



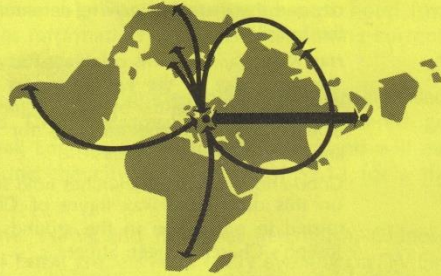
# Singapore

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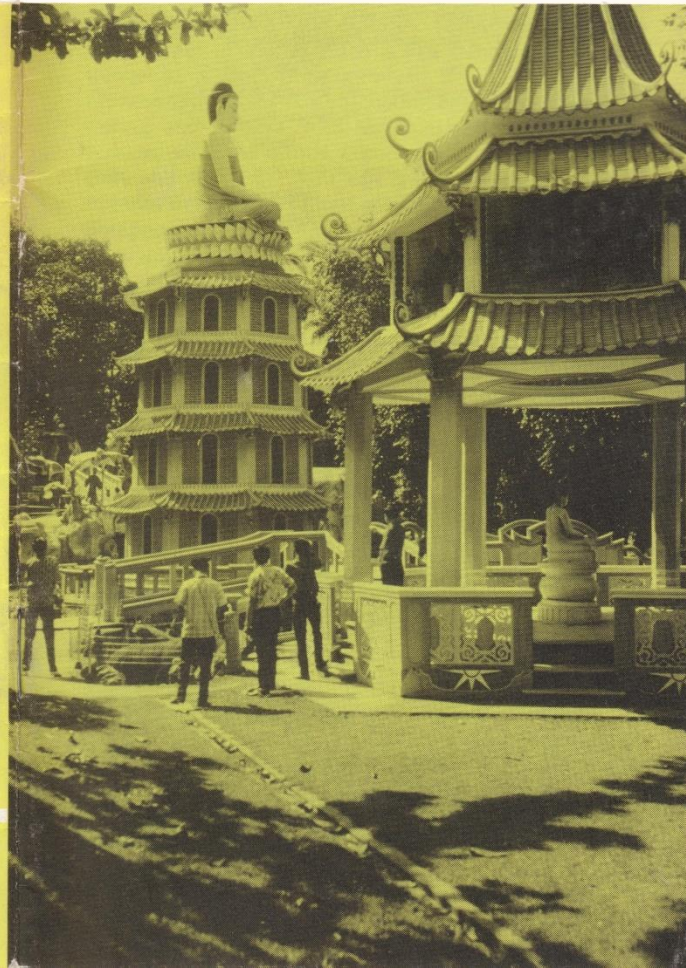
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## CHASE THE SUN TO THE WEST - WITH SAS TRANS-ASIAN EXPRESS

*Edited by Alan C. Lovejoy*

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Front cover: Tiger Balm Gardens

## Introduction

Colorful, cosmopolitan, fifth busiest port in the world, since August 1965 a republic in its own right – Singapore, however you look at it, is Asia in miniature.

Into this 225 square miles of island, a southern, straits-divided extremity of the Malayan Peninsula, have flocked, in the past 150 years, peoples of more than a dozen major creeds and cultures. Today, standing on a busy corner of Raffles Place is like standing at the entrance to a fancy-dress carnival. Beautiful, sloe-eyed Chinese girls in slit-skirted cheongsam, dusky Malays in sarong and Kebaya, Indians, Pakistanis, Ceylonese in turbans, saris and dhotis, Europeans in traditional white shirt and slacks . . . You can see them all pass by in minutes in this multi-racial population of almost 2 million people.

How did it all begin? . . . Named 'Singapura' (Lion City) by a Sumatran prince who believed he had sighted a lion here, Singapore was to remain – following its devastation by Majapahit forces from Java – a lair only for pirates, until, in 1819, Thomas Stamford Bingley Raffles of the British East India Company, recognizing the island's entrepot potential, established a trading post here.

Singapore has never really looked back.

Following the Japanese occupation, it transgressed from a British Crown Colony, as it was until 1959, to a self-governing state; then to a constituent state of the Federation of Malaysia, and finally by mutual agreement to the status of independent Republic.

Yet while present-day Singapore continues to justify its founder's foresight with multi-storey housing estates, ultra-modern hotels, big, bright department stores and towering office blocks like the Shell Building and the Bank of China – it has not foregone those aspects that lent it its early charm and character. Still here is the Singapore of Somerset Maugham – as British as the 'Traveller's Palms' that fronts the Raffles Hotel, as tea and cricket on the Padang.



Still here, too, is all the clamor, color and confusion that etches out the Republic's Oriental fascination – as Eastern as Chinatown, as the gaudy-statted Tiger Balm Gardens, and bargain-stacked Change Alley.

You may stroll through the peace and exotic flowers of Singapore's Botanic Gardens, feed the monkeys there. You may wander downtown streets, agog at the tax-free bargains that confront you in this duty-free port.

You may photograph the sampans as they ply the Singapore River. Idle along Collyer Quay to watch the huge vessels nosing into the 5th largest port in the world, transporting the raw materials and tourists that represent the island's economy. You can climb the 350-foot heights of Mount Faber and see the whole island in one sweeping panorama . . . The result is always the same: total capitulation to this Asia in miniature.

