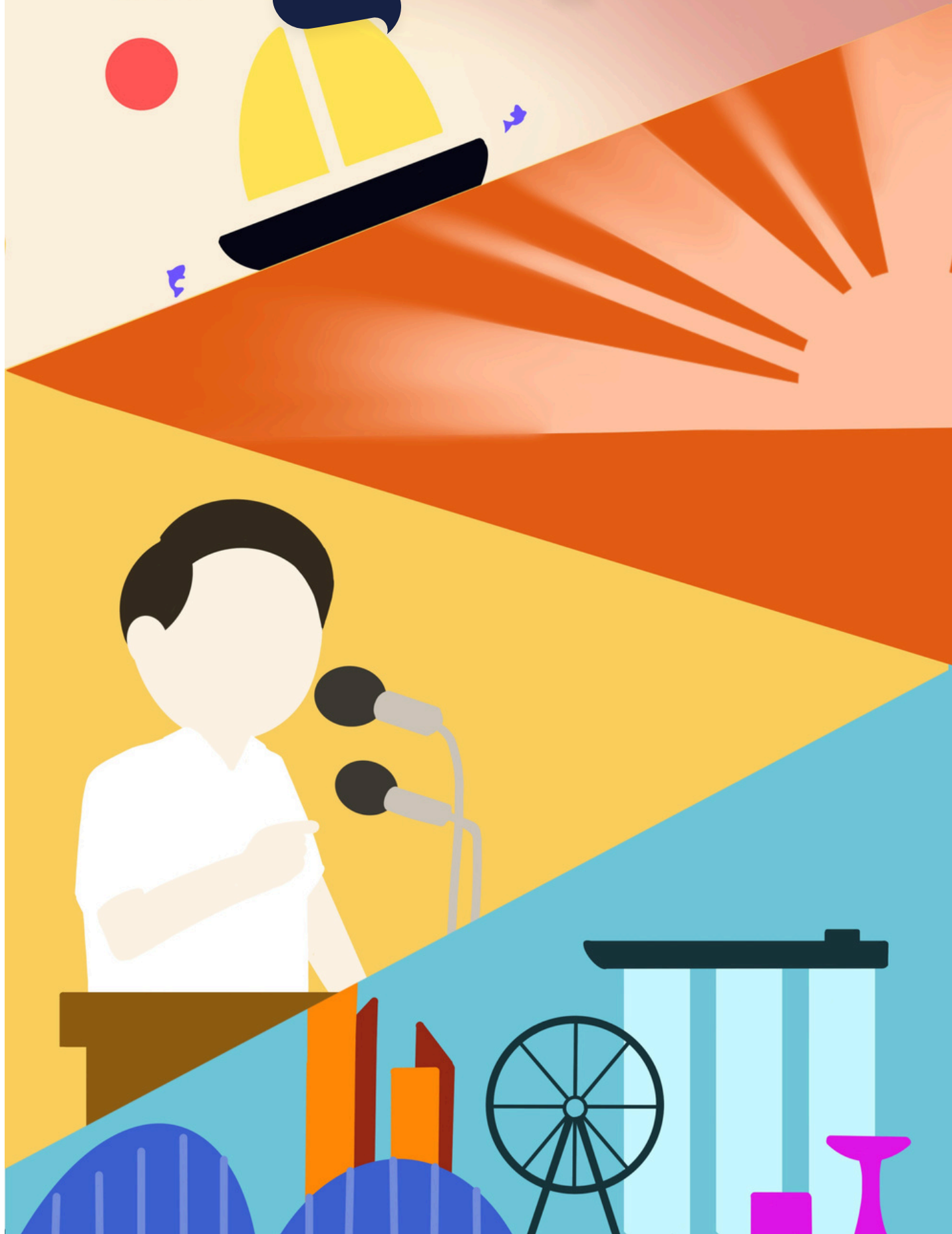


GUIDE TO

Singapore



LIM JING & AODHAN

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GOOD THINGS COME IN SMALL PACKAGES....

History of Singapore



Humble Beginnings

Long before the skyscrapers, Singapore was a quiet fishing village known as Temasek, meaning "Sea Town." It sat at the crossroads of ancient maritime trade routes and saw merchants from China, India, and the Malay Archipelago pass through its waters.

