

Little India & Kampong Glam

LITTLE INDIA | KAMPONG GLAM | BUGIS

Neighbourhood Top Five

1 Bag a table at **Bismillah Biryani** (p69) and tuck into the best biryani and kebabs this side of the Bay of Bengal.

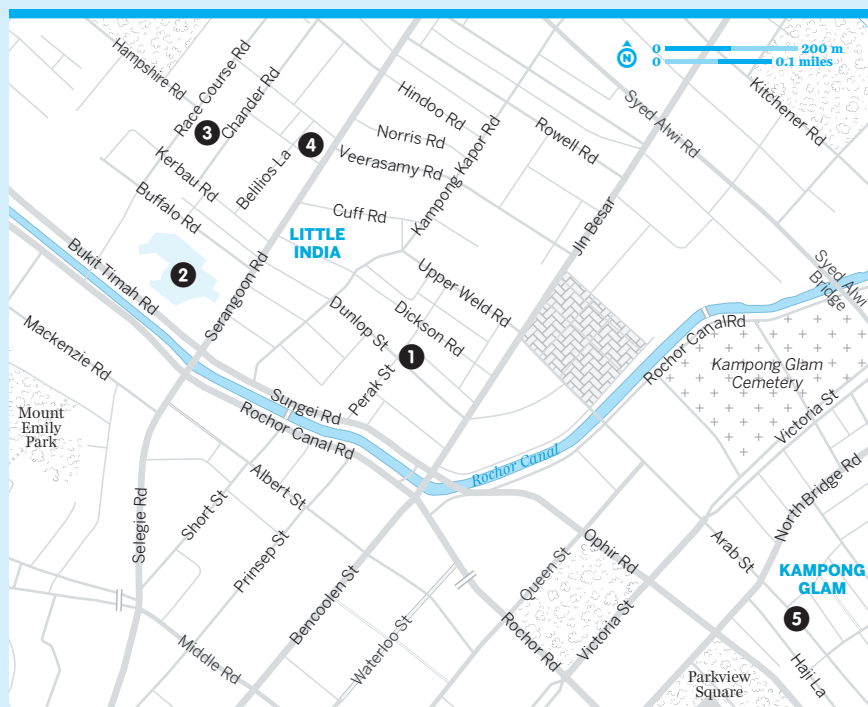
2 Shop for saris at the **Tekka Centre** (p75), before heading downstairs for a bite to eat at one of Little India's liveliest hawker centres.

3 Transport yourself to southern India by sampling thali served on a banana leaf at **Gandhi Restaurant** (p69), one of Little India's numerous no-frills canteens.

4 Take a back seat during *puja* (prayers) at **Sri Veeramakaliamman Temple**

(p67), Little India's most atmospheric Hindu temple.

5 Sip strong Turkish coffee or puff on a sheesha at one of the many Middle Eastern-style cafes around **Arab St** (p68).



For more detail of this area, see Map p204 ➔

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

If you want to see Little India at its busiest, most Indian best, come on a Sunday. This is the only day off for many workers, particularly Indian labourers, and at times it feels like you're sharing the streets with half the subcontinent.



Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Bismillah Biryani (p69)
- ➔ Nan Hwa Chong Fish-head Steamboat Corner (p72)
- ➔ Café Le Caire (p72)
- ➔ Sankranti (p69)
- ➔ Ah-Rahman Royal Prata (p75)
- ➔ Jaggi's (p69)

For reviews, see p69 ➔



Best Places to Drink

- ➔ BluJaz Café (p74)
- ➔ Prince of Wales (p73)
- ➔ Countryside Cafe (p73)
- ➔ Zsofi Tapas Bar (p73)

For reviews, see p73 ➔



Best Places to Shop

- ➔ Tekka Centre (p75)
- ➔ Haji Lane (p69)
- ➔ Nali (p75)
- ➔ Celebration of Arts (p75)
- ➔ Mustafa Centre (p75)

For reviews, see p75 ➔

Explore Little India & Kampong Glam

The heart of Little India lies in the colourful, incense-scented lanes between Serangoon Rd and Jln Besar, stretching from Campbell Lane in the south to Syed Alwi Rd in the north. The best way to take in this area's wonderful sights, smells and sounds is to simply wander these lanes on foot. Shopping and temple hopping both rank highly here, but the main attraction is the fabulously authentic Indian food. Arm yourself with an empty stomach and dive in.

There's also great food – Middle Eastern, Malay, Chinese – to be had in Kampong Glam, an area sometimes just referred to as Arab St, where you'll find beautiful mosques, cute cafes and trendy boutiques dotted around quiet, brightly painted lanes.

Come evening, both Little India and Kampong Glam have fun drinking options. Little India is livelier, but Kampong Glam is trendier with its sheesha cafes and back-alley vibe. Unsure which to choose? Try both; they're only a 15-minute walk apart.

Local Life

➔ **Connect with your food** Using your fingers rather than cutlery is an integral part of the Indian eating experience. Wash your hands before and after (all Indian restaurants have sinks), and be sure to only use your right hand (the left is for toilet duties).

➔ **South Indian breakfasts** You'll soon tire of the free toast-and-tea breakfasts at your hotel, so head instead to one of Little India's many canteen restaurants and enjoy a scrummy south Indian breakfast of *dosa* (paper-thin lentil-flour pancake), *idly* (spongy, round, fermented rice cakes) or *uttapam* (thick, savoury rice pancake).

➔ **Park life** Skip the bars and do what many of the local Indian workers do by buying cans of Kingfisher from a corner shop and settling down with your mates for a drink at one of the small parks in Little India.

Getting There & Away

➔ **MRT** Little India station is right by the Tekka Centre. You can walk here from Bugis and Farrer Park stations. Bugis is best for Kampong Glam. It only takes 15 minutes to walk from Little India to Kampong Glam.

➔ **Bus** No 65 runs from Orchard Rd to Serangoon Rd. From the Colonial District, catch bus 131 or 147 on Stamford Rd. For Kampong Glam, take bus 7 from Orchard Rd to Victoria St (get off at the Stamford School, past Arab St). From the Colonial District, buses 130, 133, 145 and 197 go up Victoria St, and buses 100 and 107 run along Beach Rd from the Raffles Hotel to Bussorah St.