



# NUS Law's Visitor Guide To Singapore

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Last updated on 21 February 2014

# A. Singapore: NUS Visitors Information

# 1. Getting to NUS (Bukit Timah Campus) by taxi/coach

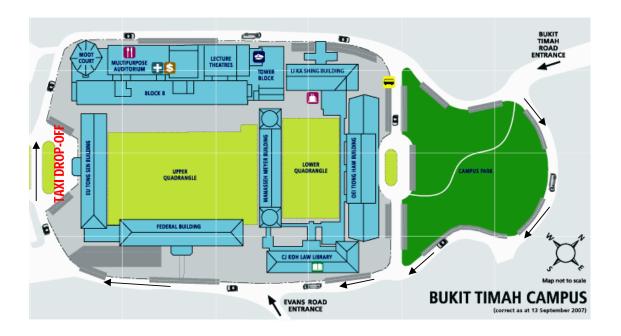
The most direct mode of transport to the NUS Campus is by taxi. Each taxi can accommodate up to 4 passengers unless you opt to take a bigger cab. The taxi fare to NUS from the city centre costs approximately \$\$15.

There are three NUS campuses located in different parts of Singapore. Inform the taxi/coach driver that you wish to specifically go to "NUS—<u>Bukit Timah Campus</u>". Do clarify further by stating that it is located near to the Botanical Gardens and, if necessary, that it used to be the former NIE and SMU campus.

On reaching the campus, direct the taxi to travel along the circumference of the campus until you reach Eu Tong Sen Building. You can alight the taxi/coach at the Drop-off / Pick-up point outside the building.

Details on our location and other mode of transport to campus can be found at <a href="http://www.law.nus.edu.sg/about\_us/location.html">http://www.law.nus.edu.sg/about\_us/location.html</a>





# 2. Some Places to Eat Around the Campus

- Summit Located at Block B of the campus, Summit is the Faculty's own canteen, popular for its variety of local food in an air-conditioned setting. You can choose from Indian, Western and Chinese cuisine, washed down with local coffee ("kopi", more on which later). The food court is also frequented for its cakes and buns that are baked daily.
- **Food Canopy** For an open air hawker-centre eating experience, head on down to Food Canopy, located at 1J Cluny Road, Singapore Botanic Gardens (walk down the roadway for the Evans Road entrance). The food court serves up flavours of Thailand, Japanese cuisine, Western delights, and of course, the local Indian and Chinese fare.
- **Reedz** Tucked in a cosy corner at the Lower Quad, this small open-air café serves cakes, salads, wraps, pastas and gourmet coffee.
- *Mr Prata* Right beside The Wine Company is Mr Prata, purveyor of all the fine Indian breads, curries, and the like known to Singapore. Another distinctly local experience! Recently redecorated, and well worth the visit. What's more, walking back up to the Faculty may help in a small way to reduce the net calorie intake....
- **NUS Guild House (Bukit Timah branch)** Tantalise your epicurean sense at The Dunearn (indoor) restaurant and (outdoor) terrace. Savour contemporary Western cuisine as you sit back in the peaceful surroundings and lush greenery, a short distance away from the bustling city.

Where: Bukit Timah Guild House

1F Cluny Road Singapore 259602

Website: http://www.nuss.org.sg/clubhouse.aspx?cid=5&aid=24

• **Blue Bali** – If you are looking for a quick getaway experience, try the Blue Bali on Cluny, which promises the experience of "a restaurant, a bar, a meeting place and a spa of light that is the feeling that captures people's imagination. A multi-cultural palette combined with bright colours and the fragrance



of Asian cuisine, a true delight and an unforgettable experience ..." Serving Balinese cuisine among the lush greenery of the Botanic Gardens, beer enthusiasts can also look forward to a treat from their nanobrewery which aims to brew at least 50 different styles and types of beer in 2013.

Where: One D Cluny Road (behind NUS Bukit Timah Campus opposite Law Faculty Eu Tong Sen Building) Singapore 259600)

Website: www.bluebali.sg

# 3. Important phone numbers

Fire/Ambulance (life-threatening situations): 995 Mount Elizabeth Hospital 24 hour Ambulance Service: +65 6473 2222 Gleneagles Hospital 24 hour Ambulance Service: +65 6470 5688

Singapore Civil Defence Force Ambulance (non life-threatening situations): 1777

Police: 999

Law Faculty Reception: +65 65161305

#### 4. Visas

If you are uncertain whether nationals of your country require a visa to visit Singapore, you can check <a href="http://www.ica.gov.sg/services\_centre\_overview.aspx?pageid=252&secid=165">http://www.ica.gov.sg/services\_centre\_overview.aspx?pageid=252&secid=165</a>

#### 5. Health and Vaccinations

There are few health risks in Singapore. One significant health consideration for visitors is heat and dehydration. Singapore's water supply is drinkable from the tap; visitors should be sure to keep their fluid levels high.

