

honeycombers

JANUARY | FEBRUARY | MARCH

# SINGAPORE INSIDER

YOUR OFFICIAL GUIDE TO  
PEOPLE • PLACES • EVENTS • DINING • NIGHTLIFE



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# How was Singapore Art Week?



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Pictures courtesy of the National Arts Council

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# Hello 2017!

Christmas and New Year's Eve have passed, and yet the revelry continues! You've come at an amazing time, because the exciting Chinese New Year festival is about to engulf the city, and there are heaps of exhibitions, theatre productions, and music festivals to up your culture quota.

Now that you're here, you're probably wondering where to go for the ultimate Singapore experience. That's where we come in; we've curated the best and latest in the city to make sure you'll enjoy every minute of your trip. In these pages, you'll find essential information for travellers, brilliant must-dos, unique tours, neighbourhood guides, great shopping finds, the hottest tables, authentic local hawkers, the coolest bars, and so much more. Go forth, explorer!

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**FOUNDER** Chris Edwards  
**MANAGING DIRECTOR** Hamish Mcdougall  
**EDITOR** Crystal Lee  
**SUB-EDITOR** Sally Shout  
**WRITERS** Chelsia Tan, Dinesh Ajith, Zakaria Muhammad  
**SALES & MARKETING** Daniel Lim  
**DESIGNERS** Aliff Tee, Zhang Sze Li, Darissa Lee, Elsen Ho

**COVER ART** Zul Othman  
**THE HONEYCOMBERS**  
hello@thehoneycombers.com  
**HO PRINTING SINGAPORE PTE LTD**  
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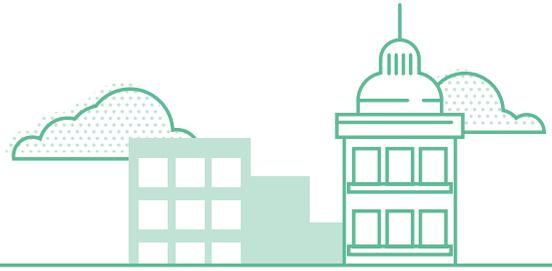
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Tel: (65) 6736 6622 | Fax: (65) 6736 9423  
Tourist line: 1800 736 2000 (outside Singapore)



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# Handy Tips

A guide to surviving Singapore



## Transport

### MRT

Trains typically run from 5.30am to 12.00am. Standard tickets vary from \$1.40 to \$2.70. See page 32 for map.

- www.smrt.com.sg
- (65) 1800 336 8900

### BUS

Fares start from as low as \$0.78. Try to have the exact fare as bus drivers do not give change on public buses.

- www.sbstransit.com.sg
- www.smrt.com.sg
- (65) 1800 336 8900

### TAXI

Cab fares start from \$3.20.

- SMRT Taxis
- (65) 6555 8888
- Premier Taxis
- (65) 6363 6888
- Comfort Taxis & CityCab
- (65) 6552 1111

## Visitor Centres

### TOURIST HOTLINE:

- (65) 1800 736 2000
- (65) 6736 2000 (overseas)



### CHINATOWN

2 Banda Street (Behind Buddha Tooth Relic Temple and Museum)  
9am - 9pm daily

- Chinatown

### ION ORCHARD

Level 1 Conciierge, 2 Orchard Turn  
10am - 10pm daily

- Orchard

### ORCHARD

216 Orchard Road  
(Next to orchardgateway@emerald)  
8.30 - 9.30pm daily

- Somerset

## Connectivity

### FREE WIFI

Register for free public Wi-Fi service with your foreign mobile number at any Wireless@SG hotspot across Singapore, and receive your login details via an SMS message. Overseas charges may apply. Alternatively, you can rent a pocket Wi-Fi device at Singapore Visitor Centre (orchardgateway) or Changi Recommends at Changi Airport.



## Don't Miss!

Be sure to check out **"Evolution Craftsmen: Singapore Inspired"**, the 2nd installation of the CRAFT|SINGAPORE exhibition located at the second floor of the Singapore Visitor Centre (orchardgateway). Learn about the evolutionary spirit of Singapore's contemporary craftsmen and see how they explore identity and sense of place in their works. Let their stories inspire you to explore and uncover hidden gems in Singapore. Admission is free.

### SIM CARD

Buy a Singapore prepaid SIM card from Singapore Visitor Centre (orchardgateway), Changi Recommends and telecommunication retail shops located at the airport, major shopping malls and convenience stores island-wide.



## Local Quirks

### Uncle / Aunty

Out of respect, locals address older folks on the street, like a shopkeeper or a taxi driver, as “aunty” or “uncle”, even though they are not related.

### Chope

It means to reserve a place or call dibs on something. If you see a pack of tissues on a seat or table at a hawkker centre during lunch hour, try your luck elsewhere: the spot has been *choped*.

### Queuing Up

Waiting in line for the latest and the best in the city is a way of life for Singaporeans. We do it all the time – and whatever you get at the end of the queue might be worth your while, too.

## Singlish, explained

### Lah

A suffix used to place emphasis on the sentence; used to express certainty

“Dont worry about it lah!”

### Shiok

Fantastic, or to convey feelings of satisfaction and pleasure

“This plate of chicken rice is damn shiok!”

### Bojio

A Hokkien phrase for not inviting someone to an activity or event

“You went to the café to get coffee this morning? Bojio!”

### Kiasu

A fiercely competitive spirit

“She queued for four hours to get the latest iPhone - so kiasu!”

## Language

English is the spoken language, though Singlish - a collection of colloquial catchphrases and lingo - dominates everyday conversations among locals. Mandarin, Malay, Tamil and various other dialects are also used.

### Alamak

A mild exclamation that bears the same meaning to “oh dear”, or “oh no”

“Alamak! Tickets for the concert are all sold out!”

### Gostan

A contraction of the nautical phrase “go astern”. It means to reverse or turn around

“You need to *gostan* your car for the driver to move out of the parking lot.”

## GST Refunds

As a tourist in Singapore, you can claim a refund on the 7% Goods and Services Tax (GST) under the Tourist Tax Refund Scheme if you make any purchases of more than \$100 at the participating shops - and it's super easy too!

- 1 Look out for these    signs at the shops.
- 2 Choose one credit /debit card as a Token for tagging your purchases. Don't forget to ask for your eTRS Ticket, original invoice or receipt.
- 3 Apply for your tax refund at the eTRS self-help kiosk located at the airport or international cruise centres. Be sure to file your GST claims before checking in your goods.
- 4 At the eTRS kiosk, swipe your assigned Token to retrieve your purchase details. Otherwise, scan your eTRS tickets to retrieve your purchase details.
- 5 You can choose to have the refund credited directly into your credit card at the eTRS self-help kiosk, or get cash refund. If you choose the latter (available only at Changi International Airport), proceed to the Central Refund Counter after the immigration checks.

## Shopping

For a pleasant shopping experience, compare prices, enquire about refund policies, and check the invoice as well as the warranty of the product before making a purchase. More information and shopping tips can be found on the Consumer Advisory section at [YourSingapore.com](http://YourSingapore.com) (under “Traveller Essentials”).

For assistance or to flag inappropriate retailer behaviour, call 1800 736 2000 or email [feedback@stb.gov.sg](mailto:feedback@stb.gov.sg).

## Tipping

It is not usual practice to tip in Singapore, although it is appreciated by service staff. Most hotels and restaurants quote price as “++,” which includes 10% service charge and 7% Goods and Services Tax (GST).

# Jan

New year, new perspective! For art lovers, January is the best time to be in Singapore, thanks to an exciting lineup of artsy events during the Singapore Art Week. Music lovers, get ready for a rolling good time with indie music event St. Jerome's Laneway Festival Singapore. From Chinese New Year celebrations to Thaipusam Festival, Singapore will also come to life with sights and sounds of cultural festivities throughout the month.



## Jan 4 to 15 MI SINGAPORE FRINGE FESTIVAL 2017: ART & SKIN

See how local and international artists interpret the theme "Art and the Skin" through theatre, dance, music, and visual arts at this annual arts fest. A must-see is *Foreign Bodies* by a local burlesque troupe Skin in SIN.

- 📄 [www.singaporefringe.com](http://www.singaporefringe.com)
- 📍 Various venues

## Jan 7 to Feb 25 CHINATOWN CHINESE NEW YEAR 2017 LIGHT-UP

The bustling Chinese enclave will celebrate the Year of the Rooster with stage shows, a countdown party, an international lion dance competition, heritage walking trails and a festive bazaar. See page 11 for more details.

- 📄 [www.chinatownfestivals.sg](http://www.chinatownfestivals.sg)
- 📍 Various venues
- 📍 Chinatown

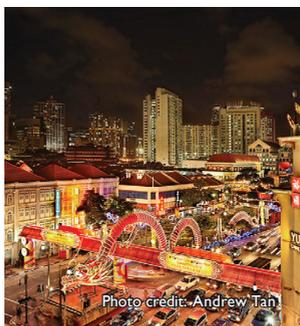


Photo credit: Andrew Tan

## Jan 7 to Feb 12 PONGAL FESTIVAL 2017

Celebrate the Indian Harvest Festival in the vibrant Little India, where you'll witness rituals and customs such as the honouring of the cattle and the making of *kolams*, a traditional drawing. Culture vultures, pop into the bustling Festival Village at Hasting Roads for folk performances, exhibitions and harvest demonstrations. There are also plenty of activities for the young and old, including a trail around Little India and the Heritage Treasure Hunt. Don't leave without trying *pongal*, the customary sweet dish made from rice and milk.

