

# A More Walkable

## SINGAPORE

**W**hile Singapore is known as a City in a Garden, it is not quite known as a walking city, unlike Paris or Tokyo. Current initiatives by both the public and private sectors, however, indicate growing interest in creating more space for pedestrians.

The motivations for these projects are varied, such as promoting public places and revitalising streets. Nonetheless, the results consistently show that a city that is pedestrian-friendly is a liveable city. **Nicole Chew** from the Centre for Liveable Cities shows how in this photo essay.





**Queen Street  
Makeover**



The Bras Basah and Bugis (BBB) precinct has been earmarked to be an arts and cultural district. Located in the middle of the busy Central Business District, Singapore’s urban planning agency, the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA), understands that providing ample pedestrian-friendly space also helps to cater to outdoor arts events and is crucial for promoting the arts scene.

Termed the “Queen Street Makeover”, kerbside parking lots along a stretch of Queen Street were removed to create expanded sidewalks of up to 10 metres. In other areas of the BBB precinct, the sidewalks in front of the Singapore Art Museum at 8Q were also extended to create more public space for holding events.

Benches colourfully decorated by art and design students of the nearby Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts make the area vibrant and more public-friendly.





Streets such as Ann Siang Road, Club Street and Haji Lane are closed regularly to automobile traffic on weekend evenings to allow food and beverage establishments expand their space onto the streets. During these times, the streets come alive with buzz and activity. This arrangement is so popular that there have been requests to extend the hours of the road closures, or to close the roads altogether.



**Car-Free  
Weekends  
(Haji Lane)**





Car-Free Weekends  
(Ann Siang Road and  
Club Street)





Orchard Road's  
Pedestrian  
Nights





The link between footfall and retail sales continues to be explored in Singapore. In attempts to revitalise the area, a series of Pedestrian Nights is held on Orchard Road, one of Singapore's major shopping districts. Initiated by the Orchard Road Business Association, a part of Orchard Road is closed to automobile traffic one Saturday evening a month, from October 2014 to March 2015. In its place, mass events such as tennis and yoga clinics, as well as musical performances, are held on the streets. The public also enjoys the freedom to roam along one of Singapore's busiest streets.