



# Little India Guide

Discover a Cultural Experience beyond words

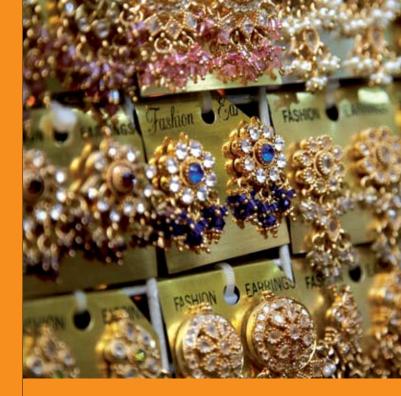


# A Unique blend

of the best of the modern world and rich cultures to deliver enriching experiences







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# LIFE IN LITTLE INDIA

This intriguing enclave of Indian culture and tradition began as brick kilns in the 1820s. As it drew an increasing number of Indian workers to the trade, South Indian cattle farmers were lured by the irrigation Rochor Canal brought to the area and the lush grassland nearby. Today, this exuberant hub brimming with the sights, sounds and flavours of this ethnic quarter will truly fascinate your senses. From the riot of colours in jewelhued *saris* and the tantalising aromas of Indian cuisine, to the thrill of getting an intricate *henna* 'tattoo' or even getting your fortune told by a parrot, Little India is a gem of surprises and cultural splendour.

Well-educated in the ways of the modern world, local Indians nonetheless still retain the customs and traditions of their forefathers. Religion, family ties and food continue to weave enduring threads in their lives. Their vibrant festivals multigeneration family gatherings with much-anticipated feasting are a fitting testimony to this. The lives of today's Indians are a happy co-existence of old and new, sacred and secular - all of which are perfectly encapsulated in Little India.

### **Sights of Little India**

Be awed by intricate visages like elaborate gopuram, sculptured tower with carvings derived from Hindu mythology, as well as rare sights like Singapore's last traditional spice grinder. Get ready for a titillating experience in Little India.

### **Places of worship**



#### Sri Veeramakaliamman Temple 141 Serangoon Road

Built in 1885, this historical temple is dedicated to Kali, the Goddess of Power and the ferocious incarnation of Lord Shiva's wife. Veeramakaliamman means 'Kali the Courageous'. True to its name, this temple

courageously offered refuge to many during World War II.

Devotees entering the temple ring the many bells on its door, hoping to have their requests granted. At the main shrine is a multi-armed statue of Kali, flanked by her sons Ganesha the Elephant God (also known as the Remover of Obstacles), and Murugan the God of War, often depicted riding a peacock.

#### When to visit:

5.30am - 9.00pm daily (except 12.30pm - 4.00pm) Tuesdays and Fridays are holy days when the temple is abuzz with religious fervour. Please remove shoes before entering.

#### Do you know?

Many devotees use the aluminium enclosures located near the doors to break coconuts as a symbol of revealing their pure and kind inner-selves. Sometimes, they also encircle the temple halls clockwise for an odd number of times as a means of bringing in good luck.



#### Sri Srinivasa Perumal Temple 397 Serangoon Road

This Hindu temple is dedicated to Lord Perumal, the Preserver of the Universe and God of Mercy and Goodness. It is here that devotees begin their 4.5km-long Thaipusam procession every January or February.

#### When to visit:

6.30am - 9.00pm daily (except 12.00pm - 6.00pm) Please remove shoes before entering.

#### Do you know?

In 1978, the temple was declared a National Monument by the Preservation of Monuments Board.

#### Leong San Buddhist Temple 371 Race Course Road

With ornate clay sculptures of dragons and other mythical creatures adorning its roof, Leong San Buddhist Temple (also known as Dragon Mountain Temple) is one of the most beautiful and oldest Buddhist temples in Singapore. It was built in 1913 by a Buddhist



monk who arrived from China with only a statue of Kwan Yin (Goddess of Mercy), and set about establishing a lodge for treating the sick. Donations from a local philanthropist soon turned it into an elaborate temple housing both Kwan Yin and Confucius.

#### When to visit:

6.00am - 6.00pm daily On religious dates such as Vesak Day, free vegetarian food is served to devotees.

#### Do you know?

No nails were used in the construction of the main frame of the temple.

#### Sakya Muni Buddha Gaya Temple 366 Race Course Road

This magnificent temple housing a 300-tonne, 15-metre tall statue of Buddha in the main hall, is surrounded by hundreds of lights which gives it its name of 'Temple of 1,000 lights'.

#### When to visit:

8.00am - 4.45pm daily Please remove shoes before entering.

#### Do you know?

In a chamber at the back of the statue, you'll find the image of the reclining Buddha.

#### Masjid Abdul Gafoor (Mosque) 41 Dunlop Street



Built in 1846, this mosque is now a gazetted national mosque. Its unusual symmetry, layout and incorporation of South Indian, Moorish and western details set it apart from other mosques. It showcases a spectacular coloured glass cupola and regal Roman and Saracen pillars. Upon reaching the entrance, you'll be greeted by an elaborate pediment showing a 25-ray sundial decorated with Arabic calligraphy which denotes the names of 25 chosen Prophets.

#### When to visit:

9.00am - 9.30pm daily Please remove shoes before entering.

#### Do you know?

The intricate sundial at the entrance is the only one in the Islamic world.

#### Masjid Angullia (Mosque) 265 Serangoon Road

At the junction of Serangoon Road and Birch Road is this traditional place of worship for Indian Muslims. It was built before 1898 on land owned by the wealthy Angullias, a family of Gujerati traders, who are still its custodians today.

#### When to visit:

12.00pm - 12.00am daily Please remove shoes before entering.

#### Do you know?

The mosque is famous as a centre of *tabligh* (activities to promote Islam)

#### Kampong Kapor Methodist Church 3 Kampong Kapor Road



This church caters to a largely Peranakan (Straits-born Chinese) congregation that resided in the area around 1890. From 1894, the Methodist community met at the Middle Road Christian Institute. The church soon outgrew the premises and a new one was built in the Art Deco style around 1929 at its current location. Today, it remains the only church in Singapore that caters almost exclusively to Peranakans of the Methodist faith.

#### When to visit:

Sunday Worship (English): 8.30am / 9.30am / 11.30am

#### Do you know?

The church also provides worship services in Mandarin, Tamil and Peranakan (Baba Malay, a dialect of the Malay language, which contains many *Hokkien* words).

