



SG

Singapore

WHERE PASSION AND POSSIBILITIES MEET

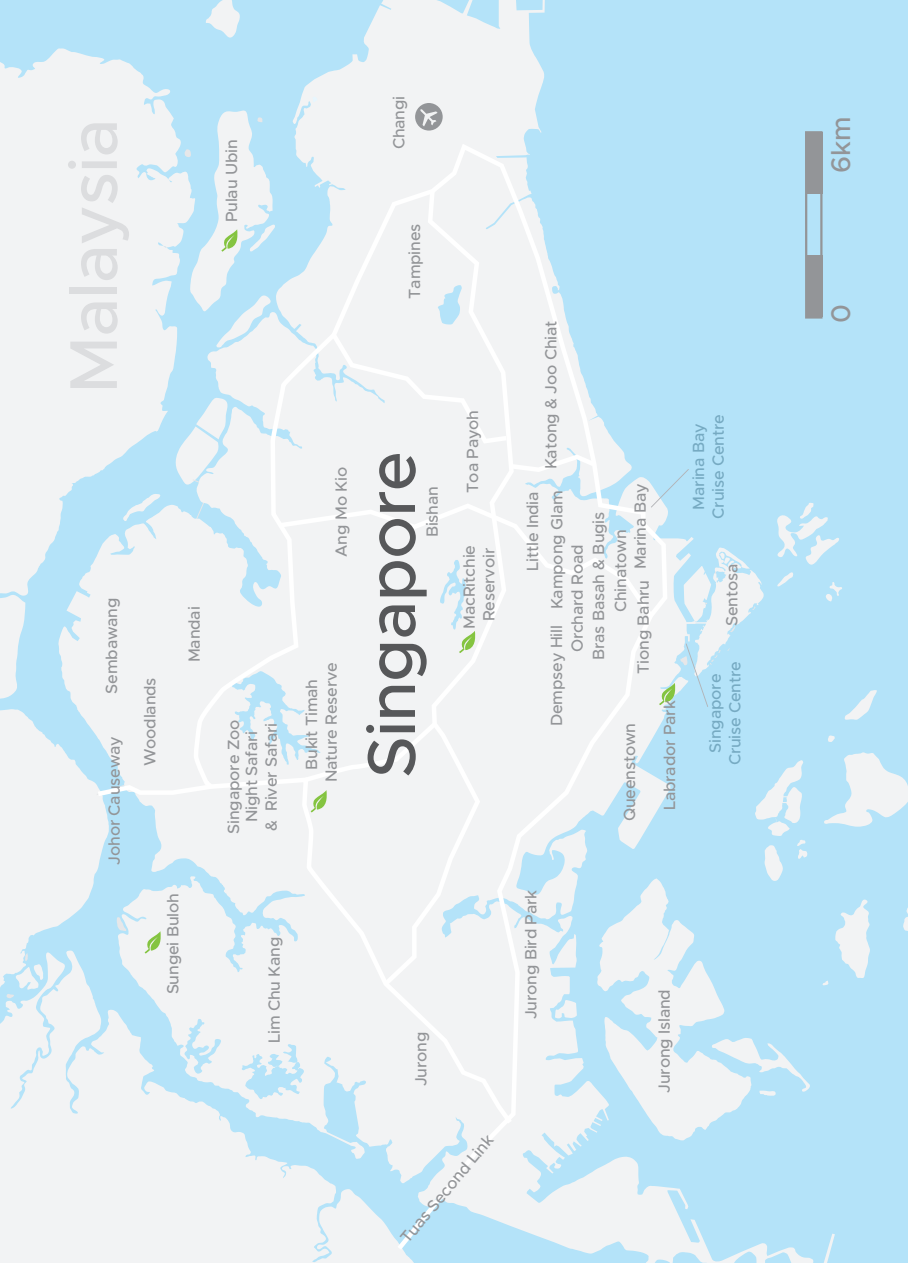


In association with

TimeOut

Malaysia

Singapore



Johor Causeway

Sembawang

Woodlands

Sungei Buloh

Mandai

Singapore Zoo
Night Safari
& River Safari

Pulau Ubin

Lim Chu Kang

Bukit Timah
Nature Reserve

Ang Mo Kio

Jurong

Tuas Second Link

Changi



Tampines

Bishan

MacRitchie
Reservoir

Toa Payoh

Jurong Bird Park

Little India

Dempsey Hill
Kampong Glam

Orchard Road

Bras Basah & Bugis

Chinatown

Queenstown

Jurong Island

Labrador Park

Tiong Bahru
Marina Bay

Katong & Joo Chiat

Singapore
Cruise Centre

Marina Bay
Cruise Centre

Sentosa



0

6km

Editor's note



WELCOME TO THE 2019 edition of the Time Out Singapore Guide. This edition presents not only a comprehensive guide to Singapore's eating, shopping, sightseeing and nightlife, but introduces you to seven passionate Singapore locals who'll share their secrets about the city they love.

This guide book will help go beyond what you think you know about the Little Red Dot. Venture into any of the 12 areas detailed in these pages and you may find yourself walking among some of the tallest trees in Asia (p35), drinking at a craft beer bar in a medicine hall (p33) or paying tribute to the Merlion (p35).

Join us in discovering this city that is constantly evolving, reinventing and reimagining itself with people who are passionate about creating new possibilities for travellers to experience. This is Singapore – where passion and possibilities meet.

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For the latest info on Singapore see VisitSingapore.com



Welcome to the Little Red Dot

Whatever you choose to call Singapore – the Little Red Dot, the Lion City (see below), or Singapour (thanks to its humidity) – it is anything but Singapore.

These days, it's full of passionate changemakers crafting unique and diverse experiences that are authentic yet inclusive. From local craft beer bars to Michelin-starred restaurants, mindblowing hawker food on every corner to lush nature reserves, skyscrapers that defy the imagination to dynamic global events – not to mention a growing number of creative talents – this island crams a lot into its 720km² space.

Whatever experience you're looking

for, Singapore has it. As a quick introduction, here are some fun facts about its history and culture...

- 1 It's popularly believed Singapore's original name – Singapura – meaning 'Lion City' in Malay – was given when the city's 13th century founder, Sang Nila Utama, saw a lion when he first arrived on these shores.
- 2 While Changi Airport has won numerous accolades for being one of the world's best, it may also boast one of the world's most unique runways. The East Coast Parkway (ECP) is an automobile expressway that was designed to be converted



into a landing strip by removing the potted plants in the middle.

3 The Bukit Timah Nature Reserve has more tree species than the whole of North America. See p44.

4 The Singapore Flyer observation wheel had its direction changed a few months after the official opening, as feng shui masters believed that it should draw the sea water (symbolic of wealth) into the land rather than away. See p35.

5 Singapore is one of only three city-states in the world (the other two being Monaco and Vatican City).



Introducing the Passion Tribes



Foodie Malcolm Lee

**THIS MICHELIN-STARRED CHEF
SERVES UP A TASTER OF THE
CITY THAT INSPIRES HIM**

Malcolm Lee grew up with the smell of spices from his grandmother's traditional Peranakan (Straits Chinese) dishes. Today he's one of a handful of Singaporean chefs to have won a Michelin Star, and is constantly looking for ways to both preserve and innovate the flavours of his youth.

Malcolm worked his way from humble line cook to his current role as chef-owner of Peranakan restaurant Candlenut. "There's a reason why we're called a 'kitchen brigade'. When service time hits, the kitchen turns into a warzone," Malcolm says. "But I love the cuts, the burns, the camaraderie."

It's not just the adrenaline of the kitchen that drives his passion: to Malcolm, food is a way of creating a deep connection with both friends and strangers. "I believe the essence of Peranakan food is really about people. Food is love, and I hope people can feel that."



KATONG LAKSA



LITTLE INDIA



SINGAPORE ZOO

Guide for foodies

Chef Malcolm Lee leads a trail through Singapore, peppered by his love for food and Peranakan heritage

Little India

A taste of aromatic biryani (an Indian spiced rice dish with meat or vegetables) at **Tekka Centre** is a fitting way to start the day.

Mustafa Centre

For bargains, pay a visit to the 24-hour **Mustafa Centre**. This eight-storey complex in Little India stocks everything from mobile phones to perfume and kitchen appliances.

Bukit Merah

Get dinner at **Keng Eng Kee**, whose speciality coffee pork ribs and chilli crab are some of my favourite dishes.

Katong Laksa

Start the day with a steaming bowl of **Katong Laksa**.

Katong & Joo Chiat

Stay to explore the **Katong/Joo Chiat** neighbourhood, home to iconic Peranakan architecture.

Guan Hoe Soon Restaurant

Go here for a hearty, traditional Peranakan lunch. Since 1953, **Guan Hoe Soon** has been serving up Straits Chinese favourites.

Geylang Serai

Geylang Serai Market has everything you need to cook Malay food, from fresh seafood and spices to coconut milk.



Explorer Subaraj Rajathurai

A WILDLIFE CONSULTANT SHARES HIS LOVE OF NATURE

Many of Singapore's nature reserves exist due to the efforts of individuals like Subaraj Rajathurai, a self-taught naturalist and wildlife consultant. Over the last 35 years, he has campaigned behind the scenes to preserve ecosystems including Sungei Buloh, a mangrove forest in northwest Singapore that was slated for redevelopment by the government and is now a nature park, and the 123.8 hectares of forest at Lower Peirce Reservoir.

