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SINGAPORE INSIDER

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SINGAPORE WAS NAMED WORLD'S TOP DESTINATION IN THE *LONELY PLANET* BEST IN TRAVEL 2015

Just sayin!

And in case you don't know, this is *Lonely Planet's* annual collection of the best trends, destinations, and experiences for the year ahead, so it's pretty darn cool.

Well done you - you've already landed! So hello and welcome to the Lion City (turning 50 this year!). We're so glad you've come to see what all the fuss is about.

Whether you have time for a deep dive or just a few days to scratch the surface, you'll be delighted by contemporary Singapore – a rich cultural city offering fabulous hawker food, Southeast Asia's best shopping and innovative, stylish restaurants, bars, and so much more.

Singapore Insider brings you the authentic local experience of Singapore, not just the mainstream tourist trails. We've curated the best and latest of Singapore to make sure you'll never want to leave town.

Of course it's not all about shopping and eating! You've come at a great time of year to see Singapore at its festive best and usher in the year of the Goat. Witness the annual Chingay Parade, catch a lion dance – or eight for good luck, and just meander the streets of Chinatown soaking up the sights, smells and sounds. (Order your coffee in local lingo with our special guide – see page 25).

The city's biggest art event, Singapore Art Week, kicks off in January, and for music lovers of all persuasions (we won't judge), there are Broadway musicals, indie music at St. Jerome's Laneway Festival, One Direction's Singapore debut, and the Singapore International Jazz Festival to rock out to.

Take a deep breath people!



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AND THE HONEYCOMBERS



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Tel: (65) 6736 6622
Fax: (65) 6736 9423
Touristline: 1800 736 2000 (outside Singapore)



MA 001 05 15 Q1

*Singapore
Art Week:
What to catch*



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03 IN THE KNOW



TRANSPORT

MRT

Trains run from 5.30am to 12.00am. Standard tickets vary from \$1.10 to \$2.20. See page 32 for map.

SMRT Hotline

(65) 6331 1000

www.smrt.com.sg

Bus

Fares start from as low as 77 cents. Try to have the exact fare as bus drivers do not give change.

SMRT Hotline

(65) 6331 1000

www.sbstransit.com.sg

www.smrt.com.sg

Taxi

Fares start from \$3.00.

Comfort and CityCab

(65) 6552 1111

Premier Cabs

(65) 6363 6888

SMRT Taxis

(65) 6555 8888



TIPPING

It is not usual practice to tip in Singapore, although it is appreciated by service staff. Most hotels and restaurants quote prices as “++,” which includes 10 percent service charge and 7 percent goods and services tax (GST).



WORRY-FREE SHOPPING

As in any city, there are a few establishments in Singapore that give fair, reputable businesses a bad name, making your shopping experience less than ideal. Shopping tips (for example, always do price comparisons and enquire on refund policies before making a purchase) can be found on the Consumer Advisory section at YourSingapore.com (under “Traveller Essentials”). For assistance call the Tourist Hotline (see right) or email feedback@stb.gov.sg.



VISITOR CENTRES

Orchard

Junction of Cairnhill Road and Orchard Road, 9.30am-10.30pm daily (till mid-February 2015),

Somerset

orchardgateway

216 Orchard Road, 9.30am-10.30pm daily (from mid-February 2015),

Somerset

ION Orchard

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

Orchard

Chinatown

2 Banda Street (Behind Buddha Tooth Relic Temple and Museum), Mon-Fri 9am-9pm and Weekends and Public Holidays 9am-10pm

Chinatown

Tourist Hotline

(65) 1800 736 2000 (toll-free in Singapore)

(65) 6736 2000 (overseas)



LANGUAGE

English is the spoken language, though Singlish – a collection of colloquial catch phrases and lingo – dominates the everyday conversations amongst the locals (see page 25). Mandarin, Malay, Tamil, and various dialects are also used.



SAFE DRINKING WATER

Water in Singapore passes World Health Organization standards, which means you can drink directly from the tap. Bottled water can also be bought easily.

01

Chet Faker*Laneway Festival*

JANUARY

It's a brand new year, and there's much to look forward to. Art lovers, don't miss the city's biggest art event, Singapore Art Week. Music lovers, get ready for a rolling good time with Broadway musical CATS, and indie music event, St. Jerome's Laneway Festival. There's also plenty on for those with little ones in tow!

04 WHAT'S ON

*Art Stage
Singapore**Peter Pan**Kidsfest!
Singapore*

PETER PAN, THE NEVER ENDING STORY

Watch your favourite childhood characters Peter Pan and Wendy come to life in this theatrical spectacular. The classic tale takes on a modern twist with iconic pop songs you can sing along to.

Until Jan 20
Resorts World™ Theatre
www.rwsentosa.com
 HarbourFront

CATS

Andrew Lloyd Webber's smash-hit musical, CATS, returns to Singapore. Be dazzled by stunning choreography in one of the longest-running West End and Broadway shows.

Jan 9 to Feb 1
MasterCard Theatres at Marina Bay Sands®
www.marinabaysands.com
 Bayfront

WORLD PRESS PHOTO EXHIBITION SINGAPORE

This intriguing outdoor exhibition displays award-winning photojournalism and documentary photography from around the world.

Jan 10 to Feb 1
Raffles Hotel Arcade
www.worldpressphoto.asia
 City Hall

PONGAL FESTIVAL

Celebrate the Indian Harvest Festival in historic Little India. Enjoy the decorative lights, and sample the customary sweet dish made from rice and milk.

Jan 10 to 25
Campbell Lane, Hastings Road and Serangoon Road
www.littleindia.com.sg
 Little India

05 WHAT'S ON

*World Press Photo
Exhibition Singapore*

*M1 Singapore Fringe
Festival 2015*

CATS

M1 SINGAPORE FRINGE FESTIVAL 2015

Catch the 11th annual Fringe Festival as artists explore the theme of "Art and Loss" through theatre, film, dance and photography. Highlights include *The Duchamp Syndrome* by Por Piedad and *How Loneliness Goes* by Nguan.

Jan 14 to 25

*Various venues
www.singaporefringe.com*

SINGAPORE ART WEEK 2015

The third edition of the Singapore Art Week promises to be an even larger visual feast with nearly 100 art events held at galleries and museums island-wide.

Jan 17 to 25

*Various venues
www.artweek.sg*

 *Clarke Quay*

KIDSFEST! SINGAPORE 2015

This world-class theatre festival for the littlies features a series of eight exciting stage productions including *The Gruffalo*, and storybook classic, *The Tiger Who Came To Tea*.

