VOICE AND SPEECH TRAINERS ASSOCIATION PRESENTS:

The Art of Storytelling
4 – 8 August, 2017
Singapore

*Source of images and information on Singapore are from Singapore Tourism Board

Education Partner - LASALLE College of the Arts
The Voice and Speech Trainers Association is a non-profit, volunteer-driven organization dedicated to serving the needs of the voice and speech profession and to developing the art and science of the human voice. This is our 31st annual conference and our 1st conference in Asia. We believe our organization is richer by including members from a broad range of cultures, methodologies, backgrounds, and professional perspectives. Our conferences consist of keynotes, panels, workshops and story concerts. This year’s theme, The Art of Storytelling, is very exciting. Stories have the power to change our worlds, connect people, heal wounds, move us and others to action, and drive change.

Welcome to Singapore

We want to help make your visit as pleasant and productive as possible. This guide will give you the basic information that you need while you are in Singapore. We look forward to meeting you at the Conference and we hope you will have an enjoyable stay!

Singapore is just 719.1 square kilometres big. Yet, despite its humble size, the island packs a punch with a blend of elements that come together in unexpected symphony. From old-school buildings alongside uber-modern architectural marvels, to street food served up side by side with internationally acclaimed gourmet fare, the city itself is a celebration of diversity that goes beyond the postcard-perfect sight of steely skyscrapers.
LASALLE College of the Arts in Singapore is a leading tertiary institution in cutting edge contemporary arts and design education and practice. The college offers over 30 undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in fine arts, design communication, interior design, product design, film, animation, fashion, dance, music, theatre, arts management, artist education, art therapy, and Asian art histories. Its faculty is led by a community of award-winning artists, designers, educators and researchers, and their practice-led research sets LASALLE apart as an international centre of excellence. Critically acclaimed alumni form the core of the cultural and creative sectors in Singapore and increasingly internationally.

Founded in 1984 by De La Salle Brother Joseph McNally – a visionary artist and educator – LASALLE is a not-for-profit, private educational institution. LASALLE receives tuition grant support from the Singapore Ministry of Education. Its degree programmes are validated by Goldsmiths, University of London.

Situated in the Arts, Culture, Learning and Entertainment hub of Singapore, the city campus encourages interaction through its glass facade and gateless walls. The design provides many platforms for interaction and inspiration. In keeping with the integrative nature of contemporary art and design practice, multiple break-out spaces and sky bridges encourage diverse art forms to coalesce and co-mingle, providing an inspiring learning environment for students.
LASALLE’s campus at 1 McNally Street is located between Short Street and Prinsep Street. LASALLE’s campus is also disability friendly.

By MRT
- Rochor, Exit A (2-minute walk)
- Little India, Exit A (8-minute walk)
- Bugis, Exit A (9-minute walk)
- Dhoby Ghaut, Exit A (15-minute walk)

By Bus
- SBS: 23, 48, 56, 57, 64, 65, 131, 139, 147, 166
- SMRT: 66, 67, 170, 851, 857, 960, 980

Carpark
The entrance to LASALLE’s basement carpark is located along McNally Street. The carpark parking rates as

Cars
- 7am – 5pm: $S1.50 for first 1/2 hr, $S0.05 per subsequent minute
- 5pm – 11pm: $S3 per entry
- 11pm – 7am: $S1.50 for first 1/2 hr, $S0.05 per subsequent minute
Visa & Customs

Most visitors to Singapore do not require a visa for entry. For more information on visa requirements and the Visa Free Transit Facility, you can check with the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority or the Singapore Overseas Mission closest to you. The period of stay granted will be shown on the visit pass endorsement in your passport.

By Air
Singapore’s Changi Airport is one of the busiest and best connected in the world, handling over 100 airlines flying to some 300 cities. There are four local carriers, including the world-renowned Singapore Airlines and budget airlines Tiger Airways and Scoot.

The award-winning airport itself is jam-packed with activities and amenities, making it a world-class attraction in its own right.

Changi Airport is the main airport in Singapore and a major aviation hub in SouthEast Asia. For an interactive map of the airport and the guide for arriving passengers, please visit www.changiairport.com.

