***THE BENEVOLENT DICTATOR’S IDIOSYNCRATIC AND NOT AT ALL NEUTRAL GUIDE TO SINGAPORE***

*This “guide” is divided into the following sections: (1) Food & Restaurants; (2) Drinking & Bars; (3) Shopping; and (4) Top Attractions. I hope it helps you decide how best to spend your time in my hometown; let me know if you (a) liked/didn’t like a recommendation; and/or (b) found something cool I didn’t include!*

1. **FOOD & RESTAURANTS**

In/around the mall attached to the Convention Center:

The basement is chock-a-block with cheerful cafes, fast food outlets (try the Japanese **MOS Burger** chain if you want a change from Subway or Burger King), sandwich bars, coffee places and cheap-to-reasonable restaurants (e.g. Japanese noodle bars, Korean and even a place that specializes in crepes). Of note is **Canele**, a French-inspired casual café that serves lunch-appropriate fare like Croque Monsieur and various sandwiches as well as really good madeleines (if not quite Laduree in Paris), **Din Tai Fung** (a Taiwanese-based chain serving excellent dumplings and Shanghainese food), **Thai Express** (nothing to rave about, but a good fix for cheap, reliable Thai-style noodles) and the **Shokudo Japanese Food Bazaar,** a mini food court which features sushi, nabe, tempura and lots more hearty, homey Japanese fare that you charge on a ticket and pay on exit. Here and there are takeaway joints ranging from fish and chips, frozen yogurt and sandwiches to the famous **Beard Papa** cream puffs (they’re REALLY good!). There is also a small supermarket where you can get fruit, juices, cheeses and so on, as well as a couple of pharmacies and ATMs.

In the mall itself, there’s a pretty good **Food Court** on the 3rd level where you’ll find typical Singaporean and other popular street vendor-style food for well under US$10 per person. **Old Hong Kong** is a good dim-sum and Chinese restaurant on the 2nd floor, as is **Sushi Tei**, a decent, middle of the road, moderately priced “revolving sushi” joint. There’s also a **Starbucks** on street level (near the entrance to the subway station), and a **Cedele** sandwich bar on the 2nd (I think) floor near the escalators to the convention center that does good sandwiches.

For more upscale fare, I recommend the Indian restaurant **Shahi Maharani** and the high-end Japanese restaurant **Inagiku**, both at the Fairmont (2nd level). The Fairmont’s **Asian Market Cafe** serves a very good Singaporean/Asian buffet lunch – problem is that it’s very noisy and often crowded (reservations a must for lunch). I’m not a big fan of **Prego**, their Italian pizza/pasta restaurant, but it’s big and so is a good choice for groups (you’ll probably need reservations for lunch if you’re in a group).

For drinks – consider the **City Space** bar, on the 70th floor of the Swissotel, for sundowners or after dinner (though it gets noisy and crowded on weekend nights when there’s a DJ), or **Ink Bar** on the ground floor of the Fairmont, where a jazz trio plays most nights after 9. The **New Asia** club (one level up from City Space) is worth checking out if you happen to be in the vicinity after 11 on weekends, especially. There are also two or three bar/restaurants on the ground floor of the mall, facing the Raffles Hotel, which are decent places to hang out and meet friends for a bit.

The legendary **Raffles Hotel** is just across the street from the Fairmont. It’s definitely worth a visit (see “Drinking & Bars”, below). Food-wise, its **Empire Kitchen** does good popular Singapore one-dish meals, the **Tiffin Room** is a throwback to the Colonial era complete with Indian tiffin curry lunches, and the **Seah Street Deli** is where you’d go if you wanted an American-style hamburger (for whatever reason). Its buffets – in the **Bar & Billiard Room** (lunch or high tea) and the open **Courtyard** (dinner) are also popular with tourists.

The **Chijmes complex** is a re-developed dining and drinking destination that has one excellent restaurant (**Lei Garden** – fine Cantonese cuisine and impeccable service in a modern setting) and a few decent pubs, bars and casual restaurants. **Indigo**, smack in the middle of the main courtyard, is nice for a sunset drink. (BTW, this complex used to be a convent and Catholic school – mine, as a matter of fact. Our 19th century chapel was preserved, as was the Cloisters. It’s a nice place to walk through.)

If you’re at the **Ibis Bencoolen**, the area is home to several budget-priced hotels and hostels, so it’s easy to find food courts and simple open-air cafes serving street-style food and cheap beer.