#### The Church of True Light 25G Perak Road

This Anglican church quietly stands out with a relatively modest but Chinese-influenced architecture. Completed in 1954, its early worshippers were mainly trishaw riders who lived and worked nearby. The church provides worship services in English, Mandarin and Tamil to cater to its multi-lingual worshippers.

#### When to visit:

Saturdays and Sundays, 9.00am - 1.00pm

#### Do you know?

Bible verses in Chinese are painted onto the pillars and walls. Walk up the stairs and you'll find a sanctuary with a huge Chinese ideogram for the word "love" above the altar.

#### **Places to shop**



#### Little India Arcade 48 Serangoon Road

At the corner of Serangoon Road and Campbell Lane lies this treasure trove of all things Indian. Little India Arcade comprises a cluster of shophouses dating back to 1913. Today, this conservation building is home to a labyrinth of

shops which unveil a colourful spectacle of exquisite Indian handicraft, traditional Ayurvedic remedies, Indian spices, Indian sweets and snacks, *henna* tattoo, magnificent *saris*, intricate accessories and even Indian furniture. A favourite haunt of tourists and locals alike, it's the perfect place for authentic Indian merchandise and charming souvenirs.

#### **Opening hours:**

9.00am - 10.00pm daily

#### Do you know?

The *pottu* (red dot worn on the forehead of Indian women) signifies that a woman is married. You can discover more interesting facts and history of Little India at the special Cultural Corner located beside the food court. The archival display and video presentation provide an interesting insight into the Indian culture.



#### The Verge 2 Serangoon Road

Formerly known as Tekka Mall, The Verge has been newly refurbished and renamed to be Little India's answer to a comprehensive retail hub of IT, lifestyle, and dining options. It features about 160,000 square feet of retail exuberance

over six levels, and promises a fresh retail concept seeped in local tastes and global flavours.

#### **Opening hours:**

10.00am - 10.00pm daily Tel: (65) 6396 8790 Website: www.theverge.com.sg



#### Mustafa Centre

145 Syed Alwi Road, Tel: (65) 6295 5855 Opens 24 hours Website: www.mustafa.com.sg

This 24-hour retail paradise is home to an incredible variety of products from cosmetics and electronics to

food and jewellery. Take your pick from over 75,000 items displayed on four levels covering 70,000 square feet within the six-storey building which also houses a hotel with 130 tastefully furnished rooms. With such a wealth of offerings at some of the lowest prices in Singapore, it is thronged with tourists and locals alike looking for the best bargains.



#### Flower garlands and old-style provision shops

One of the oldest surviving Indian traditional offerings, resplendent garlands of jasmine, marigolds and roses symbolise purity, peace and love respectively. Besides being used as prayer offerings, they are also used to garland important guests during functions as a symbol of respect. A vivid assortment of flower garlands can be found at Letchime Flower Shop and Udhayaa Flowers.

In Little India, you will find many old-style provision shops that seem untouched by time. Step into any of them and let your eyes feast on a kaleidoscope of traditional toiletries, crockery, spices, herbal remedies, foodstuff and even altars and figurines of Hindu deities. For a nostalgic experience, visit **Jothi Store and Flower Shop** or **Sri Ambal Provision Store**.



#### Jothi Store and Flower Shop

1 Campbell Lane, Tel: (65) 6338 7008 Opening hours: Mon - Sat 9.00am - 9.00pm, Sun 9.00am - 8.00pm Website: www.jothi.com.sg

#### **Letchime Flower Shop**

56C Campbell Lane, Tel: (65) 6392 2541 Opening hours: 8.00am - 10.30pm daily

#### **Sri Ambal Provision Store**

136 Dunlop Street, Tel: (65) 6341 7612 Opening hours: 10.00am - 10.00pm daily

#### Udhayaa Flowers

(beside Sri Veeramakaliamman Temple) 131B Serangoon Road, Tel: (65) 9852 6131 Opening hours: 7.00am - 9.00pm daily

# Traditional spice grinders and betel nut seller

Spices are key ingredients in Indian cuisine. Indians believe that spices should only be ground on the day they are used so as to impart their full flavour to the meat and vegetables. For a whiff of tradition, head down to **Ashaweni Mill** or **Valli Flour Mill**.



Betel nuts (or Areca catechu nuts) are mild narcotics believed to be good for the digestive system. Betel nuts are usually chopped and wrapped using betel leaves along with lime paste and other spices. Available pre-packaged and or freshly wrapped from **Jothi Store and Flower Shop**.



#### Ashaweni Mill

2 Cuff Road, Tel: (65) 6299 3726 Opening hours: 8.00am - 5.00pm, closed on Sun

#### Valli Flour Mill

174 Serangoon Road, Tel: (65) 6294 0890 Opening hours: 8.00am - 5.00pm, closed on Sun

#### Little India arts belt

Nestled along Kerbau Road are beautifully restored shophouses, now home to culturally diverse arts companies in Singapore, from the traditional to the avant-garde. For a handson experience of Indian culture, sign up for an Indian Cultural Workshop at **Bhaskar's Art Academy**. Here, you'll touch on the basics of Indian classical dance, music (percussion, strings, vocals) and even yoga. Rates depend on group size.

Then head over to **Sanjeev Digital Studio** where you can dress up in traditional Indian costumes and have your picture taken. It's the ideal memento of your trip to Little India.

For aficionados of Indian cuisine and travelling gourmands, **Epicurean World** at **Spice Queen Restaurant** has a wide range of cooking classes taught by chef Devagi Sanmugam, and gourmet tours that take you on ethnic food crawls.

#### Bhaskar's Art Academy

19 Kerbau Road, Tel: (65) 6396 4523 Opening hours: 10.00am - 8.00pm daily

#### **Epicurean World**

24/26 Race Course Road, Tel: (65) 6458 0572 / (65) 6255 2440 Opening hours: Tue - Sun 12.00pm - 11.00pm, closed on Mon Website: www.epicureanworld.com.sg



#### Sanjeev Digital Studio

23 Kerbau Road, Tel: (65) 6296 6537 Opening hours: 10.00am - 10.00pm daily





# Hallmarks of Little India

Get a piece of Indian culture on your skin with traditional *henna* "tattoo" or experience the mystique of parrot fortune telling. Little India mesmerises with the quaint, the exquisite and the simply spectacular.



#### Henna decoration

Henna had been used for centuries as part of body adornment. Today, it is still widely used by all Indian brides and is also immensely popular as a temporary tattoo. For those who prefer to avoid any

stain, there are many stick-on henna designs available too.

