently in 2016—Changi Airport connects travellers to 330 cities via 6,800 flights departing and arriving every single week. Not only that, it is a destination in itself, thanks to its myriad traveller amenities. 320 retail options, 180 food outlets and plenty of opportunities for rest and recreation. Here are just some of the highlights.

#### SHOPPING



#### **DFS WINE & SPIRITS**

The award-winning DFS Wines and Spirits Duplexes located at Terminals 2 and 3 offer travellers the chance to sample from and explore DFS' wide assortment of over 900 products from over 240 wines, spirits and tobacco brands, including the largest assortment of single malt whiskies offered by any travel retailer in the region. The upper level of the T2 Duplex introduces the Whiskey House that offers complimentary tastings of over 100 whiskies while the Long Bar by Raffles at T3 Duplex offers complimentary cocktails.

#### COSMETICS AND PERFUMES

The Shilla Duty Free at Changi Airport is a beauty destination offering travellers the largest selection of beauty brands at the best duty free prices in the region. Head to Shilla Beauty Loft in T3, on the second level, for top-notch beauty services from prestige brands Chanel, Dior, La Prairie, and SK-II.





#### ELECTRONICS

Need to pick up a mobile phone or camera before continuing your travels? An extensive range of tech toys are available at stores like Electronics by Sprint-Cass (T1, T2 & T3), Sony (T3), Samsung (T3) and iStudio (T1, T2 & T3) at reasonable prices.

#### FOOD SOUVENIRS

Food souvenir options are aplenty at Changi Airport which offers a wide variety of gift stores. Quintessential Singaporean snacks, confectionaries, baked goods and teas can be purchased at Bee Cheng Hiang (T1 & T2), Fragrance (T2 & T3), Bengawan Solo (T1, T2 & T3) and TWG (T1, T2 & T3).





#### BARS

There are several good bars across Changi Airport's three terminals that offer a spread of wines and spirits at reasonable prices. Sports lovers can catch up on the scores at Carlsberg Sports Bar (T3) and O' Learys (T1 & T2). Singapore nightlife giant Harry's also has elegant spaces at all three terminals). Don't miss the iconic Raffles Long Bar (located in DFS Wines and Spirits Duplex in T3) which offers travellers the opportunity to sample The Long Bar's famed cocktail, the Singapore Sling.

#### RESTAURANTS

A first-class shopping haven, well-known fashion

brands that have set up shop in Changi Airport include

Bally (T1), Bottega Veneta (T2 & T3), Burberry (T1, T2 & T3), Coach (T1), Gucci (T1, T2 & T3) and Prada (T2 & T3).

Besides the bevy of bags, apparel and other accessories

available at these boutiques, luxury watches are also retailed at boutiques like Cartier (T2), Omega (T1 & T2), Gassan Watches (T1) and Rolex (T3), while jewellery

can be purchased at Tiffany & Co (T2 & T3), Lee Hwa Diamond Boutique (T2), Swarovski (T1, T2, & T3) and

LUXURY RETAIL

several other outlets.

Who says airport food is not up to scratch? There are dozens of excellent choices at Changi Airport, across all price ranges and cuisines. Don't miss the award-winning tonkotsu ramen from Ippudo Express (T2& T3), fiery Thai delights from Lerk Thai (T2), halal fried chicken from 4 Fingers Crispy Chicken (T1 & T3), lavish Chinese fare and colourful xiao long baos from Paradise Dynasty (T3), fresh and comforting Vietnamese food from Pho Street (T2), authentic Indian cuisines at Chutney Mary (T2)— the list goes on and on!



#### LOCAL FOOD

Craving sone more meal in Asia's food paradise? Authentic local cuisines can be savoured at Killiney Kopitiam (T3), Kopitiam (T3), Wang Café (T1 & T2) and Ya Kun Kaya Toast (T2 & T3). A plethora of olden day food carts takes you a step back in time at the Singapore Food Street (T3), while the fishing nets and hanging boats in Straits Food Village (T2) brings you back to the early settlement days of Singapore. The award winning Straits Food Village also features self-service ordering kiosks to improve passenger experience.

For more information, visit www.changiairport.com

aits food



SINGAPORE FOOD FESTIVAL The highlight of this annual celebration of Singapore's diverse and delightful flavours has to be STREAT, a makeshift food market where the city's best chefs pay homage to the food of Singapore with inventive dishes and classics

done right.

## **EVENTS & FESTIVALS**

From exciting sporting events to colourful cultural processions, Singapore's annual calendar is packed with unmissable dates.



#### CHINESE NEW YEAR The Lunar New Year makes Singapore reverberate with parades, traditional music and the pounding percussion that invigorates highly acrobatic lion and dragon dancers.