"You can spend five lifetimes exploring nature, and there would

still be more to learn," says Subaraj, who fell in love with the rainforest at the age of 18, during a visit to Bukit Timah Nature Reserve. Singapore's blend of urban landscapes and hidden ecosystems keeps him fighting against rampant urbanisation: "In Singapore, you can get from a five-star hotel to a rainforest in 20 minutes." You'll find Subaraj still leading eco-tours around Singapore, covering untamed rainforests and nature reserves and also urbanised areas, showing how the city and nature can co-exist.



SINGAPORE BOTANIC GARDENS



MACRITCHIE NATURE TRAIL & RESERVOIR PARK



SUNGEI BULOH WETLAND

Guide for nature lovers

Subaraj Rajathurai takes you into the untamed areas of Singapore that he has fought to preserve

MacRitchie Nature Trail & Reservoir Park

Head over to MacRitchie Reservoir Park, a water catchment area in the heart of Singapore. The oldest rainforest in this region is here. The diversity is amazing. If you're lucky, you'll cross paths with long-tailed macaque monkeys and flying lemurs.

Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve

Spend your afternoon bird watching at Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, home to diverse inhabitants such as watersnakes, herons and otters.

Singapore Botanic Gardens

Spend your evening relaxing at the Singapore Botanic Gardens. Be sure to visit the Learning Forest, a lush habitat that's home to some of the tallest tree species in Southeast Asia.

Pulau Ubin

This island was nearly turned into industrial and housing estates. Nature co-exists with humans here. You'll find wildlife in the fruit orchards, hornbills in the villages, and grey herons in its quarries.

Chek Jawa

On Pulau Ubin, make your way to its southeastern hook, which is home to the Chek Jawa Wetlands. A confluence of six natural habitats, ranging from rocky beaches to seagrass lagoons, Chek Jawa is a miniature marvel of contrasting ecosystems.



Collectors

James Quan and Winnie Chen

GO SHOPPING IN SINGAPORE WITH TWO ARTISANS

The brainchild of founders James Quan and Winnie Chan, Bynd Artisan is a traditional leather bookmaking business. The company's Holland Village atelier showcases custom paper and leather accessories, providing in-shop services including customised notebooks and leather products. Aspiring craftspeople can also take part in Bynd Artisan's bookbinding and leather crafting workshops. "People today want to be involved in the process of handcrafting gifts for their loved ones, or even for personal use," says

Winnie. "Personalisation has become a way for people to feel a sense of belonging and ownership to the tangible things in this digital era."

As well as retail, Bynd Artisan work with homegrown talents from different industries, reflecting the vibrancy of the Singaporean design scene. "This interaction creates sparks and provides opportunities for all to expand each other's perspectives. Bynd Artisan strives to take local creations to the global stage and rejuvenate the traditional paper and leather industry."



SENTOSA



BYND ARTISAN



ORCHARD ROAD

James & Winnie's guide for collectors

The founders of Bynd Artisan give their top five Singapore experiences

Orchard Road

Home to countless local and international designers and brands, Orchard Road is where all the hustle and bustle of city life meets a shopper's paradise. A walk down Orchard Road lets you experience the true pace and dynamism of Singapore.

Chip Bee Gardens (Bukit Timah)

Chip Bee Gardens is an enclave of many local brands. The quaint location is lined with shophouses along the stretch of Jalan Merah Saga, where you can find brands such as Tiong Bahru Bakery, Ling Wu, Sunday Folks and last but not least, the Bynd Artisan flagship store.

Toa Payoh

Head down to the HDB Gallery at Toa Payoh Central to take a look at Singapore's architectural evolution, and also to understand more about our public housing system. Drop by a coffee shop in the vicinity for lunch or dinner to get a feel of what our heartland is like.

Sentosa

For a break from shopping, you can always opt for a day on Sentosa for some outdoor fun. Universal Studios Singapore is always a highlight if you're an adrenaline junkie!

Newton Circus Food Centre

Only a stone's throw from the city centre, Newton Circus is the hawker centre to try authentic Singapore cuisine. Must-try dishes include barbecue sambal stingray, oyster omelette, chilli crab, satay and carrot cake.



Socialiser

Vijay Mudaliar

**GO DRINKING AND DINING WITH THE OWNER
OF ONE OF SINGAPORE'S BEST BARS, NATIVE**

Singapore's nightlife and bar scene is diverse and booming, and Vijay Mudaliar is one of its stars. In 2017, Vijay Mudaliar's Native bar in Chinatown made it onto the lists of both Asia's 50 Best Bars and the World's 50 Best Bars. "At Native, we work exclusively with regional produce and craftspeople," says Vijay. "We don't stock common spirits, rather, we serve local and regional liquors, such as Singaporean gin, Indian whisky and Filipino rum. This idea extends to our furniture, aprons, ceramics, artwork

and music. We want to feel closer to home and work with other like-minded small-batch craftspeople." A visit to Native promises the experience of cocktails true to their locale, culture, time and place. "Singapore is such a multicultural society with a rich history. One famous example of our culture is Peranakan cuisine, which is unique to this part of the world. Our cocktail, Peranakan, is inspired by these flavours, and contains jackfruit rum, laksa leaves, palm sugar, candlenuts and pandan."



OPERATION DAGGER



CANDLENUT



CHINATOWN

Vijay's tips for socialisers

Try one of Vijay's favourite Singapore bars and eateries

Operation Dagger (Chinatown)

Visit one of the World's 50 Best Bars for forward-thinking drinks in a back-alley basement setting.

Manhattan Bar (Orchard)

This 19th-century New York City-style hotel bar is hidden within the Regent Hotel Singapore, but it's widely considered to be Asia's best bar.

Smith Street Taps (Chinatown)

Go here for local and international craft beers in a bare-bones hawker (food market) setting. Smith Street Taps always boast an affordable, well-curated list.

Cheek by Jowl (Boon Tat Street)

Michelin-starred Mod-Oz comfort food at an affordable price, and in a great setting.

Candlenut (Dempsey Road)

Malcolm Lee's restaurant serves the only Michelin-starred Peranakan food in the world.

New Ubin Seafood (Bukit Batok & Chijmes)

Visit New Ubin Seafood for Singaporean classics with a modern take, such as chilli crab and 'heart attack fried rice'.



Culture shaper Jahan Loh

A CREATOR OF SINGAPOREAN POP ART IS FIRED BY THE CONTRASTS BETWEEN NEW AND TRADITIONAL, EAST AND WEST

Jahan is famous as the man who turned a Ma Ling luncheon meat tin into pop art. As the first artist to bring street art to galleries in both Singapore and China, Jahan has been credited for taking Singapore Pop Art international. "In 2008, I gave up all my safety nets and did art full time," says Jahan, a former lawyer. "I didn't

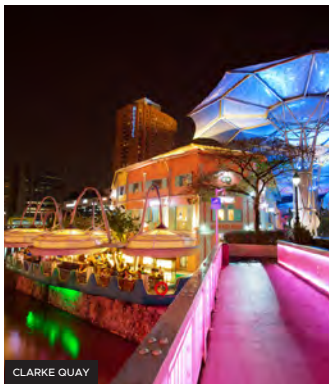
want to have regrets in my life. The first two years were tough, as there was no income." He cites Singapore's contrasting cultural landscape as one of the key influences on his passion: "In Singapore, we are exposed to a lot of different cultures so growing up, we develop that duality of East-meets-West very naturally."



NATIONAL GALLERY SINGAPORE



KAYA TOAST



CLARKE QUAY

Guide for art aficionados

Let local artist Jahan Loh show you around the heritage sites and progressive galleries where he draws inspiration

Tiong Bahru

Start at Tiong Bahru Market & Food Centre with breakfast and a stroll through the fresh produce section. At the end of the street is the Qi Tian Gong Temple, which has a history dating back to 1920. Venture further southwest to join hipsters in their hunt for vinyl at Curated Records.

National Gallery Singapore

Spend the rest of the afternoon at National Gallery Singapore. The architecture draws me in because it's old meets new and East meets West. The gallery was formerly the Supreme Court Building and City Hall.

Clarke Quay

In the evening, go drinking and people watching at Clarke Quay. This nightlife hub is home to iconic club Zouk – a huge influence for me when I was growing up.

Bukit Timah

Take your first cup of kopi (coffee) at the Bukit Timah Market. I have to have eight cups of kopi a day! Round the meal off with kaya (coconut jam), toast and soft-boiled eggs.

MacRitchie Nature Trail & Reservoir Park

Nature is my source of inspiration, and I regularly head to MacRitchie Reservoir Park.

Singapore Botanic Gardens

From travelling, I've come to realise that we have a lot of original, unspoilt greenery here in Singapore, and that's something that's underrated.



Action seeker Sasha Christian

DISCOVER OUTDOOR SINGAPORE WITH A CHAMPION WATER SKIER AS YOUR GUIDE

Sasha Christian has been skimming across the warm waters of Singapore since she was three years old. At just 11 years old, Sasha claimed a bronze medal in wakeboarding at the Asian Championships in China. Accepted into Singapore Sports School at the age of 13, Sasha has been fully committed to her passion ever since.

Now a multi-award winner and an official Red Bull Athlete, this

Singaporean is one of the world's leading lights in watersports, on a personal mission "to make the most of every moment". She won gold medals as a wakeboarder and slalom water skier in the 2015 Southeast Asian Games.

"I hope Australians will enjoy discovering this island city," says Sasha, "and all the culture and life that come along with it."