Jan 21 to Mar 1

*SOTA Drama Theatre
www.kidsfest.com.sg*

 *Dhoby Ghaut*

ART STAGE SINGAPORE

See contemporary art at its best in the fifth edition of Southeast Asia's flagship cultural event, featuring visual art pieces that explore the unique identities of artists from around the region.

Jan 22 to 25

*Sands Expo &
Convention Centre
www.artstagesingapore.com*

 *Bayfront*

ST. JEROME'S LANEWAY FESTIVAL SINGAPORE

Catch international and local musicians like Chet Faker, Lykke Li and Little Dragon at Singapore's marquee indie music festival.

Jan 24

*The Meadow at Gardens
By The Bay
singapore.lanewayfestival.com
 *Bayfront**

CHINATOWN CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS

Chinatown comes alive with dazzling street displays, stage shows and festive bazaars.

Jan 30 to Mar 19

*Various venues
www.chinatownfestivals.sg
 *Chinatown**

02

06
WHAT'S ON*Keepers**Ferry Fox Run**Lily Allen*

FEBRUARY

Singapore will come to life with the sights and sounds of cultural festivities this month. Gaze in awe as thousands of people gather on Serangoon Road for the Thaipusam festival. Celebrate Chinese New Year with the annual Chingay Parade, River Hongbao and Huayi - Chinese Festival of the Arts. Run for a cause, and catch the old school Singapore spirit at the Great World Cabaret.

STILL MOVING: A TRIPLE BILL ON THE IMAGE

Explore three co-curated multimedia exhibitions focusing on artistic interpretations of visual culture (how we create, share and consume images).

Until Feb 8

Singapore Art Museum

www.singaporeartmuseum.sg

 *Bras Basah*

KEEPERS: SINGAPORE DESIGNER COLLECTIVE

Shoppers will love this design collective and retail pop-up in the heart of Orchard, showcasing fashion, homeware and food by local designers and artisans.

Until Feb 15

Orchard Green

www.keepers.com.sg

 *Somerset*

LILY ALLEN LIVE IN SINGAPORE

The British indie-pop sensation makes her debut in Singapore, performing hits from her latest best selling album, *Sheezus*.

Feb 2

The Star Theatre

www.thestar.sg

 *Buona Vista*

THAIPUSAM

Join thousands of Hindus as they embark on a 4.5km walk carrying milk pots and elaborate *Kavadis* (some of which are pierced into the skin), in a ceremonial worship of Lord Subrahmanya.

Feb 2 to 3

Sri Srinivasa Perumal Temple and

Sri Thendayuthapani Temple

 *Little India and Farrer Park*

07 WHAT'S ON

*Huayi -
Chinese Festival
of Arts*

Thaipusam

*Marina Party
Dash*

Still Moving

TERRY FOX RUN

Lace up your running shoes and join the annual 5km or 10km fun run to raise money for cancer research in Singapore, in honour of Canadian athlete and activist, Terry Fox.

Feb 8

*Big Splash at East
Coast Parkway
www.canadians.org.sg
📍 Dakota*

MARINA PARTY DASH

Not just any fun run, this 5km dash encourages everyone to dress in bizarre outfits, dance along the track and squirt each other with water pistols. Join the picnic with live music at the end of the race.

Feb 15

*Bay East at Gardens
By The Bay
www.marinapartydash.com.sg
📍 Bayfront*

RIVER HONGBAO 2015

Usher in the Year of the Goat and immerse yourself in Chinese culture and traditions at this annual event. Try unique festive delicacies and gaze at spectacular lantern displays.

Feb 17 to 28

*The Float at Marina Bay
www.riverhongbao.sg
📍 Promenade*

GREAT WORLD CABARET

Get a blast from the past with an eclectic series of entertaining shows. The Cabaret features a line-up of Singapore's best stand-up comedians and one of Asia's top illusion acts.

Feb 19 to Mar 17

*Resorts World™ Theatre
www.rwsentosa.com
📍 HarbourFront*

HUAYI - CHINESE FESTIVAL OF ARTS

Huayi celebrates visual and performing arts showcases by Chinese artists. Highlights include *Rice* by Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan and *What Is Sex?* by renowned Hong Kong director, Edward Lam.

Feb 20 to Mar 1

*Esplanade
www.huayifestival.com
📍 City Hall*

CHINGAY PARADE

Cast your eyes on Asia's largest annual street performance and carnival parade filled with colourful floats and stilt walkers, as well as both traditional and modern multi-cultural performances.

Feb 27 to 28

*F1 Pit Building
www.chingay.org.sg
📍 Promenade*

03

Transformers*The Great Egg-Venture*08
WHAT'S ON*One Direction**Singapore Design Week*

MARCH

Satisfy every sense this month with smooth sounds from the Singapore International Jazz Festival. If British boy bands are more your style, catch One Direction's first ever Singapore performance. Keep your forks at the ready and feast on this month's extravagant culinary offerings at Salon Gourmet and Savour, too!

TRANSFORMERS 30TH ANNIVERSARY EXHIBITION

Transformers turn 30, and fans will come face to face with the seven-metre tall Optimus Prime and Bumblebee figures at this action-packed exhibit. Highlights include a laser maze and 3D visual projections.

Until Mar 1

The Annexe at Science Centre
www.science.edu.sg

Jurong East

SALON GOURMET

As the gastronomic hub of Asia, Singapore is dedicating March to the diverse flavours of European cuisine through visiting chefs, award-winning restaurants and a whole range of gourmet products.

Mar 1 to 31

Various venues

SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL JAZZ FESTIVAL

Singapore's only jazz festival, this four-day festival pays tribute to jazz and jazz-inspired music by local and international musicians, including Bobby McFerrin and Jessie J.

Mar 5 to 8

Marina Bay Sands®
www.sing-jazz.com

Bayfront

SINGAPORE DESIGN WEEK

Attend this engaging design fair and learn to appreciate design through local and international trade shows and workshops that are open to the public.

Mar 10 to 22

Various venues
www.designsingapore.org

Bugis

Bobby McFerrin



Eva Nargoodah



Savour

ONE DIRECTION: ON THE ROAD AGAIN TOUR 2015

Sing along to chart-topping hits like "Best Song Ever" and "What Makes You Beautiful" as the British pop boy-band sensation, One Direction, performs live in Singapore for the very first time.

Mar 11
National Stadium
www.sportshub.com.sg
 Stadium

SLEEPING BEAUTY

Be enchanted as the Singapore Dance Theatre brings the magical fairy tale, *Sleeping Beauty*, to life as a classical ballet, performed to a dramatic musical score by the famed Russian composer, Tchaikovsky.