### Your arrival in Singapore

Singapore International Airport lies about 7½ miles (12 kms) from the city center. On disembarkation, you will be taken to the Arrival Building by a large comfortable bus. Following health and customs checks, porters employed by the airport and airlines will help you with your luggage. Tipping is optional. Airport facilities include Tourist Information counters, a bank, post and telegraph office, a restaurant, cocktail bar and lounge, and private reception rooms, souvenir shops and children's nursery.

There are both bus and taxi services to the city center. The bus takes about 20 minutes, and costs 25 cents. Taxis are available and you can check the taxi fare to your hotel on the board at the Information Counter.

The main monetary unit of the Republic of Singapore is the Singapore dollar (S\$) divisible into 100 cents. You will also find in circulation the former Straits or Malayan Dollar and the new Malaysian dollar, both of which are valid currency and are equal in value to the Singapore dollar. US\$ 1 equals S\$ 3.09 and £1 sterling equals S\$ 7.35.

*Entry regulations.* All visitors to Singapore must possess a valid passport or some other internationally recognized travel document. Visas are required by only a few nationals. (It is, however, worth checking with your embassy or consulate office before setting off.)

For those wishing to enter Singapore on a social, business or professional visit, a visit-pass will be issued by the Controller of Immigration. This is valid for one month, and may be extended.

A valid international certificate of vaccination against smallpox is required and – if the visitor has previously travelled through infected zones – of inoculation against cholera and against yellow fever.

An unrestricted sum of money may be taken in, in the form of travelers' checks and letters of credit.

Duty-free allowances for those entering Singapore include 200 cigarettes or 50 cigars or ½ lb (250 grams) of tobacco and 1 quart (1 liter) each of spirit and wine.

### Hotels

There are more than 1,500 hotels, boarding houses and hostels in Singapore. Of these, 16 excellent Western-style hotels, complete with dining room, bar and many other modern facilities, provide some 1,200 rooms. The majority of these are air-conditioned and have private bathroom with toilet.

Singapore is a popular stopping point on any Eastern tour and you'd be wise to book hotel reservations prior to arrival. This is most easily accomplished by contacting your travel agent or the nearest SAS office. Either can offer you – through the SAS Travel Planning Service – advice on accommodation of all classes, with confirmation of rooms in some instances. Should you arrive unaccommodated, however, then contact the Singapore Tourist Promotion Board (tel. 79576) or the SAS/Thai International Office (tel. 95371).



Listed below for your guidance is a selection of hotels:

#### De luxe

*Raffles Hotel* (G7)  
Beach Road  
Tel. 2804

*Singapura Intercontinental Hotel* (north of F1)  
585 Orchard Road  
Tel. 2404  
Facilities include a swimming pool

#### First class

*Adelphi Hotel* (F7)  
Coleman Street  
Tel. 2810

*Goodwood Park Hotel* (G1)  
22 Scotts Road  
Tel. 2414  
Facilities include a swimming pool

*Prince's Hotel Garni* (F2)  
272A/286A Orchard Road  
Tel. 27741

#### Tourist class

*Cathay Hotel* (G5)  
Cathay Building,  
Dhoby Ghaut  
Tel. 2812  
Facilities include a swimming pool

*Chequers Hotel* (out of map)  
418 Thomson Road  
Tel. 52266

*Cockpit Hotel* (F4)  
6/7 Oxley Rise  
Tel. 33848

*Hotel Ambassador*  
(out of map)  
46 Meyer Road  
Tel. 47301

*Hotel Biltmore* (A9)  
13 Trafalgar/Rambau Street  
Tel. 78254

*Mayfair Hotel* (G7)  
Armenian Street  
Tel. 31575

*Mui Fong Hotel* (H7)  
85 Beach Road  
Tel. 24261

*Ocean Park Hotel*  
(out of map)  
530 East Coast Road  
Tel. 47401  
Facilities include a swimming pool

*Orchard Hotel* (north of F1)  
2 Orange Grove Road  
Tel. 39361

*Singapore Hotel*  
(out of map)  
Geylang  
Tel. 48306

*Strand Hotel* (G5)  
21-25 Bencoolen Street  
Tel. 23828

Room rates range widely. Expect to pay between S\$ 35 and 50 for a single room in one of the de luxe class hotels and from S\$ 60 to 70 for a de luxe class double room. In first class hotels, between S\$ 20 and 40 for a single room and S\$ 30 to 50 for a double room.

Electricity: The standard voltage in Singapore hotels is 220 A.C.



## Restaurants and cuisine

Curries from India, Peking duck, Javanese rijsttafel, birdsnests from Sabah – Singapore's racial fusion has provided the visitor with an inordinately varied menu.

You can eat excellently at all hours, in many places . . . In any of the many fine restaurants (see the selection below), or in some favored spot of Singapore's rambling profusion of outdoor eating stalls – as much an experience of colorful local life as they are a culinary treat.

Principal areas around which these stalls are grouped are Esplanade (F7), where you may enjoy all types of local fare; Albert Street, Bugis Street, Koek Road, People's Park and Bedok Corner (chiefly Chinese cooking); and Beach Road (Malayan).

Certainly, few things taste better than a midnight bowl of 'mee' taken beneath the stars at Bedok, or 'satay' off the stick (delicious skewered meat grilled and flavored with spices) at the famous 'Satay Club'.

## Beverages

All well-known international spirits and wines are available in Singapore. Try, if you like beer, the excellent local mark, 'Tiger'. (Incidentally, the local water is quite safe to drink straight from the tap.)