PULAU UBIN



SINGAPORE WAKE PARK



TREETOP WALK

Sasha's action seeker hitlist

Follow in Sasha Christian's wake as she reveals her favourite Singapore hangouts

Get wet at the Singapore Wake Park

The SWP has to be the first on my list! It's located in East Coast Park, a long and lively stretch along the southeastern coast of Singapore. I head down there once a week to cable wakeboard. Wakeboarding is a great sport to try if you like excitement and don't mind getting wet.

Take a TreeTop Walk

I always recommend the TreeTop Walk in MacRitchie Nature Trail & Reservoir Park to anyone who enjoys being immersed in nature. The loop route can take up to five hours, but the satisfaction felt upon reaching the suspension bridge makes every step worthwhile.

Explore Pulau Ubin by bike

For a more down-to-earth experience, head to Changi Point Ferry Terminal and catch a bumboat to Pulau Ubin, which is a small island just off Singapore. I love exploring the island by bicycle.

Make a trip down to the Sports Hub (Kallang)

There are lots of things to do at the Sports Hub – it's where you can find a skate park, a waterpark, major sporting events, a rock climbing wall and lots more.

Singapore by neighbourhood

Bras Basah & Bugis (P20)
Souvenirs and museums

Chinatown (P22)
Chinese culture and hidden bars

Clarke Quay (P24)
Nightlife and restaurants

Dempsey Hill (P26)
Cafés, galleries, colonial chic

Kampong Glam (P28)
Malay-Arab culture, hip boutiques

Katong & Joo Chiat (P30)
Peranakan heritage and food

Little India & Jalan Besar (P32)
Indian food and Hindu temples

Marina Bay (P34)
Futuristic architecture and attractions

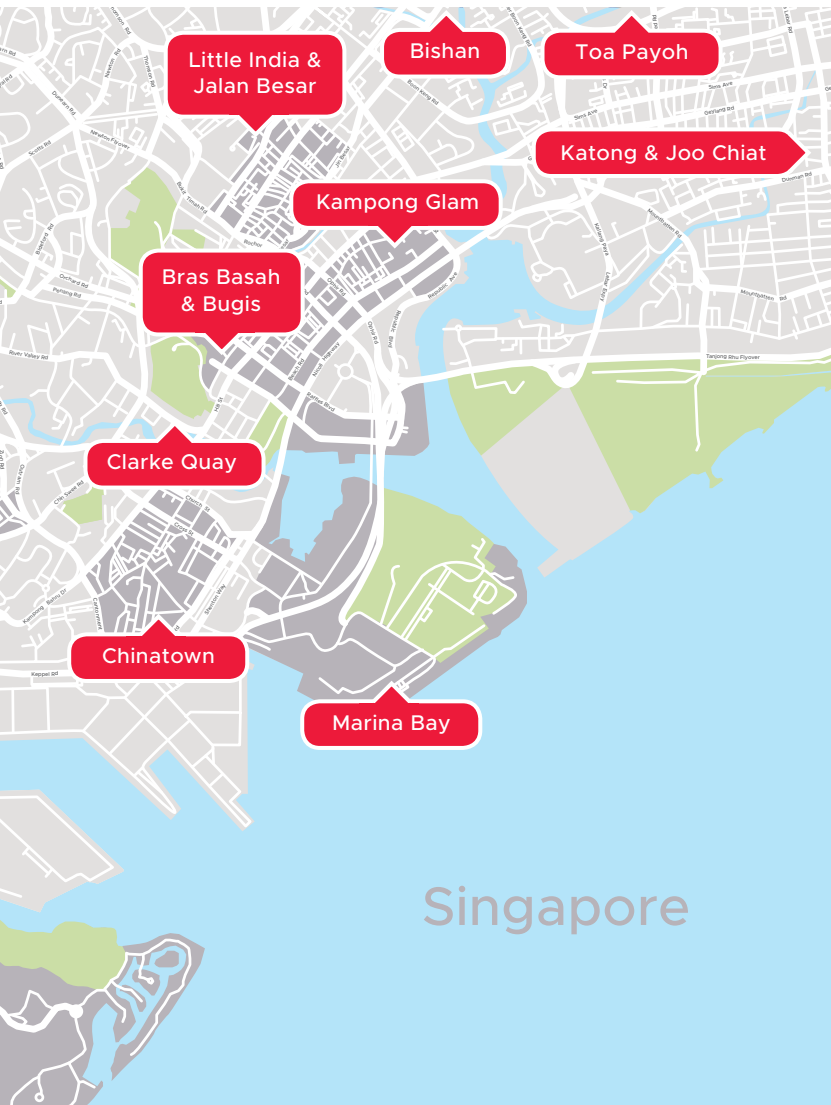
Orchard Road (P36)
Shopping and gardens

Sentosa (P38)
Beach resorts and family fun

Tiong Bahru (P40)
Art Deco charm

Heartlands (P42)
Host of hidden gems







Bras Basah & Bugis

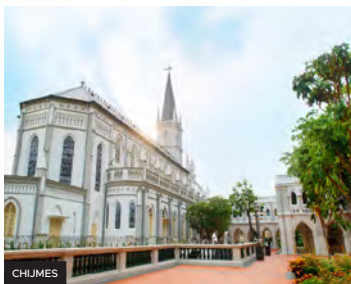
NEW BUGIS STREET, BEACH ROAD, NATIONAL MUSEUM OF SINGAPORE AND THE NATIONAL GALLERY SINGAPORE

QUEEN STREET

Once known for its raucous nightlife, today the Bugis Street district pulses with a different energy. Gone are the roadside stalls and impromptu performances; it's now filled with shopping malls, museums and a jumble of creative spaces.

Replacing the bars and live music action at **Bugis Street 1** (3 New Bugis St, bugisstreet.com.sg) is a covered market of ad-hoc stalls selling cheap trinkets, souvenirs and street food. Across the street, the **Bugis Junction Mall 2** (200 Victoria St, bugisjunction-mall.com.sg), with its four floors of shopping, food, and a movie theatre, is a popular spot for teens. Nearby lies the **National**

Design Centre 3 (111 Middle Rd, designsingapore.org), where year-round design-centric exhibitions and events are held. It's also home to **Keepers** (#01-01, keepers.studio), which stocks a tightly curated collection of Singapore's best designers and artists. For a Singapore memento, drop into **Supermama 4** (265 Beach Rd, supermama.sg) to pick up one of their beautiful blue-and-white porcelain plates emblazoned with uniquely Singaporean icons – the Singapore Flyer, the Merlion or even HDB (Housing Development Board) flats. In the vicinity is **National Gallery Singapore 5** (1 St Andrew's Rd, nationalgallery.sg), which boasts



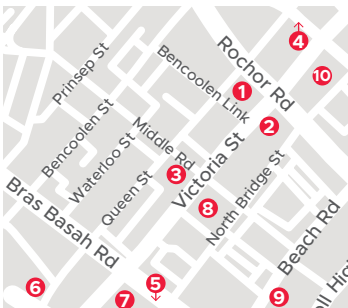
CHIJMES



BUGIS STREET



ATLAS



a view of the Padang and houses the world's largest public display of Singaporean and South East Asian art. For a more historic understanding of the Little Red Dot, the **National Museum of Singapore** 6 (93 Stamford Rd, nationalmuseum.sg) charts the development of modern-day Singapore and entertains young and old with multimedia exhibits.

The area is no slouch when it comes to dining out. Why not start at the place where the wedding in *Crazy Rich Asians* was filmed? **CHIJMES** 7 (30 Victoria St, chijmes.com.sg) is a historic Neoclassical building housing over 25 restaurants spanning Asian, European and American cuisine. Bring

your appetite to nose-to-tail eatery **Salted and Hung** 8 (12 Purvis St, saltedandhung.com.sg), helmed by Brisbane-born Drew Nocente. For modern Chinese flavours with a theatrical twist, there's **Madame Fan** 9 (32 Beach Rd, madamefan.sg) by Alan Yau of Hakkasan fame at the NCO Club, for elevated standards such as crispy aromatic duck served with kaluga caviar, and jasmine tea-smoked pork ribs. To end the night, grab a drink at **Atlas** 10 (600 North Bridge Rd, Parkview Square, atlasbar.sg). If its opulent Art Deco interiors don't make an impression, the extensive drinks menu and floor-to-ceiling gin tower will.



Chinatown

AWARD-WINNING EATS, ANN SIANG HILL,
AMOY STREET AND KEONG SAIK ROAD

BUDDHA TOOTH RELIC TEMPLE

While it may seem strange to have a Chinatown in a country with a predominantly Chinese population, Singapore has given this district its own twist: transforming the heritage neighbourhood into a hip enclave of chic restaurants and bars in renovated pre-war shophouses. This old-meets-new vibe is exactly what keeps locals, expats and tourists intrigued, and the nexus of Club Street and Ann Siang Road closed to vehicle traffic every Friday and Saturday from 7pm to 2am. Modern attractions aside, the area's cultural and historical content is a big reason to visit. Few places allow you to explore several different faiths in a couple of hours on foot. Start at the majestic **Buddha Tooth Relic**

Temple 1 (288 South Bridge Rd, btrts.org.sg) that reportedly holds a tooth of the Buddha. Venture to the rooftop for a panoramic view of the area. Down the street is the **Sri Mariamman Temple 2** (244 South Bridge Rd, smt.org.sg), Singapore's oldest Hindu temple, built in 1827 with a five-tier gopuram (gatehouse tower). While you're there swing by the **Chinatown Heritage Centre 3** (48 Pagoda St, chinatownheritagecentre.com.sg) and get the backstory on how Chinatown came to be (clue: it has something to do with Sir Stamford Raffles).

