



# SINGAPORE

Colonial to Contemporary

## Overview

In the last 20 years the island nation of Singapore has transformed itself from a bustling commercial city into a vibrant cultural centre – a leading city in Asia for art, music and design. It boasts remarkable museums and galleries, a vibrant performing arts scene, and an enigmatic outward looking culture.

On this 6-day tour we'll explore the best of Singapore's complex heritage, from contemporary architecture, historical museums, natural history spaces, visual arts and fine dining. It is timed to coincide with Singapore Art Week.

## Tour leader

Robert Veel is a cultural historian with over 25 years of experience leading tours. Robert holds a BA, Dip. Ed and M.Ed, all from the University of Sydney. He has a strong personal interest in the visual arts, architecture and music, and is a founding director of Academy Travel.

## Essential information

**Tour dates:** January 18-23, 2022

**Price per person:** \$5,390

**Supplement for sole use of double room:** \$1,240

**Maximum number in group:** 16

**Start:** 6.00pm January 18,  
Fullerton Hotel Singapore

**Finish:** 6.00pm January 23,  
Fullerton Hotel Singapore

## Itinerary

Singapore (5 nights)

## Further information and bookings

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## Highlights

### Henderson Waves

Traverse this eye-catching bridge, which provides a spectacular tree canopy walk through the Southern Ridges and creates a nine-kilometre-long greenspace to the west of the city centre.

### Asian Civilisations Museum

Learn about the diverse civilisations from which the ethnic groups of Singapore trace their ancestry in this museum, ranked among the top 10 in Asia.

### National Gallery of Singapore

Tour the beautiful historical collections of the National Gallery; housed in the former Supreme Court and Municipal Building, it's an excellent example of adaptive reuse of a colonial building.

### Singapore Art Week

Explore the diverse exhibitions of contemporary art around the city and see why Singapore is rapidly becoming a major hub on the international art scene.

### Natural History in Singapore

Enjoy natural history in Singapore, including the wonderful Botanic Gardens and the second largest aquarium in the world, with exotic marine life from Africa to the Pacific.

## Detailed itinerary

### Tuesday 18 January – Arrive Singapore

Many day flights arrive from Australia in the late afternoon. At 6pm we meet in the hotel reception and head to a nearby venue for welcome drinks and finger food. (C)

### Wednesday 19 January – Heritage and Art

We begin our program with the beautiful displays of the Asian Civilisations Museum, which survey the decorative arts of various South East Asian cultures. Next, we head to the National Gallery of Singapore for the first of two visits focused on the permanent collection located in the court buildings of the former Supreme Court. The collection includes paintings from the 18<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup> centuries and historical displays highlighting aspects of colonial Singapore. After lunch in the museum's National Kitchen restaurant, we visit its rooftop installation, an art project by Charles Lim with more than 30 plant species. The evening is at leisure, and you may wish to join Robert for an optional stroll through the Marina Bay district. (B, L)

### Thursday 20 January – Kampong Gelam and Modern Architecture

We start the day with an early morning visit to Kampong Gelam, a traditional district to the east of the city that is the centre of the Malay community. Here we stroll among colonial architecture, mosques and colourful shopfronts that are emblematic of Singapore's thriving multicultural communities. We then tour Singapore's wonderful modern architecture which has dramatically changed the skyline over the past 15 years with commercial and public buildings by architects including Sir Norman Foster, I. M. Pei, Zaha Hadid and Moshie Safdie. The late afternoon is at leisure. In the evening, we enjoy a performance, details of which will be announced when the performance program is finalised. (B)

### Friday 21 January – Singapore Art Week

This morning there is an optional early morning visit to Henderson Waves, suspended 36 metres above parkland and forests in the southern ridges. After breakfast at the hotel, we explore exhibitions of contemporary art at the National Gallery and at the Singapore Art Museum. The afternoon is at leisure and you may wish to explore more of Singapore Art Week with Robert, visit Singapore's other attractions, or simply relax. In the evening, there is an optional walking tour of Little India and the public art projects that take place there as part of Singapore Art Week. (B)



## Hotels

For the duration of the tour, we stay at the **five-star Fullerton Hotel**, which is within walking distance of major galleries and museums. The hotel has numerous cafes, bars and restaurants as well as an outdoor pool, fitness centre and spa.

## Weather

Singapore has a tropical climate with stable temperatures of 24-32° and high humidity **year-round**. Wear loose clothing, and bring a hat, umbrella and walking shoes. Indoor sites are well air-conditioned, so a light jacket is also recommended.

## Fitness requirements for this tour

### GRADE TWO ★★

This Grade Two tour is physically demanding. To participate on this tour, you should be able to:

- keep up with the group at all times
- walk for 5-7 kilometres over the day at a moderate pace
- stand and slow walk for up to 90 minutes galleries and museums
- negotiate walking over uneven ground on dirt tracks
- walk up and down steps and slopes
- get on and off a coach with steps unassisted
- move your luggage unassisted

## Saturday 22 January – Botanic Gardens and Singapore Aquarium

We start the day with an early morning visit to the Singapore Botanic Gardens, carved out of a remaining section of Malay forest not far from the city centre. After returning to the hotel and time to relax, we visit Singapore Aquarium, the second largest aquarium in the world, with a fantastic array of exotic marine life from the African coastlines, through the Andaman Sea and into the Pacific. In the early evening we enjoy dinner at the Michelin-starred Labyrinth restaurant. (B, D)

## Sunday 23 January – WWII and the National Museum

This morning we visit Fort Canning Park and tour the Fort Canning Bunker. It was here in 1942 that the allies surrendered to the Japanese. The complex includes a telephone exchange, signals and operating rooms, sleeping quarters and a cipher room for decoding messages. After our tour, we then visit the National Museum of Singapore, whose exhibitions explore different aspects of the region's history from prior to the creation of Singapore through to the present. The tour concludes with High Tea at Fullerton. (B, HT)