Further Afield – the Riverside and the Quays

For a breathtaking riverside setting, beautiful Indo-Chinese décor and decent-enough food, check out **Indochine Waterfront** restaurant and **Bar Opiume** (same owners) on the river next to Parliament House and the Asian Civilizations Museum – about a 15 minute easy walk from the Convention Center.

Cross the historic bridge (pedestrians only) and you’re at the **Fullerton Hotel** – a restored Colonial-era building that has a nice bar called the **Post Bar** (good martinis!). 2 minutes’ walk along the riverside promenade and you’re at **Boat Quay** – a nice setting for a sunset drink on one of the quayside alfresco terraces (check out the **Penny Black Pub** – one of the few places that serves Old Speckled Hen, **Harry’s Bar** next door or Molly Malone’s round the corner; all favorite Happy Hour hangouts for expats and locals who work in the surrounding office buildings) or an after-dinner chat. The food options here are decent and varied, but probably not for those looking for haute cuisine or spectacular food.

At **Clarke Quay** – further along from Boat Quay and a 20 minute walk (or 5 minute taxi ride) from the Convention Center, there are plenty of bars and restaurants to choose from. I recommend the lovely garden setting of **Cocoon Bar** (wonderful setting for a drink at sunset, same owners as Indochine/Opiume on the riverfront) and the modern Indian/fusion restaurant **Coriander Leaf**. There’s also **Attica**, a club that, as far as I know, is still going strong even if it’s not quite the uber-trendy place it was when it first opened a few years ago.

Crossing the footbridge at Clarke Quay brings you to a few favorite places of many locals – the **Jumbo Seafood** restaurant at Riverside Point (reservations recommended) is one of the best places (though unpretentious and without much ambience) to enjoy Singaporean seafood favorites like black pepper crab, chili crab and cereal prawns (yes, order them all). There’s another branch of Jumbo between Clarke Quay and Boat Quay (which are only about 7 minutes’ walk apart along the river anyway), at **Riverside Walk** with the same menu.

In the same row as Jumbo at Riverside Point are pseudo-Mexican casual hangout **Café Iguana** (plenty of hard-to-find (for Singapore) tequilas and acceptable Tex-Mex food, good for groups and riverside lounging) and micro-brewery **Brewerkz** (well-crafted beers, decent burgers and American-sized portions of everything else ☺. Both are casual and clientele typically a mix of expats and locals.

**Other Restaurant Recommendations**

Let’s start with the “must tries” of Singaporean food:

* *Hainanese chicken rice (preferably the white, not roasted variety)*
* *“Char kway teow” (wok-fried flat noodles in dark sauce)*
* *Fried Hokkien mee (wok-fried yellow noodles, usually with seafood)*
* *Katong-style laksa (coconut milk-based spicy gravy and noodles)*
* *Roti prata (Indian-Muslim griddle and tossed flat “pizza” served with curry gravy)*
* *Murtabak (stuffed flat “pizza” with curried meat)*
* *Satay (marinated meat kebabs served with spicy peanut sauce – very different from the Indonesian style and from what you’ll find marketed as “sate” in the West)*
* *Nasi Padang (Indonesian or Malay combination of meat and vegetable dishes with rice; called “nasi campur” in Indonesia)*
* *Fish head curry (tastier than it sounds – massive snapper heads with plenty of fish in a tangy, spicy curry sauce)*

There is also Singaporean seafood (as mentioned above, which is incredible in its freshness and diversity of preparation) and the regional Straits-Chinese (or Peranakan) cuisine, which is a combination of Malay and Chinese techniques, spices and traditions, and which you can get only in Singapore, Malacca and Penang in Malaysia.

Most of the local favorites listed above are ubiquitous in air-conditioned mall food courts, or open-air “hawker centers”, Some famous stand-alone places for each of these dishes include:

* For Hainanese chicken rice, the very simple **Yet Con** (on Purvis Street, 5 minutes from the Convention Center, lunch only) or, for more comfortable surroundings, the **Chatterbox** restaurant at the Meritus Mandarin on Orchard Road.
* For murtabak, **Zam Zam** (simple, no a/c) on North Bridge Road near Arab Street (about 20 minutes’ walk from the Convention Center, and a small neighborhood of Arab textile merchants and Middle Eastern cafes, as well as an old and atmospheric mosque).
* For Peranakan cuisine, **Blue Ginger** on Neil Road (where the GNSO Council dinner will be; 8 minutes’ cab ride from the Convention Center, in a row of historic heritage shophouses) or **True Blue** on Armenian Street (about 10 minutes’ walk from the Convention Center), Guan Hoe Soon (in a suburban neighborhood about 20 minutes away by cab).
* For fried Hokkien mee and satay, head to **Newton Circus Food Center**, an open-air giant food court open mostly at night. Yes, it’s touristy but lots of locals love it too. Note that if you order seafood here – it’s not bad – it can be pricier than you think so check the prices before ordering.