- 📄 [www.littleindia.com.sg](http://www.littleindia.com.sg)
- 📍 Campbell Lane
- 📍 Little India



## Jan 11 to Feb 12 KIDSFEST! 2017

Watch the characters of bestselling children's books come to life on stage at KidsFest! 2017. Look forward to nine world-class productions, one of which will include Julia Donaldson in her very own production!

- 📄 [www.kidsfest.com.sg](http://www.kidsfest.com.sg)
- 📍 Various venues



## Jan 11 to 22 SINGAPORE ART WEEK 2017

The fifth edition of Singapore Art Week promises a larger-than-life visual feast with a slew of exhibitions, performances, workshops, tours and parties happening across Singapore's top galleries, museums and arts spaces. See page 10 for more details.

- 📄 [www.artweek.sg](http://www.artweek.sg)
- 📍 Various venues



## Jan 26 to Feb 4 RIVER HONGBAO 2017

Immerse in the festivities of the Lunar New Year at this annual riverside celebration which features colourful lantern display, nightly performances, amusement rides, fireworks, and an outdoor food street.

- 📄 [www.riverhongbao.sg](http://www.riverhongbao.sg)
- 📍 The Float at Marina Bay
- 📍 Promenade

## Jan 19 to 22 SMBC SINGAPORE OPEN

The world's best golfers, including three-time champion Adam Scott and Spanish star Sergio Garcia will compete in the SMBC Singapore Open. Held on the prestigious Serapong Course at Sentosa Golf Club, come watch the action as the world's best battle it out in the season opening US\$1 million tournament.

- 📄 [www.smbcsingaporeopen.com](http://www.smbcsingaporeopen.com)
- 📍 Serapong Course, Sentosa Golf Club
- 📍 HarbourFront

## Jan 28 to Feb 11 CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION 2017

Solve traditional lantern riddles, participate in crafts workshops, and take a selfie with the popular "God of Wealth" at the Sun Yat Sen Nanyang Memorial Hall during the Spring Festival.

- 📄 [sysnmh.org.sg](http://sysnmh.org.sg)
- 📍 Sun Yat Sen Nanyang Memorial Hall
- 📍 Toa Payoh



## Jan 21 ST. JEROME'S LANEWAY FESTIVAL SINGAPORE 2017

This annual gathering of the best up-and-coming artistes and music makers promises over 12 hours of good music, food and fun with its great lineup (AURORA, Astreal, Glass Animals, Chet Faker, and more), fantastic F&B options, exciting fringe activities, and an all-round amazing atmosphere.

- 📄 [singapore.lanewayfestival.com](http://singapore.lanewayfestival.com)
- 📍 The Meadow, Gardens by the Bay
- 📍 Bayfront



# Feb

Love is in the air this month – thanks to Valentine's Day – and there are many ways to celebrate with your significant other, friends, and the entire family. Art lovers, check out local artist Amanda Heng's solo exhibition and the Huayi – Chinese Festival of Arts 2017. If your squad is into music and theatre, don't miss Chicago, Guns N' Roses and Peter Rabbit. Want more? Run for a cause, or catch the glitzy spectacle of Chingay Parade!



Until Feb 27

## AMANDA HENG: WE ARE THE WORLD – THESE ARE OUR STORIES

One of Singapore's most illustrious female contemporary artists, Amanda Heng is known for encapsulating real-life social issues in Singapore's multi-ethnic and fast-paced society in her works. Catch her intriguing solo exhibition during Singapore Art Week.

- 📄 [www.stpi.com.sg](http://www.stpi.com.sg)
- 📍 STPI Gallery
- 📍 Clarke Quay



Feb 3 to 12

## HUAYI – CHINESE FESTIVAL OF ARTS 2017

One of Esplanade's annual cultural festivals, Huayi features some of the most dynamic works by outstanding Chinese artists from around the world. Held during the Chinese New Year, its variety of programmes includes music, theatre, dance and visual arts, which means there's something for everyone at the festival.

- 📄 [www.esplanade.com/huayi](http://www.esplanade.com/huayi)
- 📍 Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay
- 📍 Esplanade/City Hall



Feb 8 to 19

## CHICAGO

Direct from London's West End comes this award-winning musical about nightclub singer Roxie Hart and her outrageous encounters with double-murderess Velma Kelly and silver-tongued lawyer Billy Flynn. Get jaunty with its jazzy repertoire and expect high-energy choreography.

- 📄 [www.BaseEntertainmentAsia.com](http://www.BaseEntertainmentAsia.com)
- 📍 The MasterCard® Theatres at Marina Bay Sands
- 📍 Bayfront



Feb 9

## THAIPUSAM FESTIVAL 2017

Join thousands of Hindu devotees as they embark on an annual thanksgiving festival. It is a day for devotees to celebrate the fulfilment of their vows by carrying milk pots and kavadis (semi-circular structure decorated with peacock feathers and flowers, while the elaborate spike kavadis are pierced into the skin), in a ceremonial worship to Lord Murugan.

- 📄 [www.littleindia.com.sg](http://www.littleindia.com.sg)
- 📍 Little India to Tank Road
- 📍 Little India

Feb 10 to 11

**CHINGAY PARADE 2017**

Singapore's most vibrant annual street performance and carnival parade is a spectacular showcase of fireworks, dazzlingly decorated floats and eye-popping performances.

- 📄 [chingay.org.sg](http://chingay.org.sg)
- 📍 FI Pit Building
- 🚶 Promenade



Feb 11

**VIPER CHALLENGE SINGAPORE 2017**

Asia's largest obstacle-based running event returns to Singapore with a beach obstacle course at Sentosa that includes brand-new challenges to cater to enthusiasts of various fitness levels.

- 📄 [www.viperchallenge.com](http://www.viperchallenge.com)
- 📍 Sentosa Island
- 🚶 HarbourFront

Feb 24 to Apr 14

**A PETER RABBIT TALE**

Join Peter Rabbit on a musical adventure of new places and new faces as he discovers the importance of family and the wonderful freedom of being yourself!

- 📄 [www.srt.com.sg](http://www.srt.com.sg)
- 📍 KC Arts Centre - Home of SRT
- 🚶 Clarke Quay



Feb 12

**YELLOWCARD, THE FINAL WORLD TOUR**

Rock out to the band's hit anthems like 'Ocean Avenue', 'Hang You Up' and 'Way Away' as they perform live for the last time in their Final World Tour.

- 📄 [www.ieg.com.sg](http://www.ieg.com.sg)
- 📍 The Coliseum™, Hard Rock Hotel® Singapore Resorts World™ Sentosa
- 🚶 HarbourFront



Feb 19

**RUN FOR HOPE 2017**

Make good on those New Year's resolutions to stay fit by taking part in this non-competitive run. Proceeds from this charity run go towards raising awareness and support for cancer research.

- 📄 [www.runforhope.sg](http://www.runforhope.sg)
- 📍 Bayfront Event Space
- 🚶 Bayfront

Feb 26

**TERRY FOX RUN SINGAPORE 2017**

The legendary Canadian athlete and humanitarian ran 5373km for 143 days before succumbing to cancer. His final act of defiance towards the disease has inspired millions of runners worldwide to come together to raise funds for cancer research. This year's run kicks off at Angsana Green, East Coast Park.

- 📄 [canadians.org.sg](http://canadians.org.sg)
- 📍 Angsana Green, East Coast Park
- 🚶 Eunos



Feb 25

**GUNS N' ROSES LIVE IN SINGAPORE**

Brace yourselves, rock devotees! The legendary Guns N' Roses is bringing their signature electrifying sounds to the Singapore stage for one night only as part of their 'Not In This Lifetime' World Tour.

- 📄 [www.lamcproductions.com](http://www.lamcproductions.com)
- 📍 Changi Exhibition Centre
- 🚶 Changi Airport

# Mar

It's no secret that Singapore is obsessed with food, but there's more to the city than hot restaurants, cool bars, hip cafes and amazing hawker centres. Keep your forks at the ready for the culinary offerings at the acclaimed World Gourmet Summit; celebrate all things Irish at St. Patrick's Day; then immerse yourself in creativity at sustainable light art festival i Light Marina Bay, Singapore Design Week 2016, and Orchard Road Style Festival 2017.



## Mar 2 to 5 HSBC WOMEN'S CHAMPIONS 2017

Watch the world's best women golfers take on Sentosa Golf Club's challenging Serapong Course at the 10th edition of HSBC's prestigious golf tournament. The winner is set to bring home a massive 1.5 million dollar prize.

- 📄 [www.hsbcgolf.com](http://www.hsbcgolf.com)
- 📍 Sentosa Golf Club - The Serapong Course
- 📍 HarbourFront



## Mar 3 to 12 SINGAPORE DESIGN WEEK 2017

Design fanatics, look forward to local and international trade shows, conferences, showcases, exhibitions and workshops, which span various disciplines that'll feed your thirst for great design work.

- 📄 [www.designsingapore.org/sdw](http://www.designsingapore.org/sdw)
- 📍 National Design Centre and various venues



## Mar 3 to 26 i LIGHT MARINA BAY

The fifth edition of Asia's only sustainable light art festival is back at Marina Bay with a plethora of innovative and spectacular light installations created by local and international artists.