Henna artists can be found at the numerous Indian beauty parlours in Little India, such as **Selvi's** and **Vanessa Beauty Salon**.

#### **Selvi**'s

48 Serangoon Road, Little India Arcade #01-23, Tel: (65) 6297 5322 Opening hours: Mon - Sat 9.00am - 8.00pm, alternate Sun 9.00am - 3.30pm

#### Vanessa Beauty Salon

2 Serangoon Road, The Verge #05-02, Tel: (65) 6291 0977 Opening hours: 10.00am - 8.30pm daily

#### Parrot fortune telling

Parrots are believed to be the best devotees of Lord Rama, hence they are deemed to possess special powers. During this intriguing fortune telling session, the parrot picks one of 27 cards on the table and hands it over to the fortune teller who will interpret your fortune based on its contents.



For a sneak peek into your future, visit the fortune teller seated just outside Komala Vilas Vegetarian Restaurant at 76/78 Serangoon Road (8.30am - 2.30pm daily) or the main entrance of Tekka Market (behind the bus stop) along Serangoon Road (3.00pm - 6.00pm daily). Each reading costs about SGD3. Please note that the above locations and timings may be subject to changes.



#### Sari wearing demonstration

The *sari* (traditional Indian female garment) is a strip of cloth about 6 yards long draped around the entire body. Most of this fabric is pleated at the waist and then wound round the skirt, with the remaining few yards swept across the upper half of the body, covering at least one shoulder and sometimes veiling the head.

Now, you can learn how to wear a traditional Indian *sari* at **Handlooms** or **Haniffa Pte Ltd**. Handlooms is a 50-year-old *sari* shop supported by the Government of India, and home to a wide range of handcrafted *saris*, linens and shirts. As an interesting side note, Queen Elizabeth II visited the shop back in 1961.

#### Handlooms

48 Serangoon Road, Little India Arcade #01-18, Tel: (65) 6293 2861 Opening hours: Mon - Sat 10.00am - 7.30pm, Sun 10.00am - 5.00pm

*Sari* wearing demo: every Wednesday from between 10.30am and 11.00am.

#### Haniffa Pte Ltd

118 Dunlop Street, Tel: (65) 6339 0926 Opening hours: 10.00am - 9.30pm daily Website: www.haniffa.com.sg



# **Souvenirs of Little India**

Renowned for their exquisite handicrafts and rainbow-hued merchandise, every lane in Little India is brimming with gifts to be treasured and shared.

#### **Ornate jewellery boxes**

Inlaid with little mirrors and colourful beads, these jewellery boxes exude vibrancy and glamour. To purchase these artistic creations, head down to **Halifax Traders**. While you're there, you can also pick out some lovely handmade costume jewellery. If you can't find something in your desired colour or design, they will be more than happy to custom make it for you.

#### Halifax Traders

48 Serangoon Road, Little India Arcade #01-15/67, Tel: (65) 6291 7734 Opening hours: Mon - Sat 9.00am - 9.00pm, Sun 9.00am - 3.00pm Website: www.halifaxcollection.com

#### **Bangles and brassware**

Indian women are often seen wearing huge armfuls of bangles as they believe these bring safety and luck to one's husband. Today, Indian bangles are widely worn as fashion accessories by Indians and non-Indians alike due to their beauty and intricacy. Apart from the usual metal and glass bangles, you'll also find a wide variety that's made from stone and clay at **MKM Costume Jewellery**. Or visit **Jayaram's Creation Pte Ltd** to choose from their incredible collection of bangles and costume jewellery.

Indian brassware are well-loved for their craftsmanship and old world grandeur. The collection of brassware items includes vases, lamps, jewellery boxes, crockery and utensils, and items of worship. **Gokulam Jewels and Crafts** sells a myriad of brassware that will astound you.

#### Gokulam Jewels and Crafts

48 Serangoon Road, Little India Arcade #01-02 and #02-01, Tel: (65) 6297 9184 / (65) 6298 6275 Opening hours: 9.00am - 9.00pm daily Website: www.gokulamcrafts.com.sg

#### Jayaram's Creation Pte Ltd

48 Serangoon Road, Little India Arcade #01-06/07/74, Tel: (65) 6392 1921 Opening hours: Mon - Sat 8.00am - 9.00pm, Sun 8.00am - 4.00pm

#### **MKM Costume Jewellery**

90 Serangoon Road, Tel: (65) 6294 2903 Opening hours: 11.00am - 10.00pm daily





#### Sari fabrics

Traditionally woven from silk or cotton, *saris* are one of the most beautiful and versatile garments ever woven from silk and cotton. The more luxurious pieces have elaborate designs woven with real gold or silver threads, and sometimes embroidered with pearls and precious stones. A spectacular range of *sari* fabrics can be found at **Nalli Pte Ltd**.



#### Nalli Pte Ltd 10 Buffalo Road, Tel: (65) 6299 3949 Opening hours: 9.30am - 9.30pm daily

#### Ayurvedic remedies and incense sticks

Ayurveda is a 5000-year-old system of natural healing that has its roots in India. Today, it is practised as a form of alternative medicine in many parts of the world. To find out more about this age-old remedy or pick out a suitable prescription, head down to **Ayurvedic Remedies and Trading Enterprises** which has been in the business for over 12 years. Or indulge in some soothing Ayurvedic treatments at **Ayurlly Ayurvedic Spa**.

Traditional Indian incense is created from a waxy paste of flower and wood essences ranging from fine sandalwood to myrrh. It is used as a form of aromatherapy or burnt in rites performed for peace, health and prosperity. To find a wide range of incense sticks, visit **Rasool Shop Pte Ltd**.

#### **Ayurlly Ayurvedic Spa**

2 Serangoon Road, The Verge #05-11/13, Tel: (65) 6737 5657 Opening hours: Mon - Sat 10.00am - 8.00pm Website: www.mayooryspa.com

#### **Ayurvedic Remedies and Trading Enterprises**

48 Serangoon Road, Little India Arcade #01-05, Tel: (65) 6295 6254 Opening hours: 2.00pm - 9.00pm daily

#### **Rasool Shop Pte Ltd**

Block 664 Buffalo Road, #01-01/02, Tel: (65) 6298 8786 Opening hours: 8.30am - 10.00pm daily



#### Exquisite gold jewellery

Indian goldsmiths are renowned for their unmatched artistry, skill and precision, and that makes Indian gold jewellery coveted for their extraordinarily ornate designs.

