Hotel Jen Singapore

Nicknamed the ‘Little Red Dot’, Singapore is home to many cultural influences. Shining skyscrapers stand tall over historic temples, a remarkable contrast of its continued development, but that’s barely a scratch on the surface of this city’s diversity.

For those of you under the impression that Singapore’s “100% urban” status means the scenery is all buildings and businesses, allow me to rectify that misconception with 3 simple words: Singapore Botanic Gardens. Discover the beauty of Singapore’s only UNESCO World Heritage Site as you wander among the moss covered heritage trees or explore the rainbow rows of orchids in the National Orchid Gardens. You can easily spend hours lounging near lakes, bird watching and feeding turtles in this 150-year-old park, but the day is young, and you haven’t even had a kopi (coffee) yet!

For that, head to Killiney Kopitiam, which is located in the middle of the Orchard Road area. Aside from the robust coffee, often taken with condensed milk, I’d also recommend first-timers try the kaya toast (bread with coconut jam) and soft-boiled eggs.

Five minutes north of there, you’ll find K+ Gallery in Scotts Square where you can bring home a uniquely Singapore souvenir. The space showcases emerging local talents and doubles as a communal haven for artists and visitors alike. One of my favorite features of this gallery is that it swaps out exhibits every six to eight weeks, making just about every visit a truly unique one.

The entire stretch of the bustling Orchard Road is lined with shiny new malls and entertainment venues. My favourite quiet spot in town is Emerald Hill, which is on a side street across from Orchardgateway Mall. Here you’ll find beautiful century-old Peranakan terrace houses shrouded behind fragrant frangipani trees, perfect for colourful Instagram moments or taking a breather at one of the laidback bars.

As the sun sets, Singapore’s urban beauty descends into nighttime fun. It’s only a matter of time before the urge to have a drink sets in, and one of the best downtown places to satisfy that desire is at Horse’s Mouth. The décor is modern and chic, but finding the entrance is half the fun of getting inside. Once you do though, the key to unlocking this bar’s full potential is its creative cocktails. Pro tip: Look out for Uma Uma Ramen, the entrance to Horse’s Mouth is not far behind.

Here is where I leave you, dear traveller. The evening is sure to spur you on with a momentum reserved for Singaporean adventure, and when you’re done and in need of a comfortable bed, Hotel Jen will be there to welcome you.