

word of mouth

# SEX AND THE SINGA GIRL



## Singapore

Singapore has gained a reputation

as a Goody Two Shoes town. But its modern squeaky-clean conformity hides a lurid past, which comes to life in 'The Secrets of the Red Lantern'. This two-hour walking tour is a fascinating introduction to a time when Singapore's Chinatown teemed with opium dens, slave markets and brothels. By the 1880s, debauchery and vice had reached such a level that locals christened the area Bu Ye Tian ('The Place of the Nightless Days'). The tour evokes the spirit of that exotic and shadowy period, with colourful stories of brothel madams, murder, suicide, kidnapping and other dark deeds. Much of Chinatown survives and the tour ends in Keong Saik Road, home to Singapore's last remaining old-world brothels. Here, the red lanterns still burn and, we're told, the city's traffic wardens enjoy their richest pickings.

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**Secrets of the Red Lantern**, organised by *The Original Singapore Walks* (00 65 6325 1631; [www.singaporewalks.com](http://www.singaporewalks.com)), takes place every Friday at 6.30pm and costs S\$15 (about £5) per person