Mar 12 to 15
Esplanade Theatre
www.singaporedancetheatre.com
 City Hall

THE GREAT EGG-VENTURE

Celebrate Easter at Singapore's largest Easter fiesta and hunt for over 100 hand-painted giant eggs throughout Sentosa and HarbourFront area. There'll be a plethora of activities to keep both young and old entertained.

Mar 14 to Apr 5
HarbourFront
www.shba.org.sg
 HarbourFront

EVA NARGOODAH SOLO EXHIBITION

Contemporary art meets native culture with works by Aboriginal artist, Eva Nargoodah, famed for her use of bold colour and themes of the seasons, food and flowers.

Mar 18 to May 2
ReDot Fine Art Gallery at
ArtSpace@Helutrans
www.mangkaja.com
 Tanjong Pagar

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

From the producers of the critically acclaimed *The Lion King*, this musical tells the tale of a young prince trapped in the body of a beast, by a curse that will only be broken once he learns to love and be loved.

Mar 21 to Apr 12
Mastercard Theatres at
Marina Bay Sands®
www.marinabaysands.com
 Bayfront

SAVOUR

Food fanatics, indulge in Singapore's biggest gourmet food festival as top local and international chefs prepare award-winning cuisine at affordable prices.

Mar 26 to 29
F1 Pit Building
www.savour.sg
 Promenade



Laila Lu

MEET OUR COVER GIRL LAILA LU, LOCAL ENTREPRENEUR AND FOUNDER OF HIP FASHION BLOG, ROCK THE TREND. SHE SHARES HER PICKS OF THE BEST OF SINGAPORE.

Social media guru by day, blogger by moonlight, her rise to prominence through the digital media revolution represents a generation. She says growing up in such a vibrant and diverse city gave her all the inspiration she needed.

Singapore's best kept secret is... Telok Ayer. This street alone sums up Singapore – with its Chinese temple, Indian Muslim Heritage Centre, a Mosque (one of the earliest in Singapore) and a church. Some of Singapore's oldest hawker food stalls sit at one end of the street and a year old MRT station at the other. There are also lots of bars and restaurants selling cuisine from Vietnamese to Mediterranean to Cantonese, and many offices within the shophouses in between. All that in ONE street!

The nightlife scene here is... the after-party of the after party. All the top nightspots and bars are in quite close proximity so you can roll from one to the next – the party never has to end. My ideal itinerary would be a first drink at Anti:dote at Fairmont, followed by Bitters & Love, and finishing up dancing at Zouk.

No-one should leave Singapore without... a walk around Marina Bay at night. I have been to Marina Bay for the hundredth time and it still looks breathtaking to me. It feels great just to stand and soak up the atmosphere. The best view is from the top of Marina Bay Sands and also the Helix Bridge.

Creative communes... are thriving in Singapore. Some of Singapore's best and most promising designers are all gathered in Jalan Besar.

Local designers are... loyal. I once asked a homegrown designer why they wouldn't move overseas. The answer is that their contribution to the local design scene and being part of the growth here are much more important to them. My favourite local label is Reckless Ericka, they have a thing with shapes and are probably one of the most outstanding established labels in Singapore.

High tea... means *teh-siu dai* (tea with condensed milk and less sugar) for me. Nothing makes you more Singaporean than ordering your coffee or tea the local way and making



Laila wears local label Kae Hana

friends with the *kopi* (coffee) uncle. I have foreign colleagues who are so proud of their *kopi* ordering skills. I usually get my local coffee at Ya Kun Kaya Toast or the coffee shops along the junction of Telok Ayer Street and Boon Tat Street.

Healthy... is the new black. Juice cleanse is super hot right now in Singapore, as well as funky yoga and cycling studios. Oh, and cycling generally. I cycle everywhere!

12
WHAT'S ON
Singapore Art Week 2015

January is a wonderful month for art enthusiasts. Singapore Art Week (www.artweek.sg) is happening from 17 to 25 January, and the massive nine-day festival is studded with blockbuster art fairs, gallery openings, curatorial tours, and more for every kind of art lover.

On show now till 15 March is **Asia Pacific Breweries Foundation Signature Art Prize 2014 Finalists Exhibition** at the Singapore Art Museum (71 Bras Basah Road, www.singaporeartmuseum.sg/signatureartprize). It features the top 15 contemporary artworks shortlisted from the namesake competition, and visitors can vote for their favourites online.

Love gallery-hopping? Then jump onboard an **Art In Motion** (AIM) bus from 16 to 25 January (www.agas.org.sg/aim_event.acv). Organised by The Art Galleries Association Singapore, this curated tour showcases 18 dynamic galleries across art clusters in Singapore.

Catch the **Prudential Singapore Eye Exhibition** from 17 January to 28 June (ArtScience Museum, Marina Bay Sands®, Bayfront Avenue, www.singaporeeye.com). Held in celebration of Singapore's 50th anniversary, it presents the works of 17 artists in an eye-opening display that engages all the senses.

If you have time for only one event during Singapore Art Week 2015, then be sure to have **Art Stage Singapore** (22 to 25 January, www.artstagesingapore.com) on your agenda. The flagship art fair of Southeast Asia is hosting a diverse mix of Asia's best galleries, alongside their portfolio of established and emerging artists.

Art enclave Gillman Barracks' **Art After Dark** (23 January, 9 Lock Road, www.gillmanbarracks.com) is hosting an outdoor party of arts-based fringe events and foodie pop-ups. Don't miss **DRIVE**, the Barracks' first curated outdoor art exhibition.



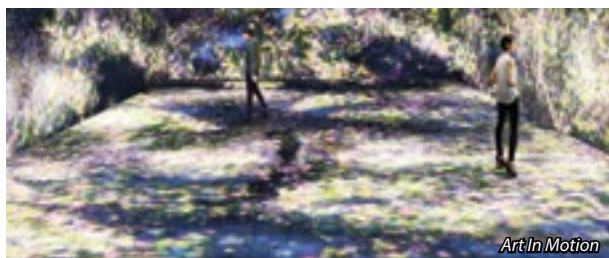
*Asia Pacific Breweries Foundation
Signature Art Prize 2014*



Art After Dark



Art Stage Singapore



Art In Motion

Want more? Visit www.YourSingapore.com

13
CHINESE NEW YEAR
How Singapore celebrates



Photo credit: flickr.com - Choo Yut Shing

The festivities for Chinese New Year seem to get bigger and bolder as the years go by. However, the ideas and beliefs behind its traditions remain unchanged.