For one of a kind jewellery, walk over to **Meena Gold Jewellers**. You'll be greeted by an array of exclusive, intricate jewellery. One of their specialties is oxidised

gold jewellery which has been specially treated to give it a sophisticated and antique appeal.

Just across the street is **Ani Mani Porchalai** which specialises in *thaali* (a necklace that symbolises marriage, as well as the bonding, understanding, commitment, mutual love and spiritual growth between the couple). The tying of the *thaali* is the most important ceremony in an Indian wedding, similar to the exchange of rings.

#### Ani Mani Porchalai

73 Serangoon Road, Tel: (65) 6293 1918 Opening hours: 10.30am - 9.30pm daily

#### Meena Gold Jewellers

80 Serangoon Road, Tel: (65) 6293 4538 Opening hours: Mon - Sat 10.00am - 8.30pm, Sun 10.00am - 7.00pm



## **Flavours of Little India**

When it comes to Indian food, there's more than just curry, *masala* and *tandoori*. Come tuck into a sumptuous spread of Indian cuisine, sweets and desserts fit for a Maharaja!

#### Local delights

*Roti prata* is the Singaporean evolution of the Indian *prata* (pancake made of dough fat, egg, flour and water). *Roti* means bread while *prata* means flat. This crispy and delicious snack is traditionally served with curry, and sometimes eaten plain with white sugar or even condensed milk.





Teh Tarik literally translates to "pull tea" as the drink is prepared by pouring or "pulling" piping hot tea from a mug into a glass. It is believed that by "pulling" the tea, it enhances its strong aroma and the subtle taste of tea, and the beverage cools faster. To witness the making of *teh tarik* and indulge in some delightful *roti* 

*prata*, head to Ananda Bhavan Restaurant or Madras New Woodlands Restaurant.

Fish head curry is a uniquely Singaporean dish you won't find in restaurants in India. One of the most popular fish head curry destinations is **Muthu's Curry Restaurant** which serves succulent fish heads in searing curry, as well as an extensive menu of scrumptious South and North Indian fare. For a more homely experience, head to **Gayatri Restaurant**.

#### Ananda Bhavan Restaurant

95 Syed Alwi Road, Tel: (65) 6297 9522 Opens 24 hours

58 Serangoon Road, Tel: (65) 6297 9522 Opening hours: 7.00am - 10.00pm daily Website: www.anandabhavan.com

#### **Gayatri Restaurant**

122 Race Course Road, Tel: (65) 6291 1011 Opening hours: 11.30am - 10.30pm daily Website: www.gayatrirestaurant.com

#### Madras New Woodlands Restaurant (vegetarian)

12-14 Upper Dickson Road, Tel: (65) 6297 1594 Opening hours: 7.30am - 11.00pm daily

#### **Muthu's Curry Restaurant**

138 Race Course Road #01-01, Tel: (65) 6392 1722 Opening hours: 10.30am - 10.30pm daily Website: www.muthuscurry.com



#### Banana leaf meals

South Indians usually serve their meals on banana leaves as they believe it imparts a special flavour to the food served on them. The larger portion of the leaf is usually placed on the right side of the diner so that there will be more space to mix the food. To savour authentic Indian banana leaf meals, make your way to **Banana Leaf Apolo** or **A One Restaurant** and take a leaf out of the Indian way of eating by using just your hands!

#### **A One Restaurant**

17 Birch Road, Tel: (65) 6294 8590 Opening hours: 10.30am - 4.30pm, 5.45pm - 10.45pm daily

#### **Banana Leaf Apolo**

56-58 Race Course Road, Tel: (65) 6293 8682 Opening hours: 10.30am - 10.30pm daily

48 Serangoon Road, Little India Arcade #01-32, Tel: (65) 6297 1595 Opening hours: 10.30am - 10.30pm daily Website: www.thebananaleafapolo.com

#### **Vegetarian meals**

Most Hindus are vegetarians as they believe revering all animal life brings them religious purity. As such, they have found highly creative ways to enjoy healthy and tasty meals. For a nutritious meal brimming with exotic flavours, head to **Komala's Restaurants** or **Komala Vilas Vegetarian Restaurant**. For a sumptuous vegetarian buffet, head to **Madras Woodlands Ganga Restaurant**. You can savour some unique Indian and Asian vegetarian cuisine, at **Gokul Vegetarian Restaurant** and try out their vegetarian Chicken Rice, *Satay* and *Rojak\** (Chinese style).

#### **Gokul Vegetarian Restaurant**

19 Upper Dickson Road, Tel: (65) 6396 7769 Opening hours: 10.00am - 11.00pm daily

#### **Komala's Restaurants**

3-9 Upper Dickson Road, Tel: (65) 6294 8801 Opening hours: 9.00am - 10.45pm daily

328-332 Serangoon Road, Tel: (65) 6299 4464 Opening hours: 8.00am - 10.00pm daily Website: www.komalasweb.com

#### Komala Vilas Vegetarian Restaurant

76-78 Serangoon Road, Tel: (65) 6293 6980 Opening hours: 7.00am - 11.00pm daily

12-14 Buffalo Road, Tel: (65) 6293 3664 Opening hours: 8.00am - 10.30pm daily Website: www.komalavilas.com.sg



Madras Woodlands Ganga Restaurant 22 Bellios Lane #01-02, Tel: (65) 6295 3750 Opening hours: 11.00am - 10.00pm daily

\* Satay is a popular dish comprising pieces of meat on bamboo skewers which are barbecued over charcoal fire.

Rojak is a "salad" made of cucumber, turnip, bean sprouts, pineapple, fried dough sticks and puffy fried beancurd and are then tossed in a sweet and spicy dressing.



#### **Concept dining**

Kick off your shoes, sit on the floor and experience traditional Indian dining at **Lagnaa Bare Foot Dining**. Amid the relaxing ambience, indulge in mouth-watering *naan* (leavened flat bread usually served with curry, chicken or vegetables), *masala* (spicy gravy made from spices, herbs and stock), *tikka* (chunks of marinated meat, fish or vegetables threaded on a skewer) and more, all served according to your specific spice level: Level 1 (not hot) to Level 6 (hottest). Try the Chilli Cheese Naan or the Curry Fondue if you feel adventurous.



