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SINGAPORE



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Singapore

Singapore

Area Map

Metro Map

City Map

Attractions



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Singapore

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Hello Singapore

A visit to Singapore

www.visitsingapore.com

The city-state of Singapore is a wonderful place where many of Asia's cultures, new and old, as well as tropical beaches and pristine rainforest, can all be experienced within a very small area. The official language is English, but Singapore's many ethnic groups, such as Malay, Indian, Arab and the Chinese put their own unique mark on the city, each with their own city quarters, shops, restaurants and festivals.

Singapore is very modern, with splendid architecture and lots of shopping opportunities and other attractions. Everything is held together via an efficient public transportation system. Singapore is only 60 kilometres from the Equator, and it is a good starting point for trips to the nearby Indonesian islands, or to Malaysia's second largest city, Johor Bahru, which borders Singapore.

Have a good trip!

Historical outline

Singapore was mentioned for the first time in the 3rd century as “island at the end”, but it was not until the 14th century that Prince Srivijaya landed on the island and, according to legend, saw an animal he thought was a lion. Taking this as a sign, he founded Singapura, which means “Lion City”.

A small Malaysian settlement developed, and by the mid-14th century both Malay and Chinese people were living there. Pirates are also thought to have used the area as a base for raids against the many ships sailing the narrow straits there. During the following centuries, Singapore became a significant trading port. The area’s dominant seaport was Melaka further to the north, but Singapore’s significance grew considerably under the sultanate of Johor.

From the 15th to the 18th centuries, the European colonial powers dominated the area. The Portuguese were the first to arrive in Melaka in 1509; later came the Dutch, and finally the British, who were the least significant at that time. The British sought to gain more influence mainly in the Dutch areas, since the trade, especially between China and India, was very lucrative and therefore important to control. Sir Stamford Raffles became governor of the English Bencoolen Province in 1818. He wanted to build a new harbour close to the Straits of Malacca to challenge the Dutch monopoly. On January 29th, 1819 Raffles landed at Singapore, and by agreement with the rightful Sultan Hussein of Johor, who had been exiled by his brother, present-day Singapore was founded.

Raffles made Singapore a free port to attract the area’s traders, who were forced to pay very high taxes in the Dutch-controlled ports. Singapore grew rapidly, and by 1825 its population was more than 10,000. After three years as governor of Bencoolen, Raffles returned to Singapore in 1822. He negotiated a new agreement with the Sultan, which made

Singapore British territory. To ensure orderly progress for the rapidly developing city’s many settlers, he established the different ethnic areas, which still exist today.

Dutch resistance to Singapore’s growing success resulted in the Anglo-Dutch treaty of 1824. The treaty made present-day Singapore and Malaysia part of the British sphere of influence, while Indonesia went to the Dutch. Singapore, Penang and Melaka were joined as the Straits Settlements and governed from India.

During the following decades, Singapore developed into one of the world’s most important seaports, and the increasing significance of the Straits Settlements prompted Great Britain to change the area’s status to a British crown colony governed directly from London. The British Governor now ruled Singapore, which made the decision process faster and smoother.

Singapore continued to grow, and following the 1st World War the British built a naval base near the city. Singapore had not been involved directly in the war, but Japan’s increasing foreign political ambitions included the areas around the Straits of Malacca.

The great naval base was completed in 1939, but when the 2nd World War began, almost the entire Navy was employed in the defence of England rather than the British interests in Southeast Asia. The Japanese Army arrived in Northern Malaysia at the end of 1941, and reached Singapore by early 1942. On February 15th, Singapore surrendered to General Tomoyuki Yamashita, and the Japanese renamed the city Syonan-to.

The British returned in 1945, but by that time demands for independence had gained strength. The rising nationalism did not lead to a direct revolt, but it resulted in decades of political turbulence until Singapore achieved independence in 1959.

In 1963, Singapore merged with Malaysia, but this led to widespread discontent and fighting, and in 1965 Singapore gained independence from Malaysia.

Two years later, in 1967, the Singapore dollar was introduced and heavy investments were made to ensure the survival of the country's economy. Education, construction, industry and transport became key factors in Singapore's success, and today the country is once more the trade centre of the region.

Tour 1: Singapore

1. Parliament House

1 Parliament Place

www.parliament.gov.sg

MRT: City Hall

Parliament House is Singapore's present Parliament building. It was built in a majestic, modern style in the period 1995-1999.

2. Raffles Landing Site

North Boat Quay

MRT: City Hall

Raffles Landing Site is the place where Singapore's founder, Sir Stamford Raffles, first set foot on the island on January 29th, 1819. A marble statue of Raffles erected in 1972 marks the place. It is a copy of the original bronze statue that now stands in front of Victoria Theatre & Concert Hall.

3. Asian Civilisations Museum



39 Armenian Street og 1 Empress Place

www.museum.org.sg/acm

MRT: City Hall

One of the very beautiful buildings housing the Asian Civilisations Museum today was built in 1910 for the Tao Nan Boys' School; the other, Empress Place Building, was built in 1864-1867 for the colonial government.

The museum depicts the cultural histories of Singapore's many different peoples, including displays relating to Chinese, Islamic and Malaysian culture, as well as finds from the Singapore area.

