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Explorers' Month



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Singapore 新加坡

ARMCHAIR TRAVELLER

# Travel Guide 2 GO~



COUNTRY OF THE MONTH:

# SINGAPORE



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## Singapore 101

# The "Lion City"



### The Republic of Singapore

- It is a sovereign island city-state in maritime Southeast Asia
- Around 5 million inhabitants
- Size: two-thirds of Hong Kong

Official Languages: **English, Malay, Mandarin, and Tamil**

**National Service (NS):** Every male citizen, upon the age of 18, must undertake two years of National Service. Most of them serves in the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF), Singapore Police Force (SPF) or the Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF)

**Home Ownership:** Singapore has a high ownership rate largely due to the successful public housing scheme under the Housing Development Board (HDB). In 2018, the rate of homeownership was approximately 91% of the population. As of 2018, 92.2 % of homeowners owned an HDB residential unit.



# #1

## Singapore hosted the first F1 night race



## Let's learn Singlish

**Singlish** is a mixture of English, Mandarin, Tamil, Malay, Hokkien, Cantonese, and Teochew.

It is a collection of colloquial catchphrases and lingo influenced by Singapore's multiculturalism. Singlish borrows words from other languages, particularly Malay and Chinese, which stresses the complex language environment of the country.

For example, the Singlish term "chope", which means to reserve a seat. Locals often chope seats at a hawker centre using packets of tissue paper!

### Can

<b>Can ah?</b>	<i>Can you or can't you?</i>	<b>Can hor</b>	<i>You are sure then...</i>
<b>Can lah</b>	<i>Yes.</i>	<b>Can meh?</b>	<i>Are you certain?</i>
<b>Can leh</b>	<i>Yes. I think so.</i>	<b>Can bo?</b>	<i>Can or not?</i>
<b>Can lor</b>	<i>Yes. Of course.</i>	<b>Can can</b>	<i>Confirm</i>
<b>Can hah?</b>	<i>Are you sure?</i>	<b>Can liao</b>	<i>Already can / Done</i>

Various uses for the word "Can" with the help of the famous **Singlish suffixes**



**4 different languages** can be seen on the warning signs!



## Tourist Spots



### 1. Chijmes

Chijmes is a Neo-Classical style building located in the heart of **City Hall**. There are also lots of aesthetically-pleasing restaurants and bars for you to enjoy the harmony of the peaceful oasis and the bustle of the city!

This is also where the wedding scene in **Crazy Rich Asian** took place! Does it not give you another reason to visit this "Garden of Eden" at least once in your life?



### 2. Rain Vortex

**Jewel** is a nature-themed entertainment and retail complex on the landside of Changi Airport. Locals love to go there for weekend shopping, studying and dating!

It is also famous for the world's tallest indoor waterfall, the **Rain Vortex**, which is surrounded by a terraced forest setting.



### 3. Night Safari

The world's first safari park for nocturnal animals

The legendary Night Safari at **Singapore Zoo** goes above and beyond the typical zoo experience.

Visitors are allowed to see animals while exploring their free-roaming environments, designed to replicate the Himalayan foothills, Southeast Asian rainforest, and Indian subcontinent.

For those who enjoy nature and love animals should not miss your trip to Night Safari when you visit Singapore!



### Scars of CANING!!!

Caning is still a form of corporal punishment practised in Singapore. You may be sentenced to 3 strokes of the cane for vandalism! So be careful when you travel to Singapore, don't draw or paint anything on public properties!





## More Places For You to Explore...



### 1. Kampong Glam

It's a neighbourhood with the focal point that represents Singapore's proud and colourful Muslim Quarter, and is cited as being the city's hipster neighbourhood thanks to its variety of quirky cafes, amazing wall murals, and delicious fusion restaurants especially on [Haji Lane](#) and [Arab Street](#). It offers plenty to see and experience!



### 2. Mustafa Centre

The Mustafa Centre is one of the most bizarre and fun malls (and best-kept secret) you will ever enter. It is a [24-hour department store](#) in Little India of Singapore where you can get practically anything from bar soap, sport sticks to GOLD.

