



SIGHTSEEING



Scenes of Singapore

This programme will allow participants a chance to become acquainted with Singapore, starting from the hustle and bustle of Shenton Way, Singapore's own Wall Street. From there, the participants will move on to the Merlion Park at the mouth of the Singapore River, before taking a walk into Chinatown for the sights, smells and sounds of this colourful and vibrant ethnic pocket. Finally, a stop at the renowned Botanic Gardens, home of half a million species of plants, and view the finest orchids in the orchid "house". The way back takes the guests past Orchard Road, the heart of the entertainment and shopping district, where boulevards and pathways shaded by trees link designer shopping malls with restaurants, cafés and nightspots.

CONSIDERATIONS

Banks and financial institutions are closed on Sundays.

ENHANCEMENTS

1. Make special stops at a biscuit shop, a medicine hall, or a Chinese coffee shop.
2. Refreshment stop at Burkill Hall.
3. Gives guests postcards of Botanic Gardens

Duration: 3 ½ hours

Capacity: Unlimited



Singapore Botanic Gardens



Spices of Singapore

Leave the gleaming and modern island city behind and explore the older districts of Singapore where the architecture and customs of myriad cultures still thrive.

The first stop is Chinatown where immigrants from South China settled, recreating the sights, sounds and smells of their homeland. Walking along narrow streets lined with medicine halls and shophouses, your guests will find a multitude of craftsmen and traders busy at work. Calligraphers gilding strips of lucky red paper with gold paint, fortune tellers consulting the almanac, the mask-maker peddling his cart of theatre masks and lion heads and craftsmen making paper effigies, replicas of houses and cars to be burned for good fortune at funerals.

Then continue by coach for a passage to India, or Little India to be precise. As the guests step out from the coach, they will be "assailed" by burning incense, freshly ground spices, rich cinnamon and the perfume of jasmine garlands. Souvenir-hunters can find shimmering silk saris, bangles, bracelets, handbags and almost anything and everything Indian.

The last stop is Arab Street, the historic focal point of Muslim life in Singapore. Amidst rows of old shophouses selling traditional specialities such as batiks, basket-ware, hand-beaten brass, spangles and dress trimming, looms the regal Sultan Mosque.

CONSIDERATIONS

No shorts and singlets allowed in the Sultan Mosque.

Sultan Mosque is closed on Sundays.

ENHANCEMENTS

1. Tea demonstration at Chinese tea house
2. Make special stops at the Sultan Mosque and a shop making garlands; each guest will receive a garland.
3. Lunch/Brunch arranged at an exclusive venue, with a talk on Colonial Silver.

Duration: 3 ½ hours

Capacity: Unlimited



Arab Street



Local Crafts Experience

Being a cosmopolitan city, the arts and crafts of Singapore reflect the rich, diverse culture and traditions of its people.

Craft 1 See the wonders of ancient China come to life as porcelain masterpieces of the Ming Dynasty are recreated in traditional ways at the Ming Village.

Craft 2 Discover the wonders of 13th to 18th century works in the form of Chinese household furniture and woodcarvings, and also colonial, Malaccan and “Chinoiserie” furniture. Watch craftsmen painstakingly refurbish antiques to perfection and listen to experts as they share with your guests their wealth of experience and knowledge.

Craft 3 The writing of Chinese Characters as an art form has been in existence for more than 3000 years. Names and Chinese proverbs have been transformed onto scrolls using meaningful calligraphy. See local artists translate your name into a meaningful wish and a work of art.

Craft 4 Asians are traditionally concerned about the principles of astrology, the balance of Yin and Yang. Thus the beginnings of “Feng Shui” which literally means wind and water. Find out from some of our geomancers how to live in harmony with these elements.

CONSIDERATIONS

Reservations should be made at least one week ahead.

Make a selection of **two** preferred craft activities. Alternatives will be provided if a desired activity is not available.

ENHANCEMENTS

1. Encourage guests to try their hands at creating a Ming vase, which they can then keep as a souvenir.
2. Give guests a local souvenir.
3. A calligraphy scroll with guests' name.
4. A book on Feng Shui.

Duration: 3 ½ hours

Capacity: Unlimited



Ming Village



A Date With Nature

The Singapore Zoological Gardens is rated among world's top 10 zoos. Its landscaped parkland and open-zoo concept of natural barriers, such as water and rock walls, make the guests feel almost as if they are in the wild. They can literally handle a snake, ride an elephant or stand close to a lanky giraffe...some of the zoo's 1,600 mammals, birds and reptiles.

