

# Orchard Road

## Neighbourhood Top Five

**1** Shopping the new-millennium way at **ION Orchard Mall** (p100), Singapore's sleekest, sharpest, mega mall, and the epitome of retail escapism.

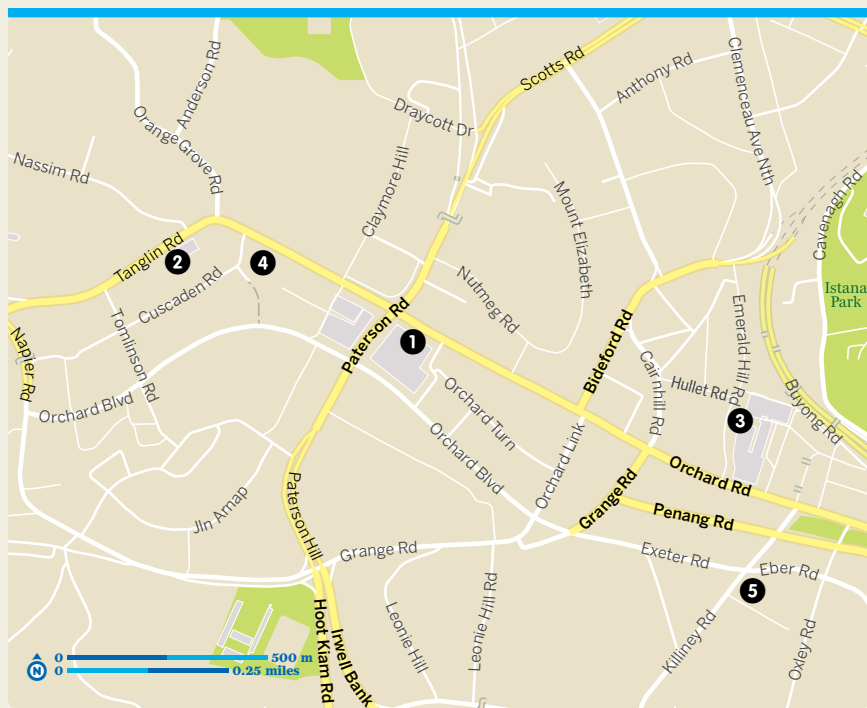
**2** Hunting for Indian antiques, bartering for an oriental rug or poring over ancient maps of Asia in cul-

turally savvy **Tanglin Shopping Centre** (p100).

**3** Slowing down your shopping spree with a leisurely stroll along heritage heavyweight **Emerald Hill Road** (p96).

**4** Treating your palate to a tasting menu at **Iggy's** (p98), one of Singapore's most exalted restaurants.

**5** Coming back down to earth with a traditional Singaporean breakfast of *kaya* (coconut jam) toast and *kopi* at **Killiney Kopitiam** (p96), the original locals' coffeshop.



For more detail of this area see Map p216. ➔

## Explore Orchard Road

You would need the best part of a week to explore every floor of every mall in the Orchard Rd area, so do some shopping-mall homework before you go – keep reading.

Most malls don't open until 10am, but if you arrive early, fear not: you have the perfect excuse to charge up with breakfast and a powerful cup of Joe, either the old-school, Singaporean way at Killiney Kopitiam (p96), or the trendy, new-school way at the Providore (p98), Wild Honey (p98) or Kith Cafe (p97).

Whichever malls you trawl, it won't be long before your pins will yearn for a well-earned break. Spoil them with a quick foot rub at Lucky Plaza (p101) or go all out with some luxe pampering at one of the area's top-tier hotel spas.

Come 5pm, it's time to toast to your purchases with cut-price, happy-hour drinks, on Orchard Rd itself or just off it on historic beauty Emerald Hill Rd.

## Local Life

➔ **Crowds** Shopping is Singapore's national sport, and the malls on Orchard Rd can get exceedingly busy. That can be half the fun, but if you prefer your shopping sans the hordes, head in as they open (usually around 10am) and browse bustle-free for about an hour or so.

➔ **Food courts** Shopping mall food courts might be culinary wastelands back home, but in Singapore, they're fantastic spots to eat fresh, authentic grub at very digestible prices. They're practically hawker centres with air-con, offering no shortage of local classics, as well as flavours from across the continent.

➔ **Fresh air** Air-conditioned malls are all well and good, but the time will come for a blast of good old-fashioned fresh air. So when the shopping is done, kick back with a cooling drink above the madness at Bar Canary (p99), or mingle with the postwork crowd on Emerald Hill Rd.

## Getting There & Away

➔ **MRT** Orchard Rd is served by no less than three MRT stations: Orchard, Somerset and Dhoby Ghaut, so there's really no need to use any other form of transport to get here.

➔ **Bus** Bus 7 links Orchard Rd with Victoria St (for Kampong Glam), bus 65 links Orchard Rd with Serangoon Rd (for Little India), while bus 190 is the most direct service between Orchard Rd and Chinatown. For Dempsey Hill and Holland Village, catch bus 7 or 106 from Penang Rd, Somerset Rd or Orchard Blvd just south of Orchard Rd.

## Lonely Planet's Top Tip

It's hard to believe it as you walk from mall to mall, but there is a rainforest within 2km of Orchard Rd, inside the grounds of the wonderful **Botanic Gardens** (Map p218). So, if you fancy a green escape from the concrete jungle, hop on bus 7 or 174 from the Orchard MRT exit on Orchard Blvd, and you'll be there in 10 to 20 minutes.

## Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Iggy's (p98)
- ➔ Takashimaya Food Village (p97)
- ➔ Paradise Dynasty (p97)
- ➔ Buona Terra (p98)
- ➔ StraitsKitchen (p98)

For reviews, see p96. ➔

## Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Ice Cold Beer (p99)
- ➔ Néktar (p99)
- ➔ Bar Canary (p99)
- ➔ KPO (p99)
- ➔ Providore (p98)

For reviews, see p98. ➔

## Best Places to Shop

- ➔ ION Orchard Mall (p100)
- ➔ Robinsons (p100)
- ➔ Tanglin Shopping Centre (p100)
- ➔ Reckless Shop (p100)
- ➔ On Pedder (p100)

For reviews, see p100. ➔