A Strategic Port

In 1819, Sir Stamford Raffles of the British East India Company signed a treaty with local rulers, founding a British trading post. Singapore quickly flourished into a bustling port, thanks to its deep harbor and free trade policy.



War & Occupation

During World War II, Singapore fell to Japanese forces in 1942, a turning point in the region's history. The three-year occupation was a difficult period marked by hardship and loss. After the war, Singapore returned to British rule but the push for independence had already begun.

Independence & Growth

Singapore briefly joined Malaysia in 1963 but became a fully independent nation on 9 August 1965. With few natural resources and a diverse population, Singapore focused on building a stable, forward-looking economy. Through strong leadership, investment in education, and embracing innovation, Singapore transformed into a global hub for finance, technology, and culture.

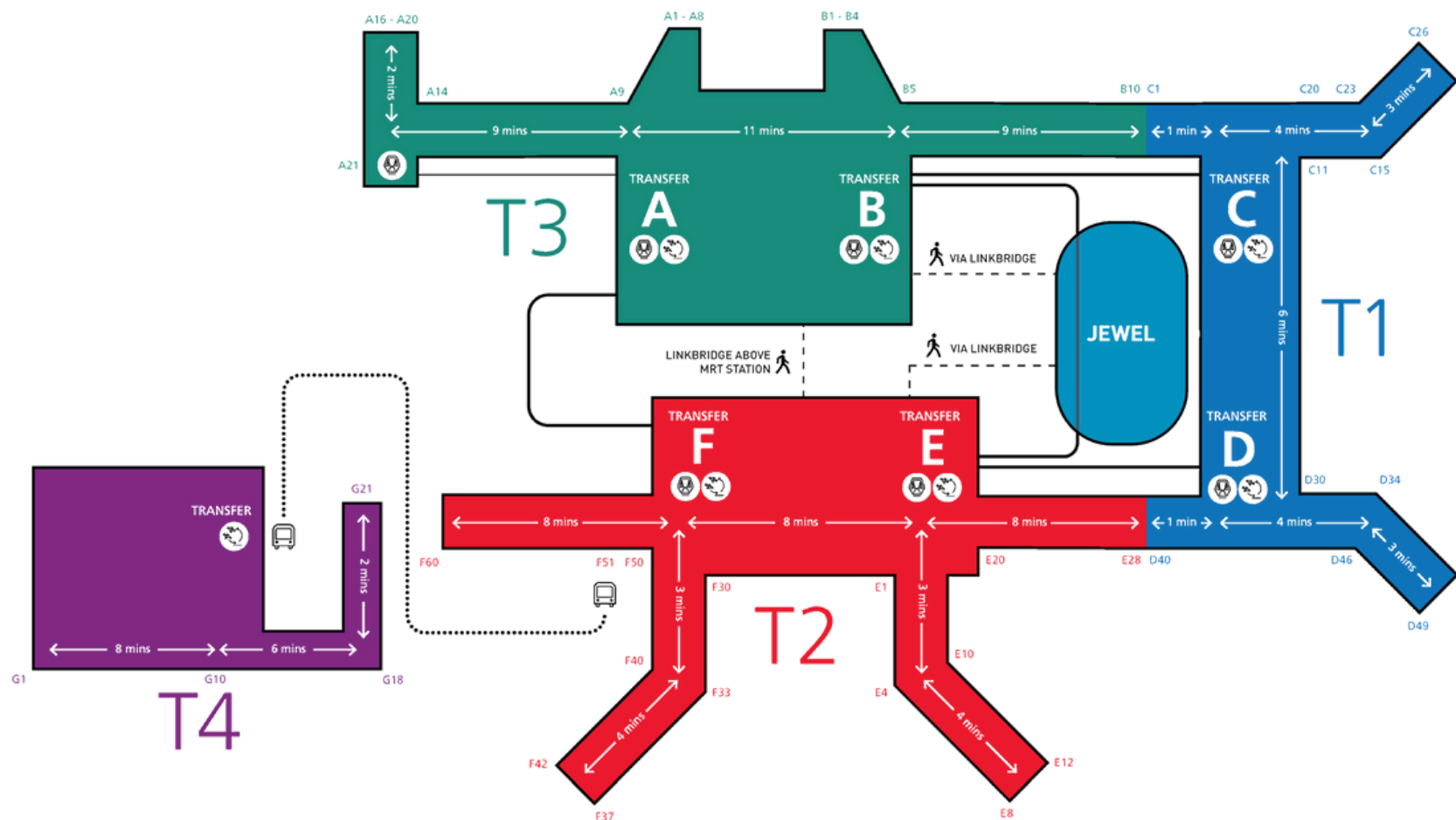


Today

Modern Singapore is a harmonious melting pot of cultures—Chinese, Malay, Indian, and Eurasian communities living side by side. You'll see this reflected in the food, languages, festivals, and warm hospitality.

WELCOME TO SINGAPORE

Arrival



1. SG Arrival Card

- Everyone must fill this out.
- You can submit it up to 3 days before your arrival, and it's free!
- Do it online at ica.gov.sg or download the SG Arrival Card app.

2. Immigration Check

- Visitors from Europe, the UK and the US don't need a visa, but double-check just to be sure.
- No physical stamp anymore! Just walk through the E-gates.

3. Baggage Claim & Customs

- Luggage usually comes out fast, but there's free Wi-Fi and clean restrooms while you wait.

WiFi

OPTION 1: You can grab a tourist SIM card or eSIM at the airport—perfect if you're staying just in Singapore.

OPTION 2: If you're planning to hop around Asia, check out Saily (<https://saily.com/>) for eSIMs that work across multiple countries.



DID YOU KNOW?

POWER PLUGS USE THE **UK-STYLE 3-PIN** (TYPE G), AND VOLTAGE IS 230V—SO BRING A TRAVEL ADAPTOR IF NEEDED!

