# **MOVING TO SINGAPORE GUIDE**

HONEYCOMBERS



## Welcome to Singapore

Hi there, newcomer! Are you thinking of relocating to Singapore? Or perhaps you've just landed on our sunny island. No matter, because we're here to help you make the move easy and breezy.

We've been there and done that. That's why we understand how hard it is to pack up your life and move across borders. We're always asked for tips on how to plan a smooth and seamless transition to living in Singapore, so trust us when we say we have the best advice! Everything you need to know is right here in our Moving to Singapore e-guide, because we want you to feel 100% confident and comfortable in our city.

This handy booklet will be your new best friend. It's loaded with life hacks, an introduction to Singapore, essential tips, and all the best ways to enjoy the next chapter of your life here. Don't forget to check out <u>Honeycombers Singapore</u> and <u>HoneyKids Asia</u> for the lowdown on this city. And <u>sign up for</u> <u>our newsletter</u> to get the scoop on the best parts of island life!

P.S. If you own a business, you're welcome to join our entrepreneurial community group Launchpad, the kindest community on the internet.

Good luck and welcome to our city!



#### **Chris Edwards**

Founder & CEO of Honeycombers, HoneyKids Asia & Launchpad

www.thehoneycombers.com www.honeykidsasia.com www.thelaunchpad.group



Seeds of ideas and attitudes, once taken root, can last a lifetime.

Starting from Nursery, Tanglin creates an environment where children's natural curiosity can grow and flourish into a lifelong love of learning.

Children thrive in our exciting learning landscape – one that has been cultivated through years of careful planning and the dedication of Tanglin's exceptional Nursery team. Classrooms, outdoor areas and the inspirational curriculum are designed to capture children's imagination, nurture their inquisitive minds and create a magical hive of activity.

High levels of engagement lead to high levels of attainment as our children embark on their extraordinary journey through one of Singapore's most established international schools.

Tanglin is the first school in Asia to achieve the Curiosity Approach™ Accreditation.

Find out more at www.tts.edu.sg



TANGLIN TRUST SCHOOL EST. 1925 Content







## Celebrating 30 years of Academic Excellence

through our school values of Achievement, Opportunity and Respect







Booking a tour is a great way to experience the world-class AIS campus. Contact us at **admissions@ais.com.sg** or call **6517 0247**. For more information, visit **www.ais.com.sg** 

Australian International School Pte Ltd | CPE Registration Number: 199204405H | Period of registration of PEI: 6 July 2023 to 5 July 2027



## **Meet the family!**

#### **|**HONEYCOMBERS **|**HONEYKIDS | launchpad.



#### LIKE US & STAY IN THE KNOW

HONEYCOMBERS



O HONEYKIDSASIA

HONEYKIDSASIA





THEHONEYCOMBERS.COM



**1** THELAUNCHPAD.GROUP





Scan to visit Honeycombers, Honeykids or Launchpad today!

## Welcome to your new home! Here's why you'll love Singapore

So you've touched down in the Little Red Dot. First off, congratulations – you made it! Moving is tough, so we're here to make settling in that little bit easier. Here at Honeycombers, we love all things Singapore – from sharing the intel on the best bars and restaurants, to what's on this weekend and useful tips for the fam. So, take a breather from unpacking, grab a cuppa, and check out what's in store for you in Singapore...

- First up, bookmark thehoneycombers.com and honeykidsasia.com and use the search bars for all the questions you have on Singapore! Look out for our free events to come and say hi, or DM us on our socials. We're here to help.
- 2. Gojek, TADA, CDG Zig and Ryde will help you with taxis; MyTransport.SG for bus timetables; Foodpanda and Deliveroo for groceries and takeaways; and Grab for almost everything!
- 3. Know the laws and abide by them. There is a zero tolerance drug policy. No eating on public transport, forget chewing gum, and mind your manners.
- 4. Find out where your home country's embassy or high commission is, in case you ever need it. Passports will be renewed here, and make sure to apply well before the 6 months expiry in case of delays in processing!
- Join the clubs and memberships you'll meet new people, banish boredom, and the kids will love it. Yuu and NTUC memberships will save you money at Cold Storage and FairPrice.
- Think about whether hiring a domestic helper is right for you

   with no family support close by, having extra help can be invaluable.
- 7. Eat everything. The food scene is second to none. You haven't lived till you've tried hawker food like roti prata, chicken rice, nasi lemak, laksa... and the list goes on.

- The city is a charming juxtaposition of old and new, cityscapes and nature parks. You'll find heritage shophouses next to towering skyscrapers, and traditional bakeries alongside modern restaurants.
- 9. Did you know: we have a total of 27 Singlish (Singaporean English) words that made it into the Oxford English Dictionary!
- **10.** There is so much to do! Attractions, water parks, hikes, boat cruises, and international concerts and theatre shows. Add to that, did someone say weekend vacay? It's the number-one gateway for travels to Asia and beyond.



## The 101 on moving to Singapore

Worried your 'moving to Singapore' to-do list is starting to look too daunting? Don't stress – here's your one-stop guide to have everything ticked off in no time!

## Top tips for your big move to Singapore

Step 1: Book your movers!

If you're not sure how you'll pack everything for your new life in Singapore, start with an <u>international moving company</u>. All you have to do is let them pack up your belongings, store your furniture and make sure everything's protected – the pros can do it all. That way, you can focus on the rest of your list.

#### Things to consider when finalising your packing list:

- **Don't ditch the warm clothes!** If you think you'll never need a scarf or cardigan in Singapore, think again. It ain't called the air-conditioned nation for nothing! Also, don't forget clothing for the travel opps on your doorstep skiing in Japan, anyone?
- Things can get mouldy...Those gorgeous leather boots you save for cooler climes? You'll need to take extra care of them in Singapore to avoid the humidity having its wicked way. That means making sure there's extra care when it goes into storage, or packing your beloved leather goods with your air shipment allowance, just in case your belongings end up sitting in storage longer than you planned.