If you are going on an exchange or travel and need anything, GO THERE and you can find more than what you want!

Nearest MRT station is [Farrer Park](#).

### 3. Hari Raya

Hari Raya is a celebratory occasion following a month of fasting, which is known as [Ramadan](#). In Singapore, it is a public holiday and people celebrate it every year.

The festival is dependent on the Islamic calendar and usually takes place along Sims Avenue and Changi Road. There will be a bazaar and cultural programmes for visitors to experience the festive vibes as well as the multiculturalism in Singapore.



### 4. Floating Apple store

The 2020 biggest [Instagram Hotspot](#) is the very first floating Apple store, appearing as an all-glass dome structured sphere.

Apple Marina Bay Sands is accessed via a underwater tunnel from the neighbouring shopping center, giving visitors the feeling that they're entering a floating building.

Nearest MRT station is [Bayfront](#).



## Food



#1

**Tutu Kueh** is a heritage snack that is well-loved for its soft, pillow-like consistency. It is stuffed with coconut or peanut filling and served on a piece of pandan leaf.

Interestingly, the snack was eventually dubbed as "**tutu**" after the sound of the charcoal heated steamers made when cooking it!



#2

**Bak Chor Mee** is a much-loved noodle dish all around Singapore. It is served with minced meat, mushrooms, and various toppings!

In Hokkien, "**bak chor**" means ground/minced meat; while "**mee**" means noodles. You can use either thin noodles (**mee kia**) or wide noodles (**mee pok**) for this dish



#3

**Rojak** means an "**eclectic mix**" in colloquial Malay, and the dish sure lives up to its name.

Its ingredients reflect the cultural diversity of Singapore, bringing together disparate items with strong flavours into a harmoniously tasty blend.



#4

**Kaya Toast & Soft-Boiled Eggs** are the ultimate comfort food for Singaporeans. It is also the perfect snack that goes very well with a cup of local coffee "**kopi**" or tea "**teh**"!

Indeed, there are so many ways to order in Singapore, for example:

1. **Kopi O** means black coffee with sugar
2. **Kopi Gah Dai** means coffee with extra sugar and condensed milk
3. **Kopi Si** means coffee with evaporated milk and sugar



#5

**Nasi Lemak** is savoury and creamy rice that carries a spicy flavour and gives the dish an extra zing. It is an original dish adored by the Malays, but also a hearty meal for Singaporeans!

In Malay, **Nasi Lemak** means "rich rice" while the 'rich' refers not to wealth but the scrumptiousness brought by coconut cream.



#6

The most common form of **Murtabak** is a crispy, spicy dough packet stuffed with vegetables and minced meat.

Originally an **Arab** food, different versions can be commonly found in Singapore.

They are a combination of Arab and Indian flavors, spices, and cooking techniques, and it's one of the greatest things to eat when you're in Singapore!



## Weekend Trip

### Pulau Ubin

Pulau Ubin is a kampong (village) that is just a 15-min boat ride away from the mainland. It offers different activities for the visitors like bird-watching, kayaking, and can even be a special staycation to stay overnight over the weekend!

Whether you're a nature lover or a thrill-seeker, here you can discover a myriad of treasures on this lush greenery island!



### Origin of "The Lion City"

Singapore, known as the "Lion City," gets its name from the Sanskrit derived words *singa*, which means "lion," and *pura*, which means "city."

Studies have shown, however, that lions have never lived there, and the legendary lion seen by **Prince Sang Nila Utama, founder of ancient Singapore, was in all likelihood a Malayan tiger.**

The Merlion Statue is one of the most well-known landmarks in Singapore lies within Merlion Park located at the edge of Marina Bay Sands.



### Jey's Favourite restaurant

### Song Heng Fish Ball Noodle

Address: 11 Telok Blangah Crescent (#01-24), Singapore 090011



**Best fish ball noodles for only S\$3!!!  
They know him so well that he can preorder on phone!**