

EXPLORE SINGAPORE

FOR THOSE WHO TRAVEL
TO EXPERIENCE



**SINGAPORE
IN
5 DAYS**



IS SINGAPORE
EXPENSIVE?

SURE...

IF YOU'RE ONLY
HERE TO COLLECT
THE POSTCARDS



Day 1



BIKE IN THE
CITY

Day 2



CHINATOWN,
FORT CANNING

Day 3



CITY IN A
GARDEN

Day 4



RIVER TO BAY

Day 5



SINGAPORE'S SOUL

BUT...

LOOK A LITTLE
CLOSER,
AND YOU'LL
DISCOVER THAT

THE BEST OF
SINGAPORE
DOESN'T COST A
FORTUNE





Day 1



BIKE IN THE CITY

MORNING

It may be a little touristy, but exploring the city by bike is still the most fun way to get a first impression. Join a guided tour or hop on an Anywheel bike and discover Singapore's highlights at your own pace.



Lau Pa Sat is one of the most beautiful hawker centres in the city. My favourites: Thunder Tea Rice for a healthy option, or a table full of Indian dishes from one of the many Indian stalls.

AFTERNOON

Still have some energy? Wander around one of the spots you cycled past earlier, or hop on a Hop-on Hop-off bus. Done exploring for the day? Cool off in the pool or enjoy a lazy afternoon on Sentosa's beach.

DAY 1| BIKE IN THE CITY

- Get your guide provides fun and budget-friendly bike tours with a guide. Bike on your own? Take a anywheel bike.
- In Singapore you can cycle on the sidewalk or on the road, wearing a helmet.
- Weekends are bustling, especially on the streets. Riding a bike during the week is much more laid-back.
- Find a table at Lau Pa Sat and ‘chope’ it with a tissue pack or umbrella (local style).
- Local food: Laksa, Kway Teow or a delicious Indian Saag – and so much more – can all be found at Lau Pa Sat. Not an adventurous eater? You can get burgers and pizza too.
- Fun fact: After sunset, Boontat Street transforms into Satay Street, with smoky grills and the best satay in town!
- Hop On Hopp Off Singapore bus
- Sentosa Express
- Sentosa Island
- Beachclubs Singapore



LITTLE INDIA



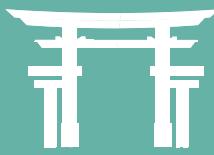
ARAB STREET



CHINA TOWN



Day 2



CHINA TOWN,
FORT CANNING

MORNING

Start early in Chinatown and wander freely. Explore not just the main sights but also the quiet streets near Telok Ayer and the many lesser-known temples that are worth your time.

FORT CANNING HILL

Take the MRT to Fort Canning, walk through the park and visit the information centre.



Chinatown: A local hotspot for delicious Dim Sum is [Yum Cha](#), and [Peng Cheng Xiao Chu](#). A more trendy lunch? Head to [My Awesome Cafe](#).

AFTERNOON

End your day with a museum visit, there are two great options near Fort Canning.

SINGAPORE NATIONAL MUSEUM

If you're curious about Singapore's rich history and culture, this is the perfect place to dive in and explore.

PERANAKAN MUSEUM

For a quick dive into its colourful traditions, elegant architecture and unique blend of Chinese, Malay and European influences.

DAY 2 | HERITAGE DAY

CHINATOWN

- Take a self-guided walk and let Chinatown surprise you.
- Grab a bite at Maxwell or Chinatown Foodcentre or treat yourself to dim sum at Yum Cha
- Catch that strong smell near the fruit stalls? That's the Durian fruit.
- Look out for Yip Yew Chong's colorful murals and find the cat. There are beautiful ones in Chinatown.
- Curious about Singapore's growth and vision? Visit the Singapore City Gallery!
- Don't miss the Buddha Tooth Relic Temple and museum.
- And wander over to Telok Ayer a charming area of restored shophouses and great restaurants.