One of the most elaborate rituals is the **lion dance** – an energetic performance by acrobatic dance troupes. Chances are you'll see a couple of acts on the streets around the Chinese New Year period, which takes place in the month of February. Don't be taken aback by all the noise, it's meant to ward off bad luck for the Lunar New Year.

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). The oranges signify prosperity, while the money-filled red packets represent good luck, and are believed to ward off evil spirits. The latter is typically given out by married couples to single people, particularly children.

Another popular practice in Singapore is the **yusheng toss**, which is carried out at home or when dining out at restaurants as part of the traditional Reunion Dinner. *Yusheng* is a raw fish salad that comes with an array of ingredients including shredded vegetables, crushed peanuts, fried flour crisps,

pomelo, and more. The idea is to get everyone around the table to toss the ingredients up in the air using chopsticks, all while reciting phrases of well wishes of luck and success. The higher you toss, the better. But be warned: it's a messy affair!

More deliciousness ensues with iconic **Chinese New Year goodies** like *bak kwa* (barbecued meat) and pineapple tarts; items you'll constantly see on offer during this festive period. Both edibles symbolise good things like wealth and prosperity, so give these seasonal specials a try when you're in the Lion City!

14
IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD
Chinatown

Straddling the line between old and new is the bustling enclave of Chinatown. The heritage-rich, kitschy tourist-chic spot has pretty much everything you can think of, from fascinating temples and souvenir shops to local food hawker stalls and cool bars. If you're in town during the month of February, this is where to soak up Chinese New Year festivities. Plus, stay connected with free Wi-Fi available in the area.

1. KONG CHOW WUI KOON

One of Singapore's oldest Chinese clan associations, Kong Chow Wui Koon was founded in 1840 to promote the traditions of Chinese culture.

321 New Bridge Road

www.kongchow.org

 *(65) 6223 9806*

2. CHINATOWN FOOD STREET

Get your hands on signature local dishes in one spot at Chinatown Food Street. Try chicken rice, *char kway teow* (stir fried rice noodles), and *roti prata* (South Indian flat bread).

335 Smith Street

www.chinatown.sg

3. MEI HEONG YUEN DESSERT

Sweeten your day with traditional Chinese food at this heritage establishment. Order the bird's nest soup, or pick something from the snow ice range.

63-67 Temple Street

www.meiheongyuendessert.com.sg

 *(65) 6221 1156*

4. ENJOY TEA

Pick up tea and tea accessories at this retail store on Sago Street, which also offers tea demonstrations and tasting sessions. Choose from a range of Chinese teas alongside agarwood tea from Vietnam.

#01-01, 18 Sago Street

 *(65) 6221 7479*



5. BUDDHA TOOTH RELIC TEMPLE & MUSEUM

Learn about Buddhism at this majestic temple, which also houses a museum, as well as the Sacred Buddha Tooth Relic that is placed in a giant gold stupa.

288 South Bridge Road

www.btrts.org.sg

☎ (65) 6220 0220

6. LOMOGRAPHY GALLERY STORE

Photography enthusiasts, make a stop at this cool store. Browse the arresting shots taken by members of the local Lomography Society as well as accessories, bags and T-shirts.

295 South Bridge Road

www.lomography.sg

☎ (65) 6223 8850

7. MYTHOLOGY

Pop into this multi-label fashion boutique for one-of-a-kind items by both established and up-and-coming Asian designers such as Shanghaiese accessory brand, Josie Chen.

88 Club Street

www.my-thology.com

☎ (65) 6223 5570

8. SRI MARIAMMAN TEMPLE

Singapore's oldest Hindu temple, built in 1827 and now a national monument, is a beautiful sight to behold. It's dedicated to the goddess Mariamman, whose power is to cure illness and disease.

244 South Bridge Road

www.heb.gov.sg

☎ (65) 6296 3469

9. UTTERLY ART

Art gallery and exhibition space Utterly Art hosts a diverse mix of works by local and regional artists. Most exhibits are free of charge, and shows change every fortnight.

Level 3, 20B Mosque Street

www.utterlyart.com.sg

☎ (65) 9487 2006

By appointment only

10. SPRING COURT

This time-tested dining spot is known for its amazing Peking duck, but don't forget to try other items like the steamed garoupa and double boiled prawn dumpling soup.

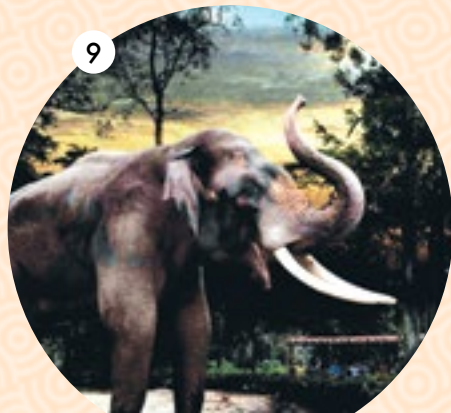
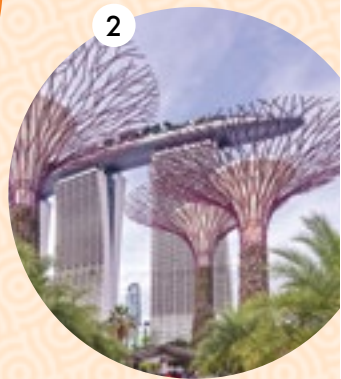
52-56 Upper Cross Street

www.springcourt.com.sg

☎ (65) 6449 5030



10 MUST-DOS IN SINGAPORE



17 SEE & DO

1. CATCH A SHOW AT ESPLANADE

Be spoilt for choice at this world-class performing arts centre, which has a year-round lineup of impressive international music acts, festivals, and theatre productions.

1 Esplanade Drive
www.esplanade.com

 (65) 6828 8377
 *Esplanade*

2. COMMUNE WITH NATURE AT GARDENS BY THE BAY

Take a walk 22 metres above ground at the Supertrees vertical gardens or marvel at the world's tallest indoor waterfalls in the Cloud Forest at this award-winning horticultural park.

18 Marina Gardens Drive
www.gardensbythebay.com.sg

 (65) 6420 6848
 *Bayfront*

3. 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 flow boarding at Wave House Sentosa.

Sentosa Island
www.sentosa.com.sg

 (65) 1800-SENTOSA
 *HarbourFront*

4. 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 spot Singapore's last remaining *kampongs* (Malay hamlets or villages).