For some cold, creamy dessert to douse your taste buds after a hot curry, hop over to the one and only **Khulfi Bar** for some homemade authentic North Indian Ice Cream or *khulfi*. Made without artificial flavouring, colouring or preservatives, *khulfi* is also suitable for vegetarians as it contains no

eggs. Take your pick from 15 scrumptious flavours, with a free topping for each flavour. Their best sellers are the Bollywood Silver Khulfi and Faluda King (the traditional combination of *khulfi*, rose syrup, vermicelli and jelly cubes).

#### Lagnaa Bare Foot Dining

6 Upper Dickson Road, Tel: (65) 6296 1215 Opening hours: 11.30am - 10.30pm daily

#### Khulfi Bar

15 Upper Dickson Road, Tel: (65) 6294 7554 Opening Hours: Mon - Fri 11.00am - 10.00pm, weekends and public holidays 11.00am - 10.30pm

#### Indian sweets and desserts

Most Indians will confess to having a sweet tooth because their delicious variety of sweets and desserts is simply impossible to resist! It's the perfect way to take the flame out of your mouth after a spicy Indian meal.

Get ready for sweet surprises at **Ganesan Vilas** where you'll find traditional delights such as *gulab jamun* (cream cheese balls in syrup), Indian candy and a wide variety of *murukku* (crispy tidbits). Just a few steps away is **Moghul Sweet Shop** filled with sweets and desserts in just about every colour of the rainbow!

#### **Ganesan Vilas**

48 Serangoon Road, Little India Arcade #01-08, Tel: (65) 6297 5457 Opening hours: 7.00am - 9.00pm daily

#### **Moghul Sweet Shop**

48 Serangoon Road, Little India Arcade #01-16, Tel: (65) 6392 5797 Opening hours: 9.30am - 9.30pm daily



#### Mustafa Centre

145 Syed Alwi Road, Tel: (65) 6295 5855 Opens 24 hours Website: www.mustafa.com.sg

Sleepless in Singapore? Make your way to Mustafa Centre. Even in the

still of the night, it shines bright as the undisputed destination for shopping and food.

#### Night and Day - Bar + Gallery + Friends

139 Selegie Road, Tel: (65) 6884 5523 Bar opening hours: Mon - Sat 6.00pm - 12.00am, closed on Sun Website: www.nightandday.sg Gallery opening hours: Mon - Sat 12.00pm - 12.00am daily, closed on Sun Closed for lunch from 1.00pm - 2.00pm By appointment only

This distinctive hybrid space is a chillout bar and graphic art gallery in one. The first of its kind in Singapore, Night & Day is a platform for emerging Asian graphic artists and aims to showcase their works. Housed in a 1950s Art Deco building, it offers an integrated multipurpose space for the art aficionado and bar goer who is also an avid fan of conservation and history. The newly revamped building houses the bar on the second storey and the art gallery on the fourth storey, with an architecture studio (zArch) headed by the co-owner of Night & Day and the architect behind the building's refurbishment, taking up the third storey.

### Nightlife in Little India

After the sun sets, the sea of colours and flavours in Little India undergoes a magical transformation. The mesmerising lights lead you to more intrigue as the exuberance continues under the moonlight.





Prince of Wales -Backpackers Lodge and Pub

101 Dunlop Street, Tel: (65) 6299 0130 Opening hours: Mon - Fri: 9.00am - 1.00am, Sat and Sun: 9.00am - 2.00am Website: www.pow.com.sg

Modelled after the many Australian corner pubs/hotels that provide punters with live music, cold draught beer, inexpensive accommodation and a casual atmosphere, Prince of Wales brings a piece of Australia into the heart of Little India. Try their homemade Sangria, Margaritas, shooters and house speciality cocktail, the Jam Jar.

#### **Zsofi Tapas Bar**

68 Dunlop Street, Tel: (65) 6297 5875 Opening hours: Mon - Thu: 4.00pm - 1.00am Fri: 4.00pm - 2.00am Sat: 12.00pm - 2.00am Sun: 12.00pm - 11.00pm Website: www.tapasbar.com.sg

Nestled within a rustic conservation building, Zsofi Tapas Bar brings the original tapas culture to the bohemian backpackers' quarter in Little India. It offers the true concept of tapas where every drink bought comes with a free portion of tapas. So get ready for a most comfortable pubbing experience with ice cold drinks, tempting tapas and the uniquely laid back atmosphere.





### **Festivals in Little India**

Wonderfully vibrant and steeped in age-old traditions, Hindu festivals are spectacular celebrations and a sight to behold. Like their forefathers, Hindus nowadays continue to celebrate their underlying religious significance, but with a presentday exuberance.



#### Deepavali

Also known as the Festival of Lights, the celebration of Deepavali (usually in October or November) marks the triumph of good over evil and is a great time of rejoicing and renewal. Hindu families light little oil lamps during this celebration to usher in light and good fortune. During this

month-long festival, Little India transforms into a hive of activity and colour with festive bazaars, booming music and gailycoloured street lighting.



#### Thaipusam

Thaipusam is perhaps the most dramatic of all Hindu festivals (usually celebrated in January or early February). This intense show of faith is an act of religious thanksgiving, usually for illnesses cured or prayers fulfilled. Devotees walk 4.5km from Sri Srinivasa

Perumal Tempal at Serangoon Road to Sri Thendayuthapani Temple at Tank Road, with kavadis (semi-circular wooden or metal arches often elaborately decorated with peacock feathers, tinsel and flowers) piercing their body, face and even tongue.

#### Pongal

Also called the Harvest Festival, Pongal is traditionally celebrated (usually mid-January) by Southern Indians as thanksgiving to the gods for their harvest. For four days, Hindu temples around Singapore, especially Sri Srinivasa Perumal Temple, ring with festive sounds. Rice is allowed to boil over as a sign of prosperity, after which devotees consume it along with other offerings.

#### Navarathiri

Navarathiri, which means "nine nights" in Tamil, is usually celebrated in October over nine nights and ten days in honour of three Hindu goddesses: Durga (goddess of protection), Lakshmi (goddess of wealth) and Saraswathi (goddess of wisdom). On the final night, the celebration closes with a magnificent silver chariot carrying the mother goddess paraded around the temple in a show of victory over Mahishasura, the buffalo-headed monster.

# Recommended guided tours

To better experience the rich heritage of Little India, we suggest you join a guided walking tour or let a pre-recorded audio disc help you unveil its magnificent sights and sounds.

#### Dhobis, Saris and a Spot of Curry

Go off the beaten path to where abattoirs once stood, venture to spice grinders, wet markets, temples and more. The knowledgeable guide will leave you with a deeper insight into the Indian culture and history of this lively district.