By Land
Driving into Singapore from West Malaysia is a relaxing and scenic way of getting here. Singapore has two land checkpoints, at Tuas in the west and Woodlands in the north, that operate 24 hours a day.
Getting Around Singapore

Taxis can be flagged down at any time of the day at a taxistand or alongside the roads outside the city.

Alternatively, you can book a taxi by calling any of the hotlines provided in the table above. Booking fees would be applicable with any bookings made by the phone. To know the booking amount, please check with the individual taxi company. All taxis are metered, and the fares must be charged according to the taxi meter based on the flag down rate, distance travelled and other applicable surcharges like peak hour surcharges, midnight surcharges and Electronic Road Pricing (ERP) charges. Payment can either be made by cash or credit card/NETS.

### Taxi Service Providers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Taxi Service Providers</th>
<th>Hotline</th>
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<tr>
<td>Comfort Taxi and CityCab</td>
<td>6552 1111</td>
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<tr>
<td>SMRT Tax</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transcab</td>
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<td>6778 0808</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yellow-Top Taxi</td>
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### Bus

Public buses in Singapore start their services from 5.30am to midnight daily. The waiting frequencies for buses range from 5 minutes to 20 minutes. There are panels placed in every bus-stop, and they contain useful information about the routes and fares of the buses available at that stop.

You need to flag down the bus that you wish to board at the bus-stop, and the fare can either be paid in cash or through an EZ-Link card. For more information on bus routes and bus terminals, please visit [www.sbstransit.com.sg](http://www.sbstransit.com.sg) or [www.smrt.com.sg](http://www.smrt.com.sg).

### Mass Rapid Transit (MRT)

Singapore’s very own METRO system is the easiest and most accessible mode of transport in the country, operating from 5.30am to midnight daily. However, such timings vary between stations as well as weekends and Public Holidays. For more information on the MRT routes, you may refer to the Singapore Map in your Welcome Pack, or visit [www.publictransport.sg](http://www.publictransport.sg).
Village Hotel Albert Court

Village Hotel Albert Court
180 Albert Street, Singapore 189971
Tel: +65 6339 3939
Email: info.vhac@fareast.com.sg

Booking period: 01st November 2016 to 31st May 2017

20 rooms are reserved for VASTA participants during the booking period.

To book, please email Jolin Hong at jolinhong@fareast.com.sg and with the promo code VASTA2017.

DELUXE ROOMS
Single Occupancy  US107.74 SGD 150.00++ per room per night (inclusive of Daily Buffet Breakfast for 1, internet access)

Double/Twin Occupancy  US 122.11 SGD 170.00++ per room per night (inclusive of Daily Buffet Breakfast for 2, internet access)
Conveniently located just 2 minutes away LASALLE College of the Arts and minutes away from the bright lights of Little India and the culture-rich Straits Chinese enclave of Bugis, Village Hotel Albert Court effortlessly straddles the best of both worlds. While a walk around the compound will uncover traditional Indian and Peranakan carvings and motifs on the walls, a peek into any room will reveal modern facilities catered to both business and leisure travellers.

Adding to this balance of old and new, the hotel has a central courtyard that offers a quiet respite from the bustling malls located just a stone’s throw away. Stepping out, guests will find themselves within walking distance of both historical and modern attractions such as the Goddess of Mercy Temple and the Singapore Art Museum. If you’re looking to live like a local, Village Hotel Albert Court will definitely put you right at the centre of it all.

**Parc Sovereign – Albert St**

175 Albert St, Singapore 189970  
Tel: 6337 6888 | 6337 6865  
www.parcsovereign.com

Booking period: 01st November 2016 to 31st May 2017

20 rooms are reserved for VASTA participants during the booking period.

To book, kindly complete the booking form and credit card authorisation form and forward both forms to booking@gphl.com.sg, CC: danielkhor@gphl.com.sg with the group promo code VASTA2017.  