One of best areas to eat and drink, Ang Siang Hill always has



SMITH STREET JUNCTION

a good vibe going on. There you'll find 2018 Bib Gourmand awardee **Coconut Club** 4 (6 Ann Siang Hill, thecoconutclub.sg), arguably the city's best plate of nasi lemak (Malay dish of rice and chicken). At nearby **Operation Dagger** 5 (#B1-01, 7 Ann Siang Hill, operationdagger.com), Melbournian Luke Whearty and his team push the boundaries of conventional cocktail recipes. Equally experimental is **Native** 6 (52A Amoy St, tribenative.com), where Asian spirits enjoy top billing and owner/bartender Vijay Mudaliar employs everything from ants to matcha to make your tipple. At **Tippling Club** 7 (38 Tanjong Pagar Rd, tipplingclub.com), the 'edible cocktail' menu (think booze-spiked gummy bears) almost outshines the modern gastronomy. For an early dinner, camp out at newly Michelin-Starred **Burnt Ends** 8 (20 Teck Lim Rd, burntends.com.sg) till it opens its doors. This could be the only way to ensure a bar-counter spot to see Perth native Dave Pynt and team turn out perfectly grilled meats and veggies from a dual-cavity oven. And while no stall at **Maxwell**



MAXWELL FOOD CENTRE

Food Centre 9 (1 Kadayannallur St) has a Michelin star, there's a 2018 Bib Gourmand winner **Tian Tian Chicken Rice** (#01-10), the perfectly fried **Maxwell Fuzhou Oyster Cake** (#01-05) and **Zhen Zhen Porridge** (#01-54) for silky smooth congee.





Clarke Quay

SINGAPORE RIVER, HERITAGE EATS AND AN ARRAY OF NIGHTLIFE OPTIONS

Named after Sir Andrew Clarke, the governor of the Straits Settlements from 1873 to 1875, the eye-catching Clarke Quay enclave is part of the historic Singapore River. What was once an area of warehouses has evolved into a lively precinct known for its nightlife, leading-edge restaurants and live music venues. Best experienced after the sun goes down, a key feature of Clarke Quay – its futuristic roof equipped with huge fans – ensures that walking around here is a pleasant (and less humid) experience.

Before hitting the clubs, venture to 2018 Bib Gourmand awardee **Song Fa Bak Kut Teh** ❶ (11 New Bridge Rd, #01-01, songfa.com.sg) for a

taste of its Teochew-style pork-rib soup with just a hint of pepper and star anise, served in a 1960s-style coffeeshop. If you prefer to be in the heart of the action, book a table at **Violet Oon Satay Bar & Grill** ❷ (#01-18, 3B River Valley Rd, violetoon.com), where the humble chargrilled satay has been elevated by the doyenne of Singapore's food scene. **Restaurant Ibib** ❸ (18 North Canal Rd, restaurantibid.com) is the chic venue for *MasterChef Asia* winner Woo Wai Leong's Modern Chinese cuisine. The 6- and 9-course tasting menus have included Japanese tiger prawn with Shaoxing emulsion and lamb neck tenderloin with burnt cream, fennel



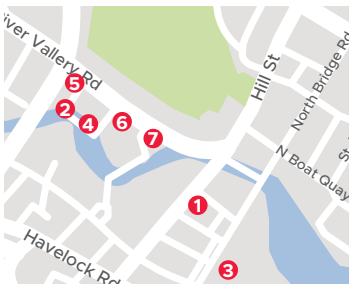
SONG FA BAK KUT TEH



ZOUK



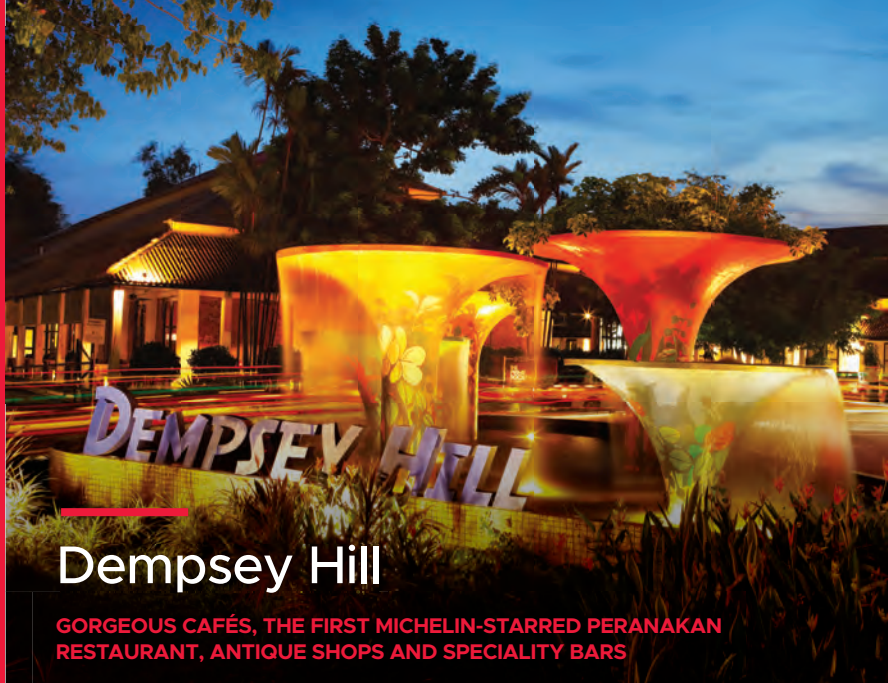
CRAZY ELEPHANT



and Szechuan peppercorn. Ultra-popular venue **Attica** **4** (#01-03, 3A River Valley Rd, attica.com.sg), which opened back in 2004, is a stylish institution that has hosted some of the world's biggest DJs and is known for its amazing ladies' night deals. Lovers of R&B and chart-toppers should visit Level 1, but if you're more of a house, progressive, or trance type of person, then head to Level 2. Laidback **Crazy Elephant** **5** (#01-03/04, 3E River Valley Rd, crazyelephant.sg) is worth a pit stop for its live blues and rock'n'roll. Visiting international musicians such as REM, Robbie Williams and Deep Purple have been known to perform here spontaneously when in town. On

Sundays (from 10pm), any musician is welcome to show off their skills at their regular Sunday jam session. For Latin grooves and a killer Mojito, **Cuba Libre Café & Bar** **6** (#01-13, Block B River Valley Rd, cubalibre.com.sg) is the place to be, with live Latin music sets and impromptu salsa sessions.

No visit to Singapore (and Clarke Quay) would be complete without a night out at **Zouk** **7** (*The Cannery*, 3C River Valley Rd, zouclub.com). The legendary superclub, deemed one of Asia's top dance clubs by DJ Mag, is always pushing the boundaries of electronic dance music with a roster of international and local DJs on deck, plus the popular theme



Dempsey Hill

GORGEOUS CAFÉS, THE FIRST MICHELIN-STARRED PERANAKAN RESTAURANT, ANTIQUE SHOPS AND SPECIALITY BARS

This leafy enclave a stone's throw from the Botanic Garden feels a world apart from the hustle and bustle of downtown Singapore. What was once British army barracks in colonial times has been converted into a collection of upscale eateries, boutiques, art galleries and antiques sellers.

Renowned for its black pepper crab, **Long Beach 1** (25 Dempsey Rd, longbeachseafood.com.sg) is an award-winning seafood restaurant where portions are famously huge. **Candlenut** (Blk 17A Dempsey Rd, comodempsey.sg/restaurant/candlenut) offers refined Straits Chinese cuisine in a modern colonial-style setting. Order the Ah-Ma-Kase

menu (lunch or dinner), where chef Malcom Lee leads diners through the flavours and nuances of this beloved cuisine. Situated in the next block is **Dover Street Market Singapore 2** (Blk 18 Dempsey Rd, doverstreetmarket.com), a retail magnet filled with hip fashion curated by Comme des Garçons designer Rei Kawakubo. Zero in on the exclusive-to-Singapore collection that has included tie-ups with Gucci, Nike and Anti Social Social Club. The ever reliable **PS.Café 3** (28B Harding Rd, pscafe.com) makes for a relaxing brunch spot as you settle in to admire the lush green surroundings from their air-conditioned dining



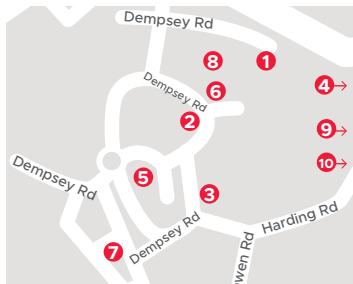
room. Eggs benedict and the signature burger never disappoint; save space for dessert. Another verdant dining spot is **Open Farm Community 4** (130E Minden Rd, openfarmcommunity.com), where organic farm-to-table cooking is the focus, with much of the menu foraged from its own garden.

Dempsey Hill is also home to art galleries and antiques shops. Standouts include **Woody Antique House 5** (#01-05, Blk 13, Dempsey Rd, woodyantique.com), stocked with Burmese teakwood pieces and refurbished Indian doors. There's also **Shang Antique 6** (#01-03, Blk 26, Dempsey Rd, shangantique.com.sg), which specialises in antiques sourced from Vietnam, Laos, Thailand



and Burma. Art lovers can easily while the day away at **Red Sea Gallery 7** (Blk 9, Dempsey Rd, redseagallery.com) browsing their ceramics, sculptures, paintings and glass works from Vietnam, Indonesia, India and New Zealand.

