



The Cat Cafe Bugis: Two Hours With 15 Rescue Cats and a Coffee

Description

I'll be upfront - I'm not the kind of person who plans a "cat cafe" date. I went to one in Fukuoka a few years back, expecting fluffy chaos and instead getting a room so packed with cats that I couldn't tell which one I was supposed to be falling for. So when a free afternoon opened up near Bugis, I figured I'd see how Singapore's longest-running cat cafe compares. Two hours, \$22, one ginger cat that actively pretended I didn't exist. Worth it? Read on.

Getting There: A Cafe Hiding in Plain Sight

[The Cat Cafe](#) sits at 241B Victoria Street, Level 3 - directly opposite Bugis Junction (the entrance is on the side facing the bus stop). Bugis MRT (Mass Rapid Transit) Exit C drops you 100 metres away, so you're really not walking far.

The catch - and there is one - is that the stairway to Level 3 is genuinely easy to miss. Look for the Mi Xue dessert shop on the ground floor. The narrow stairwell is right after it. There's no lift. Wear sensible shoes and brace yourself for three flights up.



â??The Purrfect Coffee Place.â?• It let that pun slide because the place earns it.

The Setup: \$22, Two Hours, One Drink

Entry is \$22 per person for two hours, which includes a complimentary soft drink. You can top up to a tea, coffee or chocolate if soft drinks are not your thing. Stay longer and itâ??s \$5.50 for every additional thirty minutes. Thereâ??s also a whole-day pass at \$50 (weekdays only, subject to availability) if youâ??re really committed to not leaving.

Operating hours are 10amâ??9pm on weekdays (3pm onwards on Mondays, since the cats also need a lie-in apparently), and 10amâ??10pm on weekends, public holidays and school holidays. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Children below 1 enter free, which is the most adorable line item Iâ??ve ever read on a price list.

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High ceilings, tall windows, and cat trees taller than I am.

First Impressions: Spacious, Calm, and Almost Empty

Iâ??d been picturing the Fukuoka experience â?? a small room, walls of cats, faintly chaotic. The Cat Cafe Bugis is the opposite. The space is wide, double-height, daylight pouring in through tall windows, and the wood floors are warm underfoot. There were maybe two other guests when I arrived, and within half an hour my friend and I had the entire place to ourselves.

And hereâ??s the thing I didnâ??t expect â?? most of the seating is on the floor. Low tables, floor cushions, the whole setup designed so that youâ??re at cat-eye level when one decides to walk past. Genuinely smart design, because cats do not negotiate up to your height. Ever.

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Sitting on the floor like a respectful subject of the realm.

The Cats: 15 Rescues, Each With Their Own Politics

The Cat Cafe is home to 15 rescue cats, ages ranging from three to twenty-plus. The age range alone tells you what to expect — a mix of playful, calm, and — I have lived through three prime ministers and I am not impressed by you, sir —.

The first cat to walk past me was a long-haired ginger who sauntered through the room with the deliberate disinterest of someone who's very aware they're the main character. He did not look at me. He did not break stride. Genuinely the coolest creature I've encountered in 2026.

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Walked past me as if I were a piece of unremarkable furniture. Respect.

Another ginger â?? a short-haired one, alert ears, unbothered eyes â?? was perched on a cat tower next to a table. He acknowledged my existence by blinking slowly in my general direction, which lâ??m reliably informed is cat for â??youâ??re tolerableâ??. lâ??ll take it.

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Watching the room with the calm authority of a small ginger CEO.

The Sleepers: A Masterclass in Curling Up

Here's what genuinely surprised me - most of the cats were asleep. And the variety of sleeping positions was, honestly, an art form. I've never given much thought to how flexibly a cat can fold itself into a small container. After two hours here, I have notes.

One ginger-and-white was draped inside a yellow banana-shaped bed, looking like a very contented dim sum.

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A banana-bed cat. I did not know I needed this in my life.

A cream-coloured pointed cat had managed to fold itself into a near-perfect circle, head tucked, paws gone, body achieving a level of compactness that makes me question my own life choices.

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How. How does a body do this.

A brown tabby in a fluffy bowl bed had clearly given up on the day entirely.

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This is a being at peace.

And then there was the white one, jammed into a shell-shaped bed that was clearly two sizes too small, looking deeply offended that I'd even noticed.

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“This is my bed and you will not say a word about the dimensions.”

The undisputed star of the moody-cat photo shoot, though, was a long-haired ginger lounging in a cat-print hammock looking directly at me with an expression that read like he was rehearsing a complaint.

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Tell me you didn't book a slot. He'll know.

And one calico just dozed by the window, framed against the Bugis skyline, doing a far better impression of an Instagram model than I ever will.

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Window-light naps are a different kind of art.

The House Rules: Diva Energy, And I Am Here For It

The cat house rules are pinned up near the entrance and they are extensive. Don't pick the cats up. Don't pull tails. Don't wake them. Don't disturb them while they eat (we'll play with you when we are done). No flash photography. Sanitise your hands before and after. The full text reads less like a list of rules and more like the entitled rider on a small celebrity's contract which, fair enough, is what they are.

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Cat Rules



Don't pick us up or manhandle us.



For all of our safety, please closely supervise your little ones at all times.



Don't wake us, we get grumpy.



Don't pull our tails, that hurts.



Don't disturb us while we eat, we'll play with you when we are done.



Don't give us your food ok? You eat it. We want cat food.



