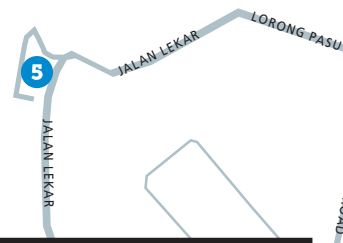


FAMILY-FRIENDLY FUN

A DAY OF EXPLORATION IN CHOA CHU KANG UNVEILS A NEW TOWN WITH OFFERINGS THAT FAMILIES — YOUNG AND OLD — CAN SURELY APPRECIATE.



History buffs might immediately associate Choa Chu Kang with the area where the last wild tiger in Singapore roamed and was famously shot in the 1930s. Back in the day, residents of Choa Chu Kang — mostly Teochew and later, Hokkien settlers — were farmers who grew gambier, pepper, pineapple, rubber and coconut.

Over the years, Choa Chu Kang has transformed into a modern township where families of various races live, shop and play. Although vegetable and poultry farms no longer dominate its landscape, the neighbourhood still boasts interesting surprises bound to delight its residents, as well as visitors who may one day find themselves in this northwestern part of the island.

“MY WIFE AND I MOVED TO CHOA CHU KANG ABOUT FOUR YEARS AGO TO START OUR FAMILY. WHILE SOME MAY THINK THE NEIGHBOURHOOD IS FAR-FLUNG, WE ACTUALLY FIND IT QUITE CONVENIENT AS IT IS CONNECTED VIA HIGHWAYS TO VARIOUS OTHER PARTS OF SINGAPORE. NEW EATERIES HAVE ALSO BEEN SPROUTING, SUCH AS THIS CAFÉ, WHICH MY FOUR-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER REALLY LIKES.”

Mr Azlan Alipah, 41, football coach (Pictured here with his family)



2 Hey Sugar Café

Blk 818 Choa Chu Kang Avenue 1 #01-06

With interiors awash in ‘millennial pink’ and motifs of the popular monstera plants adorning its walls, Hey Sugar Café is evidently the trendy new kid on the block. The café’s menu includes homemade gelato — flavours range from soursop sorbet and salted caramel to ‘Milo dinosaur’ — and waffles, attracting laptop-toting youths and families with young children.



1 FoodTastic Coffeeshop by Chang Cheng Mee Wah

Blk 818 Choa Chu Kang Avenue 1 #01-01

This partly-air-conditioned eating house offers everything you would find in a regular coffeeshop including *yong tau foo*, chicken rice and *nasi padang*. Look a little closer, however, and you will discover that the whole coffeeshop utilises nifty, hi-tech automation in its operation. A self-ordering payment system, cashless payment machines and tray return terminals have been installed, reducing manpower by up to 60 per cent, according to its operator Chang Cheng Mee Wah.





4 Yangtze Kiang Tailor

Blk 26 Teck Whye Lane #01-180/182

This tailoring shop specialises in one thing — school uniforms. Students and their parents throng its counter at least once a year to get fitted in their respective uniforms for the new school term or semester. The company has been manufacturing and supplying school uniforms since 1961. Its first outlet was opened at the People's Park Food Centre in the early 1970s.



3 Choa Chu Kang Park

Choa Chu Kang Drive

This verdant 11-hectare park has something for everyone. Little ones gravitate to the playground comprising four play zones, including a sand play area, a pyramid climbing net, a train-inspired playground, a giant swing and various other interesting play equipment. The most recent addition to the park is the Therapeutic Garden, launched in July 2018. Specially designed with calming water features and fragrant plants, this wheelchair-friendly garden aims to bring about restorative effects to promote mental well-being.



“ YOU CAN FIND ME AT THE PARK ALMOST EVERY MORNING, TENDING TO THIS LOT IN THE COMMUNITY GARDEN. THE LOT ACTUALLY BELONGS TO A PRESCHOOL CENTRE THAT MY GRANDSON USED TO GO TO. THE TEACHERS HAD ASKED FOR VOLUNTEERS TO MAINTAIN AND CARE FOR THE PLANTS, SO I CAME FORWARD. THE PARK IS LOVELY, AND EVERYONE FROM LITTLE CHILDREN TO THE ELDERLY LIKES COMING HERE.

Mdm Tham Yoke Lean, 70, retiree



5 Qian Hu Fish Farm

71 Jalan Lekar

The more senior among us might remember spending our childhood days, armed with nets, *longkang* ('drain' in Malay) fishing in canals and streams. While this is no longer a popular pastime, Singapore's largest ornamental fish importer and exporter Qian Hu Fish Farm offers visitors a chance to relive the experience. Here, children and their families have the opportunity to experience what used to be a common activity, and also go on guided tours of the farm.

