Asia Concierge

THE ART OF TRAVEL DESIGN



THE CULTURAL COMPANION

SINGAPORE

BOOKS, FILMS AND SERIES TO ENJOY BEFORE YOU TRAVEL

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Behind Singapore's gleaming skyline lies a fascinating story of trade, migration and reinvention. From the glamour of Crazy Rich Asians to the final days of colonial Singapore, these books and films bring the Lion City's history, families and hawker culture to life.

• TO READ

FICTION

NOVEL
CRAZY RICH ASIANS
2013

Crazy Rich Asians · Kevin Kwan · 2013
A glamorous, satirical romp through the lives of Singapore's super-rich families.
UK AMAZON · APPLE BOOKS
USA AMAZON · APPLE BOOKS

NOVEL
STATE OF EMERGENCY
2017

State of Emergency · Jeremy Tiang · 2017
A family saga spanning Singapore and Malaya's political upheavals from the 1940s onwards.
UK AMAZON · APPLE BOOKS
USA AMAZON · APPLE BOOKS

NOVEL
TANAMERA
1981

Tanamera · Noel Barber · 1981
A sweeping romance set in colonial Singapore from the 1920s to the war years.
UK AMAZON · APPLE BOOKS
USA AMAZON · APPLE BOOKS

NOVEL
THE SINGAPORE GRIP
1978

The Singapore Grip · J.G. Farrell · 1978
A witty novel by Booker Prize winner J.G. Farrell about a British trading family before the fall of Singapore in 1942.
UK AMAZON · APPLE BOOKS
USA AMAZON

NOVEL
SUGARBREAD
2016

Sugarbread · Balli Kaur Jaswal · 2016
A Punjabi-Singaporean girl uncovers her family's secrets in 1990s Singapore.
UK AMAZON · APPLE BOOKS
USA AMAZON · APPLE BOOKS

NOVEL
MINISTRY OF MORAL PANIC
2013

Ministry of Moral Panic · Amanda Lee Koe · 2013
Bold, prize-winning short stories about contemporary Singapore.
UK AMAZON
USA AMAZON

NON-FICTION

NON-FICTION
FROM THIRD WORLD TO FIRST
2000

From Third World to First · Lee Kuan Yew · 2000
Singapore's founding prime minister tells how the city-state was transformed.
UK AMAZON
USA AMAZON

NON-FICTION
SINGAPORE: UNLIKELY POWER
2017

Singapore: Unlikely Power · John Curtis Perry · 2017
A concise history of how a small island became a global hub.
UK AMAZON · APPLE BOOKS
USA AMAZON · APPLE BOOKS

NON-FICTION
SINGAPORE: A BIOGRAPHY
2009

Singapore: A Biography · Mark Ravinder Frost & Yu-Mei Balasingamchow · 2009
A richly illustrated history of Singapore, from a trading port to a global city.
UK AMAZON
USA AMAZON

NON-FICTION
SINGAPORE BURNING
2005

Singapore Burning · Colin Smith · 2005
A gripping account of the Malayan campaign and the fall of Singapore in 1942.
UK AMAZON · APPLE BOOKS
USA AMAZON

TO WATCH

FILMS & SERIES

FILM
CRAZY RICH ASIANS
2018

Crazy Rich Asians · Jon M. Chu · 2018

The hit romantic comedy, filmed at Raffles Hotel, Marina Bay Sands and Newton Food Centre.

UK NETFLIX · HBO MAX
USA HBO MAX · APPLE TV

FILM
WET SEASON
2019

Wet Season · Anthony Chen · 2019

Anthony Chen's moving drama about a Malaysian teacher in Singapore and the student who befriends her.

UK *Not currently available*
USA APPLE TV · AMAZON

FILM
SAINT JACK
1979

Saint Jack · Peter Bogdanovich · 1979

A cult classic filmed on location in 1970s Singapore.

UK AMAZON
USA PRIME VIDEO · APPLE TV

SERIES
THE LITTLE NYONYA
2008

The Little Nyonya · Mediacorp · 2008

A hit period drama celebrating Peranakan culture, food and family life.

UK *Not currently available*
USA PRIME VIDEO · AMAZON

FILM
ILO ILO
2013

Ilo Ilo · Anthony Chen · 2013

A tender family drama about a Singaporean family and their Filipino helper; winner of the Caméra d'Or at Cannes.

UK APPLE TV
USA AMAZON

FILM
A LAND IMAGINED
2018

A Land Imagined · Yeo Siew Hua · 2018

A noir mystery set among Singapore's land-reclamation sites, winner of the Golden Leopard at Locarno.

UK NETFLIX
USA NETFLIX

SERIES
THE SINGAPORE GRIP
2020

The Singapore Grip · ITV · 2020

J.G. Farrell's novel adapted as a period drama set in 1941 Singapore.

UK APPLE TV · AMAZON
USA *Not currently available*

DOCUMENTARIES & TRAVEL SERIES

DOCUMENTARY
STREET FOOD: ASIA
2019

Street Food: Asia · Netflix · 2019

The Singapore episode explores the hawker centres and the cooks keeping family recipes alive.

UK NETFLIX
USA NETFLIX

DOCUMENTARY
ANTHONY BOURDAIN: PARTS UNKNOWN
2017

Anthony Bourdain: Parts Unknown ·

CNN · 2017

The Singapore episode dives into the city's hawker culture and multicultural food scene.

UK PRIME VIDEO · AMAZON
USA HBO MAX · APPLE TV

DOCUMENTARY
SHIRKERS
2018

Shirkers · Sandi Tan · 2018

The true story of a lost 1990s Singapore indie film and the mystery of its disappearance.

UK NETFLIX
USA NETFLIX

YOUTUBE CHANNELS TO FOLLOW

YOUTUBE
MARK WIENS

Mark Wiens · @MarkWiens

Bangkok-based food vlogger, famous for his joyful street-food videos across Asia.

WATCH YOUTUBE

YOUTUBE
PADDY DOYLE

Paddy Doyle · @PaddyDoyleYT

British travel vlogger exploring Southeast Asia, with honest, upbeat travel guides.

WATCH YOUTUBE

YOUTUBE
ZERMATT NEO

Zermatt Neo · @ZermattNeo

A Singaporean food explorer famous for epic eating challenges.

WATCH YOUTUBE

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WE KNOW ASIA INTIMATELY.

ASIA KNOWS US.

VIETNAM · CAMBODIA · LAOS · THAILAND
INDONESIA · SINGAPORE · JAPAN · CHINA

ASIA-CONCIERGE.COM