



WHERE EXPLORERS MEET.

Discover how a City in the Garden is rooted in history and heritage. Stroll along the colourful shophouses in Haji Lane. Or trek off the beaten path and walk atop trees at MacRitchie Reservoir. If you're passionate about discovering places, here's where **nature lovers, history buffs, backpackers, city trippers, trekkers, discoverers, sightseers**—meet.

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A QUICK GUIDE TO SINGAPORE'S DISTRICTS

1 ORCHARD

Don't just sightsee, be an explorer. Orchard Road, Asia's most famous shopping street, is home to fashion favourites, specialist stores and loads of other lifestyle choices. Today, **Orchard Road** is flanked by iconic shopping malls, restaurants and hotels, choc-a-bloc with retail, dining and entertainment choice for every taste and budget. The **Singapore Visitor Centre** is located on Orchard Road just opposite **Orchard Gateway**. Discover more places to explore and get help with ticketing and reservations. Next to the centre is **Emerald Hill Road**, lined with bars and clubs to wind down after a long day of exploration. The east end of Orchard Road leads to the **Bras Basah** and **Fort Canning Park** while the west end of the street is just a stone's throw away from the **Singapore Botanic Gardens**, the city's first and only UNESCO World Heritage Site and a beautiful garden to stop by.

Remember to make a detour to **Dempsey Hill**, one of Singapore's most hip and quaint neighbourhoods, nestled away in lush greenery just minutes from Orchard Road. Here you'll be spoilt for choice for the night's meal with options that include Michelin-starred **Candlenut, Dempsey Cookhouse & Bar, The Disgruntled Chef**. Or go green and experience **Open Farm Community's** refreshing farm-to-table concept.



2 TIONG BAHRU

Tiong Bahru is the oldest housing estate in Singapore, and when you visit this quaint community, you'll immediately notice an intriguing mix of old and new. While many older residents have lived in the shophouses and flats here for decades, the younger generation flock here for the food, shops, and culture. And as food goes, the choices are abundant. From the sprawling **Tiong Bahru Market** with its famous chwee kueh to the hip **Tiong Bahru Bakery**, there are plenty of options for a good meal in the morning. Fancy a coffee and a quick bite? There are lots of cafés to choose from – **Forty Hands, Flock** and cupcakes specialists **Plain Vanilla** are just a few of them. It's a great place to go for a spot of retail therapy, too. Independent bookstore **BooksActually** stocks plenty of local titles and retro knick-knacks, while **Curated Records** offers a selection of vinyls, from rare vintage LPs to mainstream hits.

3 LITTLE INDIA

Singapore's most colourful district, Little India's bustling streets are a magnet for explorers. From rows of shops exuding the aroma of spices, to fortune-telling tables sprawled along walkways, the precinct has stood as a cultural vanguard of Singapore. Tucked away in its roads, you'll find numerous landmarks of the city's many ethnic and religious groups including the visually stunning **Sri Veeramakaliamman Temple, Kampong Kapor Methodist Church**, and the colourful expressions of heritage at the **House of Tan Teng Niah**. Explore Little India's heritage trail along its streets and back alleys, and your eyes will be drawn to extravagant murals showcasing Singapore's colourful past.



When you're done soaking in the sights and sounds, to **Tekka Centre** and experience the bustling hawker and "wet market" on its ground level with a battalion of rainbow-coloured textile and tailor shops up above.



4 KAMPONG GLAM

Some say Kampong Glam really is glam (a local term meaning 'glamorous'). The area has an eclectic blend of history, culture and a super-trendy lifestyle scene. Start from the landmark **Sultan Mosque**, and wander through the many side streets. The grounds of the former 'Istana' ('palace') to Sultan Hussain Mohammed Shah is home to the **Malay Heritage Centre**, where you can get to know Malay

history and culture better. Wander the streets and you'll soon uncover **Haji Lane**, a row of multi-label stores, quirky boutiques as well as hip bars and cafes. Or pick up traditional wares such as Persian carpets, kebaya dresses and handmade perfumes from Arab Street and Bussorah Street. The nasi padang (Indonesian dishes flavoured with spices and served with rice) at **Hjh Maimunah** is famous among locals. Café and boutique **Maison Ikkoku** on **Kandahar Street** offers tasty modern grub, and also houses an excellent rooftop cocktail bar.