#### Step 2: Shop for the big ticket items...

Think about whether you're planning to ship your appliances from your home country or whether you're going to purchase <u>new appliances</u> in Singapore.

#### Here are a few things to bear in mind when making your decision:

• Landed or condo? Where you live might affect what appliances you need. Apartments in condos often come fitted with appliances such as a fridge/freezer and washing machine etc., but you might need to buy the

extras, such as a dishwasher. If you're considering a landed property, the appliances might not be included, so check ahead.

• Size matters on appliances.

Remember that Singapore apartments, for the most part, tend to be on the smaller size, so you might want to consider this before you schlep your giant chest freezer along with you. That being said, there's a very active resale market in SG, so you can always sell it if it doesn't make the cut once you're here.

### Now you're in Singapore – what's next?

Welcome to the Little Red Dot! Now you'll have to get set up. Here's what to have on your list...

#### Get connected at home

The first few weeks of moving to Singapore can be a rollercoaster, and we'd be lying if we said we didn't feel a little homesick to start. So, make sure you get your <u>Wi-Fi or broadband</u> plan asap so you can connect with friends and family (and catch up on the latest bingeworthy show). Singapore has plenty of stellar service providers to help you stay connected. Singtel and StarHub are the most well-known, but you can also check out MyRepublic for no-contract plans if you don't want as much commitment.

#### Stay connected on the go

Homesickness aside; you might end up feeling a little lost in more ways than one initially, so it's best to have your phone contract sorted pronto, too, in case you need Google Maps in a hurry. There are loads of options out there, with the main providers being Singtel and StarHub. Have an existing phone? Check out GOMO or SIMBA for sim-only tariffs that are really reasonable and easy to set up.

#### Before you drop them coins...

The hard truth is: moving is super expensive. So don't add to the expense by continuing to use a bank card from your home country. Make banking a priority for the early days in your new home to avoid the exorbitant fees.

#### Don't forget insurance

Another one that's high priority is <u>insurance</u>. Depending on where you're moving from, the healthcare system in Singapore might look different from back home, and this goes for the costs involved, too. Check with your employer (if you're moving for work) on what is and isn't covered so you've got peace of mind. Also, don't forget contents insurance!





### Embrace the expat life – time to explore Singers!

Once you've got the big items off your to-do list, it's time for the fun bit – getting out and exploring! Before you do, here are some top tips when it comes to getting around...

#### Public transport is so efficient

As a city filled with trains, buses and taxis, you'll never be stranded here. Conveniently located within walking distance of Singapore's key attractions, the Mass Rapid Transit system (aka MRT) is the easiest way to travel around. Trains run from 5.30am to about midnight daily, with periods extended during some public holidays. Buses are aplenty, with several serving similar routes. Most are wheelchair-accessible and air-conditioned. Similar to trains, buses run from about 5.30am to 12.30am.

#### **Taxis**

Compared to cities like New York, Hong Kong and London, taxis are affordable. You can easily hail one on the street or via apps like ComfortDelGro. Or try ride-hailing apps like Grab, Gojek, TADA and Ryde. Alternatively, queue at taxi stands outside most shopping malls, hotels and tourist attractions. *Note: rain can stop play when it comes to booking a cab – but be persistent!* 



#### To car or not to car...

Real talk: it's true that purchasing a car in Singapore can cost up to six times more than in other countries. Anyone who registers a new vehicle must first obtain a Certificate of Entitlement (COE) in the selected vehicle category. The COE represents the right to vehicle ownership and the use of limited road space for 10 years.

There's also mandatory road tax: most options are renewable either yearly or on a six-month basis. But car owners must first tick off prerequisites like getting motor insurance coverage, passing the vehicle inspection, and clearing any outstanding fines. Don't forget the insurance! Comprehensive car insurance includes coverage on fire, theft, death or injury to other parties, damages and medical costs and more.

Oh, and parking fees can be steep. Most drivers will obtain season parking at carparks near their homes or at their offices. You also have to factor in parking at malls and attractions on weekends, plus money for petrol and car servicing.

# Visit a

#### INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL





At Nexus, we celebrate cultures, learning from each other and embracing our diversity.

#### BOOK A TOUR TO VISIT OUR AWARD WINNING CAMPUS

#### www.nexus.edu.sg



**CREATING A** 

**VIBRANT** & DIVERSE

COMMUNITY

Ò

AN EDUCATION LIKE NO OTHER





#### 7 fun and unusual facts about the Little Red Dot

Singlish words have actually made it into the Oxford English Dictionary! The list includes *blur*, *lepak*, *shiok*, *sabo king* and *wah*.



A natural hot spring actually exists in Singapore. <u>Sembawang</u> <u>Hot Spring Park</u> features a floral walk, cascading pool and cafe. Dip your toes into the water for onsen vibes or try your hand at soft-boiling an egg.





Public transport in Singapore is stellar. The best part? We've got <u>beautiful MRT stations</u> – like Redhill and Gardens by the Bay – with interesting backstories.



Look beyond the towering skyscrapers and gargantuan malls to find a handful of <u>countryside farms</u>.





From <u>Chinatown</u> and <u>Everton</u> <u>Park</u> to <u>Keong Saik</u> and <u>Haji Lane</u>, there's plenty to explore in our <u>street art scene</u>.

If you've always been curious about the supernatural, set out on an eerie adventure at <u>haunted</u> <u>houses</u> and former cemeteries.



So you think you've covered the entire island? Think again. There are <u>secret spots</u> just waiting to be discovered!



