

## SINGAPORE '06

IMF-World Bank meetings

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**H** EY Mr Delegate, the next time you step out of the meeting room, take a good look around.

There's more to this snazzy playground than fancy hotels, posh restaurants and overpriced fashion boutiques.

There's the famous Raffles Hotel, birthplace of the Singapore Sling.

Venture a bit further to the City Hall area and you'll experience a completely different vibe, one brimming with delightful secrets and interesting finds.

Did you know we have our very own "Little Burma" just 15 minutes from Swissotel The Stamford, South-east Asia's tallest hotel?

How about taking time off to admire

# Loosen your collar, Mr Delegate

some of the oldest toys ever collected, coming from over 25 countries?

And when your tummy starts to growl, head for Purvis Street and be spoilt for choice by an array of eateries.

So loosen your collar, whip out your sunglasses, put on your walking shoes and discover the other side of City Hall.

◆ **In tomorrow's edition of The New Paper, our roving guide team takes you to charming Little India.**

### RAFFLES HOTEL

1 Beach Road

An icon of history and luxury combined, the 120-year-old hotel is known to many as the birthplace of the famous Singapore Sling. Take time to wander around this grand hotel and admire its architectural beauty. And don't forget to try their Raffles Hotel mooncake, available only at this time of the year, during the Mid-Autumn Festival.

### THE LOOF

3rd Floor, Odeon Towers, North Bridge Road

When night falls, lift your heads and admire the sexy silhouettes that line the rooftop of Odeon Towers. Loof, currently one of the hottest nightspots around, provides a spectacular view of City Hall while you enjoy a well deserved after-work drink. With designer furniture and soothing lounge music, sit back and lose yourself to the starlit skies.

### PENINSULA PLAZA

Coleman Street

Think Singapore is all rules, laws and squeaky clean streets? Step into Peninsula Plaza and be transported to a different world. This is where skinheads in studded leather jackets and rock-star wannabes search for their latest musical instruments. Be sure to also check out the Myanmar eateries located on nearly every floor — you definitely won't miss the smell of bamboo shoot.

### SEAH STREET

Hungry and ready to sample some of our country's favourite dishes? Well, eating is a favourite pastime here, and at Seah Street, be prepared for a feast worthy of a king. Take your pick from humble or edgy-looking cafes, all without emptying your wallet.

### BRAS BASAH COMPLEX

231 Bain Street

If you want some soothing Chinese music, complete with the sounds of rushing rivers and chirping songbirds, Bras Basah Complex, with many shops selling Chinese CDs and books, would be the ideal place. It is also popular with the locals for its vast selection of cheap books and stationary.

### THE MINT MUSEUM OF TOYS

26 Seah Street

Hidden behind Raffles Hotel and just 10 minutes from City Hall MRT Station, this is a gem that no more than a handful of Singapore residents know of. Into its third month, this newly opened museum is truly a rare feast for the inner child in us. From robots and spaceships to ragdolls and teddy bears, this five-storey toyhouse of history is sure to leave you sighing with nostalgia.

### PURVIS STREET

Mention chicken rice and locals will scream Purvis Street. This is home to one of the signature dishes of our country. And with all those artsy bars and nicely decorated cafes, it is also an excellent place to wind down after a hard day's work. Be sure to pop by some of the classier restaurants as well, such as Garibaldi (No 36), known for its authentic Italian cuisine.

CITY HALL MRT

STAMFORD ROAD

VICTORIA STREET

NORTH BRIDGE ROAD

PURVIS STREET

SEAH STREET

BRAS BASAH ROAD