There are no required vaccinations, except for a yellow fever vaccination for those who have, in the previous six days, been in or passed through any of the 42 countries listed on the Immigrations & Checkpoints Authority's website as being endemic for yellow fever.

For updated information, you can check www.ica.gov.sg/page.aspx?pageid=95&secid=94

#### 6. Money

Last time we looked, one US dollar was worth approximately 1.26 Singapore dollars (S\$), and one British pound was worth about S\$1.95.

Singapore uses 1c, 5c, 10c, 20c, 50c, and S\$1 coins. Notes are in denominations of S\$2, S\$5, S\$10, S\$50, S\$100, S\$500, S\$1,000 and S\$10,000.

You need not change money before arrival. Money can be changed at the airport or at money changers in shopping centres (wherever the sign "Licensed Money Changer" is displayed). Both offer better rates than hotels and banks. ATMs are easily found and will accept most foreign credit and debit cards. Credit cards are also widely accepted for goods and services. Singapore dollars can be re-converted to foreign currency.

Tipping is not common in Singapore. Expensive hotels and restaurants may impose a 10% service charge, but a gratuity is not expected in excess of this. Bargaining is less common in Singapore than the rest of the region, especially where prices are stated in writing; though tourists may expect to haggle for some luxury items (electronic appliances and jewellery, for example). It is unnecessary to bargain for everyday goods or transport. (You might consider rounding up a taxi fare to the even dollar, but it is not necessary to do so.)



The symbol "+++" (literally "plus-plus") is used at many hotels, restaurants and bars. This indicates that the marked price does not include 7% GST, 10% service charge and 1% "cess" (government entertainment tax). If the taxes are included in the marked price, it may be marked "nett".

A slightly erratic, but useful blog with practical information for expats coming to Singapore can be found at Money\$mart Expat Guide (http://www.moneysmart.sg/tag/expat-guide/)

# 7. Transport from the airport

Take a taxi from the taxi stand. Taxis are normally very reliable in Singapore and run on meters. Many taxis will accept payment by credit card (check with the driver). Just in case the driver can't understand your accent, have a printed copy of your hotel address to show the driver.

# 8. GST refunds

When shopping in Singapore you can claim a refund on the goods and services tax (GST) you pay on purchases totalling S\$100 or more. Ask for your GST Refund from the sales clerk when making your purchases. If you've purchased up to S\$100 (US\$81.80) at the same store but on different dates, you can still claim the refund for all of the items. When you leave Singapore, present your GST Refund Forms at Customs along with your passport and let them see the goods you've purchased to show that you're taking them out of the country with you. Customs will stamp the forms, which you can then present at the relevant Premier Tax Free or Global Refund Counters in the airport for an on-the-spot cash refund, a check refund, or a direct transfer of the amount to your credit card account. For complete details, call the Premier Tax Free hotline on +65 6293 3811; (www.premiertaxfree.com) or the for the Global Refund Scheme hot line on +65 6225-6238; (www.globalrefund.com).

#### 9. Time zone

The time in Singapore is always GMT +8. This is 7 hours ahead of Europe standard time and 12 hours ahead of New York standard time. (There is no daylight saving in Singapore.)

### 10. Electricity

If you are bringing your laptop or electrical equipment requiring outlet power, please note that Singapore's electrical power is 220-240 volts, 50Hz, and electrical outlets require a 3-pin square plug — the same type used in the United Kingdom.

Adapters are readily available in airport stores or may be purchased in Singapore. Your accommodation may have a limited number of adapters.

Note that the adapters just adapt the pins. They do not adapt the voltage. Most laptop computers have transformers, but other electronic equipment may not. (US equipment, which works on 110 volts, therefore may not work in Singapore.) Please check the voltage requirements of any equipment you plan to bring.

## 11. Clothing

Singapore is hot and humid year-round, with the temperature almost never dropping below 20°C (68°F), even at night, and usually climbing to 32°C (90°F) during the day. Humidity is high, hovering around the 75% mark. Dress light, change frequently, shower often.

"Smart casual" is usually acceptable everywhere, except for formal business dining or when specified in an invitation. Smart casual usually means collared shirts (long or short-sleeves but not T-shirts) or blouses, and trousers or skirts.

When outdoors for any length of time, hats and sunscreen are recommended.



Clothing worn in public is very similar to the warmer countries in Europe. There are, for example, no particular restrictions on what women may wear in public though some religious sites may require modest clothing.

