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FAQ

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SINGAPORE: DAZZLING FEAST

Explore the Delicious Complexities of Southeast Asian Cuisine

Oak Brook, IL, December 1, 2001

Long gone are the days when the Orient was hidden behind a veil of secrecy. Today Eastern culture influences our lives in many ways; from feng shui to the Pitta principles of diet, from ginseng to green tea. To truly understand these ancient traditions, more and more travellers are immersing themselves in the foods and the cultures that inspired them.

This year Abercrombie & Kent offers privileged access to the **World Gourmet Summit** in Singapore. Guests will explore the diverse cultural heritage of this vibrant and food loving island nation during the ninth annual **Singapore Food Festival**, a month-long celebration of Asian and international cuisine. Join in the feast with tours of the city's diverse ethnic neighborhoods, special dinners such as a Masterchef Safari, festive events and educational programs that introduce the fascinating variety of Asian herbs and spices.

This escorted journey from April 6-12, 2002, includes:

- A visit to one of Singapore's local Housing Estates to see how local residents live and why food is such an important part of the local culture.
- Curry tiffin at the historic Raffles Hotel, a legendary symbol of the exotic east, with its unique tropical garden setting and classical architecture.
- A cultural tour of the city's neighborhoods. In Arab Street, Singapore's oldest Muslim neighborhood, find colorful textiles from all over Asia; saris and batik, basketry, leather goods, cane and rattan. A traditional tea ceremony in Chinatown introduces some of the rare teas cherished by connoisseurs. In Little India, charming shops selling spices, snacks, colorful saris, glittering jewelry, accessories and brassware.
- Or enjoy a boat ride on the Singapore River with an introduction to the island's rich history at Raffle's, the Elizabeth Walk and Merlion Park. Glimpse the lives of Chinese immigrants in the 1800s at the Fu Tak Chi Museum, followed by a walk through the Far East Squares, whose five entrances are positioned according to the principles of feng shui (geomancy). A traditional trishaw ride takes us from Bugis Street along narrow streets to Clarke Quay.
- Explore the complexity of Asian cuisine through hands-on education at the Academy At-Sunrice. A spice garden walk introduces over 100 herbs and spices like galangal, lemongrass and cardamom. Then observe the pounding, grinding, stirring, slicing and stir frying that produces Singapore's versatile spice paste. Learn the secrets of Pan-Asian cuisine, which blends Chinese, Malay, Indian and Thai influences.
- One of the most popular events at the World Gourmet Summit, is the "Masterchef Safari." On this unique gastronomic odyssey, we visit a series of different restaurants, each serving a course by a master chef paired with the wines of a guest vintner.
- Far from the city's skyscrapers, experience the rustic ambience of a traditional fishing village built on stilts

and sample the region's famous "Chili Crab." Pulau Ubin is home to coconut and rubber plantations, along with fish and prawn farms hidden in the mangrove swamps.

- Our farewell dinner is at Singapore's exclusive China Club, a private retreat that offers a spectacular view of the city and its harbor.

This exclusive program includes four nights in a Deluxe Room at the Ritz Carlton Millennia Hotel; meals as listed on the itinerary including wine or beer, soft drinks or bottled water and coffee or tea; air-conditioned transportation with a professional English-speaking driver/guide; sightseeing, entertainment and entrance fees as shown on the itinerary. From \$3,530 per person, double occupancy.

For those with the time to explore the fabled Malay Peninsula, the **Eastern & Oriental Express** traverses the dense jungle and breathtakingly beautiful scenery between Singapore and Bangkok. This is a world out of time, with warm welcomes and gentle people, temples and traditions, aromatic spices and charismatic smiles; a world in which ancient religions and timeless superstitions contrast vividly with modern preoccupations. Your cool, spacious compartment is lavishly appointed with rich inlaid woods, antique brass fittings and large windows, which offer excellent views of the ever-changing countryside. Three day itinerary including shared Pullman compartment, table d'hote meals and sightseeing excursions, from \$1,440 per person. Enjoy a **complimentary upgrade** from a Pullman to State compartment when you book by January 31 for travel through September 30, 2002 (subject to availability).

Whether on an escorted tour or independent program, you'll soon discover the difference Abercrombie & Kent can make. A&K keeps groups small, guarantees departures, and uses only the best hotels. Transportation is in well-maintained vehicles, accompanied by an English-speaking driver/guide. Meal plans are flexible and include bottled water; most gratuities are also included. Most importantly, A&K offers exclusive sightseeing choices other companies can't duplicate.

For more information and a detailed itinerary on **Singapore: Dazzling Feast**, call Abercrombie & Kent's Special Interest Group at (800) 323-7308. Abercrombie & Kent - simply the best way to travel.®

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