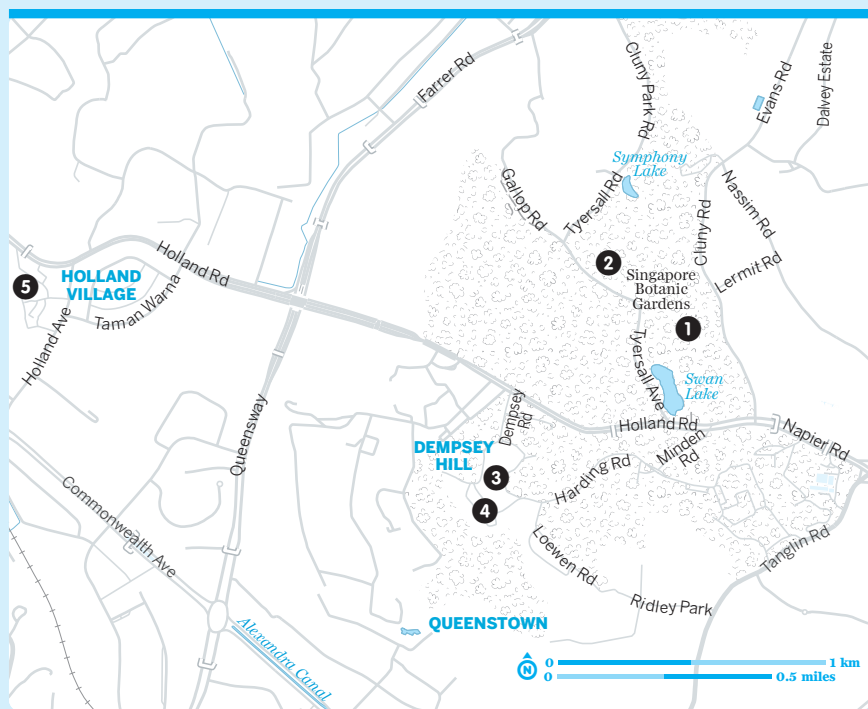


Holland Village, Dempsey Hill & the Botanic Gardens

Neighbourhood Top Five

- 1 Picnic on the lawns of the lush **Botanic Gardens** (p104) before venturing off into the rainforest.
- 2 Marvel at the beauty, diversity and sheer quantity of orchids on display at the **National Orchid Garden** (p104), housed inside the Botanic Gardens.
- 3 Bargain hunt your way through the array of **antique shops** (p108) on Dempsey Hill.
- 4 Satisfy your Western-food cravings with a visit to one of this area's excellent gourmet delicatessens. **Jones the Grocer** (p105) is a good place to start.
- 5 Sink a few beers on **Lorong Mambong** (p106), Holland Village's lively bar strip.



Explore Holland Village, Dempsey Hill & the Botanic Gardens

The standout, must-see sight here is the Botanic Gardens and you'd do well to set aside a few hours to fully soak up its charms. Making a picnic out of your visit can be fun, especially if you have kids in tow.

If you want to stock up on picnic goodies before you go, you could do a lot worse than the gourmet delis found in upmarket Holland Village or leafy (and even more upmarket) Dempsey Hill. Our favourite is Jones the Grocer.

Whilst there are plenty of pleasant food and cafe options within the Botanic Gardens itself, for a change of scene walk over to Dempsey Hill to grab a coffee before browsing around the antiques shops and art galleries. Come evening, you can either stay here for dinner or head to livelier Holland Village, where you'll find a host of decent restaurants as well as an often bustling strip of bars and cafes.

Local Life

- ➔ **Jogging** If you've brought a pair of trainers with you on your travels, do as many Singapore residents do and work that city pollution out of your lungs with a brisk jog around the Botanic Gardens. Early morning is best, when the air is still cool; or else just before sunset.
- ➔ **Shopping** If the glitzy high-rise shopping malls of nearby Orchard Rd get a bit too much for you, then shift down a gear or two and amble over to Dempsey Hill or Holland Village where you'll find plenty of small, independent shops and boutiques.
- ➔ **Gourmet** It's not just the expats that lap up the Western-food offerings in Holland Village and Dempsey. Follow moneyed Singaporeans too through the doors of cute cafes and well-stocked delicatessens to get your fix of comfort food.

Getting There & Away

- ➔ **MRT** The Botanic Gardens and Holland Village both have their own MRT stations. The Botanic Gardens one is just off our map, at the north entrance to the gardens.
- ➔ **Bus** Dempsey Hill isn't connected to the MRT. You can walk here from Botanic Gardens, or else catch a bus (7, 77, 106, 123 or 174) from behind Orchard MRT, on Orchard Blvd. Get off two stops after the Botanic Gardens then walk up to your left. Bus 7 is one of many that links Holland Village with Dempsey Hill. It's not far to walk between the two, but the walk is an unpleasant one along busy Holland Rd.

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Check the Botanic Gardens website (www.sbg.org.sg) for details of upcoming classical music concerts, which are staged for free by Symphony Lake. Also keep an eye out for free guided tours of the gardens. At the time of research they were being done on Saturday mornings, but this could change.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Au Jardin (p105)
- ➔ Jones the Grocer (p105)
- ➔ Original Sin (p104)
- ➔ Samy's Curry Restaurant (p105)
- ➔ Holland Village Food Centre (p105)
- ➔ Casa Verde (p106)

For reviews, see p104 ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Baden (p106)
- ➔ Wala Wala Cafe Bar (p106)
- ➔ PS Café (p106)
- ➔ 2am: Dessert Bar (p106)

For reviews, see p106 ➔

Best Places for Browsing

- ➔ Dempsey Hill Antiques Shops (p108)
- ➔ Holland Road Shopping Centre (p107)
- ➔ Museum of Contemporary Arts (p104)

For reviews, see p107 ➔