

SINGAPORE

FALL & WINTER GUIDE 2011 – 2012



The best places to eat, sleep and play
in Singapore this fall and winter

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INTRODUCTION



TripAdvisor, the most trusted source for where to eat, sleep and play in thousands of destinations around the world, has collected the best insider tips from its 50 million monthly visitors to produce a unique series of travel guides. In addition to the best hotels, restaurants and attractions for every type of traveler, you'll get great advice about what to pack, how to get around and where to find the best views. Be sure to check out the guides at www.tripadvisor.com.



You'll find reviews for more than 520,000 hotels, 125,000 vacation rentals, 155,000 attractions and 715,000 restaurants on TripAdvisor.com. Learn from other travelers what to expect before you make your plans.



PACKING TIPS

1. "Singapore has a warm and humid climate throughout the year, thus **light clothing** made from natural fabrics like cotton is best for everyday wear."—TripAdvisor Member, Singapore
2. "**Casual dress** is acceptable for most situations, but some establishments may have a more formal dress code."—TripAdvisor Member, Singapore
3. "The money changer will negotiate on price, depending on how much you want to change. Don't take the **exchange board** at face value!"—TripAdvisor Member, Perth, Australia

Inside SINGAPORE

Singapore may have a Westernized facade, with its modern skyscrapers and bustling business folk, but lurking not far beneath is a world of beauty and history. With a diverse multicultural population, Singapore is home to Little India, Chinatown and an Arab Quarter. At the center lies the Colonial District, a remnant of the not-too-long-ago past, when Singapore was a British colony. The mix of cultures is evident everywhere, even in the language, the unofficial "Singlish," which is an amalgamation of English, Chinese grammar, Malay expressions and Hokkien slang. The island city-state is also home to a number of nature reserves where you can escape in the dense tropical foliage.

Singapore's reputation as a shipshape nation is well-established, and, indeed, travelers should be on their best behavior; seemingly minor infractions such as spitting, jaywalking or eating on the subway can carry hefty fines. But these same regulations keep Singapore clean and safe, and visitors will appreciate the spotless surroundings.

Top VIEWS



SINGAPORE'S BEST VIEWS

For a lovely view, head to the park atop **Mount Faber**. "We enjoyed the breeze, had tea beside a koi pond and admired the surrounding forest."—TripAdvisor Member, Vancouver, British Columbia

Mount Faber, 6270 8855

"Begin your tour of the island with a visit to the **Carlsberg Sky Tower** for panoramic views across Singapore, Sentosa and the Southern Islands."—TripAdvisor Member, Singapore

Carlsberg Sky Tower, 41 Imbiah Road, Sentosa, 6259 9288

"Singapore isn't just a city of skyscrapers. Get up close and personal with the fauna at **MacRitchie Reservoir**. The **HSBC TreeTop Walk**, a freestanding suspension bridge, connects the two highest points of MacRitchie and offers an excellent vantage point for the diverse community of plants and animals that live in the forest canopy."—TripAdvisor Member, Singapore

MacRitchie Reservoir, Off Lornie Road, 6254 5346

Where to PLAY

TOP 10 Attractions

1. Singapore Botanic Gardens, 1 Cluny Road, 6471 7361
2. Singapore Zoo, 80 Mandai Lake Road, 6269 3411
3. Flight Experience, 30 Raffles Ave. #02-06, 6339 2737
4. National Orchid Garden, Singapore Botanic Gardens, 1 Cluny Road, 6471 7361
5. Singapore Flyer, 30 Raffles Ave. #01-07, 6854 5200
6. Buddha Tooth Relic Temple and Museum, 288 S. Bridge Road, 6220 0220
7. Changi Chapel and Museum, 1000 Upper Road N., 6214 2451
8. Bukit Timah Nature Reserve, 177 Hindhede Dr., 6468 5736
9. Chinatown, Trengganu
10. National Museum of Singapore, 93 Stamford Road, 6332 3659



FAMILIES

The **Science Centre** is "a fantastic place for kids. Every exhibit is hands-on. This is a place where kids' wonder can be explored. The entry hall's optical illusions had our 10-, 8- and 5-year-old running from one amazing optical experience to the next."—TripAdvisor Member, Auckland, New Zealand

Singapore Science Centre, 15 Science Centre Road, 6425 2500

"The **National Museum of Singapore** is absolutely worth visiting and fun for young children as well. Not only did it provide a few hours of learning, but we all had a good time, too."—TripAdvisor Member, New Jersey

National Museum of Singapore, 93 Stamford Road, 6332 3251

At the **Singapore Zoo**, "you cannot see the fences, and the animals are happy. The monkeys are free range and can roam the confines of the zoo. The zoo is thoughtfully plotted and planned to each small detail."—TripAdvisor Member, Penang, Malaysia

Singapore Zoo, 80 Mandai Lake Road, 6269 3411

"...a good chance to catch some culture."



