

NI HAO SINGAPORE

Explore the Island City's Natural and Multicultural Heritage

Despite being one of the world's most futuristic cities, you can easily get away from it all on day trips to explore mangroves and rainforests within Singapore's city limits. It's well worth escaping the skyscrapers to see exotic wildlife such as macaques, giant monitor lizards, and otherworldly colugos – Singapore's very own flying lemur.

Singapore, the tropical city-state, is an incredibly diverse destination steeped in history, with curated heritage trails and historical landmarks woven through its streets. Explore the city with us to discover the hidden gems of Southeast Asia's smallest country.

TREK TO THE TREETOP WALK

Part of the island nation's central catchment reserve, MacRitchie Reservoir is a gateway to nature recreation, and plays an important role in forest canopy research, as well as providing a water source for residents. As the highlight of several hiking routes in MacRitchie, the TreeTop Walk has a free-standing suspension bridge offering a bird's-eye view of the forest canopy. It's popular among avid birdwatchers, and if you're lucky, you may spot native species such as the greater racket-tailed drongo and olive-winged bulbul.

At up to 10 kilometres, a round trip to the TreeTop Walk takes around half a day. The terrain is a mix of hiking trails and boardwalks that make for an easy trek. En route, you may spot signs of a former kampung village through the

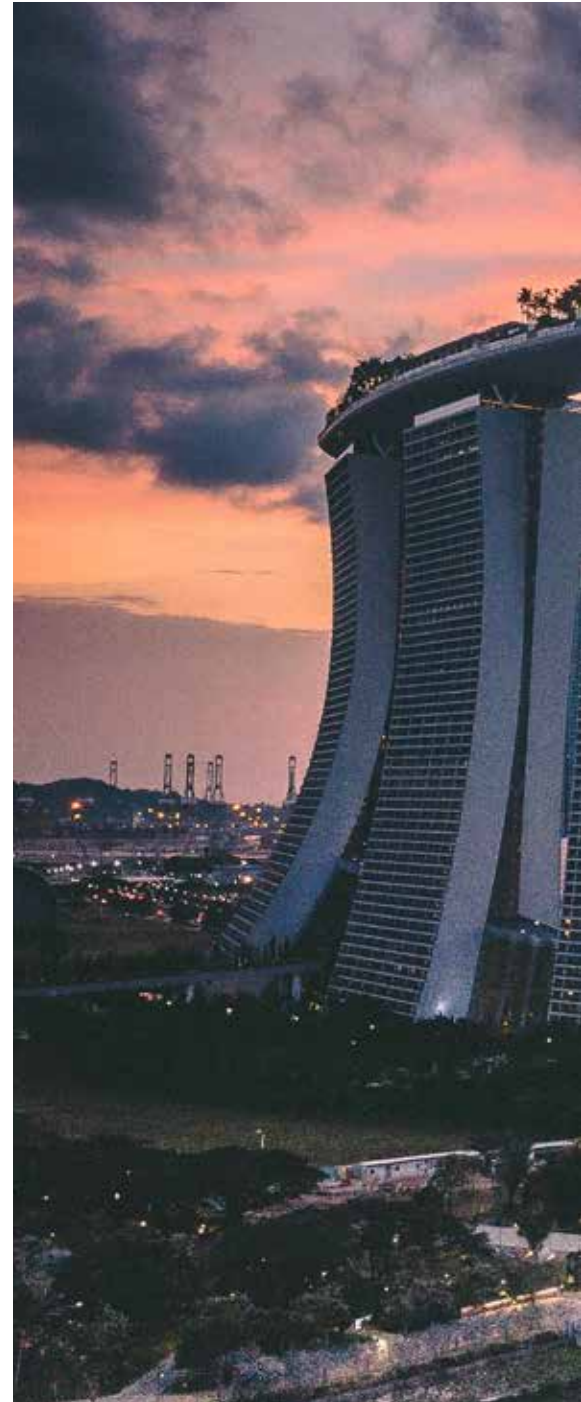
coconut palms and vegetation while discovering the wetland habitats of dragonflies and giant monitor lizards.

Insider tip: Get started early in the day to avoid the sweltering afternoon heat, and download the DIY guide to the walking trail and map of MacRitchie that's conveniently located on the National Parks site.

CYCLE THE CITY'S ACCESSIBLE PARK CONNECTORS

With its proximity to the equator, Singapore has little seasonal variation in weather, which makes it perfect for a bicycle trip. Cleverly linked via the Park Connector Network (PCN), cycling makes it easy to discover nature spots, with access to different parks and great scenic views along the journey. Covering more than 186 miles, the PCN is divided into six loops that pass through seldom-seen sights such as the neighbourhood beaches and rivers of Singapore, along with flora and fauna, including the wild smooth-coated otter families and the elusive nocturnal colugo.

Whether you're cycling with children, or a seasoned rider, there are various difficulty levels – including the round-island route, green rail corridor



Singapore Skyline (by Swapnil Bapat)



trail, food tour loop, and a discovery of East Coast Bay.

Insider tip: Bicycle rentals are conveniently dotted along the way, so you can pick up and drop off your bike anytime.

PADDLE ISLAND WATERWAYS

Singapore comprises 64 offshore islands - one of them is the beautiful and pristine Pulau Ubin, situated on the mainland's north-eastern coast. Split by tidal rivers and just a 10-minute boat ride from Changi Point ferry terminal, Pulau Ubin is a hidden wonderland of mangroves and wildlife best discovered on a kayaking adventure. You can paddle through extensive mangrove forests where you can spot wildlife such as long-tailed macaques, giant monitor lizards, kingfishers, and white-bellied sea eagles.

After returning your kayak, stop on the island and step foot in 1960s Singapore with its rustic beauty untouched by urban development. Don't miss the boardwalk leading up to Chek Jawa Wetlands - one of Singapore's richest ecosystems.

Insider tip: Chek Jawa Wetlands is best visited during low tides of 1.65 feet and below, so plan your visit around the tides table to avoid disappointment.

STROLL THROUGH HERITAGE LANDMARKS

Apart from nature walks and activities, you can experience the culture and heritage of Singapore through curated trails. The five-mile Jubilee Walk, for example, covers 24 historical landmarks that show the milestones of Singapore's development, from 14th-century ancient Temasek through the colonial era, to nationhood and its future. Encompassing areas such as Fort Canning Hill, the Singapore River, Civic District and Marina Bay, the



Pulau Ubin Island (by Sop Y)

ArtScience Museum (by Victor)



Gardens by the Bay (by Hu Chen)



walk is easily navigated with bronze plaque markers along the way and a downloadable map to learn more about the various landmarks.

Begin at the National Museum of Singapore, once the Raffles Library and Museum, before stopping by lesser-known landmarks you'd otherwise miss, such as the Armenian Apostolic Church, Old Hill Street Police Station, and the Old Parliament House.

Insider tip: Take a rest stop midway along the Singapore River and enjoy a refreshing cocktail or local seafood meal to scenic views of old shophouses contrasting with the Central Business District's towering buildings.

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