

ISSUE 41



# CAMPUS

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ISSUE 42

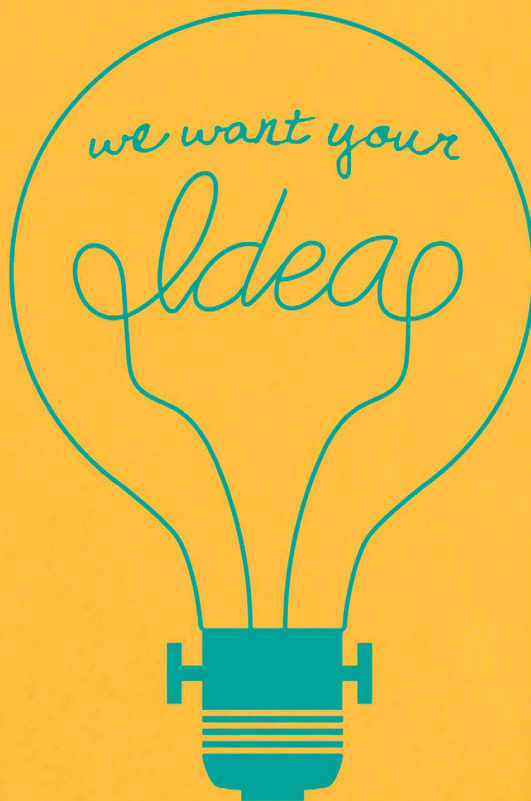


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 [campus.singapore](https://www.facebook.com/campus.singapore)

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## We need help to conquer the world

Want to get into the crazy fast-paced world of publishing? If you've got a good grasp of English and you're resourceful, hard-working and passionate, we've got 2 options:

### Marketeers (full-time job)

Can you sell ice to an eskimo? Can you mastermind a marketing campaign that gets people talking? Do you know how to manipulate the masses on social media to your will? Then you're the evil genius we're looking for! We need someone with a marketing background to help us create cool concepts, public engagements and generate enough moolah to fuel our office parties.

### Contributors (ad-hoc)

We are always open to contributors who want to polish their writing skills, or simply want to get their work out there. You can even write for our website blog. Best part is, you don't have to be at the office (unless you want to) to be a contributor. You will, however, have to meet us first in order for you to know some guidelines (yes, we have some) for our contributor programme.

Interested? Send us your CV and portfolio (if you have one). Don't be scared - we don't bite. Apply via email to: [aaron@campus.com.sg](mailto:aaron@campus.com.sg).



BY VINCENT TAN



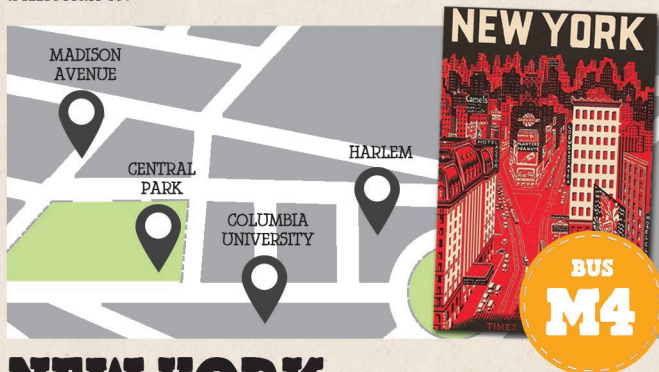
# RIDE THE WORLD MOST SCENIC BUSES

When travelling overseas, you want to see all you can, but the plane ticket and hotel room have taken a big bite from your wallet. Rather than shell out on a full day tour, hop on and off these public buses as they take you down the scenic route to experience the native flavour of the city at a fraction of the cost.



## LONDON (Classic Britain)

Get a Travelcard at £6 (\$11.62) which grants you unlimited trips on trams, buses and trains for a day. Bus 24 at Victoria brings you to Westminster Cathedral and Westminster Abbey, before passing Downing Street. Up ahead is busy Trafalgar Square, with Nelson's Column surrounded by its photogenic lion sculptures. Skirting the edges of London's theatre district, the bus zips past Denmark Street (aka Tin Pan Alley), a haven for music lovers, as well as La Gioconda Cafe, David Bowie's teenage hangout. Next is Camden Town with its street markets peddling vintage items. The bus stops at Hampstead Heath, where a brief uphill climb provides wide views of London, and a little further is Bishop Avenue, home to billionaires.



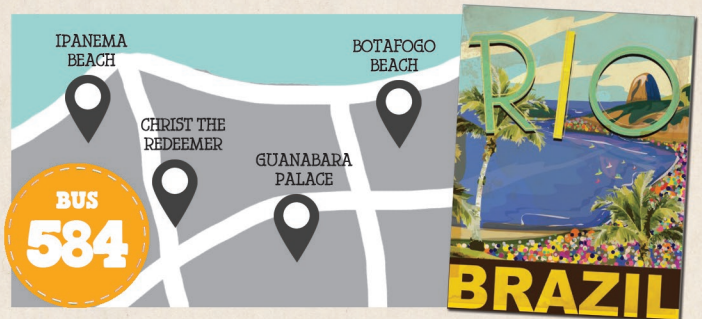
## NEW YORK (Instagram gold)

A ride on the M4 bus gives you a tour of the Big Apple at just US\$3 (\$4.11). Pay as you board on West 32nd Street and snag a window seat to watch the parade of international brands on Madison Avenue and the Empire State Building to your left on 34th Street. Verdant nature and a slew of activities make Central Park worth a stop. Riding further reveals the gothic Saint John the Divine Cathedral, Columbia University (a prestigious Ivy League school), and the renowned Manhattan School of Music. Travel through Harlem, a film location for the 2014 musical *Annie*, as well as picturesque Washington Heights, before alighting at the Cloisters, a hilltop museum of medieval art, crafts and architecture.



## HONG KONG (Old and New)

Hong Kong's modern and historic sites can be seen along the #15 CityBus route for just HK\$9.80 (\$1.73). Beginning at Central Pier 5, the route passes the iconic Star Ferry Pier, the Genotaph, and a 120-year Hung Shing temple. Snag a front seat of the upper deck to catch hanging signboards whiz by in iconic Wanchai; sweeping views of Happy Valley's Racecourse, Hong Kong Cemetery, and the Khalsa Diwan Sikh Temple are next. Look out for two of the tallest residences in Hong Kong, Highcliff and The Summit, rightly nicknamed "the chopsticks". The bus terminates at The Peak; get off here for Instagram-worthy shots of Hong Kong, its famous skyscraper harbour, and Kowloon just beyond.



## RIO DE JANEIRO (Beaches and Gardens)

Rio de Janeiro can be explored for a mere R\$2.40 (\$0.91) on the Route 584 bus. Starting from the world-famous Ipanema Beach, the bus wends north past the 137-hectare Botanical Garden with views of the iconic Christ the Redeemer in the distance. Up ahead is the Museum of the Indian with exhibits on the indigenous peoples of Northern Brazil. Alight at Botafogo beach for beach events and a panoramic view of the bay and Sugarloaf Mountain. Ride on to Guanabara Palace, home of monarchs and presidents, and Rio Sul shopping centre, with its hundreds of retail outlets. Enjoy people-watching at the iconic Copacabana Beach, and end the day at Arpoador Point to watch the sunset.



## NICE-MONACO (Mediterranean Charm)

For a scenic bus ride from Nice to Monaco, a Ticket Azur at €1.50 (\$2.30) gives you access to all local buses in Monaco. Hop on bus 100, and sit on the right side for a better view as it runs past the Place d'Armes, the Old Town (aka "the Rock"), and the Prince's Palace. The bus then passes The Port with its huge yachts, lively bars and an Olympic-sized swimming pool that becomes a skating rink in winter. Alight at Monte Carlo, known for its casinos and luxury hotels. A final stop is the Place de Moulins, where you can explore the Grimaldi Forum exhibits, the Japanese Gardens and access Monaco's beaches via public elevators.



BY ZHAO JIAYI

# THE LIST

## MOST INSTAGRAMMED PLACES WORLDWIDE

### DISNEYLAND, CALIFORNIA, USA

Billed as the 'Happiest Place on Earth', it is no surprise that Disneyland is the world's most Instagrammed place. 4 of its 5 parks made it onto the top 20 list, with the original Disneyland at Anaheim, California leading the pack. Attracting the young and old alike since its establishment in 1955, Disneyland retains its strong allure even till today, with many being more than happy to share photos of themselves wearing Mickey Mouse headbands with their Instagram followers.



### SIAM PARAGON SHOPPING MALL, BANGKOK, THAILAND

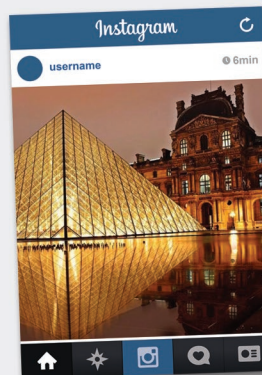
Siam Paragon is the only Asian representative on the list at fourth place, and has once ranked as high as first. One of the largest shopping centres in Asia, this luxury mall also boasts an aquarium, bowling alley, art gallery and concert area. Its success as a hotbed of Instagram activity can also be credited to the increasing usage of the app in the country, with Thailand's most popular celebrities all being huge fans of the social media site.



### DODGER STADIUM, CALIFORNIA, USA

Opened 54 years ago in April, 1962, the Dodger Stadium has played host to countless baseball games, but its other claim to fame is being the world's most geo-tagged sports venue on Instagram. Home to the Los Angeles-based Dodgers, this famed baseball stadium has cleverly created plenty of

photo ops such as its a life-sized Dodger Dog statue, and has successfully leveraged on its Instagram popularity to attract sponsors.



### THE LOUVRE, PARIS, FRANCE

A hallmark of the country and a cultural mecca of the world, the Louvre brings in nearly 15,000 tourists daily. For those of us who cannot fly to Paris, we have the museum's Instagram popularity to thank for exposing us to all those artistic masterpieces

through other people's photographs. But of course, nothing beats seeing the real thing, which is why the Louvre continues to be one of the most geo-tagged places on Instagram.

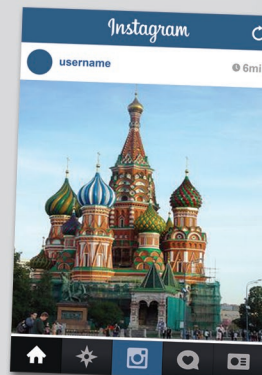
### TIMES SQUARE, NEW YORK CITY, USA

"Crossroads of the World", "Center of the Universe" - these are just some of the monikers ascribed to Times Square. With its huge billboards, flashing neon signs, and spectacle of lights, Times Square makes for an iconic photo background. No wonder it is one of the world's most visited tourist attractions and also one of the most photographed. Of course, the numerous celebrity sightings around the area also make for good photo opportunities.



### RED SQUARE, MOSCOW, RUSSIA

Rounding out the list is a new entrant - the UNESCO World Heritage Site, Red Square. From its towering Kazan Cathedral to the morbid but not-to-be-missed Lenin's Mausoleum, Red Square is an iconic site of Russia. Not only is Red Square rich in historic symbols, the architectural brilliance of the structures in the Square also contributes to its Instagram fame. The vividly coloured domes of St. Basil Cathedral are a favourite Instagram backdrop for many tourists.





