


Best destinations to visit: Why Singapore should be more than just a stopover

 7news.com.au/best-picks/best-destinations-to-visit-why-singapore-should-be-more-than-just-a-stopover-c-15683940

13 August 2024

My first experience in Singapore was a six-hour stopover.

I spent all that time wandering around the otherworldly airport, Changi.

As far as airports go, it's incredible. Movies, food, massages and almost more duty-free shops than people.

But I was left wondering about the city beyond the glass walls of Changi.

And that's not an uncommon experience. For many Australians, Singapore is often regarded as a mere stopover on the way to the next destination.

Or, it's a home for expats working in finance or at global companies.

But Singapore really is a vibrant and diverse tourism hotspot.

From its eclectic mix of cultural experiences to its cutting-edge attractions and luxurious accommodations, Singapore offers experiences that go beyond the typical stopover visit.

For Australian tourists accustomed to vacationing in Bali, Thailand, and Vietnam, Singapore presents a refreshing alternative that combines urban sophistication with unique cultural charm. And some of the best food in the world.

The unique charm of Singapore: A first impression

Arriving in Singapore at peak hour, one is immediately struck by the city's juxtaposition of luxury and simplicity.

The streets are a blend of extremely expensive cars and humble mopeds, creating a fascinating contrast that is uniquely Singaporean.

The city's infrastructure is reminiscent of Canberra, yet it is deeply rooted in Southeast Asian culture, making it a familiar yet novel experience for Australians.

The omnipresent air conditioning units and the lingering threat of rain add to the city's character, while its nearly six million residents contribute to its bustling energy.

Walking through the city, the diverse architectural styles tell the story of Singapore's rich history and rapid modernisation.

The plan is to spend eight days in this city, to really understand the vibe, and what makes it tick.



The Clan's Gran Premier Room Credit: Supplied

Cue the chaos

Singapore is a beautiful city, but I was craving a bit of chaos. It was time for the hawker markets — street food, fresh produce and some history. It was time to go to Chinatown.

One of the newest offerings from Far East Hospitality is [The Clan Hotel](#) Singapore.

Situated at the crossroads of culture and commerce within the Far East Square heritage precinct and Telok Ayer district, The Clan Hotel Singapore is mere minutes away from commercial buildings in Raffles Place and Tanjong Pagar; cultural sites around Chinatown; as well as uniquely Singaporean sights such as Marina Bay and Gardens by the Bay.

The building itself is stunning. And it gets better inside.



The lobby of The Clan Hotel in Singapore is a nod to the area's rich cultural heritage. Credit: MARC TAN/Supplied

The Clan Hotel Singapore offers an immersive cultural experience with its meticulously designed interiors and personalised services.

The rooms are luxurious and equipped with state-of-the-art amenities. Everything is so considered, a melding of cultural heritage and modern luxury.

Given the hotel is in the middle of one of the most culturally significant areas, surrounded by numerous hawker markets and historic landmarks, it's easy for a first-time visitor to Singapore to be overwhelmed.

But The Clan Hotel Singapore has considered this too, and offers exclusive access to their "Clan Keepers" — who provide personalised recommendations and insights into the city's hidden gems.



The Sky Pool of The Clan Hotel in Singapore is 30 floors up and has incredible views. Credit: MARC TAN/Supplied

It's a really nice touch, and helped us learn about the origins of Singapore (and where to find the best char kway teow!)

After a day traipsing through the hawker markets eating all the things, it was a true delight to take a dip in one of the best pools in Singapore.

The hotel's stunning rooftop Sky Pool has panoramic city views, the perfect venue for one of the hotel's signature cocktails.

And add in the fully equipped Sky Gym (one of the best I've seen in a hotel), and a variety of dining options that celebrate Singapore's rich culinary heritage, and you have a winner. The hotel's marquee restaurant is QĪN, headed up by acclaimed Executive Chef Maksym Chukanov, whose menu was a brilliantly executed blend of Western fine dining treated with an Asian flair.

The Clan Hotel Singapore by Far East Hospitality is an ideal choice for travellers seeking a unique blend of tradition and modernity.

While destinations such as Bali, Thailand, and Vietnam have long been popular with Australian tourists, Singapore offers a different kind of experience.

Its blend of modernity and tradition, coupled with its world-class attractions and events, makes it an ideal destination for those looking to explore beyond the usual tourist spots.

The city's efficient public transportation system, clean streets, and friendly locals make it easy to navigate and enjoy.

So, the next time you're planning a trip, consider making Singapore your main destination rather than just a stopover. You'll love what this vibrant city has to offer.