## Immerse yourself in the best of local culture

Singapore is thriving with a melting pot of diverse traditions and heritage. Strap in for a dose of culture, 'cos you're in for a ride!



## Enjoy the best of local food

From <u>breakfast</u> to <u>supper</u>, it's no secret that this foodie haven has lots of <u>iconic dishes</u>. Treat yourself to <u>lesser-known local food</u>, visit a <u>traditional bakery</u> or indulge in <u>flavour-bursting kuehs</u>, <u>local</u> <u>dessert</u>, and <u>old school snacks</u>. Much like <u>hawker food</u>, these wonderful treats take years to master, so cherish every bite!

#### Go on a walking trail or self-guided tour

Put on your explorer shoes and embark on a journey through various heartland areas in Singapore. From <u>Pasir Ris</u> to <u>Tiong Bahru</u>, you'll be getting your culture fix! Sign up for a <u>heritage trail</u> with a guide or tour the areas in your own time.







#### Visit heritage buildings and religious sites

We're home to countless national monuments that we're mighty proud of. For starters, use our list of <u>historical sites</u> as a guide. Don't forget religious sites like <u>temples, mosques</u> and <u>churches</u>. Our favourite stretch is in <u>Chinatown</u> where the Buddha Tooth Relic Temple and Museum, Sri Mariamman Temple and Masjid Jamae are located just a few steps away from each other.

#### **Explore cool and underrated neighbourhoods**

We're not just talking about hotspots like <u>Joo</u> <u>Chiat</u>. Expand your radar with <u>Seletar</u>, <u>Geylang</u>, <u>Jalan Besar</u>, and <u>Punggol</u>. While you're at it, go off the beaten track and unearth discoveries at Kampong Lorong Buangkok, the last surviving village, and venture to admire cool <u>black and</u> white houses or <u>unique HDB flats</u> across the city.



#### **Check out underrated local attractions**

We can't get enough of our <u>local attractions!</u> You'll be surprised at the number of <u>uncharted</u> <u>territories</u> yet to be explored. Transport yourself to sakura season at the Japanese Cemetery Park, take in the sea breeze at the Raffles Marina Lighthouse or head to the undisturbed Hampstead Wetlands Park.



### Best boutique hotels in Singapore for spectacular stays

From luxury chic rooms to cosy lofts, these stylish boutique hotels boast a one-of-a-kind experience in Singapore.



#### **The Warehouse Hotel**

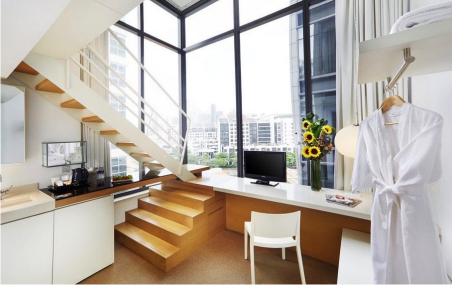


Formerly an iconic warehouse from 1895, the meticulously restored property boasts a sleek, modern design. Its rooms feature double high ceilings, peaked roofs and authentic industrial details. Don't miss the rooftop infinity pool! It's the perfect spot to people-watch and enjoy views of the riverbank.

#### Lloyd's Inn



Sleek, airy and wonderfully minimalist, Lloyd's Inn is one of the most Instagrammable boutique hotels in Singapore, thanks to its unconventional design, central location and affordable rates. We love its clean, white palette, abundant sunlight and quiet residential locale.



#### **Studio M Hotel**

An unofficial party hotel among the younger crowds, Studio M's location in Robertson Quay is right smack in the middle of riverside cafes and a short walk to the buzzing Clarke Quay. But its key feature is the loft rooms kitted out in minimalist designs. We adore the plush bedding and panoramic views of the city from large bay windows!

#### <u>Hotel Indigo</u> Singapore Katong

Housed in the former Joo Chiat Police Station, this charming venue pays homage to the neighbourhood's Peranakan heritage. The interiors boast everything from vintage-style tiles and artwork to antique furnishings. Take an afternoon to admire street art, pre-war shophouses, coffee shops and restaurants nearby.





#### Ann Siang House

This hot property is furnished to perfection. Its electric blue facade and gold windows should serve as an indication. The 20 rooms, as well as common areas on every floor, are taken to the next level. It's all about sumptuous leathers, gilded mirrors and geometrical tables and stools.

## Our all-star list of Singapore's best furniture and home decor stores

Got a dream home in mind? Jazz up your abode with a little help from the city's coolest furniture stores.



#### **Commune**

If you're someone who loves surpassing everyday norms, Commune is the brand for you. It's all about bringing your home together with style and comfort. From the living room to the bedroom and everything in between, these furniture pieces will elevate your space.

#### Soul & Tables

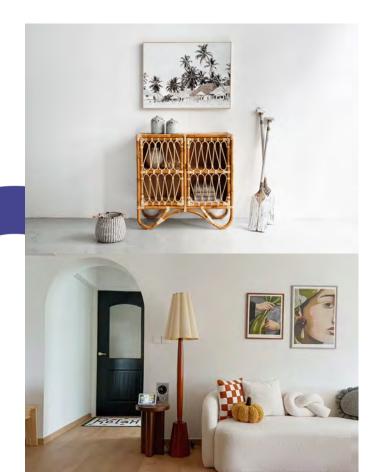
This homegrown furniture brand believes that wallet-friendly prices don't mean quality and service should be compromised - and we're totally here for it. Specialising in ethically sourced wood pieces created with environmental sustainability in mind, Soul & Tables ticks all the right boxes.





