



Takeaways

A newsletter by RICE



Seeing stars

Opposition politician Lim Tean recently ranted on Facebook about Maika Uyen Minh, a naturalised Singaporean featured in a National Day banner. His questioning of her Singaporean identity sparked a heated debate, leading Maika to delete her innocent post captioned, "Happy 59th birthday Singapore!"

On this day, when our country is swathed in red and white, with fireworks bursting across our skies, what exactly are we celebrating?

Expats here are making an effort to integrate and use 'lah' correctly. And we will never forget that National Day when we treated our foreign labourer friends to a sexy pole dance (sedia!). Or perhaps our cross-border cousins are the most qualified to describe what it means to be Singaporean.

In this nation of migrants, the Singaporean identity has never been about cultural homogeneity. On National Day, we celebrate our true strength: diversity.

*P.S. We've also learnt some of you found your way here through your friends. If you haven't already, **subscribe** to our weekly newsletter today!*

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Flags of our fathers



HDB blocks used to be awash with Singapore flags come August, but most Singaporeans can't be bothered nowadays. Is it laziness, or rooted in something deeper?

**Singaporeans Don't Hang Up Flags
For National Day Anymore. This
May Be A Good Thing**



Singapore medicine woman



Singaporean Malika Avani, trained in ancient Amazonian healing, proves that being a global citizen doesn't make you any less Singaporean.

**Meet Malika, the Singaporean
Hitchhiker Turned Medicine
Woman**

Cross-cultural earworms



Ben Kheng's NDP song 'Not Alone' isn't as cringeworthy as some from past years, but it's no 'Home' either. Will we ever get another NDP classic? Do we even need one?

**It's Not 'Home': What Makes a
National Day Parade Theme Song
Iconic?**

Shot, shots, shots



If you're up for drinks this long weekend, try our NDP drinking game that will floor even the heaviest of heavyweights.

The Ultimate National Day Parade Drinking Game

Bird Up



A chef takes us through the history of our national dish, which he has been cooking and eating for decades as a signature dish in a hotel restaurant.

Short Grains, or *piping-hot* topics by the spoonful.

- Loving the National Day long weekend? Good news: We will be blessed with four long weekends in 2025. (via *CNA*)
 - Nothing screams luxury louder than walking a fragranced pet. Dolce and Gabbana's newest perfume for dogs will set you back \$144. (via *Straits Times*)
 - Thanks to intense cleaning efforts by the Sentosa Development Corporation, the beaches of Sentosa are pristine once again, and open for swimming, sunbathing, sea sports and seaside dining. (via *CNA*)
 - Still a single pringle? It's not just you. A new survey noted that 2 in 5 Singaporean youths have never been in a relationship before. (via *Mothership*)
 - Every student's worst nightmare came true—a global cybersecurity breach of Mobile Guardian wiped out the devices of about 13,000 secondary school students. (via *CNA*)
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Between the high cost of living and stressful environment, there's always plenty to complain about Singapore. But is it truly impossible to love Singapore?

**Maybe One Day, I Can Love
Singapore Again**

We like to go out! We also hate our weather.

But as much as our team is full of contradictions, we simply can't go by our weekend without checking out some things. If you're still deciding on where to go, let us highlight some unmissable events for you:

- Enjoy an evening of music by eight Singaporean composers at this year's [Temasek Foundation x SSO National Day Concert](#). Performed by the Singapore Symphony Orchestra and combined school choirs and bands, tickets for this two-hour show start from \$15.
- From an outdoor inflatable playground themed on iconic HDB playgrounds to a heritage-themed scavenger hunt, there's plenty to do in the [National Museum](#) this National Day.
- Soak in the Singapore skyline when you take the first moonlight flight on the [Singapore Flyer](#) for a discounted price of \$25. The flyer will operate non-stop overnight from 11pm on 9 August to 8am on 10 August, while regular flights at normal prices will still be available from 10am to 10pm.

- Check out the newest container park, [Cosford Container Park](#), for cool eats and activities this long weekend. From chilli crab lobster and laksa chicken burgers to rendang pizza and fried carrot cake tart, this Instagram-worthy food court invites you to indulge in familiar Singaporean dishes with a twist.
- You can now (literally) drink in the iconic landmarks of Singapore. Bombay Sapphire's "[Saw This Made This](#)" campaign challenged local cocktail bars to recreate monuments as cocktails, and these innovative concoctions are now available to the public.

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