

ACTIVE

Travel



Treasure Island

Singapore is a pearl of a place, small and perfectly formed. Dig even deeper and you'll discover a glittering cultural scene just waiting to be explored

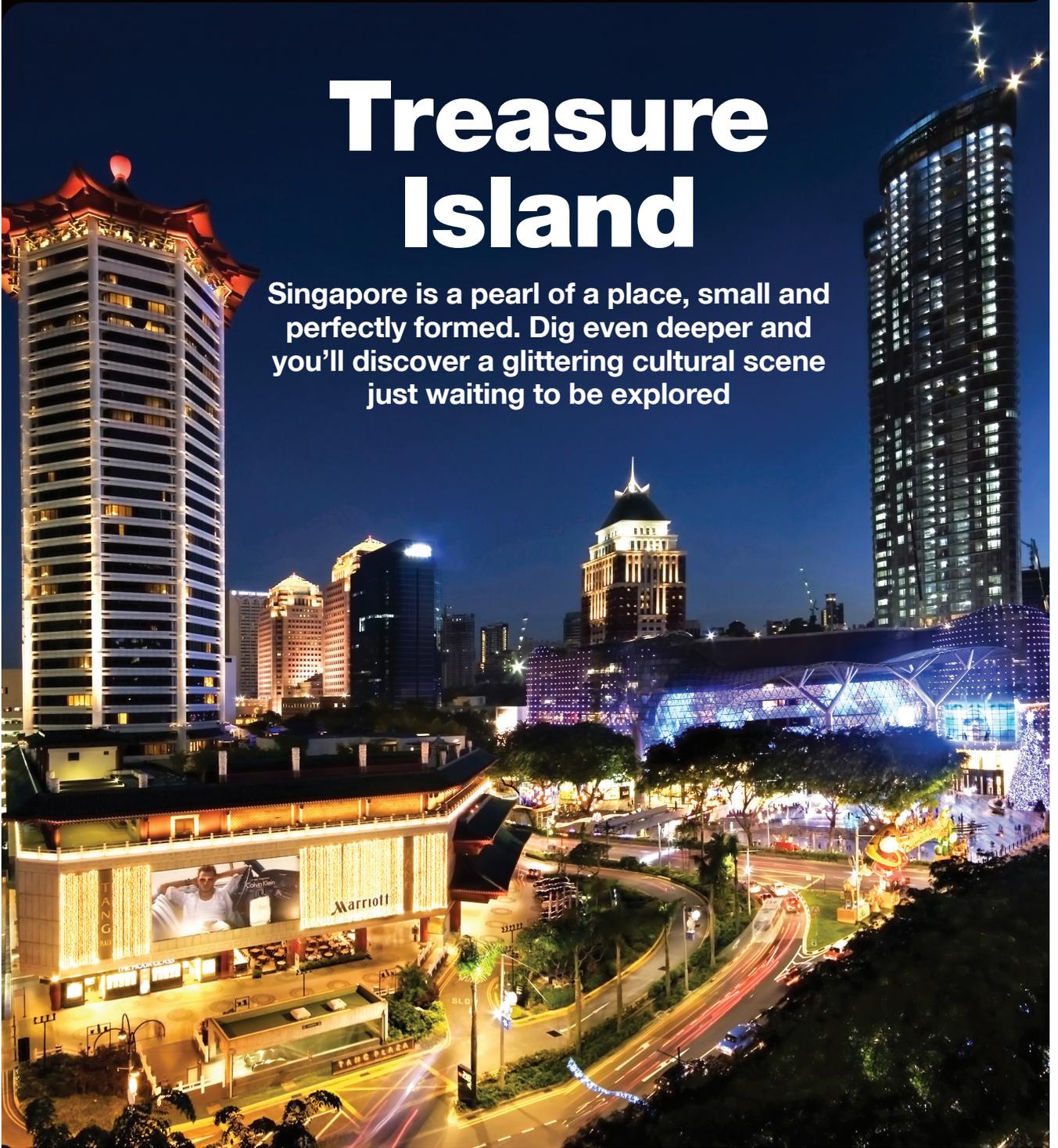


PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

The island of Singapore – from the Malay *singa pura*, meaning Lion City – is a prosperous little state off the southern tip of Malaysia. Having gained sovereignty in 1965, today it's a cosmopolitan, tolerant home to a local population with roots in China, Malaysia and India, as well as a large expat community. The result of this melting pot of nationalities is a country with an eclectic, but undeniably charming, character.

