

WHERE TO STAY

This lowdown of choicest hotels is tailored for diverse visitors to the island nation, from high-powered business travellers and luxury seekers, to family vacationers and history buffs



WHERE TO STAY

FOR CULTURE VULTURES

CONRAD CENTENNIAL SINGAPORE Located in the Marina Bay area, this hotel is close to several local attractions. Their one-, three- and five-hour itineraries let you explore Singapore efficiently and thoroughly. The hotel is part of the Millenia Singapore development, which features a mall with over 1,000 shops and 300 dining options. (www.conradhotels3.hilton.com; doubles from S\$430 or ₹19,900)

THE FULLERTON HOTEL SINGAPORE The site of the General Post Office and the Singapore Club in previous incarnations, the hotel overlooks the Singapore River. This 400-room icon was proclaimed a National Monument in 2015. If you are a history buff, then be sure to take up the hotel's complimentary heritage tours—a maritime journey tour and monument trail. (www.fullertonhotels.com; doubles from S\$380 or ₹17,617)

GOODWOOD PARK HOTEL A 233-room hotel, it was originally built in 1900 as a club for the German expatriate community and is characterised by old-world charm. An oasis in the middle of the city, the hotel is home to some great restaurants, including Min Jiang, known for its authentic Sichuan Chinese cuisine. (www.goodwoodparkhotel.com; doubles from S\$280 or ₹12,955)

HOTEL 1929 In the heart of Chinatown's former red-light district, Hotel 1929 is perfectly located for a stroll through the neighbourhood. The five former shophouses that make up the 32-room hotel have an assortment of vintage chairs, while a collection of 20th-century photographs line the corridors. (www.hotel1929.com; doubles from S\$119 or ₹5,506)



INSIDER TIPS ON A SMART STAY
CHARANJIT SINGH Chief Digital Native, Construct Digital
Singapore's coolest smart hotels:
The **W Singapore Sentosa Cove** (www.wsingaporesentosacove.com) allows you to open your door using your smartphone. At the **Conrad**

Centennial Singapore (www.conradhotels3.hilton.com), you can use an app to order room service, while **The Ritz-Carlton, Millenia Singapore** (www.ritzcarlton.com) lets you check in and check out using an app. **Places where you're sure to bump into business travellers: Timbre+** (www.timbreplus.sg) located near start-up hub, JTC LaunchPad @ one-north. The restaurant has a modern hawker concept and is surrounded by lots of young start-up companies from the tech, media and engineering sectors. **A co-working space if you're looking to put in some work: The Working Capitol** (www.theworkingcapitol.com) in the trendy Keong Saik Road in Chinatown. It is surrounded by old shophouses, which give it an old-world charm. The interiors are fully equipped to address every digital need you may have, including unlimited wi-fi and tech support.

FOR BUSINESS TRAVELLERS

GRAND COPTHORNE WATERFRONT SINGAPORE A sprawling ballroom, state-of-the-art conference rooms, proximity to the Central Business District (CBD) and the Marina Bay Financial Centre makes this popular with business travellers. The 574-room hotel boasts an integrated dining space, featuring a buffet restaurant Food Capital, the Italian Grissini and a cocktail bar at the renovated lobby. (www.millenniumhotels.com; doubles from S\$260 or ₹12,068)

WANGZ HOTEL A 10-minute drive from CBD, this boutique hotel with its metallic façade attracts a good mix of leisure and business travellers. The restaurant, Upper Place, serves Continental fare and the rooftop bar is perfect for drinks at dusk. (www.wangzhotel.com; doubles from S\$182 or ₹8,470)

NAUMI Located in CBD, this 10-storey glass tower is perfect for conferences, with well-equipped meeting and event spaces. Specially commissioned artworks by local and international artists dot the elegant hotel while handpicked Italian designer furniture can be found in the 73 rooms. (www.naumihotel.com; doubles from S\$304 or ₹14,117)

SWISSÔTEL THE STAMFORD The 71-storey hotel has state-of-the-art business facilities and comfortable rooms. The two outdoor pools, six tennis courts, the Willow Stream Spa and 15 restaurants ensure you have fun ways to stay occupied. (www.swissotel.com; doubles from S\$330 or ₹15,272)

View of the W Singapore Sentosa Cove Previous pages: **exterior of Capella Singapore in Sentosa**



INTERCONTINENTAL SINGAPORE

Located in the cultural hub of Bras Basah, Bugis and close to the heritage enclaves of Kampong Glam and Arab Street, the InterContinental's 403 modern rooms have a distinct Asian touch.

The tips from the Insider Concierge service ensure your jaunts into the city are well-planned.