The highlight of the visit is when your guests join the orang-utans for breakfast or tea under the cool shade of tropical trees. Bring a camera along and take home a photograph of an extraordinary experience with an extraordinary "friend".

At show time, elephants, sea lions, slithery snakes, charming orang-utans and cheeky chimpanzees put together a polished performance to capture the attention of your guests.

CONSIDERATIONS

In the event of rain, the animal show will be cancelled.

ENHANCEMENTS

1. Arrangements can be made for a parade of animals to welcome your guests.
2. A pith helmet
3. A paper fan

Duration: 3 ½ hours

Capacity: Unlimited



Singapore Zoo



Isle Of Tranquillity

Get away from the hustle and bustle of the city to Sentosa, an island of unspoilt beauty. Sentosa in the Malay language means “Isle of Tranquillity”, a quality reflected in its lazy beaches, languid lagoon waters and wooded hillsides.

The islands is just a 5-minute ferry ride from the Cruise Centre, a 15-minute cable car trip from Mt. Faber, or just cross over by coach on the causeway, in 3 minutes.

A military base until 1970, Sentosa is now a dazzling, multi-million dollar leisure resort. All major attractions on Sentosa are linked by a 6-kilometre circular monorail system. Highlights include Pioneers of Singapore and the Surrender Chamber, which capture the heritage of Singapore in two dramatic moments of World War II – the British Surrender to the Japanese Forces in 1942 and the Japanese Surrender to the Allied Forces in 1945. Also, visit the Underwater World, Asia’s largest tropical oceanarium, home to some 2,300 marine specimens from the waters of Maldives, Indonesia and South China Sea.

Tour includes rides on cable car and monorail.

CONSIDERATIONS

The island is usually crowded with Singaporeans on Sundays and public holidays.

ENHANCEMENTS

1. Offer your guests refreshing coconut drinks.
2. Provide guests with sun-visors and sunscreen lotion.
3. Lunch at either Beaufort or Rasa Sentosa hotels.

Duration: 4 hours

Capacity: Unlimited



Sentosa Island



Treasure Hunt

Singapore is truly a shopper's paradise with an exciting profusion of goods at wonderfully low prices. There are streets and streets of multi-storey air-conditioned complexes, department stores, boutiques, novelty shops and ethnic shopping areas.

The tour is designed for the avid shopper who wants to get away from the big stores, located along the main tourist area, and shop for items at bargain prices in crowded alleyways and back lanes.

"Holland Village" with streets of quaint little shops selling things from arts and crafts to rattan furniture, handicrafts and some rare and exotic finds. "Chinatown" where every corner has something to offer, local souvenirs, spices, porcelain, famous tiger balm and knick-knacks that will satisfy your guests' curiosity.

Finally, stop at Toa Payoh, one of the oldest and largest public housing estates in Singapore, where your guests will find a multitude of shops selling the widest assortment of goods – from jeans to gold, shampoos and fabrics. There is so much to see, so much to discover, and even the sounds are a new experience.

ENHANCEMENTS

1. Give guests an MRT (Mass Rapid Transit) ticket so that they can spend more time on their own to shop.
2. Prior to the hunt, arrange for a talk – tips on "Good Buys"
3. Exclusive venue – with/without a meal and/or refreshments – with a choice of a lecture covering oriental arts, carpets or jewellery.

Duration: 3 ½ hours

Capacity: Unlimited



Holland Village Mall



Plain Sailing

Singapore's harbour is the world's busiest and a perfect place to catch the cool sea breeze while adding to your sightseeing experiences.

Cruise around the island on a Chinese junk and get a novel view of Singapore's ultra modern skyline and container port whilst watching the bustling marine activities – from bumboats and sampans to giant oil tankers and sleek passenger liners. Pass by some of Singapore's southern islands – Kusu, Sentosa... and on a clear day, the Indonesian Islands of Batam and Riau can also be seen.

Light refreshments and snacks will be served on board.

CONSIDERATIONS

Generally there is a stop at Kusu Island except during the Kusu Festival in October.

ENHANCEMENTS

1. Charter the junk on an exclusive basis.
2. Include buffet lunch on board.

Duration: 2 ½ hours

Capacity: Maximum 80 per junk (up to 5 junks available)



Chinese Junk



Many Races, One Singapore

Singapore offers an excellent example of how people of many different races and creeds can live and work together in harmony while retaining their own distinctive cultures. For decades, Chinese, Indians, Malays, Indonesians and people from rest of Asia and beyond have flooded into the island, providing their new homeland with its most important resource – a hardworking, adaptable and resilient workforce.