MUST DO

✓ NATIONAL MUSEUM OF SINGAPORE

If you're interested in the history of this ever-evolving city, the National Museum is a must. Situated in an area full of art galleries and cosy cafés, this museum offers a great storytelling element to how Singapore got to where it is today. Located next to Fort Canning, you can finish the day with a stroll in the park. Alternatively, check out the world's first Art Science Museum, an incredible piece of modern architecture that



Gardens by the Bay

opened this year, and now floats like a giant water lily in Marina Bay.

👉 nationalmuseum.sg and marinabaysands.com

✓ SENTOSA

The 'entertainment' island of Singapore, known as The State of Fun. For families and teenagers, the Universal Studios on Sentosa Island is

a must see and do. Sentosa is also home to the highest bungee jump in Asia, a 65-metre zip line, cable car rides, water parks and more.

👉 sentosa.com.sg

✓ GARDENS BY THE BAY

The first thing everyone notices about Singapore is just how green it is: trees covered in

flowers bloom along every street, while carefully tended shrubs line busy main roads. Gardens by the Bay is the country's state-of-the-art botanic garden – a 101-hectare fantasy land of space-age biomes, high-tech Supertrees, whimsical sculptures with walkways and waterfalls. In the evenings, the Supertrees twinkle and glow for the wonderful Garden Rhapsody show.

👉 gardensbythebay.com.sg

✓ ORCHARD ROAD

You won't get a true taste of this vibrant culture simply by traipsing around landmarks – you must instead take some time to experience the two top national pastimes: shopping and eating. You may be no stranger to shopping malls here, but Singapore's Orchard Road is a retail experience like no other. Snaking 2.2km across the island, this street is lined with 19 enormous shopping malls featuring 5,000 brands.



Sentosa

NEED TO KNOW

When to go

Known for its year-round warm and humid weather, the city's temperature hovers between 24°C to 31°C.

Getting there

Emirates flies direct to Singapore Airport from Dhs2,085 return. emirates.com

Getting around

The city's public transport system is brilliant. A cheap, clean and reliable network of buses, taxis and the MRT (Mass Rapid Transit) train system make for hassle-free exploring.

Currency

Singaporean dollars (SGD1 to Dhs2.76).



National Museum of Singapore



Orchard Road

WHERE TO STAY



The Warehouse Hotel

Once a spice warehouse, then an oil mill, this historic 1895 building has been transformed into a 37-room boutique hotel. Set along Robertson quay, the meticulously restored Warehouse Hotel is a place where heritage and urban vibes perfectly combine. The rooftop infinity pool – set between two of the original roofs of the warehouse – is perfect for sundowners with a view. Rooms start at Dhs795 a night.

👉 thewarehousehotel.com

WHERE TO GO GREEN

Take a stroll in the MacRitchie Reservoir Park – a proper playground for nature lovers. The highlight of several long hiking routes is the TreeTop Walk, a steel bridge that passes over and through the canopies of this beautifully coiffured nature reserve. Beware of the monkeys; they love your belongings and especially your phones.

👉 nparks.gov.sg

DON'T LEAVE WITHOUT TRYING...

01

A SINGAPORE SLING

The cherry-red Singapore Sling cocktail has its birthplace in the internationally known Colonial-style Raffles Hotel, at the Long Bar to be exact, where empty peanut shells have become part of the interior – the floor is covered with them.

👉 raffles.com

02

HAIRY CRAB

Yes, you read that right: it's a seasonal delicacy and hairy crab is best known for its succulent meat and rich, creamy roe. Make sure you try it steamed, flambéed or generously stuffed in xiao long baos (dumplings) at the famous Min Jiang restaurant.

👉 goodwoodparkhotel.com

03

CHICKEN RICE

Simple comfort food and a classic Singaporean dish, the rice is fragrant, and the chicken tender. Visit the Lau Pa Sat hawker (food) stalls, set up in a beautifully renovated Victorian market hall. It's the perfect combo of architecture, history lessons and great food.

👉 laupasat.biz