Wind down for the day at **RedDot Brouhouse 8** (#01-01, 25A Dempsey Rd, reddotbrouhouse.com.sg), an independent local microbrewery. For gin lovers there's the **Rabbit Hole 9** (39C Harding Rd, thewhiterabbit.com.sg) while **Maduro 10** (40C Harding Rd, Lvl 3) offers wine, whisky, classic cocktails, live jazz and classical music in an elegant lounge setting.





Kampong Glam

SULTAN MOSQUE, MALAY HERITAGE CENTRE AND HIPSTER CULTURE ON HAJI LANE

SULTAN MOSQUE

Next to the Bugis area lies the Malay/ Arab quarter of Singapore, Kampong Glam, pronounced 'Kum-pong Glum' and named after the gelam trees that grew in the area ('kampong' in Malay means 'village'). A site of historic significance, it was the land given by Sir Stamford Raffles to Sultan Husain Shah to build his palace after he relinquished the island to the Brits. To learn more about life of Singapore's Malay community before the British arrived in 1819, the **Malay Heritage Centre 1** (85 Sultan Gate, malayheritage.org.sg) depicts it through six permanent galleries, historical artefacts and interactive multimedia works.

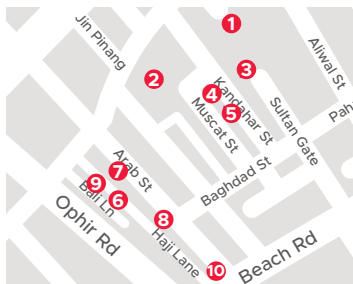
The heart and soul of the area, however, lies with the iconic

Sultan Mosque 2 (3 Muscat St, sultanmosque.sg). Built in 1824, it's also known as Masjid Sultan and easily identified by its two giant gold domes. The mass prayer hall can hold up to 5,000 visitors, and guided tours are given, but it's best to call ahead to ensure availability.

For a taste of Malay fine dining, **Mamanda 3** (73 Sultan Gate, mamanda.com.sg) is housed in a mansion built in 1840 that was once home to Tengku Mahmud, heir apparent to the Sultan's throne. Fittingly, the dish to order is nasi ambeng, a celebratory Javanese dish of different meats and vegetables like beef rendang (spicy meat dish) and sambal goreng (fried chilli paste)



HAJI LANE



PIEDRA NEGRA

served in a dulang (tray) with rice. For a more casual meal, **Rumah Makan Minang** 4 (18 & 18A Kandahar St, minang.sg) serves reasonably priced Minangkabau cuisine from West Sumatra and specialises in dishes like tahu telur (fried tofu with eggs and vegetables) and ayam belado merah (red chilli marinated chicken). For a sweet treat, pop into **Rich and Good Cake Shop** 5 (24 Kandahar St) for soft, eggy, old-style Swiss rolls available in flavours like kaya, durian and mango.

A few streets over is the vibrant Haji Lane stretch, a laneway of independent boutiques, vintage shops and cafés with eye-catching street murals. **Craft Assembly** 6 (61

Haji Ln, shopcraftassembly.com) is a one-stop shop for handcrafted items and vintage apparel. **Drunken Balloon** 7 (84 Haji Ln) is a treasure trove of party supplies, boardgames, retro memorabilia and novelty gifts – look out for the lively red and orange balloon sculptures above the shopfront. Also worth a look is **Dulcetfig** 8 (41 Haji Ln), stocked with independent fashion brands, vintage threads and eco-friendly brands. For a bite to eat, amble down to **Going Om** 9 (63 Haji Ln, going-om.com.sg), a café-bar that hosts yoga classes and nightly live music, or to **Piedra Negra** 10 (241 Beach Rd, blujazcafe.net) for Mexican comfort food and ice-cold Margaritas.



Katong & Joo Chiat

EAST COAST ROAD, JOO CHIAT ROAD, TRADITIONAL EATS AND PERANAKAN CULTURE

PERANAKAN SHOPHOUSES

Chances are you've seen Joo Chiat's colourful Peranakan shophouses on Instagram. This charming area in the East of Singapore is as quaint as it gets. With a melting pot of cultures – from Malay and Indian to Chinese and Peranakan (descendants of early Chinese migrants who settled in the Southeast Asian region, intermarrying with local Malays) – this neighbourhood offers many insights into the tale of Singapore.

Before venturing into the Katong and Joo Chiat area proper, start at **Old Airport Road Food Centre 1** (51 Old Airport Rd), where a bevy of tasty hawker treats awaits. Standout stalls include **Xin Mei Xiang Lor Mee (#01-116)** for a bowl of lor mee (noodles served in a thick starchy

gravy and lashings of meat), **Dong Ji Fried Kway Teow (#01-138)**, helmed by the same hawker for the past 40 years, and **Albert Street Prawn Noodle (#01-10)**, with its signature semi-sweet pork and prawn broth.

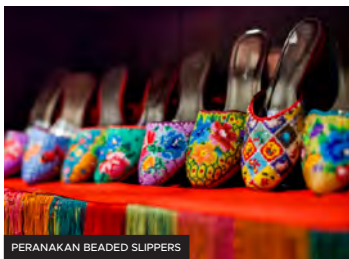
Much of the area's allure lies with the pastel-hued Peranakan houses on **Koon Seng Road 2**. While they're private residences, you can get a decent look at the floral tiles and original shutters that decorate the arcades, some dating back to the 1920s. To learn more about the Straits Chinese, book a tour at **The Intan 3** (69 Joo Chiat Tce, the-intan.com), a haven of Peranakan antiques including a century-old bridal bed and more than 100 embroidered wedding shoes. The **Eurasian Heritage Centre 4**



KIM CHOO KUEH CHANG



KATONG LAKSA

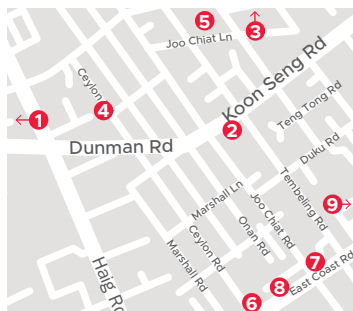


PERANAKAN BEADED SLIPPERS

(139 Ceylon Rd, eurasians.org.sg) traces the genealogy of Eurasian-Asian families and recounts the community's experience during the Japanese Occupation in World War II. The in-house restaurant is famed for the best devil curry (with candlenuts, galangal and vinegar) on the island.

For foodies, the Katong and Joo Chiat stretch is a little slice of heaven. Some of the best popiah (spring rolls) can be found at **Kway Guan Huat Joo Chiat Popiah** 5 (54 Joo Chiat Pl, joochiatpopiah.com); on weekends (8.30-11 am) they hold demonstrations on how the skin is made. Bib Gourmand awardee **328 Katong Laksa** 6 (51 East Coast Rd, 328katonglaksa.com) is a favourite for their top-secret, coconut-rich laksa gravy. Peranakan restaurant **Glory Catering** 7 (139 East Coast Rd, glorycatering.com.sg) has been in business since 1954 and is famous for its Assam fish head curry and kueh pie ti (crisp pastry shell filled with thinly sliced vegetables and prawns). The ornate **Kim Choo**

Kueh Chang 8 (109 East Coast Rd, kimchoo.com) sells handwrapped rice dumplings and traditional nonya kueh (bite-size cakes). For an Aussie-slanted brekky, **Firebake** 9 (237 East Coast Rd) has Cheesymites: cheese and Vegemite in sourdough buns.





Little India & Jalan Besar

SERANGOON ROAD, RACE COURSE ROAD AND THE UP-AND-COMING JALAN BESAR NEIGHBOURHOOD

One of the most vibrant areas in Singapore, Little India's bustling streets are a pleasant assault on the senses. Once a district designated for Indian immigrants, the area has remained largely unchanged with its gold merchants, garland shops and rows of colourful sari materials for sale. While it's best experienced during festivals such as Pongal (celebrating the harvest) and Deepavali (Hindu light festival), the area never disappoints.

The four-storey **Indian Heritage Centre 1** (5 Campbell Ln, indianheritage.org.sg) with its facade inspired by the baoli (or Indian stepwell) offers visitors the backstory of the Indian community in Singapore through audio guides and augmented

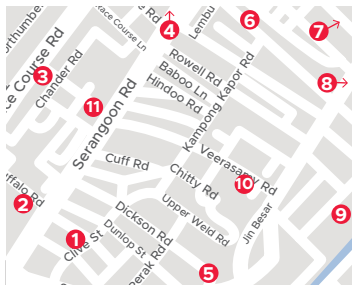
reality exhibits. **Tekka Centre 2** (665 Buffalo Rd) – a wet market, hawker centre and tailoring hub – is the place to people watch and to eat like the locals do. If in doubt, choose authentic Indian favourites like briyani, thosai and murtabak. Nearby, **Banana Leaf Apolo 3** (54 Race Course Rd, thebananaleafapolo.com) serves South and North Indian dishes like fish head curry the traditional way, on a freshly cut banana leaf. There's also **MTR (Mavalli Tiffin Rooms) 4** (438 Serangoon Rd, mavallitiffinrooms.com), another heritage eatery serving vegetarian meals since 1924 and known for their soft, steamed idils (semolina cakes). For something different, **MeatSmith Little India 5**



TEKKA MARKET



BANANA LEAF APOLO



(21 Campbell Ln, meatsmith.com.sg) does barbecue-style dishes with an Indian twist; pork ribs with a coconut chutney; and a biryani-stuffed suckling pig. No visit to Little India is complete without a visit to **Mustafa Centre** **6** (145 Syed Alwi Rd, mustafa.com.sg). Open 24 hours, it sells everything from clothing to electronics to jewellery and spices; it also has a rooftop restaurant.