# BEST OF BOTH WORLDS:

## STUDY LOCAL, EXPERIENCE INTERNATIONAL

For an education that combines both local accessibility and overseas experience, the University of London International Programmes (UoL) allows students to gain valued UK degrees – developed by the cutting-edge academics of the University of London – right here in Singapore. In addition, students can gain a global perspective with an opportunity to attend the LSE summer school programme in London, one of the world's most culturally diverse cities.

According to Choi Ming Hong, who is currently studying for a University of London BSc Economics and Finance degree at the Singapore Institute of Management (SIM GE), the summer abroad programme gave him 'a unique and rare global learning experience'.



### SUMMER SCHOOL

Students undertaking UoL programmes have the opportunity to attend the prestigious London School of Economics and Political Sciences (LSE) summer school, where students from Singapore get to spend several weeks studying in London.

There are several benefits to LSE's summer school. Based on regular undergraduate courses, these classes are taught by the school's diverse and knowledgeable lecturers, and compact a year-long module into an intensive three week period.

With constantly challenging and inspiring coursework, the programme also gives students a great chance for subject growth and career development. Not only will students be able to spend time in one of the world's most exciting cities, they will also be interacting with students from all over the world, from the US, Europe and more.

"The professors encourage creative thinking and group discussions, thereby improving students' critical thinking and problem solving skills", according to Ming Hong.



### THE PERKS

Situated in central London, LSE is close to Tower Bridge, Buckingham Palace and the Houses of Parliament, to name a few, which gives entirely new meaning to taking a study break. It's also a great starting point for trips to the rest of the UK, and even Europe.

Being in London also provides the opportunity to immerse yourself in this richly diverse and interesting city, meaning it's not only about studying. These summer school programmes are an ideal setting for students to experience studying abroad in a global city, while learning to live independently.

More than just a unique opportunity, LSE's summer school programmes give participants a real leg up when they graduate, arming them with the tools they'll need to succeed in a globalised world.

For a chance to experience this for yourself, a great way to start is by choosing a degree of one of UoL's International Programmes, many of which are developed by the LSE. For more, visit [londoninternational.ac.uk/sg](http://londoninternational.ac.uk/sg).

### ABOUT THE LSE SUMMER SCHOOL

- The International Summer Schools run each year usually from early July to mid-August
- LSE Summer School offers over 70 three-week courses, ranging from Law to English and Finance
- 96% of Summer School students recommend the programme (based on 2015 cohort)
- Visiting students are often able to transfer credit from LSE's rigorously assessed summer courses towards degrees at their home institution

### ABOUT UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

- Over 50,000 students from 180 countries.
- Flexible learning options from Singapore, including six local teaching centres.
- Celebrates 30-year partnership with SIM GE in 2016.





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# THE BIG SHIFT: TRANSPLANTED CULTURES

BY VINCENT TAN



The Big Shift affects people from all over the world. Whether driven by hard times, drawn by economic opportunity, or moved by force, they carry along their native cultures, creating 'transplant' communities that enrich the travel experience of visitors with their unique history and culture. Here are some of the lesser known 'country in a country' destinations.



## JAPAN IN BRAZIL

There are "Japantowns" in many parts of the world, but São Paulo currently boasts the largest population of Japanese outside Japan. São Paulo's Japan

town began in 1908 as Japanese immigrants fled poverty to work in Brazil's coffee plantations. Despite difficult beginnings, by the 1940s, the community had established Japanese schools and newspapers in the area known as Liberdade. The area has seen an influx of Chinese and Korean immigrants since the 70s, turning this Japantown into a mini-Asia. Today, tourists can experience the popular Sendai Tanabata Matsuri festival, modelled after Japan's largest tanabata festival, or visit the weekend Liberdade Street Market for Japanese street food.

## KOREA IN KAZAKHSTAN



Although Central Asia is a melting pot of many different cultures, travellers will find that it's the Korean influence that seems to be strongest despite making up less than 1% of the population.

The first wave of Koryo-saram (ethnic Koreans from post-Soviet states) were forced into Central Asia by the Soviet Union in 1937, when Kazakhstan was part of Russia. Today, Almaty, the capital, is the stronghold of the Korean community that is home to a Korean Cultural Center, a Korean theatre, and Korean-language newspapers. While Kazakhstan shares a border with China, it has more Korean restaurants than Chinese ones, and it even has a Korean food festival.

## SOUTH EAST ASIA IN SOUTH AFRICA



With a cultural mix as diverse as the colours of their houses, Bo Kaap in South Africa is well known for its Muslim roots and

culinary culture. Descended from slaves brought by Dutch colonialists in the 16th and 17th centuries from Malaysia, Indonesia, India, Sri Lanka, and parts of Africa, the townsfolk are now collectively known as "Cape Malays". The leaders, scholars, craftsmen and artisans among the slaves contributed much to the development of South Africa's language and culture. Restaurants serving the traditional flavoured food can be visited on free walking tours around Bo Kaap, which also cover historic mosques, local pubs and the famous coloured houses.

## CHINA IN MADAGASCAR



Located in the capital city of Antananarivo, Chinatown (Quartier Chinois) contains more than 20 Chinese-owned establishments which are rather kitsch; names like

"Great Wall" adorn restaurant frontages, and some shops look similar to those in Sim Lim Square, interspersed by TCM shops. All this is located in the capital's charming upper boroughs where Malagasy nobles once lived – the Rova palace complex. The first wave of Chinese immigrants came in the 1800s to work at vanilla plantations, and while most of them have intermarried into Malagasy society, the recent wave of migrations – those who now populate Chinatown – brought the Chinese population to about 100,000.





## FUJI ROCK FESTIVAL, JAPAN

Held since 1996, this is one of Japan's biggest rock festivals. Taking place in the pristine forests of Naeba Ski Resort, this three day event has drawn crowds of up to 150,000 people, with everyone from locals to foreigners turning up to experience the best of the country's music scene, as well as a host of world-renowned international acts. A wide range of bands have played there, including The Cure, The Stone Roses, Manic Street Preachers, and even Eminem. Concert goers can wander around, as the area has several stages, food stalls and even the chance of impromptu gigs in the surrounding forest.

**WHEN:** 22 to 24 July 2016  
**TICKETS:** From ¥19,000 (\$230) for a one-day ticket; ¥43,000 (\$530) for a 3-day pass  
[fujirock-eng.com](http://fujirock-eng.com)



## MOONDANCE JAM, NORTH AMERICA

Taking place in Walker, Minnesota, Moondance Jam is a gathering of some of the biggest classic rock bands in the world. Over three days, attendees gather for a great mix of great music, booze and friendship. The event is revered in rock circles as a place where fans can gather to see some of the best live acts and party like the rock stars on-stage. Held since 1992, when a fairly modest 5,000 people turned up, the event now draws crowds of over 20,000. The event has hosted several huge names in rock, including Kansas, REO Speedwagon, Alice Cooper and Lynyrd Skynyrd.

**WHEN:** 21 to 23 July 2016  
**TICKETS:** From US\$120 (\$165)  
[www.moondancejam.com](http://www.moondancejam.com)



# ROCK AROUND THE WORLD

Since its beginnings in the 1950s with revolutionary acts like Elvis Presley and Chuck Berry, rock and roll has gone from strength to strength, and become a global phenomenon. From classic to progressive to J-rock, modern fans have a wealth of different sub-genres to choose from and enjoy, with some of the biggest festivals out there designed to appeal to all of them. If you're a fan of rock 'n roll, here are some of the world's biggest festivals for you to check out.

## SPLENDOUR IN THE GRASS, AUSTRALIA

Held annually since 2001 in trendy Byron Bay, Splendour in the Grass is one of Australia's most successful festivals that includes tons of rock/alternative and electronic music spread over 8 stages. It's also the country's largest winter festival, meaning concert-goers won't be a sweaty mess during the 3-day event. The festival is more than music though: grab a camping ticket and spend 2 nights there to fully enjoy all that this hip groovy festival offers – music, food, drinks, craft, yoga, massages, and workshops.

Showcasing both Aussie and international acts, past performers include Coldplay, Death Cab for Cutie, and Blur.

**WHEN:** 22 to 24 July 2016  
**TICKETS:** From A\$155 (single day) to A\$365 (3 days)  
[www.splendourinthegrass.com](http://www.splendourinthegrass.com)



## JISAN VALLEY ROCK FESTIVAL, SOUTH KOREA

Jisan Valley Rock Festival is a huge event where more than 75 bands take the stage to rock out, and attendees turn up with their multi-coloured hair to set the mood. The grounds are huge, accommodating four stages, vendors selling grilled meat, tofu, veggies and cold beers. There is a good chance of rain, which will turn the grounds into a swamp land (so be prepared). The three day festival has a good mix of international and local bands. There is a first-come first-serve stage of local acts, and international bands in previous years have included Oasis, Radiohead, The Cure and Nine Inch Nails.

**WHEN:** 22 to 24 July 2016  
**TICKETS:** From 195,000 to 260,000 won (\$230-300)  
[valleyrockfestival.wnet.com/2016](http://valleyrockfestival.wnet.com/2016)



## DOWNLOAD, ENGLAND

Playing host to some of the greatest heavy metal and rock bands of all time, Download festival is one of the UK's biggest music festivals. Over 100,000 people have crammed into Donington Park, Leicestershire, to experience three days of almost non-stop music. First held in 2003 to honour rock and roll's greatest moments, it has been going strong ever since. Attendees are always in for a good show, with fireworks, zip-wire acrobatics, and even a plane flying overhead on one occasion. Past headliners have included Iron Maiden, KISS, Slash and AC/DC.

**WHEN:** 10 to 12 June 2016  
**TICKETS:** From £80 (\$155)  
[downloadfestival.co.uk](http://downloadfestival.co.uk)



# CHEAP PLACES TO LEARN TO

# DIVE

in Asia

BY JETHRO WEGENER

Many of us are looking for a great experience when we travel, even if we're travelling on a budget. Learning to dive is probably one of the most exciting things to do on a holiday, and once you're certified you can dive anywhere in the world. There are plenty of places to do so, and here are the cheapest ones, with each course being three days in length.

## SITUATION IN SINGAPORE

There is the option to learn diving right here in Singapore. Most of your course will involve diving in a pool, meaning all you'll see is the chlorinated, clear water of a pool. Until it comes to the open water portion of your course, where your instructors will take you to Tioman in Malaysia for that. While it can be fairly convenient to learn right in your own backyard, the cost will surprise you. At almost \$600 for the entire course, it makes more sense to do it while you're overseas, because not only do you experience more, but you also get the benefit of the a relaxing holiday.



## KOH TAO, THAILAND

A peaceful, picturesque little island off the coast of Thailand, Koh Tao is known for its white sandy beaches and excellent diving. It is also one of the cheapest places in the country to get certified. With the gorgeous coral reefs that surround the island, the abundance of interesting marine life that includes sharks and manta rays, you're sure

to have a great experience during your three day open water course. It is second only to Cairns in Australia in regards to annual dive certifications because the courses are cheap, there are plenty of dive sites (over 50!) and the island is beautiful. You can shop around for a bargain, but keep in mind that you won't get much lower than the market rate.