#### **Castlery**

This store is a treasure trove of high-quality, modern furniture. When we say you'll be spoilt for choice, we aren't kidding. Sofas, armchairs, beds, dining tables, TV consoles, rugs, accessories... whatever you need to furnish your nest, Castlery has it in spades.



#### **Comfort Design Furniture**

If you're searching for budget-friendly chairs, tables and beds, you'll love this place. The brand has been around for decades with its modern and stylish designs. Pop by the showroom for office and home supplies that you can touch and feel. You'll find an assortment of essentials, including items for your living, dining, study and bedrooms.

#### **Island Living**

Decorating your home? Take a peek at Island Living's resort-style furniture for inspiration and new statement pieces. Natural textures are a key feature in the brand's pieces, adding a breezy, island vibe to any space. Think hand-carved stone, sustainable rattan and reclaimed teak.

#### <u>HipVan</u>

Founded in Singapore, HipVan has been furnishing homes since 2013. The brand works with direct manufacturers to offer beautifully designed furniture with affordable price tags. Whether you need to spruce up your dining space or bedroom, you'll find something to suit your needs here.

Unlock a world of opportunities for your child's future.

An SJI International Elementary School education ensures a holistic, values-driven and truly international experience for all our students.

Renowned for Character Development through The Virtues Project<sup>™</sup>, offering world-class curriculum to children from Prep 1 to Grade 6.

Enquire/Visit/Apply @ www.sji-international.com.sg





ST. JOSEPH'S INSTITUTION INTERNATIONAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Address: 490 Thomson Road Singapore 298191 Telephone +65 6353 9383 St. Joseph's Institution International Elementary School Ltd.: CPE, Co. Reg & GST No. 201009321K (Period of Registration: 19/11/ 2022 to 18/08/2026) Edutrust Singapore Cert No: EDU-2-2132 (Validity 19/09/2020 to 17/09/2024)



#### Looking for an elementary school? 3 reasons to consider St. Joseph's Institution International

The Elementary School stands out for its Bilingual Programme and focus on digital technology.

The elementary school years are crucial for every child's learning journey. As such, <u>St. Joseph's</u> <u>Institution (SJI) International Elementary School</u> provides children with inspiring and challenging experiences – here's how.

#### **Globally recognised curricula**

The Elementary School follows the International Primary Curriculum and International Middle Years Curriculum, both known for academic rigour and fostering international-mindedness.

#### Focus on digital technology

Technology skills are increasingly important in today's world, hence lessons in digital technology are a priority at SJI International. Robotics and coding are taught, as well as lessons on being responsible digital citizens.

Sounds like a good fit for your child? Sign up for SJI International's upcoming <u>Open House</u> events to learn more about its offerings.

#### Unique English-Chinese Bilingual Programme

Its English-Chinese Bilingual Programme goes beyond developing bilingual literacy in children, but cultural awareness, and cognitive skills as well. Immersive cultural experiences are created to improve language proficiency and cross-cultural communication skills.





## LEARN. INSPIRE. SERVE.

Our SJI International education ensures a holistic, values-driven and truly international experience for all our students.

Renowned for Character Development through Service, offering world-class curriculum to local and international students from Grades 7 to 12.



Enquire/Visit/Apply @ www.sji-international.com.sg



ST. JOSEPH'S INSTITUTION INTERNATIONAL







ddress: 490 Thomson Road Singapore 298191 Telephone: +65 6353 9383 :t. Joseph's Institution International Ltd.: Co. Reg & GST No. 200607833C



#### **Beyond academics:** Here's what a holistic education in Singapore looks like

Education is never just about acquiring textbook knowledge, but helping a child grow physically and mentally as well.

Schools in Singapore recognise that a good education extends beyond exam results, and aim at providing children with a 'holistic education' – <u>St. Joseph's Institution (SJI) International</u> being one of them. So, what constitutes a 'holistic education'?

#### **Encourages active learning**

Learning isn't teacher-centred at SJI International. Teachers act as facilitators and fellow collaborators with students in the IGCSE and IB curricula. This fosters independence, confidence, and curiosity in children.

#### **Builds character**

A holistic education values character education as much as academics. Students at SJI International learn this through its Service Programme, which prepares them to be responsible and compassionate global citizens.

#### Prepares students for the future

Students need to be ready for the real world upon graduation. As such, all SJI International students receive guidance from its University Counsellors not just in university applications, but in preparing for a lifetime of contribution.

Find out more about the holistic education SJI International offers via its <u>website</u>, or <u>drop a</u> <u>note</u> to speak to its Admissions team.



An international preschool that nurtures the mind, body and heart.



Prepare your child for a thriving life at SJI International Preschool, where love and learning flourish.

**Essential insights** Character Development (The Virtues Project<sup>™</sup>)

Mix of structured and emergent curriculum for Early Years (2-4) and Kindergarten (4-6)

Play-based learning with guidance and peer collaboration

Enquire/Visit/Apply @ www. sji-internationalpreschool.com.sg



## Look to the experts for a clean home!

If you need a hand to keep your home spick and span, engage these cleaning services in Singapore.

#### **Helpling**

Want to keep your home squeaky clean? Simply enter your postal code, and you'll get a list of cleaners in your area, complete with ratings and reviews. Personalise your cleaning schedule by choosing the number of hours, date, time and frequency of the service.



#### **Auntie Cleaner**

This cleaning company will help with all tasks, and that includes cleaning the windows and grilles. If you're happy with the results, book the affordable cleaning packages for round two and beyond.

#### **Eunike Living**

Imagine having to clean up all the mess after overhauling your home. This cleaning company understands your pain, which is why Eunike Living boasts post-renovation cleaning services in its portfolio. Renters can also engage the company to clean their apartments before move-in day.