This multi-cultural mixture enriches Singaporean life in many ways, with each group retaining its own unique traditions, delicious cuisine, fascinating costumes, festivals and religions. Despite its strong links with the individual cultures and traditions, Singapore has developed from a small fishing village to one of the world's most advanced modern cities.

This morning, hop on to one of the “old world charm” air-conditioned “tram buses” which used to ply the roads in the 1920s. Pass the busy harbour into the financial district where everything “ticks”.

Then, switch to the modern mode of transportation – Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) where we will zoom you to an old satellite town which just recently finished its refurbishment programme – Telok Blangah Town.

Visit a typical Housing Development Board 4-room flat and see the typical lifestyle of the locals – Chinese, Malays or Indians. Have a walk-about around the “Central” and see what makes up these satellite towns, self-contained with cinema complexes, modern shopping malls, food centres, rows of shophouses selling food and bargain goods. Stop by for a refreshing cup of local beverage or tropical fruit juice.

Duration: 3 ½ hours
Capacity: Maximum 80 persons



Tram Bus



Cruising With The Stars

As the sun goes down and dusk falls over the busy harbour, leave the port in an old Chinese junk or in luxury yachts and watch the spectacular skyline of Singapore as it changes from a gleaming modern metropolis into a twinkling romantic city.

As the junk or yacht cruises around the peaceful southern islands, a buffet dinner will be served. Treat your guests to a delightful spread of local cuisine as well as international fare.

After dinner, enjoy the evening breeze with a cocktail...simply enchanting.

ENHANCEMENTS

1. Strolling musicians or a disco throughout the cruise.
2. Give the ladies a rose as they disembark from the vessel.

Duration: 3 hours

Capacity: Maximum 80 per junk (up to 5 junks available)

Maximum 30 per yacht, several yachts available with varying capacities.



Singapore Skyline



Monumental Raffles

Reminders of Singapore's founder – Sir Stamford Raffles – are especially prevalent in the heart of our civic and business districts.

Take a step back in time as we take your guests on a bum-boat ride along Singapore River to the spot where Raffles first landed. Since Sir Stamford Raffles' days, the bum-boat has been a familiar icon, plying the waterways. In days of old, it shuttled goods between the trading ships out in the anchorages and the river quaysides. Today, the bum-boats steer us through a kaleidoscope of historic river and harbour images. Sail past 'go-downs' (or warehouses), shophouses and a myriad of gracious buildings that dotted the old waterfront. View Singapore's earliest built bridges like the Coleman and Anderson – set against the towering skyline of the modern business district.

A stroll through the civic district will enable your guests to get a good feel for the town planning approaches of Sir Stamford Raffles, which have shaped the Singapore of today. No historical trail would be complete without paying homage to the legendary Raffles Hotel. On a tour of the restored buildings and courtyards, watch the world famous cocktail 'The Singapore Sling' being created before your eyes. Explore the Raffles Museum and shop at your leisure.

ENHANCEMENTS

1. Include a Singapore Sling at the Long Bar or the Bar & Billiard Room.
2. Present the Raffles Glass as gifts to your guests.
3. Include postcards of Raffles Hotel for the guests to send home.
4. Indulge your guests with cigars at the Bar & Billiard Room.

Duration: 3 hours
Capacity: Unlimited



Raffles



Something Old, Something New

An observation of architecture in Singapore often reveals glimpses of our New Asia essence. Modern skyscrapers and complexes are founded on the ancient concept of “Feng Shui” or geomancy – what makes a building “prosper”, how can water bring wealth to a business? What is the significance behind the fountain at Suntec City – Singapore’s largest purpose-built convention and exhibition centre?

Meanwhile old buildings have been conserved, restored and given a new lease of life for the new millennium. Come explore the Asian Civilisation Museum (ACM), the Singapore Art Museum (SAM) and CHIJMES – now housed in lovingly restored and conserved former school buildings. At the ACM, come up close to treasures of our Asian heritage. Perhaps Imperial Porcelain or 17th century Ming style furniture tempts you? Or let the colours and passion of masterpieces in contemporary South East Asian art take your breath away at the SAM!

Then take a short stroll across to CHIJMES, a jewel of a building along one of Singapore’s older streets. A former convent school and orphanage, CHIJMES today is the elegant “lady” that has aged beautifully, with a new-found vitality!

ENHANCEMENTS

1. Include specially selected gift items from the National Museum Shop.
2. Have your guests bring home a little piece of Singapore, in the form of miniature replicas of old buildings.
3. Stop for an iced tea or “caffeine shot” at the café at the SAM or CHIJMES.

Duration: 3 hours

Capacity: Unlimited



Singapore Art Museum