**Course Cost (approximately, including accommodation): \$350**  
**Plane Tickets (approximate): \$200**

## PHUKET, THAILAND

Another great place to learn to dive in Thailand is Phuket. Warm waters, mild currents and a whole host of marine life make it a viable alternative to Koh Tao, and it also has some amazing coral reefs to explore, with over 200 species to see. There's also a chance to see whale sharks (in March, April and May), as well as manta rays and over 100 different types of reef fish. While it is more expensive to get certified here than in Koh Tao, Phuket offers a wider range of things to do on-land, including more bars, culture and shops.

**Course Cost (approximate): \$560**  
**Plane Tickets (approximate): \$100**  
**Accommodation: \$80-150 per night**





## PULAU SIPADAN, MALAYSIA

The tiny island of Pulau Sipadan, located on the east coast of Malaysia, is said to be one of the best dive sites in the world. Sipadan is the only oceanic island in the country, and the waters surrounding it are filled with life. Millions of reef fish, thousands of sea turtles, schooling sharks, barracuda and others call the area home. There are also fantastic coral walls that drop all the way to the sea floor. All this makes the area an ideal place to experience diving for the first time, as you're almost guaranteed a sighting of something interesting. Getting there requires flying to Tawau from Kuala Lumpur International Airport and taking a boat from there.

**Course Cost (approximate):** \$300  
**Transport Cost (approximate):** \$300  
**Accommodation:** \$40-50 per night



## TIOMAN, MALAYSIA

Located off the east coast of Malaysia, this is another great place to dive in the country. One of the area's most popular islands, it is covered with miles of sandy beaches line with palm trees and surrounded by clear, calm, warm water teeming with marine life. The island even has Gunung Nenek Semukut, twin rock peaks bounded by a light mist, adding to its natural beauty. Divers will see corals, seashells and limpets, thorny sea urchins, colourful seaweeds and anemones, starfish, sharks, rays and various other aquatic wonders here. Another benefit of Tioman is that it is remarkably easy to get there from Singapore, as you can book a coach that will take you to Mersing for about \$30 and be able to catch the ferry from there.

**Course Cost (approximate):** \$400  
**Transport Cost (approximate):** \$35  
**Accommodation:** \$100-150 per night



## BALI, INDONESIA

With its laid back resorts, beautiful beaches and crystal clear water teeming with life, Bali has long been a haven for divers the world over. There are several great dives sites there with a wide

range of dives available. Wrecks, walls, coral, muck-diving – you name it and you can almost certainly find it there. The waters are filled with creatures to see as well. There's the big stuff, like tuna, Napoleon wrasse and sharks, and the little stuff, such as scorpion fish, eels, seahorses and muck creatures, among others, providing plenty of viewing opportunities for divers.

**Course Cost (approximate):** \$500  
**Plane Tickets (approximate):** \$180  
**Accommodation:** \$100-200 per night

## GILI ISLANDS, INDONESIA

Lying off the coast of Lombok, these three tiny islands are an up and coming destination, making it worth the extra cost of getting there. Crystal clear waters that are comfortably warm year-round offer plenty of great diving opportunities. There are over 3,500 species of marine creatures, include seahorses and sharks. The islands have also been called the sea turtle capital of the world, due to the huge population of Green and Loggerhead turtles that live there, meaning there's a great chance of seeing one during a dive. The main beach even has a turtle sanctuary, where you can see the baby turtles before they're released back into the ocean. Getting there requires flying to Lombok and taking a ferry from there.

**Course Cost (approximate):** \$550  
**Plane Tickets (approximate):** \$370  
**Accommodation:** \$50-150 per night



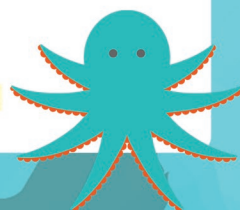
## CEBU, PHILIPPINES

Like most of the places on our list, Cebu is an island paradise of white beaches, palm trees, resorts and amazing dive sites. However, the sheer number of creatures around the island makes it stand out from the crowd. It is said that the Philippines has one of the highest concentration of marine life in the world, with thousands of species calling those waters home. Along with corals that play host to all kinds of different species of tropical fish, including angelfish, butterflyfish, lionfish and barracuda, there are also Thresher sharks, and the chance to see the incredible whale sharks.

**Course Cost (approximate):** \$500  
**Plane Tickets (approximate):** \$200  
**Accommodation:** \$60-150 per night



Whether it's Malaysia or the Philippines, there are plenty of places around Asia where you can get yourself dive certified for a relatively low cost. It's worth it too, since learning to dive opens up a wealth of new things to do when you go overseas, from exploring sunken wrecks to having close encounters with massive whale sharks. So what are you waiting for?





# Cheat Sheet

By Jethro Wegener

## #41 Airline Secrets

Air travel is something most of us have probably experienced before. However, even frequent fliers might not know all the airline secrets out there, so here is a list of some of the more interesting ones:

You could be flying in Business class



### BIDDING FOR AN UPGRADE



Sites like Plusgrade, Optiontown or Seatboost are auction sites that allow travellers to bid for a seat upgrade to business or first class for a fraction of the cost. If their flight is eligible, passengers are informed via email and get the chance to place a bid. For those of us always stuck in economy, this is a great way to experience some of the finer things by topping up a bit extra.

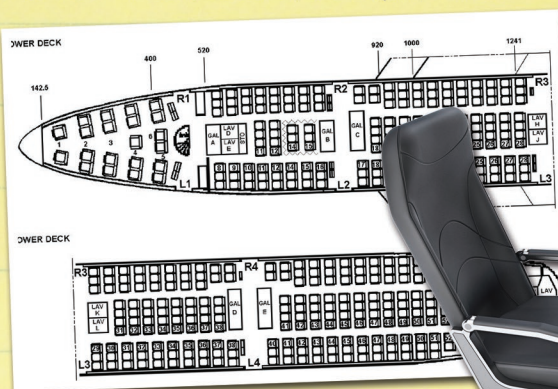
### HR MEANS SOMETHING DIFFERENT

If you were to glance at nearly any flight's inventory list, you might just see an item labelled 'HR'. This doesn't mean that they're transporting a bunch of HR people in a crate to save on airfare for some company's annual retreat - it actually stands for 'Human Remains'. It makes you wonder what would happen in the event of a zombie epidemic, and the body got loose.



### WHERE YOU SIT MATTERS

If you dislike bumpy flights, it's advised that you take a seat over or near the wing. Since a plane is like a seesaw, the front and back of it is usually the most unstable. If you're concerned about fresh air, don't sit too close to the back, since air-flow on a plane is generally front to back, although fret not since all the air on most planes is generally filtered (read: recycled) every 6-7 minutes. As for where is safest, there isn't a general rule, since crashes are unpredictable, although anecdotal evidence suggests the back of the plane may be slightly safer.



Seats near the wing are less bumpy

tuesday

wednesday

saturday

Cheaper flight days!

### TIMING IS IMPORTANT

There are several things you can do to avoid paying as much as you normally would for your flight. For one, studies show that you should book at least 8 weeks in advance. You also should be flexible with your travel dates, since leaving a day earlier can make a difference. As a general rule, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays are cheaper flight days.

### EVERYTHING IS DONE FOR A REASON

Have you ever wondered why they ask us to put our seats upright and stow our trays? It's not just to stop us getting comfortable; it's so that in case of an emergency, you'll actually be able to get out of your seat to the emergency exits. They ask us to raise our window shades so that flight attendants can keep an eye out for any problems outside the plane, such as an engine fire. And they dim the lights so your eyes are adjusted to the outside lighting if you have to exit fast in an emergency.



### FLIGHT TIMES ARE UP TO THE AIRLINE

If you think you've arrived fifteen minutes ahead of schedule, there's a good chance you haven't. Airlines regularly pad their flight times to allow for delays or leeway. This allows them to get a good record of on-time arrivals (read: cheat).



Not just a glorified waitress in the air!

### BE NICE

Contrary to popular belief, flight attendants aren't just there to wait on passengers. They have a lot of responsibilities besides the travellers. They're trained in CPR, first aid, self-defence and a lot of other things. Most airlines regard their primary job as safety, followed by service, so if you're rude to them, they won't hesitate to treat you differently than other passengers.



ISSUE 41.5

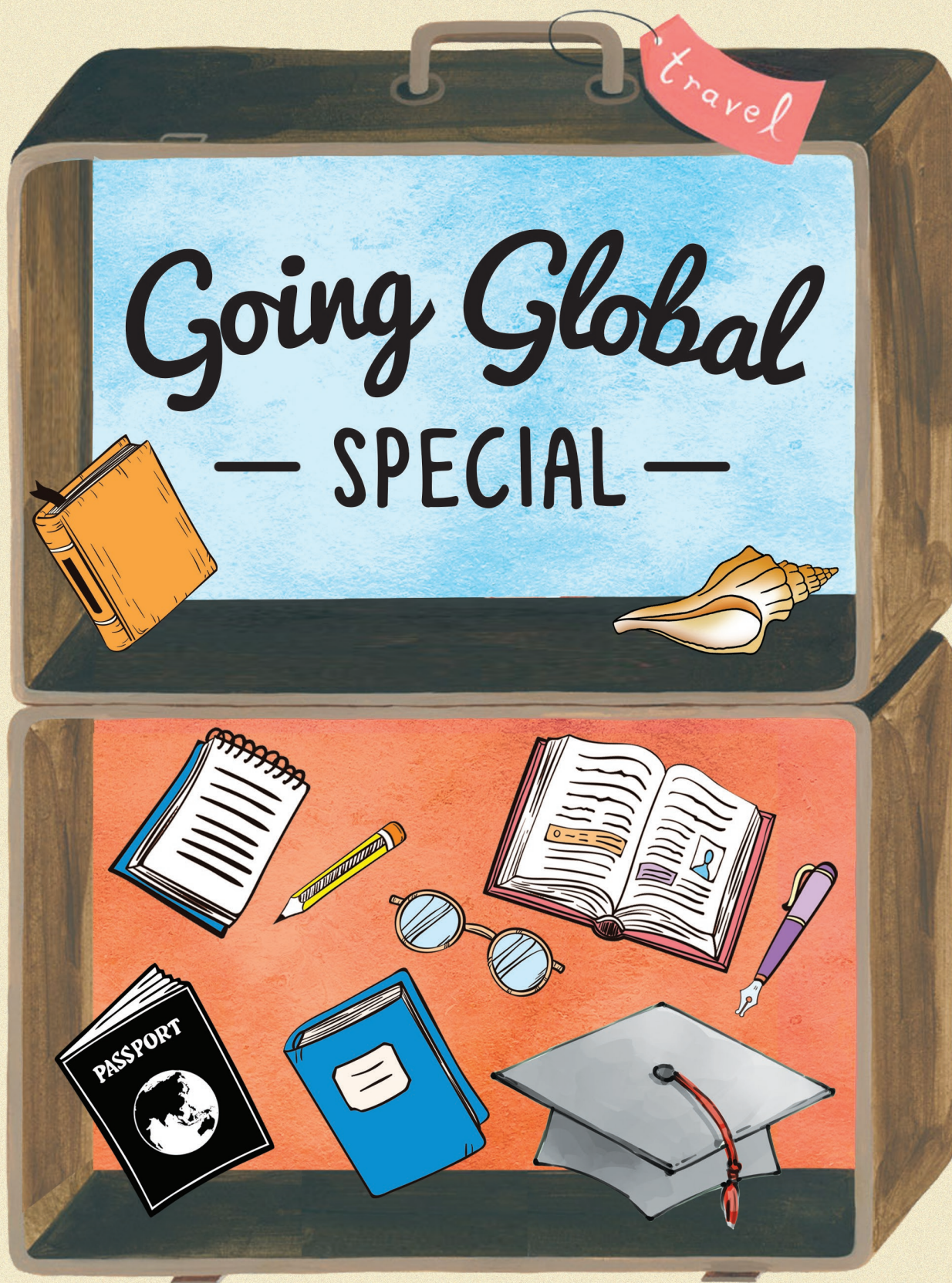


# CAMPUS

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'C'S

OF TRAVELLING:  
CITY-TO-CITY COST COMPARISONS

BY RIN YEO

Given the favourable exchange rate on currencies these days, now is truly the best time to get more bang for your buck when going overseas for leisure or studies; here are some essential city to city comparisons that you might like to keep in mind.