The hotel's convenient distance from Marina Bay, CBD and the Bugis Junction shopping mall makes it popular with every kind of traveller. (www.ihg.com; doubles from S\$316 or ₹14,615)

JW MARRIOTT HOTEL SINGAPORE SOUTH BEACH

Modern luxury seamlessly combines with functionality in this 634-room hotel, which lets you check in through an app. The two sky gardens and outdoor pools are perfect for unwinding, as is Tonic, for gin-based cocktails. Be sure to have a meal at Akira Back, the fine-dining Japanese restaurant. (www.marriott.com; doubles from S\$367 or ₹16,976)

FOR FAMILIES

HILTON GARDEN INN SINGAPORE SERANGOON In the heart of Little India, this new and affordable hotel is steps away from several attractions, whether it is historic sites or recreational options. The Indian Heritage Centre located nearby is great for kids. The outdoor pool is great for a relaxing dip with the family. If you're in the mood for a busy night of shopping and dinner, after a day spent sightseeing, head to the Mustafa Centre, Singapore's only 24-hour shopping centre. (www.hiltongardeninn3.hilton.com; doubles from S\$200 or ₹9,256)

FURAMA RIVERFRONT HOTEL SINGAPORE

Walking distance from Chinatown, Furama RiverFront has been designed with kids in mind. The hotel's 596 rooms include colourfully done-up Family Rooms and Themed Rooms. The Square@Furama offers delicious food and comes with a play area, Tykes@The Square. PAWS is perfect for some cartoon viewing while you take a dip in the pool or work out at the gym. (www.furama.com; doubles from S\$146 or ₹6,734)

MARINA BAY SANDS

Three 55-storey towers, 2,561 rooms, 50-plus restaurants, a museum, a casino, endless entertainment and great views. Marina Bay Sands is the go-to hotel for families looking to be right at the centre of Singaporean luxury and hospitality. The Crystal Pavilions house the Louis Vuitton flagship store and two nightclubs, Pangaea and Avalon. A 340-metre boat-shaped SkyPark garden is outdone only by the 150-metre-long rooftop infinity pool. A footbridge links the hotel with a promenade leading to the Esplanade Theatres. (www.marinabaysands.com; doubles from S\$419 or ₹19,368)

GRAND HYATT SINGAPORE

Located minutes away from Orchard Road, this hotel is ideal for families who want to make their holiday all about great shopping. Expect a luxurious stay, with spacious rooms and the Damai Spa & Fitness Centre. And when the kids are tucked in for the night, pop in at the Martini Bar to taste the best lychee martinis in town. (www.singapore.grand.hyatt.com; doubles from S\$400 or ₹18,454)

FOR LUXE LOVERS

THE ST. REGIS SINGAPORE Known for its bespoke service, the hotel's 299 rooms come with butler service. Indulge in marine-inspired treatments at the Remède Spa or enjoy jazz and contemporary music at the Astor Bar while sipping on their signature Bloody Mary. (www.stregissingapore.com; S\$440 or ₹20,357)

EDITOR'S PICK CAPELLA SINGAPORE

This five-star hotel in Sentosa is perfect for families looking to explore the island or couples looking for a luxury getaway. Expect personalised attention at this 112-room hotel, and make the most of the resort's gorgeous two-tiered pool, set amid a dense jungle. (www.capellahotels.com; doubles from S\$640 or ₹29,623)

EDITOR'S PICK THE RITZ-CARLTON, MILLENIA SINGAPORE

This 32-storey hotel offers stunning Marina Bay views. The 608-room property boasts a 4,200-piece contemporary art collection, Michelin-star restaurants and a top-storey Club Lounge. Other highlights include an award-winning spa and an outdoor swimming pool. (www.ritzcarlton.com; doubles from S\$459 or ₹21,232)

**INSIDER TIPS ON URBAN HANG-OUTS**

ANJALI DATWANI Founder, Urban Journey

Your idea of the perfect weekend afternoon in Singapore: Have a lazy brunch at **Fynn's** (www.fynnsrestaurant.com), a great

new spot located at South Beach Tower, with an equally good coffee and food selection. Then head over to **The Projector** (www.theprojector.sg) on Beach Road to catch a movie. **A bar you enjoy:** **ATLAS** (www.atlasbar.sg) makes the freshest, most delicious cocktails. **Three urban experiences no one should miss:** Check out some of Singapore's Michelin-star restaurants including my personal favourite, **The Kitchen at Bacchanalia** (www.bacchanalia.asia). Eat at the **Old Airport Road Food Centre** (Old Airport Road). Float around **Kampong Giam** and pop into the stores, bars and restaurants. **Shops and markets that are Singapore's best-kept secrets:** **Tekka Market** in Little India. I love going to the stores at **Haji Lane** and the **Far East Plaza** (www.fareastplaza.com.sg) on Orchard Road too has lots of vintage shops—you just need lots of time.