ROMANCE

"The gallery at the **Singapore Art Museum** is relatively small but very beautiful and features many fascinating exhibitions by prolific artists. The permanent collection features modern Southeast Asian art."—TripAdvisor Member, Singapore

Singapore Art Museum, 71 Bras Basah Road, 6332 3222

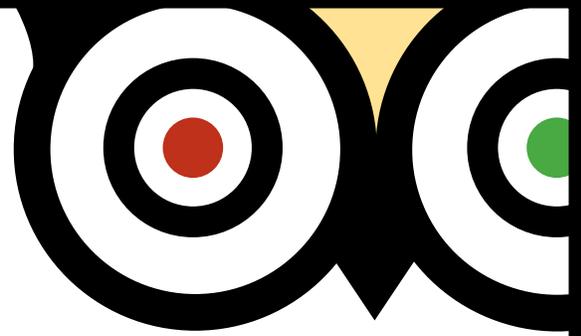
"We were charmed by **Clark Quay's** nightlife," with its brightly lit restaurants and clubs, "as well as the serenity of simply sitting at the stairs by the canal. It was very romantic."—TripAdvisor Member, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Clarke Quay, 3 River Valley Road, 6337 3292

Visit "the Singapore **Esplanade Arts Complex**: beautiful architecture, stunning at night, nice downtown views, lovely little library and galleries, neat little shops and a good chance to catch some culture."—TripAdvisor Member, Toronto, Ontario

Esplanade Theatres on the Bay, Marina Bay, 6828 8377

Where to **PLAY**



BUDGET

"The colorfully painted shop houses and covered sidewalks" of **Chinatown** "are lovely, and you can catch glimpses of the men's social groups and kitchens behind the scenes. Also, don't miss going into a Chinese herbalist shop or two—they're astounding."—TripAdvisor Member, Madison, Wis.

Chinatown

Honoring WWII prisoners of war, the **Changi Museum** is "a must-see for anyone with a family member who was affected by the invasion of Singapore. We had a most moving and unforgettable experience! Admission is free, and guided tours are available at a small cost."—TripAdvisor Member, Sydney, Australia

Changi Museum, 1000 Upper Changi Road N., 6214 2451

Thian Hock Keng, the Temple of Heavenly Happiness, is one of the oldest Chinese temples in Singapore. "It's beautiful. Buy joss paper. Be sure to burn some of the paper in the amazing red, gourd-shaped kilns in the courtyard—it brings you good luck."—TripAdvisor Member, Boston, Mass.

Thian Hock Keng Temple, 158 Telok Ayer St., Chinatown, 6423 4616



ADVENTURE

"What a great escape we had at the **Sungei Buloh Wetlands!** Imagine our excitement when we came across a six-foot water monitor lizard! We also encountered other reptiles, squirrels, birdlife and tree climbing crabs."—TripAdvisor Member, Northam, Australia

Sungei Buloh Wetlands, 301 Neo Tiew Cres., 6794 1401

"The 36-hectare **Bukit Timah Nature Reserve** features a pond plaza and young secondary forests. You can see different species of terrapins, water hens, lizards and squirrels. This park is for the nature lover. It's also popular with joggers, and exercise stations are spread out in the park."—TripAdvisor Member, Singapore

Bukit Timah Nature Reserve, 177 Hindhede Dr., 6468 5736

"The **G-Max Reverse Bungy** drops three people in an open-air, steel-reinforced capsule from two towers. The ride lasts about five minutes, and group bookings are available."—TripAdvisor Member, New York, N.Y.

G-Max Reverse Bungy, Clarke Quay, Next to the Coleman Bridge, 6338 1146

"...the lives they expected to lead and the lives they actually led."



TripAdvisor members have posted more than 8,000,000 traveler photos on the site. The good, the bad and the very candid. It's almost like being there!