Where to meet: Little India MRT Station, Exit E (Buffalo Road)

When: Every Wed 9.30am - 12.00pm

Cost: Adults SGD25 each, Children SGD15 each

For further information, call Journeys Pte Ltd at (65) 6325 1631.

#### The heritage hippo tour

Hop onto an open-top double-decker bus and take in the sights and sounds of major heritage sights such as Chinatown, Little India, Kampong Glam (Arab Muslim enclave) and historical Civic District. You can even hop on and off wherever you want to explore at your own pace.

Where to purchase tickets: DUCKcounter @ Suntec City Tower 5 (Galleria) 9 Temasek Boulevard, Tel: (65) 6338 6877 (9.00am - 6.30pm daily)

When: First Bus from Suntec at 10.00am, Last Bus from Suntec at 5.20pm Approximate frequency 25 mins

Cost: Adults SGD33 each, Children SGD17 each

Timings may alter due to traffic and weather conditions. Schedules are subjected to changes without prior notice. Daily updated detailed timing is available from the HiPPOcrew.

#### Desire Paths: An Audio Tour Experience of Little India

This highly original audio tour experience lets you move at your own leisure, down alleys and unique spots for a more individual experience of Little India. Each tour lasts about 45 minutes.

#### When: Tue - Sat 10.00am - 4.30pm

Call (65) 6392 1772 or email info@spell7.net to schedule your preferred tour date and time. Make your way to 65 Kerbau Road at the appointed time to pick up your audio set.

**Cost:** SGD18 per person to hire a set of headphones, discman and interactive CD-Rom.

#### A Window Into Little India

Experience the many facets of Little India as you observe a *henna* demonstration, learn the art of weaving flower garlands, view parrot fortune telling and visit a local Hindu temple. You will even enjoy a free sampling of spice tea and Indian snacks.

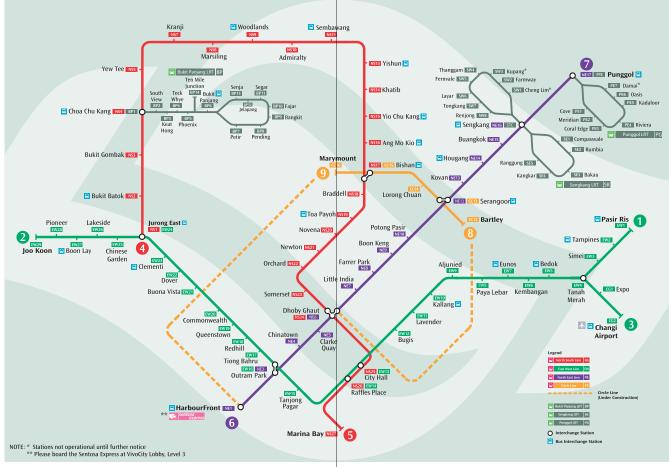
When: 9.30am - 1.00pm daily, except Sun and public holidays

Call Singapore Sightseeing Tour East at (65) 6332 3755 or book online at www.nexgenus.net/newsgtours/littleindia.html#details

Cost: Adults SGD30 each, Children SGD15 each

Note: All costs are subject to changes without prior notice.

# MRT and LRT System Map



Mass Rapid Transit System Map, @2009 Land Transport Q Authority Singapore



#### **Getting Around**

Easily accessible and affordable, Singapore's efficient transport system is a breeze to comprehend and follow.

#### MRT

Conveniently located with stations all over the city, this airconditioned passenger train network operates from around 5.30am till midnight daily. Train fares are inexpensive and range from SGD1 to SGD2. Explore Singapore via our public transport system with The Singapore Tourist Pass. The Singapore Tourist Pass offers unlimited rides on the MRT, LRT and basic bus services at just SGD8 per day. You can purchase a one-day, two-day or three-day pass with a refundable SGD10 deposit (the pass must be returned within five days). The pass also comes bundled with carefully selected merchant offers, providing you with more benefits during your stay in Singapore. The Singapore Tourist Pass is sold at TransitLink ticket offices at the Changi Airport, Orchard, Chinatown, City Hall, Raffles Place, Ang Mo Kio, HarbourFront and Bugis MRT stations as well as at selected Singapore Visitors Centres.

# For more information, call (65) 6223 2282 or visit www.thesingaporetouristpass.com or www.smrt.com.sg

#### Buses

Most public bus services operate from around 6.00am to midnight daily. Fares can be paid with the Singapore Tourist Pass or by cash. Fares range from SGD0.90 to SGD1.60 for non-air-conditioned buses and SGD1 to SGD1.90 for air-conditioned buses. For more information, please visit www.sbstransit.com.sg

#### Taxis

Several taxi operators ply the streets and they can be frequently found at shopping centres and hotels. The initial flag-down fare ranges for the first kilometre starts from SGD2.80 to SGD5 (depending on the type of taxis). Different surcharges apply for each taxi company, so do check with the driver before you board the taxi.

#### To book a taxi:

| Common Taxi Hotline 6-Dial-A-Cab | (65) 6342 5222 |
|----------------------------------|----------------|
| Comfort/CityCab                  | (65) 6552 1111 |
| Premier Taxis                    | (65) 6363 6888 |
| SMRT                             | (65) 6555 8888 |
| Smart                            | (65) 6485 7777 |
| Trans Cab                        | (65) 6555 3333 |

#### **Money Matters**

Licensed money-changers usually give a better rate than most hotels and banks. Do check foreign exchange rates and use your discretion. There are licensed money-changers at Singapore Changi Airport and most shopping centres in Orchard Road and other downtown areas.

#### Taxes

At most food and beverage outlets and hotels, prices are quoted as nett or '++'. The '++' refers to an additional 10% service charge and 7% GST (Goods and Services Tax).

#### Tipping

This practice is appreciated but is optional. Tipping is not practised as most hotels and restaurants in Singapore already levy a 10% service charge on customers' bills.

#### **Telecommunications**

Local calls, from either coin- or card-operated public phones, cost SGD0.10 for three minutes. Card-operated phones are more commonly used and a phone card (from SGD5) can be purchased at post offices and some shops. Alternatively, you can use your credit card at selected phone booths. The IDD (International Direct Dialing) access code is 001.