# 12. Getting Around

Taxis are the recommended form of transport for those who can afford it. Taxis may be flagged down at any time of the day along most roads, found at taxi stands in high traffic areas, or you can choose to book one by phone or via a smartphone application. To order a taxi within Singapore, you can call one of the city's major cab companies:

Comfort Transportation Pte Ltd: +65 6552 1111 CityCab Pte Ltd: +65 6552 1111 SMRT Taxis Pte Ltd: +65 6555 8888 Trans-Cab Services Pte Ltd: +65 6555 3333 Premier Taxis Pte Ltd: +65 6363 6888 Smart Automobile Pte Ltd: +65 6485 7777

Prime Car Rental & Taxi Services Pte Ltd: +65 6778 0808

Each standard size taxi is allowed a maximum of 4 adult or 6 child passengers.

Taxi fares must be charged by the taxi meter and are based on a flag down rate (from \$\$3.00) and the distance travelled or time spent waiting. In peak periods a premium may be added and there is a surcharge for driving within the city area, late at night, or to or from the airport. It is possible to book a taxi on the numbers above, with an additional fee of between \$\$2.30 and \$\$5.00, depending on whether the booking is done for peak or non-peak hours. You can normally pay by credit card, but if this is going to be the only possible means of payment inquire before commencing the ride. For more information, you can visit the LTA website on taxis in Singapore. (http://www.lta.gov.sg/content/ltaweb/en/public-transport/taxis/getting-a-taxi.html)

Singapore also has a subway system known as the MRT ("mass rapid transit"). The MRT station nearest to NUS Law is the Singapore Botanic Gardens station, located along the Circle Line. Tickets must be purchased in advance. For further information, see the SMRT website on trains. (http://www.smrt.com.sg/Trains/NetworkMap.aspx)

## 13. Safety

Major crimes against tourists in Singapore are uncommon. Petty crimes such as pick pocketing and purse or briefcase snatching sometimes occur in tourist areas, hotels, and at the airport. Travellers should exercise the same caution that they would in any large city.

# 14. Houses of Worship

Singapore has a range of Churches, Gurdwaras, Mosques, Synagogues, and Temples. For listings, visit:

- Wikipedia Places of worship in Singapore (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Places of worship in Singapore)
- YourSingapore Places of worship (<a href="http://www.yoursingapore.com/content/traveller/en/browse/see-and-do/culture-and-heritage/places-of-worship.html">http://www.yoursingapore.com/content/traveller/en/browse/see-and-do/culture-and-heritage/places-of-worship.html</a>)

# 15. Medical Issues

Should you require emergency medical attention, you can choose to go to any of the following hospitals. These hospitals have a 24-hour Accident & Emergency department, as well as outpatient services for non-emergency needs.

National University Hospital (S) Pte Ltd
5 Lower Kent Ridge Road Singapore 119074
Main Line (24 hours): +65 6779 5555

Fax: +65 6779 5678



Emergency (24 hours): +65 6772 5000

Mount Elizabeth Hospital
3 Mount Elizabeth Singapore 228510
Hotline (24 hours): +65 6250 0000
General Inquiries (24 hours): +65 6737 2666

Main Fax: +65 6737 1189

Accident & Emergency Department: +65 6731 2218

24 hour Ambulance Service: +65 6473 2222

Government Ambulance: 995

Alternatively, the University Health and Centre (UHC) located at the Lower Kent Ridge Road (next to NUS Staff Club) on the Kent Ridge Campus is also available to you and your family for outpatient care. More information can be found at www.nus.edu.sg/uhc/.

For an expatriate's viewpoint on healthcare in Singapore, you can look up http://www.singaporeexpats.com/guides-for-expats/healthcare-in-singapore.htm

# 16. Pharmacies

Though Singapore has high quality medical care, please ensure you have adequate supplies of regular medication prior to coming to Singapore.

There are pharmacies located at every hospital. For more common drugs, you can go to the chain of Guardian pharmacies located in most big shopping centres. Pharmacies are generally open at least from Monday to Saturday 9am-6pm.



# B. Singapore: the Country

Singapore is an island city-state about eleven times the size of Manhattan. It is located just north of the equator in the same time zone as Beijing and Perth, Australia. The name reflects a Malay legend that a Sumatran prince came across a lion (a good omen) that prompted him to found Singapura, or Lion City. From 1819, this minor trading post was expanded by Sir Stamford Raffles into a British trading colony. It formed a brief federation with Malaysia in 1963 but separated and became independent two years later. Under strong leadership by Lee Kuan Yew, it became an economic success with a GDP per capita equal to that of its former colonial master.

The population is about 5.3 million (as of June 2012), made up of 74.2 percent Chinese, 13.2 percent Malay, 9.2 percent Indian, and 3.4 percent other races. Its ethnic diversity is reflected in the choice of four official languages: Chinese (Mandarin), Malay, Tamil, and English. English is the working language of government and the primary language of all levels of education. On the street it is generally possible to get by with English alone.