- 📄 [www.ilightmarinabay.sg](http://www.ilightmarinabay.sg)
- 📍 Marina Bay Waterfront
- 📍 Promenade

## Mar 3 to 31 ST PATRICK'S DAY STREET FESTIVAL

Put on something green and celebrate all things Irish at this street festival that presents numerous Irish-themed event activities, performances and promotions. Slainte!

- 📄 [www.singapore-river.com](http://www.singapore-river.com)
- 📍 Circular Road
- 📍 Clarke Quay



## Mar 11 to 19 SINGAPORE FESTIVAL OF FUN

Nickelodeon Fiesta, Singapore Street Festival and Magners International Comedy Festival are coming together for this stand-up comedy over four days, with exclusive appearances of Nickelodeon characters, side-splitting stand-up comedy, and more.

- 📄 [magicrock.com.sg](http://magicrock.com.sg)
- 📍 Clarke Quay
- 📍 Clarke Quay

Mar 15 to 19

## THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF DISNEY ON ICE

Join Mickey, Minnie, Donald, Goofy and 50 other childhood favourites in their walk down memory lane as they reawaken classic Disney moments – on ice!

- 📄 [www.sportshubtix.sg](http://www.sportshubtix.sg)
- 📍 Singapore Indoor Stadium
- 🏟 Stadium



Mar 23 to 26

## TOP RESTAURANT

Explore the glorious food culture of China through this award-winning play that follows the ups and downs of a Peking roast duck restaurant in Beijing in early 20th century.

- 📄 [www.esplanade.com/huayi](http://www.esplanade.com/huayi)
- 📍 Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay
- 🏟 Esplanade/City Hall

27 Mar to 9 Apr

## WORLD GOURMET SUMMIT SINGAPORE 2017

Savour some of the world's finest flavours at this esteemed culinary event, where you'll get to sample an array of creations by a cast of celebrity and Michelin-starred chefs. Want to take your kitchen skills up a notch? Be sure to sign up for one of their themed masterclasses!

- 📄 [www.worldgourmetsummit.com](http://www.worldgourmetsummit.com)
- 📍 Various venues



Mar 17 to Apr 16

## ORCHARD ROAD STYLE FESTIVAL 2017

Singapore's greatest shopping street will play host to international and local designers, art and design workshops, live performances, good food, and exciting shopping promotions during this lifestyle festival.

- 📄 [www.orchardroad.org](http://www.orchardroad.org)
- 📍 Orchard Road
- 🏟 Orchard



Mar 25 to 26

## OSIM SUNDOWN MARATHON 2017

Too hot to run in the day? Lace up for this massive night race, which offers a wide variety of categories for participants to choose from, including a 5km fun run, as well as the 10km, 21.1km and 42.195km race.

- 📄 [www.sundownmarathon.com](http://www.sundownmarathon.com)
- 📍 F1 Pit Building
- 🏟 Promenade



# Don't miss SINGAPORE ART WEEK 2017

January is a crazy busy (but fun!) month for art lovers in Singapore, as the city greets the New Year with a slew of exhibitions, blockbuster fairs, public art festivals, talks and tours under the **Singapore Art Week** ([www.artweek.sg](http://www.artweek.sg)), happening from 11 to 22 January.

A good place to start is the **Singapore Biennale 2017** (through 26 February 2017, Singapore Art Museum and other venues in the Bras Basah, Bugis Heritage Precinct, [www.singaporebiennale.org](http://www.singaporebiennale.org)), which features the theme "An Atlas of Mirrors" for its fifth edition. The four month-long contemporary art exhibition draws on the diverse perspectives of 60 Asian artists, as they present site-specific and never-before-seen artworks that reflect shared histories and current realities within and beyond the Southeast

Asian region. This edition also marks the highly-anticipated arrival of the prestigious Benesse Art Prize, previously held at Venice Biennale. Artists to watch include homegrown talent Han Sai Por, Ahmad Fuad Osman from Malaysia, and Martha Atienza from the Philippines.

For a dose of Singapore's street culture, head down to the edgy Kampong Glam district for an evening of good vibes, street art, skateboarding and dance performances at the **Aliwal Urban Arts Festival** (14 January, Aliwal Arts Centre).

Guided tours are a great way to discover the city, and Singapore Art Week presents a wide array of art-related tours exploring different precincts across the island-city. Journey along the **ARTWALK**

**Little India** trail (12 to 17 January, Little India) and be transported to a world of Hindu gods and goddesses, as legends come to life through stories told within the walls of one of Singapore's most historic enclaves. Discover an eclectic mix of captivating artworks and music performances that highlights Little India's many intersections of traditional and modern cultures.

These events are just the tip of the iceberg. Southeast Asia's flagship art fair **Art Stage Singapore 2017** (12 to 15 January, Sands Expo & Convention Centre) and exhilarating nocturnal arts bash **Art After Dark** (13 January, Gillman Barracks) are making a comeback this year. Plus, there is a whole bunch of exciting exhibitions and activities to look forward to all across the island. Pop on to [www.artweek.sg](http://www.artweek.sg) for a complete overview.

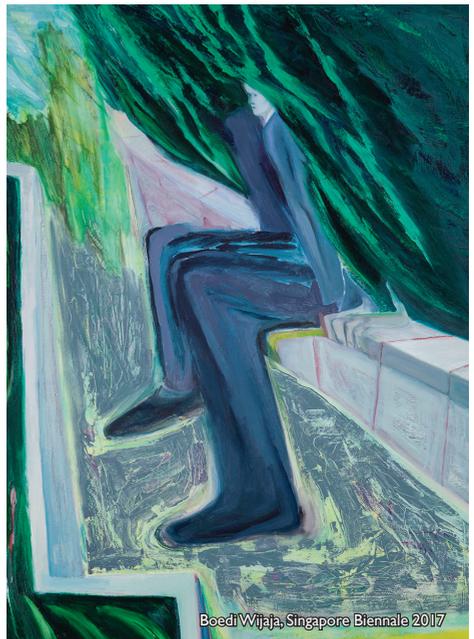




Photo credit: Afur Wong

## Exposé

# HOW SINGAPORE CELEBRATES CHINESE NEW YEAR

Like Christmas, Lunar New Year in Singapore is a time of family-bonding, giving, traditions and, of course, merriment. The festivities begin almost a month prior to the start of **Chinese New Year** (28 January) – the lights and auspicious decorations are up island-wide, festive tunes are heard in the malls, there are special reunion menus at restaurants, and shops everywhere get ready for the crowd with extra stock. Be in the thick of the action at Chinatown, where you'll get to experience the spectacular **Street Light-Up** from 7 January to 25 February.

A common sight during Chinese New Year is the Lion Dance, an elaborate ritual that is believed to start the year off (or a new business) on an auspicious note. Boisterous beats performed with traditional drums, cymbals, and gongs set the tone for this spirited and highly animated dance, which mimics a lion's movements. Don't be taken aback by all the noise; it's meant to drive off bad luck! You can catch a glimpse of the lively act at the **International Lion Dance Competition** (14 to 15 January,

Chinatown), **Chingay Parade** (10 to 11 February, F1 Pit Building), **River Hong Bao** (26 January to 4 February, The Float@Marina Bay) and at shopping malls around the city.

More traditions are observed at home, like spring-cleaning the house before the holidays, exchanging oranges, and giving out *ang bao* (red packets with money) to children and younger relatives – all of which conveys blessings of good fortune for the year ahead. Then, there's the all-important reunion dinner, where friends and families gather 'round for a precious annual feast.

Another popular practice in Singapore as part of the traditional get-together meal is the *yusheng* toss. Carried out at home or when dining out at restaurants, *yusheng* is a raw fish salad that comes with an array of ingredients including shredded vegetables, crushed peanuts, fried flour crisps, pomelo, and more. Each ingredient represents different blessings for a healthy and prosperous year ahead. The idea is to get everyone around the table to toss the ingredients

up in the air using chopsticks while reciting auspicious phrases for luck and success. The higher you toss, the better. But be warned: it's a messy affair!

More deliciousness ensues in the form of iconic Chinese New Year goodies like *bak kwa* (barbecued meat) and pineapple tarts – items you'll see on offer at the **festive street bazaar and flower market in Chinatown** (7 January to 25 February), as well as shops around Singapore during the festive period. Often, these treats symbolise good things like wealth and prosperity, so do give these seasonal specials a try when you're in the Lion City.



# Zul Othman

Also known by the moniker ZERO, the creative mastermind behind this issue's beautiful cover is a renowned visual and urban artist who was awarded the 2013 Young Artist Award, one of Singapore's most prestigious awards for young artists. Here, he tells us the story behind his cover piece, and recommends places you should visit in Singapore.



Photo credit: Chee B P

## **This issue's cover is...**

inspired by a tattoo flash sheet. One can also see it as sticker sheet. It's made up of my stylised portraits along with various icons and images of the cultural and artistic nuances of Singapore.

## **The art scene in Singapore is...**

definitely on the rise. New spaces such as the National Gallery Singapore have added a new dimension to the city's artistic landscape through its showcase of regional art. Marquee art events like the Singapore Biennale and Art Stage Singapore are also becoming institutions of their own.

## **Kampong Glam...**

is a great place to see street art in Singapore. Yes, we have them here in Singapore! I have a mural in the neighbourhood, around Bugis Street.

