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TIGER TALES
jul/aug 2008

EVENTS worth booking a ticket for!

1 KUALA LUMPUR
World Drums Festival (26 July to 2 August)
After a successful debut in Port Dickson in 2007, this celebration of all things percussion beats a path back to KL for its sophomore year. Tap away to the beat with performances by drummers and percussion groups, not just from Asia but also around the world. www.malaysiaworlddrums.com

2 ADELAIDE
Royal Adelaide Show (5 to 13 September)
South Australia's annual agricultural fair has everything from carnival rides, acrobatics and fashion parades to wine tastings and handicraft-making demonstrations. This t
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Beyond the visual spectacle of multi-hued blossoms spread over an area of 10,000sqm, there are also performances, exhibitions, showcase gardens and fabulous food. www.floriadeaustralia.com

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Whether you're a fan of theatre, comedy, music, film, visual art or cabaret, this annual alternative arts festival has something to entice, intrigue and amaze you. From established theatres and museums to parks, bars and basements, the event's venues offer ample opportunity to explore the city's streets and back alleys. www.melbournefringe.com.au

7 SINGAPORE
Singapore Fairs (October to December)
Shoppers in the market for silver, original artwork, furnishings, designer clothing and jewellery among other unique products from Asia need look no farther than the Fancy Fairs, Hyatt hotel fairs, or at Fort Canning Park that's often patronized by expats or if you prefer night shopping by the river, there are bazaars by Clarke Quay. Please visit *www.singaporefairs.com* for details about other fairs going on in Singapore throughout the year.

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8 PERTH
Red Bull Air Race World Series (1 to 2 November)
A spectacle of aviation artistry, this newly created event sees the world's best pilots reach speeds of as much as 370 km/h as they navigate a low-level aerial race track of air-filled pylons.

One of 10 races on the Red Bull Air Race calendar, the Perth event is the season finale and will see a winner crowned from among the 12 participating pilots. www.redbullairrace.com

9 PHUKET
King's Cup Regatta (29 November to 6 December)
For five racing days each year, the waters of the Andaman Sea off Kata Beach play host to the region's most prestigious yacht racing event. With the annual arrival of a flotilla of 90 to 100 vessels from around the world, Phuket is transformed into a hotspot to rival even the maritime capitals of Europe and the Caribbean. Topped with a week's worth of glamorous parties, this event is decked out for sun and fun. www.kingscup.com

10 MANILA
World Bazaar Festival (5 to 14 December)
Shop till you drop for a good cause at the Philippines' largest charity bazaar, held every year at Manila's World Trade Centre. Stock up on everything from the latest gadgets to toys, fashion and food. Proceeds from the event are earmarked for worthy charities.

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■ Population: 4,588,600 ■ Currency: Singapore Dollars (SGD) ■ Country and city code: +65 ■ Tourist info: Singapore Tourism Board, Tourism Court, 1 Orchard Spring Lane, tel: +65 6736 2000, website: www.visitsingapore.com

FUN FACT
The busiest part of Orchard Road stretches from Dhoby Ghaut MRT to Claymore Road. There are 35 malls, which makes 1.75 malls per 100 metres of Orchard.

OUT & ABOUT
Great Singapore Sale (23 May to 20 July, various outlets)
Indulge in one of Singapore's most beloved pastimes: shopping. When better to go on a spree than at the regional mecca of retail – the Great Singapore Sale? Fight your way through crowds of fellow shopaholics for everything from flatware to haute couture – get the full scoop at *www.greatsingaporesale.com.sg*
Singapore Food Festival (4-27 July, various outlets) Expand your gastronomic horizons at this year's Singapore Food Festival, which promises to be a lip-smacking treat for both locals and tourists. It's not just about eating, though – sit in on fiery cooking demonstrations, food competitions, culinary-themed heritage trails and of course, great offers to wine and dine the night (or day) away. Get all the details at *www.singaporefoodfestival.com*
World Superstars Dance 2008 (31 July, Shangri-La Hotel, 22 Orange Grove Rd, tel: +65 6273 2316) It's more than just fancy footwork as worldclass ballroom champions heat up the dance floor at the first-ever World Superstars Dance event hosted in South-East Asia. Improve your technique at a half-day workshop with dance legends such as Bryan Watson and Carmen, each specialising in different styles such as Latin and Ballroom/Standard. After the workshop, attend a fabulous one-night-only performance over an elegant dinner at the Shangri-La.