At first glance, Singapore may appear modern and anonymous, but under the surface it remains an unmistakably Asian city embracing its various traditions.

# 1. Language

As English is widely understood, it seldom acts as a barrier when conducting business in Singapore. Business cards are given and received with both hands after the handshake upon first meeting. It is best to admire the card for a few moments before putting it away.

#### 2. Books and News

Singapore has the best bookstores in the region. These include Kinokuniya and Times bookstores. The local Popular chain is also worth a look. Singapore also has a number of local English language newspapers, with the Straits Times serving as the main national daily. International visitors are likely to prefer the International Herald Tribune, owned by the New York Times, which is printed in Singapore. Internet access is also easily available as an avenue for international news.

#### 3. Culture

Singapore's population is in many ways the most westernised of south-east Asia, but they still celebrate a United Nations-worth of ethnic and religious holidays. Every phase of the lunar calendar brings new opportunities for festivals and food. Chinese New Year, in January or February, is welcomed with dragon dances, parades, and fireworks. Vesak Day in May celebrates Buddha's birth, enlightenment, and death, with the release of caged birds symbolizing the liberation of captive souls. The Dragon Boat Festival, in May or June, commemorates the death of a Chinese patriot who fought government corruption more than 2,000 years ago. September brings the Chinese Festival of the Hungry Ghosts, with operas and food offered to the souls of the dead. In Ramadan, night food stalls and festive lightings fill the Malay district of Geylang Serai, as well as the Arab Street district, located near one of Singapore's landmarks, the Sultan mosque. Hari Raya Puasa is the Malay version of Eid ul-Fitr, which marks the end of Ramadan. The Hindu festival of Thaipusam, now banned in India, is still celebrated by devotees of Subramaniam with acts of body piercing. See the list of festivals and events here at YourSingapore (<a href="http://www.yoursingapore.com/content/traveller/en/browse/whats-on/festivals-and-events.html">http://www.yoursingapore.com/content/traveller/en/browse/whats-on/festivals-and-events.html</a>).

Though great care is taken to ensure that ethnic communities do not form ghettos, certain commercial districts continue to retain ethnic flair. Little India, with its mix of incense, sarees, Indian pop and curry houses, is a slice of Mumbai between Rochor Canal Road and Lavender Street. Arab Street is traditionally a textile district, but



crafts and souvenirs are also available. Chinatown has shrunk as the financial district has encroached upon its territory, but it still affords a pleasant half-day wander.

# 4. Eating Out

Singaporeans are passionate about food. A Chinese saying — chī wǔfàn, kàn wǎnfàn — notes that a typical discussion during lunch is what one will have for dinner. Singapore's Tourism Board has proclaimed Singapore "the food capital of Asia."

In many ways, the best place to observe Singapore is in its many hawker centres (open air) and food courts (air-conditioned). Almost every shopping centre will have a food court. Seating is free and you can combine dishes from any of the stalls; many Singaporeans decide on a stall by picking the one with the longest queue.

Singapore is a great place to discover tropical fruits. Some of the more unusual ones on offer include dragon fruit, rambutan, mangosteen (be careful as the sap can stain), durian (an acquired taste — and illegal on public transport, unless sealed properly), jackfruit, pomelo, starfruit, buah duku and chiku. Try ordering cut fruit at hawker centre stalls, or fresh juice made from your selection of fruits.

## a) Hawker Centres and Food Courts

Lau Pa Sat, on Raffles Quay, near Raffles Place MRT, is a hawker centre whose 1894 Glaswegian iron lacework recalls Singapore's colonial past. Combine with a visit to Boat Quay to drink with the financial set and then walk down Phillip Street to visit one of Singapore's oldest Taoist temples, Yueh Hai Ching Temple. Its name means "Temple of the Calm Sea built by the Guanzhou people," and was built in 1826 by Teochew traders and sailors to thank the gods for their safety at sea. Reflect on Singapore's land reclamation policies as this temple, now in the heart of the financial district, which used to front the sea!

Takashimaya Food Village, in the basement of the Takashimaya department store on Orchard Road (Orchard/Somerset MRT), is a food centre with the usual range of Chinese, Malay and Thai dishes as well as a range of Japanese foods. Air-conditioned, if the heat is getting to you.

Some hawker centres and food stalls have special cutlery set aside for Muslim diners. Non-Muslims are generally welcome to use them as well, but only with food from "halal" or Muslim stalls. These tend to be colour coded for ease of identification and may be returned to a separate section.