FORT CANNING

- Visit the Spice Garden in Fort Canning, a nod to Singapore's early trade days.
- Step inside the Fort Canning Heritage gallery: it's free and well worth a visit.

FORT CANNING

MORNING

Start your day at the Botanic Gardens, a lush UNESCO World Heritage Site full of color and history. Founded in 1859, it once fueled the region's rubber industry and is now Singapore's green heart.

Keep an eye out for monitor lizards that wander from the water or bushes. They may look big but are harmless.



Settle down at Cluny Court for a bite and a drink at Da Paulo, or grab a delicious warm, freshly baked loaf from Simply Bread and enjoy a picnic in the park.

AFTERNOON

Walk or take the MRT to Orchard Road, Singapore's famous shopping street. Enjoy the mix of architecture, green corners and stylish malls. In the evening Orchard lights up beautifully and is spectacular after dark.





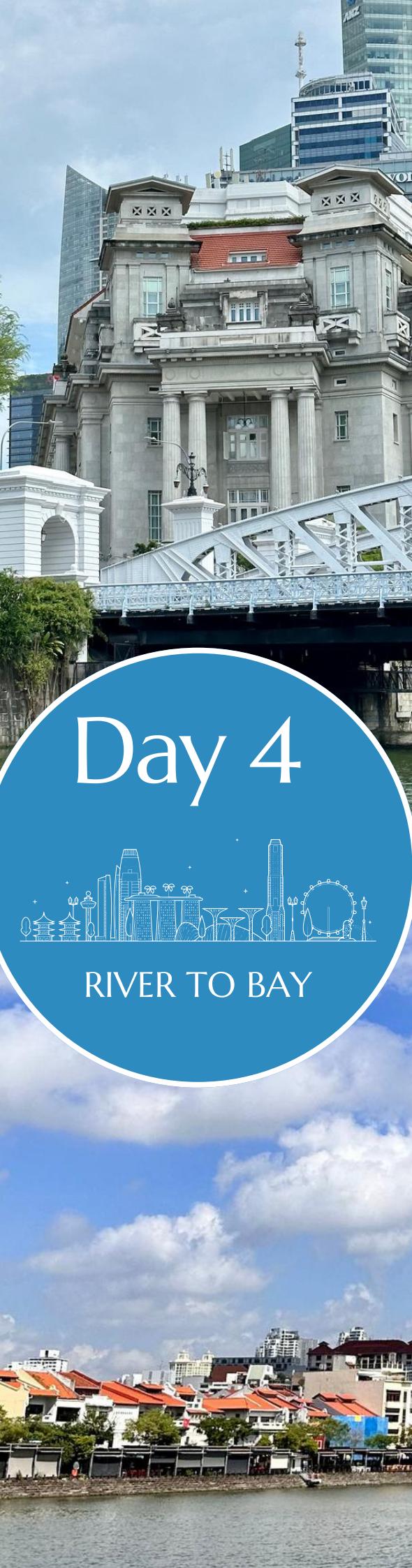
DAY 3| CITY IN A GARDEN

BOTANIC GARDEN

- The Botanic Gardens hosts lovely free concerts.
- Spot a Monitor Lizard, they can grow up to 3 meters long.
- While entry to the Botanic Gardens is free, visiting the National Orchid Garden located within the Botanic Gardens requires a fee.
- Walk the Rainforest Trail one of Singapore's oldest tropical rainforests.
- Near the Botanic Gardens, Cluny Park Road is lined with grand villas, including one featured in the movie Crazy Rich Asians.

ORCHARD

- Make a self-guided walking and explore Orchard.
- Enjoy the lovely old shophouses on Emerald Hill.
- Near the end of Orchard, you'll come across Istana Park, where the presidential residence is situated. It's only open to the public a few days a year.



Day 4



RIVER TO BAY

MORNING

Start at Great World MRT and walk along the river towards Boat Quay. It's a beautiful route with historic bridges, sculptures and views of the water.