Transport

OPTION 1: Ride-Hailing Apps: If you prefer to book from your phone, here are a few reliable apps in Singapore:

- Grab – The most popular one
- Gojek – Often has great promos.
- TADA – Known for no surge pricing.

OPTION 2: Train (MRT): The airport MRT station is in Terminals 2 & 3, and it links directly to the city.



DID YOU KNOW?

YOU DON'T NEED TO BUY A TRAVEL CARD, JUST **TAP YOUR PHONE OR CONTACTLESS BANK CARD** DIRECTLY AT THE MRT GATES AND ON BUSES—NO APP, NO FUSS.



DID YOU KNOW?

FIRST TRAIN START AROUND 530AM AND LAST TRAIN AROUND MIDNIGHT!

SO MUCH TO SEE, SO LITTLE JET LAG

What to see

Jewel Changi Airport

Not your average airport—the world's tallest indoor waterfall, shops, food, and sky gardens all under one (very photogenic) dome.

 Located at Changi Airport (Direct MRT to Changi Airport – CG2)



Marina Bay Sands

See the iconic three-tower hotel and head up to the rooftop SkyPark or infinity pool (hotel guests only!). Don't miss Ce La Vi bar for a drink with a view.

 Nearest MRT: Bayfront (CE1/DT16)



Gardens by the Bay

Stroll among the futuristic Supertree Grove and time your visit for the magical light and music show at night.

 Nearest MRT: Bayfront (CE1/DT16)

Outdoor park is free, but there is an entrance fee if you want to do the skywalk.



ENTRANCE FEE



ADD-ON FEE

Cloud Forest & Flower Dome

Inside Gardens by the Bay—walk through a misty mountain and explore seasonal floral displays. Both are air-conditioned and stunning.

 Nearest MRT: Bayfront (CE1/DT16)



Universal Studios Singapore

Theme park fun on Sentosa Island, packed with rollercoasters, movie zones, and shows.

 Nearest MRT: HarbourFront (NE1/CC29) → Transfer to Sentosa Express or walk via boardwalk



S.E.A. Aquarium

One of the world's largest aquariums, filled with majestic rays, sharks, and coral ecosystems.

 Nearest MRT: HarbourFront → Sentosa Express to Resorts World Station



ENTRANCE FEE



ADD-ON FEE

Adventure Cove Waterpark

Waterslides, a lazy river, snorkelling with fish, and plenty of splashes—great for families or to beat the heat.