#### b) Coffee shops

These can be found in most housing estates outside the city and are usually located on the ground floor of apartment blocks. Even today, Singaporeans gather at coffee shops not just to eat and drink, but also to chat or even play a game of checkers. Although the older coffee shops are slowly being phased out, they are still the place to go if you want to get cheap and good food served with a slice of true Singapore life, not forgetting the thick, black local coffee that comes in a porcelain cup. The main versions are:

- the basic "kopi" (served with condensed milk very sweet)
- "kopi-O" (sugar but no milk)
- "kopi-O-kosong" (no sugar or milk).
- "kopi-C" (evaporated milk, which isn't sweetened, but added sugar)
- "kopi-C-kosong" (evaporated milk without sugar).



# c) Cafes

A growing favourite with the young working crowd. In addition to familiar brands such as Starbucks, brands like the Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf (*Halal*), and the Coffee Club are quite commonly seen. Most cafes serve Western food like sandwiches, pizzas and pasta.

#### d) Restaurants

The variety and price range is huge. With international cuisine widely available, visitors to Singapore can enjoy a gastronomical adventure without leaving the country. In the last decade or so, Singapore has emerged as the home of restaurants recognised as among the world's best, with names like *Iggy's*, *Waku Ghin* by Tetsuya Wakuda, *Restaurant Andre*, and *Les Amis* (based on World's 50 Best Restaurants list 2012).

Diners can also look forward to dining at restaurants with Michelin starred chefs at *Marina Bay Sands*, *Resorts World Sentosa* and *Gardens by the Bay*. The chefs include Joel Robuchon, Tetsuya Wakuda, Wolfgang Puck, Daniel Boulud, Guy Savoy, Mario Batali, and Bruno Menard.

For a taste of nostalgic colonial Singapore, head down to *Raffles Hotel* has the Raffles Grill (jacket recommended) and the Tiffin Room, a restaurant popular for its curry buffets and run by the Sarkies from the 1890s. Across the road, *Chijmes* has a United Nations-worth of cuisines, from Japanese and Chinese to Brazilian and Italian. For more information, visit the Raffles Hotel (<a href="www.raffles.com/singapore/dining">www.raffles.com/singapore/dining</a>) and Chijmes (<a href="www.chijmes.com.sg">www.chijmes.com.sg</a>).

Chilli crab is a local speciality, typically eaten with a fried bun (mantou). *No Signboard Seafood Restaurant* at the Esplanade is a good place to start (<a href="www.nosignboardseafood.com">www.nosignboardseafood.com</a>). Other options include *Jumbo Restaurant* or *Palm Beach Restaurant*.

Another speciality for the more adventurous is curry fish head, a spicy dish best consumed with beer or lime juice. Options include *Samy's Curry* (<a href="www.samyscurry.com">www.samyscurry.com</a>), an atmospheric place at the old Civil Service Club on Dempsey Road.

For a scenic dining experience by the Singapore river, take your pick from the many restaurants and bars along **Boat Quay** and **Clark Quay**.

Further information on restaurants in Singapore can be found at the following websites:

- www.makansutra.com
- www.hungrygowhere.com

# e) Halal Food Options

Muslim visitors to Singapore will find that there is a wide variety of halal foods in Singapore, catering to the different cuisines from Malay and Indonesian fare to Western and Mediterranean flavours. Some of the best recommended restaurants are featured here:

- www.burpple.com/guides/singapore/best-halal-restaurants-in-singapore
- www.yelp.com.sg/search?find desc=halal+restaurant&find loc=Singapore

# f) Vegetarian Options

Adding to the options, Singapore has a vegetarian society, which maintains a decent list of restaurants (www.vegetarian-society.org).



#### 5. Entertainment

The Singapore equivalent of Ticketmaster is Sistic. See what's on offer and purchase tickets from www.sistic.com.sg

*The Esplanade* entertainment complex has added considerably to Singapore's capacity to stage major cultural events. See current listings at www.esplanade.com. Classical music fans might also check the University's Conservatory events – they often get first-rate visitors coming through: http://www.nus.edu.sg/music/02 whatson.html

**Boat Quay** is the most popular district and certainly worth a look. Go to Raffles Place MRT and follow the signs. The Lonely Planet describes the scene thus: "Corporate high-fliers and wannabes, mostly expat, bullshit each other over beer and are joined later in the evening by a mixed, upmarket crowd who come for the jazz bands."

Clarke Quay, Singapore's choice dining and entertainment destination, is a colourful kaleidoscope of buildings housing antiques, restaurants, hip cafes, jazz clubs and more. At night, the entire zone is a sight to behold with all five blocks of restored warehouses lit up and beamed with an array of quirky alternative to mainstream clubs. With an international presence in terms of partying options, this is a convergence point for people around the world to celebrate. To find out the latest updates and happenings at Clarke Quay, log on to <a href="https://www.clarkequay.com.sg">www.clarkequay.com.sg</a> for more.