EDUCATIONAL/HISTORICAL

The **Asian Civilisations Museum** "was very interesting for all the family, from grandparents to 7-year-olds. The exhibits are colorful and interactive. The kids occupied themselves activating all the talking modules, which left me time to have a good look at the exhibits."—TripAdvisor Member, Bangkok, Thailand

Asian Civilisations Museum, 1 Empress Place, 6332 2982

"You can do no better than visiting the **Chinatown Heritage Centre**. From the earliest times, certain sectors of the Chinese population came to Singapore to work on construction sites, as tailors, as barbers, as maids. This museum tells you all about the lives they expected to lead and the lives they actually led."—TripAdvisor Member, Leicester, U.K.

Chinatown Heritage Centre, 48 Pagoda St., 6338 6877

Singapore Discovery Centre is a "good and suitable place for everyone. You can learn about Singapore history with interactive games, giant screen movies, a bus tour around a military camp (that's rare!) and a computer-simulated shooting game using real rifles."—TripAdvisor Member, Los Angeles, Calif.

Singapore Discovery Centre, 510 Upper Jurong Road, 6792 6188



RELAXATION

Jurong Bird Park "is the largest park of its kind in the Asia Pacific, with more than 9,000 feathered friends from more than 600 species." There is a "Penguin Parade, where they march to their own beat in a recreation of the Antarctic setting, as well as a walk-in aviary, complete with simulated thunderstorms."—TripAdvisor Member, New York, NY

Jurong Bird Park, 2 Jurong Hill, Jurong, 6265 0022

Singapore Botanic Gardens "is definitely a nice, peaceful place to breathe the fresh air and refresh yourself. There were so many trees, plants, grasses, flowers. And they were well taken care of. We enjoyed the slow walk."—TripAdvisor Member, Nassau, Bahamas

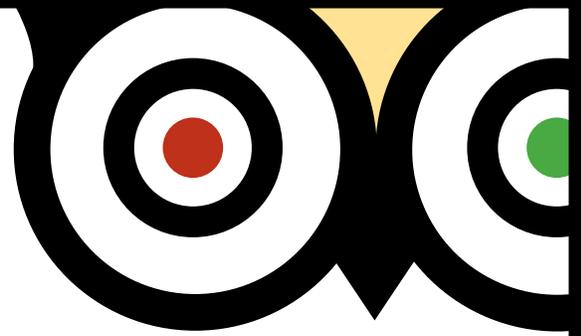
Singapore Botanic Gardens, 1 Cluny Road, 6471 7361

Take in a "view from the river" of Singapore. "We boarded a **bumboat** at night and went out to the Merlion and then back in through the city. It was magical being out on the water and seeing all the lights. Definitely a to-do at night."—TripAdvisor Member, Australia

Bumboat River Tour, Raffles Landing Site, 6336 6111

What's the **TOUR**

How to Get Around



The Singapore **Duck Tours** “takes about one hour. The commentator keeps you informed about the architecture of the buildings you see along the way.”—TripAdvisor Member, New Orleans, La.

Singapore Duck Tours, 6338 6877, <http://www.ducktours.com.sg>

“The **Mass Rapid Transit** is linked to the Light Rapid Transit. Combined, you can often get within walking distance of most destinations. The maps on the metro system are easy to read, complete with English versions. An EZ-Link card makes using the MRT a snap.”—TripAdvisor Member

Singapore Mass Rapid Transit, 1 800 3368 900, <http://www.smrt.com.sg>

“**Taxicabs** are available throughout Singapore, and the prices are considered reasonable. Cabs can be hailed on the street or at taxi stands around the town.”—TripAdvisor Member

“**Private vehicle use**, including rental cars, for use in the Central Area is **discouraged** (at least unofficially) by the number of tolls implemented through an electronic road pricing system, which operates during peak hours.”—TripAdvisor Member

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WHERE to eat

FAMILIES

The menu at **Brewerkz** at Clarke Quay features kids' meals such as fish 'n' chips, burgers, pizza and spaghetti. “Big portions of western food plus great beer—brewed themselves.”—TripAdvisor Member, Singapore

Brewerkz, 30 Merchant Road #01-05/06 Riverside Point, 6438 7438

“My kids love **Pepperoni Pizza!** Everything is made on the spot and you can see the chefs at work putting their pizzas into the big clay oven. The prices are reasonable, too.”—TripAdvisor Member

Pepperoni Pizza, 6 Greenwood Ave., 6465 6556

The kids will love picking out their snacks at the bustling **Kallang Airport Food Center**. “There are a number of good food stalls serving satay, BBQ, curry puffs. You'll be spoiled for choices.”—TripAdvisor Member