5 JALAN BESAR, ROCHER, LAVENDER

Now a conserved area, Jalan Besar is home to an eclectic range of eateries, cafés, entertainment venues, and religious sites. It's also a hostel hotspot, and backpackers constantly flock here. Beyond the neon lights of bars and lounges, Jalan Besar is rife with hip cafés that are now calling the neighbourhood's many shophouses home. You can easily spend an entire afternoon hopping from one spot to another such as **Chye Seng Huat Hardware**, all while tucking into hearty brunch plates, classic French pastries and modern takes on local cuisine such as **Non Entrée Desserts**. The district is also making a name for itself as a haven for Third Wave coffee, so you will have plenty of fuel for your trip.



6 BRAS BASAH BUGIS

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Bras Basah.Bugis Precinct is where to go for a slice of Singapore's rich heritage, preserved architecture and palpable energy. Head here for fine museums, national monuments and other institutions, such as art schools and the **Central Public Library**. One of Singapore's oldest districts, Bras Basah derived its name from the Malay term for 'wet rice' and Sir Stamford Raffles picked the area to be the European center of Singapore Town. The adjacent Bugis Street, named after the seafaring Bugis people from Indonesia who came here to trade with local merchants, has a less pristine past. You could spend days just soaking in the vibe of this buzzing district. The district is home to museums such as the **National Museum of Singapore**, **The Singapore Art Museum** and **Peranakan Museum**, and national monuments like the **Armenian Church** and **Central Fire Station**, Singapore's oldest fire station. Explore **CHIJMES**, an enclave of restaurants and bars in the middle of the city. The former chapel and school with its green lawns, marble waterfalls, courtyards and neoclassical buildings – harks back to a bygone, more gracious age. A thriving district with a colourful past, it now boasts everything shoppers could ever ask for; malls such as **Bugis+** and **Bugis Junction**, charming boutiques, bustling street markets, and of course, bargains at every corner.



7 THE COLONIAL DISTRICT

Singapore's Colonial District is peppered with reminders of British colonial rule. Together with Bras Basah Bugis district and adjoining into the Civic District, it's the centerpiece of Singapore surrounded by more modern trappings that rise up around it. The district is anchored by **Fort Canning Park**, an iconic hilltop landmark that has witnessed many of Singapore's historical milestones. The hill once sited the palaces of 14th century Malay Kings and served as the Headquarters of the Far East Command Centre and British Army Barracks. Today, Fort Canning Park is a venue for celebrations. Its expansive, sprawling lawns play host to concerts, theatre productions and festivals such as **Shakespeare in the Park**, **Ballet Under the Stars**, and **Films at the Fort**, while weddings, parties and gatherings are a regular sight in the park's venue spaces. Its ancient artefacts are a must-see for history buffs, and its lush greenery and expansive lawns offer a variety of arts, heritage and nature experiences. Down the hill, you can trace Singapore's history through stamps at the Singapore Philatelic Museum before stopping for lunch at the Raffles Hotel. **Raffles Hotel** was the crown of colonial indulgence with a reputation of luxury. It is at this hotel's bar where the legendary Singapore Sling was created.



9 THE QUAYS ON SINGAPORE RIVER

Consisting of a trio of **Clarke Quay**,

Robertson Quay and **Boat Quay**, you can literally walk from the mouth of Singapore River through the river valleys along some of the most pristine walking paths. Shophouses along **Boat Quay** that used to be the centre of trade has now been conserved and adapted for modern use, offering up various bars, pubs and restaurants. Warehouses along **Clarke Quay** are today iconic dance clubs and live music

venues, rooftop bars, creating trendy nightspots for heart-pumping entertainment. Together, both Clarke Quay and Boat Quay is a must-have stop for the city's most lively nightlife spots. As you move further inwards, **Robertson Quay** offers a more quiet respite, with locals often seen running along its banks. The area combines upperclass residential apartments with designer hotels such as **M Social** and **The Warehouse Hotel** with wonderful choices of gastronomic options that would satisfy any foodie.

