

SERENITY, SPORTS AND SUPPER IN *Serangoon*

MOST OF US HAVE BEEN TO SERANGOON FOR ONE REASON OR ANOTHER — MOST LIKELY FOR ITS FAMED FOOD OUTLETS — BUT WE PROBABLY HAVEN'T SEEN ALL THAT THE ESTATE HAS TO OFFER. SO, WHAT ARE SOME SPOTS THAT SHOULDN'T BE MISSED?

As with many places in Singapore, Serangoon used to host *kampung* settlements and agricultural areas like rubber plantations. Its name is believed to be derived from the Malay words “*burong ranggong*”, referring to a species of stork that was commonly found in and around the Serangoon River. Today, Serangoon is a lively residential town with several landmarks that it proudly claims.

The Serangoon Community Club

10 Serangoon North Avenue 2,
Singapore 555877

With its vibrant multicoloured windows, the Serangoon Community Club's facade is certainly eye-catching. Designed by local architectural firm RDC Architects and opened in 2005, the building becomes even more outstanding when it lights up at night, turning it into a striking beacon in the Serangoon North neighbourhood.

There is more to be discovered when you walk to the other side of the building. From the outside, the structure housing its theatre resembles the nose of a plane jutting out from the side of the building — almost like a scene in an action film!

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The Serangoon Community Club

has been around for a while, but its cheerful facade still brightens up my day whenever I drive past it on my way home!

— MR LIM JIA LE, 30, ENGINEER





Serangoon Gardens

A foodie haven, Serangoon Gardens has a history that is as rich as its delicious offerings. Built in the 1950s as a residential area for the British military, the estate's roads are named after places in the UK, such as Kensington Park Road and Farleigh Avenue. Its iconic roundabout, located in the heart of the area, has been around for decades — you may know it as the Serangoon Garden Circus.

Many flock to Serangoon Gardens for its two famed hawker centres. Serangoon Garden Market & Food Centre mostly caters to the breakfast and lunch crowd, while

Chomp Chomp Food Centre has a reputation for being a great supper spot. The neighbourhood is also home to an enclave of eateries and cafes, with some even having al fresco tables perfect for people-watching!

Food aside, there are also many fitness and art jamming studios to expend your energy. And if you are looking to reward yourself with a spa session or two, there are several options for you to choose from. Bonus: your fur baby can enjoy a pampering session at a grooming facility while you indulge in yours, after which you can both adjourn to one of the pet-friendly cafes in the area.

I used to study near Serangoon Gardens, when it wasn't as hip as it is now! I enjoy bringing my family here on weekends for brunch, as it is not as crowded as the town area, and the ambience is laid-back and casual.



– MS YE XINZI, 35,
RELATIONSHIP MANAGER

Serangoon Community Park

In front of Block 217, Serangoon Avenue 4, Singapore 550217

Not far from Serangoon Stadium is Serangoon Community Park. What it lacks in size, it makes up for with various recreational amenities. Given its soothing vibes, it is also an ideal green-filled space in which residents can unwind and relax at the end of a long day. Apart from a running track that loops around the park, exercise enthusiasts can also enjoy other calorie-busting activities at the fitness corners. What sets Serangoon Community Park apart from other parks in Singapore is a small pedestrian bridge that goes over the jogging track — great for selfies!



Serangoon Stadium

33 Yio Chu Kang Road, Singapore 545677

Serangoon Stadium is a large multipurpose arena that opened in 1994. Runners are especially fond of pounding the tracks here in the evenings, as it offers beautiful unblocked views of the sky, thanks to its location in a low-rise estate. Apart from sporting events, the stadium also serves as one of the training centres for the ActiveSG Football Academy, which introduces children and youth to the art of the “beautiful game”, developing their skills and passion for the sport.