WHY THESE COUNTRIES?

As popular destinations, be it for studies or leisure, these metropolitan cities are also known to have relatively higher costs of living than most Singaporeans are used to.

COMPARISON FACTORS

When travelling to a new place, there are certain costs that are unavoidable, such as food and lodging. As such, we have split some of the common expenditures into four categories: Food, Transport, Shopping and Lodging.

01 FOOD

Surprisingly, while we complain that Singapore is expensive, we probably have the cheapest fast food meals there are in comparison with the other countries – portion and taste aside. While dining out (not hawker fare mind you!) isn't as cheap as Tokyo, it is significantly cheaper compared to other countries.

02 TRANSPORT

The local transport system might not get much praise from us, however, it is the cheapest by nearly 50% for a single trip ticket and even for a monthly pass! In addition, Singapore's local monthly pass is inclusive of bus rides as well.

03 SHOPPING

We have all heard about how shopping overseas is sometimes cheaper, but is it truly the case? While most people will spend only when there is a sale, the best part about shopping overseas is the VAT tax refund. Of course, watch out for the taxes you might pay when you return to Singapore!

04 LODGING

Undecided between a dorm or a private apartment for one? Dorms offer the luxury of being closer to schools and an experience of living together with others – plus, it is a great option for those on a budget as some also provide meals.

	SINGAPORE	LONDON, UK	TOKYO, JAPAN	NEW YORK, USA	MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA
Fast Food Meal (McDonald's)	\$7.50	\$9.60	\$8.30	\$10.80	\$9.40
Coffee (Cafe)	\$5.40	\$4.80	\$4.60	\$5.73	\$4.00
Domestic Beer (0.5L)	\$5.80	\$2.82	\$3.23	\$2.80	\$4.94
Average cost of a meal in a restaurant/cafe	\$12	\$28.78	\$9.77	\$24.38	\$15.45
Public Transport (single trip)	\$1.30	\$4.40	\$2.50	\$3.40	\$3.90
Monthly Travel Pass	\$120	\$619.58	\$212	\$168	\$560
Taxi (Start)	\$3.60	\$5.80	\$8.80	\$3.40	\$4.15
Clothing (International label)	\$60	\$62	\$46	\$50	\$65
Electronics (Camera)	\$3,749	\$4,542	\$2,747	\$3,110	\$3,166
GST	7%	20%	8%	7%	10%
Prepaid phone cards	500MB, \$18	12GB, \$38	3GB, \$40	5GB, \$41	4GB, \$41
Dorms/Hostels	\$240 - \$1,000	\$780 - \$1,395	\$392 - \$696	\$660 - \$1,322	\$768 - \$1,708
Single room apartments	\$1,200 - \$1,600	\$2,064 - \$3,600	\$846 - \$1,484	\$1,865 - \$2,155	\$1,472 - \$2,430

\*all prices are in SGD

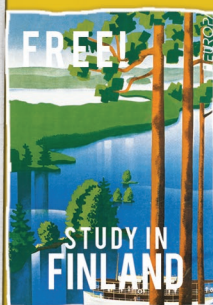
Sure, Singapore is an expensive country to live in, but the country you are visiting may not be that much cheaper anyway.



## FINLAND

Regarded as one of the best education systems in the world (most of their citizens have a Master's degree), Finnish universities offer about 450 international programmes (From Bachelor's to PhD) in English, and offers them to international students for free! However, that's set to change as tuition fees for non EU students will be introduced for enrolment from autumn 2017 (minimum €1,500 annually), although doctoral level studies will remain free. Doctoral scholarships are also available for international students.

Estimated cost of living:  
about \$512,200 a year  
[www.studyinfinland.fi](http://www.studyinfinland.fi)



## CZECH REPUBLIC

Czech Republic is becoming increasingly popular among international students, with its cheap cost of living being a big factor. Tuition at public universities is free for all students regardless of nationality – BUT only for courses conducted in Czech. To study in English, each school imposes a different tuition fee depending on the course, ranging from €500 to €7,000 a year. Only Czech Technical University in Prague offers their English Bachelor's programme in Civil Engineering for free.

Estimated cost of living:  
about \$510,000 a year  
[www.studyin.cz](http://www.studyin.cz)

## NORWAY

As a rule, Norwegian public universities do not charge tuition fees, even to international students, for all levels from Bachelor to PhD. More and more universities are also offering English-taught undergraduate and Master's degrees. However, all students need to pay a NOK300–600 (\$50–100) semester fee, and some universities do have fees for specialised programmes (usually at Master's level). Even for private universities, foreign students don't pay higher tuition fees than Norwegian students.

Estimated cost of living:  
about \$515,500 a year  
[www.studyinnorway.no](http://www.studyinnorway.no)

## ARGENTINA

In general, tertiary institutions in Argentina provide free education to every student regardless of nationality. While there are English-taught courses, knowledge of Spanish is essential as a day-to-day language. There's a growing trend of students who go there to gain a Certificate of Spanish Language as well. While getting accepted at a public university may take a long time, there are private education options, which can cost AR\$8,000 to 24,000 (\$750–2,300) a year.

Estimated cost of living:  
about \$52,000 a year  
[estudiarenargentina.siu.edu.ar](http://estudiarenargentina.siu.edu.ar)

## BRAZIL

Some state-owned universities provide free education to everyone, including international students, for all levels of study from undergraduate to graduate. The only fee incurred is a registration fee, payable upon acceptance into the school. Though there are a handful of English-taught courses, most are in Portuguese, therefore students have to demonstrate their language proficiency with a CELPE-Bras certificate.

Estimated cost of living:  
about \$511,500 a year  
[studyinbrazil.com.br](http://studyinbrazil.com.br)

## GERMANY

Since 2014, all universities in Germany have been offering tuition-free education for undergraduate studies for all students, including international students. However, universities in some states may charge administration fees (about €50) and/or long-term fees (up to €800). In addition to German-taught courses, there are over 400 courses taught in English, so students will only need to demonstrate a language ability in the course they're enrolled in.

Estimated cost of living:  
about \$512,000 a year  
[www.study-in.de](http://www.study-in.de)

# FREE EDUCATION FOR ALL: DEGREES AROUND THE WORLD

If you've always wanted to study overseas but don't have a ton of cash, why not try enrolling at universities overseas that have NO tuition fees? A number of schools around the world, even those highly ranked, offer tuition fee-free courses for international students. The catch? You do have to pass their entry requirements, and you'll need to cover your own living expenses (unless you qualify for their scholarships/grants). Here are some schools to consider:



# Summer Schools

## AROUND THE WORLD

BY VINCENT TAN

Add a fantastic overseas experience to your CV, at a relatively low cost, by enrolling at a summer school. Found all over the world and running a few weeks at a time, they offer a chance to study at world class universities and select from a wide range of courses, all

while immersed in a brand new cultural experience.

These overseas stints are open to all college-age students and can boost your career prospects through valuable overseas experiences.

## Art & Animation

USA

### CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF THE ARTS

#### ANIMATION

Co-founded by Walt Disney himself, enrolling in this leading US animation school's summer course needs no prior training, although application requires a teacher's recommendation and first completing a set of assignments. With professional animators as lecturers, this 4 week US\$5,200 (S\$7,017) course brings in top animators from Pixar as guest speakers. After school, students may unwind at the Six Flags amusement park, or at the many free park concerts.



ENGLAND

### SLADE SCHOOL OF FINE ART

#### FINE ARTS

The Slade Summer School (University College London) is open to a wide range of artists; courses include casting, painting, drawing, photography, etching, performance, and last from 1 to 4 weeks, with a price tag of £360- £1,420 (S\$685-2,702). There's also a 10-week Foundation Course (£3,450 or S\$6,564) for a more in depth Fine Arts study. While you're there, soak in local culture by touring Buckingham Palace, the Tate Modern art gallery, and The National Gallery.



## Business & Economics

SWITZERLAND

### ZURICH UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES (ZHAW)

#### BUSINESS/LUXURY GOODS

If the business of luxury goods fascinates you, ZHAW's two week summer course is the place to be. Application simply requires an English proficiency (IELTS) score of 5.0-6.0. A fee of CHF2,500 (S\$3,529) pays for course materials, company visits and a Swiss pass for free public transport throughout Switzerland. After class, Winterthur's cultural scene can be explored at galleries, concert venues and clubs within walking distance from campus.

ENGLAND

### UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

#### ECONOMICS

Among the top 5 UK universities in economics, Warwick's summer school offers courses at the introductory, intermediate and specialist levels, with subjects like microeconomics, macroeconomics, game theory and international development. Each three week course costs £1,995 (S\$3,799). Outside campus, students can tour medieval Warwick Castle, and enjoy film screenings and performances at the Royal Spa Centre.



## Engineering

GERMANY

### RWTH AACHEN UNIVERSITY

#### ENGINEERING

One of the most recognised universities of technology in Europe welcomes students interested in courses on robotics, mechatronic systems engineering, and product innovation, among others. A study period ranges from 2-3 weeks and costs €1,800-€2,800 (S\$2,765-4,302). Outside the university, students can view the gold bust of Charlemagne at Aachen Cathedral, bathe in the Carolus Thermen Spa, or learn about the town's history in 800-year old Frankenberg Castle.



## NO TRAVEL REQUIRED

### ESSEC BUSINESS SCHOOL

#### DIGITAL MARKETING, FINANCE AND EXPLORING THE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT IN ASIA

Pick up the skills to navigate Asian markets without travelling overseas. This leading business school offers summer programs on Digital Marketing, Finance and Exploring Business Environments, geared towards interacting effectively with burgeoning economies in Asia. Programs are open to all students who have completed a year of study in their universities. The summer programs will be held for 3 weeks between 27 June to 22 July, and students of digital marketing and finance who also wish to gain an overview of Asian Economies can opt for a 4 week course.







**SINGAPORE | PARIS**

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Established in 1907 in Paris, France, ESSEC Business School is an academic institution of excellence which has been characterized by its pioneering spirit throughout its history. ESSEC offers a unique pedagogical approach based on a blend of academic learning and practical experience, and a multicultural openness and dialogue.

## FINANCIAL TIMES WORLDWIDE RANKINGS 2015

- #3** Master of Science in Management
- #6** Master in Finance
- #12** Executive Education Programs



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*The pioneering spirit*



# PLACES TO WORK AND TRAVEL ABROAD

BY ROSHNI KAPUR  
& JETHRO WEGENER

Living abroad can be a challenging experience. It requires you to adapt to a unfamiliar environment and a different way of life. Working and volunteering abroad present great opportunities for you to gain valuable skills and knowledge, as well as let you soak in a unique culture and discover new places. With the plethora of overseas work and volunteer opportunities out there, you'll be spoiled for choice.