## Restaurants

*Adelphi Hotel* (F7)  
Coleman Street  
Tel. 2810

Grill Room, English and Continental food. Sukiyaki Room, Japanese food.

*Batik Inn* (F2)  
312 Orchard Road  
Tel. 35834

French, Malayan and Chinese cuisine.

*Cathay Hotel* (G5)  
Cathay Building,  
Dhoby Ghaut  
Tel. 2812

Hibiscus Room, French cuisine.

*Cockpit Restaurant,*  
*Cockpit Hotel* (F4)  
6/7 Oxley Rise  
Tel. 33848

Continental cuisine. Javanese Rijsttafel served Saturday and Sunday at lunchtime.



*Coq D'Or Inn*

61 Brooke Road  
Tel. 48272

English and Continental food.

*Goodwood Hotel (G1)*

22 Scotts Road  
Tel. 2414

Arundel Room, international  
cuisine. Gordon Grill, Scotch  
steaks.

*Great Shanghai Restaurant,  
Mayfair Hotel (G7)*

Armenian Street  
Tel. 31575

Chinese food.

*Hotel Ambassador*

(out of map)  
46 Meyer Road  
Tel. 47301

European and Chinese food.

*Ocean Park Hotel*

(out of map)  
530 East Coast Road  
Tel. 47401

Speciality: barbecued chicken.

*Omar Khayyam (F6)*

55 Hill Street  
Tel. 36 15 05

Kashmiri curries.

*Prince's Hotel Garni (F2)*

272A/268A Orchard Road  
Tel. 27741

European food.

*Raffles Hotel (G7)*

Beach Road  
Tel. 2804

Elizabethan Grill, Smörgåsbord,  
Monday and Thursday lunchtime.

*Singapura Intercontinental  
Hotel (north of F1)*

585 Orchard Road  
Tel. 2404

The Four Lions, international  
cuisine.

*Tangle Inn*

23/25 Tanglin Road  
Tel. 35595

International cuisine.

## Sights and excursions

Singapore the city and Singapore the island combine to offer the visitor a rich cross-section of interesting sights and pleasure-spots, from ornate Buddhist and Hindu temples to exotic palm-fringed littoral playgrounds, from the stalls of Change Alley, overflowing with bargains, to the park-like heights of Mount Faber with its panoramic views. Sightseeing in Singapore is, moreover, very largely a case of life-seeing. Drive out by coastal road to the paradisiac beaches of Changi or Pasir Ris, and you're bound somewhere to pass Malay fishermen and their quaintly picturesque 'kelong' fishing traps (lines of upright wooden stakes leading out to a little hut half-

submerged in the sea). Explore the city by trishaw (see 'Transportation') and you're closer still to the local scene.

Officially approved tours with guide comprise a three-hour ride of the city proper, which includes in its itinerary such landmarks as Tiger Balm Gardens, the National Museum, the Jade House and the Botanic Gardens; a three-hour West coast tour (for Chinatown); a three-hour East coast tour (for Changi Point); an excursion across the border to Malaysia's Johore Bahru; and a three-hour tour by boat around the harbor. We list below a description of each of the major sights:

*Botanic Gardens* (north of D1 – Tanglin District). These beautiful gardens were founded in the last century. Winding paths, arbors of trees, lakes with water lilies, patches of 'jungle' where monkeys romp and swing, brilliant carpets of flowers and an orchid house which is claimed by the experts to contain one of the most exotic collections of orchids in the world ... these are among the pleasures offered to visitors. Open-air concerts are frequently performed here, attracting many auditors. It was from seedlings produced in these gardens that the Malayan rubber plantations began, and today some of the oldest rubber trees in Malaysia and Singapore thrive in a small rubber plantation adjoining the gardens.

*Change Alley* (E8). A 150-yard, stall-jammed backstreet that links Collyer Quay with Raffles Place – Change Alley (named in all probability after the ubiquitous money-changers that call to the passers-by their advantageous terms of exchange) is Singapore's "piece de resistance" in markets. The Alley is a must whether you're on the hunt for all the world's bargains, or simply out to catch more of the colorful local scene.

*Chinatown* (C6/7). A teeming, noisy sector of the city, clustered around New Bridge, South Bridge and Tanjong Pagar roads, Chinatown echoes with the cries and tapping sticks of street vendors, the clatter and buzz of foodstalls, and the slap of mahjong counters. Bamboo poles of family washing protrude from the high tenement buildings and by day and night the pavements and streets are crowded with strollers, shoppers, trishaws, bicycles and the omnipresent open-air restaurants. If you are there at the time of a Chinese street opera or funeral, then the cacophony is added to by the blare of brass bands, the clash of cymbals, and the discordant Chinese chant.





*Collyer Quay* (E8). From the jetty you may enjoy a magnificent view of the bustling harbor and the islands beyond. Clifford Pier is the central point for embarkation and disembarkation and around it small boats, Chinese junks and Malay 'prahus' lie at anchor. Weaving amidst the whole are fast motor-launches, 'tongkangs' and twin-tailed 'sampans', whilst larger vessels lie out in the Roads, beyond the breakwater. The Port provides simultaneous berthing facilities for a maximum of 25 ocean-going and 5 coastal vessels and operates 6 graving docks, the largest of which can accommodate vessels up to 45,000 tons.

