

Paktion in the Heartlands

DATE NIGHT DOESN'T HAVE TO ALWAYS BE A FANCY DINNER FOLLOWED BY A MOVIE. THIS COMING VALENTINE'S DAY, DISCOVER ROMANTIC SPOTS AND COUPLE-WORTHY ACTIVITIES RIGHT IN THE HEART OF HDB ESTATES.

Love is in the air with Valentine's Day just around the corner. If you're looking to avoid the crowds at popular dining spots and cinemas in town, take this opportunity to make some beautiful memories with interesting experiences that can be found right in your own HDB estate.

From tranquil nature spots to fun adventures, there's a special *paktor* place for lovebirds in every heartland.



Sun Yat Sen Nanyang Memorial Hall

Walk the Heritage Trail at Balestier

Home to good eats, historical landmarks, colourful shophouses, and clusters of HDB terrace houses, Balestier offers an eclectic mix of food, culture, heritage and unique architectural styles.

Spend the day together taking Instagram-worthy photos of the charming row of shophouses known as Sim Kwong Ho, with their distinctive fusion of traditional Asian motifs with European architectural style. Or pop into the grand colonial-style villa of Sun Yat Sen Nanyang Memorial Hall, which features larger-than-life sculptures of the revolutionary pioneer and a glimpse into his short stay in Singapore.

For food options, you'll be spoilt for choice with Balestier Market, Whampoa Food Centre, Zhongshan Mall, and the many other cafes and hole-in-the-wall shops that line the stretch of road.



The Rasa Istimewa Waterfront Restaurant

View Malaysia without a passport at Woodlands Waterfront

Woodlands Waterfront is a tranquil coastal park that is just a short walk away from a group of HDB flats in Marsiling Crescent and Marsiling Lane. From various spots — including Lookout Point — in this coastal park, one can enjoy panoramic views of the park as well as the Straits of Johor. If you come in the early morning, you may even spot monkeys and the occasional monitor lizard foraging for food.

In the evening, take a stroll along the jetty — the longest recreational one in Singapore — and let the gorgeous sunset view set the mood for some romantic couple time. The Rasa Istimewa Waterfront Restaurant, set atop the water on the jetty, offers views of Johor Bahru from its wide windows, making it akin to dining on a stationary ship. This *halal* diner serves a varied menu of seafood and western cuisine, along with some local fare.

Chill in Jurong

Jurong is home to gorgeous parks such as Jurong Lake Gardens, as well as large interconnected suburban malls. For couples looking to warm up to each other, it's also home to not one but two of Singapore's coldest recreational playgrounds.

Plan a cool date skating in Singapore's first and only Olympic-sized ice-skating rink at The Rink, located in JCube Mall. There are even adorable skating aids for beginners if you prefer something more secure than holding on to your date. The Rink hosts themed events, so do check its website for Valentine's Day-related promotions. Just make sure to wear comfortable pants and not shorts or dresses!

Snow City, located on Science Centre grounds, is regarded as the first indoor permanent snow centre in Singapore. Re-create romantic wintry scenes from K-dramas walking

through the artificial snowfall, or grab on to each other while zooming down the 60m-long snow slide.



Jurong Lake Gardens