You can also see more works at Somerset Skate Park as well as along Everton Road.

## **To experience Singapore like a local...**

I recommend staying in a cultural precinct like Chinatown and Kampong Glam, and explore the city on foot or use public transport. Spend some time in Little India; eat *chapati* (flatbread) or *biryani* (Indian mixed rice dish) with your hands. Navigate the alleyways in the neighbourhoods. There are always interesting discoveries when you trod down the unbeaten path.

## **For great souvenirs...**

head to Naise and Supermama. These stores have an array of cool locally designed products with unique Singaporean flavour and identity.

## **My favourite place in Singapore is...**

around King George's Avenue and Lavender Street. I've been living in the neighbourhood for the past eight to nine years. It's sandwiched between the bustling Jalan Besar and Victoria Street, with 24-hour shopping mall Mustafa Centre just 10 minutes away. The area is also peppered with trendy cafes such as 5th Quarter and The Refinery.



# Unbelievable Tours

There's no better way to explore Singapore than on foot, as you take in the sights, sounds, smell and soul of the city at your own pace. But if you wish to cover more grounds, try these cool, unique tours for a different experience. P.S.: You may even hit your fitness quota with some of them!



## MAKAN BUS

Not so keen on being herded around in a group on a food tour? Hop onto the Singapore's first *Makan* (to eat in Malay) Bus – it takes you to 10 lesser-known local food stops in the suburbs, including Balestier, Ang Mo Kio and Toa Payoh. You can board and alight as many times as you wish, and there's no pressure to go to all the places on the route. Maps are also provided onboard the bus, so you can stray off the drop-off point to check out the rest of the neighbourhood. The interval between each bus arrival is around 22 minutes, with the first bus departing orchardgateway at 11am and the last bus leaving orchardgateway at 7.37pm.

📄 [www.makanbus.com](http://www.makanbus.com)  
📞 (65) 6295 1815

## BIKE & BITES TOUR

In just eight to nine hours, this cycling/walking tour by Let's Go Bike Singapore covers landmarks and historical sites in Chinatown, Tiong Bahru, Singapore River, Kampong Glam, Civic District, Bugis-Bras Basah and Little India. You'll spend the morning riding around the Central area and learning about the city's history before heading to Little India for the rest of the day and exploring the neighbourhood on foot.

📄 [www.lets gobikesingapore.com](http://www.lets gobikesingapore.com)  
📞 (65) 9004 4332



## CITY BY THE WATER KICK SCOOTER TOUR

Where there's water, there's life. Singapore's history is intimately connected to water – the city-state is located at the crossroads of the China-India and Asia-Europe trading routes, and it was a key port of call for sailing and steam vessels in the 19th century. Find out more about the founding of Singapore, how water impacted our communities and urban development, our dependence and adaptation to limited water resources, and the management of our waterways in this tour by Betel Box Tours as you whiz from one landmark to another on a kick scooter.

📄 [www.betelboxtours.com](http://www.betelboxtours.com)  
📞 (65) 6247 7340



## SINGAPORE GOURMETBUS

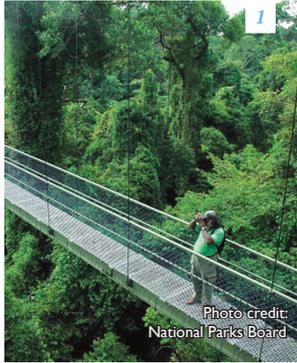
Give your weary feet a break and get onboard the city's first-ever luxury restaurant-on-wheels – of sorts. The Singapore GOURMETbus has no kitchen, but you'll be served a delicious two course local lunch or an Indo-Chinese dinner as you make your way around Singapore's city sights in the Civic District and Chinatown. You'll also be able to see Gardens by the Bay up close during a scheduled hop-off after the main course. The lunch tour starts at 1pm and the dinner show is from 7.30pm. Be sure to check in 30 minutes before the schedule at DUCK & HiPPO Hub at Suntec City.

📄 [www.gourmetbus.com.sg](http://www.gourmetbus.com.sg)  
📞 (65) 6338 6877



# 10 Must-dos in Singapore

Singapore is many things at once: a vibrant multi-cultural state, a lush Garden City, a renowned business hub, a foodie's paradise, a world-class shopping destination, and a nation with history and depth. Here are 10 incredible experiences you can't miss:



## 01 GO TREKKING AT NATURE RESERVES

Slow down and be one with nature at the beautiful parks around Singapore. Make your way to the summit of the city's highest peak at Bukit Timah Nature Reserve or get a scenic bird's eye view of MacRitchie Reservoir Park on the HSBC Treetop Walk.

📄 [www.nparks.gov.sg](http://www.nparks.gov.sg)  
📍 Various locations

## 02 WALK ON THE WILD SIDE

Get up close and personal with the animal kingdom at The Singapore Zoo and River Safari. Cosy up to resident giant pandas Kai Kai and Jia Jia by day, then hit the Night Safari when dusk falls to see nocturnal creatures in action.

📍 Singapore Zoo, River Safari and Night Safari 80 Mandai Lake Road  
📞 (65) 6269 3411  
📄 Choa Chu Kang + connecting bus service 927

## 03 CRUISE DOWN SINGAPORE RIVER

Jump aboard the Singapore River Cruise for a scenic ride down the river, hitting all the hottest riverside spots like Clarke Quay, Boat Quay, Esplanade and Bayfront South.

📄 [www.singapore-river.com](http://www.singapore-river.com)  
📍 Various locations

## 04 EAT SOME OF THE CITY'S FINEST FOOD

There's great food pretty much everywhere in Singapore, but luxury mall Marina Bay Sands houses upscale restaurants by some of the world's biggest culinary names, including Waku Ghin, Adrift by David Myers, and Spago by Wolfgang Puck.

📄 [www.marinabaysands.com/restaurants.html](http://www.marinabaysands.com/restaurants.html)  
📍 Various locations

## 05 SPEND A DAY IN PULAU UBIN

Hop on a bumboat and head to the neighbouring island of Pulau Ubin. Admire abundant wildlife at the Chek Jawa Wetlands, and step back in time to marvel at Singapore's last remaining *kampongs* (Malay hamlets or villages).

📍 Pulau Ubin

## 06 EXPERIENCE SENTOSA ISLAND

They don't call it The State Of Fun for nothing. Aside from pristine beaches and top-notch dining, try thrilling rides at Universal Studios Singapore®, indoor skydiving at iFly Singapore or flowboarding at Wave House Sentosa.

📄 [www.sentosa.com.sg](http://www.sentosa.com.sg)  
📍 Sentosa Island  
📞 (65) 1800 736 8672  
📄 HarbourFront



Photo credit: National Parks Board



**07**  
ORDER A SINGAPORE SLING

There's no better place to try the world famous cocktail than at the very spot where it all began: Raffles Hotel's iconic watering hole, Long Bar.

- 📄 [www.raffles.com/singapore](http://www.raffles.com/singapore)
- 📍 Raffles Hotel, 1 Beach Road
- ☎ (65) 6412 1816
- 🏠 City Hall

**08**  
GO SHOPPING AT ORCHARD ROAD

Shopaholics, welcome to your heaven. From high-end to high streets, designer to discount finds, there is something for everyone on Orchard Road. Hit up ION Orchard for international labels, as well as TANGS and Robinsons The Heeren for local wares.

- 📄 [www.orchardroad.org](http://www.orchardroad.org)
- 📍 Various locations
- 🏠 Orchard



**09**  
JUMP ON BOARD THE SINGAPORE FLYER

Take to the skies aboard the world's second tallest observation wheel for scenic views of Marina Bay, the Central Business District, and beyond.

- 📄 [www.singaporeflyer.com](http://www.singaporeflyer.com)
- 📍 Singapore Flyer, 30 Raffles Avenue
- ☎ (65) 6333 3311
- 🏠 Promenade

**10**  
EXPERIENCE MOD-SIN CUISINES

Embark on a one-of-a-kind gastronomic adventure through innovative modern-Singaporean (mod-Sin) dishes like the chilli crab ice cream at Labyrinth and durian crème brulee at The Quarters.

- 📄 [labyrinth.com.sg](http://labyrinth.com.sg)
- 📄 [www.thequarters.sg](http://www.thequarters.sg)
- 📍 Labyrinth & The Quarters
- 8 Raffles Ave & 16 Enggor Street
- ☎ (65) 6223 4098 & (65) 6834 4174
- 🏠 Esplanade & City Hall

**Singapore on a shoestring**

From cheap cocktails and happy hour deals to free concerts and flea markets, here's how to have the most fun possible on a tiny budget.