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4. Old Parliament House



Empress Place

MRT: City Hall

Singapore's Old Parliament House was built by the architect George Coleman in 1826-1827 as a residential mansion for the merchant John Argyle Maxwell. From 1962, it was home to Singapore's Parliament. In 1999 the new Parliament House was completed and the Parliament moved there.

5. Victoria Theatre & Concert Hall



11 Empress Place

www.vch.org.sg

MRT: City Hall

This cultural complex consists of two buildings. Victoria Theatre was built in

a British Neoclassicist style in 1862 and used for various English performances. Victoria Memorial Hall was built in 1905, but was renamed Victoria Concert Hall in 1980. The 54-metre-tall clock tower was erected to join the buildings.

Victoria Memorial Hall was used as a hospital during the Japanese bombardments of Singapore in the 2nd World War. The building also served as a venue for Japanese war crimes trials when the war ended in 1945.

In front of the building there is a bronze statue of Sir Stamford Raffles. It has been there since it was moved from its original location at the Padang.

6. Padang

Padang

MRT: City Hall

The Padang is the great central field, which since 1830 has hosted many of the city's sporting events, not least cricket games. At the end of the Padang stands the beautiful Colonial-style building that is home to Singapore's Cricket Club. The building was built in 1884.

7. Supreme Court



St. Andrew's Road

www.supcourt.gov.sg

MRT: City Hall

Singapore's impressive Old Supreme Court Building was erected in 1939 as the last major Classical architecture building to be built during the colonial period. The massive Corinthian columns and the great dome underscore the building's importance. The frieze over the main entrance depicts the historic agreement between Sultan Hussein and Stamford Raffles, which made possible the founding of Singapore as a trading port in 1819.

8. City Hall



St. Andrew's Road

MRT: City Hall

Singapore's Neoclassical City Hall building was erected in 1929. Several important events have taken place on its steps, such as the official surrender of

the Japanese in 1945 and Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew's declaration of home rule for Singapore in 1965.

9. St. Andrew's Cathedral



Coleman Street

www.livingstreams.org.sg

MRT: City Hall

St. Andrew's Cathedral was built in 1861 on an initiative by Ronald Macpherson. Although the Cathedral is Anglican, it is dedicated to Scotland's patron saint in recognition of the handsome Scottish donations.

St Andrew's Cathedral is built in a splendid English Neo-Gothic style, and its exterior is covered in white chunam plaster giving it an elegant look. From 1837 to 1852, an earlier Cathedral stood on this spot, but it was demolished because of serious damage due to lightning strikes.

10. War Memorial Park

**Stamford Road, Beach Road, Bras Basah Road
och Nicoll Highway**

www.nparks.gov.sg/park31.asp

MRT: City Hall

Den fridfulla och vackra parken blev anlagd 1964 och ligger centralt belägen till minne av 2:a världskrigets offer. Mittpunkten i parken utgörs av ett 70 meter högt monument, där de fyra pelarna symboliserar Singapores fyra befolkningsgrupper: indier, kineser, malaysier och de övriga minoriteterna.

11. Theatres on the Bay

1 Esplanade Drive

www.esplanade.com

MRT: City Hall

Theatres on the Bay is a large complex built in 2002 that has a concert hall and a theatre with a capacity of 1,600 and 2,000 people, respectively. The acoustics in the concert hall are excellent, but Theatres on the Bay is best known for its architectural style, which makes it look like two rounded glass shells. Some call the place “The Durian” because of the building’s likeness to the fruit.

12. Singapore Flyer

30 Raffles Avenue

www.singaporeflyer.com.sg

MRT: City Hall

Singapore Flyer is a colossal observation wheel. It is 165 metres tall with a diameter of 150 metres. It has 28 air-conditioned gondolas, each with a capacity of 30 people.

At the time of its opening in 2008, the Singapore Flyer was the highest observation wheel in the world and during the half-hour long ride there are fantastic views of Singapore, Johor Bahru in Malaysia and several islands, including Batam and Bintan in Indonesia.

