

Destination Information Guide

Singapore



The following general outline offers practical information, suggestions and answers to some frequently asked questions. It is not intended to be the definitive guide for your trip.

1551 SE PALM COURT, STUART, FL 34994

772 287 7995 / FAX: 772 287 5990 / 800 BIG FIVE (800 244 3483)

WWW.BIGFIVE.COM & WWW.GALAPAGOS.COM EMAIL: INFO@BIGFIVE.CO

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Welcome to the World of Big Five!

Big Five Tours & Expeditions is pleased to welcome you on this exciting adventure. We take great care to insure that your travel dreams and expectations are well met. Our distinctive journeys allow you to experience the finest aspects each destination has to offer. We also aim to provide you with a deeper understanding of and appreciation for the places you'll visit and the people you'll meet.



Singapore, Singapore

Elevation: 52 feet Latitude: 01 22N Longitude: 103 59E



Average Temperature

Years on Record: 11

	YEAR	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
°F	82	81	82	83	83	83	84	83	83	82	82	81	80

Average High Temperature

Years on Record: 11

	YEAR	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
°F	87	85	88	88	89	88	88	87	87	87	87	87	85

Average Low Temperature

Years on Record: 11

	YEAR	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
°F	77	75	76	77	77	78	78	78	78	76	77	76	75

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WEATHER

Singapore experiences a tropical climate with hot, humid weather all year round. Temperatures remain high with daytime averages of 86°F (30°C). Humidity is usually above 75%. Singapore has two distinct monsoon seasons: Northeastern season from December to March and Southwestern season June through September. November to December are the rainy months. June to August is the best time to travel to Singapore, although it is still rainy and humid and travelers should pack accordingly: lightweight cottons and linens and rain gear.

TIME

GMT + 8.

PASSPORT / VISA

Passports: For international travel, a U.S. passport valid for at least six months from date of departure, containing **at least** two blank pages is necessary.

Visas: No visa is required for US/Canadian nationals.

If you are traveling to more than one country, please check appropriate sources to determine if you need a visa for any of the countries you are visiting. If you need a visa prior to arrival, Big Five has appointed Zierer Visa Service, www.ZVS.com, to process required visas for our passengers. *If you book your trip through Big Five, the Visa Application Kit is included with your pre-trip confirmation packet.* You can also download the necessary forms from the website, where you will enter the visa section for Big Five Tours & Expeditions. Here you will find a list of country-specific forms. You will also discover useful hints such as how to obtain a passport, adding passport pages, and other tips.

Important: Please look at your passport before you submit it to ZVS to insure that:

- 1) Your passport is valid for at least six months after the date of travel.
- 2) You have sufficient blank pages for visa stamps that will be added as you travel in and out of various countries.

Please note: Pages reserved for amendments and endorsements cannot be used for visas.

AIRPORT FORMALITIES

Upon arrival, proceed through immigration and baggage claims and customs. Big Five personnel or their representatives will assist you with your baggage, escort you to your hotel, and assist with check-in. **Departure**

Tax: None at this time.

CUSTOMS INTO SINGAPORE

Duty free: Travelers to Singapore over 18 years old do not have to pay duty on 1 liter of wine, spirits and beer.

Restricted items: Chewing gum and tobacco products must be declared upon arrival.

Prohibited: Strictly prohibited is the trafficking in illegal drugs, *which carries the death sentence*. Liquor or cigarettes with "Singapore duty not paid" on the label, carton or packet, cigarettes with the prefix 'E' printed on the packet, cigarette lighters of revolver or pistol shape, controlled drugs or psychotropic substances, firecrackers, endangered species of wildlife and their byproducts, all pornographic films and literature, reproduction of copyright publications, videotapes, video compact discs, laser discs, records or cassettes. The penalties for possession of narcotics are severe and visitors not complying with drug regulations do so at the risk of death.

Prohibited Exports: Export permits required for arms, ammunition, explosives, animals, telecommunications equipment, film and videotapes and discs, precious metals and stones, drugs and poisons.

U.S. CUSTOMS

Returning U.S. residents are allowed to bring back \$800 worth of merchandise duty-free. There are limits on some items. Regulations frequently change. For a list of exempt items and more information contact your nearest Customs office or write the U.S. Customs Service, Box 7407, Washington, DC 20044.

