

Five day Itinerary with friends - no kids

Day 1

Am - Tanjong Beach. Take a towel and just sit and take in the strangely relaxing scenery of ships, tankers and the like. Have a dip if you like and just catch up. Don't rush too much as everyone is just catching their breath. Then after an hour or so - or more if you have sun worshippers visiting - head for brunch at the Marina. I like Em for a good breakfast and if you've got kids in tow they can play on the pirate ship playground whilst you enjoy a chat with your friends. Another favourite spot that I'd go to any time of the day is Coastes - quick service and you get to sit on the beach.

PM - Walk around Sentosa - I would always get the free tram to Beach Station and go to Merlion Walk and show guests the magnificent Merlion that takes pride of place there. You can even go inside and up to its head for some stunning views of Sentosa and the surrounding area. There are a whole list of other things to do on Sentosa here. More info on Sentosa on my blog post.

Evening depends on how tired everyone is but a relaxed dinner at home is always a good way to round off day 1. You can always grab some hawker food if you are short of time (or cooking skills!)

Day 2

AM - Boat trip on the river. Start at Clarke Quay. Get off at Clifford Pier to see the original Merlion at Merlion Park. Perfect photo opportunities here - if you don't know what you're doing take some tips from those around you. Then walk down to the Fullerton Bay Hotel and go in to reception. Not only is it a respite from the heat but it's beautiful decor and peaceful feel will take your breath away. And don't worry, you can just wander in as it's a public walkway. Once you've taken in the sights around there, jump back on a boat and get off at Esplanade. More details on Clarke Quay boat trips here.

PM - Have a quick look at The Esplanade and get some pics of the Grand Prix Track from its roof, then walk towards Marina Bay Sands crossing the stunning Helix Bridge. You can stop for lunch around the Esplanade or eat at one of the many places at MBS (I love TWG for some good old fashioned elegance or there's plenty of other options including a not too pricey food centre on the lower floor. Now grab your head for heights and go on up to the Sky Park for the most stunning views of Singapore. This is where your guests will get to see what the city is about - and they stretch their neck enough, can gawp at those in the famous infinity pool (no entry if you're not a guest I'm afraid). You can stop at Ce La Vie for a quick drink - a good way to relax whilst taking in the view.

On the way home it's time to head to Raffles. Everybody who has visited us here has this at the top of their 'must do' list. It may be a bit of a tourist trap and overpriced, but it is so reminiscent of a bygone era it's worth it. It'll only take an hour (if there's not a queue) and is a good way to round off the day. Of course, you have to go to the Long Bar and have a Singapore Sling, but also have a look around the Courtyard and in the gift shop. Some lovely take home gifts there. * NB The Long Bar and much of the hotel is closed for renovations at the moment (October 2017) so check the website before you go.

Evening - After a freshen up and some down time back at home or the hotel it's time to head for cocktails somewhere swanky. My favourite spot is The Lantern Bar. Pricey but worth it for the view and the atmosphere. Other places to consider are Smoke & Mirrors, Ce La Vie or Zafferanos. All offer great views.

Or if you fancy it head to one of the more hip places like Jigger & Pony, Operation Dagger or Bitters & Love is my personal fave. add links to cocktail pages here You can snack whilst drinking your cocktails as most places in Singapore offer bar snacks which are usually more than substantial if you've had a big lunch!

Day 3

AM & PM -Time to relax. Jet lag will kick in on day 3 so give your guests the day off. If you are a member of a club, head there for a day around the pool. Have a relaxed lunch, maybe even a spa treatment if you can. A condo pool or house pool would do the trick too - ask friends if you don't have one and are not a member anywhere - or take advantage of most clubs free two weeks/one month membership whilst you have guests.

Evening - Having spent the day relaxing, head out early to Gardens By The Bay - my absolute favourite touristy thing to do in Singapore as you'll read here. The Singing Trees do their stuff at 7:45 and 8:45 every night.

Pay the minimum charge (about \$20 per person) and go to the top of the main tree and have a drink, it's worth it - the views are stunning, especially as the city lights up at night. They do some pretty tasty snack up there too if you get hungry. The Indochine restaurant - which is a floor lower than the rooftop bar, is great if you want to splash out on dinner. But I would go for something a little less heavy on the wallet and wander over to Sate By The Bay after the light show and try some of the best local food around. Don't miss out on the Pork Belly or Sate.

Day 4

AM - Book a walking tour. I love Betel Box tours and highly recommend their China Town Food Tour. It's really informative and takes you to places you wouldn't necessarily know about, as well as the obvious spots. Of course, it's all dependent on what day this is and what they have scheduled but get in early and you can work your itinerary around them. They do offer private tours too which although more expensive, actually may be worth it to do what you want.

PM - Depending on how everyone feels as walking around in this humidity can really get to you, the afternoon can be spent wandering around the markets in China Town - all the cheap touristy gifts can be found here. Arab Street and Little India also are good places for this.

Evening dinner should be somewhere relaxed, one of your favourite local dining spots maybe, or a club. Let your friends see what you do and where you'd go.

Day 5

AM - Time for some history. Either head to Reflections at Bukit Chandu, Fort Siloso or my recommendation would be Changi War Museum. A great way to learn about the history of Singapore and a good end to a hectic week.

PM - Take some down time to sit and chat, after all, they'll be gone before you know it. Make tea, put your feet up and just enjoy them being there. They'll also need to think about packing, dependent on what time they leave tomorrow.

Evening - time to get your glad rags and show them how it's done in Singapore. 'Dinner up high' is an absolute must and tell your friends to allow for this in their budget as it doesn't come cheap. Artemis has the best food, great view and fab bar in my opinion, but there's also Level 33, Zafferano's, Mandarin Oriental, Ce La Vie (you will need to take out a mortgage though!), Me @ Oui, to name but a few.

These are just ideas for a five day itinerary with friends and is pretty packed. Obviously you can miss things out or swap things around. For example, it may be that it pours down one day and you have to do the museum on day two instead. Be flexible but try to have a plan of some sort. That way your friends will leave feeling like they've seen something of this amazing island. Talking of rain, don't assume rain stops play - as you'll know once you've lived here a while, it can be raining one side of the street, and not the other. Plus, it's very often short lived. Just take a brolly and get on with it.

Other places to visit that you can swap in are:

Orchard Road - I've missed out shopping on here as it bores me, but if you have a shopaholic visiting you must of course visit the shopping district - Ion, Paragon etc. Botanic Gardens - a beautiful and relaxing stroll for as long or short as you like.

National Museum - in fact any museum! The Peranakan is one of my faves.

Singapore Zoo - both during the day and at night (the Night Safari is very popular).

Gardens By The Bay - either just wander around the huge gardens and/or go into the flower dome or cloud dome (take a jumper, it's chilly in there!)

Pulau Ubin - to see a bit of how Singapore used to be. Ideal for mountain bike enthusiasts.

Cable Car over to Sentosa.

Jurong Bird Park.

Kent Ridge Park - or any of the other parks, especially early morning to catch a taste of what the locals do to keep fit.

Trick Eye museum - there are two in Singapore, one on Sentosa and one Suntec. Both great fun and a must for all Instagram addicts.

The list goes on and on...

Take a look at the other itineraries for more information on the above or more ideas.