

10 REASONS TO VISIT SINGAPORE

Singapore is known for its ground-breaking architecture and cosmopolitan nightlife, but few realise this island has a softer side, where hidden jungles buzz with wildlife and sleepy suburbs come alive with colourful cultural events. Here's 10 examples of the delights it has to offer.

1 NIGHTLIFE

It would be a crime not to touch on Singapore's eclectic nightlife scene, which features some of Asia's best (and most upmarket) bars and clubs. You'll find quirky, speakeasy-inspired venues such as 28HKS, and beautifully crafted cocktails served right by the world's tallest infinity pool at Marina Bay Sands.

2 GARDENS BY THE BAY

Google Singapore, and your screen will be flooded with images of this show-stopping nature park, which features spectacular garden artistry and iconic 'super trees,' that illuminate the skyline with a kaleidoscope of colours come nightfall. Don't miss the exhilarating observatory Sky Way, for sensational views over Marina Bay.

3 SHOPPING

Perfect for a rainy afternoon, Orchard Road is the go-to destination for shopping in Singapore, with several malls all connected by an underground network of tunnels. The glitzy, glass-fronted Ion Orchard offers four floors of luxury brands including Prada and Dior, with four more levels of high street brands below.

4 ARCHITECTURE

From the futuristic silhouettes of Marina Bay to the resplendent, colonial-era Raffles Hotel and Peranakan style townhouses, there is something for every architecture buff in this beautiful metropolis. Check out the porcupine scales of Esplanade for premium performing arts, and the brightly coloured Thian Hock Keng Temple for fascinating cultural insights.



5 CULINARY DELIGHTS

Self-proclaimed food-obsessives, Singapore's islanders know how to whip up an excellent meal. Try Candlenut, the first Peranakan restaurant to earn a Michelin star, and Meta, for mouth-watering fusion cuisine. For a more cultural experience, head to one of the city's Hawker Centres for open-air, market-style eateries in a format unique to Singapore.

6 BEACHES

Despite being located on an island, Singapore is not usually a city associated with beaches. But head to the nearby islands of Sentosa, Lazarus and St. John's, and you'll find swathes of soft white sand to rival neighbouring Indonesia. Well connected from the city centre by ferry, cable car and sky-train, you'll find everything from pirate walkways to secluded inlets.

7 SAFETY

Unlike some Asian cities, Singapore is known as being incredibly safe for both tourists and residents, with well-maintained public transport and pickpockets uncommon. It's rare to encounter any problems during your visit, but that's not to say you should not remain aware of your surroundings, as you would in any foreign city.

8 GRAND PRIX SEASON

There's nothing like the thrum of excitement in the air when Formula 1 racing comes to town, and Singapore's Grand Prix season is no exception. An adrenaline-pumping line-up of activities and glamorous parties come together at this star-studded event, with big-name DJs and artists often flying in to host after-parties and extended race festivities.

9 CULTURE

An exotic blend of European and Asian influences, Singapore's culture is a melting pot of fascinating history and vibrant customs. Traditional annual events such as the Dragon Boat Festival and vibrant Chingay Parade are always great fun to attend, while the city's religiously diverse background offers an abundance of hallowed and ancient sites to explore.

10 GREEN SPACES

Singapore is where the concrete jungle meets its maker – where glistening skyscrapers sit nestled among lush greenery. From the botanical masterpieces of Marina Bay, to the reservoirs of the northern side, nature is truly given the chance to flourish here. For hiking, try the MacRitchie Nature Trail, and for roaming wildlife, head to Ubin Island.