HEALTH REQUIRMENTS

International travelers should be in generally good health. Talk with your personal physician about any shots or boosters recommended depending on your personal health profile and your itinerary. Tetanus and polio vaccines should be up to date. No required immunizations are currently required, which is probably one of the safest destinations in the developing world, from a general health standpoint. All vaccinations that you do have should be recorded on an International Health Certificate, available from your physician or health department. To have the most benefit, see a health-care provider at least 4–6 weeks before your trip to allow time for your vaccines to take effect.

Yellow Fever: Yellow fever inoculation is required if one of the following applies:

- If you are coming from any area other than the United States, Europe, or Canada.
- If you plan on visiting more than one African country.

Please note: If you are on medication, be sure to bring enough for the duration of the trip. Prescription medicines

should always be carried in their original containers in your hand luggage.

Other risks: Hepatitis A and E are widespread; hepatitis B is hyperendemic. Rabies is present. For those at high risk, vaccination before arrival should be considered. If you are bitten, seek medical advice without delay. Dengue Fever: There is a risk in Singapore. Travelers should take normal precautions against being bitten by mosquitoes.

Please note: If you are on medication, be sure to bring enough for the duration of the trip. Prescription medicines should always be carried in their original containers in your hand luggage. If you wear contact lenses or glasses, we suggest you bring an extra pair and cleaning fluid.

Health insurance is strongly advised during any foreign travel. *Please check the latest regulations with your local health office or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention* hotline for international travelers at 1-877-FYI-TRIP (1-877-394-8747); fax: 1-888-CDC-FAXX (1-888-232-3299), or their main telephone number in Atlanta, 404-332-4559. To receive these documents, call 404-332-4565 and follow the prompts. You can also visit the CDC's website at www.cdc.gov/travel.

CLOTHING

*For general clothing information, please review the **Travel Handbook** in your pre-departure materials. See pre-departure information for general packing check list.*

Lightweight cottons and linens in summer. Warmer medium-weight clothing for mountain areas.

LUGGAGE

*For general baggage information, please review the **Travel Handbook** in your pre-departure materials.*

In this security conscious era, airline luggage restrictions may change without notice. Also, luggage limits vary depending on ticket class, plane size, destinations, etc. It is always best to confirm with airlines for specific limitations. Scheduled flights from other countries and within foreign countries generally limit luggage to 44 pounds total, plus one carry-on personal item. Further restrictions may apply for charter flights. This will vary with destination and type of planes used. We will advise you of those restrictions in your final itinerary.

MONEY

Singapore's currency is the Singapore Dollar (SGD), which is divided into 100 cents. The US and Australian Dollars, Yen and British Pound are also accepted in the larger shopping centers. Major credit cards are accepted in

hotels, shops and restaurants. ATMs are widely distributed and banks advance cash against the major credit cards. Travelers' checks can be cashed at banks or licensed moneychangers and at selected hotels. Banks are open daily, but some do not do foreign exchange on Saturdays.

Credit & debit cards: American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa are widely accepted. Check with your credit or debit card company for details of merchant acceptability and other facilities which may be available.

Travelers checks: To avoid additional exchange rate charges, travelers are advised to take travelers checks in Pounds Sterling.

Currency restrictions: There is no restriction on the import and export of local or foreign currency.

Banking hours: Mon-Fri 0930-1500, Sat 0930-1300. Branches of certain major banks on Orchard Road open Sun 0930-1500.

LANGUAGE

The four official languages are Malay (the national language), English, Chinese (Mandarin) and Tamil. Most Singaporeans are bilingual and speak English, which is used for business and administration.

COMMUNICATIONS

The international access code for Singapore is +65. The outgoing codes are: 001, 002, 008 or 018, depending on the service provider, followed by the relevant country code (e.g. 001 for the US). City or area codes are not used. Public phones are good for local and international calls; they take credit cards or phone cards, which can be bought at newspaper kiosks and Telecom shops. Calls made from hotels are free of any surcharges. Several local mobile phone operators use GSM 900/1800 networks. Email and Internet access is available at Internet cafes throughout the city. **Internet:** Internet cafes are available throughout Singapore.

ELECTRICITY

220/240 volts AC, 50Hz. Plug fittings of the three-pin square type are in use. Many hotels have 110-volt outlets.

FOOD & DRINK

To be safe, drink only bottled or boiled water, or carbonated drinks in cans or bottles. Avoid tap water, fountain drinks and ice cubes. Use bottled water for brushing teeth, clearing contacts, etc. Do not eat food purchased from street vendors. Make sure food is fully cooked. Avoid dairy products, unless you know they have been pasteurized.

