

Time Echoes

Soul rhythms and urban beats



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"Owning a lovely comb was never a priority until I came here!"

Madeline Trichet, tourist

Chinese Woodcrafts

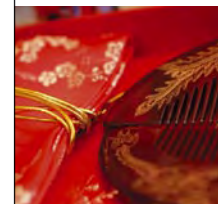
Cool Buys

Hwa Yi

The name Hwa Yi means 'Chinese Art' and this inviting shop is where you'll find a beautiful collection of skilfully handcrafted wooden Chinese **combs, brushes, mirrors and chopsticks**. Browsing through the orderly rows of products – some are as exquisite as their packaging – feels like being in a museum dedicated to traditional Chinese woodcrafts.

The elegant chopstick sets are sourced from Shanghai and Beijing – some feature decorative inlays or detailed illustrations of Chinese fables. The combs and brushes are from a renowned artisan factory in China's Chongqing province. And **these hair tools don't just combat bad hair days!** From the helpful but somewhat amusing descriptions, you'll learn that boxwood prevents dandruff, peachwood wards off evil and bad smells, and sandalwood enhances your hair-brushing experience with its pleasant scent. With designs ranging from simple to intricate, functional to ornamental, you'll surely find a handy piece of Chinese art to jazz up your daily routine.

THE MATCHING 'DRAGON & PHOENIX' WEDDING COMBS MAKE SPECIAL GIFTS.



36 Temple Street, #01-05 Call 6226 3128 Hours Daily 10am – 8:30pm Pay \$\$ MRT Chinatown Map Central South 1



Fun Finds

Caraoke

Singing Cabbie

Prepare for a rockin' good ride when you book gregarious cabbie, Jeffrey Tan. The suit-clad 60 year old will pick you up in his shiny Merc that's installed with a sleek karaoke system complete with LCD screens and wireless microphones. **Sing along with Jeff or let him entertain you** with the hottest Hindi hit, a Mandarin oldie or a Spanish serenade. His signature songs are Achy Breaky Heart and Born To Be Wild – and yes, they're accompanied with the requisite yee-hahs and whoo-hoos!

BOOKING CHARGES: \$25 WITHIN THE CITY, \$35 TO THE AIRPORT OR PER HOUR.

Jeff became Singapore's first singing cabbie when he retired early from the army to become a taxi driver. Music was his companion on long shifts and he sang to de-stress and stay alert. One day, a businessman requested a Thai song – Jeff didn't know it but he promised to learn it in a month's time. When he next met the man, he could sing not 1 but 3 Thai songs. Today, Jeff can belt out **countless songs in over 8 languages**. Call to book him for a special occasion or to just hit the road for an unforgettable musical joy ride around town ...

Call 9784 6848 Click <http://jefflimo.tripod.com/jefflimo.htm> Pay \$\$



Fun Finds

Nature's Inn

Nippon Koi Hotel

The beautiful guests at this particular hotel do not seem to mind visitors or the fact that they may never need to check out. Swimming languidly in spacious ponds are jewel-coloured *Koi* (Japanese ornamental carp), whose dotting owners come to admire and pamper them in the evenings or on weekends. Regarded as **symbols of luck and prosperity**, the fish are usually kept in the posh garden ponds of wealthy families. However, there are folks who don't own land but who love *Koi* and can afford to keep them. So, they turn to this sprawling hotel, which also happens to be one of Singapore's oldest and largest fish-rearing farms.

You don't need to be a *Koi*-owner to come here and appreciate these graceful fish. The **serene grounds of Nippon Koi Farm include nurseries and nature ponds** – there's also a pavilion where *Hua Luo Han* (flower horn), or *Feng Shui* fish, are bred and kept. It's a great day out for families with kids or fish enthusiasts. Who knows, you may even be tempted to start your very own *Koi* collection.

THE HOTEL RATE FOR A 30-FISH POND IS ABOUT \$600 PER MONTH.