Kallang Airport Food Center, Old Airport Road

ROMANCE

Flutes at the Fort “must be one of the finest restaurants in Singapore. Wonderful location, wonderful service, wonderful food. A truly memorable and most enjoyable dining experience.”—TripAdvisor Member, Scotland

Flutes at the Fort, 23B Coleman St., 6338 8770

Arrive early for your reservation at **Saint Pierre**. “My wife and I were celebrating our anniversary and had a really fun time sampling their not-so-conventional cocktails at the bar. By the time we adjourned to our table, I was pleasantly buzzed.”—TripAdvisor Member, Singapore

Saint Pierre, 3 Magazine Road, #01-01 Central Mall, 6438 0887

“The **Keyaki Restaurant** is set in a very soothing and picturesque atmosphere and the sushi and teppanyaki were among the best I have ever tasted. The style with which the chef prepared the food in front of your eyes was an experience that I will remember for some time to come.”—TripAdvisor Member, Hong Kong, China

Keyaki Restaurant, Pan Pacific Singapore, 7 Raffles Blvd., 6826 8240

BUDGET

For good Indonesian food, check out the **Rice Table**, “where you pay one flat price, get 13 small, sampler-sized dishes and unlimited rice servings.”—TripAdvisor Member, Singapore

Rice Table, 360 Orchard Road, 6835 3783

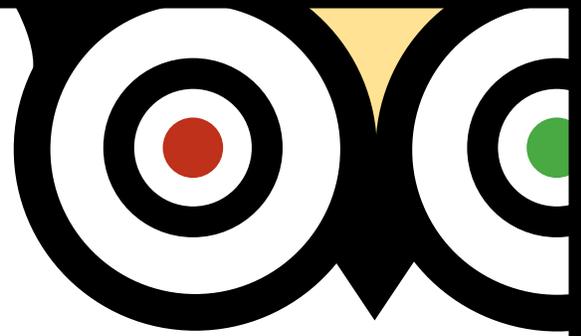
“The **Maxwell Food Centre** is definitely for those on a budget who want a cultural experience. It's made up of stalls of various types of cuisine ranging from Chinese to Indian, savory to sweet, and a nice variety of juice bars.”—TripAdvisor Member, Washington, D.C.

Maxwell Food Centre, South Bridge Road

“**Tian Tian** is not really a restaurant, but it's a nice gastronomic experience. The chicken rice is a very simple Singaporean dish with no frills, consisting of very tender chicken with fragrant rice. It's delicious and a good deal; the large plate is only 3 SGD!”—TripAdvisor Member, Tokyo, Japan

Tian Tian Hainanese Chicken Rice, Stall No.10, Maxwell Food Centre

WHERE to eat



HEALTH-CONSCIOUS

“**Livingreens** is a must try. It’s tasty and everything is made with real organic ingredients. I had the lasagne, which is made of up eggplant, mushrooms and tofu. Fantastic!”—TripAdvisor Member, Singapore

Livingreens, 325 Beach Road, 6396 5523

“**Angel’s Bistro** is run by a family of retired locals who cook up terrific veggie food in their kitchen: lasagna, claypot, tofu dumplings, Laksa noodles. It’s all great!”—TripAdvisor Member, London, U.K.

Angel’s Bistro, 28 Stanley St., 6220 4344

Rang Mahal is a “high quality lunch buffet with a wide variety of well prepared dishes and sufficient vegetarian options.”—TripAdvisor Member, Detroit, Mich.

Rang Mahal, 7 Raffles Blvd., 6333 1788

“...eat off a banana leaf with your hands”

HIDDEN GEMS

“**Ristorante Da Valentino** is our favorite restaurant! We love the quaint ambiance and the family feel. The owner is always cooking up something special for the evening that you know will hit the spot.”—TripAdvisor Member, Singapore

Ristorante Da Valentino, 11 Jalan Bingka, 6462 0555

“For fans of French cuisine who are in the mood for excellent food in elegant surroundings, **Gunther’s** is definitely worth the trip. The simple dish of angel hair pasta with Oscietre caviar was one of the best courses I have ever eaten.”—TripAdvisor Member, St. Paul, Minn.

Gunther’s, 36 Purvis St., 6338 8955

“We ate in the **Banana Leaf** restaurant in Little India, which was reasonable and authentic. You eat off a banana leaf with your hands, although they do bring a fork and spoon for Westerners.”—TripAdvisor Member, Nottinghamshire, U.K.