## VOLUNTEERING ABROAD

Volunteering helps you to contribute to a social cause that you feel strongly about, and work towards making a difference. Plenty of global organisations cater to volunteers who want to work anywhere in the world, from Asia to Africa and South America. The range of work is wide too, ranging from animal conservation to teaching English and more. Short term programs can be as little as a weekend, while long term ones can last a year or more.



## TEACHING

For those who are keen to try and improve the education of rural communities, there's the option to volunteer as a teacher overseas. While the variety of teaching assignments may vary, the most common is teaching English. For instance, you can spend four weeks in Kathmandu with Friends for Asia, teaching English to monks, where you will be provided with meals while helping young children and novice monks learn the language. Alternatively, you can go to Argentina with Projects Abroad to improve the language skills of teens and adults there. You don't even need a TEFL certificate, and you get to experience the rich history and culture of Argentina.

## COMMUNITY WORK

A great way to help out rural communities is by providing them with a proper roof over their heads, with the construction of schools and other community buildings. Requiring no previous knowledge of construction or building, these volunteer building projects are an integral part of helping with the development of disadvantaged communities. All you need is your hands, a willingness to work hard and to not mind getting dirty. It also allows you to experience the culture and hospitality of the locals. You can volunteer in Bali with INHQ, or head to Africa with organisations like Projects Abroad if you feel like an adventure further afield.

## CONSERVATION

Those who are interested in wildlife conservation have plenty of volunteer options. In Thailand, you can volunteer with the Surin Project for Elephants, a program set up to help ease the abuse and neglect faced by the elephants in the country, with volunteers walking, bathing and providing food and water to them. For a taste of real wildlife, head to South Africa where you can join the Kariega Game Reserve as a wildlife conservation volunteer. Volunteers can see the famous Big Five while getting hands-on experience monitoring lions, elephants, rhinos and more.

## FARMING

If you want to find out what it's like to work on a farm, while gaining valuable agricultural experience at the same time, volunteering for farm work is a great way to do it. In return for your help, farmers will provide you with food, accommodation and plenty of opportunities to learn. Movements like WWOOF put volunteers in touch with organic farmers, giving them the chance to gain knowledge of sustainable farming, and gain valuable cultural experiences as well. WWOOF offers a wide range of hosts from various different countries, from Cameroon to Hungary.



GOOD DAY

your





## WORKING ABROAD

Working abroad exposes you to a brand new work culture, and greatly pads your CV for future school applications or employment opportunities. Not only do you get paid for doing what you like, it also allows you to build great contacts for future work opportunities abroad.

## FARMWORK IN AUSTRALIA

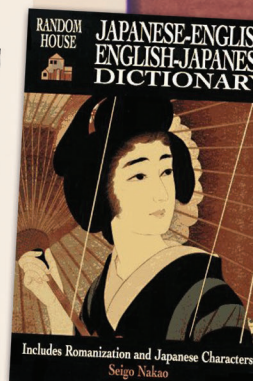
If you like adventure and don't mind working on a farm/ranch, this opportunity in the Australian outback is right up your alley. You will learn how to ride dirt bikes and tractors, use chain saws and muster cattle at a training farm. Each farm/ranch will offer a different experience and you will get to meet like-minded people and other travellers. The only requirements for this prospect are a driving license, a zeal for outdoor adventure and the willingness to do hard work. Agencies such as visitoz.org provide training and job placement for those interested.

## SKI/SNOWBOARD INSTRUCTOR

If you love the snowy outdoors and you love to ski/snowboard, you can become a certified ski or snowboard instructor to earn money around the world. Companies like EA Ski & Snowboard offer a training package (including exam fees, training costs, lift passes and accommodation for all upcoming instructors) with an internationally recognised qualification allowing you to teach anywhere in the world. Applicants are guaranteed paid jobs (or internships) to work in countries such as Canada, Switzerland, New Zealand, Japan and the US during the winter season.

## TEACHING ENGLISH IN JAPAN

The JET Program serves as a doorway to teaching English in Japan for over 4,000 participants every year. It gives the chance for foreigners to experience the country and culture, while still earning a full-time wage as an English teacher in a Japanese school, teaching children from preschool and up. While there is a chance that you'll be posted to one of the big cities, such as Tokyo, there is a greater probability that you'll end up in the countryside. You don't even have to speak Japanese to apply, but you must be willing to learn. Check the Japanese Embassy website for more.



## OUTDOOR GUIDE

Being an outdoor guide and leading people through the picturesque outdoors sounds like a dream job to many, and it's more achievable than some might think. The only condition is that you need to be qualified to get hired. Institutions like the International Wilderness Leadership School (IWLS) offer a wide range of courses, from guide training to wilderness education and technical instruction. Once you've attained the proper qualification, you can then search for that ideal outdoor job anywhere, from the mountains of South America to the plains of South Africa.

## CRUISING THE WORLD

If you enjoy a job that will need you to travel, this is the one for you. Cruise companies are often looking for seasonal help on their ships — everything from wait staff or bartenders to performers and babysitters. The range of jobs is wide, so you're pretty likely to find something that you qualify for. Basic entry positions don't require prior experience either. The work hours are long, and chances are you'll be working 7 days a week, but the benefits, like meeting new people every day and travelling the world for free, outweigh the downsides.





# AFFORDABLE

BY JETHRO WEGENER

# ONCE IN A LIFETIME

# EXPERIENCES

## WINE TOUR IN A ROLLS ROYCE

Experience a full day of luxury and wine as you tour the Mornington Peninsula, home to some of Australia's best wineries, in addition to artisan farmers' markets and cafes. Located 60km outside of Melbourne, you can tour the wineries and taste all different kinds of wines, meet the makers themselves and gain an insight into the winemaking process. The best part is that you'll be driven around in a 'Silver Spur' Rolls Royce by your very own professional chauffeur.



**Approximate Total Cost (Including Flights): \$700**

## SWIMMING WITH WHALE SHARKS

Seeing a massive, 12m to 15m, 20 ton whale shark swimming mere meters away from you is an experience that no one is ever going to forget. In Donsol Bay in the Philippines, these gentle giants swim right up to the surface, and it is known as one of the best places in the world to see these animals. Most visitors - either snorkelling or diving - have reported at least five sightings. Peak season is from December to May. To get to Donsol, you can take a bus or flight from Manila.



**Approximate Total Cost (Including Flights): \$400**

## EXPERIENCE NORTH KOREA

How many of us can say that we've visited North Korea? Not a lot, although it's perfectly safe - as long as you follow the rules. Attractions in this time-locked place include landmarks like the Juche Tower, as well as the Mass Games, an arts and gymnastics festival (July to October) featuring over 100,000 performers. You will be accompanied by two North Korean guides everywhere you go, and you can only travel with an approved travel agent like Koryo Tours.



**Approximate Total Cost (Excluding Flights): US\$1,000 (5D4N)**

Once in a lifetime experiences don't come cheap. At least, that's what we think. As it turns out, there are things that you can cross off your bucket list that are not only close to home, but won't necessarily break the bank either. No savings? It's nothing a month's worth of part time jobs can't fix.

## HOT AIR BALLOON OVER BAGAN

Taking a hot air balloon over the picturesque scenery of Bagan in Myanmar is definitely an experience to remember. It is one of the most beautiful places in the country, with over 3,000 iconic temples spanning a flat plain for as far as the eye can see. Constructed between the 11th and 13th centuries, these ancient structures are a sight to behold, especially at sunset/sunrise. To get there, you have to fly to Yangon, then you can take a bus, flight or train to Bagan.



**Approximate Total Cost (Including Flights): \$780**

## EXPLORING ANCIENT CAVES

For adventure seekers, Sarawak's Gunung Mulu National Park is home to some of the biggest and most impressive caves in the world. Explore 2km long Deer Cave, with passages that are over 170 metres tall and home to over 12 species of bats, or see the Sarawak Chamber, which is large enough to accommodate 40 747 jumbo jets. Observe ancient stalagmites and stalactites, as well as the park's wildlife like the tarsier, gibbon and rhinoceros hornbill. The caves are accessible from Miri.



**Approximate Total Cost (Including Flights): \$600**



By Sethro Wegener



# Most Remote Eating Places in the World

Getting something to eat is fairly easy in Singapore. There's always a kopitiam just around the corner, a fast food joint in the nearest mall or a restaurant close by, but have you ever wondered about the more remote eating places out there? From a McDonald's in the desert to a Starbucks in the ocean, these are the places that require a lot of effort to get to.



## McDonald's in the Desert, Negev Desert, Israel

One might think the sight of the famous golden arches on a journey through the desert would be a mirage, but that's not the case here. Sitting 160km deep in the Negev Desert in Israel, this may just be one of the most remote McDonald's on the planet. The restaurant does brisk business, serving travellers that are making their way to towns in the south end of the country or resorts on the Red Sea. It also serves some interesting food, including a turkey McShawarma and kosher beef burgers.

Approximate Distance from Singapore: 8,000km

## Starbucks in the Ocean, USS Boxer

There really is one everywhere nowadays, even in the middle of the ocean. For the first time, Starbucks has opened an outlet on the US Navy amphibious assault ship, the USS Boxer. It is a fully functioning coffee shop that serves sailors all of the chain's signature line of coffees, teas and smoothies. In order to keep it as authentic as possible, Navy personnel were trained by Starbucks baristas to operate the machines and prepare the drinks.

Approximate Distance from Singapore: 13,000km, when docked in California



## A Bar with More Penguins than People, Antarctica

On the tiny island of Galindez in the Antarctic Peninsula, lies one of the most remote bars on the planet. Called the Faraday Bar at the Vernadsky Research Base, it was a British pub until 1996, when England sold the crumbling old place for one British pound to the Ukrainians. They fixed it up, and now the place has an interesting mix of décor, with Union Jacks and Ukrainian kitsch adorning the walls. Offering the best, and *only*, vodka in Antarctica, proudly distilled on-base, the bar serves locals and tourists who come in on cruises.

Approximate Distance from Singapore: 12,800km



## A Restaurant on a Remote Island, Faroe Islands, Norway

Located halfway between Norway and Iceland, these islands are very difficult to get to, but getting there is only half the journey. Actually, getting to Nordasti Hag is a feat unto itself. There are no roads leading to this little traditional restaurant, requiring one to travel cross-country, through swamps and rocky outcrops. The first part of the journey is by 4x4, but once you pass a certain point you will have to walk. Those who make it will be greeted with a rustic, aged little farmhouse that serves homely, filling food.

Approximate Distance from Singapore: 11,000km

## Restaurant Wedged on the Side of a Cliff, Switzerland

Situated precariously on the rocky cliff face of the Ebenalp a good 100m up, the 170-year old Aescher-Wildkirchli guesthouse offers amazing views of the Swiss Alps. Built during the 19th century, it is a hiker's dormitory that serves hearty Swiss lunches for visitors. Getting there takes about 3hrs of strenuous mountain hiking, passing a beautiful lake along the way; the return portion can be done via cable car (if you're lazy, you can take the cable car ride up plus a 30-minute hike).

Approximate Distance from Singapore: 10,200km





# THE GREAT SELFIE STICK BAN

BY: ZHAO JIAYI

Although selfie sticks are one of the best-selling products in recent years, it seems some places are not such big fans of them. Several tourist attractions around the world have banned these "Wands of Narcissus" for health and safety reasons.