For Singapore-style seafood, besides the two **Jumbo Seafood** establishments I mentioned, there is a whole building consisting of over half a dozen seafood restaurants at the **East Coast Seafood Center**, where you sit on plastic chairs, there’s no a/c, it’s 20 minutes by cab from the city center but you’re practically on the beach (**Jumbo** and its rival, **Long Beach Seafood**, also has branches here). Jumbo and Long Beach also have branches at the trendy, expat-popular suburban enclave at Dempsey Hill. **No Signboard Seafood** (at the Singapore Indoor Stadium – sort of in the middle of nowhere – is also popular with locals.)

You can always be assured of cheap, cheerful, fresh and good, simple food at almost any **food court** (in every air conditioned mall) or **hawker center** (usually open-air), at well under US$10 per person. Many newer food courts will also offer Korean, Japanese, dim sum and Western options. Besides **Newton Circus**, another tourist-friendly open-air hawker centers/food court is **Lau Par Sat** in the central business/financial district, which has tables set up outside after office hours on a side street. **Maxwell Food Center** (near Tanjong Pagar and Chinatown, popular with office workers at lunch) and the food court at **Chinatown Shopping Complex** are both geared largely toward locals, but is where some vanishing Singapore street snacks can be found most easily.

It may seem odd, but authentic, traditional Penang-style food (a cuisine unique to a particular region in Malaysia) is hard to find in the West, and it’s very nicely done by the **Copthorne King’s Hotel**. The buffet is incredibly popular with local families, and the setting is unpretentious, but the food is good and unusual.

Finally, if you don’t have time to go on a culinary caper all over Singapore, the **Straits Kitchen at the Grand Hyatt** is a more upscale but good choice as a one-stop shop for almost all the Singaporean favorites I listed above (the hotel is also home to **Mezza9**, a pricey but very good restaurant that features 9 different “concept kitchens”).

More Upmarket/Fine Dining

On the next street over from the Raffles Hotel (and so only about 5 minutes’ walk from the Convention Center), there’s a very good French restaurant, **Gunther’s**, and a very good Italian, **Garibaldi’s**. Not cheap, but consistently above-average, quiet, modern and with good service.

Another French restaurant I like is **St Pierre** (run by celebrity chef Emmanuel Stroobant; about 10 minutes by cab or a 25 minute mostly-riverside walk from the Convention Center). I also love the private dining room at **Au Petit Salut** at Dempsey Hill, where the chef will craft a menu to your liking and cook it live at the open kitchen in the room.

I also like **Halia** – a wonderfully atmospheric place in the middle of the Botanic Gardens with a small, but usually inventive, menu, and **Mezza9** at the Grand Hyatt, which also has several private rooms, a cigar room and a pretty good Martini Lounge).

Trendy but decent restaurants include **The White Rabbit** (lovely setting in a converted Anglican church), any of the **P.S. Café** outlets and **Wild Rocket at Mount Emily** (run by a local chef-owner who uses fresh produce to create “Modern Singaporean” café cuisine).

The latest entrants to create a buzz among Singapore foodies are all the fancy celebrity chef establishments in the **Marina Bay Sands** casino resort hotel (walkable from the Convention Center or a 5 minute cab ride): **Guy Savoy, Daniel Boulud, Mario Batali, Tetsuya Wakuda** and Singapore’s own **Justin Quek** have all opened (or will open) restaurants here. **Chinois by Susur Lee** has also opened at the other casino resort hote, Resorts World Sentosa.

Other uber-haute, super-expensive options include **Iggy’s** and **Les Amis** (both mostly “expense account” kinds of places, but top-notch, fancy and home-grown).

Fine/Haute Chinese Cuisine

The next best thing to going to Hong Kong - Singapore has some truly excellent high-end Chinese restaurants. Here are some of my favorites (in no particular order):

**Min Jiang at Rochester Park** – a bit of a hike (at least 20 minutes by cab from the Convention Center) but a beautiful tropical garden setting in which to enjoy meticulously-prepared, excellent haute Chinese food. The Rochester Park complex consists of several restaurants and bars, and can make for a nice mellow evening out.