Within walking distance is the up-and-coming Jalan Besar area, with its coffeeshops and trendy stores. Housed in a former hardware store, **Chye Seng Huat Hardware** **7** (150 Tyrwhitt Rd, cshhcoffee.com) is where you'll find a decent flat white. There's also a roaster, coffee school and retail space selling all sorts of

coffee paraphernalia on-site.

If beer is more your thing, **Druggists** **8** (119 Tyrwhitt Rd, facebook/DruggistsSG) has 23 craft brews on tap – IPAs and sour beers by Mikkeller. At the famous **Sungei Road Laksa** **9** (Blk 27 Jalan Berseh, #01-100) you can slurp down a bowl of this uniquely Singapore dish that's specially cooked over charcoal for just S\$3. Vintage hunters can drop in at **Loop Garms** **10** (635 Veerasamy Rd, #01-148, @loopgarms), a 'vintage/new/used clothing store' with a vast collection of pre-2000 streetwear. And don't miss **Sri Veeramakaliamman Temple** **11** (141 Serangoon Rd, srivkt.org), Little India's most popular Hindu temple, completed in 1881.



Marina Bay

INIMITABLE WATERFRONT ARCHITECTURE, THE MERLION AND THE FUTURISTIC GARDENS BY THE BAY

The awe-inspiring Marina Bay area is testament to the country's determination to make an impression on the global stage. What was once an actual bay has been transformed into the city's most modern precinct with skyscrapers, the arresting Marina Bay Sands trio of buildings and a futuristic garden with supertrees.

Marina Bay Sands ❶ (1 Bayfront Ave, marinabaysands.com) dominates the bay with its three sky-high towers supporting what looks like an oversized surfboard. As impressive as it is to view the building from afar – particularly from Collyer Quay's **Caffe Fernet** ❷ (70 Collyer Quay, caffefernet.sg) with a fröse in hand – it's more impressive to take it

all in from above: be it at the **SkyPark** and its 200m high observation deck, the 57th floor **Cé La Vi** or **Lavo** while enjoying cocktails at sunset, or if you're staying inhouse, waist deep in their infinity pool. Closer to ground, the shopping centre is open till 11pm daily, while the brand new **Marquee Nightclub** features an indoor Ferris wheel and big-name DJs. There's an array of celebrity chef restaurants (Cut by Wolfgang Puck, db Bistro by Daniel Boulud, Waku Ghin by Tetsuya Wakuda) and new additions like modern Chinese eatery **Chinoiserie** and NYC's **Black Tap's** craft burgers and unicorn milkshakes.

The on-site **ArtScience Museum** ❸ (6 Bayfront Ave) has exhibitions on



SINGAPORE FLYER



GARDENS BY THE BAY

art and science. The structure alone – some describe it as an open hand, others as a blooming lotus flower – is worth an Instagram post. From there, stroll across the **Helix Bridge** with its DNA-like design, best enjoyed in the evening when it's illuminated. Close by, the **Singapore Flyer** **4** (30 Raffles Ave, singaporeflyer.com) offers a 360-degree view of the skyline from 165 metres up.

The futuristic **Gardens by the Bay** **5** (18 Marina Gardens Dr, gardensbythebay.org.sg) has 18 'Supertrees'. Vertical gardens up to 16 storeys in height, they're designed to harness solar energy and collect rainwater for irrigation and fountain displays. The largest Supertree is a

50m-high behemoth with a restaurant in its upper branches. Free-to-enter themed gardens showcase tropical horticulture and garden artistry, along with two armadillo-shaped conservatories – the **Flower Dome** and the **Cloud Forest**, veiled in mist and containing the world's largest indoor waterfall.

On the other side of the bay sits the **Merlion Park** **6** (1 Fullerton Rd), easily identified by the 8.6-metre tall merlion (half-lion, half-fish). Next to the Merlion is Singapore's main performing arts centre, **Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay** **7** (1 Esplanade Dr, esplanade.com), affectionately known as the 'Durian' for its spiky, dome-shaped structure.



Orchard Road

**BOTANIC GARDENS, ORCHARD ROAD,
SHOPPING MALLS AND LOCAL BRANDS**

ORCHARD ROAD

What was once an orchard and nutmeg plantation has been transformed into Singapore's shopping nerve centre with glitzy malls that sit along a 2.2km stretch. The famous shopping belt offers big-name brands, local labels and food and drink catering to all preferences. Before you get swept up in all the retail action take a moment at the sublime **Singapore Botanic Gardens** ❶ (1 Cluny Rd, nparks.gov.sg/sbg). Singapore's first UNESCO World Heritage Site features the historic Swan Lake, where feeding the graceful birds is a rite of passage for young Singaporeans, a dedicated Learning Forest with 30 species of bamboo, and some of the tallest tree species in Southeast Asia.

Down on Orchard Road proper, the eye-catching **Tang Plaza** ❷ (310 Orchard Rd, tang.com), modelled after a Chinese palace, offers a range of local fashion brands such as Elohim, In Good Company and Aijek. For food, there's a food court specialising in local delights.

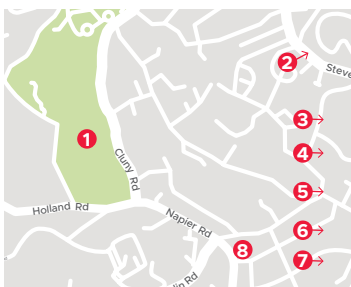
Across the street, **ION Orchard** ❸ (2 Orchard Turn, ionorchard.com), with its futuristic frontage, is worth popping into for a browse through its 300 stores. There's also an observation deck on the 56th floor and the ION Art gallery. Further along, you'll find Southeast Asia's flagship **Apple Store** ❹ (270 Orchard Rd, apple.com.sg) spread across two floors where they showcase their



IN GOOD COMPANY



SINGAPORE BOTANIC GARDENS



latest products and host hands-on educational sessions. Across the street, the swanky **Mandarin Gallery** 5 (333A Orchard Rd, mandarinalgallery.com.sg) is where you'll find local jeweller **Choo Yilin** (#02-23) and her keepsakes using Type-A Burmese jadeite and semi-precious gems. For a quick pick-me-up, settle in at the boudoir-style **Antoinette** (#02-33) for chef Pang Kok Keong's cakes and pastries.

Walk off the sugar high as you peruse the work of 60 top local homeware and fashion designers at **Design Orchard** 6 (250 Orchard Rd, designorchard.sg). The building is also an events space and an incubator for local designers. Go in



MANHATTAN BAR

search of unconventional souvenirs at **Naiise** 7 (2 Handy Rd, The Cathay, #B1-08, naiise.com). The one-stop shop offers more than 1,500 products from 900 emerging brands from Singapore and globally. The quirky collection includes everything from T-shirts with Singlish phrases to curry puff cushions and various lifestyle items depicting beloved hawker dishes.

End the day at the chic **Manhattan Bar** 8 (Lvl 2, Regent Hotel, 1 Cuscaden Rd, regenthotels.com) where you're assured a top-shelf cocktail. Not only is it Asia's Best Bar 2018, but it has its own rickhouse, so any whisky-based tippie would be a wise choice.



Sentosa

**RESORTS WORLD SENTOSA, UNIVERSAL STUDIOS,
KIDZANIA, TANJONG BEACH**

From fishing village to a British military fortress to a venue for the historic Trump-Kim summit in 2018, **Sentosa** has come a long way from its humble roots. Once known as Pulau Blakang Mati ('Island of Death from Behind'), its dark past has been all but forgotten. These days, it's a weekend playground for locals and tourists alike with its man-made beaches. Sentosa is easily accessible from the mainland by walking (there's a 670m sheltered Sentosa Boardwalk from VivoCity), public transport (bus, monorail), taxi or by a scenic cable car ride.

Chief among the island's attractions is **Universal Studios Singapore 1** (8 Sentosa Gateway, rwsentosa.com) in **Resorts World Sentosa**, where

24 movie-themed rides (of varying complexity and thrillseeker levels) cater to young and old. Rides like Transformers the Ride: The Ultimate 3D Battle and Battlestar Galactica: Human vs Cylon remain hot tickets, so expect to stand in a queue unless you've purchased a Universal Express pass.

Away from the RWS complex are other activities like the newly opened **AJ Hackett 2** (30 Siloso Beach Walk, ajhackett.com), Singapore's only bungy jump offering three options (Bungy Jump, Skybridge and Giant Swing) for getting your scream on. For a tamer adrenaline rush, try the **Skyline Luge 3** (1 Imbiah Rd, skylineluge.com), a toboggan ride down a long, paved, curving track, or the **Skyride**,



OLA BEACH CLUB



TANJONG BEACH CLUB

a four-seater chairlift experience now available during the day and at twilight.

KidZania Singapore ⁴ (31 Beach View, #01-01/02, kidzania.com.sg) offers kids' role-playing activities that mimic adult jobs (from pilot to firefighter) spread across a two-floor indoor space. Meanwhile the **Mega Adventure Park** ⁵ (10A Siloso Beach Walk, sg.megaadventure.com) features a 450m-long zipline, a 15m tethered jump, a treetop climbing challenge and a bungee trampoline.