That said, Singapore is a gourmet's paradise, ranging from humble street stalls to 5-star restaurants.

There are over 30 different cooking styles, including various regional styles of Chinese cuisine, American, English, French, Indian, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Malay, Russian and Swiss. Malay cuisine is a favorite, famed for its use of spices and coconut milk. Satay (skewers of marinated meat cooked over charcoal) served with peanut sauce, cucumber, onion and rice is popular. Hot, spicy or sweet Indonesian cuisine includes beef rendang (coconut milk beef curry), chicken sambal and gado gado (a fruit and vegetable salad in peanut sauce). One of the best ways to eat in Singapore is in the open, at one of the ubiquitous street food stalls. Some are quiet and casual while others are in areas bustling with activity. All have a vast selection of cheap, mouthwatering food. Newton Circus and La Pau Sat are food centers where all types of Asian food can be sampled cheaply. Although there are many self-service establishments, waiter service is more common in restaurants. Bars/cocktail lounges often have table and counter service. There are no licensing hours. 'Happy hours' are usually from 1700-1900.

TIPPING

Tipping is still not encouraged as most hotels and restaurants in Singapore already levy a 10% service charge on customers' bills. Tipping is not a way of life in Singapore, but is appreciated for excellent service.

SHOPPING

The vast range of available goods and competitive prices have led to Singapore rightly being known as a shopper's paradise. Singapore City's **Orchard Road** is likened to the 'Fifth Avenue' and 'Oxford Street,' and just as bustling, with its vast luxury malls, shops ranging from megastores to vendors of tee-shirts as well as cafes and restaurants. Special purchases include Balinese, Chinese, Filipino, Indian and Malay antiques; batiks; cameras; Chinese, Indian and Persian carpets; imported or tailored clothing; jewelry, shoes, briefcases, handbags and wallets. Silks, perfumes, silverware and wigs are other favorite buys. Although most outlets operate Western-style fixed pricing, bargains can still be made in some places but generally only after good research and shrewd negotiating. Electrical equipment of all types can be bought at Sungei Road, but caution is advised as there are many imitation products around. For more information on shopping in Singapore, see the Singapore Shopping brochure published by the Singapore Tourism Board. *Shopping hours:* Mon-Fri 1000-2100, Sat 1000-2200.

Note: A 3 per cent Goods and Services Tax (GST) is levied on most goods and services purchased from taxable retailers. Tourists whose purchases total S\$300 or more from a single retailer participating in the Tourist Refund Scheme are eligible for a refund of the GST paid on goods

not consumed in Singapore. Refunds may be received at the airport, prior to departure flights

SOCIAL CONVENTIONS

Handshaking is the usual form of greeting, regardless of race. Social courtesies are often fairly formal. When invited to a private home or entering a temple or mosque, remove your shoes. Most first-class restaurants and some hotel dining rooms expect men to wear a jacket and tie in the evenings. Evening dress for local men and women is unusual. Each of the diverse racial groups in Singapore has retained its own cultural and religious identity while developing as an integral part of the Singapore community. Over 50 per cent of the population is under 20 years of age. Laws relating to jaywalking, littering and chewing gum are strictly enforced in urban areas. Smoking is widely discouraged and illegal in enclosed public places (including restaurants). Dropping a cigarette end in the street or smoking illegally can lead to an immediate fine of up to S\$500.

OVERVIEW OF SINGAPORE

For centuries before Sir Stamford Raffles of the British East India Company acquired it from the Sultan of Johor in 1819, Singapore had been virtually abandoned. However, within decades of the change of ownership, in a historical echo of its role today, Singapore is tiny and has no natural resources apart from a good harbor. Even so, Singapore became the main commercial and strategic center for the region.

In 1867, it became a British Crown Colony and housed one of the UK's most important naval bases. This status remained unchanged until 1942 when the Japanese army swept down through Malaya and occupied the colony. More than three years later, the Japanese surrendered in Singapore and the colony assumed its previous status. With the dissolution of the British Empire, Singapore was granted internal self-government in 1959.

Singapore City: Singapore City was also founded in 1819 by Sir Raffles of the British East India Company, who recommended that different areas of the town be set aside for the various ethnic groups. There are still fascinating pockets where more traditionally exclusive enclaves exist, principally in Chinatown, Arab Street, Serangoon Road (focus of the Indian community) and Padang Square with its very strong colonial associations. The best way to experience the remarkable diversity of the city is on foot. Traditional architecture, customs and cuisine of the various ethnic areas are in fascinating contrast to the lavish luxury shopping arcades of Orchard Road and Raffles City.