Pulau Ubin, Singapore

5. HAVE A SUNDOWNER

For unbeatable 360° views of the city, take to the skies at KU DÉ TA. This ultra luxe restaurant-cum-lounge is the place to see and be seen.

SkyPark at Marina Bay Sands®, Tower 3, 1 Bayfront Avenue
www.marinabaysands.com/sands-skypark

 (65) 6688 7688
 *Bayfront*

6. GO MUSEUM-HOPPING

You don't have to be a culture vulture to appreciate Singapore's rich history and flourishing art scene. Tour the National Museum of Singapore, Singapore Art Museum, Asian Civilisations Museum, and ArtScience Museum.

Various locations

7. EXPLORE LITTLE INDIA

With thronging crowds and a frenetic buzz, nowhere else makes you feel more alive than

Little India. Tuck into tasty Indian cuisine at Muthu's Curry, visit Sri Veeramakaliamman Temple, and shop at Mustafa Centre 24/7!

Various locations
www.littleindia.com.sg

8. CRUISE DOWN THE 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.

Various locations
www.singapore-river.com

9. 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.

Singapore Zoo, River Safari, and Night Safari, 80 Mandai Lake Road
www.zoo.com.sg

 (65) 6269 3411
 *Choa Chu Kang + connecting bus service 927*

10. GO CAFÉ-HOPPING

Hipster 'hood Tiong Bahru is home to some of the most happening cafés on the island. Your hit list should include Tiong Bahru Bakery and PS Café Petit.

Various locations

18
HONEYCOMBERS RECOMMENDS
Eat



MAXWELL FOOD CENTRE

Have a taste of Singapore's local hawker delights at Maxwell Food Centre. This massive dining enclave is home to over 100 food stalls, all with different specialties. Try chicken rice from Tian Tian (Anthony Bourdain's a fan), wholesome congee from Zhen Zhen Porridge, and *nasi lemak* (rice cooked in coconut milk served with a variety of ingredients) from Lagi Best Nasi Lemak.

1 Kadayanallur Street

📍 Tanjong Pagar

Photo credits

flickr.com - Nate Roberts

flickr.com - L W Yang



JUMBO SEAFOOD RESTAURANT

Singapore's number one culinary export to the world is none other than chilli crab, and this restaurant chain is the go-to place for the national dish. The gravy accompanying the flavoursome crab at Jumbo is doused in chilli sauce and richly layered with egg. If East Coast isn't part of your itinerary, check out other outlets in Riverside Point, The Riverwalk and Dempsey Hill.

#01-07/08, East Coast Seafood Centre, Block 1206 East Coast Parkway
www.jumboseafood.com.sg

☎ (65) 6442 3435

📍 Bedok



SWEE CHOON TIM-SUM

Sample classic Cantonese delicacies at this heritage eatery, even well past midnight! Your dim sum order should include options like *char siew pau* (barbecued pork bun) and *har kao* (shrimp dumplings). If you love spicy food, order the Sichuan oil chilli *wantons* (dumplings) for that fiery kick. Don't forget to finish with the *liu sha bao* (salted egg yolk custard buns)!

191 Jalan Besar
www.sweechoon.com

☎ (65) 6225 7788

📍 Lavender

19
HONEYCOMBERS RECOMMENDS
Eat



WILD ROCKET

There's no better place to try Mod Sin (short for Modern Singaporean cuisine, a fusion of Western and local flavours) fare than Wild Rocket, where creator-chef Willin Low helms the kitchen. We liked the *laksa* (coconut milk-based curry broth) pesto risotto and the salted egg crab ball, but the menu changes every month so you're always in for a surprise here.

*Hangout Hotel,
10A Upper Wilkie Road
www.wildrocket.com.sg*

(65) 6339 9448

Little India



FOC

New Spanish tapas and cocktail bar FOC – run by Michelin-starred chef Nandu Jubany – serves up addictive Catalan and Mediterranean-inspired offerings like black mediterranean paella, patatas bravas, and mixes such as the Good Old Diplomatic Pal (made with Diplomatico Rum and house-made coffee vermouth blend).

*40 HongKong Street
www.focrestaurant.com*

(65) 6100 4040

Clarke Quay



FUKU

Fine dining establishment Fuku is the first restaurant in Asia outside of Japan to serve *fugu*, also known as pufferfish. The potentially fatal delicacy can be enjoyed a la carte (*fugu* steamed egg, *fugu* milt), or as a multi-course dinner (six courses from \$150 per person).

*#01-01, 14 Mohamed
Sultan Road*

(65) 6235 8216

Clarke Quay

20
DISHES DECONSTRUCTED
Laksa

• SLURP! •

328 Katong Laksa is arguably the most famous establishment for *laksa*, and more so after its winning cook-off against celebrity chef Gordon Ramsay in 2013. For more *laksa* spots, visit tiny.cc/laksa.

Chinese
fishcake

Laksa broth, made with chicken stock, *ikan bilis* (anchovies), coconut milk, a dash of fish sauce, and *rempah* (spice paste consisting of dried shrimp, lemongrass, galangal, turmeric, garlic, star anise, and coriander seed)

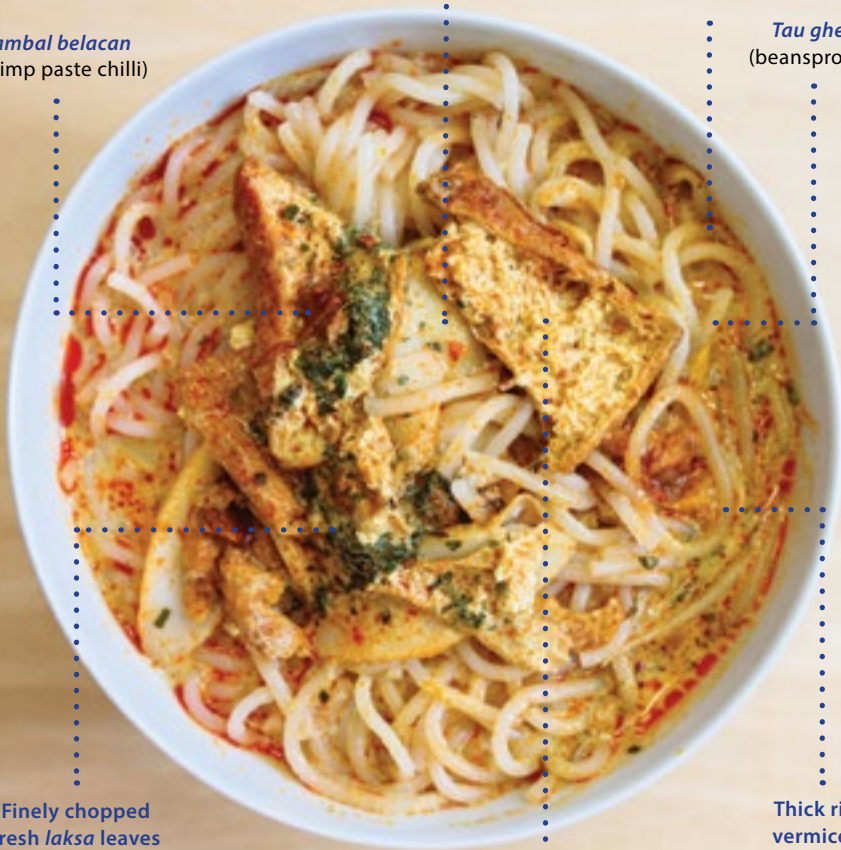
Sambal belacan
(shrimp paste chilli)

