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SEE THE SIGHTS FROM THE SEAT OF A BUMBOAT

A great way to see Singapore's city is from the water. The Singapore River Cruise has been hosting tours in iconic bumboats since 1987. The Singapore River Experience: The Tale of 2 Quays takes guests on a journey through Boat Quay, Clarke Quay, and Marina Bay, winding along the Singapore River and highlighting the attractions on the riverbanks. It's a fantastic way to get your bearings and decide what you'd like to visit later on—perhaps the Singapore Flyer giant Ferris Wheel. If you're after something slightly more luxurious, Singapore River Cruise has a top-of-the-line 10-seater Duffy available for hire.

48 hours in ... Singapore

Tradition seamlessly meets innovation in Singapore, the city-state with a tropical climate and a multicultural population.

WORDS SKYE HOKLAS

TRY SATAY STICKS, HAWKER-MARKET STYLE

Opposite to Sofitel So is Lau Pa Sat, or Telok Ayer Market, which is the go-to place for a bite to eat. Built in the nineteenth century, the striking Victorian-style building—which was gazetted as a national monument in 1973—is just as intriguing as what's inside it. Lau Pa Sat is essentially a food court, or hawker centre, with a huge array of tasty treats for the choosing. From traditional Singaporean fare to more contemporary Westernised cuisine, there is something to suit every palate. But it's when the sun sets that the fun really begins at Lau Pa Sat. The road opposite, called Boon Tat Street, is closed off and the pop-up markets begin with around a dozen vendors firing up their barbecues to char hundreds upon hundreds of satay sticks. Grab a table on the street, order an ice-cold beer, and dig in to the sticky prawn, lamb, beef, and pork skewers. You won't leave hungry.



SLEEP EASY AT THE SOFITEL SO

Located in the heart of Singapore's financial district, the Sofitel So is as convenient as it is luxurious. The hotel was born out of a vision to magnify the five senses, and its style is a combination of nineteenth-century Parisian chic with Singaporean modernity. Famed fashion designer Karl Lagerfeld has applied his special touch to the décor, creating the emblem—a red lion seal—and other surprise elements. The lion seal, which was inspired by Singapore's historical mythical lion, appears on everything from the fluffy white bathrobes and writing paper to the doorknockers and art-inspired book cubes. The cubes also feature an inspiring quote from the man himself etched onto the wooden block which he calls a 'BooKube'.

The Sofitel So has 134 rooms, all equipped with Apple iPads and iPhones. The marble-walled bathrooms have a huge tub perfect for a post-meeting soak, and the bed is big and cosy to guarantee a good night's sleep. Xperience is the hotel's in-house restaurant. It serves modern European dishes with Asian influence, under the direction of Head Chef Trevor Ryann Paulo. Adjacent is Antoinette's La Pâtisserie au Sofitel, which serves up authentic French pastries. Be sure to try the locally inspired Satay Swirl or the Pear Danish—both are decadent and delicious. Then there is the HI-SO Pool Bar on the hotel's rooftop, which is an elegant spot for poolside cocktails at sunset.



GET LOST ON SENTOSA ISLAND

Less than 30 minutes by taxi from Singapore's CBD is Sentosa Island, self-dubbed the 'State of Fun'. The island provides ample activities for a great day out, with entertainment suitable for the whole family. With its beaches, lookouts, theme parks, dining, shopping, accommodation, and other attractions, you'll want plenty of time to explore everything that's on offer—because it certainly isn't lacking in things to do. There are six key zones to visit—Siloso Point, Imbiah Lookout, Beaches, Resorts World Sentosa, Serapong, and Sentosa Cove. Some highlights include: getting close and personal to Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphins; having a splash at Adventure Cove Waterpark; readying yourself for action at the Fort Siloso-Combat Skirmish LIVE; exploring sea creatures at Underwater World; and riding the Skyline Luge.