## ARSENAL'S EMIRATES STADIUM, LONDON, UK

Top football club Arsenal has taken a strict anti-selfie stick stance, with one spokesman confirming that selfie sticks are banned on match days at the Emirates Stadium, on the grounds that fans might misuse them as weapons against one another.



Disney Land, Anaheim, California

## DISNEY PARKS

While selfie sticks have previously been disallowed on the most dangerous rides, Disney Parks took things one step further in July 2015 by banning them within all its compounds. According to one representative, they were regarded as a threat to the safety of staff and tourists alike.

## COLOSSEUM, ROME, ITALY

The use of selfie sticks is officially banned at the Colosseum. Tourists are asked to refrain from using the sticks to take photos of themselves against Rome's famous backdrop for fear the 2,000-year old relic may get damaged.

## FORBIDDEN CITY, BEIJING, CHINA

Chinese authorities have enforced a selfie stick ban in the Forbidden City. Apparently, they pose a risk to not just the delicate antiques and artifacts, but also to other tourists, especially in the most crowded areas of the tourist attraction.

## SOUTH KOREA

There will be no more "But first, let me take a selfie" moments in South Korea – authorities have cracked down on the sale of unregulated selfie sticks, claiming they have adverse health effects on users and their Bluetooth signals actually interfere with other electronic devices.

## MUSEUM OF MODERN ART, NEW YORK CITY, USA

Visitors to MoMA can no longer stop to snap selfies with the interesting Picasso painting or the bizarre Michelangelo sculpture. The museum has outlawed selfie sticks, justifying the ban as a means of safeguarding the displays and preventing congestion.



Palace of Versailles, Paris, France

## PALACE OF VERSAILLES, PARIS, FRANCE

Tourists paying a visit to the Palace of Versailles are now required by the guards to keep their selfie sticks in their bags, with palace officials citing a "need to protect artworks and other visitors" as the reason for the new restriction.



Forbidden City, Beijing, China

## COACHELLA VALLEY MUSIC AND ARTS FESTIVAL, CALIFORNIA, USA

Coachella made its opinion on selfie sticks clear with a simple statement on its website that reads "No selfie sticks/Narcissists". Apparently, not only do selfie sticks pose an annoyance to the audience, they also promote illicit tapings of the festival's performances.



Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival

## NATIONAL GALLERY, LONDON, UK

Selfie sticks were officially banned from the National Gallery last year, "in order to protect paintings, individual privacy and the overall visitor experience". In addition, these unwieldy poles pose a danger to the museum's artwork, as it causes crowding around a painting.

## WIMBLEDON TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS, LONDON, UK

The All England Lawn Tennis Club, where the annual Wimbledon Championships is held, has decreed that selfie sticks will not be allowed on its grounds. This move is allegedly due to the product's "nuisance value" as well as its disruption to spectators' viewing of the games.



BY VINCENT TAN & JETHRO WEGENER

# HIPSTER HOODS

Ask anyone in Singapore, and Tiong Bahru will come up as the country's premier hipster hood with its gentrified kopitiams, indie bookstore and vinyl shops; it's a bona fide hipster nirvana. Here are some places around the world where you can break out your suspenders and wax your mustache for too-cool-for-school fun.

## 1. SHEUNG WAN, HONG KONG

With the vintage glam of collectibles, antiques and traditional medicine contrasting with specialty shops, trendy cafes and galleries, the old hood of Sheung Wan now has an Asian hipster feel. International tastes collide from shop to shop - indulge in anything from crafted coffees to bespoke cocktails and craft beer. The area also holds a block party with free beer on the last Friday of each month.



## 2. DAIKANYAMA - TOKYO, JAPAN

The quiet leafy neighbourhood of Daikanyama (and neighbouring Nakameguro) has plenty of trendy cafes and indie boutiques for discerning hipsters. Try handcrafted coffee at the retro chic lab.LABAR, dig into apple pie at cosy Matsunosuke, or sip a smoothie at Cleansing Cafe. Then check out one-of-a-kind jeans from one of many indie boutiques, admire window displays in the warren of lanes or browse for books at the uber trendy Daikanyama T-Site bookstore.



## 3. SHOREDITCH - LONDON, UK

Shoreditch's hipster identity can be read from the quirky names of bars like "Zigfrid von Underbelly" and "The Mayor of Scaredy Cat Town" and seen in the home grown vegetables of Nomadic Community Gardens, or the ever-evolving street art murals. Shop at Spitalfields Market for jewelry and pastries, the many vintage shops, or Boxpark, a mall with indie brands that's constructed from shipping containers.



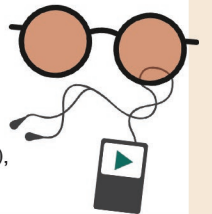
## 4. WOODSTOCK - CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

Once a dangerous area, recent developments have made Woodstock a haven for the city's hipsters. As a stage for some of the country's most talented young artists to show off their works, you'll find everything from locally-made clothes to art galleries showing off local art. From the Neighbourgoods Market selling a cornucopia of organic foods, to the Stevenson gallery for local art, there's something for every hipster.



## 5. WILLIAMSBURG - NEW YORK, USA

Also known as "Billyburg", hipster hood Williamsburg is where you can enjoy live music at Brooklyn Bowl, enjoy the Smorgasborg food festival, watch free outdoor movies at McCarren Park, or shop for vintage clothing on Grand Street. You can tour local street art and the Brooklyn Brewery for free and with a performance on almost every night (featuring indie rockers), the area shows no lack of cool fuel.



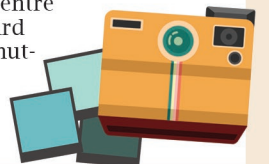
## 6. FLORENTIN - TEL AVIV, ISRAEL

Florentin is choc a bloc with vintage fashion, street art and cool nightlife. With a huge recycling program, 120km of bike paths, and vegan culture, hipsters can take in the Bauhaus architecture and its diverse bars. Located between the flea markets of Jaffa and the skyscrapers of Tel Aviv, it's home to the Levinsky food market and close to the beaches of Banana and Manta.



## 7. FITZROY - MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

Fitzroy, heavily populated with hipsters clad in skinny jeans and sporting beards, is located in Australia's hipster capital - Melbourne. Home to stunning buildings, the annual Melbourne Fringe Festival, the Centre for Contemporary Photography and Third Drawer Out (purveyor of things like donut-shaped chairs), it's easy to see why. Brunswick Street is the main drag, full of idiosyncratic shops, cafes and bars.



## HIPSTERS BEWARE

In stark contrast to hipster hoods, there are a couple of places where even the bravest tweed-sporting, bearded men among us fear to tread.

### BERLIN - GERMANY

In response to the gentrification of Berlin's poorest neighbourhoods, there is strong anti-hipster sentiment in the city. With more and more little cafes, quaint bars and foreigners moving into the city, housing prices have risen over 30% since 2007. Some shops have been known to promote hipster bashing, and some establishments ban tourists.



### EAST END - LONDON, ENGLAND

Anti-hipster sentiments are growing in London's poor neighbourhood of the East End. Last year, anarchist group Class War ransacked the small hipster-run Cereal Killer Café, allegedly for charging £4.50 for a bowl of cereal. The group is against gentrification, and saw the café as part of the problem.





BY KIRSTIN SOW

# THE GREAT ESCAPE FROM URBAN LIFE: ANIMAL FARMS IN SINGAPORE

SINGAPORE MIGHT BE A SMALL PLACE, BUT THERE ARE PLENTY OF FARMS SCATTERED AROUND THE GREENER PARTS OF THE ISLAND. HERE ARE SOME PLACES WHERE YOU CAN ACTUALLY INTERACT WITH FARM ANIMALS IN NATURE, AND THEY'RE ACCESSIBLE VIA PUBLIC TRANSPORT!

## THE ANIMAL RESORT

Located near Jalan Kayu, The Animal Resort is the dream of any animal lover who wants to be close to mother nature. Think dogs, rabbits, guinea pigs, horses, and a wide range of birds from chickens, ducks and geese to the exotic like the cassowary, crown cranes, Maribou storks and peacocks. Plus, there is no entry fee. Instead, for a small sum, you can purchase animal feed and spend copious amounts of time feeding and learning about these animals. One can also catch tiny fish with a net (for a small fee) and keep them as well.

The Animal Resort is accessible via its nearest MRT at Yio Chu Kang or Sengkang, as well as bus services 86 and 103. However, it should be noted that as the place is quite secluded, it requires a bit of walking from the main road.

## HAY DAIRIES

You can visit a working goat farm, Hay Dairies, located in Yio Chu Kang. Anyone can visit their farm from 9am to 4pm, and check out their curious goats which are housed in large airy barns. If you're there before 10.30am, you can check out the main event, which is the milking process; the goats actually queue up patiently at their stations at the milking parlour to wait their turn! Visitors can also purchase fresh goat milk at the premises, and learn more about the farming process.

Hay Dairies is accessible from either Kranji MRT (then hop on the Kranji Countryside Express Bus) or Choa Chu Kang MRT, followed by bus number 975.

## FARMMART CENTRE

Located at Choa Chu Kang, Farmmart Centre is where you can interact with animals, and gain an insight into the local farming industry. Entry is free, and one is able to view and feed animals that include mountain goats, rabbits, tortoises, bull frogs, guinea pigs, hamsters, birds and fish. You can also try prawning. Go on farm tours conducted by 'Uncle William' to learn about quails and frogs, as well as gain insights into various types of farming (crocodile, fish, goat and vegetables) in Singapore. After a long day, enjoy a plethora of hawker foods, tze char or BBQ.

To get to Farmmart Centre, alight at Choa Chu Kang MRT station, then hop onto one of Farmmart Centre's shuttle buses from Lot 1 Shopping Mall at \$1 per person.

## GALLOP STABLE

With three branches at Pasir Ris, Punggol and Turf Club Road (Horse City), Gallop Stable offers a variety of horse riding activities that includes pony and carriage rides, pony and donkey feeding, trail rides and stable tours to allow the public to understand more about its stables and horses. Horse riding lessons are a draw at Gallop Stable - prospective students can learn leisure riding and even showjumping. The Punggol Ranch also offers accommodation in country-style barns for those interested in spending more time with the horses.

Gallop Stable's branches can be easily reached via their respective MRT stations: Pasir Ris, Punggol and Farrer Road.

## D'KRANJI FARM RESORT

Located in a green pocket in the north of Singapore, D'Kranji Farm Resort is a respite far away from urban city life - one can spend the night at this farm resort with amenities like a jacuzzi, steam room and karaoke room, and even indulge in spas and massages. Surrounded by nature, visitors can go on farm tours; prawn fishing, or even learn more about swiftlets - the birds that produce edible bird's nest - at the Swiftlet Garden Museum.

D'Kranji Farm Resort can be reached by alighting at Kranji MRT station and boarding Kranji Country Express, the resort's shuttle, or by taking bus services 160, 170, 178, 925, 960 and 961.





BY DESIREE NG

# YOUR WEEKEND TREE-T: PARK LIFE IN SINGAPORE

Need a break but can't think of what to do? Don't be stumped, we will help you with your weekend itinerary. And no, we're not looking at hipster cafes. We're talking about doing what original hippies used to do – enjoy nature.