Tau ghey
(beansprouts)

Finely chopped
fresh *laksa* leaves
(also known as
daun kesom or
Vietnamese mint)

Tau pok
(fried beancurd puff)

Thick rice
vermicelli



21
DISH IT UP
Ryan Clift



CHEF OWNER OF TIPPLING CLUB IN TANJONG PAGAR, RYAN CLIFT TELLS US WHERE TO EAT CRAB AND HOW JAZZED HE IS ON BEING NAMED KRUG'S LATEST AMBASSADE.



Dempsey was a great location for my first restaurant, and now I have a little passion project there, a 'farm' growing herbs to service my kitchen. It's also where I take visiting friends for Singapore's best crabs – Long Beach at Dempsey Hill.

Modern gastronomy is about real food and mad science that honours ingredients first, then taste, texture, temperature, smell, and sound.

A private dining room is a must in this country. Bin 38 at Tippling Club was designed for diners looking for the ultimate exclusive dining experience in Asia. Singapore is still new in terms of high end dining but the scene is growing so we're all in for a treat over the next few years.

Pleasure beyond perfection is a term you understand when you pair a Krug 2003 with

Snow Crab, liquid onion rings and chive yoghurt, if I say so myself! We're utterly humbled to be in the company of London's Fat Duck and Mègève's Flocon de Sel, as Krug's Ambassador to Singapore.

I'm impressed at how Singapore has managed to maintain its food DNA amidst massive advancements and a booming tourism industry. The *roti prata* (South Indian flat bread) and *murtabak* (South Indian flat bread with mincemeat filling) at Adam Road Food Centre is amazing for supper (they are open past 2am), and even better with a skin full!

Tippling Club, 38 Tanjong Pagar Road
www.tipplingclub.com

☎ (65) 6475 2217

📍 *Tanjong Pagar*

22
HONEYCOMBERS RECOMMENDS

Drink



1925 MICROBREWERY & RESTAURANT

The food menu at this family-run gastro-pub is hearty and highly carnivorous, with mains like chicken kebabs and deep-fried skin, chargrilled beef burgers, and pork belly slices. But what really takes the cake in this family-run gastro-pub is their home-brewed pilsners, along with their wicked cocktails and old world wines.

369 Jalan Besar
www.the1925.com.sg

☎ (65) 6294 9215

📍 Farrer Park



ATTICA

Clarke Quay's longstanding resident has been made over and now boasts four different spaces to give that "360-degree clubbing experience". Outside the club are Bar Rose, Attica's Champagne and martini bar for chilling by the Singapore River. Inside, the first floor features chart-topping R&B and top 40s, while the second level, connected via the alfresco garden The Courtyard, puts out adrenaline-pumping EDM beats.

#01-03 Clarke Quay,
3A River Valley Road
www.attica.com.sg

☎ (65) 6333 9973

📍 Clarke Quay



BARBER SHOP BY TIMBRE

Despite its name, Barber Shop by Timbre has nothing to do with men's grooming. The thriving live music establishment focuses on blues, soul, funk and jazz music by anchoring local bands like Raw Earth, Lower String Delta, and Chicken Shack Revival. Catch these established and upcoming musicians live on stage from Thursday to Saturday nights.

#01-03 The Arts House,
1 Old Parliament Lane
www.facebook.com/barbershopbytimbre

☎ (65) 6336 3386

📍 City Hall

23
HONEYCOMBERS RECOMMENDS

Drink



MANHATTAN BAR

Regent Hotel's swanky 89-seater bespoke cocktail spot offers up a slice of 19th-century New York. American mixologist Ricky Paiva helms the bar, as well as the world's first in-hotel rickhouse, a workshop featuring over 100 American oak barrels for experimentation. Manhattan also has a collection of unusual ingredients like wildcherry bark and shisandra berries.

*Level 2 Regent Hotel, 2nd floor,
1 Cuscaden Road
[www.facebook.com/
manhattansg](http://www.facebook.com/manhattansg)*

 (65) 6725 3377

 Orchard



STUDIO 1939

Considered 'The Private Studio' of hip institution Potato Head Folk, Studio 1939 is modelled after Australian artist David Bromley's own working space. Modern artworks curated by Bromley line the walls around the intimate reservation-only space. Feature cocktails, prepared with house-made syrups and high-grade spirits are personal favourites of Dres Masso and his team.

*Level 3 Potato Head Folk,
36 Keong Saik Road
www.pttheadfolk.com*

 (65) 6327 1939

 Outram Park



SUGARHALL

Boasting over 50 types of cane spirits, this is the place to go for your rum fix on the island. Opened by the good folk from Jigger and Pony (which is just next door), the bar has cleverly categorised the rum-based cocktails into three sections – tropical cocktails, clear spirits and dark spirits – and rated on a scale of 'hungry' to 'full' so that you can make your pick based on how full you are. Pretty cool.

*102 Amoy Street
www.sugarhall.sg*

 (65) 6222 9102

 Telok Ayer

24
HOME TOWN
Peter Wee



FEW KNOW KATONG - SINGAPORE'S VIBRANT EAST-SIDE NEIGHBOURHOOD - BETTER THAN OWNER OF KATONG ANTIQUE HOUSE, PETER WEE.

Katong is mini-Singapore; it has all these sites representing various cultures in one place. There are Chinese and Indian temples, churches and mosques, Eurasian restaurants, and *Peranakan* (Straits Chinese) dining spots.

Some of my favourite eats around Katong include *hokkien mee* (stir-fried prawn noodles) from Geylang Lorong 29 Fried Hokkien Mee (Food R Us Coffeeshop, 396 East Coast Road) and *Peranakan kueh* (bite-sized desserts) from Glory Catering (139 East Coast Road).

