

Singapore getaway

Singapore is a bustling cosmopolitan city that offers a world-class living environment, with her landscape populated by highrise buildings and gardens.

One of the most remarkable aspects of Singapore is the truly cosmopolitan nature of her population. Established by Thomas Stamford Raffles as a trading post on 29 January 1819, the small sea town of Singapore soon attracted migrants and merchants from China, the Indian sub-continent, Indonesia, the Malay Peninsula and the Middle East. Drawn by the lure of better prospects, the immigrants brought with them their own cultures, languages, customs and festivals. Intermarriage and integration helped knit these diverse influences into the fabric of Singapore's multi-faceted society, giving it a vibrant and diverse cultural heritage.

This program is a suggested itinerary only. At all times your guide and vehicle are at your disposal, and flexible for any changes you may prefer. Please also ask them for their recommendations and suggestions for activities, shops, and dining reservations.

Day 1: Singapore, Raffles' Landing

VIP airport arrival assistance service, and limousine transfer from Changi airport to your hotel in the city. Time for refreshment and time at leisure until your evening program.

Early evening transfer to Clarke Quay to board a Singaporean bumboat for a short cruise down the Singapore River. These hardy vessels were once used to shuttle cargo but today they steer us through a kaleidoscope of historic Singapore River and harbour images set against the towering skyline of the modern business district, passing by the majestic Merlion, an icon of Singapore.

On arrival at the Raffles landing site, disembark and stroll along the promenade and choose from a great selection of excellent restaurants for your dinner.

Accommodation: *please refer to our Singapore hotel selection* |

Meals: n/a | Transportation: private A/C-vehicle.

Day 2: Five Dragons: Feng Shui in Singapore

In the morning, our Feng Shui excursion will undoubtedly open your horizons on how the ancient oriental art and science is being practiced in the cosmopolitan Singapore.

This enlightening and intriguing experience begins with a visit to the Singapore where Singapore's early fortunes really began. You'll appreciate how Feng Shui principles are incorporated into the building landscapes and its immediate environment to activate the auspicious qi such as the Fish jumping over the Dragon's Gate and the success of our financial district.

Discover where the five auspicious mythological dragons lie in Singapore and its contribution to the island's prosperity. Explore the influence of the Feng Shui concepts and principles as such as the Azure Dragon and White Tiger and

A construction of major iconic and yet auspicious buildings along the Shopping District with hidden Feng Shui's significance unknown to trained eyes. You'll also visit a popular Feng Shui Gallery to learn about auspicious tools and how strategically placed Feng Shui artefacts in your home or office recommended by Professional Metaphysics (Feng Shui) Practitioners for their clients can help to engender good health, harmony, wealth and academic and career success.

Lunch is served at Sky 57 @ Marina Bay Sands, a celebrity chef restaurant which showcases a modern interpretation of Franco Asian Cuisine in a setting that offers a bird's eye view of Singapore and the bay. The restaurant offers guests an unparalleled vista while they dine in a relaxed, sophisticated environment.

This afternoon, join us for shopping in Singapore from neighbourhood malls to Orchard Road, with a vibrant streetscape, thus enhancing the lifestyle experience! We like:

- Bugis Village: Singapore Bugis is an interesting place where you can spend your whole day shopping, tasting local Singapore food, taking photos and shop for electronic goods.
- Toa Payoh (Neighbourhood Shopping): As you walk along Toa Payoh HDB hub, there are plenty of shop houses selling daily necessities ranging from household items and fashion wear. Beauty and slimming centres and family clinics are all in the district.
- Holland Village: is Singapore's trendy suburb, fusing the chic with the ethnic - exudes a strong expatriate and bohemian ambience. Visit Holland Road Shopping Centre, housing eclectic finds like exquisite Asian crafts, second-hand bookstores and designer merchandise. You'll also find the biggest local Factory Outlet Store that sells reject items from famous brands like Abercrombie & Fitch and Hollister.
- Orchard Road: Singapore's premier shopping street with large departmental stores, high-end boutiques. electronic items, fashion, bookstores, etc.