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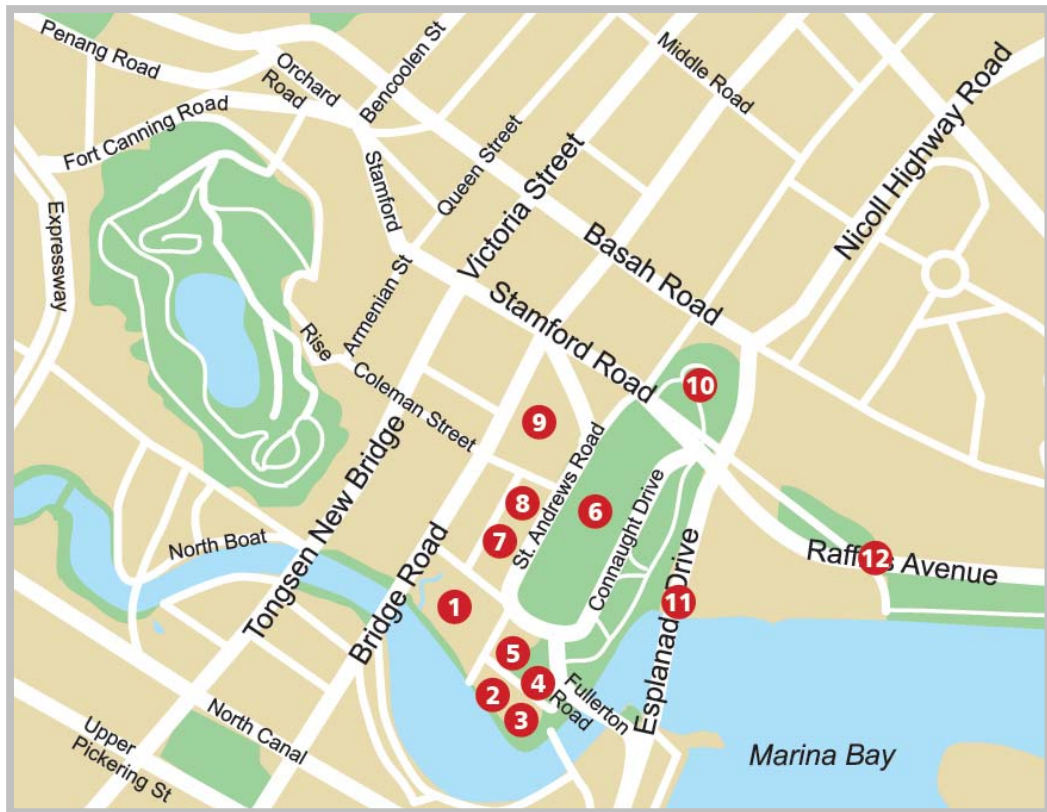
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Tour 2: Singapore

13. Raffles Hotel



1 Beach Road

www.raffles.com

MRT: City Hall

The world famous Raffles Hotel is known for its charm and elegance, which have been kept alive since the 1920s. The hotel is Singapore's oldest, and has been visited by countless celebrities from all over the world, such as Charlie Chaplin and Michael Jackson. It is possible for non-residents to experience the atmosphere by having a meal in its restaurant, or perhaps enjoy a Singapore Sling in the Long Bar. It was in this bar the first Singapore Sling was served in 1915.

Raffles Hotel also has museum showcasing its history, including its many famous guests.

14. Chijmes



30 Victoria Street

www.chijmes.com.sg

MRT: City Hall

The Convent of Chijmes was founded in 1854 under its original name, Convent of the Holy Infant Jesus. The Sisters operated an orphanage and a school until 1983 when the convent moved to another location.

Chijmes' most distinctive feature is the elegant chapel built in 1903 with its slender spire. Today the buildings are home to a shopping centre.

15. Cathedral of the Good Shepherd



4 Queen Street

MRT: City Hall

The Cathedral of the good Shepherd was the first Catholic Cathedral in Singapore. It was built in 1843-1846 in a restrained Renaissance style after

Denis Leslie McSwiney's design. The slender spire is a later addition. The Cathedral has beautiful timber ceilings and stained glass windows.

16. Singapore Art Museum

71 Bras Basah Road

www.nhb.gov.sg/sam

MRT: City Hall

Singapore Art Museum opened in 1996 in a building that originally belonged to a Catholic boys' school. The Art Museum's splendid collection primarily consists of Southeast Asian works from varying genres. In addition to the indoor displays, the museum also has idyllic outdoor areas that are used for displaying paintings and sculptures.

17. Singapore History Museum

93 Stamford Road

www.nhb.gov.sg/shm

MRT: Dhoby Ghaut

Singapore History Museum is considered the country's National Museum. The fascinating museum is located in a beautiful building built in 1887. Until Singapore became independent, the collections focused on natural history and ethnography, but now other subjects have been included, such as the history of Singapore. Large dioramas depict the time from Raffle's landing to the present-day city-state.

The museum also showcases paintings and various handicrafts.

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18. Fort Canning Park

Fort Canning Park

www.nparks.gov.sg

MRT: Clarke Quay/Dhoby Ghaut

As early as the 14th century, Fort Canning Park was the half-mythical seat of the Malay kings. When Singapore entered its colonial period, the hill once more came to play a part, this time as a military facility.

In the period 1861-1926, there was a fort there, named Fort Canning. Today not much is left, apart from the name Canning Park.

From 1926, the present Fort Canning Centre housed military barracks, and its “Battle Box” bunker served as the British command post in Singapore during the 2nd World War.