 Nearest MRT: HarbourFront → Sentosa Express to Waterfront Station



Wild Wild Wet

A large local-favourite waterpark in the east—less touristy, more relaxed, and wallet-friendly.

 Nearest MRT: Pasir Ris (EW1)



East Coast Park

Cycle, blade, or stroll by the beach. You can rent bikes, chill at beach cafés, or swing by the East Coast Lagoon hawker for post-ride fuel.

 Nearest MRT: Bedok (EW5) + short bus/taxi ride



ENTRANCE FEE



ADD-ON FEE

Haw Par Villa

A quirky outdoor park full of Chinese mythology statues, including the famously wild 10 Courts of Hell.

 Nearest MRT: Haw Par Villa (CC25)

Outdoor park is free, but there is a fee for the Hell Museum.



Night Safari / Singapore Zoo / Bird paradise / River wonders

The zoo is world-class, with unique experience such as the Night Safari—see nocturnal animals from a tram or walking trail.

 Nearest MRT: Khatib (NS14) + Mandai shuttle bus



Southern Ridges Walk

A scenic 10km elevated trail connecting parks and green spaces, including the iconic Henderson Waves bridge.

 Nearest MRT: HarbourFront (NE1/CC29) or Labrador Park (CC27)

 Lovely in the early morning or just before sunset.



ENTRANCE FEE



ADD-ON FEE

Sri Mariamman Temple

Singapore's Oldest Hindu Temple (Since 1827)

📍 Nearest MRT: Chinatown (NE4/DT19), Exit A

Wear modest clothing (shoulders and knees covered) and be respectful!



Buddha Tooth Relic Temple

A Stunning Temple in the Heart of Chinatown. Four storey Tang-style architecture with a peaceful rooftop garden and giant prayer wheel.

📍 Nearest MRT: Chinatown (NE4/DT19), Exit A or B

Wear modest clothing (shoulders and knees covered) and be respectful.



Masjid Sultan

A Golden-Domed Icon in Kampong Glam

📍 Nearest MRT: Bugis (EW12/DT14), Exit B

Non-Muslim visitors are welcome outside of prayer times. Wear modest clothing (shoulders and knees covered) and be respectful.



ENTRANCE FEE



ADD-ON FEE

FROM STREET BITES TO SWEET DELIGHTS

What to eat



HAWKER CENTRES ARE OPEN-AIR FOOD COURTS WITH DOZENS OF AFFORDABLE LOCAL DISHES

From sizzling plates at hawker centres and casual meals at kopitiams, to Michelin-starred restaurants, rooftop bars, and sleek modern eateries serving creative takes on local flavours—Singapore's food scene has it all. No matter your budget, you'll eat well here.

***LOCAL DELIGHTS

Kaya toast & Soft-Boiled Eggs

Crispy toast slathered with kaya (coconut jam) and cold butter, served with jiggly soft-boiled eggs and a strong kopi (local coffee).



Roti Prata

Flaky Indian flatbread served with curry. Go classic with egg or try fun versions like cheese, banana, or even chocolate.



Nasi Lemak

A hearty plate of coconut rice with fried chicken, sambal, anchovies, peanuts, and egg.



Dim Sum

Dim sum is a Cantonese-style brunch made up of small steamed or fried dishes, perfect for sharing.

Must-Try Dim Sum Dishes:

- Siew Mai – Juicy pork dumplings with prawn
- Har Gow – Steamed shrimp dumplings with translucent skin
- Xiao Long Bao – Soup-filled dumplings; bite carefully or risk a splash!
- Char Siew Bao – Fluffy buns filled with sweet BBQ pork
- Liu Sha Bao – Molten salted egg yolk custard buns (yes, they ooze!)
- Chee Cheong Fun – Silky rice noodle rolls with shrimp or char siew
- Turnip Cake (Lo Bak Go) – Pan-fried, savoury and delicious
- Chicken Feet – A classic for the adventurous!



(SIEW MAI)



(XIAO LONG BAO)



(CHICKEN FEET)

Hainanese Chicken Rice

Soft, tender chicken served with fragrant rice cooked in chicken broth. Don't skip the garlic-chilli sauce!



