



Melaka Weekend Getaway From Singapore: 2026 Guide

Description

When Singaporeans think of a quick long-weekend escape, Batam and Desaru usually top the list. But if you have already ticked those off, a **Melaka weekend getaway** from Singapore deserves a spot on your 2026 shortlist. This UNESCO-listed city packs 600 years of Portuguese, Dutch, British and Peranakan history into a compact, walkable centre, and it is stuffed with some of the best street food in the region. Best of all, you can get there entirely by road, no flights required.

Why a Melaka weekend getaway works

Melaka is small, which is exactly what makes it perfect for two days. Nearly everything a first-timer wants to see sits within a 15-minute stroll of the Melaka River, so you spend your time eating and wandering rather than commuting. It is also easy on the wallet: hotels, food and taxis all cost noticeably less than in Singapore. If you enjoyed our [Batam weekend getaway guide](#), think of Melaka as the heritage-and-hawker version of the same idea.

- **Distance:** about 220km via the Tuas Second Link
- **Travel time:** roughly 4 to 5 hours by coach, including immigration
- **Ideal length:** 2 days, 1 night (2D1N)
- **Currency:** Malaysian Ringgit (RM); RM1 is around S\$0.30
- **Best nights:** Friday to Sunday, when Jonker Street comes alive

Getting to Melaka from Singapore

The easiest option is a direct coach. Operators such as KKKL, Delima Express, StarMart Express, 707 Inc and Super Nice run daily services from pick-up points near MRT stations like Bugis and Kovan, crossing via the Tuas Second Link and dropping you at Melaka Sentral. Fares typically run from around **S\$30 to S\$40 each way**, and the journey takes about four to five hours depending on the queue at the checkpoints. Book a day or two ahead on platforms like redBus or Easybook, especially over public holidays.

Prefer to drive? It is roughly a two-and-a-half-hour drive from the Second Link on a clear run, plus immigration time. Good news for Singapore passport holders: you are **exempt from the Malaysia Digital Arrival Card (MDAC)** at land crossings in 2026, so there is no online form to fill in before you go. If you would rather stay closer to home for this trip, our [Desaru Coast weekend getaway guide](#) is the beachier alternative.

Jonker Street and the night market



Jonker Street turns into a heaving night market every Friday to Sunday. Photo: Philip Mallis / Wikimedia Commons (CC BY-SA 2.0)

Jonker Street (Jalan Hang Jebat) is the beating heart of Chinatown and the reason many people time their visit for a weekend. From Friday to Sunday evening the street closes to traffic and fills with stalls selling everything from grilled satay and quail eggs to nyonya kueh, souvenirs and the occasional karaoke stage. Come hungry, bring small notes, and pace yourself: this is a graze-as-you-go affair. By day, the same street is a browsable run of antique shops, cafes and heritage guesthouses.

Heritage Melaka: Dutch Square, A Famosa and a river cruise

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Restored shophouses line the Melaka River, best seen on an evening river cruise. Photo:
Felix Andrews / Wikimedia Commons (CC BY-SA 3.0)

Start at Dutch Square, where the terracotta-red Stadthuys and Christ Church make the city's most photographed backdrop. From there it is a short climb to St Paul's Hill and the ruins of A Famosa, the Portuguese fort gate that has watched over the port since the 1500s. As the sun drops, hop on a **Melaka River Cruise** (around RM30, roughly S\$9, for adults), a 45-minute glide past muralled shophouses and old godowns that looks genuinely cinematic after dark.

What to eat in Melaka

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Melaka's signature chicken rice balls. Photo: Yun Huang Yong / Wikimedia Commons (CC BY 2.0)

Food alone justifies the trip. The city's signature dish is **chicken rice balls**, where the usual rice is rolled into ping-pong-sized spheres (from about RM8 to RM12 a set, roughly S\$2.50 to S\$3.60). Don't leave without trying **satay celup**, a communal hotpot of skewers dunked into bubbling peanut sauce (skewers from around RM1.20 each), and a bowl of **cendol**, the shaved-ice dessert drenched in gula melaka (about RM4 to RM6). Peranakan restaurants for laksa and ayam pongteh round out a very happy weekend of eating.

Where to stay in Melaka

Melaka does heritage hotels beautifully. For character, look at boutique stays inside restored shophouses right on or beside Jonker Street, many from **S\$60 to S\$100 a night**. Want more polish? Riverfront names such as Casa del Rio, Courtyard by Marriott and the Hatten hotels sit in the S\$120-plus bracket but remain a bargain by Singapore standards. Budget travellers will find clean guesthouses from around S\$40. Wherever you book, staying within walking distance of Dutch Square saves you the most time.

A simple 2D1N Melaka itinerary

- **Day 1 afternoon:** Arrive, check in, walk Dutch Square, St Paul's Hill and A Famosa
- **Day 1 evening:** Sunset river cruise, then dinner and dessert along Jonker Street night market
- **Day 2 morning:** Chicken rice balls for brunch, browse antique shops and cafes
- **Day 2 afternoon:** Last-minute satay celup, then board the coach home

Practical tips before you go

Bring your passport with at least six months' validity, carry some ringgit for hawker stalls (many small stalls are cash-only), and check coach timings both ways so you are not caught by the evening jam back through the checkpoints. Weekends are liveliest but also busiest, so book accommodation early. Planning further afield later in the year? Keep an eye on our [Changi Airport new routes guide](#) for the latest on where you can fly next.

A Melaka weekend getaway proves you don't need a boarding pass to feel like you have properly left Singapore. Two days, one night, and a road trip's worth of history and hawker food: it is one of the easiest short escapes going.

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Author

sofiapereira