For some time in the sun, there's a number of beach clubs to choose from. **Tanjong Beach Club** ⁶ (120 Tanjong Beach Walk,



SKYLINE LUGE

tanjongbeachclub.com) is the place to be for a game of beer pong or volleyball or a boozy brunch or dip. It's especially busy on the weekends, so if a deck chair remains elusive roll out a blanket on the beach and enjoy the live DJ tunes and sunset view. For a more active day on the sand, **Ola Beach Club** ⁷ (46 Siloso Beach Walk, olabeachclub.com) offers doughnut rides, stand-up paddles or jet blades for rent, as well as a menu of Hawaiian-themed poke bowls and tiki-style cocktails. Further afield, newish addition **Panamericana** ⁸ (Sentosa Golf Club, 27 Bukit Manis Rd, panamericana.sg) is worth navigating to for its juicy lamb cooked on an inhouse asador, and the array of Instagram-worthy cocktails.





Tiong Bahru

COOL CAFÉ SPOTS, INDIE BOUTIQUES AND
PRE-WAR ART DECO SURROUNDINGS

BOOKSACTUALLY

Few neighbourhoods are as charming as the Tiong Bahru district. Located close to Chinatown and Orchard Road, the housing estate built in the 1930s is beloved by locals for its Art Deco-style apartments with rounded balconies and spiral staircases. Adding to the vibe is an eclectic mix of eateries (hip cafés, old-school tze char coffeeshops, third-wave coffee spots) and shops that reflects the city's growing cosmopolitan make-up.

Start off at the famous **Tiong Bahru Market 1** (30 Seng Poh Rd), spread over two floors and featuring a wet market and some of Singapore's most beloved hawkers. The choices can be overwhelming, so zero in on the ones with queues, or heritage hawkers like

Tiong Bahru Teochew Kueh (#02-02) for handmade breakfast items like soon kueh (dumpling filled with julienned turnip), **Tiong Bahru Fried Kway Teow** (#02-11) known for its plate of fried noodles full of wok hei (breath of the wok) and **Tiong Bahru Lee Hong Kee Cantonese Roasted** (#02-60) for its perfectly roasted char siew (barbecued pork).

If the local coffee is not to your liking, Tiong Bahru has more than a few spots to satiate any espresso cravings. **40 Hands 2** (#01-12, 78 Yong Siak St, 40handscoffee.com) remains a popular spot for its robust brews and hearty meat toasties. At **The Butcher's Wife 3** (19 Yong Siak St, thebutcherswifeg.com),



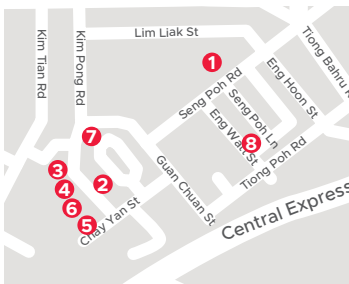
TIONG BAHRU MARKET



TIONG BAHRU FLATS




NANA & BIRD



the menu of western-style dairy- and gluten-free meals proves dietary restrictions do not necessarily equate to tasteless or boring.

On the same stretch lies independent bookstore **BooksActually** 4 (9 Yong Siak St, booksactually.com), stocked with a wide variety of Asian poets and writers, as well as a back room filled with quirky tchotchkes. The love for local continues at multi-label boutique **Nana & Bird** 5 (1M Yong Siak St, nanaandbird.com), offering Singapore fashion brands like Matter and Rye, as well as their own minimalist-style apparel. On the same street, pop into Korean bag brand **Kwani** 6 (1H Yong Siak St, kwani.sg) to explore their range of functional

It bags as well as Heavenly Jelly shoes. Some of the area's best finds aren't immediately apparent. **Bincho** 7 (#01-19, 78 Moh Guan Tce, bincho.com.sg) cleverly incorporates a Japanese yakitori joint at the back of a 70-year old noodle stall (look for the original Hua Bee sign) that whips up bowls of fishball noodles while Bincho itself serves plates of charcoal-grilled Wagyu beef and chicken. Then there's old-school eateries like **Por Kee Eating House** 8 (69 Seng Poh Ln, #01-02) where an authentic tze char (affordable homestyle Chinese dishes) experience awaits complete with red plastic chairs and dishes such as Champagne pork ribs and cereal-fried prawns.



The Heartlands

THE NEIGHBOURHOODS OF BISHAN, QUEENSTOWN AND TOA PAYOH HOLD A HOST OF HIDDEN GEMS

BISHAN PARK

To really know Singapore, pay a visit to its suburban areas – also known as the Heartlands – to see how the locals go about their day-to-day lives. These three areas are easily accessible by public transport.

BISHAN

Located in north-central Singapore and bordering MacRitchie Reservoir, Bishan is home to the award-winning **Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park** (nparks.gov.sg), one of the largest urban parks in Singapore, with a 3km-long river and a play facility accessible for children with different abilities, including a wheelchair-accessible swing. **Kong Meng San Phor Kark See Monastery** (88 Bright Hill Rd,

kmspks.org) is one of Singapore's largest Buddhist temples, founded in 1921, with one of the largest bronze Medicine Buddhas in Southeast Asia. The Upper Thomson Road stretch is packed with food options including **Udders** (246D Upper Thomson Rd, udders.com.sg), which serves up local-inspired ice-cream flavours like Champion Chendol and Thai Iced Tea. At nearby popular café and brunch spot **Pacamara Boutique Coffee Roasters** (185 Upper Thomson Rd, pacamara.sg), ricotta pancakes are a perennial hot seller, while further down the street you'll find one of the best roti prata (crispy pancake) in Singapore at the **Roti Prata House** (246 Upper Thomson Rd).



QUEENSTOWN



THE ROTI PRATA HOUSE



BISHAN PARK



TOA PAYOH

QUEENSTOWN

What was once a swampy village became Singapore's first satellite town, used as a testing ground for Singapore's public housing program.

Brass Lion Distillery (40 Alexandra Tce, brassliondistillery.com) is a distillery that produces gin infused with Singaporean flavours and conducts tours. For coffee lovers, there's **Tiong Hoe Speciality Coffee** (170 Stirling Rd, #01-1133, tionghoe.com) that has been roasting its own beans for decades. There's also popular satay stall **Old Punggol Satay** (#01-52 Alexandra Village Food Centre, 120 Bukit Merah Ln 1) where freshly barbecued sticks of pork, chicken or beef satay sell for S\$0.50.

TOA PAYOH

Singapore's second satellite town is home to the **Toa Payoh HDB Hub**, where exhibits chart Singapore's public housing history. The area's unofficial star is the **Dragon Playground** (Blk 28 Toa Payoh Lorong 6), a Singapore icon designed in 1979 by Khor Ean Ghee. Toa Payoh is a hawker lover's dream: there's **Chey Sua Carrot Cake** (127 Lorong 1 Toa Payoh, #02-30 Toa Payoh West Market & Food Centre), a crisp turnip-based breakfast staple; **Hua Fong Kee Roasted Duck** (128 Lorong 1 Toa Payoh, #01-811); and **Swatow Seafood** (181 Lorong 4 Toa Payoh, #02-602), specialising in crisp oyster omelette.



SUNGEI BULOH

Green Singapore

**IT'S NOT CALLED THE GARDEN CITY
FOR NO REASON**

SUNGEI BULOH

Home to 202 hectares of mangroves and a secondary forest, Singapore's first ASEAN heritage park is a treasure trove of flora and fauna. Visit during the early morning for the best bird-watching opportunities (there are approximately 140 species of birds found there) and September to March, you can catch sight of shorebird and sandpiper flocks en route to Australia. Look out as well for saltwater crocodiles and monitor lizards.

PULAU UBIN

A 15-minute bumboat ride (S\$3) brings you back in time to 1950s Singapore. Pulau Ubin, a boomerang-shaped island, is a reminder of Singapore when its beaches were

undeveloped, residents lived in kampung (village) houses and wild boars and monkeys still roamed free. Explore the island by foot or rented bicycle. For a view of neighbouring Johor, Pulau Tekong and the mainland, find the 20m Jejawi Tower. While you're there, look out for migratory birds called Little Stints, a newly discovered species. For sightseeing, there's the Wei Tuo Fa Gong, a Buddhist temple, and the German Girl Shrine.

BUKIT TIMAH HILL

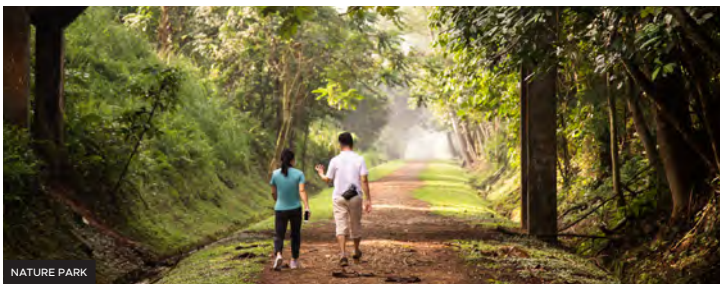
Singapore's highest hill (163m) is also home to the last patches of its primary rainforest, including undisturbed tropical forest found during the time of Sir Stamford



MACRITCHIE TREETOP



HENDERSON WAVES



NATURE PARK

Raffles. Choose from four different routes to hike up to the summit. For cyclists, there's a mountain bike trail.