Laksa

A rich, spicy coconut milk noodle soup, usually with prawns, cockles, or fishcake.



Bak Kut Teh

Pork ribs simmered in a peppery garlic broth, served with rice and youtiao (fried dough).



Satay

Grilled meat skewers (usually chicken, beef, or lamb) marinated in spices and served with peanut sauce, cucumber, onions, and rice cakes.



Rojak

A bold, funky-sweet salad of fruits, vegetables, fried dough sticks, and tofu tossed in a sticky shrimp paste, tamarind, and peanut sauce.



Sambal Stingray

Barbecued stingray served on a banana leaf, slathered in spicy sambal chilli paste, and often topped with onions and a squeeze of lime.



Fish Head Curry

A whole fish head stewed in spicy, tangy curry with vegetables—rich, bold, and packed with flavour.



Steamboat (Hotpot)

DIY-style dining where you cook meats, seafood, and veggies in a bubbling pot of broth right at your table.



Mookata

Thai BBQ meets hotpot—meats sizzle on a domed grill in the centre, while vegetables and noodles simmer in the soup moat around it.



Ice Kachang

A colourful mountain of shaved ice drenched in syrup, condensed milk, and topped with red beans, jelly, sweet corn, and more surprises hidden underneath.



Chendol

Shaved ice with green pandan "worms," red beans, coconut milk, and gula melaka (palm sugar syrup).



Sugarcane Juice

Freshly pressed sugarcane stalks turned into a refreshing, all-natural drink, often with a squeeze of lime.



Kueh

“Kueh” (or “kuih”) refers to a wide variety of traditional Southeast Asian snacks and desserts. Many are Peranakan in origin, and you’ll spot them at bakeries, hawker stalls, and even fancy dessert cafés today.

Must-Try Kueh Favourites:

- Kueh Lapis – A rainbow-coloured, chewy steamed cake made of soft layers.
- Ondeh Ondeh – Glutinous green balls filled with molten gula melaka and rolled in shredded coconut.
- Ang Ku Kueh – Bright red, soft kueh filled with sweet mung bean or peanut paste, shaped like a tortoise shell (symbol of longevity).
- Pulut Inti – Sticky blue coconut rice topped with sweet grated coconut and wrapped in a banana leaf.
- Kueh Salat – Two layers: pandan custard on top, glutinous rice on the bottom. Smooth, rich, and totally addictive.



(KUEH LAPIS)



(ONDEH ONDEH)



(ANG KU KUEH)

NOODLES, SPICE, AND EVERYTHING NICE

Where to eat

* * * FAMOUS HAWKERS IN SINGAPORE

1. Newton Food Centre

🌟 Tourist-friendly, wide variety

One of the most famous hawker centres (thanks to Crazy Rich Asians), Newton offers a big range of local dishes that are slightly pricier but accessible.

✅ Great if you want variety and an easy intro to local food

💬 Hawkers here are used to tourists, so you won't feel out of place

💰 Mid-High range pricing for hawker food

📍 Nearest MRT: Newton MRT Station, approx. 5-minute walk from the food centre

2. Lau Pa Sat

🌟 Central location, historic vibes

Located right in the CBD/Raffles area, this beautifully restored market is perfect after a day of city exploring. It's more expensive, but very atmospheric—especially when Satay Street opens up at night!

✅ Ideal for grabbing food after sightseeing downtown

💬 Great spot for photos and rooftop bar hopping after

💰 On the pricier side for hawker food

📍 Nearest MRT: Telok Ayer station, downtown station, raffles place station, 10-15 min walk

3. Whampoa Food Centre

🌟 Authentic and local

Tucked away in a heartland neighbourhood, Whampoa is where the locals go for legit, affordable hawker favourites.

✅ Best if you want the real-deal experience, away from tourists

💬 English may not be as widely spoken, but smiles go a long way

💰 Very affordable

📍 Nearest MRT: Novena MRT Station, approx. 3-minute walk from the food centre

4. East Coast Lagoon Food Village

🌟 By the beach, very local

Located inside East Coast Park, this open-air hawker is a gem for those planning to cycle, stroll, or picnic by the sea. Delicious food, chill vibes, and mostly locals.