**SUPERIOR ROOMS**  
Double/Twin Occupancy US 91.94  
SGD 128.00++ per room per night (inclusive of Daily Buffet Breakfast, internet access)

Positioned as a mid-tier class hotel, Parc Sovereign Hotel – Albert St serves to impress guests with its stylish and comfortable, yet affordable accommodation. Located in the Arts, Culture, Learning and Entertainment hub of Singapore, guests can embark on a journey of discovery during their stay with us. Explore the many art institutions, galleries and museums. Shop to your heart’s content in Bugis Village. Be amazed by the famous places of worship and watch the world go by. Discover and experience the multi-cultural aspects of Singapore, ranging from colorful Little India to ethnic Kampong Glam and the cultural-rich Chinatown, all within easy reach from the conveniently located Parc Sovereign Hotel – Albert St. Parc Sovereign Hotel – Albert St is located next to LASALLE College of the Arts.

For more options visit https://www.booking.com/ or http://www.hostelworld.com/
MEALS
The nearest cafeterias outside the LASALLE Campus are approximately two minutes’ walk from the Campus.

Various food options and beverages are available from 8am to 10pm. Participants with dietary needs will find numerous fresh markets and ample dining options.

TELECOMMUNICATION
Singapore has three major telecommunications companies that provide prepaid SIM cards: M1, SingTel, and StarHub. Each offers prepaid SIM cards ranging from $5 – $50 for voice + text with enough data (usually 5MB to 30MB). You can get your prepaid SIM cards from any provision store (like 7/11 or at the currency exchange booths).

WIRELESS INTERNET CONNECTION
Wi-fi is available in the LASALLE Campus. You will receive a password for a wi-fi connection in the LASALLE Campus during registration.

EMERGENCY CONTACT

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<td>Police</td>
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<td>1777</td>
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<td>Police Hotline</td>
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<tr>
<td>Traffic Police</td>
<td>6547 0000</td>
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MEDICAL ASSISTANCE HOSPITAL

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<tr>
<td>Raffles Hospital</td>
<td>585 North Bridge Rd Singapore 188770 Tel: +65 6311 1111</td>
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<tr>
<td>Singapore General Hospital</td>
<td>Singapore General Hospital Outram Road, Singapore 169608 Tel: 6222 3322</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tan Tock Seng Hospital</td>
<td>11 Jalan Tan Tock Seng Singapore 308433 Tel: 6256 6011</td>
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## CURRENCY EXCHANGE

SG$ 1 = US$ 0.72 = € 0.65 = £ 0.59

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<tr>
<td>19 Exchange Money Changer &amp; Trading</td>
<td>200 Victoria Street #01-42A Parco Bugis Junction Singapore 188021</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bugis Money Changer</td>
<td>230 Victoria Street #01-33 Bugis Junction Singapore 188024</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mega Starminimart</td>
<td>190 Middle Road #01-04 Fortune Centre Singapore 188979</td>
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<td>Rosemin Store</td>
<td>175 Bencoolen Street #01-32 Burlington Square Singapore 186949</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aksha Exchange</td>
<td>51 Bencoolen Street #01-03 Bencoolen Residences Singapore 189630</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shafeek Exchange</td>
<td>180 Bencoolen Street #01-42 The Bencoolen Singapore 189646</td>
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TRAVEL AND TICKET ARRANGEMENTS

If you need to arrange for hotel transfers or change your airline reservation, please contact the hotel/airline directly. We regret that we are unable to make your personal travel arrangements. Visit www.ica.gov.sg for visa and immigration-related information.
10 Fun Facts About Singapore

Beyond the picture-perfect skyline and the bustling city centre, there's still so much more to Singapore for visitors to explore. Read on, for curious facts you never knew about this green and cosmopolitan city.

1. It's a city of not just one island, but 63

Singapore's land area includes as many as 63 offshore islands that surround the main island. These include Sentosa (the largest of the 63 islands), Pulau Ubin, St John’s Island and Sisters’ Islands. What that means for visitors: more fun in the sun!