SOUTHERN RIDGES

This 10km stretch in the west part of Singapore best illustrates the term 'urban jungle'. Spanning six different parks, the hike from Mount Faber Park all the way to Labrador Nature Reserve will bring you along the worm-like Henderson Waves (also Singapore's highest pedestrian bridge) while the man-made bridges along the Forest and Canopy make for a mudless walk through a secondary forest.

WINDSOR NATURE PARK

This new nature park in the centre of the island is a family-friendly outing

with its easy-to-navigate boardwalks. Keep an eye out for dragonfly species and the Hanguana Trail, with rare native plants.

MACRITCHIE TREETOP WALK

This 27m-high TreeTop Walk is a 250m free-standing suspension bridge which spans the two highest points in MacRitchie Reservoir and looks out to a breathtaking view of the reservoir and forest canopy.

KRANJI COUNTRYSIDE

Located in northwestern Singapore, this area is home to several local goat and vegetable farms, including Bollywood Veggies and D'Kranji Farm Resort, where you can learn the trade and spend the night in rural bliss.



CHINGAY PARADE

Annual events

WHETHER IT'S THE FESTIVE CELEBRATION OF CHINESE NEW YEAR OR THE ROAR OF FORMULA 1 CARS, THERE'S ALWAYS A PARTY GOING ON SOMEWHERE ON THE ISLAND

Singapore Art Week

SAW features exhibitions, walking tours, film screenings, gallery openings and more. *Jan*

Chinese New Year

Marina Bay hosts lanterns depicting Chinese zodiac animals; there's also the Chingay Parade, a display of multicultural heritage. *Jan/Feb*

Thaipusam

During this Hindu Festival, devotees parade from Sri Srinivasa Perumal Temple on Serangoon Road to Sri Thendayuthapani Temple. *Jan/Feb*

i Light Singapore

This sustainable light art festival has interactive light works set up around Marina Bay and special events such as the Art-Zoo Inflatable Park. *Mar*

Singapore Restaurant Week

The concept is straightforward: pick a restaurant and enjoy a three-course lunch or dinner at a special price. *Mar*

HSBC Singapore Rugby Sevens

See the top nations in rugby competing at the National Stadium. *Apr*

Singapore International Festival of Arts

A month of the arts includes theatre, dance and music performances around Singapore. *Apr-May/May-Jun*

Singapore Cocktail Festival

Cap off a hearty meal with some drinks during this celebration of the city's hottest watering holes. *May*

Hari Raya Puasa

During the month of Ramadan, the



streets of Geylang Serai come alive with roadside bazaars and traditional Malay food. *May-Jun*

GSS: Experience Singapore

For five weeks, enjoy special experiences and shopping deals in this celebration of retail, food, beverage and design. *Jun-Jul*

International Champions Cup Singapore

Expect riveting football action by top European clubs and thrilling activities off the pitch when football fans congregate. *Jul*

Singapore Food Festival

Local culinary talents take the spotlight with pop-ups and events around the island. There will be food-inspired art and workshops plus new takes on local dishes. *Jul*

Singapore Night Festival

For two weeks in August, the Bras Basah/Bugis arts and heritage district hosts interactive night installations, music performances and food in the Festival Village. *Aug*



Music Matters Live

This live music festival features famous bands and up-and-coming acts performing over five nights in the week leading up to Grand Prix. *Sep*

Grand Prix Season Singapore

The Formula 1 Singapore Grand Prix offers high-speed action on the Marina Bay F1 circuit plus a host of international headliners, world-class entertainment acts and parties. *Sep*

Deepavali

Little India's Serangoon Road is artfully illuminated for this Hindu festival symbolising the triumph of good over evil and light over darkness. *Oct/Nov*

Christmas on A Great Street

Join the festivities and be part of Orchard Road's transformation into a magical Christmas paradise fiesta. *Nov-Dec*

ZoukOut

Top DJs like Paul van Dyk and Afrojack helm the decks at an outdoor fiesta at Siloso Beach, Sentosa. *Dec*



Essential info

Attitude & etiquette

In general, Singaporeans are friendly and helpful. However, race and religion are usually not topics of debate. Feel free to ask for food recommendations or local tips on what to see or do – everyone loves to play tour guide.

Currency

The currency used in Singapore is the Singapore dollar (\$). S\$1 is roughly equivalent to A\$1.

Customs

To buy duty-free goods when entering Singapore, you have to have been away for at least two nights. You can't bring cigarettes into Singapore, but you can buy them on the way out. There are no duty-free concessions on cigarettes or other tobacco items. You are not allowed to bring in chewing gum, firecrackers or pirated

DVDs and CDs. You are allowed to bring in two litres of alcohol in five specific combinations of spirits, wine and beer, but there is no duty free concession on liquor for people arriving from Malaysia. See customs.gov.sg for more information.

Getting around

Singapore's Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) system is a foolproof, efficient way to get around the island. The MRT provides scenic views of Singapore, though you may want to avoid peak rush hours. See map, p49.

Buses are also inexpensive. There are routes all around Singapore and a handy late-night bus service called the Nite Owl. Fares are distance-based and typically cost under \$2. All buses are air-conditioned. If you're planning on using the trains and buses a lot during your

visit, the Singapore Tourist Pass (thesingaporetouristpass.com.sg) offers unlimited rides for \$10/day. Otherwise, pick up an EZ-Link card, which can be used on both trains and buses. Just tap the card on the reader as you board and tap out at your stop. EZ-Link cards can be purchased or topped up at MRT stations, 7-Eleven and Cheers stores island-wide.

You can also hail a taxi along most roads or from taxi stands. The flag-down fare starts at \$3.20-\$3.90, but be prepared for additional surcharges. Tipping is not required.

The city's major cab companies are:

Comfort or Citycab +65 6552 1111

Premier Taxis +65 6363 6888

Prime Taxi +65 6778 0808

SMRT Taxi +65 6555 8888

Transcab Tel +65 6555 3333

You can also download ride-hailing apps ComfortDelGro, GOJEK or Grab. Taxis are abundant at the airport.

A trip to the city costs around \$20-\$30 (off-peak), plus surcharges.

Several companies provide airport transfers. Among them are Limo Taxi (limomaxi.com) and Limousine Cab (limousinecab.com).

Language

Singapore has four official languages – English, Chinese, Malay and Tamil – but almost everyone speaks English.

Smoking

Smoking is not permitted on public transport, taxi stands, bus stops, ferry terminals and most indoor public places. Alfresco cafés have smoking

PASSES & TOURS

Hippo Singapore Pass

Visit multiple attractions and tours with this single pass and save upwards of 50% in the process. See hippopass.com/singapore

Wet Market Adventure & Hawker Centre Discovery by Wok 'n' Stroll

Experience Little India's bustling Tekka Market. Price includes guided tour, drinks and meals. See woknstroll.com.sg

Singapore After Dark Night Tour by Monster Day Tours

This tour introduces you to hawkers, pubs and bars on the way to party hub Clarke Quay. Includes drinks and meals. See monsterdaytours.com

The Original Singapore Walks

These walks cover areas including Chinatown, Little India and Kampong Glam, bringing people into places most other tours don't. See journeys.com.sg

Historical Singapore Bicycle Tour by Let's Go Tours

Take in the best of old Singapore at a gentle pace. Price includes bike hire, helmet, water, snacks and drinks. See letsgobikesingapore.com

areas, and smoking is permitted in specified rooms at some pubs and nightspots. Only light up where it's allowed, or risk a fine.

Tax refunds

A 7 per cent Goods & Services Tax (GST) is charged on most items. Foreign visitors can claim back the GST when leaving from Changi Airport.

Tipping

Singaporeans don't generally tip, as hotels and restaurants levy a 10 per cent service charge on bills plus 7 per cent Goods & Services Tax, denoted by ++ on menus and bills.

Visas

Nationals of most Western countries do not require a visa to visit, and

if visiting as a tourist, will be given 'social visit' passes valid for up to 30 days upon arrival. Check ica.gov.sg for the most up-to-date information.

Weather

Singapore's weather is hot and humid with little variation throughout the year. The average daytime temperature is 31°C dropping to around 24°C at night.

Wi-Fi

Free Wi-Fi is readily available in Singapore. To get connected, register for an account with your foreign mobile number at any Wireless@SG hotspot and you will receive your login details via an SMS. Overseas charges may apply. Free Wi-Fi is available at Changi Airport as well as selected shopping malls.

USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS & WEBSITES

Singapore's international dialing code is +65.

While in Singapore and if you have international roaming service on your mobile, you don't have to press +65.

Emergency

Police: 999

Ambulance/Fire: 995

General info

Tourist info:

1800 736 2000

Changi Airport flight information:

www.changiairport.com

Embassies

Australia: 25 Napier Rd,
+65 6836 4100

New Zealand: #21-04,
1 George St, +65 6235
9966

Medical

Raffles Hospital:

585 North Bridge Rd,
+65 6311 1111

Singapore General Hospital:

Outram Rd, +65 6222
3322

Credit Cards

Mastercard:

800 110 0113

American Express:

1800 299 1997

Useful websites

visitsingapore.com
timeout.com/singapore



SINGAPORE

Passion Made Possible

Singapore is much more than the sum of its numerous attractions. It's constantly evolving, reinventing and reimagining itself, with people who are passionate about creating new possibilities. It's where foodies, explorers, collectors, action seekers, culture shapers and socialisers meet.