I inherited this building (Katong Antique House) from my grandfather more than 40 years ago. It's basically an antique shop, and everything on display has a story behind it. The people who bring these artefacts in – special cabinets, *kebayas* (a traditional blouse-dress) – don't necessarily know the history behind these things, so I make it a point to research their origins.

The biggest misconception people have about the *Peranakan* culture is that they think we're either Malay or Chinese. In fact, our blood is 80 percent Chinese (old China, not modern China) and 20 percent Malay.

If you're a tourist exploring Katong for the day, start your morning with *chok* (congee) for breakfast, then in the afternoon you can explore the Joo Chiat area for its architecture and many photo opportunities. Then, head over to the East Coast area, or walk around to visit the temples and mosques. End your day with dinner at one of Katong's many *zi char* (home-style Chinese dishes) restaurants, or have something classic like chicken rice or *laksa* (coconut milk-based curry broth) – these things can be found almost anywhere in this area!

Katong Antique House, 208 East Coast Road

☎ (65) 6345 8544

📺 Eunos

A 45-minute tour costs \$15. Call ahead to book a slot.

25
#LIKEALOCAL
Speak Singlish

LAH

A suffix used to place emphasis on the sentence or word before
"Don't worry about it lah!"

CHOPE

To reserve a place or call dibs on something
"Can you chope a seat for me?"

KIASU

A fiercely competitive spirit
"She queued for four hours to get the latest iPhone - so kiasu!"

ALAMAK

The Singlish equivalent of "Oh my gosh", or "Oh man"
"Alamak! Tickets for the concert are all sold out!"

CAN OR NOT

A way of asking if something is possible/can be achieved
"Dinner at 7? Can or not?"

SHIOK

Fantastic, or to convey feelings of satisfaction and pleasure
"This plate of chicken rice is damn shioK."

CALL US KIASU, BUT DON'T BLAME US IF YOU GET FUNNY LOOKS WHEN USING THESE PHRASES IN FRONT OF A SINGAPOREAN!

Order your coffee



KOPI

Coffee with condensed milk



KOPI-SIU DAI

Coffee with condensed milk and less sugar



KOPI-SI

Coffee with evaporated milk and sugar



KOPI-SI KOSONG

Coffee with evaporated milk and no sugar



KOPI-O

Coffee with sugar and no milk

26 SHOPPING 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. From high-end and high street to designer and discount finds, here's a handy guide on where to shop.

1. ION ORCHARD

The jewel of Orchard Road houses a dizzying array of stores like **Sephora**, **Kate Spade Saturday**, as well as world-class dining options such as **Salt Grill** and **Sky Bar** and **TWG**.

2 Orchard Turn
www.ionorchard.com

☎ (65) 6238 8228

🚶 Orchard

2. TANGS

There's no missing the TANGS building, an iconic structure modelled after Chinese palaces. The city's oldest homegrown department store is where you'll find local labels such as **IN GOOD COMPANY**, **Aijek**, and **Carrie K**.

310 Orchard Road
www.tangs.com

☎ (65) 6737 5500

🚶 Orchard

3. PARAGON

For your fix of luxury shopping, hit the racks of high-end labels like **Prada**, **Salvatore Ferragamo**, **Givenchy**, and children's multi-label boutique, **Kids21** at Paragon.

290 Orchard Road
www.paragon.com.sg

☎ (65) 6738 5535

🚶 Orchard

4. ROBINSONS THE HEEREN

The 157-year-old department-store chain's biggest outlet in the city boasts five floors of great finds including brands such as **The Kooples**, **Karen Walker**, and **See by Chloe**.

260 Orchard Road
www.robinsons.com.sg

☎ (65) 6735 8838

🚶 Somerset

5. ORCHARD GATEWAY

The newest kid on the Orchard block brims with edgy homegrown stores like **Superspace**, and **Actually**. But the star attraction is the brand new five-storey **Crate And Barrel** flagship.

277, 218 Orchard Road
www.orchardgateway.sg

☎ (65) 6513 4633

🚶 Somerset

6. ORCHARD CENTRAL

Discover the best of the local fashion scene at Orchard Central. Shop the likes of **SABRINAGOH**, **The Reckless Shop**, and **PACT**.

181 Orchard Road
www.orchardcentral.com.sg

☎ (65) 6238 1051

🚶 Somerset

27 SHOPPING Souvenirs

BRING HOME A PIECE OF SINGAPORE WITH THESE FIVE MUST-HAVE LOCAL SOUVENIRS

1. BAK KWA

Smokey, flavoursome and utterly moreish, *bak kwa* (barbecued meat) is a well-loved local snack that is especially popular during Chinese New Year. Look out for household brand name Bee Cheng Hiang.

Available at all Bee Cheng Hiang outlets (www.beechenghiang.com.sg) island-wide including #02-40 Singapore Changi Airport Terminal 3, Departure/Transit West, 80 Airport Boulevard



2. KAYA

Breakfast in Singapore isn't complete without the delicious combination of toast and *kaya*, a jam made with coconut milk, eggs, and sugar.

Available at all Ya Kun Kaya Toast outlets (www.yakun.com.sg) island-wide, including #B2-LF3 Singapore Changi Airport Terminal 3, 65 Airport Boulevard



3. JAMAL KAZURA AROMATICS

An array of aromatic *attars* (Arabic perfume oils) from the Middle East, Europe, and India awaits you at this fragrance boutique, where you can also get your own customised scent.

Available at all Jamal Kazura Aromatics outlets (www.jamalkazura.com) island-wide including 728 North Bridge Road

(65) 6293 2350

Bugis

4. TIGER BALM

Rub away aches, pains and other ailments with this cure-all herbal ointment, formulated by Chinese herbalist Aw Chu Kin in the 1870s.

Available at all major pharmacies island-wide including Watsons (www.watsons.com.sg), #B2-23 Singapore Changi Airport Terminal 3, 65 Airport Boulevard
 (65) 6581 5950

5. TWG TEA

The luxury tea company offers an impressive selection of over 800 teas, specially harvested from all around the world. Pick up a tin of Singapore Breakfast Tea to take home.

Available at all TWG Tea outlets (www.twgtea.com) island-wide including #026-102-01 Singapore Changi Airport Terminal 2, Departure/Transit Lounge South
 (65) 6583 1837

28
SHOPPING
Buy local

NANA & BIRD

Set up by two fashion-loving best friends, this humble little store tucked in a quiet corner of the hip Tiong Bahru estate offers charming little trinkets and edgy, up-to-date fashion pieces for the ladies. Look out for fab local labels Aijek and Yumumu.