SINGAPORE ART WEEK

Solidifying Singapore's place on

the global contemporary art scene, Singapore Art Week sees galleries

and artists from around the world converging for several days of exhibitions and fringe events—a mustvisit for buyers and browsers alike.

> THAIPUSAM An important date on the Hindu calendar, Thaipusam is commemorated with a procession of devotees that commences in Little India after a period of fasting and spiritual preparation.

#### WORLD GOURMET SUMMIT

Over two decades old, the summit features a hit parade of decorated chefs and winemakers from around the world visiting Singapore for a series of one-off dinners, wine tasting sessions, culinary masterclasses and lots more.





#### HSBC SINGAPORE RUGBY SEVENS

Fun and fast, the Singapore leg of the HSBC World Rugby Sevens tournament takes place at the impressive National Stadium and is full of rapid games, creative costumes, concerts by international artists and a high-energy after-party downtown.

#### HARI RAYA PUASA

Also known as Eid al-Fitr, this festival marks the end of Ramadan. Muslims visit friends and family to repair and renew relations over confectionery and meticulously prepared meals.



#### GRAND PRIX SEASON SINGAPORE

The FORMULA 1 SINGAPORE AIRLINES SINGAPORE GRAND PRIX's night race is run in the streets of the city centre, and the whole island gets in the mood with glamourous parties and fun.





#### DEEPAVALI

Possibly the most recognised Hindu celebration, representing the victory of good over evil, the festival of lights comes with a dazzling light-up and bazaar in Little India.



#### BNP PARIBAS WOMEN'S TENNIS ASSOCIATION (WTA) FINALS PRESENTED BY SC GLOBAL

The season-ending finale of the Women's Tennis Association tour, Singapore is the current host city of the singles and doubles finals, with top ranked players battling it out for the US\$7 million purse.

#### CHRISTMAS

Feel the festive Christmas spirit amidst the glittering decorations, majestic arches and creative set pieces, all along the 2.2-km stretch of Orchard Road. Indulge in an atmosphere of merriment with many shopping delights and activities during this wonderful time of the year.



## TOURIST PRIVILEGES

Present your passport to enjoy these tourist privileges

#### Little India

#### **CITY SQUARE MALL**

 Tourists can receive Tourist Privilege Vouchers at the Customer Service Counter at Level 2 for special privileges and discounts at participating outlets

#### Marina Bay

#### **MARINA SQUARE**

 Tourists can receive a Tourist Privilege Card at the Customer Service Counter at Level 2 for special privileges and discounts at participating outlets

#### SUNTEC CITY

 Tourists can receive a Tourist Privilege Card at the Concierge at Level 1 for special privileges and discounts at participating outlets

#### **RAFFLES CITY SHOPPING CENTRE**

 Tourists can receive exclusive tourist privileges and discounts at participating outlets. Approach the Concierge at Level 1 for details

#### PARAGON

 Tourists can receive exclusive tourists privileges and discounts at participating outlets. Approach the Concierge at Level 1 for details

#### TAKASHIMAYA

 Tourists can receive a Takashimaya Tourists Privileges passport at the Customer Service Centre at Level 3 for special privileges and discounts at participating outlets

#### TANGS @ TANG PLAZA

 Tourists can receive a complimentary gift at the Customer Service counter at Level 3 with a minimum purchase of \$\$250 storewide

#### THE CENTREPOINT

 Tourists can receive a Tourist Privileges brochure at the Customer Service Counter at Level 2 for special privileges and discounts at participating outlets

#### **WISMA ATRIA**

 Tourists can receive a Tourist Privilege Card at the Concierge at Level 1 for special privileges and discounts at participating outlets

#### Orchard

#### 313@SOMERSET

 Tourists can receive a 313 Tourist Card at the Concierge at Basement 1 for special privileges and discounts at participating outlets

#### ION ORCHARD

 Tourists can receive a Tourist Wallet at the Concierge at Basement 3, Level 1, 2 or 4 for special privileges and discounts at participating outlets

#### **ORCHARD CENTRAL**

 Tourists can receive a Tourist Booklet at the Concierge at Level 1 for special privileges and discounts at participating outlets

#### Sentosa - Harbourfront

#### VIVOCITY HARBOURFRONT CENTRE

 Tourists can receive a HarbourFront Centre and VivoCity Experience (H.A.V.E) Privilege Card at the Concierge at Level 1 for special privileges and discounts at participating outlets



Every effort has been made to ensure that the information in this brochure is accurate at the time of publication (December 2016). However, changes to the information may have occurred since going to press. Singapore Tourism Board shall not be made liable for any damages, losses, injuries or inconveniences arising in connection with the contents of this publication. For the latest information, please visit our website.