**1**  
STARGAZE AT THE SCIENCE CENTRE OBSERVATORY

**2**  
EAT AT A LOCAL HAWKER CENTRE SUCH AS MAXWELL FOOD CENTRE

**3**  
FIND THE CITY'S TALLEST MERLION (IN SENTOSA)

**4**  
COMMUNE WITH NATURE AT GARDENS BY THE BAY

**5**  
ENJOY FREE LIVE PERFORMANCES AT THE ESPLANADE

**6**  
SAVE BIG BUCKS WITH KILLER HAPPY HOUR DEALS

**7**  
EMBARK ON A HERITAGE TRAIL BY NATIONAL HERITAGE BOARD

**8**  
SHOP 'TIL YOU DROP AT BUGIS STREET

*Orchard Road*



*Little India*



*Kampong Glam*



*Tiong Bahru*



*Civic District*



*Bras Basah, Bugis*



*Chinatown*

*Marina Bay Sands*



*Sentosa*



## **Navigator** **NEIGHBOURHOOD** **WATCH**

Think of Singapore and the shiny image of Marina Bay district probably comes to mind: Marina Bay Sands, Singapore Flyer, Gardens by the Bay, and, of course, towering skyscrapers. But you'll find that there's much more to Singapore when you venture into the other neighbourhoods, each with its own feel, identity and highlights. These are the city's finest 'hoods to explore:



## Katong

### Good for culture and nightlife CHINATOWN

You'll know you're in Chinatown when you're walking on narrow five-foot-ways (five-foot-wide walkways) and surrounded by raucous street hawkers, medicinal halls, endless souvenirs, and Chinese architecture. Get the most out of the amazing neighbourhood with our day and night itineraries on page 18.

### Good for bargain shopping LITTLE INDIA

The name says it all. This vibrant precinct is a slice of India in multi-cultural Singapore, with spice shops, jewellery stores, flower vendors, sari makers, trendy cafes and hip watering holes at every turn. And of course, this is where you'll find some of the most authentic Indian food around town.

### Good for foodies KAMPONG GLAM

Once an ethnic enclave for the Muslim community, including Arab and Bugis traders, Kampong Glam is now a thriving neighbourhood with highlights like the majestic Sultan Mosque, hip shopping street Haji Lane, as well as Blu Jaz Cafe, Bali Lane's magnet for the hip and funky.

### Good for heritage KATONG

A residential suburb rooted in wealth and traditionally associated with the *Peranakan* (Straits native with mixed local and foreign ancestry) and Eurasian community, Katong is a charming picture of old and new, with hip cafes, shopping malls, cool bars and modern eateries situated alongside heritage establishments.

### Good for hip cafes TIONG BAHRU

Before it became one of the city's coolest neighbourhood, Tiong Bahru – also one of Singapore's oldest housing estates – was notorious for housing the mistresses of the rich and powerful during the pre-World War II years. Now, it's a hotspot for scenesters, expats and out-of-towners looking for artisanal coffee (40 Hands), books (BooksActually), local grub (Tiong Bahru Market & Food Centre) and more.

### Good for a swanky night out MARINA BAY

Though Marina Bay was only constructed in the last four decades on reclaimed land, it wasn't long before the area became the ultimate representation of Singapore. Its collection of architectural wonders includes Marina Bay Sands, an integrated resort comprising of a luxury hotel, a museum, a theatre, and a shopping mall.

### Good for kid-friendly activities SENTOSA

Zip-lining, skydiving, snorkelling, golfing – Sentosa is where everyone goes to have the most fun in the city. Carve out a day for Resorts World Sentosa, where you'll find Universal Studios Singapore, S.E.A. Aquarium, Adventure Cove Waterpark, as well as celebrity restaurants, retail stores and spas.

### Good for art and culture BRAS BASAH.BUGIS

As one of the oldest districts in Singapore, BBB has weathered British colonialisation, the Japanese Occupation, the state's merger with Malaya, and decades of trading. Major museums like National Museum of Singapore, Singapore Art Museum, and National Design Centre are just a stone's throw away from each other, which is perfect for museum-hopping.

### Good for high-street and luxury boutiques ORCHARD ROAD

No shopping jaunt in Singapore is complete without a visit to Orchard Road. Lined with sparkly malls, the renowned shopping belt also sizzles with cool bars and lip-smacking restaurants for the foodies. Our picks: Café & Meal MUJI (#04-36 Paragon) for lovely sweets, and Lokkee (#03-01 Plaza Singapura) for modern Chinese.

### Good for historical sights CIVIC DISTRICT

This is where it all began. Started as a master plan in 1822 by founder of Singapore Sir Stamford Raffles to cater to the needs of a thriving trade post, the Civic District is where Singapore's most important buildings stand. On the banks of Singapore River, you'll find the old Parliament House (now The Arts House), the former City Hall and Supreme Court (now National Gallery Singapore), and Victoria Theatre and Concert Hall.

# Navigator

## CHINATOWN

Straddling the line between old and new is the buzzing enclave of Chinatown. The heritage-rich neighbourhood has pretty much everything to keep you busy from day to night – from fascinating cultural sites and bargain shopping to delicious hawker fare and hip watering holes. Need a little guide? These morning/evening itineraries cover the best spots:

### In the day

1



Start your day in Chinatown with some *har gao* (steamed prawn dumplings), *siew mai* (pork dumplings), congee, and crispy yam dumplings at Cantonese dim sum eatery **Tak Po** (42 Smith Street).

2



The famous five-storey **Buddha Tooth Relic Temple and Museum** (288 South Bridge Road) is home to sacred artefacts of the Buddha, including a tooth relic encased in a giant gold stupa. The roof garden is perfect if you need some quiet contemplation.

3



Learn about Chinatown's colourful past and the lives of its early residents at the beautifully-restored **Chinatown Heritage Centre** (48 Pagoda Street).

6



Stop by **Sri Mariamman Temple** (244 South Bridge Road), Singapore's oldest Hindu temple, it is dedicated to the divine goddess Mariamman, who is believed to possess the power to cure illness and disease.

5



Need a quick pick-me-up? Grab a fortifying cup of *kopi* (traditional local coffee with condensed milk) at **Nanyang Old Coffee** (268 South Bridge Road).

4



Pick up some authentic snacks from **Tong Heng** (285 South Bridge Road); famous for having the best traditional Chinese pastries and desserts in town.

7



Try the Cantonese soya sauce chicken and BBQ pork (served with rice and noodles) from one-Michelin-starred eatery **Hong Kong Soya Sauce Chicken Rice and Noodle** (#02-126 Chinatown Complex Market & Food Centre).

8



Shop for affordable souvenirs and knick-knacks at the massive **Chinatown Street Market**, which spreads across Pagoda Street, Trengganu Street, Sago Street, and Smith Street.



In the evening

2



Walk away with one-of-a-kind pieces for your home at **Odds and Collectables** (128 Telok Ayer Street), a quirky treasure trove of a shop.

1



Kickstart your afternoon adventure at **Free The Robot** (118 Telok Ayer Street), which offers potent, coconut-infused coffee, as well as an array of scrumptious Western-style brunch dishes.

3



Before the clock strikes five, head down to **Thian Hock Keng Temple** (158 Telok Ayer Street), one of the oldest Hokkien temples in Singapore, usually frequented by followers of Mahayana Buddhism, Taoism and Confucianism.

4



Located right next to Thian Hock Keng Temple, the **Singapore Musical Box Museum** (168 Telok Ayer Street) charts the rise and fall of musical boxes in Singapore and Southeast Asia.

5



Catch the sunset on **Ann Siang Hill Park** (1 Ann Siang Hill), Chinatown's highest geographical point built in 1993.

6



Head up to **Lepark** (which means loafing around in local slang) on the top floor of People's Park Complex's carpark. The funky rooftop restaurant-bar pays homage to Singapore's dynamic culture with quirky décor and a locally-inspired menu.

7



Make your way down a flight of stairs by Oxwell & Co to get to **Operation Dagger** (#B1-01, 7 Ann Siang Hill) a clean, minimalist bar with a tightly curated menu of interesting, well-made concoctions.

8



Have supper likea local at the famous **Chinatown Food Street** (333 Smith Street), where can you tuck into national dishes like chicken rice, *char kway teow* (stir-fried rice noodles with egg, Chinese sausages, beansprouts, fishcake and cockles), and *roti prata* (South Indian flatbread).



# Shopping Hotspots

The next best thing about Singapore – besides the food – is its amazing shopping scene. On one hand, there are the glitzy, world-class malls that house the world’s biggest brands. Then there’s also a crop of groovy independent retailers selling everything cool, unique and creative all around the island. Here, a guide to the city’s top shopping enclaves:

## ORCHARD ROAD

Asia’s most famous shopping street, Orchard Road is a dream destination for those seeking serious retail therapy in the heart of the city with seemingly-endless rows of sparkly shopping malls.



▲ Pedder on Scotts



## HIGHLIGHTS

### Forum Shopping Mall

Spoil the little ones with cool threads from Kids 21 and Nicholas & bears, and get your designer fashion fix at multi-label boutique Club 21 and Pleats Please Issey Miyake.

### UNIQLO at Orchard Central

The Japanese fashion behemoth has recently opened its first and largest global flagship store in Singapore.

### Scotts Square

True to its sleek, art-adorned interiors, this luxury mall houses a mix of designer brands like Alexander McQueen and cool multi-label boutiques such as local designer champion K+ Curatorial Space and shoe paradise Pedder on Scotts.



## BRAS BASAH.BUGIS

A thriving district with a colourful past, Bras Basah. Bugis offers a mix of hip malls, charming boutiques, and bustling street markets.

## HIGHLIGHTS

### National Design Centre

Underground labels and homegrown designer wares abound at hip retail spots Kapok and KEEPERS.

### Bugis Village

Bargain hunters, head over to the buzzing enclave for affordable clothing, souvenirs and street food.

### Haji Lane

Shop from local indie retailers like Soon Lee, Mondays Off, and Dulcetfig.