Feel free to take pictures with us, but no flash please!!



Straws are dangerous to us. Keep us safe please.



Do sanitize your hands before and after playing with us.



Speak softly, strictly no jumping, running and chasing of cats

Thank you for loving us!!

MEOWWWW



Don't disturb us while we eat. We will play with you when we are done. So diva. So fair.

Just as helpful is the *Where To Pet A Cat* infographic on the wall colour-coded zones for *awesome*, *it is nice*, *definitely no* and *hell no!!!* Useful, especially for anyone going in cold. I'll save you the embarrassment now: do not, under any circumstances, go for the belly. They are not inviting you. They are setting a trap.

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WHERE TO PET A CAT

1 AWESOME

Focus on the area between or behind the ears. Use the pads of your fingers and apply gentle pressure. The base of the ears is another scent-marking spot for cats. If she bumps her head against you (called "bunting"), she's marking you as hers.

2 THINK AGAIN

Tails are a very delicate and sensitive part of their anatomy. It is a vital tool in helping them balance during climbing, running and even walking.

3 OMG YES Y

Some cats enjoy being scratched in this position (the base of the tail). Their butt will be lifted up, wiggling high in the air to show you they enjoy being scratch. However, cats enjoy being scratch at the base of the tail position.

4 GO FOR IT

Try full-back pets. Start at the crown of the cat's head and, using your open palm, pet the cat lengthwise down its spine towards the tail. This type of petting can be very enjoyable to the cat. Do not pet in the other direction from the tail to the head as cats hates it.

5 IT IS NICE

Rub the cat gently along the underside of the chin, especially where the jawbone connects to the skull. You'll likely get the purr-motor running hard, as your cat pushes into this pleasant caress.



9 IT IS NO

Keep an eye out for tail movements - if you see the tail starting to wag, stop what you are doing. Wait for the cat to relax again, and then try something else. If the cat doesn't relax, leave it alone. If you continue to pet a cat when her tail is lashing, the next time you might feel is a bit

6 DEFINITELY NO

Cats don't usually like to have their paws held, touched, or anything like that. Paws are a sensitive area that they depend on and having a paw held probably seems instinctively "wrong" and "dangerous" to them. They could view it as seriously limiting their mobility.

7 HELL NO!!!

This is because in nature cats must be careful to protect themselves from potential predators. The stomach is a vulnerable area where all the vital organs are located, so lots of cats will instinctively bare teeth and claws if touched here.

8 BETTER DO

Approach the feet with caution. Do not play with a cat's feet unless you know the cat well and know she enjoys having her feet played with.

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Read this carefully unless you fancy a souvenir scratch.

Coffee, Cats, and a Tiny Cat on a Cup Lid

The drinks are unfussy and decent — exactly what you want when the entire point of the visit is the cats, not a third-wave latte. My coffee arrived with a tiny black cat figurine perched on the cup lid, which is the kind of small touch that tells you the place takes its theme seriously.

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Tiny cat on the lid. I almost forgot to drink the coffee.

There's also a small merchandise corner near the back - cat-themed socks, plushies, slippers, accessories. Mostly Japanese-style designs, which fits the vibe. If you've spent two hours falling for a particular ginger and you'd rather not leave empty-handed, there's a viable workaround here.

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Bring home a cat (figuratively, and at much lower commitment).

The Verdict – Worth Visiting?

Yes, with a caveat – bring a friend.

The cats here take a while to warm up. They are not, on the whole, the cuddly-on-arrival type. If you go alone and the cats aren't in a sociable mood, two hours can feel like a long time to sit on the floor staring at a sleeping ginger. Go with a friend, order a couple of drinks, lower your expectations of mutual affection, and you'll have a genuinely lovely afternoon. It's calm. It's quiet. It's the opposite of a hectic Bugis lunch hour two floors down.

I went in expecting Fukuoka chaos and got something quieter, more spacious, more on the cats' terms than mine. And honestly? That feels right. They're rescues, not a petting zoo. The fact that this place has been running since 2014 – making it the longest-running cat café in Singapore – tells me they've worked out what works for the cats first, and the humans get to share the space if they behave.

Have a go on a weekday afternoon, bring someone whose company you actually enjoy in case the cats don't cooperate, and read the house rules before you sit down. If you want a very different but also lovely Bugis afternoon, my [Basq and Bean cheesecake review](#) is just round the corner. And if you'd rather skip the whiskers and have a proper meal, my [samgyetang write-up at MODU on Amoy Street](#) still has me thinking about that ginseng broth.

Been before? Got a favourite cat at The Cat Cafe? Drop a name in the comments – I'd love to know which one decided to acknowledge you.

Official Details

- **Address:** 241B Victoria Street, Level 3, Singapore 188033 (no lift access)
- **Nearest MRT:** Bugis Station (Exit C) – about a 2-minute walk (100m)
- **Operating hours:** Monday 3pm–9pm; Tuesday–Friday 10am–9pm; Weekends, public holidays and school holidays 10am–10pm
- **Pricing:** \$22 per person for 2 hours (includes a complimentary soft drink); \$5.50 per additional 30 minutes; whole-day pass \$50 (weekdays only, subject to availability)
- **Phone:** 6338 6815 – call to check the queue before heading down
- **Email:** info@thecatcafe.sg
- **Website:** www.thecatcafe.sg (online reservations available)
- **Instagram:** [@sgcatcafe](https://www.instagram.com/sgcatcafe)

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