*Empress Place* (E7). Across Singapore River (a fascinating sight in itself) from Battery Road by Anderson Bridge, lies Empress Place, around which are grouped a number of notable landmarks. The Victoria Memorial Hall and Theater and the historic statue of Singapore's founder and first governor, Sir Stamford Raffles, are the main points of interest. The hall was built a century ago and has witnessed many important functions, celebrations and art exhibitions. The Theater was not so very long ago completely reconstructed. Among the other surrounding interest-points are the Parliament House, Singapore's oldest building erected in 1827; the Supreme Court; the City Hall; and St. Andrew's Cathedral. (See below).

*St. Andrew's Cathedral* (F7). This inspiring Gothic cathedral was built between 1856 and 1862 and is the Seat of the Church of England in Singapore.

*Great World* (C2), *Gay World* (east of L8) and *New World* (K5) Amusement Parks. See the chapter, 'Entertainment and Night Life'.

*Jade House* (Nassim Road – north of F1). The former home of the late Aw Boon Haw (the famous "Tiger Balm King") is today a museum where priceless jade carvings of various colors have been assembled, some dating back to the early Chin Dynasty, more than 200 years before Christ. The museum is open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission is free by tickets only obtainable from Eng Aun Tong, 87 Neil Road, tel. 78687, or at the Singapore Tourist Promotion Board, John Little's Building, Raffles Place, tel. 79576.

*Kranji War Memorial* (north of I1). Perched on a small hill off the Singapore-Johore highway stands the beautiful Kranji War Memorial, commemorating the 30,000 men and women of the Allied Forces who died in the Japanese attack on Singapore in

1942. The panoramic view from this point encompasses the Johore Strait, Johore itself and a breathtaking backdrop of jungle-covered hills.

*Mount Faber* (west of A4). For a bird's-eye view of Singapore, take a trip to the top of 350-foot-high (107 meters) Mount Faber. Here, in vivid miniature can be seen the city, the harbor, the southern-most tip of Johore, Malaysia and the Rhio Islands of Indonesia. Atop of the Mount are observation-bays, a long-range telescope and a restaurant.

*National* (formerly *Raffles*) *Museum* (Stamford Road – F6). Built in 1886, the National Museum contains a priceless collection of historic treasures, a fine gathering of Malayan arts and crafts and a number of interesting zoological specimens. Next to the museum, stands the new National Library which contains books in Chinese, Malay, Tamil and various European languages, in addition to the State archives. The museum is open weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.; Sundays and public holidays 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

*Orchid Gardens* (Mandai Road – north of K1). Orchid-admirers who have viewed the beautiful collection in the Botanic Gardens (see page 9) should not miss seeing, too, the Mandai Garden with its unique open-air displays of thousands of flowering orchids. The gardens are open from 8.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

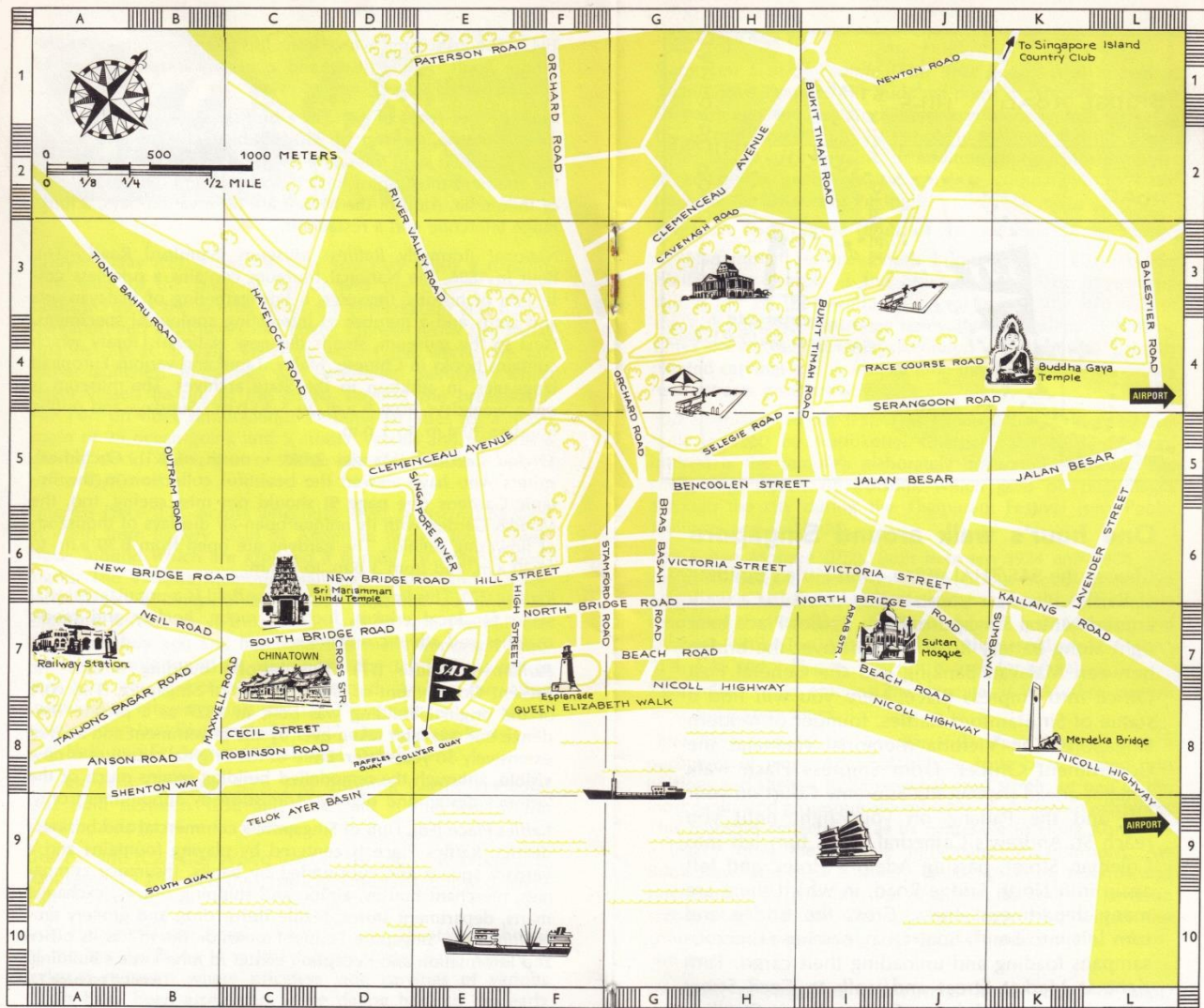
*Padang* (F7). This large public playing field is a popular seasonal stage for local cricket, football, rugby, hockey and tennis matches and athletic meetings.