**Robertson Quay** used to be the site for merchants' offices, warehouses and jetties, where they would facilitate the loading and unloading of goods. It is a more laid-back cousin to Boat Quay, offering dining and entertainment by the Singapore River. Housing a string of hotels hugging the river against a background of the old go-downs of Singapore, Robertson Quay is the perfect locale for an evening out. Enjoy a walk and leisurely dinner at the many alfresco dining outlets, wine bars, arts houses and hotel cafes. The Singapore Repertory Theatre is located there. See <a href="https://www.srt.com.sg">www.srt.com.sg</a>

*Chijmes*, across the road from Raffles Hotel, is a refurbished convent. Now dedicated to more base pursuits, it houses several trendy restaurants, cafes and pubs. Very popular with yuppies who flock here to enjoy the decor and courtyard candle-lit seating. For the old traditionalists, visit the Long Bar or the Billiard Room at Raffles Hotel.

Singapore has a vibrant nightlife that promises to liven up your evenings with music, dancing or just chilling out with friends. Look out for the latest places to hang out or live acts at the following website: www.yoursingapore.com/content/traveller/en/browse/see-and-do/nightlife.html

## 6. Activities for kids

A number of shopping malls (eg: Great World City) have some sort of themed and integrated Family Entertainment Centre, where the whole family can enjoy activities and facilities offered to younger children.

#### Amazonia - http://www.amazoniafun.com

Amazonia is Singapore's first fully themed and integrated Family Entertainment Centre, where children and families can play and dine together within the 9,500sq ft air-conditioned facility.

There are also many activities and events catered specially for children all year round. For a list of places to go for a fun family day out, do check out the following websites:

- www.littledayout.com
- sg.kidlander.com



# 7. Things to see and do

#### a) Marina Bay Sands

If you have a lot of money, Marina Bay Sands is a magnificent destination for entertainment, business and shopping, delivering once-in-a-lifetime experiences. This landmark building is situated in the heart of Singapore's central business district. With a luxury hotel, state-of-the art convention and exhibition facilities, theatres, and some of the best shopping and dining in the region, this is the place to go for world-class entertainment.

At the heart of it all stand three 55-storey hotel towers offering over 2,500 luxurious rooms. This structural masterpiece stands tall and proud in the centre of city, redefining Singapore's skyline. The Marina Bay Sands Hotel offers a world of luxury and exclusivity. For entertainment and leisure, there are restaurants, bars and lounges, and spa facilities to choose from. There is also the ArtScience Museum, and if there is an urge to try one's luck, the casino would be the place to visit.

For more information, please refer to: <a href="http://www.marinabaysands.com/">http://www.marinabaysands.com/</a>

## b) Gardens By the Bay

Just five minutes away from Marina Bay Sands is the award-winning horticultural attraction well known for its Supertrees and domed conservatories that house over 380 thousand plants. The Gardens have sectioned into 3 areas—Bay South, Bay East and Bay Central.

At Bay South, which is the largest waterfront garden, you'll find the 9 to 16-storey high Supertrees. These vertical gardens collect rainwater, generate solar power and act as venting ducts for the park's conservatories. Have a stroll across the suspended 128-metre-long walkway between two Supertrees, called the OCBC Skyway, and get a bird's eye view of the Gardens and the Marina Bay urban area.

Indulge in a romantic evening or a relaxing night out with family and friends at the Bay East area, where pavilions, lush lawns, tropical palm trees and natural blossoms create an ideal atmosphere for bonding.

At night, the beautiful garden is transformed into an impressive showcase of lights and sounds as part of the OCBC Garden Rhapsody, which takes place every night where the Supertrees are.

See further details at www.gardensbythebay.com.sg/en/home.html

# c) Resorts World Singapore

Resorts World Sentosa is the first ever integrated resort on Sentosa island, bringing with it highly anticipated and exciting attractions such as Universal Studios Singapore, FestiveWalk, and the Marine Life Park. Ride The Movies is found at the region's first Hollywood movie theme park, Universal Studios Singapore. It features 24 movie-themed rides and attractions, many of which are unique to Singapore.

For more information, please refer to: www.rwsentosa.com

#### d) Night Safari

Nearly 90 percent of tropical animals are nocturnal, so night-time is the best way to observe them at their most active. This you can do in the forest-style terrain next to the zoo; well-lit and full of diverse creatures, it's a unique experience.



Most of the geographical zones can be explored on a walking tour of about an hour. Around 100 species (1,000 animals) rustle among the greenery, going about their business in the relative cool of the night. Like the zoo, the safari is designed with an "open" plan, so elephants, leopards, giraffes and hyenas can stroll about with nothing but moats and natural boundaries keeping them captive. A tram journey will take you through all eight zones.