MINT Museum of Toys (26 Seah Street, tel: +65 6339 0060) Step back in time at the recently renovated Mint Museum of Toys – home to some of the most valuable collectables from over 24 countries, some of which are over 100 years old. From antique robots to vintage Betty Boops, retro Beaties wigs to Matchbox cars, take a stroll down memory lane and pay homage to some of the world's most treasured playthings.

TOP SHOPS
Gant (#03-31/32 The Paragon, tel: +65 6235 4917) Nail the "back to school" look and swing by the recently opened Gant flagship store. At one point, the second-largest shirt maker in the world, this all-American label is famous for its crisp, smart button-downs and khakis. But that's not all – it boasts a versatile range of collections from the luxe Elliot Gant line to preppy casual G.N.H – perfect for a weekend at the polo club.
Inhabit (#B1-03 Palais Renaissance, 390 Orchard Road, tel: +65 6235 6995) Inhabit carries some of the finest jeans on the market, including chic celebrity favourites True Religion, Seven For All Mankind, Italian label DSquared and other hand-sewn masterpieces for the discerning denim fan. At the end of the day, it's all just cotton, but if you're after the best cut and exquisite detail, look no further.
Queen's Couture (#04-01 The Heeren, 260 Orchard Road, tel: +65 6737 3125) If graphic T-shirts with cute slogans are your thing, Queen's Couture is the place for you. Drop by this local streetwear boutique on the fourth floor of The Heeren for rare fashion finds from Japan and the UK. Slip on provocative designs from Cheap Monday, 2K and Magick Outlaw – they also have a decent accessories section and high-end imports from high-end Australian label Ksubi (formerly Tsubi).

BEST BITES
Picotin (100 Turf Club Road, tel: +65 6877 1191) Nestled in Horse City, Picotin is a delightful part bistro, part bar that serves up organic fare like creamy vol-au-vents and melt-in-your-mouth duck confit. With celebrity chef Emmanuel Stroobant at the helm, the Picotin kitchen churns out consistently mouth-watering entrees and desserts – we suggest the creme brulee or sticky date pudding. Floor-to-ceiling windows create a lovely ambience at night, with a stunning view of the great outdoors. $$
Seafood Paradise (30 Raffles Avenue, tel: +65 6336 5101) Dig into the quintessential Singaporean experience – *zhi char* (literally meaning "stir and fry") – right by the newly opened Singapore Flyer. Like any authentic hawker-style eatery, the service staff can be a little apathetic, but when it comes to the food, simple does the trick. Succulent platters of wasabi prawns and Teochew-style steamed sea bass are popular sights on fellow diners' tables, topped off with an ice-cold brew. $$$

AFTER DARK
CAMP (8D Dempsey Road, tel: +65 6479 3511) If price is not an issue, head down to Camp @ HOUSE, where the bar area spills out into stunning green jungle. Peruse the newly redone cocktail menu by award-winning visiting Melbourne mixologist Matthew Bax, including "Group Therapy" specials for thirsty parties of four. Beautifully presented signature drinks include the lemongrass-tinged Canchanchara and Mint Berry Gin Fuzz, all made with fresh ingredients.
Handle Bar (#01-01 Lock Road, tel: +65 6475 9571) Enjoy a greasy slice of Americana in the heart of Singapore at the Handle Bar – not named after the moustache, but for its motorcycle theme. You can even get your precious bike washed and polished outside. The bar itself looks a little like something out of Easy Rider, with biker paraphernalia and beer dispensers made out of what appear to be recycled engine parts. Their speciality is – unsurprisingly – lip-smacking spicy chicken wings with a nice cold jug of beer.

SLEEPOVER
Grand Plaza Park, City Hall (10 Coleman Street) * Located on the corner of North Bridge Road and Armenian Street, the hotel is just around the corner from the City Hall MRT station. Also across the street is the Funan Shopping Centre, famous for computers and electronics. Places of interest within walking distance from the hotel are Fort Canning Park, Asian Civilisation, Philatelic, National and Art Museums. About 10 minutes' walk away is the Singapore River and Chinatown. Room rates start from SGD230 (AUD177.45). $$

BY ALEXIS ONG

* FOR EXCLUSIVE DEALS, BOOK HOTELS AT WWW.TIGERAIRWAYS.COM

www.SingaporeFairs.com
The insiders' guide to fairs, markets and bazaars in Singapore