

# Holland Village, Dempsey Hill & the Botanic Gardens

HOLLAND VILLAGE | DEMPSEY HILL | BOTANIC GARDENS

## Neighbourhood Top Five

**1** Taking deep, blissful breaths in Singapore's lush and velvety **Botanic Gardens** (p122). Picnicking on the lawns, slipping into ancient rainforest and exploring a string of tranquil themed gardens.

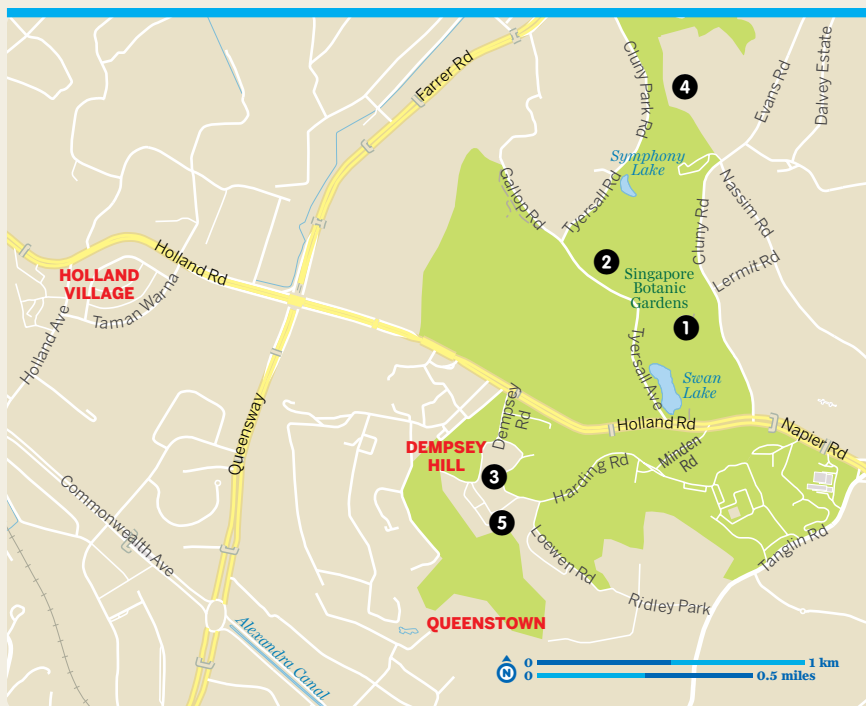
**2** Marvelling at the beauty, diversity and sheer quantity of orchids on display

at the **National Orchid Garden** (p122), set snugly in the Botanic Gardens.

**3** Shopping for unique homewares in the relaxed **antique shops and galleries** of Dempsey Hill.

**4** Escaping to Ubud without ever leaving town at intoxicating Balinese restaurant **Blue Bali** (p124).

**5** Channelling your past colonial life with elegant dim sum and cocktails at fan-swirling, jungle-fringed **Chopsuey** (p123).



For more detail of this area see Map p218. ➔

## Explore Holland Village, Dempsey Hill & the Botanic Gardens

The must-see sight here is the Botanic Gardens (p122) and you'd do well to set aside half a day to fully soak up its charms.

Making a picnic out of your visit can be fun, especially if you have kids in tow. Stock up on picnic goodies at the gourmet delis in upmarket Holland Village or leafy Dempsey Hill. Alternatively, browse for antiques in Dempsey Hill and lunch there as well, at either Chopsuey (p123) or PS Cafe (p123), before heading across to the Botanic Gardens. For a dirt-cheap hawker feed by the gardens, make a beeline for leafy Food Canopy (p124).

Come evening, it's an easy stroll to Blue Bali (p124) if you feel like staying put for sunset drinks and dinner. If not, head to livelier Holland Village to wine and dine with a largely well-heeled expat crowd.

### 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 smog 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 high energy, same-same shopping malls of nearby Orchard Rd begin to bore you, shift down a gear or two and amble over to Dempsey Hill or Holland Village and their booty of small, independent shops and boutiques.

♦ **Gourmet** It's not just the expats who lap up the Western food offerings in Holland Village and Dempsey. Follow moneyed Singaporeans also 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.

♦ **Bus** Dempsey Hill isn't connected to the MRT. You can walk here from the Botanic Gardens, or else catch a bus (7, 75, 77, 105, 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. Buses 75 and 106 are two of several linking Holland Village with Dempsey Hill. It's just under 2km 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](http://www.sbg.org.sg)) for details of upcoming 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 writing they were running on Saturday mornings, but always check for updates.

### Best Places to Eat

- ♦ Chopsuey (p123)
- ♦ PS Cafe (p123)
- ♦ Blue Bali (p124)
- ♦ Halia (p124)

For reviews, see p123. ➔

### Best Places to Drink

- ♦ PS Cafe (p123)
- ♦ Park (p124)
- ♦ RedDot Brewhouse (p125)

For reviews, see p124. ➔

### Best Places for Browsing

- ♦ Dempsey Hill Antiques Shops (p125)
- ♦ Holland Village Shopping Centre (p125)

For reviews, see p125. ➔