#### <u>Whissh</u>

From deep cleaning to regular maintenance, this one-stop service provider offers a range of services customised to your needs. The staff also uses eco-friendly products made from fully biodegradable ingredients of plant origin during cleaning sessions.

#### Helperoo

All you have to do is register for an account and make a booking, and the agency will send over its reliable helpers. If you're moving out, you can engage Helperoo to help with the cleaning too.







#### Junction 8

If your kids love climbing, head to the Junction 8 Roof Garden. The enclosed cage is a sight to behold and promises oodles of fun with slides and ramps. The coolest part of this futuristic-looking playground isn't just its verticality but its hexagonal rock climbing cubes, equipped with climbing holds. There's also a slick metal slide!

#### **Paragon**

Located in Orchard, Paragon is a shoppers' paradise and a haven for parents and kids, thanks to its brand new Jungle Adventure Tower on level 3 with exciting play areas and interactive games.

#### **VivoCity**

Singapore's largest shopping mall has wet-and-dry play areas where kids can play on the large slide, seesaw, and merry-go-round. The water jets provide a refreshing break on hot days.



## Playtime break at the mall

Awesome shops AND a cool play area? Parenting WIN. Here's our ultimate guide to the best shopping malls with free play areas for kids.









#### **Causeway Point**

Causeway Point in the north boasts a wet playground filled with prehistoric thrills! Kids can zoom down water slides, dodge mist from a roaring volcano and dash through a dinosaur rib cage. As dusk falls, neon lights amp up the excitement!

#### SingPost Centre

Head to the mall's roof, where a vertical playground awaits! It's the perfect structure for kids who love to climb around and build their motor skills simultaneously. There are floor trampolines, see-saws and slides.

## How to choose a school for your child

When it comes to the school scene in Singapore, where does one start? From preschools to curricula and international schools, we give you the lowdown.

For us, deciding between international schools in Singapore for our kids was up there with one of the toughest decisions we ever had to make. Sleepless nights, weeks – if not months – of stress, not to mention endless school tours and hours spent figuring out budgets, making curriculum comparisons and reading parent testimonials. Well, your search for your own shortlist of the best international schools in Singapore just got a tad easier. We've done the groundwork for you and it's all here in one handy read!



#### Preschool, or big school?

Is your child still in their <u>preschool</u> years, or are you looking for a middle school for them to enrol in? There are a ton of preschools available in Singapore, with the option to choose between half-day programmes or full-day (aka childcare) programmes.

When it comes to kids age six and up, you'll have to look at the fabulous pool of international schools here, and ask yourself: do you want a school that's near home, or is the curriculum more important to you? If a bilingual education is important for your family, you'll be happy to know that many international schools in Singapore offer bilingual programmes. Each school differs in teaching methods, a popular one being immersion (such as the one offered by St. Joseph's Institution (SJI) International Elementary School) which is known to help students achieve high levels of language proficiency as well as improve their cultural awareness. Schools that provide a holistic education (one that develops the whole child instead of focusing just on academics) are popular among parents too, and you have no trouble finding these in Singapore. SJI International is one of these schools, offering the rigorous IGCSE and IB curricula, along with a Service Programme that builds students' character, and even prepares them for life after school through dedicated university counselling. Whichever you choose, using a handy tool like the <u>HoneyKids School Selector</u> will be really helpful in narrowing down your options. It helps you compare curricula, school fees, demographics and more, so you can make a more informed decision.



#### Meet school representatives in person

It may sound like a lot of work, but it really helps to get some face time with a representative from the schools you're considering. And if you think this means hopping from one school to another – think again! We're all time-strapped and want things done as quickly and efficiently as possible, so why not check out a school fair? Often these events host multiple schools under one roof, giving you the chance to meet them all in one place so you can weigh your options on the spot.

The good news is, HoneyKids has been hosting the <u>International</u> <u>School Fair</u> every year since 2017, bringing together more than 20 of the best international schools and preschools in Singapore! The fair is held twice a year (in March and September, right around the key intake periods) and families are welcome to attend for free.

Get the opportunity to speak to admissions officers, principals and key staff from schools for kids of all ages, and we know from all the wonderful feedback just how helpful these fairs have been to so many previously bewildered parents. So keep your eyes peeled – will we see you at the next one?





## The best indoor play areas in Singapore

Are you tired of sweaty, tantrum-filled days outdoors? Keep cool and save your sanity by heading to one of Singapore's top indoor playgrounds and trampoline parks!

Indoor playgrounds are a godsend in Singapore. It's a tropical island of extremes: scorching hot one moment and torrential rain the next, so sometimes a day out at the beach can be a challenging, tantrum-inducing proposition (and we don't just mean the kids).

And while we love hanging out in our favourite malls in Singapore, there's only so long toddlers will cooperate. Head to one of Singapore's top indoor playgrounds instead! Not only will your tiny tearaways enjoy kids' play and be entertained, exhilarated and exhausted but, all things going well, you'll savour a coffee in peace.

#### Themed indoor playgrounds

Indoor playgrounds offer a wide range of fun themes, from adventurous animal safaris to engaging science-based activities. With so many options available, you'll have no shortage of choices to keep your kids entertained and engaged. Here are our top picks:

- **Y** The Artground, Goodman Arts Centre
- **✓ T-Play** in Khatib and Bukit Batok
- **X-scap8**, Orchard Central
- **Superpark**, Suntec City



#### **Trampoline parks**

<u>Trampoline parks</u> offer a fast-paced way to exhaust your energetic kids. With interconnected trampolines, dodgeball courts, parkour walls, slam dunk rings, slacklines and tumble tracks, they provide endless excitement for children. There are also places with larger-than-life bouncy play structures featuring slides, bridges, ball pits, and more inflatables than your house can handle. It's the perfect option for keeping your active kiddos entertained for hours! Put these must-visit indoor play centres on your list:

- 🖌 BOUNCE, Cineleisure Orchard
- 🗸 AMPED Trampoline Park, Keppel
- Bouncy Paradise, Pandan Gardens





## Cool attractions you need to experience!

Singapore is a tiny island, but it is packed full of amazing attractions, fun seasonal events, photo opps and sightseeing opportunities too good to miss. From the iconic Marina Bay Sands and Gardens by the Bay to the 'State of Fun', Sentosa Island, here are some of the must-do activities for families in Singapore. Keep checking our <u>weekend guide</u> for the latest updates!