### Supermama Flagship Store

Uncover quirky, witty treasures at this tranquil gallery-shop, which is a firm supporter of local designers and Japanese artisans.

## CHANGI AIRPORT

We all know it as the world’s best airport for its efficiency and world-class facilities. But it comes as no surprise that Changi Airport is also a top-notch shopping destination, brimming with upscale boutiques and duty-free stores.



## HIGHLIGHTS

### Wines And Spirits Duplex Store

The winner of Best Shopping Experience at the 2016 Singapore Tourism Awards is where to shop for a mind-boggling selection of fine wines, spirits, and tobacco with savings of up to 70%.

### Shilla Duty Free Cosmetics & Perfumes

A beauty wonderland that stocks over 190 of the hottest international brands such as Estée Lauder, Shiseido, and MAC. The store also offers relaxing in-house spa services for weary travellers.

## SENTOSA/HARBOURFRONT

Sentosa, the buzzing leisure destination at the southern tip of Singapore, isn't just all fun and games. It also boasts quite a shopping scene both in and around the island.



## HIGHLIGHTS

### Sentosa Fun Shop

Pick up some unique Sentosa-themed souvenirs like magnets and Merlion plush toys on your way out of the island.

### Resorts World Sentosa

Find an array of speciality retail outlets like Swiss Watch Gallery, Missha, and LEGO® Certified Store.

### VivoCity

The largest shopping mall in the city houses a slew of exciting lifestyle stores like Bimba Y Lola, Benjamin Barker, Weekends and Pedro.

## MARINA BAY

Upscale malls stand tall in this precinct at every turn, offering a slew of shopping deals in fashion, furniture, food and more.



◀ Ed Et Al

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Capitol Piazza

This chic mall boasts Art Deco interiors, delightful restaurants, and swish boutiques like Marimekko, SABRINAGOH, and Benjamin Barker.

### Millenia Walk

Make a stop here for one-of-a-kind home décor goods from stores like Dreamweave & other stories and Grafunkt, plus local fashion labels like Ed Et Al and Déjà Vu Vintage.

### The Shoppes at Marina Bay Sands

Undoubtedly the swankiest mall of them all, The Shoppes offers stunning waterfront views and a plethora of luxury brands such as Hermès and Louis Vuitton.



## Rebecca Ting

Co-founder of local womenswear label *Beyond The Vines*



Orchard Road is the heartbeat of Singapore's retail culture. The malls along the shopping belt are diverse and unique.

ION Orchard has an array of local and international labels for any kind of shopper; TANGS Orchard packs a large selection of beauty, home and wardrobe essentials; the food hall in

Ngee Ann City's Takashimaya has endless options for foodies; Mandarin Gallery (that's where our shop is!) offers a range of lifestyle shops that ooze chic sophistication; while Plaza Singapura is perfect for a fun afternoon out with the family.



# Take Me Home



## Don't leave Singapore without these must-have local gems.



**1.** Mila shorts by **Ying The Label**, \$189. Available at 庄 Zhuang - Home of Singapore Designers pop-up store at TANGS Orchard

**2.** Kueh tote bag by **Lee Shu Han**, \$26. Available at The Farm Store (#04-20, 261 Waterloo Street)

**3.** Streets luggage tag by **LOVE SG**, \$9.90. Available at 庄 Zhuang - Home of Singapore Designers pop-up store at TANGS Orchard

**4.** Saffron kaya (coconut jam) by **Ujong Gourmet**, \$9.50. Available at Isetan Scotts Supermarket (#B1-00 Shaw House)

**5.** *Cilicuka* (a traditional Singaporean red chilli sauce) by **Shermay's Singapore Fine Food**, \$9.95. Available at Bengawan Solo

**6.** Customised body moisturiser, \$48.15. Available at **Spa Esprit Beauty Emporium** (8 Dempsey Road)

**7.** Durian cushion by **Meykrs**, \$29.90. Available at The Farm Store (#04-20, 261 Waterloo Street)

**8.** Racial Harmony doormat by **Souvenirs From Singapore**, \$12.90. Available at NAIISE (#02-02 orchardgateway)

**9.** Little India cushion, \$28. Available at **Onlewo** (129 Jalan Besar)

**10.** Kingsley layered knit top, \$189. Available at **In Good Company** (#B1-06, ION Orchard)

**11.** Jasmine orange essential oil candle by **Hush Candles**, \$18. Available at 庄 Zhuang - Home of Singapore Designers pop-up store at TANGS Orchard

**12.** My First Pictorial Book Of Dialect Idioms & Slang by **Sibeynostalgic**, \$25. Available at NAIISE (#02-02 orchardgateway)

**13.** Porcelain soap dispenser by **Kim Choo**, \$109. Available at The Farm Store (#04-20, 261 Waterloo Street)

**14.** Nut and Bolt bracelets, \$198. Available at **Carrie K.** (#02-03 National Design Centre)

**15.** Mini soap bar by **Ashley & Co.**, \$14. Available at Gallery & Co. (National Gallery)

## Hawker Highlights

Chomp your way through Singapore's vibrant street food culture with 8 of the most popular local dishes found in hawker centres all over the island. From tucking into a plate of chicken rice to enjoying a bowl of fish head curry, get ready your tastebuds for a gastronomic adventure!

Chilli Crab



Chicken Rice



Nasi Lemak



Fish Head Curry



### CHILLI CRAB

A true blue Singaporean speciality, the chilli crab is a favourite staple served at *zi char* (Chinese home-style cooking) restaurants here. The invention of this dish can be attributed to pushcart hawker Madam Cher Yam Tian. The original recipe was then reinvented by the owner of Dragon Phoenix restaurant, who added the popular mix of eggs, *sambal* (chilli paste), and tomato paste.

#### WHERE TO EAT:

**Roland Restaurant** (#06-750, 89 Marine Parade Central) by Madam Cher's son, and **Dragon Phoenix restaurant** (#06-00 Novotel Clarke Quay, 177A River Valley Road)

### NASI LEMAK

The allure of *nasi lemak* lies in its aromatic rice, cooked with coconut

milk and *pandan* (a tropical plant) leaves. This traditional Malay dish is served with deep-fried *kuning* fish, *ikan billis* (fried anchovies), *kang kong* (water spinach) and *sambal* (chilli paste), all wrapped in banana leaves. Now, ingredients like peanuts, cucumber slices and fried sunny side-up eggs are popular modern day additions to this indulgent meal.

#### WHERE TO EAT:

**Ponggol Nasi Lemak Centre** (965 Upper Serangoon Road)

### CHICKEN RICE

A much-beloved national dish with roots in the Hainan island off China, the Hainanese chicken rice is made of three signature ingredients: fragrant *pandan* rice, roasted or poached chicken

chunks, and the unmissable chilli and ginger condiments.

#### WHERE TO EAT:

**Tian Tian Chicken Rice** (#01-1011 Maxwell Food Centre)

### KAYA TOAST

Visit any coffeeshop in Singapore for breakfast and chances are, you'll find locals ordering crispy slices of bread slathered with thin slabs of butter and *kaya*, an aromatic spread made of coconut, *pandan* and eggs.

#### WHERE TO EAT:

Island-wide

### FISH HEAD CURRY

This tantalising broth may have borrowed influences from the traditional South Indian curry, but it's a creation that's unique to

## Kaya Toast



## Rojak



## Roti Prata



## Carrot Cake



Singapore. Its invention is credited to M.J Gomez, who adapted the dish to suit local tastes by using the head of the fish, which he thought was popular with his Chinese customers. The fish head curry is also available in different variations - the *assam* fish curry uses a tangy tamarind paste while some interpretations feature a generous dose of coconut milk.

**WHERE TO EAT:**  
**Muthu's Curry** (#01-01,  
 7 Dempsey Road)

## ROTI PRATA

Introduced to Singapore by Indian immigrants, *roti prata* literally means flat (*prata* or *paratha*) bread (*roti*) in Hindi. Making this dish is a theatrical process that involves deftly twirling the stretched dough until it is paper thin. The dough is then cooked on an oiled griddle. Try the plain or

egg version with sugar and curry, or explore unorthodox creations ranging from the crepe-like *roti* tissue to a cheese *prata*.

**WHERE TO EAT:**  
**Casuarina Curry** (138 Casuarina Road)

## FRIED CARROT CAKE

Also known as *chai tow kway* in the Teochew dialect, first-timers to the fried carrot cake will be surprised to learn that it typically contains no carrots. Instead, its main ingredients are rice flour and preserved white radish tossed with eggs, bits of spring onions and garlic, and served in sweet dark soya sauce or light soya sauce.

**WHERE TO EAT:**  
**Bukit Merah View Carrot Cake**  
 (#01-37 Bukit Merah View Market and Food Centre, 115 Bukit Merah View)



## Jeremy Chiam

of *Le Binchotan*

**I love...** the *prata* at Sin Ming Roti Prata (#01-51 Blk 24, Sin Ming Road), the fried carrot cake at Hai Sheng Carrot Cake (#01-09 Ang Mo Kio Central Market & Food Centre, 724 Ang Mo Kio Ave 6) and the chilli crab at No Signboard Seafood (#01-14/16 Esplanade Mall).

**Kway Chap 284...** at KPT, 284 Bishan Street 22, is my top spot for supper after work. It serves a mean set of *kway chap* - which consists of a bowl of thin, broad rice sheets in a soy sauce broth and a plate of braised items like pig innards, pig skin, pork belly, fish cake and more - till 4am in the morning.