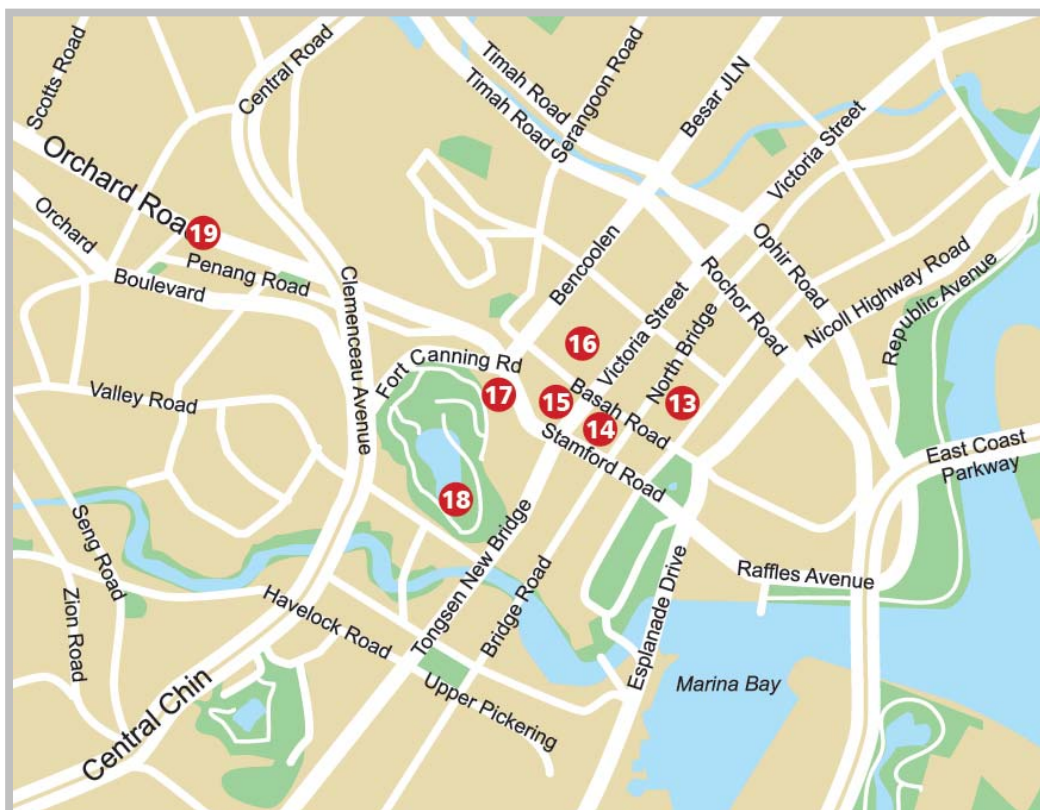
Today, the area is a park with many facilities. Its highlights include two Gothic Gates from the mid-19th century, the ASEAN Sculpture Park, with a sculpture from each of the ASEAN nations, and garden facilities such as the Spice Garden.

19. Orchard Road

Orchard Road

MRT: Orchard

Orchard Road is modern Singapore’s epicentre for shopping and restaurants. Orchard Road’s new high-rises are a fascinating contrast to the city’s ethnic quarters, such as Little India and Chinatown. A trip to Orchard Road is a must when visiting Singapore.



Tour 3: Singapore

20. Boat Quay

Boat Quay

MRT: Raffles Place

Boat Quay by the Singapore River with its small cosy houses presents a stark contrast to the surrounding skyscrapers. Boat Quay has a relaxing atmosphere with restaurants and bars. From the riverbank, there is a nice view of colonial Singapore on the opposite side of the river.

21. Raffles Place

Raffles Place

MRT: Raffles Place

Raffles Place is Singapore's modern centre. Its many skyscrapers, some 280 metres tall, are home to the headquarters of many international businesses and corporations.

22. Lau Pa Sat

Boon Tat Street

MRT: Raffles Place

Lau Pa Sat used to be Singapore's wet market. Today, the old cast-iron structure built in 1894 is a food centre where one can taste the many delicious local dishes. The structure itself was made in Glasgow and shipped to Singapore. It is Southeast Asia's largest Victorian filigree cast-iron building.

23. Thian Hock Keng Temple



158 Telok Ayer Street

MRT: Tanjong Pagar

Thian Hock Keng was built in 1839 as Singapore's first Chinese temple. The temple is built in a traditional Chinese style, transporting the visitor back in time to bygone centuries. The temple has beautiful ceilings and decorations.

24. Chinatown



South Bridge Road

MRT: Chinatown

The centre of Singapore's old Chinatown is situated between

South Bridge Road, Upper Cross Street, New Bridge Road and Sago Street. In the area's narrow streets, one can experience the original Chinese Singapore, with small shops, restaurants and street

life. A stroll along Trengganu Street is a must for every visitor.

25. Sri Mariamman Temple



244 South Bridge Road

MRT: Chinatown

The Hindu Sri Mariamman Temple is the most characteristic building on South Bridge Road by Chinatown. The Temple is incredibly detailed, not least its tower where the many Hindu gods come to life in colourful depictions. The temple was built in 1843 by Indian labourers from Madras. In the row next to the Sri Mariamman temple is the entrance to the Jamae Mosque, which was built in a unique blend of styles in the 1830s.

26. Hill Street

Hill Street

MRT: Clarke Quay

Hill Street connects Chinatown with Singapore's old colonial centre. Among the many interesting buildings are the fire station, built in Edwardian style in 1906, and the ministerial Hill Street Building, built in Italian style in 1934.