#### Sensoryscape

There's a new <u>sensory sanctuary</u> called Sensoryscape in Sentosa, which is a 350m-long north-south central spine along the island that lets you unwind and relax to the sound of trickling water, enjoy rich scents of herbs and spices and take in panoramic views! Start at Imbiah Lookout Loop and stick around in the evenings for the stunning ImagiNite light display from 7:50pm.





#### **KidZania**

While you're on Sentosa, let the kids run wild at the newly reopened <u>KidZania</u>. This is the perfect opportunity to let the kids test their skills and learn life lessons about salaries and careers, while also having a blast! Fancy being a pilot one day? Experience the Malaysia Airlines Flight Simulator. Interested in hospitality? Be a server at a cafe. Endless fun, and photo opps galore!

#### Indoor fun: Playcentres, sports, museums and libraries

We're always keeping an eye on brand new indoor playgrounds to take our little ones for some soft play or indoor ninja fun - check our website for the latest! One of our favourite new openings is Trifecta, where you can try indoor skiing, snowboarding, a skate park and surfing. Rainy weather? There's always a <u>new</u> <u>exhibition</u> to see at the Children's Museum, or a storytelling session at a <u>local library</u> (themes change monthly).



## Gardens by the Bay and the Flower Dome

We love visiting <u>Gardens by the Bay</u>, and the fun (and free!) splash play area and playgrounds. But did you know that the Flower Dome changes its theme every couple of months? From orchids to roses to cherry blossoms, we can't wait to visit these seasonal displays and take part in the crafty workshops with the kiddos.

#### **Marina Bay Sands**

If there is one building that is synonymous with 'Singapore', it's Marina Bay Sands. Shaped like a boat balancing atop three 'waves', Marina Bay Sands is home to a <u>world</u> <u>class theatre</u>, high-end shops, a light show at night, and even an indoor river complete with gondola rides. To really become acquainted with your new city, we highly recommend heading to the top (make a booking at one of the restaurants to avoid entry fees). While this spot isn't new, it will feel like seeing Singapore for the first time, every time. That view will never fail to take your breath away.



## All the fun and unique things to do in Singapore: Explore the city's best!

From family-friendly attractions and nature adventures to vintage shopping and outdoor play, here's your ultimate bucket list.



#### Make a splash at waterparks

There's more than enough to keep the kids and grown-ups entertained at <u>Wild Wild Wet</u> in <u>Pasir</u> <u>Ris</u>. From vertical drop slides to splash areas, you can easily make a day of it! If you're after waterpark fun in Sentosa, visit <u>Adventure Cove</u> for thrills and spills.

#### Mingle with the animals

If you're <u>looking for wildlife</u>, visit one of the best zoos on the planet. The <u>Singapore Zoo</u> is so cleverly designed that it feels like an open wilderness. The entire family will fall in love with all the furry (and scaly) animals here! Already visited the zoo? Don't forget there's also <u>KidzWorld</u>, <u>Bird</u> <u>Paradise</u>, <u>River Wonders</u> and <u>Night Safari</u> for more animal spotting!

#### 🗹 Admire street art

Keen to discover <u>street art in Singapore</u>? Head over to <u>Haji Lane</u>, <u>Clarke Quay</u>, <u>Kampong Glam</u> and more to find fascinating artistic doodles on walls and public spaces.

#### 🗹 Go island-hopping

There are plenty of <u>fabulous islands</u> just waiting to be explored, and most are just an easy ferry trip away. Step back in time with a visit to <u>Pulau Ubin</u> to discover Singapore of days gone by and the last surviving kampong. Love pristine sandy beaches? Add Lazarus Island to your list.

#### S Explore a bizarre theme park

Step inside the whimsical world of Chinese legends, history and folklore at a unique mythological park. Created to showcase Chinese mythology, <u>Haw Par Villa</u> has over 1,000 statues and 150 dioramas including the 10 Courts of Hell and the laughing Buddha. Expect a few eyebrow-raising moments on this fascinating, grisly tour.

#### Get a dose of culture and history

You're spoilt for choice when it comes to <u>museums for kids</u> in Singapore! Start at the <u>Science</u> <u>Centre Singapore</u> with its interactive exhibits, check out kid-fave <u>ArtScience Museum</u> with its futuristic, hands-on activities, and explore Singapore's history at the <u>Asian Civilisations Museum</u>, the <u>National Museum of Singapore</u>, and the <u>Peranakan Museum</u>.

#### Challenge yourself to an escape room

Calling all Houdinis! It's time to ditch virtual gaming and delve into this first-person reality game that replicates escaping from Dracula's castle, surviving a zombie outbreak, and Prison Break-esque scenarios. Intrigued? Check out fun <u>escape rooms in Singapore</u>.

#### Spend a day in Sentosa

The "State of Fun" is so jam-packed with family-friendly activities that you'll need a week to tick them off your list. Our top tips? Walk the length of the beach and end up near Fort Siloso for a cheeky ice cream from 7-Eleven! Water enthusiasts will love <u>HydroDash</u>, and adrenaline junkies should head to the <u>Skyline Luge</u> or <u>Universal Studios Singapore</u>. Psst, plan your visit with our <u>handy guide</u>

to Sentosa!