2. It's home to the world’s first night zoo

Singapore’s Night Safari provides a nocturnal experience like no other in the city; it’s also the world’s very first night zoo. First opened in 1994, the 35-hectare park features over 2,500 nocturnal animals of over 130 species. Hop onto the 40-minute tram ride for an overview of the park’s main attractions. Be sure to amble along the four interlinked walking trails within the park, for a zoo trip like no other.

3. It's a city of (man-made) waterfalls

According to the Wildlife Reserves Singapore, the first man-made waterfall was built at Jurong Bird Park in 1970. Dropping from a height of 30 metres, it is said to be the tallest waterfall in an aviary to date. You’ll also find the world's tallest indoor waterfall (35 metres) in Singapore at the Cloud Forest, Gardens by the Bay. This huge waterfall is the centrepiece of the misty conservatory, designed to house plant life from the tropical highlands. Come 2018, there will be an even taller indoor waterfall, to be built at Jewel at Changi Airport. This new retail and lifestyle complex will feature the Water Vortex, a 40 metre high man-made waterfall that will be surrounded by a lush indoor garden.
4. The locals speak Singlish, not just English

Don’t be too surprised to hear Singaporeans adding the occasional ‘lah’ and ‘leh’ to their sentences, which have become an integral part of everyday conversation. These are just bits of what make the local Singlish vocabulary so unique. Singlish is a collection of colloquial catch phrases and lingo influenced by Singapore’s multiculturalism. Other examples include the Singlish term ‘chope’, which means to reserve a seat. Locals often ‘chope’ seats at a hawker centre using packets of tissue paper! Singaporeans also tend to refer to strangers such as cab drivers and hawker centre stall owners as Aunties and Uncles. This is an endearing way of addressing older gentlemen and ladies. Do use the terms wisely though, as it can connote the addressee’s elderly age; you would not want to offend a stranger by accident!

5. It’s one of the world’s greenest cities

This city of skyscrapers is also one that is filled with lush greenery. Nearly half of Singapore’s land area (approximately 700 square kilometres) is under green cover. Beyond numerous parks and gardens, there are pockets of undiscovered plant life housed in the most unusual of places. There’s rich biodiversity in nature reserves too — Singapore is home to over 2,000 native vascular plant species. The Bukit Timah Nature Reserve in particular, is said to contain more tree species in a single hectare than the total number of tree species found in North America.

6. Don’t forget to flush the toilet...

There is a Restroom Association of Singapore (RAS) that combs the island to eradicate messy areas and spread the gospel of good toilet etiquette.

Singapore started the world’s first international organization for toilets. Jack Sim founded the World Toilet Organisation (WTO) in 2001. Its goal is to provide proper sanitation to less developed areas of the world, and make sure that no one gets away without flushing!
7. Fancy a drive to... Hong Kong?

Singapore has more than 3,000 kilometres of roads. Stretched end to end, they can cover the distance from Singapore to Hong Kong.

8. Speedsters on the pavement

Singaporeans are the fastest walkers on this planet. On average, we walk a distance of 18 metres in 10.55 seconds – approximately 6.15km an hour! Following in our footsteps are residents of Copenhagen (Denmark) and Madrid (Spain).

9. It’s home to a UNESCO World Heritage Site – and some unique ‘VIPs’

Inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2015, the Singapore Botanic Gardens has a history of over 150 years since its creation in 1859; that’s more than a century older than modern Singapore itself!

10. The lion city may actually have been inspired by a tiger

You may have heard about the Merlion, Singapore’s iconic emblem. The Merlion is a mythical creature with a lion’s head and a fish’s tail.

What you might not know: the Merlion was partly inspired by the city’s Sanskrit name, Singapura, which means ‘lion city’. This Sanskrit name is thought to have been given by a Sumatran prince Sang Nila Utama, who ruled Temasik, a settlement on the Singapura island during the early 14th century. While hunting for animals, the prince spotted a strange creature moving quickly, which was identified as a lion by his advisors. However, there were no records of lions native to Singapore. It might have been a tiger that he saw, for tigers used to be found in the wild in Singapore, up to the 1930s.