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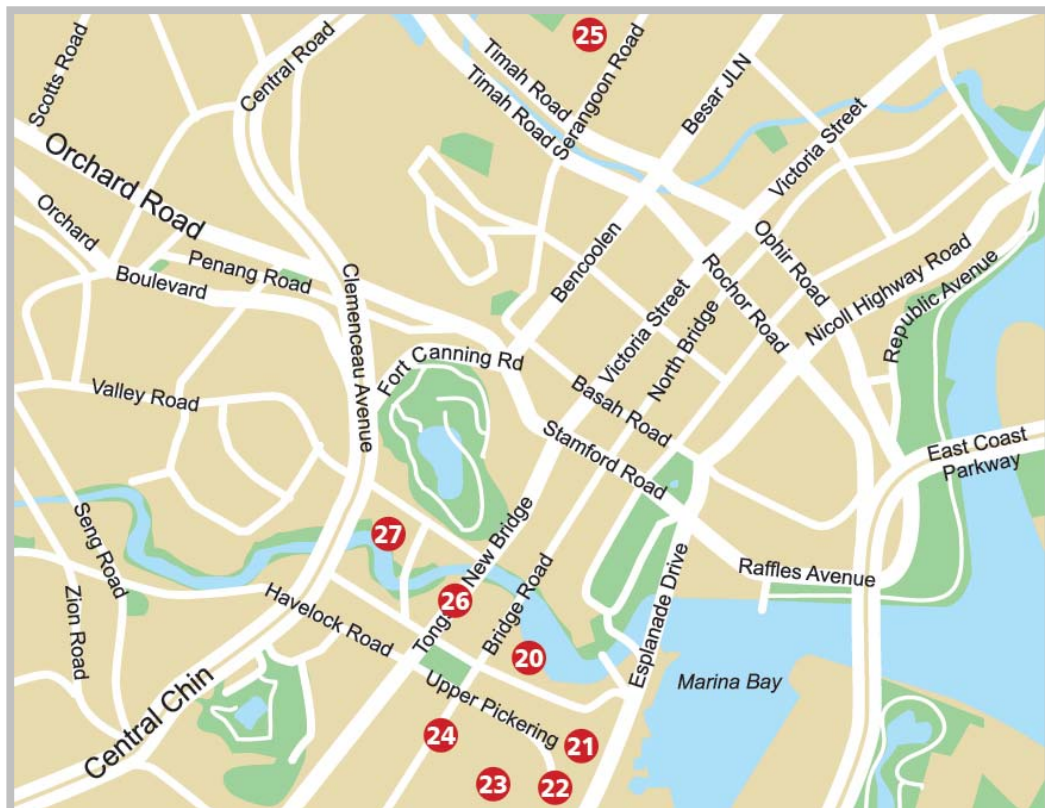
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27. Clarke Quay

Clarke Quay

MRT: Clarke Quay

Clarke Quay was named in honour of Singapore's 2nd governor, Sir Andrew Clarke. Until the 1990s, the area consisted of more or less abandoned warehouses. Since then it has been turned into a lively and fashionable area, full of shops, restaurants and bars. There are also activities on the Singapore River itself by Clarke's Quay.



Tour 4: Singapore

28. Istana

Mount Emily Park

www.istana.gov.sg

MRT: Dhoby Ghaut/Little India

Istana Mansion is the official residence of Singapore's president. The area was bought by the British government, which built Istana as residence for the British Governor. When Singapore became independent, its heads of state continued to use the building.

Istana is a nice example of British Colonial style inspired by local architecture, in this case Malay houses. There are several other structures surrounding the mansion itself. Among them are Sri Temasek, a bungalow from 1869, Istana Villa from 1938, as well as a Japanese cannon, which was given to Admiral Louis Mountbatten in 1945.

29. Little India



Serangoon Road

MRT: Little India

The area around Serangoon Road is just like India. In particular Little India Arcade and Campbell Lane have a very special atmosphere with their Indian shops and restaurants - and even fortune-telling parrots.

30. Sri Srinivasa Perumal temple



397 Serangoon Road

MRT: Farrer Park

This temple was founded in 1855, but it was later extended; in 1966 a tower was added. Sri Srinavasa Perumal is among Singapore's most important Hindu temples, and the ceiling in the large prayer hall, Madapam, the various shrines and the many small images of divinities are all richly decorated.

31. Sakaya Muni Buddha Gaya

366 Race Course Road

MRT: Farrer Park

Sakaya Muni Buddha Gaya is a Buddhist temple built in Thai style by a Thai monk in 1927. The temple has an illuminated 15-metre-tall, seated Buddha. It also has several religious relics, including, it is said, a replica of one of Buddha's footprints and a piece of bark from the tree he was sitting beneath when he sought enlightenment.

32. Kampong Glam



Arab Street

MRT: Bugis

Kampong Glam is Singapore's Arabian quarter, and there is a distinct Middle-Eastern atmosphere in its streets. Arab Street is particularly interesting; here stands Sultan Hussein's former residence, Istana Kampong Glam, and the Sultan Mosque (3 Muscat Street). The impressive mosque is Singapore's holiest place for Muslims. It was designed by the Irish architect Denis Santry in a typical fairytale-like Arab style. The great domes, spires and balustrades are a wonder to behold.