#### **Take in waterfall views**

If having the world's tallest indoor waterfall at 40 metres high in a mall doesn't entice you to visit <u>Jewel Changi Airport</u>, we don't know what will. With over 280 unique retail and dining options, this swanky mall in the east is truly a gem.

#### Mit up cool playgrounds

The kids will love Singapore's <u>awesome playgrounds</u>. From slides galore at <u>Admiralty Park</u> to something for everyone at <u>Fort Canning Park</u>, you'll be spoilt for choice. Fancy something a little rustic? Check out our list of <u>nature playgrounds</u>.

#### ✓ Try indoor skydiving

If you've always wanted to give skydiving a shot but never worked up the courage to do it, this is the next best thing. Head to <u>iFly Singapore</u>, one of the world's largest indoor skydiving wind tunnels, to feel true free-fall conditions. Everyone's welcome, from first-timers to companies on team-building activities to couples looking for a thrilling date.

#### Take a day trip to the countryside

Singapore has loads of <u>great farms</u> that are perfect for the kids to explore. Alongside your classic farmyard animals (we're looking at you, cows and goats!), there are other tropical treats in store. Some even offer amazing <u>staycays</u> if you want to have a break from city life!

#### 🗹 Go ghost-hunting

Singapore's home to spooky spots. Have you explored 'em all? To get you started on your ghostly adventures, our list of <u>haunted places</u> will come in handy. Spine-tingling, spooky spots include Bedok Reservoir, Old Changi Hospital, Caldecott Hill (yup, the former Mediacorp headquarters) and Woodneuk House. Go get your freak on!

# Best serviced apartments in Singapore

Easily accessible and full of amazing amenities, these serviced apartments in Singapore are top-notch.

#### **Great World Serviced Apartments**



Conveniently nestled within River Valley, a three-minute sheltered walk from Great World MRT Station, Great World Serviced Apartments offers a perfect blend of comfort and convenience for business and leisure travellers. Boasting a prime location that provides easy access to key business zones and major shopping districts, this serviced apartment is an ideal choice for extended or short-term accommodation in Singapore.

#### **Aurealis Serviced Residence at Marina Bay**

This luxurious five-star serviced apartment is ideal for corporate guests looking for a fussfree stay of at least three months. Expect fully furnished suites that cater to your work-fromhome needs. Get your cooking and washing done with the fully-equipped kitchen, and enjoy the hot water jacuzzi, bay-fronting gym, tennis courts, large pools and more. When the day ends, sink into the plush Sealy bed for a cosy snooze.



#### **Frasers Hospitality**

For a stay that's luxurious, convenient and comfortable, take your pick from a range of Fraser properties. Fraser Suites Singapore in River Valley offers units with all the amenities you need for the fam, while Fraser Place Robertson Walk sits by the waterfront along the Singapore River. Make the most of indoor and outdoor fitness centres, the BBQ facilities and the pool! Oh, and if you're a fan of the city's iconic shopping stretch, head over to Fraser Residence Orchard Singapore and enjoy access to the 24/7 gym, sauna room, pool and outdoor playground.





#### Village Residence Robertson Quay

Overlooking the banks of the Singapore River, these serviced apartments offer spectacular views. The rooms range from studios to three-bedroom apartments - perfect for families or couples. Both leisure lovers and business magnates will find the location ideal as it's nestled between party central Clarke Quay and the CBD. The place also has amenities like 24-hour guest services, an edible garden, BBQ pits and a swimming pool.



# Shop in the name of love! ~~~~

These are our favourite stores in Singapore for fashion and more.

#### In Good Company:

We adore the clothes from this local label, best known for its clean-cut design aesthetic and classic pieces with a twist.

#### Vintagewknd:

Say goodbye to fast fashion at this shop, which offers upcycled retro clothes with prices that won't break the bank. Browse through a charming collection of dresses, pants, skirts, windbreakers and more.

#### Cat Socrates:

In between its cat-themed stationery, books and puzzles, you'll find everything from succulents and whimsical tin robots to analogue cameras and handmade journals.

#### Design Orchard:

This retail space spotlights Singapore creators and local brands. You'll find an incubation workspace for designers, a public amphitheatre for events, a cafe and a tranquil rooftop.

#### **Dover Street Market:**

Inspired by the low-key stalls of London's Kensington Market in the 70s and 80s, Dover Street Market combines art and street fashion. Feed your contemporary street style by browsing through racks from top brands!

#### Supermama:

The four-in-one store, artist residency studio, gallery and space for people to escape, is inspired by local experiences. It stocks an array of beautifully designed souvenirs that you won't be able to resist.



#### Weekend Sundries:

A conscious brand that ticks all the boxes: comfort, quality, and sustainability. Its collections transcend trends, with textile prints that are created in-house.

#### Love, Bonito:

Popular with the local crowd, this homegrown fashion label is known for its gorgeous looks coveted by women of all ages, sizes and styles.



#### Eden + Elie:

The handmade creations from this local jewellery brand are simply outstanding. Each stunning piece is uniquely made using classic techniques.

#### **Beyond The Vines:**

These designs are best described as pareddown essentials in soft hues and flattering contours. We love the basic tops and bottoms that make building the ultimate capsule wardrobe a piece of cake!



## Eat your way through our ultimate dining bucket list

### You'll never run out of extraordinary food at the best restaurants in Singapore!



#### <u>Odette</u>

Step inside Odette: a Michelin-starred fine dining restaurant famed for its innovative French cuisine. Dishes are far from pretentious, as each tells a story and every ingredient serves a purpose.



