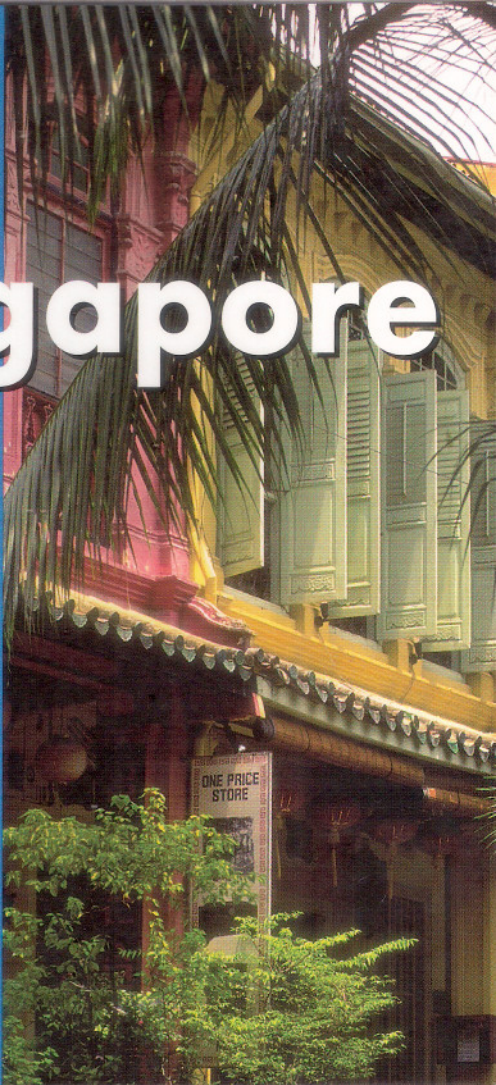


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**POCKET
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Singapore

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Singapore

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Traditional souvenir vendor on Clarke Quay.

Raffles Hotel souvenirs at its museum shop. The **Raffles City Shopping Centre** (252 North Bridge Road) nearby is linked to Suntec City Mall by an air-conditioned walkway and shopping mall, appropriately dubbed the **CityLink Mall** (1 Raffles Link).

Orchard Road is another major downtown shopping strip, renowned for its upscale international stores. Among the leading shopping centres are **Wisma Atria** (435 Orchard Road), **Ngee Ann City** (391 Orchard Road), **Paragon** (290 Orchard Road) and **Centrepoint** (176 Orchard Road), home of **Robinsons**,

Singapore's oldest department store (since 1858). **Far East Plaza** (14 Scotts Road) has clothing at low prices. **Tangs** (320 Orchard Road) is a delightful emporium with good value buys and a recently revamped fashion section.

The **DFS Galleria** (25 Scotts Road) has a large treasure trove of designer fashion and cosmetics with duty-free savings. At the western end of Orchard Road, down Tanglin Road, **Tanglin Shopping Centre** has the city's largest selection of Persian rugs, antique maps and Asian antiques. At the eastern end of Orchard Road, where it turns into Stamford Road, the **Stamford Court** and **Stamford House** have art and furnishings, while the Museum Shop at the **Singapore Art Museum** on Bras Basah Road specialises in gifts and cultural souvenirs.

Other major commercial areas include **Clarke Quay**, with an excellent flea market on Saturdays 6–10pm and Sundays 10am–6pm at the Trader's Market; **Funan The IT Mall** (109 North Bridge Road), packed with computer stores; electronics at **Sim Lim Square** (1 Rochor Canal); and **Parco Bugis Junction**, a mall that retains its shophouse architecture, with a vendors' night market nearby.

Singapore's ethnic neighbourhoods offer more unusual shopping possibilities. **Chinatown** is headlined by **Yue Hwa Emporium** (70 Eu Tong Sen Street), a department store where the clothing, household goods and crafts are all from China. **People's Park Centre** is filled with Chinese vendors willing to bargain while **People's Park Complex** is a rundown arcade where textiles and clothing can be had for some of the best prices in town, if you're willing to bargain.