From there, continue into the CBD, the bustling heart of the city. Make a stop at CapitaSpring and take the lift up to the rooftop garden for a breathtaking and free view of the skyline.

Try the famous Chili Crab at Jumbo Seafood by the river. Prefer something a bit more stylish? Go to Jypsy One Fullerton or the trendy Spago on top of Marina Bay Sands, where you'll be treated to spectacular views.

AFTERNOON

Afternoon at Marina Bay. End your day at Gardens by the Bay, a must-see in Singapore. Stroll among lush greenery, cultural sculptures, and the futuristic bionic trees.

By night, they come alive in a glowing light show at 7:45 and 8:45 PM, set against the dramatic Marina Bay Sands backdrop.

DAY 4 | RIVER TO BAY

- Visit CapitaSpring roof garden (book a free slot).
- From Boat Quay, walk through Raffles Place, the financial heart of the city, with striking sculptures and views.
- If you want to experience something cool and love art or photography, check out the nearby National Gallery.
- Cruising along the river is enjoyable and you can spot the Merlion of Singapore.
- Have a drink at the Spago Lounge Bar on the rooftop of Singapore's most famous hotel, Marina Bay Sands or enjoy the view from the SkyPark Observation Deck.
- Visit Satay by the Bay.
- You can do and see all sorts of things around Gardens By the Bay such as Flower Dome, Cloud Forest, Supertree Grove, and the Supertree Observatory.
- The daily evening lightshow is free and a must see.





Day 5



SINGAPORE SOUL



MORNING

Start your day early at the vibrant wet market Tekka Market, the beating heart of Little India. Check the beautiful sari's at level 2. Stroll through Serangoon Road and its side streets, lined with traditional goldsmiths, textile shops, and small Hindu temples.

Walk on to Kampong Glam, once the historic Muslim quarter and now one of Singapore's trendiest neighbourhoods. Wander through Haji Lane with its murals, boutiques and creative vibe, and the golden Sultan Mosque.



For the best samosas, stop by the little stall on the square in front of Tang Teng old wooden house in Little India, and refresh yourself with a sugarcane juice. At Mr. Briyani you're always in for a treat – spicy or milder, and best enjoyed with a delicious lassi to cool things down.



AFTERNOON

Joo Chiat, one of my favourite neighbourhoods in Singapore with its own lively character, is an absolute must for your Singapore experience.

Stroll along Joo Chiat Road, where rows of pastel-coloured Peranakan shophouses now host cosy cafés, bakeries and boutiques. Joo Chiat has kept its soul and was deservedly recognised as a UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Site.



Grab a delicious, crispy banh mi with a refreshing lemongrass drink at [233 Banh Mi](#), then wander past [KopiKhoo](#), where Mrs Khoo serves a wonderful cup of coffee straight from her window and happily poses for a photo to make the moment unforgettable.

DAY 5 | SINGAPORE SOUL

- Visit [Tekka Market](#) and the bizarre [Mustafa](#) department store.
- One of the oldest temples in Singapore is the colorful [Sri Veeramakaliamman Temple](#).
- Young and hip travellers will absolutely enjoy clubbing in [Haji Lane](#).
- For walk around these areas check [Ostrich Trails](#).
- Discover the most stunning [murals](#) in this area.
- Kampong Glam used to sit right by the sea! Before land reclamation, the [Sultan's palace](#) had a direct view of the coast.
- [Ostrich Trail](#) has a walk in this areas as well.
- Don't miss the pastel shophouses along [Koon Seng Road](#) — one of Singapore's most Instagrammed streets.
- Visit the [Eurasian Heritage Gallery](#).
- Eat like a local: Try [328 Katong Laksa](#) (Michelin Bib Gourmand!), the famous popiah at [Kway Guan Huat](#) (Joo Chiat Popiah).