Local flavour

With such a cultural kaleidoscope, there is a great variety of ethnic cuisines to be discovered in Singapore. For dinner we recommend:

- Jumbo Seafood: this Singapore home grown seafood restaurant group was established in 1987 with its first restaurant located in the popular East Coast Seafood Centre. Jumbo Seafood serves live seafood prepared in familiar local and Hong Kong styles. Apart from classic Jumbo specialties like Chili and Pepper crab, the restaurant will also serve Fresh Oysters and BBQ delicacies like BBQ King Prawns, BBQ Red Tilapia, Satay and Otah.
- The Song of India, is the ultimate in luxury fine dining of modern Indian cuisine in Singapore. Located just a stone's throw from orchard Road, in a classic black and white heritage bungalow, it forms the stating of grand opulence and sophistication with its stylish interiors and lush green surroundings for a gastronomical journey through India with its award winning cuisine.
- House of Peranakan: the traditional Straits-Chinese restaurant specializes in authentic Peranakan food – cuisine unique to Singapore through inter-racial marriages of indigenous Malays and early Chinese settlers, resulting in the inevitable fusing of ethnic ingredients and cooking techniques. A Straits Chinese treasure. Peranakan cuisine awakens the senses and evokes nostalgia.

- A** - JuChunYuan: The only restaurant in Singapore that exclusively serves traditional Min cuisine, JuChunYuan carries the remarkable legacy of the century-old JuChunYuan Fuzhou restaurant, an institution in itself and a name synonymous with authentic fine Min cuisine since 1865. To dine at JuChunYuan is thus to experience a slice of Min culture and history, in a setting permeating with the history of Singapore Min immigrants.
- The China Club Singapore is an elegant member-only club, situated atop the 52nd floor of Singapore's premium commercial tower.
 - IndoChine Waterfront Restaurant: Offering one of the finest views of Singapore River and skyline, the IndoChine Waterfront Restaurant showcases a unique combination of the modern and old charm, the quintessence of contemporary lifestyle. Guests will be able to savour a wide selection of colourful, healthy IndoChinese food.
 - Peony-Jade Restaurant: The only modern Chinese restaurant at Clarke Quay, Peony-Jade Restaurant offers traditional Szechuan and Cantonese cuisine in a truly elegant and contemporary setting. It is located on the first floor of a converted go down with panoramic view of the picturesque historical Singapore river front.

Apart from our ethnic cuisine selection, Singapore has a vast array of award-winning celebrity-chef restaurants as well as lesser known gems. Ask your guide for a recommendations should you want to try something different.

Accommodation: *please refer to our Singapore hotel selection* |
Meals: breakfast, lunch | Transportation: private A/C-vehicle.

Day 3: Multicultural City in a Garden

Today you'll discover that almost 50 percent of Singapore is covered by greenery. Singapore really is a city in a garden! We start the day at the 150-year old Singapore Botanic Gardens, which an array of botanical and horticultural attractions with a rich history and a wonderful plant collection of worldwide significance. Its national orchid garden provide a setting for over 1,000 species and 2,000 hybrids, with about 600 species and hybrids on display.

HortPark is a one-stop gardening hub that brings together gardening-related, recreational, educational, research and retail activities under one big canopy in a park setting.

Finally, we stop at the brand new Gardens by the Bay, that comprises three waterfront gardens. Visit its Heritage Gardens and explore the Indian, Chinese, Malay and Colonial Gardens to discover how plants are intricately linked to the culture of the main ethnic groups in Singapore.

Lunch at a restaurant of your choice.

Many faces of Singapore

The dominant traditions brought by its adventurous Chinese, Malay and Indian settlers have flourished in a supportive climate, so much so that the fabric of the Island Republic's society is a fine weave of multi-cultural threads. You'll be shown the diverse cultures of the Indian, Malay and Chinese heritage as we embark on this afternoon's discovery.

As you step into Little India, be prepared for an assault on the senses! You will be greeted by the strong, heady scent of spices and jasmine garlands, followed by the treasure trove of silverware, brassware, wood carvings and colourful silk saris, dazzling to behold.

Next, we proceed to Arab Street, a repository culture for Singapore's Muslim community, with its focal point being the Sultan Mosque. Here, you will find the biggest concentration of Muslim restaurants and shops selling merchandise from all over the Islamic world. These shops are a riot of colour, displaying textiles, antiques, jewelry, artefacts and basketware. Textile stores are the most prominent, their walls and doorways draped with vibrant rolls of cloths and batiks.

Tea-Appreciation

Visit Yixing Xuan Teahouse, a Tea Art Center with a typical artifact shop, teahouse and restaurant combined. Chinese tea to most people is that common, unsightly bitter tea that is served at Chinese restaurants and banquets. Few have experienced the ambience and highly therapeutic effects of the traditional art of Chinese tea making in the authentic Chinese Teahouse.

You will learn all about tea and health, how to recognize the various kinds of tea-leaf and equipment as well as how to prepare tea in the traditional way.

