

# Singapore Presentation

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Most of the free time in Singapore I spent exploring on my own, but the first day I did so with my roommate.

Getting to explore the city on my own was definitely my favorite part of the trip. Broadly, it was the most entertaining and informative to just pick a direction and walk without doing much, if any, research.



The botanic gardens were a major highlight for sure, not just for the gardens themselves, but also because of the wild animals that were present. Getting to see wild otters an amazing experience.



The orchid garden was by far the most beautiful location we went to. It made me wonder what the significance of the orchid was though, considering how much attention was being paid to it. According to the national heritage board of Singapore, the orchid is associated with hybrids and therefore represents the multicultural elements of Singapore's history, hence why it was named the national flower.



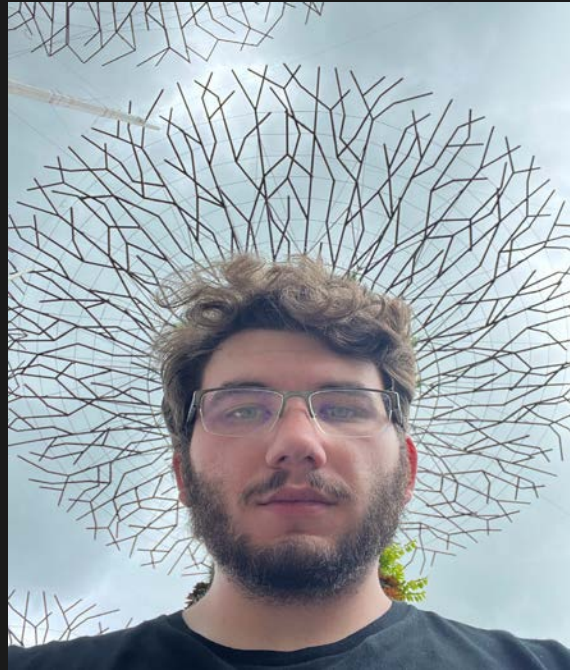
These photos are from when I visited Fort Canning. History is a major interest of mine, so I was naturally drawn to historical sites and museums while there. The museum at Fort Canning was very informative in that it helped me to form a timeline of the broad history of the island in my head.



The cloud garden was fascinating not just because of the landscaping, but largely due to the architecture used. While Singapore has a wide variety of architectural styles, the gardens definitely stood out in uniqueness.



Honestly, I didn't find the supertrees to be one of the most interesting areas that we visited. While they were definitely cool to look at, they didn't seem to hold much real cultural significance and felt mostly geared toward tourists.



I was sick when the group visited Sentosa, so on the last free Sunday I went back on my own, primarily to see Fort Siloso on the Western tip of the island. The fort was taken over by the Japanese in WWII and used to hold POWs and displays of POW art can be viewed in some of the tunnels. It was particularly interesting in the way that it made me consider the impacts that WWII and Japanese occupation likely had on the push for independence post war.





I spent one afternoon by travelling to the north of the island to view Malaysia across the strait. What ended up being most interesting was just how different the northern parts of the city felt compared to the downtown areas we were mostly in. From the time I spent looking around, the woodlands specifically felt far more uniform than the downtown, and looking at the cityscape was bizarre with just how similar most of the buildings looked.



The Artscience Museum and the National Museum of Singapore were both very enjoyable places, but the National Museum was definitely more up my alley. Particularly, I was the most interested in the exhibits on history just before WWII with the multiple instances of attempted uprisings and unrest as well as the ways that the British monitored social movements on the island.



These photos are just of me walking around the city on my own on one of the last afternoons. It was a little bizarre to get used to just how easy it was to get around the city on foot using the MRTs. The engineering of that design was fascinating to me and I especially spent a lot of time thinking about the MRT system, since there were locations where it went 6 or more stories down and yet the trains travelled at so slight an incline you never noticed while on the trains.



My personal favorite location that I visited was for sure the National Gallery of Singapore. The buildings used to be the supreme court and city hall, but were turned into an art gallery, with two main exhibits. One is on southeast asian art broadly and the other is on Singaporean art (though they do have other alternating exhibits).



The farewell dinner was one of my favorite places that we ate at on the trip, and I was able to try a couple of dishes that I hadn't had before, while also having some more western styled options. Particularly, the station where you mixed up and chose the ingredients for the dish yourself was something I had never had or seen elsewhere on the trip.

