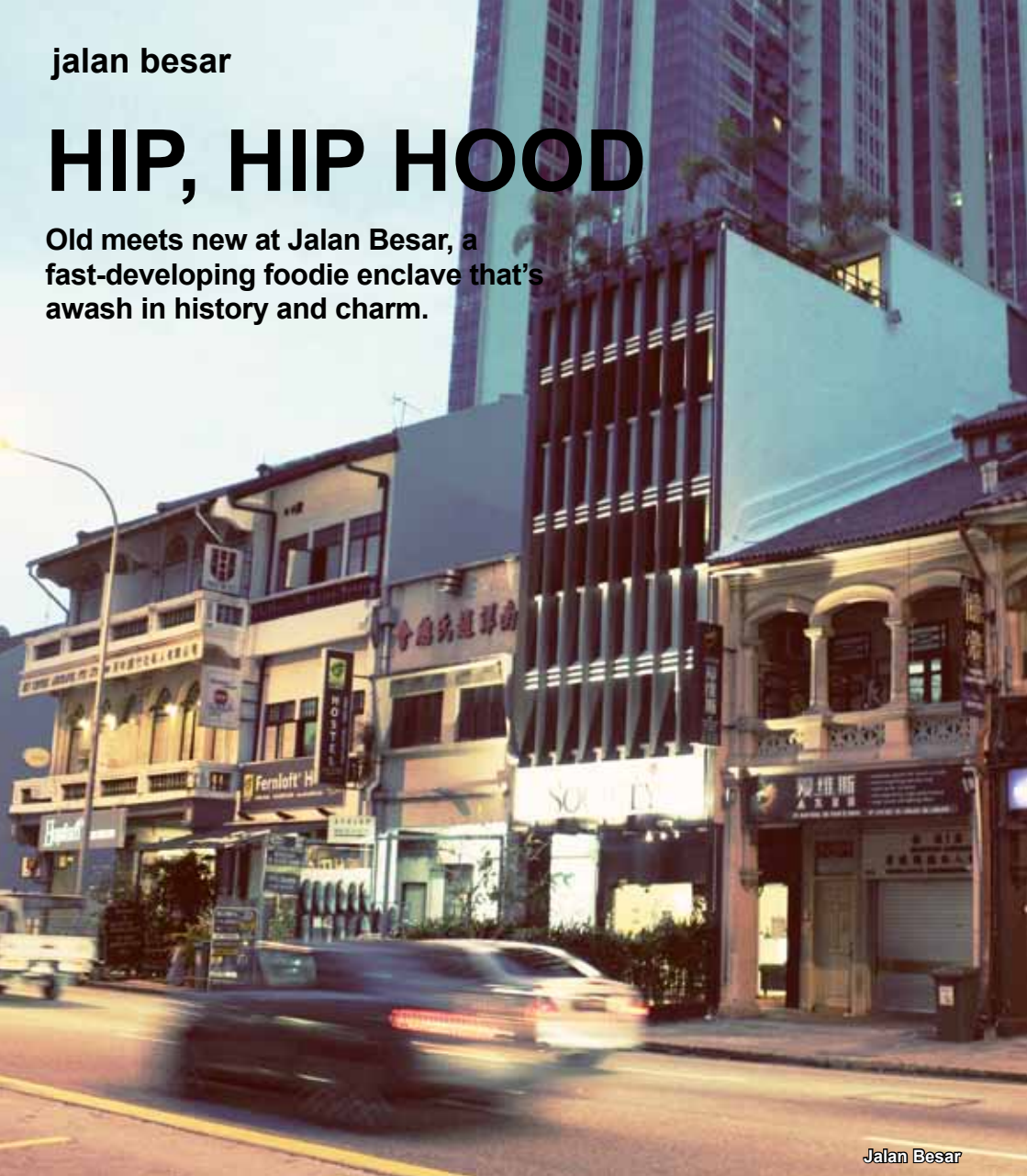


jalan besar

HIP, HIP HOOD

Old meets new at Jalan Besar, a fast-developing foodie enclave that's awash in history and charm.



Jalan Besar

A heritage district with a distinctly playful and trendy character, Jalan Besar—Malay for 'big road'—started out as just a swampland dotted with palm, fruit and betel nut trees. Its

heyday was in the 1920s, when a boom in the rubber and tin trade made this industrial area of shophouses and factories a site of raucous entertainment. Although that period eventually came to an end, a recent slew

of dining and retail openings have seen hipsters and foodies alike flock into the area. Today, it's a truly exciting neighbourhood to explore, chock full of surprises at every turn.