## 2 FOR THE ADVENTUROUS EXPLORER

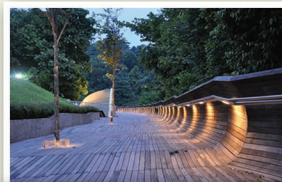
**Where:** Mount Faber Park, Labrador Nature Park and Coastal Walk

**Nearest MRT:** Labrador or Harbourfront MRT

Harbourfront offers more than the swanky VivoCity or Sentosa. Via the Marang Trail, you can walk through Mount Faber Park (climb to the peak for a breathtaking view).

Then walk across the iconic Henderson Waves bridge to the picturesque elevated Hilltop Walk and Forest Walk and follow the Alexandra Garden Trail towards the lush Labrador Nature Park where you'll get to walk through mangroves along the new Berlayer Creek boardwalk. You can continue the walk along the coastal Bukit Chermin Trail, lined with black-and-white bungalows, back towards VivoCity.

Feeling a little more adventurous? Go off the beaten track and look for Keppel Hill Reservoir, which was only rediscovered in 2014.

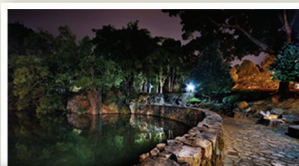


## 4 FOR THE INSTAGRAMMERS

**Where:** Bukit Batok

**Nearest MRT:** Bukit Batok MRT

From nature spots like Little Guilin to the rooftops of The Spire at Bukit Batok Crescent, Bukit Batok is a pretty Instagrammable neighbourhood, with a little exploring thrown in. Walk or take a bus down to the Bukit Timah Nature Reserve area to explore the area.



It is worth noting that access to Bukit Timah Nature Reserve is limited due to restoration works now, but be sure to look out for the nearby Hindhede Nature Park, Bukit Batok Nature Park, Dairy Farm Nature Park and the Rail Mall, from where you can follow the leafy Green Corridor to reach the abandoned Bukit Timah Railway Station for a parting shot.

## 1 FOR THE CYCLIST

**Where:** Punggol Point to Punggol Park

**Nearest MRT:** Punggol MRT (Take bus 84 until you reach the looping point)



Punggol has seen quite a lot of development as of late. If you're a cyclist, Punggol is a great place to explore. Punggol Point Park boasts a beautiful beach with white sand, a horse stable and also a branch of the famous Sembawang white beehoon.



Rent a bicycle and cycle down the path, through Coney Island with its rich mangrove and birdlife, past Lorong Halus Wetland with its famous red bridge, and eventually to Punggol Park. There will be many interesting sights (and wildlife) and scenic riverside boardwalks along the way, so do stop once in awhile to take it all in.

## 3 FOR THE HISTORY BUFF

**Where:** Fort Canning Park

**Nearest MRT:** Dhoby Ghaut MRT

This needs no introduction; we've all been there before. Take a trip down memory lane and visit the bunkers and sally ports at Battle Box (officially re-opens 28 June). Explore the fort along the park's loop trail and look out for the Keramat Iskandar Shah (believed to be a tomb for the last king of Singapura), the 1848 gothic gates, and Raffles' House, home to a long line of British governors. Feeling generous? Head to secluded Lewin Terrace, a black-and-white bungalow built in 1908, for a posh dinner.



Do check out the many museums around the Fort Canning park area, especially the colourful Civil Defence Heritage Gallery, and the newly opened National Gallery.

## 5 FOR THE RECREATIONAL PARKGOERS

**Where:** Orto Park

**Nearest MRT:** Khatib MRT

Previously known as the Bottle Tree Park, Orto is a multi-recreational park, open 24 hours a day. If you're looking for a day of fun activities with your squad, there is a huge variety here, ranging from a trampoline park to paintball to prawning and plenty of fishing. After an \$8 million makeover, the area now has a number of places to eat and drink.

If you're a true blue urban child, Orto provides a spoonful of familiarity while still serving up a soothing cup of nature. If you're ready to take on a little more, follow the Khatib Bongsu park connector to get to Yishun Park for a casual, neighbourhood stroll.





# OUT AND ABOUT

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CAMPUS.SINGAPORE

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### Singapore Comedy Fringe 2016 (M18)

**When:** 26 - 30 Apr | 7.30pm, 9.30pm  
**Location:** SOTA Drama Theatre  
**Tickets:** \$28 - \$48

Spanning across 5 days and with 10 different comedic acts, double over in laughter as 27 comics, both local and international, come together to keep you entertained. With topics ranging from your average chicken rice to seeing things from a woman's perspective, it's the stand-up comedy event of the year.



1  
PAIR  
TIX

## MOVIES



**Assassination Classroom 2 (April 28)**  
**Cast:** Ryosuke Yamada, Kazanari Ninomiya, Masaki Suda, Maika Yamamoto

Continuing from the first movie, the story resumes as the second semester begins for Class 3-E in Kunugigaoka Junior High School – the students of which are supposed to kill their homeroom teacher: a mysterious being called UT. As the class begins to bond with the new teacher, one of the students, Kaede Kayano, declares vengeance on him for the death of her sister – their former homeroom teacher Aguri Yukimura. As UT reveals his past, will the members of Class 3-E continue with their mission or save a teacher who truly does care about them?

3  
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### Young & Fabulous (May 26)

**Cast:** Aloysius Pang, Joshua Tan, Joyce Chu, Jeffrey Xu, The Sam Willows, Gurmit Singh

Bonded through the hobby of cosplay, three friends, Royston, Violet and Hao Ren must help each other out academically and empower each other through a competitive era where academic excellence seems to be everything. In their quest for self-discovery, they will also learn about different perspectives in parent-child and teacher-student relationships, and the courage and confidence to hold on to their dreams and hopes despite society valuing practicality over creativity.



3  
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## Gallery After Hours

**When:** 29 April | 6pm to 12mn  
**Location:** National Gallery Singapore  
**Tickets:** Free admission to programmes (admission fees to exhibitions may apply)

A series of late-night events, the National Gallery Singapore will debut a collaboration between some of Singapore's most stellar names in electronic music such as Evanturetimes and .gif at the Padang Atrium. Food such as cheeses and french-inspired dishes from Food Co.llab with Cocette and french wines will be available too, and there will also be a first ever Block Party featuring The Council's resident Frenchman, Julien Brochard.



## The Music Run by AIA

**When:** 23 Apr | 3.30pm  
**Location:** Sentosa Island  
**Tickets:** \$40 - \$90

Combining a run, dance and party in one major event, The Music Run will feature 120 concert quality speakers pumping over 150 kilowatts of music across five themed zones – Rock, Pop, Old School, Hip Hop and Dance. The after-run music festival will boast world-class DJ and performances from local and international artists that will be sure to keep the crowd on their feet.





## GIGS

6 & 7 May | 7.30pm  
Victoria Concert Hall  
Tickets: \$20 - \$72

### SSO: Beethoven's Pastoral Symphony

German maestro Andreas Delfs is back to conduct SSO's presentation of Beethoven's cheerful 6th Symphony, more commonly known as the 'Pastoral Symphony'. He will be joined by Lu Wei, who takes the violin solo in the meltingly beautiful Violin Concerto by Russian Composer Julius Conus, a work championed by the legendary Jascha Heifetz. The evening kicks off with Haydn's 'La Poule'.



8 May | 6pm  
Singapore Botanic Gardens  
Tickets: FREE

### SSO Classics in the Park: Mother's Day Concert

The SSO will be celebrating Mother's Day with a free concert at the Shaw Foundation Symphony Stage at the Botanic Gardens. The orchestra will be conducted by Associate Conductor Joshua Tan for the performance, which is part of the Tan Chin Tuan Music-For-All series that presents a medley of beautiful pieces including J Strauss II's Voices of Spring, Debussy's Ballet from Petit Suite, and John Williams' theme from Star Wars. There will also be a special Mother's Day gift, redeemable while stocks last, at the SSO booth.



28 May | 7.30pm  
Kallang Theatre  
Tickets: \$46 - \$96

### Sungha Jung Live in Singapore

Back with a sixth headlining show, Asia's top guitar virtuoso Sungha Jung will be performing live in Singapore with hits from Singaporean artistes such as JJ Lin, Tanya Chua, Kit Chan and Stefanie Sun. Featuring a list of originals and crowd favourites, Singapore's very own guitar virtuoso Neil Chan will join him in a guitar duet. The winner of the Sungha Jung Guitar Competition (held a day before the concert) will open the performance.



## PRODUCTIONS

27 Apr - 22 May | 7.30pm  
Fort Canning Park  
Tickets: \$40 - \$108

### Shakespeare in the Park: Romeo & Juliet

As the world marks the 400th death anniversary of William Shakespeare, SRT will be presenting Shakespeare's renowned Romeo & Juliet - a play that has sparked much inferences and influences in arts, theatre and music. This will also be the biggest Shakespeare production in this part of the world, and will be set in a modern dystopia.

2  
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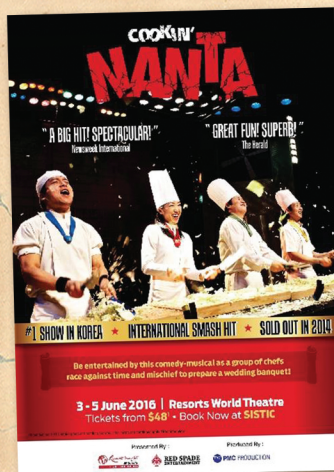


4 Jun | 8pm  
The Coliseum, Hard Rock Hotel  
Tickets: \$88 - \$398

### SCANDAL Tour 2016 'YELLOW'

Their fourth performance here in Singapore, the all-girl quartet SCANDAL is back once again on a world tour to promote their seventh album, 'YELLOW'. Singapore will be SCANDAL's first overseas stop for this year, and they will head to Hong Kong and Taiwan next.

© Epic Records Japan Inc.



3 - 5 Jun | 2pm, 8pm  
Resorts World Theatre  
Tickets: \$48 - \$138

### NANTA (Cookin') 2016

The first ever Asian show to open its own off-Broadway theatre, the non-verbal comedy-musical performance NANTA from Korea is back in Singapore once again. The professionally trained chefs bring a whole new experience by combining the art of music and culinary expertise to create Master Chef with energetic elements of Stomp.

1  
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10 - 11 Jun | 2pm, 8pm  
Resorts World Theatre  
Tickets: \$48 - \$138

### The Painters: HERO 2016

For 3 shows only, this innovative non-verbal visual spectacle combines 3D video art, energetic dance moves and live drawing altogether with mime and comedy, keeping the audience engaged with their works of art. With famous characters such as Michael Jackson and Bruce Lee being recreated in a unique way, the fun-filled show will keep everyone thoroughly entertained.

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BY NINA GAN

# DATING FOLKS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Singapore is undoubtedly very international – and this also extends to its student population. There's ample opportunity to meet – and possibly date – someone from somewhere around the world. As with anything, there are stereotypes involved with dating people from certain countries, and while it's unfair to generalise them all, here are some of the more typical comments:



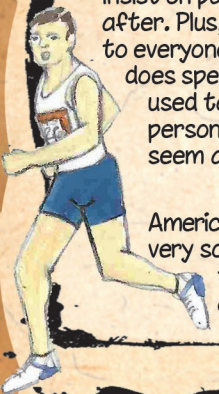
## THE AUSSIE

Not all Aussie guys are tall, blond surfers, but they tend to universally love the outdoors (and travelling) and seem to have less fear of creepy crawlies than the average Singaporean. Adventurous gals will love their outgoing nature, but will have to put up with their obsession of barbies (BBQs) and sports. They also tend to swear a lot, and an Aussie bloke really values his mates so he may prioritise a boys' night out over a romantic date.