See further details at www.nightsafari.com.sg

If children have bedtimes before the night safari, the Zoo is well worth a visit and has a tram ride from which you can see many of the animals.

## e) River Safari

One of the latest wild life attractions in Singapore, the River Safari is Asia's first and only river-themed wildlife park. The park houses over 5,000 animals, including 42 endangered species. While here, you can explore freshwater habitats and meet river giants such as the giant river otter, giant salamander and the Mekong giant catfish. Stroll through freshwater galleries and enter walk-through exhibits to learn about the fascinating wildlife in river habitats.

One of the popular attractions here are giant pandas Kai Kai and Jia Jia at the lush Giant Panda Forest - the largest panda exhibit in Southeast Asia. The park also features the world's largest freshwater aquarium exhibit at the Amazon Flooded Forest, which showcases the annual flooding of the Amazon rainforest with majestic animal species such as the manatee and arapaima.

See further details at www.riversafari.com.sg

## f) UnderwaterWorld

Head down to Sentosa Island, in the south of Singapore, for this tropical oceanarium. The experience of walking through a submerged 80-metre acrylic tunnel, with over 2,500 marine creatures (from over 250 species) swimming around you, is otherworldly. Sharks, stingrays, moray eels, turtles and a host of others spin and float at startling proximity. Some Singaporeans have been known to muse openly about how these beasts might be best cooked.

Catch the cable car (not cheap) from Mount Faber, which offers some great views of the city skyline. Alternatively, you can take the train from Vivocity into Sentosa.

See further www.underwaterworld.com.sg.

# g) Birds

For some further evidence on the early-bird versus worm question, come for some cheep trills to the informal bird singing competition that takes place most mornings at the corner of Tiong Bahru and Sen Poh Roads. Enjoy a coffee as the birds give voice. The fun starts at about 7am and runs till 11am, when the sun starts getting too hot. Most tourists come on Sunday (when there are more birds). To get here, take the MRT to Tiong Bahru station then walk 500m east. Combine with a visit to the Monkey God Temple around the corner, and a visit to the nearby Tiong Bahru Market if you are interested in traditional Asian food markets. There is also an excellent hawker centre inside Tiong Bahru market where you can get freshly squeezed sugar cane juice to accompany all manner of goodies to sample.

Alternatively, you can visit the Jurong Bird Park, an impressive place with 9,000 birds, an Antarctic-style penguin walk, and "panorail" train. See further <a href="https://www.birdpark.com.sg">www.birdpark.com.sg</a>



#### h) Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve

Looking to experience nature up close? Head down to the Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, home to a wide variety of wildlife, flora and fauna. Spread over 87 hectares of wetland, the tranquil park is perfect to observe insects, birds and wildlife in their natural habitat.

The reserve also provides facilities for business travellers, with locations suitable for meetings and conventions, events and recreational use. You can also check out the various activities organised at the park such as painting sessions and guided tours.

See further details at www.sbwr.org.sg

#### i) Pulau Ubin

A popular destination for those looking to experience the rustic side of Singapore, the island offers a glimpse into Singapore of the 1960's. The island, which is home to the last 'kampongs' or villages, is a favourite for cyclists, campers and those who love fishing. A contrast to the life in mainland Singapore, residents of the island rely on wells for water and also traditional farming and fishing for food. There is also the 'old school' provision stores and eateries.

The island's abandoned granite quarries form a picturesque reminder of Pulau Ubin's past, when granite mining supported thousands of settlers. Forests and grasslands have also grown over some of the abandoned areas to create a scenic view of island living.

See more details at

http://www.nparks.gov.sg/cms/index.php?option=com\_visitorsguide&task=parks&id=29&Itemid=73

#### 8. Museums

#### a) Asian Civilisations Museum

The Asian Civilisations Museum (ACM) presents a broad perspective of pan-Asian cultures and civilisations. As one of the National Museums of Singapore under the National Heritage Board, it seeks to promote a better appreciation of the rich cultures that make up Singapore's multi-ethnic society. While Singapore's forefathers came to settle in Singapore from many parts of Asia within the last 200 years, the cultures brought to Singapore by these different people are far more ancient. This aspect of Singapore's history is the focus of the ACM. The Museum's collection therefore centres on the material cultures of the different groups originating from China, Southeast Asia, South Asia and West Asia. For further details, visit <a href="https://www.acm.org.sg">www.acm.org.sg</a>.

#### b) Changi Chapel, Prison and Museum

During the Japanese occupation of Singapore (1942–1945), Changi Prison held over 50,000 POWs. The prison, which is still in use, provided the famously harrowing setting for James Clavell's novel "King Rat", based on a true story about life as a prisoner of the Japanese. Today, in the small museum, you can see letters, photographs, drawings and personal effects from the POWs — it's a moving and thought-provoking display. A chapel in the courtyard serves as a monument to those who died during the occupation. For further details, visit <a href="https://www.changimuseum.sg">www.changimuseum.sg</a>.