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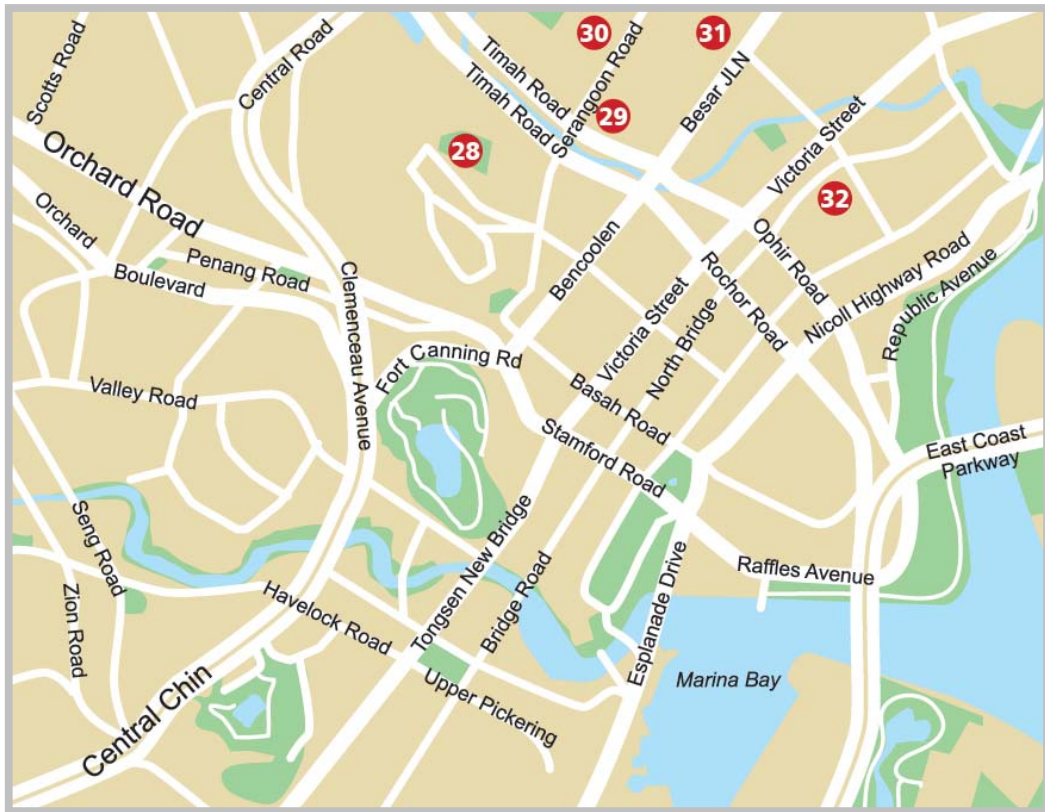
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Day Tours from Singapore

33. Ming Village

32 Pandan Road

MRT: Clementi

Ming Village is a workshop and a museum where craftsmen recreate porcelain masterpieces from the Ming and Qing dynasties. It was during these two periods that Chinese porcelain pottery reached its zenith. Visitors have the opportunity to watch pottery production, and to see the large collection of reproductions from the Ming and Qing period.

34. Chinese & Japanese Gardens



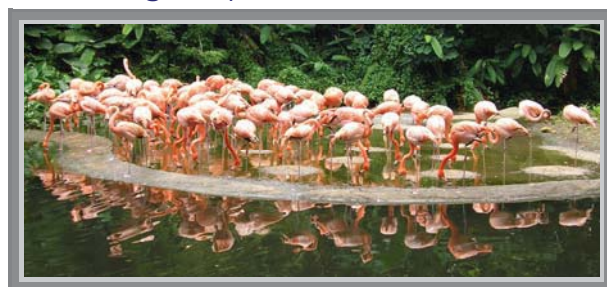
1 Chinese Garden Road

www.chinesegardens.com.sg

MRT: Chinese Garden

In these two parks can be seen traditional Chinese and Japanese gardens. The Chinese garden is built in the tradition of the Sung Dynasty, and its beautiful pagoda is reminiscent of the Summer Palace in Beijing. The Japanese garden contains different traditional elements, such as stone gardens, carp ponds, small pavilions and stone lanterns.

35. Jurong Birdpark



2 Jurong Hill

www.birdpark.com.sg

MRT: Boon Lay

Jurong Bird Park has more than 9,000 birds belonging to more than 600 different species. Where possible, the park is arranged so that the birds can be seen in their natural habitat. There is a pelican bay, 200 penguins, and more than 1,500 free-flying African birds in the Waterfall Aviary, which has the world's highest artificial waterfall. Parrot lovers are going to enjoy the park's more than 1,000 colourful lorries.

Jurong Bird Park can be experienced on a 45-minute guided tour in an accompanied electric car, or by boarding the exciting panorail system.

36. Bukit Timah Nature Reserve

177 Hindhede Drive

www.nparks.gov.sg

MRT: Newton

Situated in the centre of Singapore is the large Bukit Timah Nature Reserve. Having a preserved rainforest so close to the city presents a unique opportunity to experience its wonders. Bukit Timah has nice hiking trails where visitors can experience the forest and see the old stone quarry as well as Singapore's highest point, the 164-metre-high Bukit Timah Hill.

37. Mandai Orchid Garden

Mandai Lake Road

www.mandai.com.sg

Metro: Ang Mo Kio

Mandai Orchid Garden occupies approximately 4 hectares of hillside full of blooming orchids. An added delight is the beautifully landscaped water garden.

The Orchid Garden is also a commercial orchid farm and it is possible to buy the beautiful flowers there, including Singapore’s national flower, the Vanda Miss Hoaquim orchid.

38. Singapore Botanical Garden



Cluny Road

www.sbg.org.sg

www.nparks.gov.sg

MRT: Orchard

Sir Stamford Raffles founded Singapore’s first botanical garden by Fort Canning in 1822-1829, but the present day garden was established in 1859 and has since been extended to today’s 52 hectares.

