

# West & Southwest Singapore

SOUTHWEST SINGAPORE | WEST SINGAPORE

## Neighbourhood Top Five

**1** Stretching your legs for a park-to-park walk along the **Southern Ridges** (p128) to Mt Faber, then hopping onto the cable car for gob-smacking views of the city, port and Sentosa Island.

**2** Kickstarting your Sunday with a scrumptious Thai brunch at jungle

hideaway **Tamarind Hill** (p131).

**3** Landing a peckish, rainbow-coloured parrot on your arm at family-friendly **Jurong Bird Park** (p129).

**4** Joining serious twitchers for a spot of birdwatching in the mangroves of **Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve** (p129).

**5** Reliving a little 1950s tourism at the wonderfully quirky and offbeat theme park **Haw Par Villa** (p129).



For more detail of this area see Map p220 and p221. ➔

## Explore West & Southwest Singapore

This vast area is packed with sights that together would take a number of days to see. But you don't need to visit them all – none are absolute must-see attractions, most are quirky or somewhat specialist – so pick and choose what best suits you to plan your foray into western Singapore without wasting too much travel time.

Bundling sights together into one trip makes sense. The Science Centre, Omni-Theatre and Snow City stand side by side, while a number of sights in the northwest are accessed via Kranji MRT station.

Consider timing your visit to Mt Faber to coincide with sunset, so as the sun goes down you can either be on the cable car or at a restaurant or bar on the summit. It's then easy to get back to your hotel via the HarbourFront MRT station.

## Local Life

➔ **Deals** Don't forget to look into the combined ticket deals for the Science Centre, the Omni-Theatre and Snow City. Likewise, Jurong Bird Park is part of a possible three-in-one ticket deal with Singapore Zoo and the Night Safari. You can also get various Sentosa Island deals if you're travelling there by cable car.

➔ **University treasures** Western Singapore's universities harbour some lesser-known cultural diversions. The National University of Singapore is home to three museums in one, its collection including important works by Singaporean artistic heavyweight Ng Eng Teng. Further afield, Nanyang Technological University is where you'll find the Chinese Heritage Centre, a tranquil museum exploring the Chinese diaspora.

➔ **Sun-kissed** The west and southwest are full of parks, hills and nature reserves. They're wonderful places for strolling around, but don't underestimate the strength of the Singapore sun. Slop on the sunscreen, slap on a hat, and pack those water bottles.

## Getting There & Away

➔ **MRT** This vast area is actually served pretty well by the MRT. Some attractions have their namesake stations. Otherwise, HarbourFront, Jurong East, Boon Lay, Chinese Garden, Pioneer and Kranji are all useful stations that are either walking distance to sights or have bus connections to them.

➔ **Bus** For the more out-of-the-way sights you'll need to combine MRT trips with a bus ride. We list all the options with each review. The Kranji Express is a handy minibus service you can use to visit the farms in the northwest.

## Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Western Singapore is home to two outstanding public swimming complexes at Jurong East and Jurong West. Consider spending half the day sightseeing and the other half cooling off by the pool or soothing tired muscles in the jacuzzi. Both are family-friendly affairs, with top-notch facilities for visitors of all ages, and both are amazingly cheap.

## Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Tamarind Hill (p131)
- ➔ Faber Peak (p132)
- ➔ PeraMakan (p131)

For reviews, see p131. ➔

## Best for Kids

- ➔ Jurong Bird Park (p129)
- ➔ Snow City (p133)
- ➔ Jurong Swimming Pools (p133)
- ➔ Singapore Science Centre (p130)

For reviews, see p128. ➔

## Best Natural Escapes

- ➔ Southern Ridges (p128)
- ➔ Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve (p129)
- ➔ Labrador Nature Reserve (p129)
- ➔ Kranji Farms (p130)

For reviews, see p128. ➔