*Parliament House* (F7). This historic building houses the present Government of the Republic of Singapore. The core of the original building was built in 1827 as a private residence but was later taken over by the government and altered extensively 50 years later. Little of the original structure is now visible, although the remodelled building retains much of the former's design and dignity. Admission by appointment only.

*Raffles Place* (E8). Hub of Singapore's commercial and business district, Raffles Place is centered by playing fountains and a verdant square and surrounded by banks, insurance companies, merchant houses, airline and shipping offices, exchange marts, department stores, textile firms, drug and grocery emporiums. The Singapore Tourist Promotion Board has its office and Information and Reception center in John Little's Building.

(cont'd on page 15)





Code numbers in this booklet refer to the above map. Thus (E8) is located where lines drawn from "E" and "8" cross each other.

### Interesting sights in Singapore

- |                                    |                                           |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Botanic Gardens (Tanglin District) | Orchid Gardens (Mandai Road)              |
| Change Alley (E8)                  | Padang (F7)                               |
| Chinatown (D7)                     | Parliament House (E7)                     |
| Collyer Quay (E8)                  | Raffles Place (E8)                        |
| Empress Place (E7)                 | Siang Lim Siang Si Temple (Kim Keat Road) |
| St. Andrew's Cathedral (F7)        | Sri Mariamman Temple (C7)                 |
| Jade House (Nassim Road)           | Tiger Balm Gardens (Pasir Panjang Area)   |
| National Museum (F6)               |                                           |

### Useful addresses

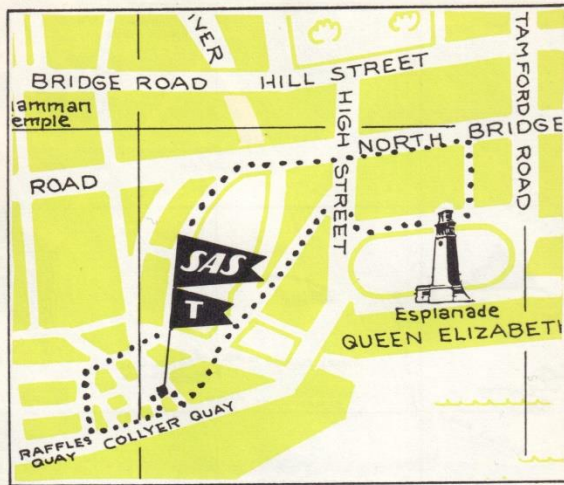


**SAS/Thai International Office:**  
John Little's Building, Raffles Place.  
Tel. 95371, 75513, 96126



**Singapore Tourist Promotion Board:**  
John Little's Building, Raffles Place. Tel. 79576

(D8) **Singapore International Chamber of Commerce:**  
12, Raffles Quay. Tel. 79156



### One hour's walk around Singapore

Choose the SAS/THAI office, John Little's Building at Raffles Place, as your starting point for a walk around central Singapore. From Raffles Place bear right along Battery Road and left over the bridge between Malayan Banking and the General Post Office into Empress Place. Here you will find a statue of Sir Stamford Raffles, founder of modern Singapore, The Victoria Memorial Hall and the Government Offices. From Empress Place walk straight ahead passing the Supreme Court on your left and the Padang on your right until you reach St. Andrew's Cathedral. Then turn left into Coleman Street, passing Adelphi Hotel, and left again into North Bridge Road, in which there are many department stores. Cross the bridge and turn left into South Boat Quay passing numerous sampans loading and unloading their cargo. Turn right at Market Street and walk to Cecil Street where you head left for Collyer Quay. Strolling along Collyer Quay you can see on your right the busy harbor with its many ships and sampans. Turn left through Change Alley – a bargain hunter's delight – where you can buy everything from a bar of soap to a suit at very favorable prices, then turn right when you come to Raffles Place and you are back to your starting point.

(cont'd from page 11)

*Siang Lim Sian Si Temple* (Kim Keat Road). Also known as Twin Grove Temple, this Buddhist place of worship was built 55 years ago and has since been considerably restored. It is the second largest Buddhist temple in Malaysia and the largest in Singapore and contains, in addition to exquisite examples of artistry in marble, wood carvings comparable to those found in the palaces of Peking.

*Singapore Race Course* (north of I1). See the section, 'Sports'.