#### c) National Museum of Singapore

Re-opened after extensive renovations in December 2006, this is designed to be "the people's" museum and tells, among other things, the history of Singapore. The Novus Restaurant & Bar and Novus Café offer fine and relaxed dining, respectively. For further details, visit <a href="https://www.nationalmuseum.sg">www.nationalmuseum.sg</a>.

# d) Singapore Art Museum

A former Catholic boys' school, this colonial building has been restored and converted into a fine arts museum. In addition to the rotating exhibits showcasing modern art from Singapore and South-East Asia, it also offers a variety of dining and shopping options. For further details, visit <a href="https://www.singaporeartmuseum.sg">www.singaporeartmuseum.sg</a>.

# 9. Wandering Around

# a) Little India

With its mix of incense, sarees, Indian pop and curry houses, Little India is a slice of Mumbai between Rochor Canal Road and Lavender Street. Take a walk through the bustling wet-market in the Tekka Centre, at the corner of Serangoon and Buffalo Roads. The Little India district bustles with temples, markets and even boutiques for traditional wear. If you want to buy anything at all, from spices to sarees to electrical equipment, head for Mustafa's. For a more detailed walking tour, visit

 $\underline{http://www.yoursingapore.com/content/traveller/en/browse/see-and-do/culture-and-heritage/a-touch-of-history/heritage-trails/little-india-heritage-trail.html}$ 

For excellent thosais and vegetarian food, visit Madras New Woodlands (12 & 14, Upper Dickson Road) or Komala Villas (76 Serangoon Road). For a real tuck-in on banana leaf (non-vegetarian), try Apollo Banana Leaf restaurant (54/56, Race Course Road).

# b) Arab Street

Traditionally a textile district, Arab Street is also popular for its crafts and souvenirs. You can get good Malay food at the food store in the shadow of the Sultan Mosque on the corner of Kandahar Street nearby, or further down at the classic nasi padang store, Sabar Mananti at 52 Kandahar Street. The latter's name literally means "Wait Patiently", but the food is worth it. Just survey the various dishes and point to the ones that appeal. The char grilled fish with lime and onions is particularly good. If they offer oxtail soup, be sure to sample that. They will also provide you with free curry gravy for your rice, ask for "kuah".

The area is also well known for its Mediterranean and Middle Eastern themed dining, and is also often a destination for those who enjoy tea and a good puff of the sheesha/hukka.

To explore, take the MRT to Bugis Station and walk north up Victoria Street to Arab Street.

#### c) Chinatown

Chinatown has shrunk as the financial district has encroached upon its territory, but it still affords a pleasant half-day wander. Start at the Sri Mariamman Temple on South Bridge Road in the spirit of Singapore's cultural mix. The temple is one of Singapore's most magnificent Hindu Temples. Then explore the streets to the right of South Bridge Road, especially Pagoda Street, Smith Street and Temple Street. Wander up Neil Road that forks off South Bridge Road and enjoy learning how to make a proper cup of Chinese tea at the Tea Chapter (9–11 Neil Road, Tel: 6226-1175) while nibbling on Chinese cookies. Ask for a table on the top floor if possible (where you sit on the floor) and relax for a few hours. If you need a stronger brew, Club Street nearby has several good bars in restored shop houses. Recommended is the bar beneath the Indochine Restaurant on Club Street.



# d) Botanic Gardens

The Botanic Gardens are a wonderful respite from the bustle of Singapore. Visit the Orchid Garden and imagine having an orchid named after you. Other highlights are the bonsai collection and the Cool House.

# 10. Maps

Maps of Singapore should be available at the concierge of your hotel or serviced apartment. Good maps are also available online. See <a href="www.streetdirectory.com">www.streetdirectory.com</a> (It is simplest to enter addresses just by using the six digit postcode/zip code.)

## 11. Further Information

Online sources of information about Singapore include the following sites:

- www.yoursingapore.com
- www.contactsingapore.sg

For more ideas of what to do while in Singapore:

- www.yoursingapore.com/content/traveller/en/experience.html
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Visitor attractions in Singapore
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Singaporean cuisine

For information about short trips from Singapore, visit:

• www.expatsingapore.com/content/view/1039/41/

# 12. Feedback

Have a place, service or information that you would like us to include in this guide? Send us a message via Facebook at <a href="www.facebook.com/NUS.Law">www.facebook.com/NUS.Law</a>, or you can email Tjut Rostina (Ms), Manager (Corporate Communications) at <a href="tjutrostina@nus.edu.sg">tjutrostina@nus.edu.sg</a>.

We look forward to hearing from you!