#### Art di Daniele Sperindio

This sleek concept, which offers a view of Marina Bay from its rooftop space, is all about that elevated Italian experience. The sumptuous tasting menu takes you through the season's best ingredients.

#### **Candlenut**

Headed by Singaporean chef Malcolm Lee, Candlenut specialises in refined, innovative Peranakan cuisine. As the world's first Michelin-starred Peranakan restaurant, its creations are all kinds of delicious.

#### <u>Cicheti</u>

At the cosy Italian restaurant, which does pizza and pasta perfectly, we recommend you start with small plates before scarfing down the wood-fired pizzas and addictive desserts.



#### Artichoke

Great vibes, a no-frills setting and finger-licking grub: Artichoke is the kind of place you'd mainline for a good time. The Middle Eastern menu includes scrumptious plates perfect for communal dining.

#### **Labyrinth**

Labyrinth takes familiar Singaporean cuisine and gives it a progressive spin. Paying tribute to the little red dot, chef LG Han expresses his creativity with locally sourced goods that are updated with the seasons.

#### **Burnt Ends**

A carnivore's haven, this Aussie-style, modern barbecue spot offers a juicy barrage of fantastic meats cooked in scorching ovens. Tip: the joint is always packed, so plan your reservations early.

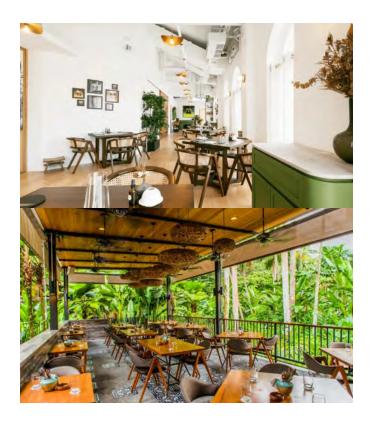


#### **Restaurant Jag**

The contemporary fine dining French restaurant puts seasonal veggies in the spotlight, with each dish featuring multiple textures and iterations.

#### <u>The Halia</u>

Stroll through the Botanic Gardens and stop at one of Singapore's best halal-certified restaurants for a meal. The alfresco ambience at the outdoor deck lets you immerse yourself in the beauty of nature.







Discover these top kid-friendly spots in Singapore where the munchkins can play while you feast!

Hungry for a meal out but worried about keeping the little ones entertained? We've got you covered with <u>the ultimate guide to kid-friendly restaurants</u> <u>and cafes</u> in Singapore! Sit back, relax, and enjoy your meal while the tiny humans play to their hearts' content at these top picks.



#### Wild Honey

Enjoy city life at this Brooklyn loft-inspired eatery on Orchard Road! Indulge in a diverse menu featuring vegetarian, gluten-free, dairyfree, and vegan options that even the fussiest eaters will love.

#### Tiong Bahru Bakery Safari

This cafe is a paradise for little ones, with an outdoor playground, lush greenery, and an edible garden. Indulge in healthy dishes made from fresh fruits and herbs from the garden, or treat yourself to cheeky pastries and cakes.



#### **Open Farm Community**

Step into this farm-to-table hotspot and discover why it's the talk of the town. With lush greenery, a spacious kids' sandpit, and quirky sculptures, it's a haven for families. Don't miss the healthy and inventive children's menu – you'll be returning for more!

#### Super Loco

You'll love the funky decor, high chairs galore, and awesome brunch menu with pancakes, fish and chips, and churros for the kiddos. Pro tip: Weekend brunch is from 9am to 2:30pm; no reservations are needed! After brunch, join the kids to run across the colourful Art Bridge and burn off those calories from those Mexican desserts!

#### Prive @ Keppel Bay

The laidback restaurant also has an outdoor playground and a fun kids' corner with televisions showing cartoons, storybooks, and colouring activities, which are great for keeping the little ones entertained. Check out the special kiddies menu, which features three-course set meals that little diners (under 12 years old) will love.



## **Gorgeous weekend getaways from Singapore**

Leave the city behind and enjoy a vacation at these nearby islands and family-friendly destinations!



#### Bali, Indonesia

The island has something for everyone: azure seas, awe-inspiring active volcanoes, buzzy beach bars, and cool home decor stores. Enjoy a relaxing stay at all-inclusive swanky resorts and private pool villas!

#### Lazarus Island, Singapore

You don't have to go far for an island getaway when there's one in our backyard. The offshore island offers tiny homes you can rent for any occasion: a romantic escapade, bonding time with family or friends, or alone time away from the crowd.

#### Hong Kong

Pineapple buns, dim sum, egg waffles, milk tea... the list of foodie reasons to visit Hong Kong is endless. Of course, you can't miss out on iconic attractions. Hit up a bustling market, embark on a scenic hike, or take a day trip to explore the nearby islands.

#### Koh Samui, Thailand

There's a lot to love about Koh Samui, and we're not just talking about its beautiful palm-fringed beaches. Check out Ang Thong National Marine Park to explore hidden waterfalls, enter a haven of tranquillity at Bophut, or go shopping at the Fisherman's Village Walking Street.



#### Taipei, Taiwan

Night markets, modern architecture, bustling city life, and natural attractions. What's not to love about Taipei? Visit the famous Taipei 101 before moving on to hiking in Yangmingshan National Park. Oh, and if you love street food, the night markets are a dream come true.

#### Da Nang, Vietnam

This city is full of sights that'll cure your wanderlust. You can't miss iconic bridges like the Golden Bridge on Ba Na Hill and the Dragon Bridge. As a coastal destination, Da Nang is also known for its beautiful beaches!

#### Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

The mega capital of Malaysia is thriving with a juxtaposition of old and new. Visit the magnificent Batu Caves, the bustling Petaling Street, Central Market for knick knacks, and loads more.