Banana Leaf Apolo, 54-58 Race Course Road, 6293 8682

SPECIAL EVENTS



Deepavali is the most important festival in the Hindu calendar. The temples at Little India are decorated with lights. Outside, a grand bazaar offers traditional Indian crafts and delicacies. (October 26)

Deepavali, Little India, <http://www.deepavali.net>

Winter is race season in humid Singapore. Race up the 336 steps up that make up the 73 stories of Singapore’s Swissotel during the annual **Vertical Marathon**. The couple that wins the Lovebirds’ Challenge is rewarded with a wedding package. Individual race champions will get the opportunity to climb even more stairs at the exclusive Empire State Building Run-up in New York. The time to beat: just under seven minutes. Less vertically inclined runners will enjoy the relatively flat course of the **Singapore Marathon**. (Vertical Marathon November 20, Singapore Marathon December 4)

Swissotel Vertical Marathon, Swissotel The Stamford, 2 Stamford Road, <http://www.swissotelverticalmarathon.com>

Standard Chartered Singapore Marathon, Starts at the Esplanade Bridge, <http://www.marathonsingapore.com>

Experience the holidays like never before during the Celebrate **Christmas in Singapore** festival. The event features a parade, an interactive telling of the Christmas Story and the Grand Concert on Christmas Day. (December 17 – 25)

Celebrate Christmas in Singapore, Orchard Road, 6438 3515, <http://ccishome.org>

The **Thaipusam Festival** is the Hindu Day of Thanksgiving. Hindu devotees give thanks by forming a procession, offering milk pots to the God of virtue, youth and power, or wearing kavadis, large metal frames that are attached to their bodies by hooks and spikes. (February 7)

Thaipusam, Little India, <http://www.heb.gov.sg>

The **MI Singapore Fringe Festival** features a little something for everyone who’s into the arts: theater, dance, music, photography, sculpture and much more. The theme for 2012 is “Art & Religion.” (February 15 – 26)

MI Singapore Fringe Festival, Various venues, 6440 8115, <http://www.singaporefringe.com>

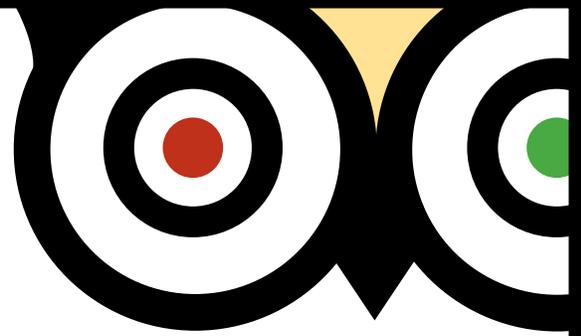
Each year, the **Mosaic Music Festival** unites a disparate group of musicians for a week, blending folk with jazz, electronica and R&B in a series of concerts, workshops and free shows throughout the city. Past guests have included Chick Corea, the Indigo Girls, N.E.R.D and Broken Social Scene. (March 9 – 18)

Mosaic Music Festival, Various venues, <http://www.mosaicmusicfestival.com>

Cheer on international athletes in men’s and women’s categories as they battle it out in one of the most challenging triathlons of the year, the **Ironman 70.3**. (March 18)

Ironman 70.3, Central Business District, 6372 6388, <http://www.ironman703singapore.com>

Where to STAY



FAMILIES

The **Intercontinental Singapore** “was perfect—close to great shopping, including handy supermarket-style shops. The staff were wonderful, kind to my children and very unintrusive. I would definitely stay here again.”—TripAdvisor Member, Sri Lanka

Intercontinental Singapore, 80 Middle Road, 6338 7600

“Travelling with 2 kids, we struggled to find hotels that offered affordable family rooms. The **Holiday Inn** was an excellent choice. The rooms were certainly big enough and the location was perfect.”—TripAdvisor Member, Sydney, Australia

Holiday Inn Singapore Orchard City Centre, No.11 Cavenagh Road, 6733 8333

The **Four Seasons Hotel** “is particularly kid-friendly and goes out of its way to cater to them, from kid toiletries to the rooftop shallow pool designed for children.”—TripAdvisor Member, Mumbai, India

Four Seasons Hotel Singapore, 190 Orchard Blvd., 6734 1110

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ROMANCE

“The Valley Wing at the **Shangri-La** is a must! Champagne is free; service is top-end; rooms are beautiful and large; garden and pool are very relaxing. Enter the lobby, sit down, relax and sip your champagne...”—TripAdvisor Member, Germany

Shangri-La Hotel, 22 Orange Grove Road, 6737 3644

“Staying at **Fairmont Singapore** was pure pleasure. The room was very adequate in size, spotless, with outstanding amenities. There was nothing to complain about. I only wish that all of my future hotel stays will be as good.”—TripAdvisor Member, Sarasota, Fla.