✅ Perfect for a relaxed beach day + dinner

💬 Go early evening for best vibes and breeze

💰 Affordable, but slightly out of the way

📍 Nearest MRT: Bedok MRT Station, approx. 15–20 minute walk from the food centre

EVERY HAWKER CENTRE AND KOPITIAM IN SINGAPORE HAS ITS OWN VERSION OF THE LOCAL DELIGHTS. THE ONES LISTED HERE ARE SOME LOCAL FAVOURITES, BUT HONESTLY? YOU CAN'T REALLY GO WRONG. IF SOMETHING SMELLS AMAZING OR THE QUEUE IS LONG, FOLLOW YOUR NOSE AND GIVE IT A TRY. PART OF THE FUN IS FINDING YOUR OWN FAVOURITE VERSION!

***RECOMMENDATIONS FROM LOCAL FOODIES

ANTI:NOTE

A chic and cozy café known for its creative afternoon tea sets that blend classic comfort with modern twists.

💰 On the pricier side — S\$68⁺⁺ per adult, S\$34⁺⁺ per child

📍 Nearest MRT: Tanjong Pagar MRT Station

*Reservation required.



Honey & Lemon Afternoon Tea | Fullerton Hotels and Resorts

Experience a delightful afternoon tea set inspired by the refreshing flavors of honey and lemon, served in the elegant and historic setting of the Fullerton Hotel.

💰 On the pricier side — S\$68⁺⁺ per adult, S\$34⁺⁺ per child

📍 Nearest MRT: Raffles Place MRT Station

*Reservation required.



Nan Hwa Chong Fish Head Steamboat (Nan Hua Chang / Ah Chew Fish Head Steamboat)

☀️ Authentic and local

Famous for its rich and flavorful fish head steamboat, this is a beloved local spot where fresh fish heads are simmered in a fragrant, spicy broth.

💰 Mid-range pricing — around SGD 15-30 per person

📍 Nearest MRT: Kallang MRT Station (East-West Line)



The Blue Ginger

A cozy eatery serving traditional Peranakan (Straits Chinese) cuisine, rich with heritage and bold flavors. Expect dishes like Ayam Buah Keluak, Babi Pongteh, and other rich, savory specialties that showcase a unique fusion of Chinese and Malay influences.

💰 Mid-range pricing— dishes around SGD 15–30

📍 Nearest MRT: Outram Park MRT Station



Hup Kee Fried Oyster Omelette

☀️ Authentic and local

A hawker favourite serving crispy, flavour-packed oyster omelettes — a must-try Singaporean street food classic. This stall is known for fresh oysters and a perfect balance of crispy and gooey textures in their omelette.

💰 Very affordable — typically SGD 5–8 per plate

📍 Nearest MRT: Jalan Besar MRT Station



Song Fa Bak Kut Teh | Chinatown Point

☀️ Authentic and local

Song Fa is renowned for its traditional Bak Kut Teh — a hearty pork rib soup simmered with fragrant herbs and spices. The setting is casual but popular, so be prepared for a bustling atmosphere!

💰 Affordable — most meals range from SGD 8 to 15

📍 Nearest MRT: Chinatown MRT Station



FROM STREET STALLS TO SKY-HIGH MALLS

Where to shop

Orchard Road / ION Orchard

Singapore's most famous shopping street—huge malls, international brands, and aircon for days.

💡 Great for fashion, cosmetics, and people-watching.

📍 Nearest MRT: Orchard (NS22/TE14) — the mall connects directly to the station!



Marina Bay Sands (MBS) – The Shoppes

Luxury lovers, this is your playground. Think Gucci, Chanel, Louis Vuitton... with a canal and gondolas inside the mall.

💡 Window-shop or splurge—your call!

📍 Nearest MRT: Bayfront (CE1/DT16) — follow signs to “The Shoppes” once inside.



Bugis Street

A bustling indoor street market filled with affordable fashion, accessories, and quirky finds.

💡 Perfect for souvenirs, cheap clothes, and teeny trinkets.

