



Singapore

7 days

Tour Description

Singapore provides an interesting mix of natural wonders combined with a very dynamic modern city. Amid contemporary Singapore lies the relaxing Botanic Garden, a beautifully landscaped open zoo and Underwater World, a must see for marine lovers. It's just a hop, skip and a jump to Malaysia where imaginative batik painting is patiently practiced and Portuguese, Dutch and British cultures have mixed with the local Muslim culture to create a truly multicultural experience.

Highlights

- ❖ Half-day tour of Singapore including visit to its oldest temple
- ❖ Observe a Pewter Smith Demonstration
- ❖ Visit to Johore Bahru, Malaysia including batik painting demonstration
- ❖ Explore the oldest Chinese temple in Malaysia, Cheng Hoon Teng Temple
- ❖ Admire rare and endangered species at the Singapore Zoo
- ❖ Travel to Sentosa for a visit to Underwater World, with its Dolphin Lagoon and world class water show

Sample Tour Itinerary

Singapore – 6 nights

Day 1: Singapore

Today arrive in Singapore and transfer to your hotel. The balance of the day is free to relax from the long flight.

Day 2: City Tour

This morning enjoy a half day tour of the city. Drive past the “colonial heart” for a view of Padang: the Cricket Club, Parliament House, Supreme Court and City Hall. We will stop at Merlion Park for great views of Marina Bay and a picture-taking opportunity with The Merlion, a mythological creature that is part lion and part fish. We then visit Thian Hock Keng Temple, one of Singapore’s oldest Buddhist-Taoist temples - erected in 1821 by seamen grateful for safe passage; it stands where Singapore's waterfront used to be before reclamation. The materials used to construct the temple are truly international, with ironwork from Scotland, tiles from England and the Netherlands, and towering granite pillars entwined with dragons from China. Many ancestral tablets stand in the courtyard, and massive lions stand guard at the doors.

We then head to the Singapore Botanic Gardens which epitomizes the tropical island's luxuriant parks. Spread over 52 hectares and close to the center of the city, the Gardens showcase many outstanding plant collections. Highlights include the National Orchid Garden which has 20,000 orchid plants on display. The National Orchid Garden promises sprawling orchid displays, water features, and an exotic bromeliad collection from Central and South America.



Our last stop is at Little India - be prepared for an overpowering of the senses! First, you will be greeted by the strong, heady scent of spices and jasmine garlands, followed by a treasure trove of silverware, brassware, ethnic jewelry and colorful silk saris, dazzling to behold.

The afternoon is free for local activities. Tonight enjoy dining by the River, Singaporean's latest sunset haunt. En-route to dinner you will see the world's largest fountain and take in the beautiful view of the central business district via Benjamin Sheares Bridge. Conclude your evening with a visit to Bugis Street (or another night bazaar), where your guide will take you for a stroll at the night market or 'pasar malam' where you may chance upon bargains you never imagined.

Day 3: Footsteps of Raffles

This tour starts from where it all began – at Raffles Landing Site, where Sir Stamford Raffles is believed to have first stepped ashore in 1819, before progressing to an Exhibition that traces the history of the Singapore River. Your next stop is the Raffles Hotel center for high-society in the 1800's. Here, you will enjoy some light refreshments. Then board a bumboat and cruise along the historic Singapore River. Disembark at Clarke Quay, a riverside festival village where you will get to visit a Pewter Gallery to discover the history of pewter and role of tin in the development of Singapore as a trading port. Be entertained by a demonstration. The balance of the day is free.

Day 4: Johore Bahru, Malaysia

Today enjoy a full day excursion to Malaysia. Drive across the causeway linking Singapore and Malaysia. After clearing immigration, we commence our tour of Johore Bahru with a visit to a Handicraft Center to observe batik painting. This is followed by a photo stop of the Sultan Abu Bakar Mosque before arriving at a local kampong. The final stop will be at a Muslim Cemetery, with a view of the exterior of The Royal Mausoleum before proceeding back to Singapore.

Day 5: Malacca, Malaysia

Today visit Malaysia's most historical city, which has seen the rise and fall of major empires that extended their influence to this region. The legacy of the Malay Sultanate, Portuguese, Dutch and British is evident in Malacca's medieval charm, picturesque buildings, multi-racial population and narrow streets. This tour includes a visit to historic sites such as St Paul's Hill where St. Francis Xavier was interned, Cheng Hoon Teng Temple – oldest Chinese temple in Malaysia and Porta De Santiago – the Portuguese fortress. Lunch in Malacca is included.

Day 6: Singapore Zoo and Sentosa

This morning we leave the city behind as we head north to Mandai and visit to one of the world's most beautiful zoos. The Singapore Zoo is spread over 28 hectares and is a haven to over 3,600 mammals, birds and reptiles including some rare and endangered species. Natural barriers like streams, rock walls and beautiful landscaping are used to separate the animals from visitors thus creating an "open zoo" effect. Experience this new concept in animal keeping from the comfort of your tram or on foot.

We then travel to Sentosa where you will be taken on a 'voyage to the bottom of the sea' at the Underwater World. Its 80-meter transparent acrylic tunnel allows you to view over 2,500 sea creatures in close proximity. Next, visit the Dolphin Lagoon, where you can watch adorable pink dolphins perform their natural antics such as spy-hop, tail-flapping and vocalization. Get into the action at Desperados – a virtual shoot-out blast on motion-based saddles using handheld laser guns. At Images of Singapore, you'll embark on a journey to experience the colorful culture and vibrant heritage of Singapore, re-told through life-size figures, animatronics and special effects. The tour ends with a visit to Songs of the Sea – Singapore's multi-sensory extravaganza – to watch a world-class water show comprising dramatic effects, water jets, lasers, bursts of fire and foot-tapping music set in the sea.



Day 7: Depart Singapore

Today you will be transferred back to the airport for your flight.

INCLUSIONS

- Accommodations: Singapore 6 nights
- Meals: Continental breakfast daily, lunch and dinner as noted in itinerary
- Ground transportation via air conditioned luxury coach
- English speaking assistants and guides
- Admission tickets as outlined in the itinerary