For more information, visit http://www.yoursingapore.com.
BRAS BASAH.BUGIS
A vibrant arts enclave, the Bras Basah.Bugis Precinct is the arts and heritage district Singapore’s civic centre, and home to museums and monuments. This is where to go for a slice of Singapore’s rich heritage, preserved architecture and palpable energy. Head here for fine museums, national monuments and other institutions, such as art schools and the Central Public Library.

One of Singapore’s oldest districts, Bras Basah derived its name from the Malay term for ‘wet rice’, which were once laid out on the banks of Bras Basah River (known as the Stamford Canal today). The founder of Singapore, Sir Stamford Raffles, picked the area to be the European part of Singapore Town. To the growing multicultural communities, it was also ideal for schools and places of worship. The adjacent Bugis Street, named after the seafaring Bugis people from Indonesia who came here to trade with local merchants, has a less pristine past. Before a massive clean-up in the 1980s, it was notorious as a haunt for sailors and transvestites.

Today, you could spend days just soaking in the vibe of this buzzing district. The BBB is home to museums such as the National Museum of Singapore and Peranakan Museum, and national monuments like the Armenian Church and Central Fire Station, Singapore’s oldest fire station.

LITTLE INDIA
Little India is a buzzing historic area that shows off the best of Singapore’s Indian community from vibrant culture to incredible shopping. You may not know that Little India once had a racecourse, cattle herders and brick kilns. But while these places and people are gone, time stands still in pockets of this historic district.

Olden-day trades sit next to newer businesses: flower-garland vendors, modern eateries, boutique hotels, as well as arts groups.

Little India today is one of Singapore’s most vibrant districts. As you walk down Serangoon Road and neighbouring streets, explore their mix of Hindu and Chinese temples, mosques and churches. Fill your tummy with South Indian vegetarian food, North Indian tandoori dishes and local fare like roti prata (round pancakes) and teh tarik (pulled tea in Malay). Try to spot the brewers ‘pull’ the hot milk tea – it’s amazing showmanship.

The 24-hour shopping mall Mustafa Centre offers everything from electronics to groceries, or take your pick from open-air Tekka Centre, goldsmith shops and sari stores. With its close proximity to the city and a bohemian vibe, many artists also call Little India home.
PLACES TO VISIT

CIVIC DISTRICT

Your Singapore trip isn’t complete without a visit to the Civic District, where modern Singapore began. Started as a master plan in 1822 by founder of Singapore Sir Stamford Raffles, the Civic District was urban planning at its best, with sections along the Singapore River marked for use and new buildings erected for the needs of a thriving trade post.

Here, some of the country’s most historic buildings have been restored and given a new lease of life. Looking for Singapore’s old Parliament House? That would be The Arts House, built in 1827 for the Court and other Government Offices.

Arts aficionados, don’t miss the Asian Civilisations Museum, with its original neo-classical architecture. Or follow the sound of music to the nearby Victoria Theatre and Concert Hall that was built in 1862 and reopened in July 2014 after a four-year refurbishment.

In 2015, the City Hall and former Supreme Court were reborn as the National Gallery Singapore which displays the world’s largest collection of Southeast Asian art, including Singapore art.

If you’re asked to visit ‘The Chopsticks’, it’s not food you’ll find but the Civilian War Memorial, honouring and civilians killed during the Japanese Occupation. A short walk takes you to Esplanade Park, with historical landmarks such as the Lim Bo Seng Memorial and the Cenotaph.

Just across the road is the Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay, known for top-notch arts performances. Locals call it ‘the durian’, for its unique architecture that seems to resemble the prickly fruit.

CHINATOWN

Singapore’s historic Chinatown is a bustling mix of old and new, filled with traditional shops and markets as well as cool stores and cafes.

The cramped five-foot-ways, dingy alleys and rau-cous street hawkers are relics of Chinatown’s past. Yet pockets of history remain in Chinatown, along with more modern sights. You could easily spend a few days wandering through these still-narrow streets.
Family-run goldsmiths, medicinal halls and teahouses ply their trades next to sleeker neighbours such as hipster bars and lifestyle shops.