MORE LOCAL PEARLS

BUGIS

A wonderful area to wander around. From Bugis Junction, the shiny high-end mall, to Bugis Street Market with its dim, covered maze of stalls where you can truly find anything. A neighbourhood full of contrasts.

GEYLANG

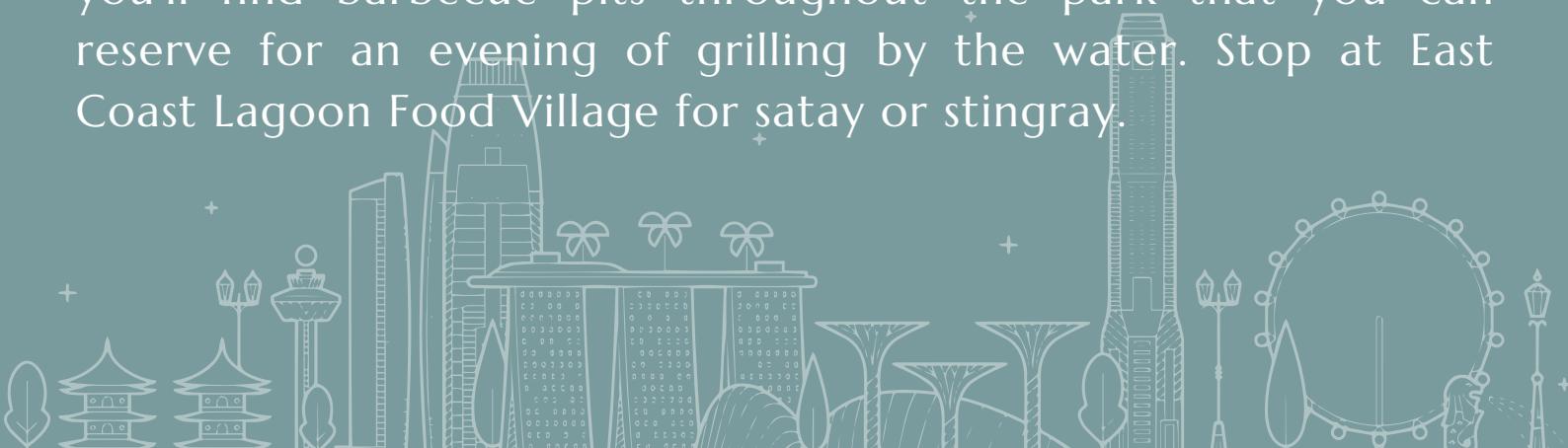
Grittier than polished Singapore, lively and full of character. Once the city's main red-light district. Geylang Serai is a beautiful wet market bursting with scents, colours and typically Malay ingredients, including the fragrant rempah blocks you can use to whip up satay sauce or curry.

WEST COAST PARK EN MARKET

Camping in Singapore? It's possible at West Coast Park. You can play, cycle, picnic and even fish. Afterwards, walk over to West Coast Market for a truly local wet-market experience. The large Sheng Shiong supermarket, filled with smells, sounds and unique products, is a delight in itself.

EAST COAST PARK

With 13 km of coastline and over 180 hectares, it's Singapore's largest park. Cycle, skate or stroll under the palms with the sea beside you. You can also camp here with a (free) permit and you'll find barbecue pits throughout the park that you can reserve for an evening of grilling by the water. Stop at East Coast Lagoon Food Village for satay or stingray.



AND MORE PEARLS

TIONG BAHRU

One of Singapore's most charming neighbourhoods, filled with art deco buildings, cosy coffee spots and small boutiques. Read more in my blog [Tiong Bahru](#).

BARRACKS

Old barracks buildings in Singapore are being given a creative second life, each with its own atmosphere.

- [Upper Barracks](#)

An emerging creative hub with studios and independent makers. Step into [Stranger Convo](#) for an unexpected encounter or visit [Paaru](#) for excellent Japanese coffee.

