

TRAVEL GUIDE SINGAPORE

# Home-stay nods to Singapore life



By Michael Ferrante



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## MICHAEL FERRANTE gets comfy at KeSa House

There is a new name on Singapore's accommodation scene that offers a "home away from home" experience.

KēSa House, in one of Singapore's most culturally rich and vibrant precincts, opened for business in mid-April.

As the name suggests, the 60 rooms and common areas are designed “house-style”. And what better way to capture the heritage of its Chinatown neighbourhood than in elegantly refurbished shophouses built in the mid-1920s.

It’s what they call the flexible living concept, reflected in the various styles of rooms.

As I enter the front door I wonder if I’m in the right place — I’m in an open area cafe and lounge but with no sign of a traditional check-in counter, rather a table with a smiling young man who greets me.

That homely feel is down to the detail — shiny timber floorboards throughout, shelves with books and ornaments, pot plants, nice furnishings.

As I open the door to my Entertain room I am surprised at the size of the living area. Timber shutter doors open to a private terrace with cushioned chairs and tables, set in a lush garden, a lot like Singapore itself.

I enjoy the comfort and convenience the extra space affords for both relaxing and working. The generous bathroom with walk-in shower and king-size bed are what I expect from high-end accommodation and comes complete with complimentary wi-fi and device charging points.

There was some noise from the bar below but it was a Friday night stay after all; the amenity as a whole more than made up for any inconvenience.

And at a tick over \$200 a night plus taxes during the promotion period (expires end of July), it is great value. After this the price goes to \$240 plus extras.

There are other styles of rooms — big open-plan studio rooms with a lounge and kitchenette, loft-style rooms with skylights and more intimate Cosy rooms for those that don’t require a lot of space.

Even though I’m not usually enamoured with the thought of using common areas, I get to appreciate them here because I’m on my own on a work assignment, and the upstairs lounge comes in handy when I want a quiet place to chill and enjoy a coffee. It also has work stations and charging points.

It’s a few paces from the shared kitchenette, which comes with a Jara coffee machine and I get to enjoy being in “the house” the next morning sipping a cafe-quality espresso.

The Chinatown location is ideal too — next to food and drink outlets and cultural and historical attractions, and a few minutes’ walk to popular

restaurant and night hotspot, Clarke Quay. It is also a short taxi or train ride to shopping hotspots such as Orchard Road and Marina Bay.

KēSa House has leased ground floor dining options as well, with discounts for guests.

## Fact File

KēSa House, 55 Keong Saik Road, Chinatown, Singapore

Public transport:

Outram Park MRT (four-minute walk)

Chinatown MRT (seven-minute walk)

Bus stop at Jean Yip Building for the East West/Green Line (three-minute walk)

Phone +65 6958 1588 or email [stay@kesahouse.sg](mailto:stay@kesahouse.sg). Rates: From S\$180 (\$189) per night plus taxes and charges

Visit [website](#)

### Disclaimer

Michael Ferrante was a guest of the Singapore Tourism Board. They have not seen or approved this story.

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