If you’re a foodie, try ‘char kway teow’ (stir-fried noodles) and ‘satay’ (barbecued meat skewers) at Chinatown Food Street, a row of hawker stalls, shophouse restaurants and kiosks along Smith Street.

For trendier tastes, chic restaurants and bars are in Neil Road, Duxton Road and Keong Saik Road. The vibe is electric in Club Street and Ann Siang Road on Friday and Saturday nights, when locals and expats head down for dinner and drinks.

Want to shop? Buy souvenirs in Pagoda Street, ‘bak kwa’ (barbecued meat) in New Bridge Road or traditional Chinese medicine in South Bridge Road.

Chinatown is where Hindu temples and mosques sit right next to Chinese temples. Sri Mariamman Temple and Jamae Mosque are on South Bridge Road, as is the Buddha Tooth Relic Temple.

There is a range of guided tours that leave from Chinatown Visitors’ Centre. Please click here for more information http://www.chinatown.sg

**RECOMMENDED PLACES TO EAT**

With some of the region’s best restaurants and a dining scene that is rich in diversity, Singapore has become one of the world’s culinary capitals.

Connoisseurs of haute cuisine will be happy to know that a growing number of world-class celebrity chefs have been setting up shops here, such as 26-Michelin-stared Joël Robuchon with L’Atelier de Joël Robuchon and Joël Robuchon Restaurant. For some Asian flavour, head to Japanese restaurant Waku Ghin, by Tetsuya Wakuda, one of Australia’s finest chefs.

Often hailed as one of the best restaurants in the city, Restaurant Andre by Taiwanese-born chef Andre Chiang is a must visit for fans of high-end French cuisine. For those looking for more local flavours, there is also a myriad of upscale Chinese and Indian restaurants to savour. Or head to one of the many Gastropubs that have popped up if you fancy a craft brew with a hearty meal.

But what’s a good meal without dessert? You can stop at one of the many dessert spots that have opened in Singapore, such as 2am: dessertbar. Run by young but lauded Cordon Bleu-trained chef Janice Wong, the eatery serves up delectable concoctions. The perfect way to end a day wining and dining in Asia’s food paradise.
Local Cuisine

Singapore’s multi-ethnic culture and heritage has served up a multitude of colourful cuisines, each with its own unique flavour and aroma. Day or night, you can find a wide range of multicuisine dining options, ranging from Peranakan to Chinese, Indian to Malay, fusion and more. Be prepared to be spoilt for choice!

Lau Pa Sat Festival Market
18 Raffles Quay S048582
Built in 1894, Lau Pa Sat has a unique victorian cast-iron infrastructure, and today it has been converted into a food centre offering local fare.

Chinatown Complex Market
Blk 335 Smith Street, S050335
Situated in the heartlands of Chinatown, it is quite popular for its local Chinese fare.

Chomp Chomp Food Centre
20 Kensington Park S557269
This food centre located at Serangoon Gardens contains a wide variety of tasty local fare at reasonable prices.

Newton Circus Food Centre
500 Clemenceau Avenue North S229495
This food centre is popular with tourists and locals alike, making it one of Singapore’s favourite hawker haunts.

Walking tour within the city
S$38 - S$60 each
http://www.journeys.com.sg
- Colonial District Walk
- Chinatown Walk
- Little India Walk
- Kampong Glam (Muslim-Quarters) Walk
Here are five fascinating contrasts to look out for:

1. **Old-school hawker fare versus modern experimental dining**
   One big reason why Singaporeans love food: even the local street (hawker) fare garners Michelin stars. Join the snaking queues at one-Michelin-starred hawker stalls — the world’s first — Hill Street Tai Hwa Pork Noodle on Crawford Lane and Hong Kong Soya Sauce Chicken Rice & Noodle in Chinatown Complex. For even more traditional fare, breathe in a whiff of nostalgia as you order bak chang (traditional Chinese rice dumplings) at the time-honoured hawker stall Hoo Kee Bak Chang in Amoy Food Street Centre.