*Sri Mariamman Temple* (South Bridge Road – C7). The Sri Mariamman Temple is the oldest Hindu place of worship still in use on the island. Built sometime in the first half of the 19th century, it has been renovated and redecorated many times since. The interior is decorated with beautiful, brightly painted carvings and at festival time the fire-walking ceremony here attracts great crowds.

*Subramaniam Temple* (F5). This Hindu place of worship was built in 1860 by Nattukottai Chettiars. Particular point of interest is the temple's elaborately decorated silver carriage containing objects of worship, which goes on pilgrimages through the city during the Thaipusam Festival (see 'Public Holidays and Festivals').

*The Sultan Mosque* (I/J7). Built between 1924 and 1928, this majestic mosque stands on North Bridge Road, in one of Singapore's Muslim-inhabited districts, a center particularly renowned for its trade in Indian fabrics and Malayan and Javanese batik. The Muezzin calls 'Allahu Akbar' at 5 a.m., 1, 4, 6.40 and 7.45 p.m., when it is time for prayer.

Remember, when entering the mosque, it is Muslim custom to remove your shoes.

*Tiger Balm Gardens* or *Haw Par Villa* (Pasir Panjang Area – northwest of map). Acres of hillside have been carved into grottoes and shelves to house what must surely be one of the most gaudy and grotesque assemblages of statuary in existence. This macabre collection – as its namesake in Hong Kong – is a legacy from the Chinese millionaire philanthropist, Aw Boon Haw, and depicts starkly the temptations, rewards and punishments of this life and the next, as well as fantastic scenes from ancient Chinese mythology. Also within the grounds are a fascinating miniature Chinese garden. Admission free.

*University of Singapore* (Bukit Timah Road – north of map).

*Van Kleef Aquarium* (F5). One of the most modern aquariums in the world, the fully air-conditioned Van Kleef Aquarium contains myriad varieties of tropical fish and sea animals, each retained in their natural watery habitats. Open on weekdays, except Friday: 10 a.m. to noon and 2 to 8.30 p.m.; Sundays and public holidays until 9 p.m. Admission fee.

The Aquarium is situated in the King George V Park and close by are the National Theater and the public River Valley Swimming Pool.



## Outlying interest points

*Changi Point.* A 30 minutes' drive from the heart of the city, Changi Point with its long and sandy beach is a favorite bathing resort. Here you can hire motor-boats, water-skis, swim, fish, picnic and watch the glorious blood-red sun set across palm-tree islands.

*Bedok.* Half-way between Changi and the city center. Here are restaurants, rest-houses and open-air stalls.

*Bukit Timah Nature Reserve.* One of several nature reserves set aside in the interests of preserving local fauna and flora, the Bukit Timah Nature Reserve is well worth a visit. Here may be found 200-foot (60 meters) tall trees, lianas, ferns and many other plants in a setting which embraces the highest hill in Singapore – 581 feet (175 meters) – and one of the island's best primary evergreen rain-forests.

*Johore Bahru.* 16 miles from the city of Singapore on the mainland of Malaya, Johore Bahru is a colorful place, strongly influenced by Malay culture. Capital of the State of Johore, the city possesses a number of impressive architectural highlights, among them the Palace of the Sultan, stately Government office buildings, a modern hospital, and a tall minaretted Mosque. There is also a small yet very popular zoo. The surrounding country is richly cultivated with large rubber plantations and pineapples. There is both a good rail service and an excellent highway connecting Johore Bahru with Singapore.

*Water Tours.* Two-hour and three-hour sightseeing tours of the harbor and southern islands leave Clifford Pier twice a day at 9.30 a.m. and 4 p.m. Charge: S\$ 10 and S\$ 15 per person, according to the tour you choose.

## Entertainment and night life

As well as a magnificent selection of night-clubs and cinemas, Singapore offers a wide range of multi-racial entertainment in the form of Chinese opera, concerts, and Indian and Malay dancing.

The Chinese street operas are colorful and amusing, depicting legends of Ancient China. They can be seen nearly every week, along the roadside or in the 'Great World', 'New World' and 'Gay World' amusement parks. Concerts are held regularly at the National Theater (E/F5), the Victoria Theater (E7), Empress Place, and the Cultural Center (F6), and on national holidays, variety shows are staged.

Malayan dancing may be enjoyed every night, Sunday by arrangement at the Adelphi Hotel. Special arrange-



ments may be made for groups to enjoy Malayan Dancing at the Villa Saujana.

If you like to dance rather than watch, you may dine and dance at some of the leading hotels and restaurants. Ask the Singapore Tourist Information Office for details.

The amusement parks of Singapore provide varied, gay and informal evening enjoyment. Try the New World in Serangoon Road, the Great World in Kim Seng Road, or the Gay World in Geylang Road. The entertainment includes Chinese musical plays, dining, dancing and cabaret, and sometimes boxing and wrestling.

First class entertainment is also provided in the 30 odd cinemas of Singapore, where films from America, Britain, France, India, Japan, Taiwan, Hongkong and Communist China are shown.

For more information, please obtain a copy of "Singapore this week" which gives information of day to day activities for the week.

## Tipping

Tipping is optional in Singapore, although a 10% gratuity for good service in hotel and restaurant is considered adequate. If a bell-boy or a porter runs an errand for you, give him between 20 cents and S\$2 depending on the complexity of the errand. Luggage porters are usually given 50 Singapore cents per piece. It is not customary to tip taxi-drivers, cinema and theater ushers, chambermaids and barbers.

