



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.



8 THE CIVIC DISTRICT

The Civic District is where Singapore's historical, architectural and cultural heritage started. Located right at the mouth of the Singapore River, the Civic District is at the heart of the city's past, with key landmarks from prominent historical figures such as Sir Stamford Raffles, the man who founded Singapore, to up-and-coming architectural icons of the 21st century. Among key historical landmarks include **St Andrew's Cathedral**, **National Gallery Singapore** which comprises the historical Supreme Court and City Hall, **Padang**, the **Asian Civilisations Museum**, **The Arts House (Old Parliament House)** and **Victoria Theatre**, overlooking the magnificent **Fullerton Hotel** and **Esplanade - Theatres on the Bay** which locals affectionately call "the durian".



6 BRAS BASAH BUGIS

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.