## ROJAK

This medley of vegetables, fruits and fried dough fritters is a savoury-sweet salad known as *rojak*, which means "mixed" in Malay. The dish has both Chinese and Malay ingredients such as *kang kong*, beansprouts, Chinese turnips, pineapples, young mangoes, *jambu* (rose apples) and fried beancurd tossed in a thick black sauce made of fermented prawn paste, sugar, lime and chilli paste, and garnished with chopped peanuts.

**WHERE TO EAT:**  
**Lau Hong Ser Rojak** (#02-14 Dunman Food Centre, 271 Onan Road)

## Hot Tables

# DEMPSEY EDITION



### Peranakan frenzy

## CANDLENUT KITCHEN

Local chef-owner Malcolm Lee's Candlenut Kitchen (now part of Como Dempsey, a new lifestyle quarter) is the first *Peranakan* (Straits native with mixed local and foreign ancestry) establishment to receive a Michelin star. The restaurant offers a great mix of traditional and contemporary *Peranakan* dishes like *itek tim* (a duck and vegetable soup) and the *gula melaka* (palm sugar) king prawn.

📄 [www.candlenut.com](http://www.candlenut.com)  
📍 174 Dempsey Road  
☎ (65) 1800 304 2288

### Mediterranean galore

## BLU KOUZINA

The best Greek restaurants are run by Greeks, and that is why Blu Kouzina is a hit amongst the locals. Highlights on the menu include its signature lamb chop, grilled octopus, *souvlaki* and *baklava*.

📄 [blukouzina.com/SG](http://blukouzina.com/SG)  
📍 #01-21, 10 Dempsey Road  
☎ (65) 6875 0872

### Crab party

## LONG BEACH SEAFOOD

This Singaporean legend is the go-to restaurant for seafood lovers craving the perennial local favourite, chilli crab. The rich, red gravy is spicy and sweet, and you'll find yourself mopping up any leftovers with a serving of deep-fried mantou buns. Another must-try here is the crunchy cereal prawn.

📄 [www.longbeachseafood.com.sg](http://www.longbeachseafood.com.sg)  
📍 25 Dempsey Road  
☎ (65) 6323 2222



### Great for groups

## PORTICO PRIME

Escape the bustle of downtown Singapore and retreat to this laid-back restaurant, which offers a menu of homely European classics like braised wagyu beef cheek in mulled wine and Moroccan spice-braised lamb shoulder. Or, opt for more unconventional dishes like the chilled truffle-scented angel hair pasta.

📄 [www.portico.sg](http://www.portico.sg)  
📍 #01-20, 10 Dempsey Road  
☎ (65) 6474 7427

### For the lovers

## THE WHITE RABBIT

Housed within a beautifully restored chapel, this romantic spot offers European classics like ocean trout, and Alaskan king crab tagliatelle. At the back of the restaurant is the bar – fittingly named The Rabbit Hole – where you can sip creative renditions of gin and tonics amidst a lush garden setting.

📄 [www.thewhiterabbit.com.sg](http://www.thewhiterabbit.com.sg)  
📍 39C Harding Road  
☎ (65) 6473 9965



### Perfect for families

## OPEN FARM COMMUNITY

Set amidst lush greenery is this charming farm-to-table restaurant that boasts a garden filled with herbs and vegetables, worm and ant farms, two lawn bowling lanes, ping-pong tables, as well as a small retail store. Grab a seat on the timber-decked patio in the back of the restaurant and tuck into farm-fresh dishes like the red grouper with peas and mint purée, and a coconut *laksa* (coconut milk-based curry broth) *barramundi*.

📄 [www.openfarmcommunity.com](http://www.openfarmcommunity.com)  
📍 130E Minden Road  
☎ (65) 6471 0306



## Serious Anglo-Chinese food

### CHOPSUEY CAFÉ

Expect no traditional Chinese plates here. As the name suggests, this pretty restaurant dishes out contemporary American-Chinese fare, with satisfying plates like Crispy Duck Pow! Pockets, steamed 'lasagna' of snapper and tofu, as well as sweet treats like ginger tea brulee.

- 📄 [www.bscafe.com/chopsuey-cafe-at-dempsey-hill](http://www.bscafe.com/chopsuey-cafe-at-dempsey-hill)
- 📍 #01-23, 10 Dempsey Road
- ☎ (65) 9224 6611



## Sharing is caring

### SAMY'S CURRY

This South Indian restaurant made a name for itself with its reasonably-priced rendition of the popular fish head curry, which consists of a red snapper head stewed in an aromatic curry, with the addition of *assam* (tamarind) juice for acidity and sweetness.

- 📄 [www.samyscurry.com](http://www.samyscurry.com)
- 📍 25 Dempsey Road
- ☎ (65) 6472 2080

## MICHELIN-STARRED DINING

### HILL STREET TAI HWA PORK NOODLE

🌟 One Michelin Star



Singapore is now the first country in the world with Michelin-starred hawker stalls, and one of them is chef Tang Chay Seng's humble eatery. Two things make his legendary bowl of *bak chor mee* (minced pork noodles) a winner: the rich, tasty sauce with lots of umami flavours, and the addition of a big stuffed pork *wanton* (dumplings) in the dish. The cherry on top is the crispy piece of fried *ti poh* (dried sole fish).

- 📄 [www.taihwa.com.sg](http://www.taihwa.com.sg)
- 📍 #01-12, 466 Crawford Lane
- 📍 Lavender

### FOREST 🌟 One Michelin Star

Local celebrity chef, Sam Leong, gives Chinese cuisine the contemporary treatment at Forest. Savour unconventional appetisers like pan-seared *foie gras* in red wine sauce, as well as Alaskan king crab meat served playfully in a cone. Main courses like steamed cod in black bean sauce and charcoal-grilled kurobuta pork in hoisin sauce are also specialities that are not to be missed.

- 📄 [www.rwsentosa.com/Homepage/Restaurants/CelebrityChefs/Forest](http://www.rwsentosa.com/Homepage/Restaurants/CelebrityChefs/Forest)
- 📍 8 Sentosa Gateway, Equarius Hotel
- ☎ (65) 6577 7788
- 📍 HarbourFront

### KOK SEN RESTAURANT

🌟 Bib Gourmand (exceptional food at moderate prices)

This corner coffeeshop sees a perpetual crowd thanks to its affordable and varied selection of *zi char*. Its more popular picks include stuffed tofu, *har cheong gai* (fried chicken in prawn paste) and the signature big prawn *har fun* (flat rice noodles).

- 📍 30-32 Keong Saik Road
- ☎ (65) 6223 2005
- 📍 Outram Park

### CORNER HOUSE 🌟 One Michelin Star

Set amongst the lush greenery of the Singapore Botanic Gardens is this culinary tribute to EJH Corner, the man largely responsible for Singapore's "Green City" status). It serves up French-inspired dishes – inventively described by local chef, Jason Tan, as "Gastro-Botanica" – like Hungarian mangalica pork and Patagonian toothfish.

- 📄 [www.cornerhouse.com.sg](http://www.cornerhouse.com.sg)
- 📍 1 Cluny Road
- ☎ (65) 6469 1000
- 📍 Botanic Gardens

### SONG OF INDIA 🌟 One Michelin Star

This swish Indian restaurant will give you a comprehensive education on Northern Indian eats. Located in a classic black and white heritage bungalow, the lavishly decorated restaurant will have you singing praises of its signatures like *nalli gosht* (spiced lamb shanks) and *lahsoona jhinga* (stuffed prawns in tandoori marinade).

- 📄 [www.thesongofindia.com](http://www.thesongofindia.com)
- 📍 33 Scotts Road
- ☎ (65) 6836 0055
- 📍 Newton

## Drink up

# ROOFTOP BARS



◀ Sip Southeast Asian sunset cocktails like the Little Pink Dot at Loof

Edible pumpkin leaf garnishes for sweet dessert cocktail 12am Misery at Smoke & Mirrors



◀ View of the Singapore skyline from New Asia Bar

## I-ALTITUDE

The Central Business District teems with rooftop bars, and the tallest amongst them is I-Altitude, a fancy alfresco spot perched at 282 metres above sea level. Come here for a glimpse of the sunset and start the night with breezy cocktails, before heading for dinner at fine dining restaurant Stellar or groove to smooth tunes at dance club Altimate, both located one floor below.

- 📄 [www.i-altitude.com](http://www.i-altitude.com)
- 📍 Level 61, 1 Raffles Place
- ☎ (65) 6438 0410
- 📍 Raffles Place

## NEW ASIA BAR

Dance the night away at this fancy hotel club, located on the 71st floor of Swissotel The Stamford. Named one of the 50 Best Bars in the world, you'll be raising the roof to weekly themed nights and Top 40 hits, set against a view of the glittering cityscape.

- 📄 [www.fairmont.com/singapore/dining/hewasia](http://www.fairmont.com/singapore/dining/hewasia)
- 📍 Level 71, Equinox Complex, Swissôtel The Stamford
- ☎ (65) 9177 7307
- 📍 City Hall

## CÉ LAVI

Located 200 metres above ground, this swanky party hotspot at Marina Bay Sands boasts an amazing bird's eye view of the city. Order a cocktail from the SkyBar and join revellers on the dance floor at the Club Lounge, with renowned guest DJs helming its decks.