A taste of Singapore

Your evening program starts with a lecture by and conversation with dr. Chua about the history of food in Singapore. Dr. Chua is Assistant Professor at the Department of History at the National University of Singapore. Singapore has a long history of immigration, so the many different people that have come to the country have contributed heavily to the native foods. The influences of Indians, Jews, Chinese, Armenians, Eurasians, and Arabs began to change the way the native people ate. In the time since then, the people of Singapore have created a unique food culture.

After the lecture, start your tour of Chinatown by trishaw, a mode of transport that is fast disappearing. Revel in the exotics sights, sounds and scenes of Singapore's most colourful and historic area. Alight at Buddha Tooth Relic Temple for a walking tour of Chinatown *pasar malam* with glitzy arrays of game stalls, tasty bite-sized titbits on a stick and cheap, fake trading cards and figurines.

Browse around the "Pasar Malam for bargains or local souvenirs. Next, savour the past at Chinatown Food Street. Singapore has earned the reputation as a food haven – rightly so as it has all the ingredients to make it so. Dine like the early settlers did at Food Street, in historical Chinatown.

Soak in the rich heritage of the surroundings between two rows of shophouses as you tuck into the local fare like BBQ stingray, satay, noodles and *rojak*, as well as a great choice of other dishes.

Accommodation: *please refer to our Singapore hotel selection* |

Meals: breakfast, dinner | Transportation: private A/C-vehicle.

Day 4: Home Cooking¹, Departure

In her past life, Ruqxana was an engineer, a conference organizer, an IT entrepreneur, before she heeded 'the call'. Ruqxana is now pursuing her lifelong passion for cooking, and finding joy in imparting the secrets of her mouth-watering fare to willing students and guests everywhere. A self-taught cook, she started cooking at the age of 7 and has not stopped since. For more than 40 years, she has been entertaining family members and friends with her culinary skills from all corners of the world - Indian, Chinese, Malay, Indonesian, Thai, Vietnamese, European, Mediterranean, Middle Eastern, African, American and a lot more.

¹ For an even more child-friendly experience, this home cooking program could be changed to a breakfast with animals at Singapore Zoo, followed by a visit to the zoo.

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This morning visit a local wet market and some spice shops with Ruqxana. After visiting the market, you'll be Ruqxana's guest for lunch at her private home. She'll give a Nyonya cuisine cooking demonstration; you're free to help her!

In the afternoon, after lunch, departure for your flight home.

Accommodation: n/a |

Meals: breakfast, lunch | Transportation: private A/C-vehicle.

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Accommodation in Singapore

Mandarin Oriental Singapore

Surrounded by the many attractions of Marina Bay, Mandarin Oriental, Singapore offers the perfect base from which to discover the city.

Combining subtle Oriental touches with luxurious contemporary comforts, MOSIN's rooms and suites exude a sense of understated style.

Website: <http://www.mandarinoriental.com/Singapore/>

Raffles Hotel Singapore

Once home to the General Post Office, The Singapore Club and the Chamber of Commerce, The Fullerton Hotel Singapore is a luxury hotel with 400 rooms and suites carefully designed to provide both business and leisure travellers with a sanctuary of serenity and comfort in which to retreat and rejuvenate.

With a dynamic central Singapore hotel location in the heart of the financial and arts districts, the hotel successfully blends rich heritage with contemporary style and personalised service to offer guests a world-class accommodation experience.

Website: <http://www.affles.com/singapore/>

Regent Singapore – A Four Seasons Hotel

Located within walking distance to Botanic Gardens and Orchard Road, Regent Singapore is an oasis of calm, offering guests supreme comfort and anticipatory service. With contemporary decor and museum quality Asian art pieces, the hotel is a private and exclusive haven for business and leisure travelers.

Contemporary in terms of convenience, yet classic in style, the interior design of Regent Singapore fuses the best of East and West.

Website: <http://www.regenthotels.com/EN/Singapore>

St. Regis Singapore

Bask in the tropical summer at the heart of the shopping and embassy district at The St. Regis Singapore. A pinnacle of luxury hospitality, be pampered by the legendary St. Regis Butler Service at one of the best Singapore hotels Orchard Road has to offer. Reside at the perfect address, providing respite from the lively Orchard Road dining and shopping scene.

Exemplars of elegance and refinement, our 299 richly appointed rooms and suites provide a luxurious residence for those seeking 5 star hotels in Singapore.

Website: <http://www.stregissingapore.com/>

The Fullerton Bay

With spectacular views of the bay and Singapore skyline, the Fullerton Bay Hotel provides legendary service as it embodies contemporary luxury and refined elegance. The Fullerton Bay Hotel's glamorous and exquisite interior designs celebrates heritage and modernity in the Lion City.

Website: <http://www.fullertonbayhotel.com/>

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