45 Jalan Lekar Call 6763 1882 Click www.nipponkoifarm.com Hours Daily 8am – 7pm Pay Admission is free Map Beyond 2

Services

To make life easier ... and interesting!

Rely on these savvy professionals for assistance, provisions and information.

Chef for Hire • Why slave over a hot stove when you can surprise guests or a loved one with a gourmet meal prepared by personal chef, Yuan Oeij? You'll be happy to know he uses less saturated fat and sodium for his delectable French, Italian and Asian dishes.

Call 9383 2615 **Click** www.geocities.com/yuanoeij

Elements of Living • Want to ensure harmony in your life and your living space? Seek Feng Shui or Ba Zi advice from friendly practitioner, Anthony Francis Lim. Call him for a consultation or visit his shop to buy auspicious items. 71 Amoy Street **Call** 6423 1129 **Click** www.theelementsofliving.com **Hours** Mon – Fri 11am – 6pm (call for appointment) **MRT** Tanjong Pagar **Map** Central South **11**

GreenCircle • Have organic veggies, fruits and other fresh produce delivered right to your door – direct from a local biodynamic farm. Treat your family to healthy, natural meals while doing your bit for the environment. Delivery is free for purchases of \$25 and more. **Call** 6861 9286 **Click** www.greencircle.com.sg **Hours** Check website for delivery schedule

Harmon's Private Investigation Services • Need an investigation done discreetly? Call on retired police officer, Harmon Singh, who has won numerous medals and even published an autobiography.

1 Sophia Road, #07-11 Peace Centre **Call** 6769 5659 **Click** www.harmonsingh.com.sg **Map** Central North **13**

Original Singapore Walks • Step off the beaten track to discover restaurant kitchens, wet markets, graveyards and places of real interest. No pre-booking required, just turn up at the designated meeting point, meet your friendly local guide and start walking. **Call** 6325 1631 **Click** www.singaporewalks.com **Hours** Check website for schedules

Also see **The Bike Boutique**, page 69 and **Singing Cabbie**, page 102.

Sleeps

Rest well and feel swell!

From ultra-chic to totally offbeat stays, there's something to please any traveller.

Hangout @ Mount Emily • This funky boutique hotel offers budget prices and high-end comforts like cosy-chic rooms, a veg-out nook that screens movies, a log-out corner with free internet access and a look-out rooftop terrace that offers a city view. 10A Upper Wilkie Road **Call** 6438 5588 **Click** www.hangout-hotels.com **MRT** Orchard **Map** Orchard **13**

Hostel One66 • For a slice of local life, check into this housing development block smack in Singapore's residential heartland. This clean and cheery homestay offers 1 twin or double room and 10 dorm beds. Blk 166 Woodlands Street 13, #01-545 **Call** 9751 6451 **Click** <http://web.singnet.com.sg/~one66> **MRT** Woodlands **Map** Beyond **5**

Lotus at Joo Chiat • Ideal for long and short term stays, these beautiful service apartments in Katong reflect the area's rich Peranakan heritage. Choose a conservation shophouse, suite or studio for a minimum of 1 week. 11 Everitt Road **Call** 6348 8533 **Click** www.lotus-sanctuary.com.sg **MRT** Eunos **Map** East **4**

Sleepy Sam's • This friendly, relaxed favourite with backpackers is located in the vibrant Arab street area. The heritage shophouse offers both private and dorm rooms – there's also a spa next door.

55 Bussorah Street **Call** 9277 4988 **Click** www.sleepysams.com **MRT** Bugis **Map** Central North **10**

The Sentosa • This stunning 5-star resort hotel offers hilltop views over the South China Sea. Indulge in fine dining, a lavish spa experience after a round of golf or a day at the poolside. You won't want to leave the island ...

2 Bukit Manis Road, Sentosa **Call** 6275 0331 **Click** www.thesentosa.com **Map** Beyond **18**

Also see **The Scarlet**, page 59 and **New Majestic Hotel**, page 70.