- 📄 [www.celavi.com](http://www.celavi.com)
- 📍 57/F SkyPark, Marina Bay Sands Tower 3, 1 Bayfront Avenue
- ☎ (65) 6508 2188
- 📍 Bayfront

## LOOF

Expect nothing less than a roaring party at this casual rooftop bar on Odeon Towers, which has hosted its fair share of raucous shindigs. Shenanigans aside, the space takes inspiration from Singaporean nostalgia, with drinks featuring popular local ingredients and a bar bites menu curated by homegrown chef *du jour*, Bjorn Shen.

- 📄 [www.loof.com.sg](http://www.loof.com.sg)
- 📍 #03-07 Odeon Towers, 331 North Bridge Road
- ☎ (65) 6337 9416
- 📍 City Hall

## KINKI

Mod-Japanese restaurant and bar Kinki serves a vast menu of sushi, sashimi, udon and other hot and cold dishes. Decked in gritty industrial touches and graffiti murals by Miami Ink's Chris Garver, it's no wonder this izakaya-style hangout is packed with young urbanites after dark.

- 📄 [www.kinki.com.sg](http://www.kinki.com.sg)
- 📍 #02-02 Customs House, 70 Collyer Quay
- ☎ (65) 6533 3471
- 📍 Raffles Place

## SMOKE & MIRRORS

The National Gallery Singapore is more than just a destination for Southeast Asian art - it's also where you'll find stylish bars and restaurants, including Smoke & Mirrors. Led by head bartender Yugnes Susela, we recommend ordering one of his Asian-inspired classics, or a flamboyant cocktail like the Tiger Blood Daisy.

- 📄 [www.smokeandmirrors.com.sg](http://www.smokeandmirrors.com.sg)
- 📍 #06-01 National Gallery Singapore, 1 St. Andrew's Road
- ☎ (65) 9234 8122
- 📍 City Hall



## THE OTHER ROOM

The team behind Spanish restaurant FOC has launched an intimate bar at The Marriott Tang Plaza Hotel, decked in the style of a Prohibition-era speakeasy. On the menu are cocktails crafted with moonshine and liquors that are cask-finished, infused and smoked. Classics such as the Old Fashioned are given a subtle contemporary twist with spicy, fruity and floral flavours, so traditionalists and adventurous drinkers alike will find tipples here easy on their palates.

- 📄 [www.facebook.com/TheOtherRoomSG](http://www.facebook.com/TheOtherRoomSG)
- 📍 Ground floor, Marriott Hotel Singapore, 320 Orchard Road
- ☎ (65) 6100 7778
- 📍 Orchard

## CRAFT BEER BAR TAKUMI

Fans of Japanese craft beers, pop into this izakaya-style watering hole at Mandarin Orchard Hotel for some delicious suds. Expect popular JiBiru beers as well as limited edition and seasonal brews such as Indian Summer Saison and Baby Miyama Blonde.

- 📄 [www.facebook.com/takumibar](http://www.facebook.com/takumibar)
- 📍 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Lobby, Mandarin Orchard Hotel, 333 Orchard Road
- ☎ (65) 9488 6558
- 📍 Orchard

# Drink up NEW WATERING HOLES

## BAGO AT LIME HOUSE

Smooth reggae tunes, mouth-watering Caribbean bites and a fun, rum-based cocktail menu - this rustic and intimate lounge will make you feel right at home with breezy rattan furniture and warm hospitality. It's a great hangout for catching up with friends (you won't be yelling over the music), so don't be surprised if you find yourself staying through the night.

- 📄 [www.facebook.com/bagoatlimehouse](http://www.facebook.com/bagoatlimehouse)
- 📍 Level 2, 2 Jjak Chuan Road
- ☎ (65) 6222 3130
- 📍 Outram Park



## CIN CIN

Prohibition era-inspired Cin Cin occupies a glitzy, modern Art Deco space at Oasia Hotel Downtown and specialises in gin concoctions. There are shiny marble counters, posh leather chairs and bold gold fixtures aplenty, making this bar the perfect backdrop for a picture-perfect night out.

- 📄 [www.cincin.sg](http://www.cincin.sg)
- 📍 Level 1 Oasia Hotel Downtown Singapore, 100 Peck Seah Street
- ☎ (65) 6385 2604
- 📍 Tanjong Pagar



## EMPLOYEES ONLY SINGAPORE

This famous New York bar, which ranked fourth on the World's 50 Best Bars list in 2015, has opened its first outpost in Asia on Amoy Street, a trending nightlife area in Singapore. Cocktail highlights include the EO Gimlet, with gin and lime cordial, and Ready Aim Fire, a lime juice, mezcal, honey-pineapple syrup and Hellfire Bitters concoction. Don't forget to check out their dinner menu for an extensive variety of meat, seafood, pasta and burger dishes.

- 📄 [www.employeesonlysg.com](http://www.employeesonlysg.com)
- 📍 112 Amoy Street
- ☎ (65) 6221 7357
- 📍 Telok Ayer

# Fam-tastic Day Out

Ten great things to do with kids in Singapore



See toys from the past

## MINT MUSEUM OF TOYS

With a world-class collection of vintage toys and childhood memorabilia, this private Mint Museum of Toys has just the right mix of play, history, culture, and education.

- 📄 [emint.com](http://emint.com)
- 📍 26 Seah Street
- ☎ (65) 6339 0660
- 📍 City Hall

Make a splash

## ADVENTURE COVE WATERPARK

Water babies will have a ball whizzing down high-speed water slides, snorkelling with tropical fish, escaping the Wet Maze, and interacting with dozens of rays at the Ray Bay.

- 📄 [www.rwsentosa.com](http://www.rwsentosa.com)
- 📍 8 Sentosa Gateway
- ☎ (65) 6577 8888
- 📍 HarbourFront



Make the jump

## BOUNCE SINGAPORE

A whole new level of fun awaits at BOUNCE Singapore, Singapore's newest indoor adventure park, which boasts a slew of trampolines and Singapore's first indoor adventure course, the X-Park and Leap of Faith.

- 📄 [www.bounceinc.com.sg](http://www.bounceinc.com.sg)
- 📍 #09-01 Cathay Cineleisure Orchard
- ☎ (65) 6816 2879
- 📍 Somerset



Escape to the wild

## CONEY ISLAND

Rent a bike at Punggol Settlement to navigate the beautiful Coney Island Park. This 50-hectare nature haven is perfect for bird watching, admiring the abundant flora, and getting up close with free-roaming animals.

- 📄 [www.nparks.gov.sg](http://www.nparks.gov.sg)
- 📍 Coney Island Park beside Punggol Promenade Nature Walk
- 📍 Punggol

Greet feathered friends

## JURONG BIRD PARK

One of the most renowned bird sanctuaries in the world and the first attraction in Singapore, Jurong Bird Park is the nesting place of 5,000 birds across 400 species. If your little ones want a splash, head to the bird-themed playground.

- 📄 [www.birdpark.com.sg](http://www.birdpark.com.sg)
- 📍 2 Jurong Hill
- ☎ (65) 6269 3411
- 📍 Boon Lay + connecting bus services 194 or 251



## Fuel little imaginations

### PLAYEUM

If your little treasures love stories, take them to this creative playscape at art cluster Gillman Barracks. Its new exhibit, *A World Full of Stories* (through 30 April) inspires kids to create their own stories while immersing themselves in tales from different cultures.

- 📄 [www.playeum.com](http://www.playeum.com)
- 📍 #01-23 Block 47 Gillman Barracks
- ☎ (65) 6262 0750
- 📍 Labrador Park



## Uncover Singapore's history

### SINGAPORE DISCOVERY CENTRE

Your pint-sized visitors will have a deeper understanding of Singapore's past, present and future after a day spent interacting with the exhibits at SDC. Don't forget to go on the thrilling 4D simulation ride, or let your kids assume the role of the Commander at the Battlefield Command.

- 📄 [www.sdc.com.sg](http://www.sdc.com.sg)
- 📍 510 Upper Jurong Road
- ☎ (65) 6792 6188
- 📍 Joo Koon + connecting bus services 182 or 182M



## Stick your nose in a book

### WOODS IN THE BOOKS

If you need a contrast to the city's hustle and bustle, mind nourishment awaits at Wood in the Books, a whimsical children's bookstore with charming animal murals and art workshops.

- 📄 [www.woodsinthebooks.sg](http://www.woodsinthebooks.sg)
- 📍 3 Yong Siak Street
- ☎ (65) 6222 9980
- 📍 Tiong Bahru



## Kickstart your dream job

### KIDZANIA

This mini metropolis city lets children explore a life-sized Boeing 737, earn their own salaries, and live out their dream jobs with over 80 exciting role-play activities.

- 📄 [www.kidzania.com.sg](http://www.kidzania.com.sg)
- 📍 31 Beach View, Sentosa Island
- ☎ (65) 6653 6888
- 📍 HarbourFront



## Design your own pancakes

### SLAPPY CAKES

Rope in the kids into making their own breakfast at this popular DIY pancake joint. Simply choose from five batters (don't forget the toppings!), and start cooking away at your table's built-in hot plate.

- 📄 [www.slappycakes.com.sg](http://www.slappycakes.com.sg)
- 📍 #01-29, 26 Sentosa Gateway
- ☎ (65) 6795 0779
- 📍 HarbourFront





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