SERANGOON

Specials

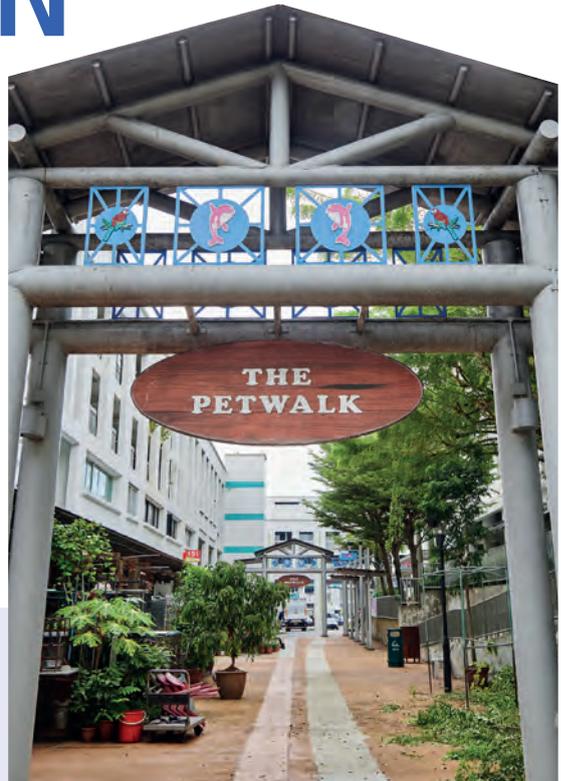
THIS NORTH-EASTERN NEIGHBOURHOOD IS FLUSH WITH PET SUPPLY STORES, AS WELL AS COSY CAFES THAT NOT ONLY BOAST AESTHETICALLY PLEASING INTERIORS, BUT ALSO SERVE YUMMY TREATS.

While Serangoon is widely known for its food spots and cafes, did you know that it is also home to Singapore's unofficial pet shop central?

Serangoon Pet Walk

Blocks 151-154, Serangoon North Avenue 1, Singapore 550151-550154

Most pet owners would be familiar with Serangoon Pet Walk in Serangoon North Village, as it is *the* place to go if you are looking to browse pet stores. When approaching the unofficial start of the Pet Walk at Block 154 Serangoon North Avenue 1, be prepared to be welcomed by a deafening cacophony of bird cries and screeches, courtesy of Goodwill Birds Trading and their cages of winged creatures ranging from more commonly found pet bird species, such as budgerigars, to the exotic white-bellied caique.



I can easily spend an afternoon here looking at all the various animals. Who needs a zoo when you can head to the Serangoon Pet Walk?



– MR DYLAN LIM, 27, ENGINEER

Lovers of small pet mammals like hamsters and chinchillas will have a good time checking out the various stores specialising in the little critters in this area. House of Chinchilla, also located at Block 154, is one such shop. Owned by friendly proprietors, it is not uncommon to see the shop filled with curious children, with the store owners dispensing advice on keeping these small animals. There are also several aquariums at the Pet Walk, where you can get goldfishes, fancy shrimp and even mini crabs!

TIP: While you are at Serangoon Pet Walk, don't forget to check out the good food here! Xiao Di Fried Prawn Noodle at Block 153 attracts snaking queues for its fragrant and luscious *hokkien mee*, while Chindamani Indian Food Stall at Block 151A also commands huge crowds for its crispy *roti prata*.



Pints & Cones
Block 304, #01-02, Serangoon Avenue 2,
Singapore 550304

A scoop of gelato and a cold pint of beer sound like a dream on a hot day, and Pints & Cones — as its name suggests — happens to offer both.

Located about 10 minutes' walk from Serangoon MRT station, the store churns out artisanal gelato in popular flavours such as Roasted Pistachio, while also catering to more adventurous taste buds through options like Strawberry Osmanthus and Banana Biscoff. Those who enjoy a tippie will be glad to find a range of local and foreign craft beers available here.



“I love their Roasted Pistachio gelato. It is as good as the ones I’ve tried in Italy!”

— MS NELLIE JANE, 48,
VIDEO EDITOR



TIP: Come hungry so you can try the unusual waffles, which are infused with thyme for an aromatic herbaceous flavour.



The Plain Jane
Block 211, #01-10, Serangoon Avenue 4,
Singapore 550211

Tucked away in the void deck of Block 211 at Serangoon Avenue 4, The Plain Jane specialises in swiss rolls, which fans rave are some of the best on the island. The cafe serves the delicate sponge cake in an exciting variety of flavours, such as Earl Grey, Raspberry and Yuzu.

You can pre-order whole rolls to bring home, or enjoy individual slices in the cafe, which has been tastefully furnished to exude a homely, welcoming vibe.



TIP: Apart from its usual selection of swiss rolls, The Plain Jane also offers seasonal flavours and specials like rare cheesecake served with homemade strawberry basil compote. Follow their social media accounts to stay updated on their latest menu!

PHOTOS: THE PLAIN JANE AND INSTAGRAM USER @FOO.YONGJIE