START

Upon alighting at **Lavender MRT**, a short walk along Horne Road takes you to ❶ **Antoinette**, a Paris-inspired eatery and a pioneer of the 'new wave' establishments in this area. The frou-frou setting and array of airy, pretty confections like cakes and crêpes lends the place the air of a French tea party. For pure decadence, round off these delicate bites with their signature vanilla-perfumed hot chocolate.

Just down the road is the historic ❷ **Jalan Besar Stadium**, widely regarded as the birthplace of football in Singapore. Host to many a thrilling football match since its opening in 1929, the stadium was built atop a former swamp land. This 6,000-seater still hosts games today, drawing football fans from all over the island.

Even when there are no games going on, locals head here to hang out at cafés like ❸ **Windowsill Pies**, an independent dessert

company that quickly found a cult following and settled down in its very own quaint space here. This spot is understandably popular with trendy folk and hip young families craving homemade pies like the mint-and-chocolate Grasshopper. Less well known are the savoury items from in-house hot kitchen **Fortnight**. It changes its menu every two weeks and features innovative, affordable fare ranging from fried oyster burgers to duck stroganoff and even deconstructed salads.

Another foodie joint that's making waves among the in-crowd is ❹ **Chye Seng Huat Hardware**. One of the hippest haunts around here, it has retained the original nondescript hardware store décor. Its exterior resembles an abandoned relic from the past, but inside is a tribute to the art of the brew, complete with a 360-degree coffee bar, roastery and tasting room. Needless to say, they serve great specialty brews,

light bites and even coffee-infused beer. Be sure to head upstairs and pick up some

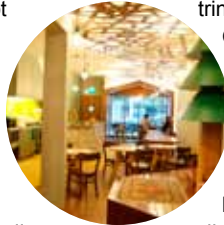
trinkets at **Tyrwhitt**

General Company, a concept store and creative space for the local crafting community.

Though these hip new joints are all the rage, old school gastronomic pleasures like crowd favourite ❺

Beach Road Scissor-Cut Curry Rice, down the main Jalan Besar strip, are far from forgotten. They do brisk business with plates of rice and meat drizzled with Hainanese curry—a simple dish that's surprisingly addictive.

As you wander along these streets, you'll notice the eye-catching, ornate shophouses built in the roaring '20s, where the buildings were designed to reflect the era's optimism and wealth. Perhaps the most stunning view is of the 18 preserved terrace houses along ❻ **Petain Road**, designed to distinctively meld neo-classical Greco-Roman features with Chinese motifs in a style known as 'Chinese baroque'. This road was also



Windowsill Pies



Antoinette's lava cake

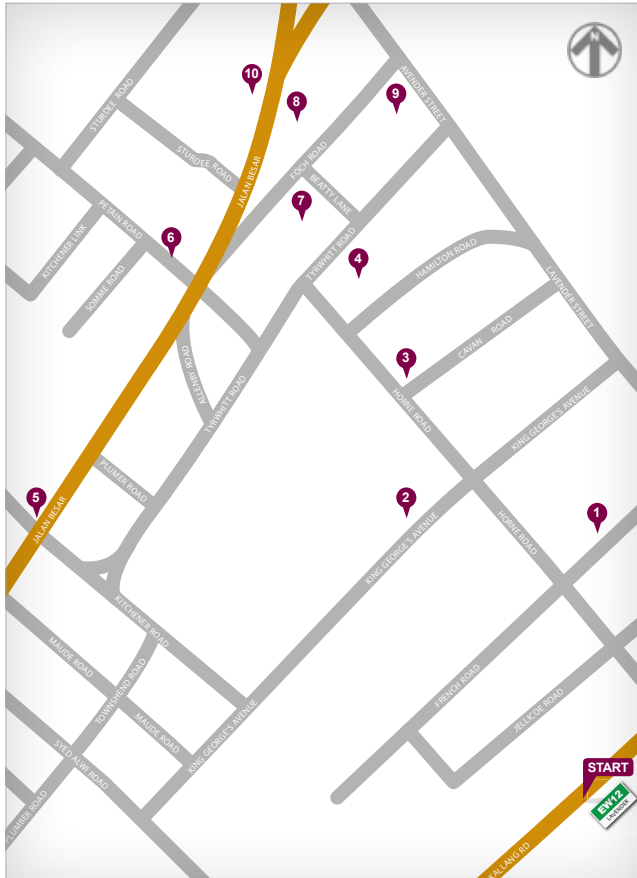


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Chye Seng Huat Hardware

jalan besar



once the perimeter of raucous entertainment destination New World, where pugilists, cabaret acts and troupes of ethnic performers drew massive crowds in the '20s.