Orchard Road is the 'Fifth Avenue' or 'Oxford Street' of Singapore, and just as bustling, with its vast luxury malls, shops ranging from mega stores to vendors

of souvenir tat, as well as cafes and restaurants. The corner bar of the Singapore Marriott Hotel, itself a landmark, is the prime spot to watch the world go by.

Arab Street is the center of the Arabian quarter of Singapore, and a great place for shopping. Other streets with excellent shopping opportunities are Baghdad Street and Bussorah Street, while Sultan Plaza is a centre for cloth traders. The golden domes of the Sultan Mosque, Singapore's chief Muslim place of worship, dominate the area; nearby are two historic Muslim burial grounds.

Chinatown, though somewhat overwhelmed by the growth of the Financial District, is a bustling and colorful area with shops, teahouses and restaurants, and also several temples such as the Fuk Tak Ch'i in Telok Ayer Street and the Temple of the Calm Sea. Ancient crafts of calligraphy, papermaking and fortune-telling are practiced, and traditional goods and foodstuffs can be bought. The characteristic domestic architecture of Singapore – the shop-house with a molded front, shuttered upper floor and an arcaded street front – is much in evidence.

Serangoon Road is the center of Little India, the Indian quarter stretching from Rochar Canal to Lavender Street. The Zhu Jiao Centre, at the southern end of Serangoon Road, is a particularly vibrant example of Little India. Other attractions in the area include the Sri Veeramakalimman Temple, the Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Hall in Race Course Lane and Farrer Park.

No trip to Singapore would be complete without a visit to the Raffles Hotel, one of the most famous hotels in the world. A 'Singapore Sling' in the Long Bar is almost de rigueur; alternatively, drop into the Writers' Bar which provided inspiration for, amongst others, Noel Coward, Somerset Maugham and Joseph Conrad. The CHIJMES complex near the Raffles Hotel was developed out of the former Convent of the Holy Infant Jesus, whose Gothic shell is the basis for a series of plazas housing chic shops, restaurants and bars. A statue of Sir Stamford Raffles has been erected on the banks of the Singapore River on the spot where he is believed to have first set foot in Singapore. Nearby is Parliament House, the oldest government building in the country, the core of which dates back to the 1820s. Boat Quay and North Boat Quay, flanking the river on both banks near the Raffles statue, has now become one of Singapore's most popular bar and recreation areas, with traditional shop-houses converted into restaurants and clubs. Clarke Quay forms a triangle defined by a bend in the Singapore River. It is a complex of colonial 'godowns' (eastern term for warehouses) converted into a maze of bars, outdoor eating places, clubs, souvenir shops and mobile stalls that present the 'Old Singapore' tourist experience at its most concentrated, if occasionally tacky. Riverside Walk, on the opposite riverbank, extends the zone further, and the whole area is a must-see for visitors. Mohammed Sultan

Road, west of Clarke Quay, is Singapore's classiest bar and club strip.

The Botanic Gardens, over 47 hectares (116 acres) of landscaped parkland and primary jungle, are situated to the west of the city (Napier/Cluny roads), and are home to a wide range of animal and plant life. Within the gardens you will find the National Orchid Garden which has the largest collection in the world. Opening hours are Mon-Fri 0500-2300 and until 0000 at weekends and public holidays. Admission is free.

The Bukit Timah Reserve, established in 1883 and located northwest of the Botanic Gardens on Bukit Timah Road, contains Singapore's last stretches of original and immaculately manicured rain forest. The nature reserve also consists of tropical vegetation with clearly marked trails which lead up to Bukit Timah, the highest hill in Singapore. Admission is free.

Fort Canning Park, on Fort Canning Rise, was once an ancient fort of the Malay kings covering 2.8 hectares (7 acres). Colonial ruins of the British citadel can still be viewed, as can a 19th-century Christian cemetery. The Battle Box in the park is the old command bunker of the World War II defense of Singapore, now a museum open Tues-Sun 1000-1800, with a small admission fee charged.

The Mandai Orchid Garden is a commercial orchid farm enshrining Singapore's characteristic horticultural export, with a hillside of exotic orchid species and a spectacular water garden. Opening hours: daily 0900-1730. An admission fee is charged.

