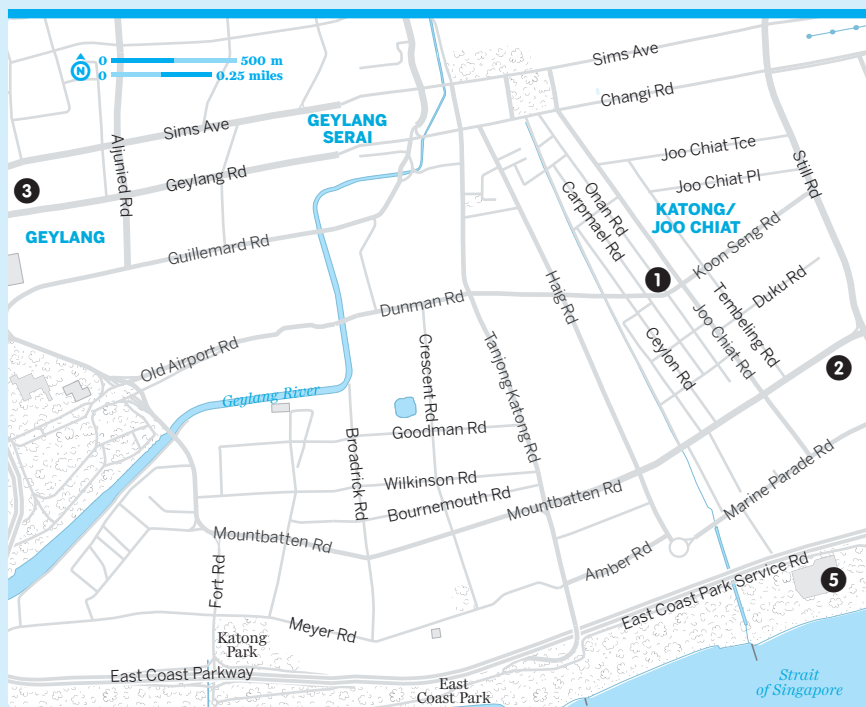


Eastern Singapore

GEYLANG | KATONG | EAST COAST PARK | CHANGI | PASIR RIS

Neighbourhood Top Five

- 1 Do your own gastro-nomic walking tour around the numerous **food joints in Katong/Joo Chiat** (p90).
- 2 Discovering the rich Peranakan culture at **Katong Antique House** (p87) and **Rumah Bebe** (p95).
- 3 Night-time crab *bee hoon* and people-watching at **Sin Huat Eating House** (p90) in Geylang.
- 4 Learning about Singapore's sombre brush with the Japanese during WWII at **Changi Prison Museum & Chapel** (p89).
- 5 Riding a bicycle or rollerblading along **East Coast Park** (p88) before plonking yourself down for a dinner and Tiger beer by the beach-fronting **East Coast Lagoon Food Village** (p92).



For more detail of this area, see Map p214 and p222 ➔

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

The problem with Katong and Geylang being a culinary centre of Singapore is that restaurants come and go. Find out about the latest and greatest with a web search for local food blogs.



Best Sights

- Changi Prison Museum & Chapel (p89)
- Katong Antique House (p87)
- Sri Senpaga Vinayagar Temple (p87)

For reviews, see p87 ➡



Best Places to Eat

- Guan Hoe Soon (p91)
- Sin Huat Eating House (p90)
- Maeda (p91)
- Saveur (p90)
- Chin Mee Chin Confectionery (p90)

For reviews, see p89 ➡



Best Places to Drink

- Sunset Bay Garden Beach Bar (p93)
- Cider Pit (p93)

For reviews, see p93 ➡

Explore Eastern Singapore

Though comprising a fair swath of the island, the neighbourhoods of the east receive far less attention from tourists than do those of the city centre. It's a shame, really, because whereas a district such as Chinatown is in danger of becoming a museum piece for tourists, the neighbourhoods of the east are vibrant, alive and, on the whole, more reflective of Singapore culture, both today and of days past. Closest to the city is the Geylang district, at once notorious as a red-light district, yet spiritual with myriad temples and mosques. The staggering amount of food outlets here is also a big draw.

Further east is Katong (also known as Joo Chiat), a picturesque neighbourhood of restored multicoloured shophouses that in recent years has come into its own as the spiritual heartland of Singapore's Peranakan people. Bordering Katong, and stretching for several kilometres along the seafront from the city right up to Tanah Merah, is East Coast Park. The well-paved waterfront paths offer plenty of space to skate and ride bicycles, as well as numerous spots for eating and drinking.

Don't discount a visit to Changi and Pasir Ris, the city's easternmost regions. Here's where you'll find the moving Changi Prison Museum and Chapel, a few resorts and theme parks for kids, a range of malls and the launching point for bumboats to Pulau Ubin and Johor in Malaysia.

Local Life

- **Food where it counts** Katong can lay claim to being the culinary centre of Singapore. There's everything from Peranakan to laksa and even French food in a coffeshop. Geylang has several famed restaurants too.
- **People watching people** Locals flock to Geylang for its fantastic food, true, but just as many go there to gawk at the sex workers trawling the streets.
- **East Coast Park** Locals love this beachside park for barbecues, camping, cycling, sea sports and great food.

Getting There & Away

- **MRT** The east isn't well served by the MRT. Aljunied is Geylang's closest station; Paya Lebar and Eunos take you to the north end of Joo Chiat. Pasir Ris has its own station. Otherwise, buses are a better bet.
- **Bus** Buses 33 and 16 go to the centre of Joo Chiat, passing through Geylang; 14 goes from Orchard Rd to East Coast Rd. Buses 12 and 32 go to East Coast Rd from North Bridge Rd. Bus 2 from Tanah Merah MRT goes to Changi Village.
- **Taxi** Flag from the road. Taxi is best for East Coast Park.