📍 Nearest MRT: Bugis (EW12/DT14) — exit toward Bugis Junction and follow the crowd!



Sim Lim Square

Singapore's tech haven—from gadgets and gaming gear to camera lenses and phone repair.

💡 Ask around, compare prices, and don't be afraid to bargain!

📍 Nearest MRT: Rochor (DT13) — just across the street from Exit A.



Haji Lane

A colourful alley filled with indie boutiques, vintage finds, and eye-catching murals.

📍 Nearest MRT: Bugis (EW12/DT14)

💡 Bring your camera and leave room in your bag.



Chinatown Street Market

Rows of vibrant stalls selling souvenirs, trinkets, traditional Chinese goods, local snacks, and even custom name chops!

💡 Come here for gifts, photo ops, and a stroll through heritage shophouses.

📍 Nearest MRT: Chinatown (NE4/DT19) — use Exit A or C for direct access to the market streets.



A PILLOW FOR EVERY BUDGET

Where to Stay

HOSTELS
(20-80 SGD)



MID-RANGE HOTELS
(150-300 SGD)

FOR 2



LUXURY HOTELS
(300-500+ SGD)

FOR 2

WE WILL PROVIDE A LIST
CLOSER TO THE DATE!

PAY LIKE A LOCAL

How to pay

Singapore is super digital when it comes to payments, but there are a few quirks.



PayWave/Tap-to-Pay

The most common way to pay



CASH

Good to carry SGD \$20–50 in small notes for backup—just in case a stall doesn't accept cards or tap.



PayNow

A local payment system linked to Singapore bank accounts only. Does not work for tourist!



PayLah!

A local payment system linked to Singapore bank accounts only. Does not work for tourist!



FORGIVE ME WALLET, FOR I HAVE SINNED.

Overall cost

1. FLIGHTS (FROM IRELAND OR THE UK)

AVERAGE RETURN FLIGHT: €600–€1,000 / £550–£950

💡 BEST TO BOOK 6–9 MONTHS IN ADVANCE FOR THE BEST PRICES.

💡 SINGAPORE AIRLINES, QATAR AIRWAYS, EMIRATES, AND ETIHAD.

2. ACCOMMODATION

TYPE PRICE RANGE (PER NIGHT)

 HOSTELS €20–€40 / £17–£35

 MID-RANGE HOTELS €80–€150 / £70–£130

 HIGH-END HOTELS €200–€400 / £170–£350

 LUXURY ICONS €450+ / £400+

💡 BOOKING EARLY = MORE CHOICES AND BETTER RATES

3. FOOD & DINING

TYPE OF MEAL AVERAGE COST NOTES

 HAWKER/STALL MEAL €3–€6 / £2.50–£5

 MID-RANGE CAFE/RESTAURANT €10–€20 / £9–£18

 FANCY RESTAURANT €40–€100+ / £35–£90+

💡 NO TIPPING REQUIRED—SERVICE CHARGE IS USUALLY INCLUDED!

ESTIMATED DAILY BUDGET

PER DAY ESTIMATE

 BUDGET €50–100

 MID €100–200

 LUXURY €200++

RESPECT THE RULES, AVOID THE CELL

How to not get arrested

DEATH PENALTY [NON-NEGOTIABLE AND STRICTLY ENFORCED]

1. DRUG TRAFFICKING

POSSESSION OF CERTAIN AMOUNTS = PRESUMED TRAFFICKING E.G. 15G OF HEROIN, 30G OF COCAINE, 500G OF CANNABIS, 250G OF METH

2. MURDER

3. USE OF FIREARMS

JAILING, CANING, OR DEPORTATION

4. POSSESSION/USE OF DRUGS

- RANDOM DRUG TESTS (INCLUDING FOR FOREIGNERS) ARE LEGAL.
- TESTING POSITIVE—EVEN IF YOU CONSUMED THE DRUG OVERSEAS—CAN RESULT IN JAIL AND/OR CANING.

5. OUTRAGE OF MODESTY (SEXUAL HARASSMENT)

6. VANDALISM

7. RIOTING OR UNLAWFUL ASSEMBLY

8. WEAPONS POSSESSION

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POLICE EMERGENCIES
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