



Malacca Weekend Getaway From Singapore (2026 Guide)

Description

A **Malacca weekend getaway** is one of the easiest short breaks a Singapore-based traveller can plan: no flight, no visa fuss, and a UNESCO-listed old town packed with Peranakan shophouses, colonial forts and some of the best street food in the region. Just under 240km up the North-South Highway, Melaka (Malacca) makes a comfortable two-day escape once the June-to-August travel crowds ease off. Here is how to do it well in 2026, with costs in SGD, transport options and a simple itinerary.

Getting to Malacca from Singapore

You have three sensible ways to reach Melaka, and your choice mostly comes down to budget and how much control you want over your schedule.

By coach (easiest and cheapest)

Direct coaches run daily from Singapore to Melaka Sentral, the city's main bus terminal, and take roughly four to five hours including the border crossing. Operators such as KKKL, Transtar and 707 offer 2+1 executive seating with generous legroom. One-way fares typically sit between **S\$20 and S\$39**, with Transtar's executive service starting around S\$25. Book ahead on redBus or Easybook for weekend departures, and give yourself buffer time at the Tuas or Woodlands checkpoints.



The red Dutch Square and Stadthuys, Melakaâ??s most photographed landmark. Photo: CEphoto, Uwe Aranas / Wikimedia Commons (CC BY-SA 3.0)

By car (most flexible)

Driving takes about three to three-and-a-half hours via the Second Link at Tuas, which is usually quieter than the Causeway. Budget for Malaysian tolls, VEP requirements and petrol; many Singaporeans top up cheaper fuel across the border. If you are still getting to grips with the automated lanes, our [guide to Johor e-Gates for Singaporeans](#) covers the MDAC and MACS 2.0 steps you need before you go.

By private transfer or cruise

Door-to-door private cars can be booked through Klook or local operators from around S\$250 to S\$350 one way for up to four people, splitting the cost nicely for a group. Cruise fans can also reach Melaka from Singapore on selected Genting Dream sailings, with short two- to three-night itineraries occasionally priced from about S\$159 per person including port charges.

What to do on a Malacca weekend getaway

Melaka's historic core is compact and walkable, so you can cover the highlights on foot over two days without rushing.

Jonker Street and the night market

Jonker Street is the heart of Chinatown and the one thing every first-timer should prioritise. The famous night market runs **Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 6pm to around midnight**, when the street closes to traffic and fills with stalls selling everything from Nyonya laksa and satay to egg tarts and durian puffs. By day, the same shophouses turn into antique shops, Peranakan tileware stores and coffee joints. Come hungry and bring small ringgit notes.



Jonker Street night market runs Friday to Sunday evenings. Photo: Philip Mallis / Wikimedia Commons (CC BY-SA 2.0)

The Dutch Square, Stadthuys and St Paulâ??s Hill

Across the river sits the postcard-red Dutch Square, home to the 17th-century Stadthuys and Christ Church. Climb St Paulâ??s Hill for the ruins of St Paulâ??s Church and views over the strait, then walk down to the **A Famosa** gate (Porta de Santiago), the surviving fragment of a Portuguese fort dating to 1511. Entry to the square and fort ruins is free.



The A Famosa gate (Porta de Santiago), a Portuguese-era fort ruin. Photo: Marcin Konsek / Wikimedia Commons (CC BY-SA 4.0)

The Melaka River Cruise

A 45-minute river cruise is the easiest way to see the city's murals, restored warehouses and glowing bridges, and it is especially pretty after sunset. Boats run daily from around 9am to 11pm, with tickets roughly RM30 (about S\$9) for adults. Buy tickets early in the evening on weekends, as queues build quickly.



A cruise boat on the Melaka River at dusk. Photo: Engin Akyurt / Pixabay (CC0)

Where to stay and what it costs

Melaka suits every budget. Heritage guesthouses and boutique shophouse stays around Jonker Street start from about **S\$45 to S\$70 a night**, while four-star riverfront and mall-linked hotels such as those near Hatten Square run closer to **S\$90 to S\$150**. Staying within walking distance of the Dutch Square saves you Grab fares and lets you enjoy the old town after the day-trippers leave. Grab is widely available, with short hops across town starting around RM10.

A simple two-day itinerary

Day 1: Arrive by lunchtime, check in near Jonker Street, and spend the afternoon on the Dutch Square, St Paulâ??s Hill and A Famosa. Take the river cruise at dusk, then dive into the Jonker Street night market for dinner (best on a Friday or Saturday).

Day 2: Breakfast on Nyonya kuih or chicken rice balls, browse the antique shops and the Baba & Nyonya Heritage Museum, grab a Peranakan lunch, and head back to Singapore mid-afternoon to beat the evening checkpoint jams.

Practical tips for 2026

- **Money:** The exchange rate hovers near S\$1 to RM3.3, so Melaka feels excellent value. Carry some cash for hawkers and the night market; cards and e-wallets work in most cafes and hotels.
- **Timing:** Visit over a weekend so you catch the Jonker night market, but expect crowds. For a quieter old town, arrive Friday and leave Sunday morning.
- **Border:** Complete your Malaysia Digital Arrival Card before travelling and keep your passport handy at the automated gates.
- **Weather:** It is hot and humid year-round. Pack light, breathable clothing, sunscreen and a compact umbrella for afternoon showers.

If Melaka whets your appetite for more short breaks, compare it against a beach-and-golf escape in our [Desaru Coast weekend getaway guide](#) or an island reset in our [Bintan weekend getaway guide](#). For a history-rich, food-forward trip that needs nothing more than a coach ticket, though, a Malacca weekend getaway is hard to beat.

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