For more information on mobile phone operators in Singapore, please contact:

| Singtel 162 | 6 (www.singtel.com) |
|-------------|---------------------|
| M1 162      | 7 (www.m1.com.sg)   |
| Starhub 163 | 3 (www.starhub.com) |

#### Smoking ban in Entertainment Outlets

Smoking is prohibited in entertainment outlets such as pubs, bars, discotheques, lounges and nightclubs, including their outdoor refreshment areas. However, smokers can light up at designated smoking corners that are still part of the premises.

#### **Singapore Tourism Board** International Offices

#### **HEAD OFFICE**

Singapore Singapore Tourism Board Tourism Court 1 Orchard Spring Lane Singapore 247729 Tel: (65) 6736 6622 Fax: (65) 6736 9423 1800 736 2000 (Toll-Free within Singapore only) www.visitsingapore.com

#### ASEAN

#### Indonesia

Singapore Tourism Board 27th Floor - Suite 01 / 02 Menara Bank Danamon JIn Prof. Dr Satrio Kav E IV/6 Mega Kuningan Jakarta 12950 Indonesia Tel: (62-21) 5799 2276 / 79 Fax: (62-21) 5799 2271 Email: stb\_indonesia@stb.gov.sg

Singapore Tourism Board B&G Tower 6th Floor. Unit 607 Il Putri Hijau No. 10 Medan 2011 Indonesia Tel: (62-61) 456 6649 Fax: (62-61) 456 6650 Email: stb\_indonesia@stb.gov.sg

#### Philippines

Singapore Tourism Board 17th Floor 6788 Ayala Avenue 1226 Makati City Manila Philippines Tel: (63-2) 813 0946 / 4968 Fax: (63-2) 813 6585 Email: stbphils@pacific.net.ph

#### Malavsia

Singapore Tourism Board Ground Floor. Menara Keck Seng 203 Jalan Bukit Bintang Kuala Lumpur 55100 Malaysia Tel: (60-3) 2142 7133 Fax: (60-3) 2148 7133 Email: info@stb.org.my

Singapore Visitors Centre Level 2, MK 2-05 Johor Bahru City Square 108 Jalan Wong Ah Fook Johor Bahru 80000 Malavsia Tel: (60-7) 222 3355 Fax: (60-7) 222 2939 Email: information@stb.org.my

#### Thailand

Singapore Visitors Centre Unit F209 - 210 2nd Floor United Center Building 323 Silom Road Bangrak, Bangkok 10500 Thailand Tel: (66-2) 630 4774 / 5 / 6 Fax: (66-2) 630 4773 Email: stbbkk@truemail.co.th

#### Vietnam

Singapore Visitors Centre 3rd Floor Saigontourist Department Store 35 bis - 45 Le Thanh Ton Street District 1 Ho Chi Minh City Vietnam Tel: (84-8) 3 8277 646 Fax: (60-3) 3 8277 648 Email: visitsingapore@hcm.vnn.vn

#### **GREATER CHINA**

China Singapore Tourism Board Unit 3101 - 3106 World Tower 1 No. 1 Jian Guo Men Wai Avenue Beijing 100004 People's Republic of China Tel: (68-10) 6505 9393 Fax: (86-10) 6505 6453 - Greater China Office (86-10) 6505 6454 - Northern China Óffice Email: stb\_gc@stb.gov.sg

Singapore Visitors Centre Unit 1908-1912 Shui On Plaza 333 Huai Hai Zhong Road Shanghai 200021 People's Republic of China Tel: (86-21) 6385 2626 Fax: (86-21) 6385 2383 Email: stb\_gc@stb.gov.sg

Singapore Visitors Centre 31D First City Plaza No. 308 Shuncheng Street Chengdu Sichuan 610017 People's Republic of China Tel: (86-28) 8293 1213 Fax: (86-28) 8293 1114 Email: stb\_gc@stb.gov.sg

Singapore Visitors Centre Unit 36-03 No. 233 TianHe North Road CITIC Plaza TianHe District GuangZhou 510613 China Tel: (86-20) 3891 1911 Fax: (86-20) 3891 1776 Email: stb\_gc@stb.gov.sg

#### Hong Kong

Singapore Tourism Board Room 2808 Central Plaza 18 Harbour Road Wanchai Hona Kona Tel: (85-2) 2598 9290 Fax: (85-2) 2598 1040 Email: stbhk1@hknet.com

#### Taiwan

Singapore Tourism Board Unit H, 6th Floor, Hung Tai Center 168 Tun Hwa North Road Taipei 105 Taiwan Tel: (886-2) 2718 5280 Fax: (886-2) 2719 1049 Email: stbtpeinfo@seed.net.tw

#### NORTH ASIA

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Singapore Tourism Board 8<sup>th</sup> Floor Chiyoda Building 1-6-4, Yuraku-cho, Chiyoda-ku Tokvo 100-0006 Japan Tel: (81-3) 3593 3388 Fax: (81-3) 3591 1480 Email: info@stb.or.jp

Singapore Tourism Board 4F Osaka City Air Terminal (OCAT) 1-4-1, Minato-machi, Naniwa-ku Osaka 556-0017 Japan Tel: (81-6) 6635 3088 Fax: (81-6) 6635 3089 Email: info@stb.or.jp

#### Korea

Singapore Tourism Board 9th Floor Young Poong Building 33 Sorin-Dong Chongro-ku Seoul Republic of Korea Tel: (82-2) 399 5570 Fax: (82-2) 399 5574 Email: info@visitsingapore.or.kr

# SOUTH ASIA, MIDDLE EAST and AFRICA

India Singapore Visitors Centre Ispahani Centre 123 / 124 Nungambakkam High Road Chennai 600 034 India Tel: (91-44) 4213 9995 Fax: (91-44) 4201 2200 Email: chennai@stb.gov.sg

Singapore Tourism Board Block F, Ground Floor International Trade Tower Nehru Place New Delhi 110019 India Tel: (91-11) 4168 3070 / 71 / 72 Fax: (91-11) 4168 3073 Email: delhi@stb.gov.sg

Singapore Tourism Board 1<sup>st</sup> Floor. Manek Lodge 85 Hughes Road Above HDFC Bank Mumbai 400007 India Tel: (91-22) 2380 2202 Fax: (91-22) 2380 2207 Email: mumbai@stb.gov.sg

#### Dubai

Singapore Tourism Board Sultan Business Centre Unit 209 Oud Mehta Road P.O. Box 115804 Dubai United Arab Emirates Tel: (971-4) 335 3770 Fax: (971-4) 335 3771 Email: dubai@stb.gov.sg