Besides its thriving hawker scene, the city is also at the forefront of gastronomic innovation. Expand your culinary vocabulary with chef Willin Low’s “Mod-Sin” (Modern Singaporean) cuisine at Wild Rocket he remixes local dishes such as laksa (spicy coconut-milk based noodle soup) and congee with European techniques. Alternatively, head to Corner House in UNESCO World Heritage Site Singapore Botanic Gardens to find out what cutting-edge ‘Gastro-Botanica’ cuisine really means. Hint: it has something to do with plants.
2. Modern skyscrapers versus traditional architecture
The juxtaposition of historic and contemporary architecture in a city can evoke a beauty that is more than the sum of its parts. For a taste of the modern, take a whirl around bustling Raffles Place. Towering skyscrapers glint back at you from every direction, with the 43-floor Ocean Financial Centre and Singapore’s tallest hotel Swissotel The Stamford being a few of the pinnacles that dot the skyline.

Down on the streets, historic neighbourhoods reveal architectural marvels that look straight out of a history textbook. Snap a photo of the colourful two-storey shophouses around Joo Chiat, where Peranakan (Straits Chinese) heritage has been preserved. Or jaunt around hip enclave Tiang Bahru and spot pre-war buildings inspired by transportation of the 1920s. Think aviation-inspired blocks, nautical elements and clean lines in the design.

3. International events versus local festivities
The city never sleeps when world-class events and local celebrations alike dot the calendar. As a cosmopolitan nation, Singapore plays host to many international festivals and events that set the city abuzz such as the Grand Prix Season Singapore 2016. Besides the adrenaline-pumping action on the tracks, the city revs up with parties, exclusive dining and entertainment offers, and more. Rub shoulders with the jet-set crowd at world-renowned bash Amber Lounge, or dance up a storm at electronic dance music behemoth Ultra Singapore.

Join in Festivities or head to districts such as Chinatown or Little India, where lights fill the streets with pomp and colour during Chinese New Year and Deepavali, respectively. To truly soak up the festive spirit, inhale the aromatic scents of flowers or spices at the sprawling bazaars in Little India, or cheer on the lion dancers and fire-eaters as they perform along Chinatown Street.
4. Nature versus nurture
Despite Singapore’s evolution into a modern city, many pockets of lush greenery remain. Get close to Mother Nature at Kranji Marshes, the largest freshwater marshland in Singapore, developed way back in the 1970s. As you clamber up to its observatory for a bird’s-eye view, keep your eyes peeled for over 170 species of birds and insects. For an alternative nature escape, take a bumboat back in time to off-shore island Pulau Ubin, one of the two remaining kampongs (rural village) in Singapore.

If you’re wondering about the island’s moniker of ‘City in a Garden’, look up at the Supertrees at Gardens by the Bay for a futuristic interpretation of a park. Amid the surrounding waterfront gardens, these iconic structures are man-made marvels the defining touches of a horticultural destination that is truly ‘nurtured’ into existence.

5. Bargain buys versus designer brands
Shopaholics, get ready to part with your cash. Start with retail therapy at Bugis Street Village, known for ridiculously cheap steals (from SGD 5 for clothing) and its wide array of souvenirs such as magnets, silver accessories and T-shirts — bring a few home! To pick up fashion with a unique twist, hop on over to nearby Haji Lane in Kampong Glam, where eclectic boutiques nestle among narrow alleys and vibrant murals.

If you have a soft spot for designer brands such as Prada and Gucci, heed the siren call of The Shoppes at Marina Bay Sands. Pop into the Chanel boutique for that latest ‘It’ bag, or to the Louis Vuitton flagship store outside. Housed in a floating Crystal Pavilion, it’s the label’s largest store outside of Paris.

But if you’re pressed for time, at the very least, squeeze in a stroll down Singapore’s iconic shopping belt, Orchard Road, where you can fill your bags with anything from designer threads to fast fashion. From hidden nature spots to glitzy malls to grand festivals, Singapore’s ever-expanding roster of activities and destinations will entertain even the most jaded of travellers.
For more information or enquiries:
conferencedirector@vasta.org
https://www.vasta.org/conference/detail?id=7#Registration

Still have questions?

*Source of images and information on Singapore are from Singapore Tourism Board