



OUT AND ABOUT IN ANG MO KIO

LONG-STANDING SHOPS HAVE CALLED THIS ESTATE HOME FOR DECADES, WHILE NEWCOMERS ARE ON TRACK TO BUILDING THEIR OWN BASE OF LOYAL CUSTOMERS.

One of the oldest housing estates in Singapore, Ang Mo Kio is home to a diverse mix of shops, many serving customers long before online shopping became the norm. Some of these storefronts bear testimony to years on the scene with their retro-looking shop signs, while a new generation of entrepreneurs continues to add buzz to the neighbourhood with their on-trend offerings. Here's a shortlist of several noteworthy establishments to check out the next time you're in the area.

M S Color Service Pte Ltd Block 711, Ang Mo Kio Avenue 8, #01-3501C, Singapore 560711

M S Color is highly regarded by local photography buffs, and it's not just because of its long history, which goes as far back as the 1950s, when it was known as Melim Studio. Renamed as M S Color in the 1970s, this niche business moved from Sembawang to Block 711 in Ang Mo Kio Avenue 8, where it remains till today.

During our visit, there was a steady stream of customers despite it being a rainy Saturday afternoon. Most chatted to the shop assistants like they were old friends, while the staff dispensed advice on the best equipment to fit their customers' needs. This camaraderie is what has drawn Mohammed Shafiq, 32, to the shop over the years. "It's easy and more affordable to purchase things online, but I personally prefer having a feel of the items before deciding. And it definitely helps that I have a person assisting me at the shop!" he said.



Fish & Chicks

Block 531, Ang Mo Kio Avenue 10, #01-2429, Singapore 560531

Fish & Chicks is a classic success story with humble beginnings. In 2016, two “hawkerpreneurs” opened a stall in Ang Mo Kio to serve what they describe as “Asian-infused Western food”. Their claim to fame was their signature fish and chips with salted egg yolk sauce, which was launched just as the salted egg yolk craze was taking off. Just three years later, Fish & Chicks has ramped up its operations to more than 12 outlets islandwide. The flagship stall at Ang Mo Kio Avenue 10 is still going strong, and the menu has been expanded to include premium items like lobster.



Kow Loon Hong Kong Dim Sum

Block 151, Ang Mo Kio Avenue 5, #01-3030, Singapore 560151

If you stay in Ang Mo Kio and love dim sum, chances are that you would have heard of Kow Loon Hong Kong Dim Sum. In business for almost 30 years, it is located at a busy coffeeshop in Block 151, Ang Mo Kio Avenue 5.

With more than 50 items on the menu, you would be hard-pressed to not find something you like. Most people come for the juicy *xiao long bao* (steamed dumplings), savoury egg tarts, and the much-raved-about *liu sha bao* (salted egg custard buns).



Mellben Seafood

Block 232, Ang Mo Kio Avenue 3, #01-1222, Singapore 560232

For close to 40 years, Mellben Seafood has quietly earned a reputation for mainly its crab dishes, which are highly lauded by foodies. Out of the 15 crab dishes here, their crab *bee hoon* is one that you should not miss — the robust broth with deep crustacean flavours being the main star. These days, this unassuming restaurant located at a nondescript void deck continues to draw in the crowds, even on weekdays.

ART IN THE HEARTLANDS



Ang Mo Kio Town Centre has been reinvigorated with a visually spectacular series of street art and murals that breathe new life into the urban landscape. Inspired by Singapore’s history, culture and food, the murals are mostly created by local artists Barry Yeow and Abu Jalal Sarimon, with creative input from art therapist Jennifer Lim.