**Jiang Nan Chun at the Four Seasons Hotel** – pricey but delicious and high-quality food in an elegant setting.

**Golden Peony at the Conrad Hotel** – like the Four Seasons; excellent Cantonese cuisine, a good business lunch spot.

**Xin Cuisine at the Holiday Inn Atrium** – fine, traditional Cantonese food, popular with families and business people. Good dim sum.

**Lei Garden at Chijmes** – modern setting, well-executed Cantonese food, good dim sum and 2 minutes’ walk from the Convention Center.

**My Humble House** – upmarket, trendy, modern Chinese cuisine in an uber-modern space at the Esplanade complex by Marina Bay (10-15 minutes’ walk).

**One on the Bund at Clifford Pier** – new and trendy; food can be hit or miss but the setting is spectacular (especially on the outdoor timber deck, where you get an unrestricted view of the Marina Bay and the brand-new architectural wonder that is the Marina Bay Sands resort complex).

**Grand Shanghai at the Grand Copthorne Waterfront** – good, reliable Shanghainese cuisine in a refined setting reminiscent of 1930’s Shanghai.

A Random Suggestion

If you are feeling self-indulgent and have a couple of hours to laze away on Sunday with, don’t miss a Sunday Champagne Brunch. The best, in my view, is on the resort island of Sentosa (15 minute cab ride), at **The** **Sentosa Resort & Spa**. Expensive at over US$100 per person, but for that you get unlimited champagne (usually Veuve, Moet or Joillet), a beautiful terrace with peacocks and a lavish buffet that always includes several varieties of freshly-shucked oysters, endless sashimi, foie gras, steak grilled to order, a separate cheese room (yes, really) and a chocolate fountain (milk and dark), plus the ability to hang out by the adjoining pool for as long as you want afterwards (where you might also see wandering peacocks). Almost as good is the champagne brunch at the **Shangri-La Hotel** on the mainland (similar offerings at a slightly lower price and on a smaller scale, without the pool and peacocks).

1. **DRINKING & BARS (BESIDES THE ONES IN THE FAIRMONT/SWISSOTEL COMPLEX)**

If it’s your first time in Singapore, get thee to the **Raffles Hotel** (across the street from the Convention Center). Unfortunately, the famous Singapore Sling cocktail is more fruit juice than booze and is actually made from a mix, so I do NOT recommend it ☹ Although most tourists head for the famous **Long Bar**, I think the **Bar and Billiard Room** (where, legend has it, a tiger was shot under the billiard table – two of which are still installed) is more atmospheric and “Colonial-like” in feel (especially if you score one of the cushioned rattan couches on the Verandah). The tiny **Writers’ Bar** in the actual lobby of the hotel is notable for its historic ties to writers like Somerset Maugham.

As mentioned above, the **Riverside/Boat Quay/Clarke Quay** area is a good choice for bar-hopping and a leisurely evening for drinks. The **Dempsey Hill** area also houses several wine bars as well as restaurants, while the **Mohamed Sultan** area has a few nice restaurants, pubs and bars. If you’re shopping at Orchard Road, the **Emerald Hill** area has some lovely old Peranakan houses to gawk at (they rent for upwards of US$10,000 a month) and several good bars, some with alfresco seating.

A lovely way to spend an evening, especially during the week, is to head over to Sentosa Island (15 minutes by cab) at sunset and claim a prime spot at the **Costes Beach Club**, which has loungers and tables right on the sand, and serves up cold beer and simple, tasty food like pizza and grilled chicken wings.

Finally, Bali’s famous **Ku De Ta** bar/club has opened a sibling bar on the rooftop deck of the new Marina B ay Sands resort complex, boasting a fabulous view of the Singapore River and downtown areas.

*(Caution: alcohol in Singapore is very highly-taxed, and as such is expensive. Except in neighborhood joints and backpacker haunts, expect to pay at least US$8-10 for a beer (Tiger being the local lager), and much more at the fancier bars. Note also that cocktails tend to be weak – and heavily iced - for the same reason, so you may want to stick to beer, wine or hard liquor if you are used to more generous pours or are somewhat particular about your cocktails!)*

1. **SHOPPING**

Singapore isn’t the shopping mecca it once was, but the main stretch of **Orchard Road** is pleasant enough to walk through, with huge malls on both sides of the street, wide pedestrian sidewalks and just about every brand you can think of, from Louis Vuitton and Gucci to Top Shop and Zara. The Convention Center where we will be is itself attached to a decent mall, and linked to a major subway interchange station which itself continues as an underground mall all the way to the malls at Suntec/Marina Square and the theater complex at the Esplanade.