Aussie gals are adventurous, and tend to be very forgiving of anyone's foibles. They're also very independent, and don't really need doting boyfriends.

## THE AMERICAN

If it's old-fashioned chivalry you're looking for, then American dudes will not disappoint. They'll open doors, insist on paying for dates, and walk you to your door after. Plus, they're usually very friendly – they'll talk to everyone. However, the average American dude does speak in a volume louder than most of us are used to, and despite their outgoing friendly personality, their overconfidence can sometimes seem a bit arrogant.



American women are similarly outgoing. They're very sociable, and may seem, like, very forward to some guys, as they, like, aren't shy about making the first move.

## THE JAPANESE

While the average Japanese tends to be shy, they do appreciate a good drinking (read: social) session. Japanese guys are well groomed, and they read (novels, manga, etc) a lot. Cute Japanese idiosyncrasies aside, their shyness means they aren't great at expressing their love, and while they're eager to learn about new cultures, many have a traditional mindset when it comes to family life and gender roles.



Japanese women seem to tick a lot of boxes for guys when it comes to looks and demure behavior. However, they tend to prefer long-term commitment (ie. marriage & kids).

## THE BRIT

The average British bloke is almost always charmingly polite, often avoiding confrontations (and even PDAs) to avoid being 'rude', plus they don't really brag about themselves. If you're into humour, Brits appreciate sarcasm, often taking delight in self-deprecating humour (including their own). They seem to have a lot of patience – they invented cricket, after all – but they can also be obsessive about football and become laddish if lager's involved.

British lasses are similarly fond of sarcastic humour, and aren't bothered with the price of dinner when it comes to first dates. Plus they're more likely to split the bill on any date.



## THE KOREAN

It's not rare to see young Korean men groomed like lead actors in K-dramas. They want to look good for their girlfriends, and love to pamper them as well – they celebrate cheesy romantic things and even wear matching clothes. The average Korean guy is a momma's boy, which explains his constant need to feed you. However, they do have a way of being blunt about things, and they can be quite possessive.

Korean women like being spoiled by their boyfriends and will compare you to their friends' boyfriends. Whatever you do, don't get on their bad side or challenge them to a drinking contest.





# SURPRISINGLY AFFORDABLE DESTINATIONS

BY TISHA HARYANTO

IN 2016

Have you noticed why 2016 is the best year to travel? It has many long weekends to look forward to. Since we are nearing the summer school break, it is about time to plan ahead for short getaways, family trips and travelling around the globe with friends. Here are some of the destinations that were once out of budget, or maybe have never made it to your list, that are now actually affordable due to various factors, including depreciating exchange rates.

## COUNTRIES WITH DEPRECIATING CURRENCIES



### RUSSIA

Recent deteriorating oil prices have really opened the doors for travellers to Russia. The country boasts many sought-after tourist attractions, like the Red Square and St Basil's Cathedral, and though there is some conflict at the Ukrainian border, there is no definite travel warning to the country. Plus Russia is also easing visa restrictions to attract more tourists!

### CANADA



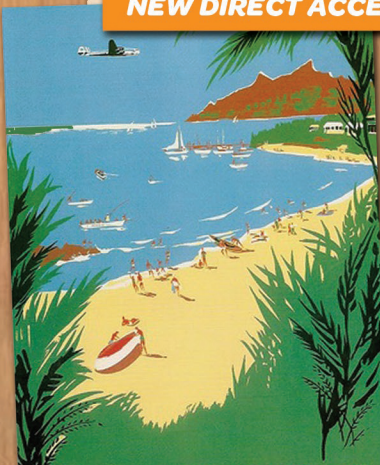
Of all the depreciating currencies last year, the Canadian Dollar was hardest hit, and rates have remained pretty low this year. Not only will prices for accommodation and food be cheaper due to the exchange rates, travelling around Canada will be less expensive as well thanks to the depreciating oil prices. Time to finally check out the Canadian Rockies, or perhaps the French-speaking Quebec region.

### The United Kingdom



For fans of all things British – English teas, Shakespeare, Benedict Cumberbatch – this is a great year to visit the UK. The value of the British Pound has been on a downward spiral since the turn of the year, and it's predicted to go even lower. This means you can check out musicals at the West End, visit Stonehenge, or even attend an outdoor concert for much cheaper than before. Got friends studying in the UK? It's time to pay them a visit.

## COUNTRIES WITH NEW DIRECT ACCESS



### MAURITIUS IS.

Often considered as one of those expensive island holidays in the Indian Ocean along with Maldives and Seychelles, Mauritius is more than just secluded resorts – it even has a safari park. Thanks to a new direct flight from Singapore, getting there is cheaper now, especially when you book a package (even ones with luxury hotels).

### FIJI



Fiji is most associated with luxurious honeymoon resorts. However, with a new direct flight from Singapore, getting there is much more affordable (and faster) than before. The country suffered some of its worst cyclone damage earlier this year, so prices for luxury hotels are lower than usual. Plus, there are also cheaper accommodation options on the island, like hotels and B&Bs.

## COUNTRIES WITH CURRENT OR RECENT 'DIFFICULTIES'

### GREECE



Due to its deteriorating economic difficulties, the price for travelling around Greece has decreased significantly. It's a country worth exploring now if you love history and culture. While the prices on the Greek islands remain high, it's a great chance to experience some of the mainland's attractions like the Meteora monasteries and Athens.



### NEPAL

Nepal continues to struggle with low tourism numbers after the devastating twin earthquakes of 2014, and the depreciating value of the Nepalese Rupee means that it's now cheaper to see the country's breathtaking nature. For an added bonus, visiting the country would help locals rebuild their lives, since the country makes most of its income through tourism.



BY NINA GAN

# Where's Willy?

## FERTILITY WORSHIP AROUND THE WORLD

BE WARNED,  
IF YOU'RE UNDERAGE,  
YOU MIGHT WANT  
TO STAY AWAY  
FROM SOME OF  
THESE PLACES  
(AND THIS PAGE).

One of the most interesting (and entertaining) aspects of travel is experiencing foreign culture. And one of the most unusual – yet not too mainstream – customs has to be ones that worship fertility. Why?

Because they're mostly celebrated by way of giant, colourful phalluses. While the idea of phallus worship is giggle worthy, for many cultures throughout the centuries, it was the IVF treatment of their time for many couples.

### FERTILITY FESTIVALS

#### Honen Matsuri, Japan

Spring festivals – Honen Matsuri – are held across Japan in March to pray for a bountiful harvest, as well as for plenty of babies. The best known festival is held in Komaki (near Nagoya City), where highlights include plenty of free sake, stalls selling penis-themed souvenirs (lollipops, popsicles, candles, etc), and a parade of women cradling small wooden phalluses. The main event is the procession of a mikoshi (portable Shinto shrine) with a 2.5m-long wooden penis, culminating in a finale when mochi are thrown into the crowd like a parting money shot.

A similar festival celebrating the male member is Kawasaki's Kanamara Festival ("Festival of the Steel Phallus"), which has a fascinating origin involving a wife, 2 husbands, and a penis-biting demon. It's a long story, but these days, Kanamara is visited by married couples hoping to start a family.



#### Tyrnavos Bourani Carnival, Greece

On the first Monday of Lent, the town of Tyrnavos in Thessaly hosts an ancient pagan festival in honour of Dionysus (the Greek god of wine, madness and fertility) symbolising spring and fertility, where visitors eat, drink, sing songs full of profanity and hit each other with fake penises.

Dummy penises made of wood, paper, clay, bread, or sugar seem to cover every possible surface; passersby are rocked over a pot of boiling soup – called Bourani – while a ceramic phallus is placed between their legs. They must kiss the phallus, then drink a shot of tsipouro (a strong local spirit) from its tip before they're let go. It's no surprise that this is one of the most famous parties in Greece.

### FERTILITY BLESSINGS

#### Painted Phalluses, Bhutan

Bhutan may be famous for many things, but probably not for images of penises adorning homes, vehicles and rooftops. For centuries, these phallic symbols – from small to 'terrifyingly huge' – have been believed to offer protection from evil, and aid in fertility.

The painted phalluses are colourful, with designs that rival any tattoo artist's. These depictions represent the symbolic teachings of Drukpa Kunley, an eccentric saint (aka 'Divine Madman') who was all about wine, women and debauchery. Ironically, he's also a 'fertility saint' – childless couples often make pilgrimages to Chimi Lhakhang (a fertility temple founded by Kunley) where a Buddhist monk blesses them... by thumping them on their heads with a 10-inch wood phallus.



#### Chao Mae Tubtim Shrine, Thailand

Tucked away in a quiet garden behind Swissotel in Bangkok lies the shrine of Chao Mae Tubtim, a female fertility spirit. Women come here to increase their chances of conceiving (the temple apparently has a good success rate), and while the deity is female, the temple doesn't have a feminine touch.

Instead, it's littered with phalluses – from pocket-sized icons of wood, to stone sculptures 10 feet high, erected by those whose wishes came true. Some of these phalluses are hung, propped against a tree, or stand upright (they have feet).



# STRESS

# RELIEF

One of the best methods of releasing stress is to travel – simply because it gets you away from your problems. If you don't have the time or cash to go on a holiday, you can travel around sunny Singapore's lesser known areas and explore places off the beaten track. It's a great way to relieve stress, and learn about some hidden gems this tiny island has to offer.

## INSTRUCTIONS:

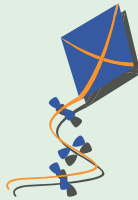
1. Cut up Travel Bingo
2. Scout out the locations
3. Snap a selfie at one of these locations with the hashtag **#travelbingosingapore**
4. First one to finish all eight places in one weekend wins!

## TRAVEL BINGO

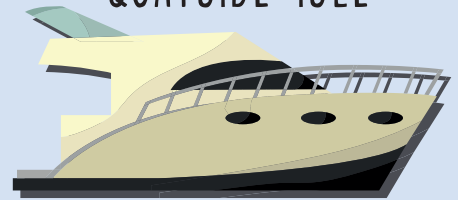
GO CYCLING IN  
PULAU UBIN



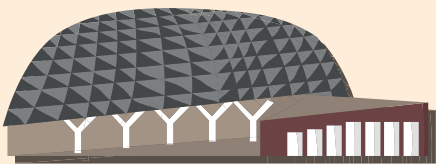
FLY A KITE AT  
MARINA BARRAGE



CHILL AT  
QUAYSIDE ISLE



TREAT YOUR EARS  
AT THE ESPLANADE



GO ON A  
SINGAPORE  
WALK



SCOUT  
OUT LOCAL  
GEMS AT  
HAJI LANE



CAFE HOP AT  
TIONG BAHRU



VISIT A FARM

FIND YOUR  
FOREST ADVENTURE





Application for the  
**May 2016**  
intake  
is now open!

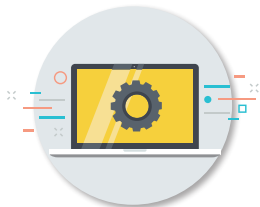
Ng Wen Chang  
Class of 2014

In Phil Hwang  
Class of 2015

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