The Kranji War Cemetery and Memorial, northwest of the Mandai Orchid Garden, commemorates the death of all those who fell in the catastrophic campaigns in the defense of Singapore during World War II. The cemetery and landscaped grounds are open daily; no flowers are allowed on the graves.

The Singapore Zoological Gardens, towards the north of the island of Singapore, are largely an open zoo, using natural barriers rather than iron bars. Over 170 animals live here, including many rare or endangered species, such as orangutans, Sumatran tigers, Komodo dragons and clouded leopards. Daily attractions include 'wild breakfast' or 'afternoon tea' and 'Animal Showtime'. One special and much publicized attraction is the Night Safari; a combination walking and tram tour of predominantly nocturnal species. The zoo is open daily 0830-1800 and the Night Safari daily 1930-2400.

Buddhist and Hindu temples, mosques and Anglican and Catholic cathedrals are all likely to be encountered during a comparatively brief walk around some of the central areas of Singapore. St Andrew's Cathedral, the Cathedral of the Good Shepherd, the Al-Abrar Mosque, the vast and florid Kong Meng Sang Phor Kark See Temple Complex, the Chettiar Hindu Temple and the Sri Mariamman Temple are only a few of these.

Other interesting attractions in Singapore City include the Singapore Art Museum, the Asian Civilisation Museum; the National Museum & Art Gallery; Merlion Park; the Thong Chai Medical Institution; the Singapore Mint Coin Gallery; the Singapore Crocodile House (feeding time at 1100, crocodile wrestling at 1315 and 1615); and the Fort Cannings Aquarium in River Valley Road, with over 6000 species of freshwater and marine animals. Also not to be missed is Singapore's performing arts center.

Jurong: Jurong Town is the economic and industrial hub of Singapore, but offers visitors some unusual yet fascinating attractions.

The Singapore Science Centre, open Tues-Sun 1000-1800, is a remarkable complex which includes hundreds of interactive exhibits, the Aviation Gallery which traces the history of flight, and the Omnitheatre, a cinema with a planetarium-like screen.

Haw Par Villa (formerly The Tiger Balm Gardens) in Pasir Panjang Road is a surreal 'Disneyesque' statue park of Chinese mythological and historical figures, created by the Tiger Balm ointment dynasty. The Gardens are open daily 0800-1800.

The Chinese and Japanese Gardens are west of the centre by Jurong Lake. The two are linked by a 65m (200ft) ornamental bridge, and are fine examples of the skills of oriental landscape gardeners. The gardens are open daily 0900-1800. An admission fee is charged.

The Jurong Bird Park on Jurong Hill (near the Chinese and Japanese Gardens) covers more than 49.4 acres (20 hectares) and is home to Southeast Asia's largest collection of birds. There is also the world's largest walk-in aviary, a nocturnal house and several spectacular bird shows. The park is open Mon-Fri 0900-1800, Sat-Sun 0800-1800. An admission fee is charged.

THE ISLANDS

Sentosa: The largest and best known of Singapore's offshore islands is also one of the closest to the mainland.

Sentosa is a multi-million dollar pleasure resort girdled by a monorail and offering a wide range of activities and attractions. These include the Underwater World and Dolphin Lagoon, Images of Singapore, the recently upgraded Musical Fountain Show, The Merlion, the Butterfly Park & Insect Kingdom Museum, Sijori WonderGolf and the Carlsberg Sky Tower. Lovely gardens, beautiful beaches and a plethora of restaurants and eating places all contribute to the island's popularity with tourists and locals alike. Many prefer to skip the theme park attractions and head straight for Sentosa's beaches – Palawan, Siloso and Tanjong – where a wide range of watersports is available. These were built with imported white sand and are often crowded, especially at weekends.

There are bus, monorail and tram services linking Sentosa to the city center, and the causeway bridge is open to foot traffic. An admission fee for entry to the island is charged and composite tickets can also be bought which give admission to some of the attractions; enquire locally for details. Resort hotels, camping and other accommodation are available on the island.

Other Islands: St John's Island is large, hilly and tree-shaded with several excellent beaches. There are also several walking trails. There is a regular ferry service from the HarbourFront Centre that takes about 40 minutes.

Kusu Island is noted for two landmarks: the Keramat (a Muslim shrine) and the Chinese Tua Pekong Temple. There is a regular ferry service from the World Trade Centre that takes about 30 minutes.