Electronics and computer accessories are probably cheaper, or similarly priced, in the US but still more expensive in Europe. Near the Convention Center – about 5 minutes’ walk away – the **Funan IT Mall** is chockfull of shops selling laptops, gaming consoles, software, peripherals and accessories at reasonable prices. To find real bargains, head to **Sim Lim Square** (near the Ibis Bencoolen), where the prices, selection and variety are much better, but you’ll need to know what you’re doing (and have a sense of the market price at home before you start your bargaining).

For uniquely-Singapore gifts, I like the following:

* **Risis**, for designed-in-Singapore gold-plated jewelry, including real orchids plated in gold and shaped into brooches. Conveniently, there are outlets at the airport so you can shop before you board. In Orchard Road, they are at Tangs Department Store and the Centerpoint Mall.
* **Madame Butterfly**, for cheap costume jewelry like cloisonné and Burmese jade necklaces and earrings. They also have shops at the airport and at Takashimaya on Orchard Road.
* **Island Shop**, for cotton or linen men’s shirts and ladies’ dresses and tops designed in Singapore. There’s a shop in the mall attached to the Convention Center.
* **British India**, for similar apparel designed in Malaysia. They too have a shop in the mall attached to the Convention Center.
* **Tiger Balm rubs and patches**, a traditional Singaporean medicinal remedy for aches, pains and colds. Available in just about any pharmacy.
* **Ready-made sauces and other “instant cook” packets,** so you can make your own Hainanese chicken rice, laksa, curry and other Singapore-style dishes at home. Available at any supermarket.
* **Bengawan Solo bakery’s cookies and cakes,** especially their “Kueh Lapis” (a multi-layer, rich butter cake) and almost any one of their cookie varieties, since these are all traditional Singaporean favorites based either on old Malay or Colonial recipes. Again, there are outlets at the airport.
* **The Raffles Hotel Gift Shop**, where they have their private-branded teas, coffees and cookies. There is also a food-oriented **Thos S.B. Raffles** store off the courtyard in the hotel which carries all of these, plus a nice selection of fresh, handmade, Raffles Hotel-branded chocolate.

If you are going to be wandering around the Raffles Hotel anyway, also check out:

* **CYC Custom Tailors,** who do made-to-measure shirts for men and women in a dizzying array of great material, including crisp Oxford cotton, and to your specifications (e.g. French cuffs or button holes, peaked lapels or not, pockets, pleats etc.) My husband gets a lot of these made when he visits ☺ You’ll need to come back for a fitting if possible, within a week or so, but they can mail the finished shirts to you anywhere in the world.
* **Jim Thompson,** which is a Bangkok-based store selling scarves, bags and clothing made from high-end Thai silk.

For cheap trinkets, knick knacks and souvenirs, the **Chinatown open air street market** is a good bet. This is a good place to pick up chopstick sets, Chinese-style clothing, postcards and tea. Remember to bargain!

For South-East Asian wares, e.g. ikat hangings, batik shirts, figurines, candle holders, cushion covers etc., **Holland Village Shopping Center** (in a mostly-expat suburb about 20 minutes away by cab) has a multitude of shops that carry a wide variety of nice things. A smaller selection, but reliable and nice, can also be found in a few shops at the **Tanglin Mall** (expat shopping home base, which also has a British India and Island Shop, and a large supermarket carrying many foreign brands for homesick expats).

If you are a serious buyer of Asian antiques, head to **Tanglin Shopping Center**, where there’s also a small but excellent book store called **Select Books**, specializing in books about Singapore and Asia (history, arts, fiction, politics etc.)

Finally, if you are seriously jet-lagged and wondering what there is to do at 3 a.m. on a weekday (other than eat more wonderful Singapore food), the mega-mart known as **Mustafa**, smack in the middle of Little India (Serangoon Road) is open 24 hours and carries everything you can imagine and then some, from R2D2 talking telephones and oddball electronic accessories to gold bangles from India and barrels of spices. It’s open 24 hours, covers a whole city block and has its own hotel and travel agency.