If you've worked up an appetite from all this exploring, there's no shortage of hearty hawker food here. Adventurous types can head to ● **Cheng Mun Chee Pig Organ Soup**, which serves up a herbal, peppery broth of pork and offal. Many Singaporeans will testify that this traditional Chinese

dish is in fact surprisingly palatable, as are the vinegared pork trotters here. More local options can be found at ⑧ **Lavender Food Square**. With over 30 stalls, it's a hit with locals, especially for its seafood *zi char* (a spread of freshly-prepared Chinese dishes).

Fancy a bit of contemporary art and design? Head to

⑨ **At Ease Gallery**, where artist Koh Hong Teng showcases his unique perspective of residential landscapes on canvas.

Just across the road is stylish boutique hotel ⑩ **Kam Leng Hotel**. Designed by local agency FARM, this trendy establishment pays tribute to its history, keeping the name and restoring much of the décor of the original 1927 lodging. The previous owner, who abandoned the premises in the '70s, remains unknown to this day—which only adds to the intrigue. Tucked in here is **Suprette**, a compact diner serving up American-style comfort food along with sophisticated cocktails. The space even transforms into a club on some nights, playing host to a crowd of hip urbanites and dance music aficionados. It's a great spot to wind down with a drink or two as you call it a day.

With such a unique, dynamic mix of new lifestyle experiences with the old, it's no wonder Jalan Besar is regarded as one of Singapore's up-and-coming neighbourhoods right now.

HIDDEN DRINKING SPOTS

Venture a little farther towards Little India, and you'll find these hip new bars.



Bellwethers

This unassuming watering hole serves up beers and bar bites to a steady stream of regulars. With live music and quiz nights, it's one of the most laid-back venues in Singapore's buzzing bar scene.

Broadcast HQ

Channelling industrial-cool with exposed brick walls and concrete floors, this record store and gastropub is where scene-savvy locals go for substantial Aussie-style mains like Vegemite lamb rack to go with their tipples.

ADDRESS BOOK

ANTOINETTE

30 Penhas Road.
☎ (65) 6293-3121.
www.antoINETTE.com.sg
🚗 Lavender

AT EASE GALLERY

#01-06 161 Lavender Street.
☎ (65) 9850-1889.
www.atroom.com.sg
🚗 Lavender

BEACH ROAD SCISSOR-CUT CURRY RICE

229 Jalan Besar.
🚗 Farrer Park

BELLWETHERS

120 Desker Road.
☎ (65) 6297-9066.
www.facebook.com/Bellwetherssg
🚗 Little India

BROADCAST HQ

109 Rowell Road.
☎ (65) 6292-4405.
www.broadcasthq.com
🚗 Little India

CHENG MUN CHEE PIG ORGAN SOUP

24 Foch Road.
🚗 Farrer Park

CHYE SENG HUAT HARDWARE

150 Tyrwhitt Road.
☎ (65) 6396-0609.
www.cshhcoffee.com
🚗 Lavender

FORTNIGHT

78 Horne Road.
☎ (65) 9004-7827.
www.facebook.com/onefortnightonly
🚗 Lavender

JALAN BESAR STADIUM

100 Tyrwhitt Road.
☎ (65) 6292-2418.
🚗 Lavender

KAM LENG HOTEL

383 Jalan Besar.
☎ (65) 6239-9399.
www.kamleng.com
🚗 Farrer Park

LAVENDER FOOD SQUARE

380 Jalan Besar.
🚗 Farrer Park

SUPRETTE

Lobby Kam Leng Hotel,
383 Jalan Besar.
☎ (65) 6298-8962.
www.suprette.com
🚗 Farrer Park

TYRWITT GENERAL COMPANY

150A Tyrwhitt Road.
www.tyrwhittgeneralcompany.com
🚗 Lavender

WINDOWSILL PIES

78 Horne Road.
☎ (65) 9004-7827.
www.windowstillpies.sg
🚗 Lavender