



Mid-Autumn 2026: Gardens By The Bay's Free Lantern Display Runs 22 September To 12 October

Description

Mid-Autumn Festival 2026 Singapore falls on Friday, 25 September. The lanterns, as usual, arrive before the mooncakes are finished.

Gardens by the Bay runs its display from 22 September to 12 October, 6.30pm to 10pm daily. Admission to the outdoor gardens is free, which makes this the best value evening out in Singapore for about three weeks.

Where the lanterns are

The display spreads across three areas: Supertree Grove, Golden Garden and Bayfront Plaza. That is a proper walk rather than a single photo spot, so wear something you can cover a couple of kilometres in.

This year's large-scale lanterns trace Singapore's journey from kampung roots through to HDB life. There are also Merlion and Haetae lantern displays, and a piece called Dance of the Butterflies.



Source: Gardens by the Bay

The kampung-to-HDB theme is a smarter hook than it sounds. Bring an older relative and the lanterns do half the conversation for you.

What else is on besides looking at lights

- Dancing lights at Supertree Grove, timed with music and dance performances
- A marketplace with street food and carnival games
- Lantern-making workshops
- Tea appreciation sessions
- Bamboo weaving workshops

Workshops usually require registration and fill up early, so check listings rather than turning up hopeful.

Chinatown's street light-up

The Chinatown Mid-Autumn street light-up runs from 18 September to 20 October 2026, illuminated from 7pm to midnight every night. It is free to walk through, and it starts four days earlier than the Gardens display.

Chinatown also brings the shopping side of the festival. Mooncake stalls, lanterns for the kids, and the annual reminder that snowskin durian sells out faster than you expect.



Source: Gardens by the Bay

When to go if you dislike crowds

Both venues get busy, and the weekend before 25 September is the worst of it. A few timing notes from anyone who has done this more than once:

- **Weeknights before the festival date.** Monday to Wednesday evenings in the first week are noticeably quieter.
- **Arrive at opening.** Turn up at 6.30pm at Gardens by the Bay and you get the blue-hour shots before the crush.
- **The tail end.** The first week of October, after the festival has passed, is the sleeper window. Same lanterns, a fraction of the people.
- **Avoid 25 September itself** unless the atmosphere is the point, in which case go and enjoy the chaos.

Practical bits

Gardens by the Bay sits on top of Bayfront MRT, which puts you at Bayfront Plaza in a few minutes. Chinatown MRT drops you straight into the light-up on Eu Tong Sen and New Bridge Road.

Bring a bottle of water. September evenings in Singapore are still 29 degrees at 8pm, and the outdoor gardens have less shade cover than the photos suggest.



Source: Gardens by the Bay

If you are taking young children, the marketplace and carnival games at Bayfront Plaza are the easiest place to start and the easiest place to leave from. Do not attempt the full Supertree-to-Golden-Garden loop with a tired four-year-old.

Programme timings, workshop registration and performance schedules are published on the Gardens by the Bay website closer to the dates.

Date Created

26/08/2026

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