1. **TOP ATTRACTIONS**

Here are my top attractions for Singapore. Obviously, which you choose and like is a matter of personal preference, but these are some I think most people will enjoy (and a few I’d save for a second trip):

* The **Night Safari** (the world’s only night zoo, with a tram that takes you round so you can see various habitats and a wide range of animals, and a few walking trails that are pretty cool. Note that the food options here are NOT great, so you’re better off eating something before making the long trek – around 25-30 minutes by cab – out here.)
* The **Day Zoo** (right next door to the Night Safari but completely different, and not just because of the time of day. One of the world’s top zoos, utilizing natural landscaping and no cages at all, with a great lion exhibit and lots of monkeys.)
* The **Asian Civilizations Museum** (small but good collection in a beautiful historic building in the Colonial District, right by the river – so easy to combine with a drink or lunch at Indochine Waterfront ☺ - and next to other historic Colonial buildings like the Concert Hall and Supreme Court. About 10-15 minutes’ easy walk from the Convention Center.)
* The **Singapore Art Museum** (small but nice collection of mostly Asian art, housed in what was an old Catholic boys’ school (my dad went there) very near the Chijmes complex and the Convention Center. Has a decent coffee place on the ground floor ☺)
* A **“bumboat” ride along the Singapore River** (from Clarke/Boat/Robertson Quay.)
* The **Jurong Bird Park** (like the zoos, it’s a long cab ride but well worth it if you enjoy seeing birds (from hawks to peacocks) in their natural habitat, including one of the world’s largest walk-in aviaries complete with mini-waterfall.)
* The **Orchid Garden at the Singapore Botanic Gardens** (the world’s largest collection of unusual and in some cases unique orchids, in a stunning garden setting and situated within the very pleasant Botanic Gardens. Can be combined with a long lunch at Halia restaurant ☺)
* A **stroll through the Quays/riverside area, Chinatown and/or Little India** (but not when it’s raining ☺ The latter two areas have interesting temples and some semblance of traditional, ethnic culture and lifestyle amidst Singapore’s concrete jungle. Chinatown also has a small and interesting **Chinese Heritage Museum**, well worth a stop.)
* The **WWII Bunkers at Fort Canning** (for a brief but interesting glimpse into the British bunker troops and critical decisions they made in WWII up to the surrender of Singapore; easily reachable from the Convention Center – pleasant 15-20 minute walk or short cab ride.)
* In the right season, take a picnic to **Ballet under the Stars at Fort Canning Park** or the weekend **Symphony Space at the Botanic Gardens**, or attend a performance at the **Esplanade Theaters by the Bay**.
* The **Singapore Flyer** (not my favorite, although some people really enjoy it so maybe if you liked the London Eye you would too ….?)

If you have more time:

* A day trip to **Pulau Ubin** (a relatively undeveloped island reachable by a 15 minute boat ride from Changi Jetty (near the airport, so about 30 minutes from downtown), with good mountain biking trails, a couple of decent seafood restaurants and a chance to see what Singapore was probably like 50 years ago.)
* If you don’t get to go to Bali, Phuket or Ko Samui but have a couple of hours to kill on a weekday, head to **the beach on Sentosa** for some leisurely sun time and drinks at sunset at Costes ☺)

What I would NOT do on a first trip or if I didn’t have time (I know some people will disagree with these, especially as some of them are really pretty interesting to visit, but you can’t see EVERYTHING in one trip):

* The **Mandai Orchid Garden** (not to be confused with the one – more centrally located – at the Botanic Gardens; this one is next to the Night Zoo and recommended only if you REALLY are into orchids and have already seen the other one.)
* Either of the new **casinos** (unless you are there for dinner and want to check it out, or have a thing for casino visits; be warned, though, that as of Christmas 2010 they didn’t have Texas Hold ‘Em or many craps tables. You’ll need to bring your passport for free entry if you’re not Singaporean.)
* **Mount Faber** (unless you want to get to Sentosa by cable car.)
* **Haw Par Villa** (although it actually can be interesting for its displays about Chinese mythology and its excellent exhibit showing the history of Chinese immigrants in Singapore, it’s a 20 minute cab ride with nothing else in the vicinity of much interest to tourists.)
* **Changi War Museum & Chapel** (don’t get me wrong, this is a fantastic museum, and the exhibits are really well-done and very touching, especially if you have any interest at all in WWII, but it’s a long cab ride (20-25 minutes) so I’d not recommend it to the casual tourist in a hurry.)
* The **Singapore History Museum** (again, an excellent exhibit, particularly in relation to the history and founding of Siingapore, but if you have time for just one museum I’d suggest the Asian Civilizations Museum over this.)
* The **Peranakan Museum** (for the same reason.)

*Enjoy your trip to Singapore! Let me know if you have questions or if I can help in any way!*