#### AMERICAS

North America

Singapore Tourism Board 5670 Wilshire Boulevard Suite 1550 Los Angeles CA 90036 U.S.A. Tel: (1-323) 677 0808 Fax: (1-323) 677 0801 Email: losangeles@stb.gov.sg

Singapore Tourism Board 1156 Avenue of the Americas Suite 702 New York NY 10036 U.S.A. Tel: (1-212) 302 4861 Fax: (1-212) 302 4801 Email: newyork@stb.gov.sg

#### **EUROPE**

United Kinadom Singapore Tourism Board Singapore Centre Grand Buldings 1-3 The Strand London WC2N 5HR United Kingdom Tel: (44-20) 7484 2710 Fax: (44-20) 7839 6162 Email: stb\_london@stb.gov.sg

#### Germany

Singapore Tourism Board Hochstrasse 35 - 37 60313 Frankfurt am Main Germany Tel: (49-69) 920 7700 Fax: (49-69) 297 8922 Email: info@stb-germany.de

#### Russia

Singapore Tourism Board Level 6 Smolenskava Square 3 121099 Moscow Russia Tel: (7-495) 981 3494 Fax: (7-495) 937 8290 Email: stb moscow@stb.gov.sg

#### **OCEANIA**

Australia

Singapore Tourism Board Level 11 AWA Building 47 Vork Street Svdnev NSW 2000 Australia Tel: (61-2) 9290 2888 / 2882 Fax: (61-2) 9290 2555 Email: stb\_syd@stb-syd.org.au

#### New Zealand

Singapore Tourism Board Tel: 0800608506 (Toll-Free) Email: stbnz@stb-syd.org.au

# **Places of Interest**

#### A. Places of worship

- A1 Sri Veeramakaliamman Temple
- A2 Sri Srinivasa Perumal Temple
- A3 Leong San Temple
- A4 Sakya Muni Buddha Gaya Temple
- A5 Masjid Abdul Gafoor (Mosque)
- A6 Masjid Angullia (Mosque)
- A7 Kampong Kapor Methodist Church
- A8 The Church of True Light

#### B. Places to shop

- B1 Little India Arcade
- B2 The Verge
- B3 Mustafa Centre

#### C. Flower garlands and old-style provision shops

- C1 Jothi Store and Flower Shop
- C2 Letchime Flower Shop
- C3 Sri Ambal Provision Store
- C4 Udhayaa Flowers

#### D. Traditional spice grinders

- D1 Ashaweni Mill
- D2 Valli Flour Mill

#### E. Little India arts belt

- E1 Bhaskar's Art Academy
- E2 Epicurean World
- E3 Sanjeev Digital Studio

#### F. Henna decoration

- F1 Selvi's
- F2 Vanessa Beauty Salon

#### G. Parrot fortune telling

G1 Parrot fortune telling\* (Note: Locations and timings may be subject to changes)

#### H. Sari wearing demonstration

- H1 Handlooms
- H2 Haniffa Pte Ltd

#### I. Ornate jewellery boxes

11 Halifax Traders

#### J. Bangles and brassware

- J1 Gokulam Jewels and Crafts
- J2 Jayaram's Creation Pte Ltd
- J3 MKM Costume Jewellery

#### K. Sari fabrics

K1 Nalli Pte Ltd

#### L. Ayurvedic remedies and incense sticks

- L1 Ayurlly Ayurvedic Spa
- L2 Ayurvedic Remedies and Trading Enterprises
- L3 Rasool Shop Pte Ltd

#### M. Exquisite gold jewellery

- M1 Ani Mani Porchalai
- M2 Meena Gold Jewellers

#### N. Local delights

- N1 Ananda Bhavan Restaurant
- N2 Gayatri Restaurant
- N3 Madras New Woodlands Restaurant (vegetarian)
- N4 Muthu's Curry Restaurant

#### **O.** Banana leaf meals

- O1 A One Restaurant
- O2 Banana Leaf Apollo

#### P. Vegetarian meals

- P1 Gokul Vegetarian Restaurant
- P2 Komala's Restaurants
- P3 Komala Vilas Vegetarian Restaurant
- P4 Madras Woodlands Ganga Restaurant

#### Q. Concept dining

- Q1 Lagnaa Bare Foot Dining
- Q2 Khulfi Bar

#### R. Indian sweets and desserts

- R1 Ganesan Vilas
- R2 Moghul Sweet Shop

#### S. Nightlife

- S1 Mustafa Centre
- S2 Prince of Wales Backpackers Lodge and Pub
- S3 Zsofi Tapas Bar



# **Singapore Visitors Centres**

Need help getting started with sightseeing, eating or shopping your way around Singapore? Pop by any one of the following Singapore Visitors Centres for advice on how to make your stay here a memorable one.



#### **Touristline**

1800 736 2000 (toll-free in Singapore) (65) 6736 2000 (overseas) Operating hours: 8.00am - 9.00pm



Changi Terminal 1 Arrival Hall Singapore Changi Airport Opening hours: 6.00am - 2.00am daily Nearest MRT Station: Changi Airport (CG2)



Changi Terminal 2 Arrival Hall Singapore Changi Airport Opening hours: 6.00am - 2.00am daily Nearest MRT Station: Changi Airport (CG2)



Changi Terminal 3 Arrival Hall Singapore Changi Airport Opening hours: 6.00am - 2.00am daily Nearest MRT Station: Changi Airport (CG2)



Orchard Road For location, please call Touristline 1800 736 2000 Opening hours: 9.30am to 10.30pm daily Nearest MRT Station: Orchard (NS22)

#### Free City Shuttle to Town

Airport passengers who have at least 6 hours to spare in transit can hop onto the Free City Shuttle to town (scheduled at regular intervals), to discover Singapore's ethnic heritage at Little India, or opt for retail therapy at Suntec City or Bugis Street (subject to visa requirements).



For information on Singapore, call the Touristline at 1800 736 2000 (toll-free in Singapore) or (65) 6736 2000 (outside Singapore) Operating hours: 8.00am to 9.000m da

For general enquinies, contact the Singapore Tourism Board Tourism Court, 1 Orchard Spring Lane, Singapore 247729 Tel. (65) 6736 6622 Fax: (65) 6736 9423 Touristline: 1800 736 2000 (toll-free in Singapore) Email: stb\_visitsingapore@stb.gov.sg Website: visitsingapore.com

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Every effort has been made to ensure that the information in this brochure is accurate at the time of publication - April 2009