#01-65, Blk 59 Eng Hoon Street
www.shop.nanaandbird.com

☎ (65) 9117 0430

📍 Tiong Bahru



great accessories!



Building Block



perfect for Singapore souvenirs

SUPERMAMA

A store, an artist residency studio, a gallery, a space for people to escape, this tranquil spot is inspired by local experience and has a loyal local patronage. It stocks an array of wittily and handsomely designed souvenirs as well as being a cool space just to hang out.

30A Seah Street
www.supermama.sg

📍 Esplanade

29 SHOPPING *Buy local*



for the trend setters

INHABIT

Hands down, one of the coolest stores in town. This is the place to go for all the most sought-after labels, like Bassike, Sass & Bide, Ksubi and local accessory label Vice & Vanity. Price tags are slightly heftier here, but these are great investment pieces.

#02-16 Mandarin Gallery,
333A Orchard Road

www.facebook.com/inhabitsingapore

☎ (65) 6836 8441

📺 Somerset

Maker's Market

THE GENERAL COMPANY

Find a well-curated selection of artisanal wares – accessories, jewellery, totes and backpacks, even tech accessories and the cutest cushion covers – made by young, emerging crafters and makers at this quaint store above coffee house and roaster Chye Seng Huat Hardware.

150A Tyrwhitt Road
www.thegeneralco.sg

☎ (65) 8444 5589

📺 Lavender



Had a good time? Share it with us at #YourSingapore



10

9

Best
day ever

5

2

1

7

6

4

8

3

31 FAMILY FUN

1. INDOOR SKYDIVING

Under the watchful eye of professionals, kids can skydive in the wind tunnel at iFly Singapore with either The Challenge (two skydives), or The Adventure (four skydives) package.

*iFly Singapore, #01-01,
43 Siloso Beach Walk
www.iflysingapore.com
☎ (65) 6571 0000
📍 HarbourFront*

2. SOLVE A 5D PUZZLE

Step into Trapped to play an escape game. Choose from different rooms and figure your way out as a family, as you solve riddles and puzzles.

*Trapped, 42 Kandahar Street
www.trapped.sg
☎ (65) 6292 2177
📍 Bugis*

3. GET UP CLOSE WITH ANIMALS

Perfect for those aged five to 12, the Singapore Zoo's Kidzranger lets kids get up close and personal with the park's adorable animals.

*Singapore Zoo, 80 Mandai Lake Road
www.zoo.com.sg
☎ (65) 6269 3411
📍 Choa Chu Kang +
connecting bus service 927*

4. EXPLORE SCIENCE

Featuring countless interactive exhibits in 14 galleries, the

Science Centre Singapore is a great spot to kickstart your child's love of the clever "art".

*Science Centre Singapore,
15 Science Centre Road
www.science.edu.sg
☎ (65) 6425 2500
📍 Jurong East*

5. STICK YOUR NOSE IN A BOOK

If you need a contrast to the hustle and bustle, mind nourishment awaits at children's bookstore Woods in the Books.

*Woods in the Books,
3 Yong Siak Street
www.woodsinthebooks.sg
☎ (65) 6222 9980
📍 Tiong Bahru*

6. MINI GOLF

Grab clubs and whack balls on mini golf course, LilliPutt, a themed indoor golf venue, where all 18 holes represent an iconic Singapore attraction.

*LilliPutt, #03-05 Block B Big Splash, 902 East Coast Parkway
www.lilliputt.com
☎ (65) 6348 9606
📍 Paya Lebar*

7. TRAMPOLINE

Leave the kids bouncing off the walls, literally, at AMPED, made up of 5,000 square feet of interconnected trampolines which provide masses of space for amateur acrobatics.

*AMPED Trampoline Park, 2/F,
369 Tanjong Katong Road
www.ampedssingapore.com
☎ (65) 8669 4894
📍 Dakota*

8. FOOD & ART

Over at EatPlayLove Café, tuck into Thai-Western plates like pineapple rice, mac and cheese, and *tom yam* soup (clear, spicy and sour soup) before letting the kids get their craft on in the corner with all sorts of art materials to play with.

*EatPlayLove Café, #01-07 Aliwal Arts Centre, 28 Aliwal Street
www.eatplaylove.com.sg
☎ (65) 6444 6400
📍 Bugis*

9. SEE TOYS FROM THE PAST

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.

*Mint Museum of Toys,
26 Seah Street
www.emint.com
☎ (65) 6339 0660
📍 Esplanade*

10. DO THE FLYING TRAPEZE

Join the circus for a day – well, sort of – with Sentosa's Flying Trapeze. This attraction is a great way for the kids to learn to conquer their fear of heights and improve their concentration skills.

*Flying Trapeze, Siloso Beach,
10 Siloso Walk, Sentosa
www.sentosa.com.sg
☎ (65) 6371 1064
📍 HarbourFront*

32 MAPS & APPS *Mrt map*



Practical apps



BURPPLE
A restaurant and food app that guides you to places recommended by locals.



ICHANGI
Get information on flight times, departure gates as well as shopping and dining.



TRIP ADVISOR
Read millions of travel reviews on the best places to eat, sleep, shop and play.



MY TRANSPORT
Check bus services and routes, traffic news, MRT, fares, and more – all at your fingertips.

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To enjoy the 7 percent Goods and Services Tax (GST) refunds paid on your purchases under the **Tourist Tax Refund Scheme**, you must make at least S\$100 worth of purchases from participating outlets. Such shops will display a 'Tax Refund' logo or a Global Blue 'Tax Free Shopping' logo. On your day of departure from **Singapore Changi Airport**, proceed to the Tax Refund Counter and present your purchases together with the tax claim forms for customs inspection. Take note that Customs will not process the tax claim forms if the goods are not presented for inspection. For more information, please log on to the Tourist Refund Scheme page on the **Singapore Customs** website at www.customs.gov.sg.

eTRS TAX FREE



Skip the queues and file your GST claims at the **eTRS** self-help kiosk at Changi Airport before you fly! All you need to do is shop at places that display the eTRS sign and use one credit card as a Token for tagging your purchases. Tourists departing on international cruises from Marina Bay Cruise Centre Singapore and the International Passenger Terminal at HarbourFront Centre may also qualify for tax refund. Log on to www.iras.gov.sg for more information.

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Butterfly Garden, Terminal 3



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Instagram.com/fansofchangi

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www.thehoneycombers.com