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Singapore's Botanical Garden is very enjoyable: there are countless theme gardens and concerts are being performed regularly on the various stages in the area. One of the undisputed highlights is the Orchid garden, founded in 1955.

To get an overview of the many plant species in the garden, it is advisable to start the visit at the excellent visitor's centre.

39. Johor Bahru



Access via Singapore Johor Causeway
<http://johortourism.com.my>

Johor Bahru is the capital of Malaysia's Johor province., and with a population of 500,000, it is Malaysia's second-largest city. Visitors to Johor Bahru can experience an atmospheric Malaysian metropolis with interesting sights, businesses, market and Malaysian cuisine.

39a. Sultan Abu Bakar Mosque Jalan Gertak Merah

The Sultan Abu Bakar Mosque is considered to be Malaysia's most beautiful. It was built in 1900 in a delightful blend of Islamic and Italian architectural styles. The splendid view out over the Tebrau Strait is also worth the trip.

39b. Royal Sultan Abu Bakar Museum & Grand Palace/Istana Besar



Jalan Sri Berkular

Sultan Abu Bakar built Johor Bahru's Grand Palace in a Neoclassicist style in 1866. It is surrounded by beautiful palace gardens, including a Japanese garden with a teahouse, which was given to the Sultan of Johor by the Japanese Crown Prince in 1936.

Today the palace is a museum, named the Abu Bakar Museum. It showcases effects related to the history of Johor's Sultans, as well as art brought back by Abu Bakar and his son Ibrahim from their many travels.

39c. State Secretariat Building Bangunan Sultan Ibrahim

Johor Bahru's State Secretariat Building dominates the city's skyline from its location at the top of Bukit Timbalan Hill. The fascinating building was built in 1940, and not least its large hall is worth a visit.

39d. Royal Mausoleum Jalan Mahmoodiah

Johor Bahru's elegant Royal Mausoleum is a serene place within the city. It is the last resting place of the Sultans of Johor.

39e. Johor Art Gallery/Galeri Seni Johor

Johor Bahru's Art Gallery holds many works of art and other items related to the history of the province. The museum was founded in 1910 and is housed in an elegant Colonial-style building.

40. Sentosa Island

Sentosa Island

www.sentosa.com.sg

www.skytower.com.sg

MRT: HarbourFront

Sentosa Island is Singapore's resort island. Its great natural beauty is complemented by a cornucopia of exciting entertainments.

The most interesting way to reach the island is perhaps via the cable car, travelling high above the harbour front. But it is also possible to simply walk there across the Causeway Bridge. The island has several tropical beaches and lagoons, and even a couple of golf courses. Dolphins, birds and insects are some of the fauna that can be seen on the island

Those who prefer a birds-eye view can try Skytower's revolving panorama cabin, which travels to a height of 131 metres.

Centrally located on Sentosa Island is the city's icon, the 27-metre-tall Merlion Monument. A Merlion is a creature that is half lion and half fish. By Merlion Monument one can also find Merlion Walk, a 120-metre-long, Gaudi-inspired mosaic walkway.

41. Boat trip to Indonesia



Harbourfront Centre

MRT: HarbourFront

From HarbourFront/Singapore Cruise Centre there are regular departures by boat to the Indonesian islands of Batam and Bintan. Batam is a 20 kilometres trip, Bintan 48 kilometres, and it is a great experience to sail from the busy waters off the coast of Singapore to the two tropical islands, which are still places of recreation for Singapore's citizens in spite of heavy development in recent years.



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Escape Theme Park (1 Pasir Ris Close):

www.escapethemepark.com.sg

Sentosa Island (Sentosa Island):

www.sentosa.com.sg

Singapore Zoo & Night Safari (80 Mandai Lake Road):

www.zoo.com.sg, www.nightsafari.com.sg

Singapore Discovery Centre (510 Upper Jurong Road):

www.sdc.com.sg

Shopping in Singapore

Orchard Road, Chinatown, Clarke Quay, Arab Street, North Bridge Road, Holland Village
Far East Plaza (14 Scotts Road):

www.fareast-plaza.com

Jurong Point (1 Jurong West Central):

www.jurongpoint.com.sg

Marina Square (6 Raffles Boulevard):

www.marinasquare.com.sg

Parkway Parade (80 Marine Parade Road):

www.parkwayparade.com.sg

Plaza Singapura (68 Orchard Road):

www.plazasingapura.com.sg

Raffles City Shopping Centre (252 North Bridge Road):

www.rafflescitiy.com

Suntec City Mall (3 Temasek Boulevard):

www.sunteccity.com.sg

Takashimaya (391 Orchard Road):

www.takashimaya-sin.com

The Heeren Shops (260 Orchard Road):

www.heeren.com.sg

Public transport in Singapore

Singapore City Transport:

www.smrt.com.sg

Singapore Airport:

www.changi.airport.com.sg

Metro Map



Facts about Singapore



Allmänna fakta

Official name	Republic of Singapore Republik Singapura 新加坡共和国 சிங்கப்பூர் குடியரசு
Capital	Singapore
System of government	Parliamentary republic
Head of state	President Sellapan Ramanathan
Head of government	Prim Minister Lee Hsien Loong
National Day	9 August
Independence achieved	31 August 1963 from Great Britain 9 August 1965 separated from Malaysia
Primary religions	Buddhism Christianity, Islam Taoism, Hinduism
Languages	English, Malay, Mandarin, Tamil
Area	704 km ²
Population (2008)	4,608,167