Little India is the area to poke around for bangles, gold jewellery, silk saris and Indian spices. The **Little India Arcade** on Serangoon Road has over 50 small shops and the nearby **Tekka Centre** has a wet market on the first floor and scores of shops above selling saris, batiks, clothing and brassware. **Mustafa Centre** on Syed Alwi Road is a large 24-hour shopping mall popular for its low-priced electronic goods, amongst other bargains like groceries, garments and knick knacks.

The streets of Little India and **Kampong Glam** are a delight to stroll and the small shops offer unusual goods, usually at decent prices (ask for discounts). The **Geylang** and **Katong** districts also offer bargains. This is a Malay area and the Muslim merchants at the **Malay Market** (Joo Chiat and Changi Roads) handle a variety of goods, from batiks and silk scarves to cooking pots and prayer rugs.

Vivocity, a shopping, leisure and entertainment centre located next to the HarbourFront Centre, is set to open towards the end of 2006. Designed by the well-known

Japanese architect Toyo Ito and costing S\$280 million, it will be the largest retail and lifestyle venue in Singapore at 102,193 sq m (1.1 million sq ft), and will include Golden Village cineplexes and a Dairy Farm hypermarket.

Suburban shopping offers many of the same consumer goods available downtown, but often at much better prices. Here, amongst Singapore's towering housing estates, the malls serve the locals who live, eat and shop within an easy walk. Known as the heartlands, these resident malls are becoming Singapore's new towns. Several of the heartlands are served directly by the MRT. The **Century Square mall** is at the Tampines station; **Junction 8** is at the Bishan station; and **IMM** is at the Jurong East station.

The sad fact is that the prices in Singapore on many goods are equal to or higher than in Western countries. Better prices on the same goods are now found throughout Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia. Nevertheless, if you are not going to these countries to shop, Singapore may be your best chance to pick up Asian items. It never hurts to ask for a discount, either.

Bargain stores do exist in Singapore. The island's version of 'dollar stores', where nothing on the shelves is over the one

Complaint Departments

Always efficient, Singapore has several means to rectify retailer malfeasance. You can lodge complaints at the Retail Promotion Centre, Block 1, Thomson Road, 03-342D, Singapore 300001 (Tel. 6532-9909; fax 6358-4909) or you can contact the free online dispute resolution service offered by the E@DR Centre at <www.e-adr.org.sg>. A third choice is to contact the Small Claims Tribunal (1st level Subordinate Courts, 1 Havelock Square; Tel. 6435-5937; Fax 6435-5994; <www.smallclaims.gov.sg>), where visitor complaints are heard on short notice and judgments are rendered on the spot.

set price, make for interesting browsing. You will find items that you have never seen before. Keep an eye out for the ABC Bargain Centres as well as the **Valudollar** shops in the suburban areas. Other discount chains to look out for in the malls include **Sasa** (for cosmetics), **Export Fashion** and also **Why Pay More**. Over at the **Cavallino Recycle Shop** (01-45 Tanglin Shopping Centre, 19 Tanglin Road) are designer fashions and accessories at half price.



*Bugis Village
bargain*

Specialist Shops

Shoppers for Buddhist art and antiques : **Lopburi** (01-03/04, Tanglin Place, 91-93, 11am-7pm, Sundays until 4pm). Certificate of authenticity and shipping are provided. There is a big collection of specialist shops up the road at **Tanglin Shopping Centre** (19 Tanglin Road), including Antiques of the Orient Gallery (02-06), Hassan's Carpets (01-11-12), Antiques (01-48) and Renee Hoy Galleries. **Antiquity Hands of the Hills** carries Himalayan pieces (Tudor Court, 141 Tanglin Road). It is also filled with many tiny, very fine antique Asian collectible shops. **Kwok Gallery** (19 Tanglin Shopping Centre, 545 Orchard Road) has Chinese dynastic pieces since 1918; an antique shop **Handicrafts** (72 Eunos Avenue 7, 01-11-12).