## Shopping and souvenir hunting

As one of the world's great tax-free market places Singapore has long been a source of joy for the discerning bounty-hunter. Here Swiss watches sell cheaper than in Switzerland, Japanese cameras cheaper than in Japan, Scottish woollens cheaper than in Scotland. Shopping in Singapore promises, however, more than endless

variety and money saved; it provides, for the haggler, a sense of sport. Walk down Change Alley and whether or not you've bargained before, you'll quickly get the idea – vendors here expect you to bargain and their asking-prices are always higher than those they expect to sell at.

Alternatively, if you'd rather pay marked prices with the assurance that you are getting value for money, then shop at the stores that are members of the Singapore Tourist Association. You can recognize these by the Association's emblem at the door of the shop.

If you're shopping in a hurry and know near enough what you want, call the Singapore Tourist Promotion Board (tel. 79576) and experienced receptionists will advise you.

*Where to Buy.* The city's main shopping districts comprise the area of Raffles Place, Collyer Quay, Change Alley and Battery Road (some of the largest department stores are based here); the Malay Arts and Crafts Center (E8); the High Street and North Bridge Road, Stamford, Orchard, and Tanglin Roads; Middle Road; Arab Street; and the People's Park in Chinatown.

*What to Buy.* Aside from the innumerable duty-free bargains imported from countries throughout the world, the admirable produce of local arts and crafts make memorable mementos. Look out for batik (the beautifully designed, excitingly colored Malay cotton fabric); Kain Songket handwoven Kelantan silk; Selangor and Singapore pewter; wood carvings; reptile-skin shoes, handbags, briefcases, wallets etc.; and ornate jewelry. Thai silks and bronze cutlery and Indian saris are also wonderful buys.

*A Word of Warning.* Do not engage 'shopping-guides' or touts – people who approach you in the street and offer to lead you to a particular shop that will grant 'special low-price discounts'.

For more information please write for 'Singapore Shopping Guide'.

## Transportation

Taxis are plentiful in Singapore, 24 hours a day. They can be recognized by their yellow roofs and the 'SH' on their license plates. Charge for up to two passengers: 40 Singapore cents for the first mile and 20 cents for every additional half mile. 10 cents extra is charged for each additional passenger, and between 1 a.m. and 6

a.m. there is a surcharge of 50%. Luggage is also chargeable at 10 cents a piece.

Bus travel is cheap and comfortable, but try to avoid rush hours, 7 to 9 a.m., 12 to 2 p.m., 4.30 to 6 p.m.

Private cars may be hired with or without a chauffeur, through your hotel or through the SAS/Thai office. Charge: 80 Singapore cents for the first mile and 40 cents for every additional half mile. Time charge: S\$ 8 for the first hour, and S\$ 4 for every additional half-hour.

A leisurely ride in a Trishaw (a pedal bicycle with side car attached) is an unusual experience. Charge: approximately 20 Singapore cents for every quarter of an hour with 10 minutes' free waiting time in the first half-hour, after which waiting time is charged at 25 cents per 10 minutes. If you decide to take a Trishaw, however, be sure and agree the approximate price with the trishawman before the journey.

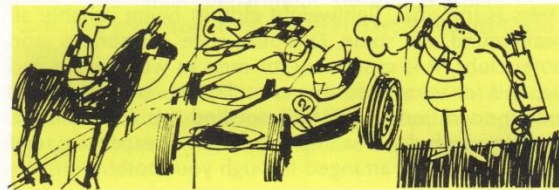
For those wishing to travel to points in West Malaysia, there is a modern and efficient rail service operating between Singapore station (A7) and Johore Bahru and points beyond. In addition Thai International offers excellent Caravelle-jet flights between Singapore and Kuala Lumpur. There are also regular domestic flights to various parts of Malaysia.

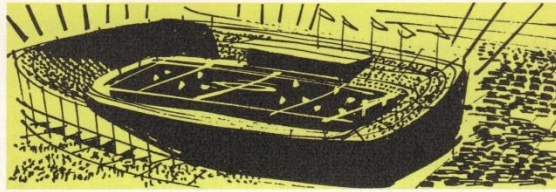
## Sports

Sport is an engaging aspect of Singapore leisure life and you'll find most recreations well represented, whether you prefer to watch or play an active part. A constant stage for many of the local encounters is the Padang. Here most afternoons, dependent on the season, you can watch rugby, football, tennis or cricket – even baseball.

The same sports can be watched at Farrer Park – also the venue for many of the city's athletic meetings – Kallang Park and a number of school and university playing fields.

An alternative venue for the ardent football (soccer) fan, is the Jalan Besar Stadium (K/L5).





If you prefer horse-racing, there are races on certain Saturday and Sunday afternoons throughout the year at the famous Singapore Turf Club (complete with totalizator betting).

Golfers should get in touch with the secretary of the Singapore Golf Club, Sime Road, tel. 68450. Yachtsmen with the Singapore Yacht Club, Trafalgar Street, tel. 70453/4. And hard or soft court exponents with their hotel reception. A number of hotels possess their own tennis courts.

If, however, swimming and other aquatic sports are your first love, then Singapore offers you the widest choice of all – from the long, beautiful palm-dotted beaches of Changi Point, Bedok, Loyang and Pasir Ris to the four public swimming pools at Farrer Park, Mt. Emily, Yan Kit, and River Valley roads.