Borders on

North	Johor Strait
South	Singapore Strait
East	Johor Strait, Singapore Strait
West	Singapore Strait

Geography

Highest point	Bukit Timah Hill	164 m
Largest Island	Singapore Island	544 km ²
Largest lake	Lower Seletar Reservoir	3,6 km ²
Longest river	Kallang River	10 km

Ethnic Groups (2006)

Chinese	75 %
Malay	14 %
Indian	9 %
Other	2 %

Trust and responsibility

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Inés Aréizaga Esteva (Spain), 25 years old
Education: Chemical Engineer

– You have to be proactive and open-minded as a newcomer and make it clear to your colleagues what you are able to cope. The pharmaceutical field is new to me. But busy as they are, most of my colleagues find the time to teach me, and they also trust me. Even though it was a bit hard at first, I can feel over time that I am beginning to be taken seriously and that my contribution is appreciated.

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Languages (2000) *

Chinese, Mandarin	35 %
Chinese, other dialects	24 %
English	23 %
Malay	14 %
Tamil	3 %

*Whole numbers

Religious affiliation*

Buddhism	43 %
Christianity	14 %
Islam	14 %
Taoism	9 %
Hinduism	4 %
Other	2 %
Atheism	15 %

*Whole numbers

Population growth*

1963	1,800,000
1965	1,875,000
1970	2,075,000
1975	2,250,000
1980	2,400,000
1985	2,725,000
1990	3,100,000
1995	3,500,000
2000	4,125,000

*Whole numbers

Administrative Division		
Region	Area	Number of districts in the region
Central Region	130.5 km ²	22 districts
East Region	167 km ²	6 districts
North Region	97 km ²	8 districts
North-East Region	108 km ²	7 districts
West Region	201 km ²	12 districts

Heads of State since 1965	
Yusof bin Ishak	1965-1970
Benjamin Henry Sheares	1970-1981
Chengara Veetil Devan Nair	1981-1985
Wee Kim Wee	1985-1993
Ong Teng Cheong	1993-1999
Sellapan Ramanathan	1999-

Prime Ministers since 1965	
Lee Kuan Yew	1965-1990
Goh Chok Tong	1990-2004
Lee Hsien Loong	2004-

National Holidays and Memorial Days	
1 January	New Year's Day
January-February, date varies	Chinese New Year
March-April, date varies	Easter Day
Easter Day -2 days	Good Friday
1 May	Labour Day
May-June, date varies	Wesak (Buddhist)
9 August	National Day
Date varies	Hari Raya Puasa (Muslim)
Date varies	Deepavali (Hindu)
Date varies	Hari Raya Haji (Muslim)
25 December	Christmas Day

Various facts	
Currency	Singapore dollar
Currency code	SGD
Time zone	Singapore Standard Time (UTC+8)
License plate country code	SGP
Internet domain	.sg
Telephone country code	+65

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Climate – Singapore	Average daily temperature °C/°F	Precipitation millimetres/inches
January	26.0/78.8	239/9.4
February	26.6/79.9	165/6.5
March	27.0/80.6	174/6.8
April	27.3/81.1	166/6.6
May	27.5/81.5	171/6.7
June	27.5/81.5	163/6.4
July	27.3/81.1	150/5.9
August	27.2/81.0	171/6.7
September	27.0/80.6	164/6.4
October	27.0/80.6	191/7.5
November	26.6/79.9	250/9.8
December	26.2/79.2	269/10.6

Source: WorldClimate (www.worldclimate.com)

A man wearing a wide-brimmed hat, a tropical print short-sleeved shirt, and shorts stands on a brick-paved platform next to a silver train car. He is looking towards the right. The background shows a clear blue sky and the side of the train with several windows.

About the Author

Stig Albeck (1969) is the author behind the travel books at OnLibri.com. Stig writes the way you travel the destinations!

The books often take their departure in the world's most exhilarating cities and evolve to the attractions and sights in their vicinity. Stig is a devoted traveller and a passionate explorer which brings him around the world several times each year to search for new exciting destinations.

Going to big cities or more adventurous destinations, Stig writes his travel guides to help and inspire readers to get the full benefit of their destination of choice.

Travelling is about enjoying the moment, but also about taking home memories and gaining new knowledge. No matter how far or near by the destination might be there sure are great experiences waiting to be unveiled.

Stig holds a masters degree in marketing and tourism from Copenhagen Business School in Denmark. He has been working in the tourism industry and with global marketing of tourist destinations.

If you have questions or perhaps made a discovery that you would like to share, then send Stig an email to travelstig@gmail.com (if you attach photos you agree to letting us use these for future travel guides).

Stig offers lectures on his travel experiences, or any specific tour that you might be about to head out for. To learn more about things like touring Australia, visiting the Mongolian capital Ulan Bator, or enjoying a fresh smoked omul at the Lake Baikal in February, visit www.stigalbeck.com.

Bonne Voyage!