- [Gillman Barracks](#)

Singapore's best-known art cluster, quiet and green, with contemporary galleries and a handful of lovely cafés. Perfect for a relaxed wander.

- [Dempsey hill](#)

A stylish, vibrant barracks area full of design shops, trendy cafés and beautiful restaurants with a slightly higher price tag.

THOW KWANG DRAGON KILN

A large, traditional wood-fired [kiln](#) from 1940, with a spacious shed beside it where you can browse and shop to your heart's content. You'll find the Dragon Kiln in a green, quiet corner of West Singapore.



AND THE LAST PEARLS

WORKSHOPS IN SINGAPORE

Singapore is full of great workshops that bring you closer to the city's culture and creativity.

- Tea ceremony
- Rolling Popiah at [JooChiat Popiah](#)
- Chinese calligraphy
- Batik painting
- Ceramics, check the options at [Dragon Kiln](#)
- Qigong in de Botanic Garden
- Kintsugi, the Japanese art of repairing ceramics with gold, workshops are regularly offered by [Asian Civilisations Museum en Japan Creative Centre](#)

TIP FOR FINDING A GOOD WORKSHOP

Choose small studios or local makers who have been practising their craft for years. Honest reviews, photos of the studio and a quick question via WhatsApp will help you quickly sense whether it's a place that suits you.



BUDGET-FRIENDLY INSIDER TIPS

- Eat like a local at hawker centres. You can fill your table with amazing dishes for just S\$20-25. Worried about a “Bali Belly”? No need, food hygiene standards are excellent.
- Use public transport. Clean, safe, and efficient, it gets you everywhere for just a few dollars.
- Relax at Sentosa’s beaches: Palawan, Siloso or Tanjong. All free to access and great for a day in the sun or at East Coast Beach for a more local vibe.
- Explore more for less. Join a free tour to explore more of the city.
- Dive into culture. Follow one of the free heritage trails on Roots.sg,
- Step inside. Almost every building in Singapore welcomes you : from the grand Atlas Bar and the Fullerton. Unless there’s a “No Entry” sign, you’re free to explore.
- Visit one of the many events taking place in Singapore.



BUDGET FRIENDLY INSIDER TIPS

- More nature? Take in the breeze on the Fort Siloso Skywalk, hike the Southern Ridges trail or explore one of the many beautiful parks Singapore has to offer.
- Catch free performances. The Esplanade regularly hosts open-air concerts, and the Botanic Gardens' Shaw Foundation Symphony Stage often features free weekend performances under the stars.
- Walk past Chinese mythological scenes, dragons, statues and the famous Ten Courts of Hell in the Haw Par Villa sculpture park.
- Shop like a local at wet markets. Each has its own character. My personal favorite? Tiong Bahru Market – located in a neighborhood that's well worth exploring (check A Touch of Europe).
- Chijmes, a beautifully restored convent complex in the heart of the city, with elegant white façades, arches and peaceful courtyards. A lovely place to wander around and take photos completely free of charge, unless you're tempted to sit down for a bite or a drink at one of the terraces.



FREE & FUN THINGS TO DO IN SINGAPORE - KIDS PROOF



Enjoy the view from CapitaSpring Rooftop Garden or The Pinnacle@Duxton ([rooftops SG](#)).



Explore [Sentosa Sensoryscape](#).



Watch the free light shows at [Marina Bay, Gardens by the Bay](#).



Visit Fort Siloso and the [Siloso Skywalk](#) for a mix of history and stunning views



Bonus: Find the cat in every [Yip Yew Chong mural](#)!

Hop on a bumboat to [Pulau Ubin](#) or the nearby [St. John's and Lazarus Islands](#)

SINGAPORE IS SO MUCH MORE THAN A CONVENIENT STOPOVER

I hope this guide has inspired you
to explore with curiosity.

Create beautiful memories
in extraordinary Singapore

Tropical greetings,
Maaike

[@singaporeandme](https://www.singaporeandme.com)
www.singaporeandme.com