WHERE TO STAY

THE MANDARIN

ORIENTAL The 527 rooms of the Mandarin Oriental look out at Marina Bay, South China Sea or the city skyline. The interiors are inspired by Singapore's cultural heritage. The spa offers all kinds of Asian therapies and the hotel has plenty of good restaurants to take care of your meals. (www.mandarinoriental.com; doubles from S\$439 or ₹20,310)

SHANGRI-LA HOTEL, SINGAPORE

A flagship Shangri-La group property in Singapore, the hotel comprises 750 rooms and suites. Its glass-walled lobby overlooks 15 acres of botanical gardens. Among the many amenities, there is a free-form swimming pool, restaurants that cater to diverse palates, a bar and an afternoon tearoom. (www.shangri-la.com; doubles from S\$400 or ₹18,548)

THE FULLERTON

BAY HOTEL Jutting out over the Marina Bay waters, this hotel with its glass-and-steel façade has outstanding interiors designed by Hong Kong-based architect André Fu. They include a glass-tiled lobby, the French bistro La Brasserie, Clifford and the popular rooftop lounge, Lantern. Fu may have designed just the public areas, but the classically furnished 100 rooms and suites don't disappoint either. (www.fullertonhotels.com; doubles from S\$530 or ₹24,520)

FOR DESIGN DIVAS

SO SOFITEL SINGAPORE

Stay in a Karl Lagerfeld-designed hotel. Housed in a heritage building in CBD, this hotel, designed by the fashion designer along with interior designer Isabelle Miaja, combines the grandeur of French heritage with whimsical local style. Good design extends to the cuisine at the restaurant, Xperience, with its creatively plated and innovatively prepared dishes.



INSIDER TIPS ON EXPERIENCING THE ISLAND

STEPHANIE CHAI Founder, The Luxe Nomad
Luxury hotels or villas that give you the feeling of being cast away on an island: The recently opened **Villa Samadhi** (www.villasamadhi.com.sg) is a restored colonial residence with a romantic ambience—the perfect sanctuary for couples to relax in, after a day of exploring the city. **The hotel with a must-visit spa:** Capella Singapore's **Auriga Spa** (www.capellahotels.com) is amazing and uses only natural and organic products. **Three things you absolutely must do on a visit to Singapore:** Visit **Gardens by the Bay** (www.gardensbythebay.com.sg), shop at **Orchard Road** and go bar-hopping on **Club Street**, which has cute bars in heritage houses. **Your go-to street-food joints:** **Hill Street Tai Hwa Pork Noodle** (www.taihua.com.sg), which earned a Michelin star last year—but be prepared for long queues. **Boon Tong Kee Chicken Rice** (boontongkee.com.sg) is also one of my favourites. **If you had only 24 hours to shop...** I'd go straight to **ION Orchard** (www.ionorchard.com). **The best way to unwind:** Rent a bicycle for an afternoon ride at **East Coast Park** (www.nparks.gov.sg).

And for local food, there's Lau Pa Sat Festival Market nearby. (www.sofitel-so-singapore.com; doubles from S\$312 or ₹14,475)

HÔTEL VAGABOND

Life-sized metallic elephants on either side of the elevator, a brass rhino doubling up as the reception desk, and paintings

and sculptures everywhere—this hotel is meant for art buffs. The 41-room hotel housed in an Art Deco building also has an artist-in-residence programme, where artists who are invited for a stay create or perform their art in the hotel. (www.hotelvagabondsingapore.com; doubles from S\$430 or ₹19,895)

THE QUINCY HOTEL

Located in the heart of the Orchard Road area, this hotel with its aluminium exterior is hard to miss. The façade houses equally modern interiors with quirky furniture—including egg-shaped suede chairs—and iMac stations. The 108 rooms are well designed and the 12th-floor infinity pool is LED-illuminated. Check in here for the hospitality too, which includes a buffet breakfast, evening cocktails and the complimentary use of the in-room mini bar. (www.stayfareast.com; doubles from S\$280 or ₹13,043)

THE SCARLET SINGAPORE

This Chinatown hotel with a dramatic aesthetic is housed in an Art Deco building, with 80 rooms lavishly decorated in soft leather and velvet. Aria, the rooftop restaurant, offers amazing seafood platters and cocktails, and the open-air Jacuzzi offers a great way to unwind. (www.thescarlethotel.com; doubles from S\$204 or ₹9,473)

WATCH OUT FOR ANDAZ SINGAPORE

Due to open in mid-2017, this hotel will have interiors designed by Hong Kong-based André Fu. While the 39th floor has a rooftop bar with views of the Singapore skyline, it's the hotel's unique dining concept that will have foodies lining up. The 25th floor will recreate local shophouses where you can watch and enjoy local cooking methods through the day. (www.singapore.andaz.hyatt.com)

INTERCONTINENTAL SINGAPORE ROBERTSON QUAY

Set to open this September, this hotel is already taking reservations. Part of The Robertson Quay project to transform the area, this space promises to be a luxury lifestyle destination. (www.ihg.com; doubles from S\$298 or ₹13,646)

EDITOR'S PICK

WANDERLUST Meant for the young, hip crowd, Wanderlust's whimsical design is evident right from the industrial-chic lobby. Disused street signs have been reengineered as stools and wine crates have transformed into dining tables. Owner and hotelier Loh Lik Peng's signature barber's chairs, which are fixtures at his hotels, are found here, too. You can choose to stay in any of the individually designed rooms across five categories—which include capsule rooms or loft-style accommodation with beds reached by ladders. (www.wanderlusthotel.com; doubles from S\$129 or ₹5,969)

