The Singapore experience
New attractions expected to fuel tourism in booming city state

To describe the Singapore experience is similar to tasting a good stew made of plenty ingredients. Having been influenced by different cultures throughout its history, the once small trading post inhabited by a handful of fishermen in 1819 has transformed into a bustling urban melting pot that offers probably the best that Southeast Asia can currently have to offer. From the smelly streets of little India to the glittering sight of the downtown skyline, it is not presumptuous to say that it is the city state that incorporates the essence of contemporary Asian lifestyle best.

Over the last few years, an increasing number of people from Asian neighbours and around the globe have become keen on getting their Singapore experience themselves. New statistics by the Singapore Tourism Board at the Tourism Industry Conference in March have revealed that the country attracted more than 13 million visitors last year. Expenditures by tourists also revealed that the country attracted more than 13 million visitors last year. Expenditures by tourists also rose by 10 per cent to $3.8 billion, a 17 per cent increase from 2010. Visitors are also jumping on the bandwagon and now offers direct flights from helium to Singapore Flyer Wheel and up and foremost, the 50 metre-high Sky Park on top of the Marina Bay Resort, from where visitors have been able to enjoy breathtaking views of the city and its surroundings since 2010. Visitors are always advised to save their tickets early as the capacity of the platform, which also has the world’s highest elevated swimming pool, is limited to only 3,900 people.

The resort also claims to be the world’s largest standalone casino complex which, according to industry estimates, is about to rival popular international casino destinations like Las Vegas or nearby Macau. Last year, gaming experts and the complex produced revenues of more than US$3 billion.

New restaurants have recently expanded the city’s already rich and diverse culinary scene. The Buyan Russian restaurant at Duxton Hill, for example, does not only have 52 different types of vodka on sale but is also said to have the most expensive wine collection throughout the city state.

Visitors who fancy modern Thai cuisine, the Khaosoi Gai on Martin Road lets its guests indulge in delicacies like tasty red curry rubbed Wagyu beef or roasted spare ribs in a honeyed herbs, kaffir lime and dill sauce. World class Chef Jason Atherton, who already runs the Esquina tapas bar on Joo Chuan Road, has recently announced to open a second two-level restaurant on the waterfront near the Marina Bay Resort.

For those, who need to get away from the glitter, Singapore’s diverse ethnic quarters still provide interesting insights, whether you like to meet up with thousands of guest workers in Little India on Sundays or bargain for souvenirs with shopkeepers in Chinatown. Wandering around Kampong Glam, one of the centres of the Malay community in the city will make you wonder how it must felt like in the good old days.

Whatever you prefer to include in your Singapore experience, the city can provide it. With tips on entertainment, dining and how to spend your time off, today international will assist you in the upcoming days.

New attractions like the River Safari or Marina Water Park which both are scheduled to open to the public this year. When completed, the world’s largest oceanarium currently built on Sentosa Island, a popular Singapore getaway since the early 1970s, will become home for more than 700,000 different species of fish, including dolphins, sharks and rays. Efforts to present a whole shark, one of the world’s largest species of fish, however were recently abandoned.

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