### Climate and clothing

Though only 80 miles (128 kms) north of the Equator, Singapore's average maximum temperature is 87°F (30°C), and minimum temperature 75°F (24°C), with humid days and cool, pleasant nights.

Occasional showers help to temper the heat, creating climatic conditions which are less oppressive than in many other countries or cities located much farther north from equator. The island has no well defined wet or dry season. However, it is free from typhoons and hurricanes.

Dress is informal, lightweight clothes being suitable all year round. In some European-style restaurants and hotel clubs, it is customary for men to wear jacket and tie, and for women to wear a stole, but, as these places are air-conditioned, you will not find this a discomfort. Laundry and dry-cleaning service is inexpensive and quick and is best arranged through your hotel.

### Language

The official languages of Singapore are English, Chinese, Malay and Tamil – Malay being the national language, English the language of administration. In consequence, English is widely spoken or comprehended and you should have no difficulty in making yourself understood.

### Religion

The most widely practised religion in Singapore is Taoism, almost 75% of the population being Chinese. Other main followings here include Islam, Christianity and Hinduism and edifices of worship of these and other creeds have been listed below for those wishing to attend services:

*Buddhist.* Twin Grove Temple (Siang Lim Sian Si), Kim Keat Road.

*Hindu.* Sri Mariamman Temple, South Bridge Road.

*Roman Catholic.* Cathedral of the Good Shepherd, Queen Street.

*Anglican.* St. Andrew's Cathedral, St. Andrew's Road.

*Baptist.* Baptist Church, 51 Thompson Road.

*Presbyterian.* Presbyterian Church, Orchard Road.

*Methodist.* Wesley Methodist Church, Fort Canning Road.

*Jewish.* Jewish Synagogue, Waterloo Street.

### Business hours

*Banks:* Open 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. from Monday to Friday, close 11.30 a.m. on Saturdays.

*Offices:* 9 a.m. to 4.30 p.m., Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday.

*Shops:* The larger department stores are open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. from Monday to Friday; 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays.

Other shops are usually open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday to Saturday inclusive. A few shops stay open at night, particularly in Chinatown, and on Sundays if there is a ship in dock.



## Special services

**Information.** For all general information, including details of tours, contact the Tourist Promotion Board, John Little's Building, Raffles Place. You can ring the Board's office (94865) from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday to Saturday, or the Kee Cheong Answering Service (95865) at any other time. In addition, 'Singapore This Week', a leaflet available free to tourists in most hotel foyers, provides information on what is happening currently in the Republic.

**Guides.** Tourist guides in Singapore are licensed by law. The Tourist Promotion Board's registered guides all speak English, are specially trained and will escort you around the city at a charge of S\$ 12 for a three-hour tour.

**News.** News and newsreel in English, Chinese, Malay and Tamil are televised every evening on 'TV Singapura', and 'Radio Singapura' broadcasts the news up to six times a day in English. There are also many overseas newspapers and magazines available at the city's leading newsagents.

**Business Contacts.** The Singapore International Chamber of Commerce (D8), 12 Raffles Quay, tel. 79156, is available to help businessmen wishing to make contact with industry and commerce in Singapore.

**Medical Services.** Medical and dental care are of a high standard in Singapore. Should you require any service of this kind, contact your hotel manager.

**Radio-Telephone and Cable Services.** It is possible to telephone almost any country in the world from Singapore. Details of charges and times of services are given in the Singapore Telephone Directory. Should you have any other queries, dial 908. There is a 24-hour cable service at Fullerton Building (E8). Alternatively, cables for transmission may be handed in at the reception desk of your hotel, Singapore International Airport or the Tourist Promotion Board (E8).

## Public holidays and festivals

- January 1 *New Year's Day.* Celebrated with many sports events, including a magnificent water carnival near Clifford Pier (E8).
- January\* *Hari Raya Puasa.* This marks the end of the Mohammedan fasting period and is celebrated by Muslims, wearing colorful traditional costumes.
- January–February\* *Chinese New Year.* This is the most colorful festival of the year. The Chinese decorate their houses, inside and out, and celebrate for four or five days (traditionally a fortnight) with feasts and fireworks.
- February\* *Thaipusam.* Thaipusam is a Hindu Festival, when followers repent by various self-inflicted tortures. At night, the temple Deity is taken in a decorated chariot through the city and there are fire-walking ceremonies in the temples.
- March\* *Hari Raya Haji.* Muslims celebrate this day on the tenth day of the twelfth moon in the Mohammedan calendar by wearing their best clothes, attending the mosques for prayer and feasting in their homes.
- March–April\* *Good Friday.* Christian churches hold services on this day and a wax figure of Christ is carried in procession in the grounds of St. Joseph's Church, Queen Street.
- March–April\* *Easter Monday.*
- May 1 *Labor Day.*
- May\* *Vesak Day.* This Buddhist holy day celebrates the birth, death and enlightenment of Lord Buddha. Mass meetings are held, and at night illuminated floats are paraded through the city.
- August 9 *National Day.* This commemorates the founding of the new independent republic of Singapore in 1965.
- October–November\* *Deepavali (Festival of Lights).* This Hindu Festival commemorates the victory of Lord Krishna over the demon king, Naragasura. Fire-walking ceremonies take place and Hindu homes are illuminated at night with candles and oil lamps.
- December 24 *Christmas Eve.*
- December 25 *Christmas Day.* Christian churches hold special services on this day.

\* These are moveable festivals and fall on different dates from year to year.