Pulau Hantu, Lazarus Island and the Sisters Islands (the latter being part of the group of Southern Islands) are ideal for fishing, snorkeling and swimming enthusiasts. There are no regular ferry services but boats can be chartered; enquire locally for information.

SUGGESTED READING LIST

Many comprehensive and readily available guides produced by Lonely Planet, Fodor, Insight, The Rough Guide, etc.. Longitude Books at <http://www.longitudebooks.com> has an extensive collection of books, searchable by country.

FROM THIRD WORLD TO FIRST: THE SINGAPORE STORY, 1965-2000

by Yew, Lee Kuan,

Yew presided over the transformation of Singapore from a fractious and squalid colonial backwater into one of the shining jewels of Asia. In less than half a century, through complex and ingenious economic and social engineering, Singapore has melded a multi-ethnic, multi-racial population into a thriving, safe and incredibly productive society that boasts the world's #1 airline, the busiest maritime port, nearly nonexistent unemployment, and a lower infant mortality rate than the United States. In this highly anticipated volume that chronicles the social and economic triumphs that made headlines around the world, Lee Kuan Yew reveals the strategies that made him one of the world's most powerful elder statesmen, and takes a hard look at the burgeoning economic and political might of China and its portents for the future.

DIARY OF A GIRL IN CHANG

by Sheila Allan

Sheila Bruhn (nee Allan) was born in Malaysia before the outbreak of World War II. At the age of seventeen, she was taken prisoner by the Japanese in Singapore and interned in Changi Prison and Sime Road Camp. This book is the moving personal account of a young girl living in the midst of hardship and adversity. Written on scraps of paper that were kept hidden in her quarters, Sheila Allan's diary is a record of the daily lives of those interned in Changi. On the one hand, there were years of wasted youth; on the other, they provided a rich learning experience in a community of close comradeship. Tolerance, humor and creativity, and above all, an undying hope for the future, color her observations of this period. This edition includes information on the Changi quilts. These embroidered squares, individually created and signed by the women internees, were sewn together into three separate quilts: the Australian quilt, the British quilt, and the Japanese quilt. All the quilts can be seen at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

HURRICANES VERSUS ZEROS: AIR BATTLES OVER JAVA, SUMATRA, AND SINGAPORE

by Terence Kelly

In this book the author not only tells his story of flying against the Japanese but he succeeds in painting a much wider picture embracing the events leading up to and during the Japanese invasion of Singapore and the Dutch West Indies.

SINGAPORE CHILDREN'S FAVORITE STORIES **by Diane Taylor, Lak-Khee Tay-Audouard** **(Illustrator)**

Age Range: 6 to 10

Until now, there have been few collections of Singapore's legends written and illustrated with children in mind. Author Diane Taylor pulls together eleven beloved myths and tales often shared from mother to child, stories of how Singapore got its name or what happened to the ferocious tiger on the island. These stories introduce children to Singapore's multicultural past and its colonial roots. Magical princesses, mermaids, tigers, and pirates will charm young readers and entertain adults. Dazzling watercolors will stimulate a child's imagination. Singapore Children's Favorite Stories is a superb collection for a child's library and a tool for educators interested in cultural diversity.

THE DEFENCE AND FALL OF SINGAPORE 1940-1942

by Brian P. Farrell

Shortly after midnight on December 8, 1941, two divisions of troops of the Imperial Japanese Army began a seaborne invasion of southern Thailand and northern Malaya. Their assault developed into a full-blown advance towards Singapore, the main defensive position of the British Empire in the Far East. Singapore's defenders finally capitulated on February 15, to prevent the wholesale pillage of the city itself. Their rapid and total defeat was nothing less than military humiliation and political disaster. Based on the most extensive use yet of primary documents in Britain, Japan, Australia, and Singapore, Brian Farrell provides the fullest picture of how and why Singapore fell and its real significance to the outcome of the Second World War.

NOT JUST A GOOD FOOD GUIDE: SINGAPORE **by Naleeza Ebrahim, Yaw Yan Yee**

Singapore boasts a wide variety of gastronomical dishes, with its three major ethnic groups contributing to the delicious dishes available. On this small island, you will find Chinese delights such as dim sum, next to Malay nasi lemak, beside Indian savories such as murtabak, alongside Peranakan specialties like ayam buah keluak and Eurasian delicacies such as devil's curry. Not to mention the mouth-watering local favorites such as fish head curry, chili crabs and rojak. All these plus lots more will be explained and explored in this introduction to the diverse cuisines and foods of Singapore.