

SINGAPORE UNFOLDED!

CULTURE & HERITAGE



Greetings from Sunny Singapore!

We at the *Singapore Economic Development Board* have worked with local creative duo *8EyedSpud* to create a series of city guides titled *Singapore Unfolded*.

Singapore Unfolded brings you rich heritage highlights from various ethnic groups – where cultures, religions and passions meet. Within this guide, you will find a curation of the duo's personal favourite spots to experience the cornerstones of our multicultural society. We hope you will enjoy exploring the endless possibilities Singapore has to offer!

About Your Friendly Guides

Hi there! We're *8EyedSpud*, a creative studio founded by two friends, Natalie Kwee & Jackie Goh.



Singapore is a kaleidoscope of religions, languages and communities, and its ethnic diversity is apparent in every corner. Get ready for a colourful cultural adventure as we show you our favourite neighbourhoods!

@8EyedSpud | www.8eyedspud.com

Katong & Joo Chiat

Located in the east of Singapore, this charming residential enclave is the centre of Peranakan¹ culture and heritage, and is known for its pre-war shophouses, laidback vibes and diverse dining options. The neighbourhood gets its name from Katong, an exotic species of sea turtle that is now extinct, and Chew Joo Chiat, a wealthy philanthropist who owned large plots of land in this area.

¹ Straits Chinese of mixed Chinese and Malay/Indonesian heritage

1 Koon Seng Road

This road is iconic for its two rows of heritage shop houses painted in bright colours, adorned with ornate Peranakan tiles and motifs. A magnet for both photography and architectural enthusiasts, it is said to be the most colourful street in Singapore!

16 Koon Seng Road

2 Sri Senpaga Vinayagar Temple

Situated within a Peranakan-centric community, Singapore's second oldest Hindu temple is reflective of the country's multicultural social fabric. This temple houses a 4.5-meter musical pillar that produces melodic sounds when tapped - a first in Southeast Asia!

19 Ceylon Road



3 Rumah Bebe

This heritage boutique-museum is a tribute to the Peranakan culture. If you are interested to learn more about the intricate Peranakan craftsmanship behind items like the *kasut manek* (beaded slippers) and embroidered *kebaya* (traditional clothing), this is the place to be!

113 East Coast Road



Stop for a bite: 328 Katong Laksa

Laksa is a dish of rice noodles in rich, spicy soup boiled with curry, coconut milk and dried shrimp. The noodles are uniquely cut into bite-sizes, and served with a spoon instead of chopsticks.

51 East Coast Road



Little India

Once home to Singapore's first racecourse, historic Little India is now a buzzing, eclectic district that is a slice of India in Singapore. Hindu temples sit alongside olden-day trades and modern businesses that sell everything from sarees and jewellery to electronics and groceries. The precinct has multiple names - Tekka (Hokkien dialect for "bamboo") and Kangand Kerbau (Malay for "buffalo pen") - due to its historic importance as an artery of cattle trading, commerce and transport.

1 Indian Heritage Centre

This is the first museum in Southeast Asia centered on the rich heritage of the Indian community in both Singapore and the region. There are five thematic galleries showcasing the origins, movements and contributions of the Indian diaspora in Singapore.

5 Campbell Lane

2 Jothi Store & Flower Shop

From humble beginnings along a five-foot way, the shop has flourished into a five-story space today, adorned with beautiful fresh blooms all year round. It has grown with developing needs of the Indian community in Singapore, catering to a multitude of Indian customs and rituals.

1 Campbell Lane



Stop for a bite: Banana Leaf Apolo

This eatery offers a wide variety of authentic Indian food, from curries and seafood to vegetarian dishes - all served on fresh banana leaves. Don't miss out on their signature curry fish head!

54 Racecourse Road



3 Little India Arcade

Located in the heart of Little India, the Arcade is a shopping hotspot representative of the enterprising spirit of early Indian settlers. Such an enduring spirit of commerce and resourcefulness continues to thrive among the Indian community today.

48 Serangoon Road

Chinatown

Singapore's historical enclave for its Chinese immigrant population is adjacent to the Central Business District and today is much beloved for its blend of old and new today. It is the world's only Chinatown to have a congregation of diverse places of worship, including Buddhist temples, Muslim mosques and Hindu temples. In the past, each street in Chinatown even had a unique identity due to trade segregation!

1 Thian Hock Keng Temple

This temple is dedicated to sea goddess Mazu as it used to be along the coastline, where early immigrants from China prayed in gratitude for safe arrival to Singapore. Literally translated to mean 'Palace of Heavenly Happiness', the original construction did not use a single nail to build the temple!

158 Telok Ayer Street

2 Keong Saik Road & Bukit Pasoh

Formerly a red-light district, this area has transformed over the years and is packed with much to offer: Michelin-starred restaurants, hawker gems, trendy cocktail bars, art spaces and more! You will be pleasantly surprised at how these diverse offerings harmonise to give the area its unique identity.



3 Kong Chow Wui Koon

As a custodian of Chinese heritage, this Chinese Clan association is instrumental in preserving traditional arts. At the 'Kungfu floor' located on the third floor, you can learn about lion and dragon head dance and uncover Wushu (martial arts) techniques!

321 New Bridge Road

Stop for a bite: Yum Cha

Immerse yourself in a unique dining experience in this modern-day tea house, complete with push carts of dim sum (food baskets) and retro marble tables!

20 Trengganu Street



Kampong Gelam

Singapore's oldest urban quarter was once home to Malay royalty. Due to its proximity to the sea, it originated as a strategic port town for commerce trading. Today, the area is a diverse blend of history, culture and lifestyle, and remains a significant beacon for the Malay community in Singapore.

1 Masjid Sultan

This landmark is also known as Sultan's Mosque - named after Hussain Shah, first Sultan ("ruler") of modern Singapore. Adorned with grand golden domes decorated using glass bottle ends, this religious place is a symbol of solidarity for the Muslim community.

3 Muscat Street

2 Gelam Gallery

Tucked away in a back alley, Singapore's first outdoor art gallery is where old meets new. With an eclectic mix of contemporary art works paying homage to the heritage of this neighbourhood, you will be treated to a visual feast!

Muscat Street

3 Haji Lane

The narrowest lane in Singapore packs a punch above its weight. In the day, it is a vibrant enclave with local fashion boutiques, beauty salons and relaxing cafes. At nightfall, it comes alive with live music spots and bars with unique concepts.



Stop for a bite: Hjh Maimunah Restaurant

This family-run eatery offers over 40 authentic Malay dishes and 20 types of kueh (cake) to choose from daily. We recommend the tahu telur (bean curd omelette with spicy peanut sauce) and ayam bakar (grilled chicken)!

11 Jalan Pisang

OFFBEAT SPOTLIGHT

Nestled in southern Singapore, Haw Par Villa is home to over 1000 sculptures and dioramas, where you can uncover a treasure trove of Chinese folklore, history, mythology and religion – all in one place!



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