Fairmont Singapore, 80 Bras Basah Road, 6339 7777

“The **Ritz** is a gem! The Club lounge is a quiet oasis—we spent quite a bit of time just indulging ourselves with champagne and the great view overlooking Marina bay.”—TripAdvisor Member, Singapore

Ritz-Carlton Millenia Singapore, 7 Raffles Ave., 6337 8888

“Sit down, relax and sip your champagne.”

BUDGET

“The **Ibis Singapore** is good value for money. We love the hotel's location and cleanliness. It's just a five minute walk to an MRT station, shopping mall and Bugis Street.”—TripAdvisor Member, Indonesia

Ibis Singapore on Bencoolen, 170 Bencoolen St., 6593 2888

“There's a lot to like about the **Hangout**. The place is modern, clean and vibrant. The rooftop location is convenient yet very quiet. The view from the rooftop is beautiful.”—TripAdvisor Member, Hong Kong

Hangout at Mt. Emily, 10A Upper Wilkie Road, 6438 5588

“**Aqueen Hotel Lavender** is one of the best, if not the best, value for money. The rooms are small but have all the amenities that you need.”—TripAdvisor Member

Aqueen Hotel Lavender, 139 Lavender St., 6395 7788

“Before you die, fellow trippers, go here.”

LUXURY

“At first we found the decor at the **Mandarin Oriental** underwhelming in comparison to some of the more ostentatious hotels. But what the hotel has in buckets is superb style and service. Rich, dark, sensuous interiors and fantastic staff—understated elegance.”—TripAdvisor Member, Abu Dhabi, U.A.E.

Mandarin Oriental, 5 Raffles Ave., Marina Square, 6338 0066

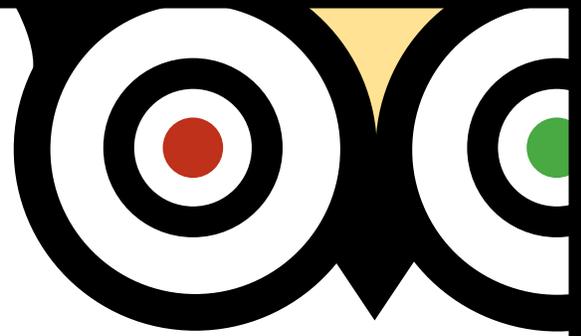
“**Raffles** may be the best hotel in the world. If you want a taste of ‘colonial’ living, with none of the obsequiousness that the word suggests, you simply have to go here. Even if you don't particularly like Singapore, go here. Before you die, fellow trippers, go here.”—TripAdvisor Member, Majorca, Spain

Raffles Hotel Singapore, 1 Beach Road, 6337 1886

The **Fullerton** “is very opulent and sophisticated. The service is excellent—we were really looked after.”—TripAdvisor Member, Oxford, U.K.

Fullerton Hotel Singapore, 1 Fullerton Square, 6733 8388

Where to STAY



HIDDEN GEMS

“The **Quincy Hotel** is a modern and awesome hotel in the Mt. Elizabeth area. The rooms were always clean and neat. The pool was on the higher floor and it was interesting to see Singapore’s taller buildings at night.”—TripAdvisor Member, Singapore

Quincy Hotel, 22 Mount Elizabeth, 6738 5888

“Nestled in a convenient location in Chinatown and just a short train ride away from most sites and malls, everything about the **New Majestic Hotel** was first class. The room was cozy, clean, comfortable and tastefully decorated. We felt at home right away!”—TripAdvisor Member, Sydney, Australia

New Majestic Hotel, 31 – 37 Bukit Pasoh Road, 6511 4700

“I highly recommend **Naumi Hotel** to everyone looking for a small, cozy, luxury hotel with personalized service. I love the view from the pool, especially at night. It’s almost empty all the time so my son, my husband and I enjoyed a dip in the pool after a day out shopping or touring.”—TripAdvisor Member, France

Naumi Hotel, 41 Seah St., 6403 6000

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