

# Quirky hotel in the heart of the city

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30 Mar 2021 [+1 more](#) Toh Ting Wei

## First impressions?

**Naumi Singapore** does not immediately stand out with its grey facade, in contrast with the regal Raffles Hotel across the road.

But walk to the side of the hotel, which sits at the end of a shop-house row, and you will be confronted with a four-storey tall mural of a policeman flinging a car into the sky.

That sets the tone for **Naumi's** interior, which features eclectic art installations throughout.

At the lift lobby, four pieces of interactive art catch my eye – especially an amusing one that depicts a flock of birds perched on power lines. Clap loudly enough and the

birds will fly away.

The Eden & Nirwana room reserved for me is spacious and aesthetically pleasing. The only thing lacking is the view, as the second-floor room faces a back alley.

But this is compensated by the art pieces in my room, including a series of collages depicting daily sights around **Singapore**.

## What makes this hotel special?

An oversized bathtub and quirky orange chair instantly make the room distinctive.

The bathtub is so huge that it takes about 20 minutes to fill it. I feel a twinge of guilt, but I love soaking in

private pool.

The playfulness of the hotel is apparent in the little touches.

A box holding the remote control says “Turn Me On”.

The 46-inch television is equipped with an Apple TV box, so I am able

the warm water infused with bath salts that the hotel provides. It almost feels as though my room has a



**Naumi's** 10th-storey rooftop pool offers views of Bugis and the Central Business District.

private pool.

The playfulness of the hotel is apparent in the little touches.

A box holding the remote control says “Turn Me On”.

The 46-inch television is equipped with an Apple TV box, so I am able

to stream shows from my iPad or iPhone. I can also sign into Netflix and watch YouTube videos.

### What are the high points of the stay?

Naumi’s rooftop pool on the 10th storey is certainly a high point, with great views of Bugis and the Central Business District.

For safe distancing, guests have to book time slots for the pool. On a late Sunday morning, I share the pool with just one couple, so my dip is extra relaxing.

It is worth coming up again later to admire the night skyline of Singapore.

Couples may also find it romantic to sip a drink or two at the poolside tables, without having to contend with the crowds usually present at rooftop bars.

Other high points: the proactive hotel staff as well as the plush bed



(Above) Playful decor brightens up the Eden & Nirwana room.

and comfortable room that I find hard to leave after a night.

I appreciate the little touches too, such as the fluffy bathrobe and a coffee machine. And I return from dinner to find turned-down sheets and a lavender scent wafting from a diffuser.

A downside is that the in-house restaurant is currently closed, so



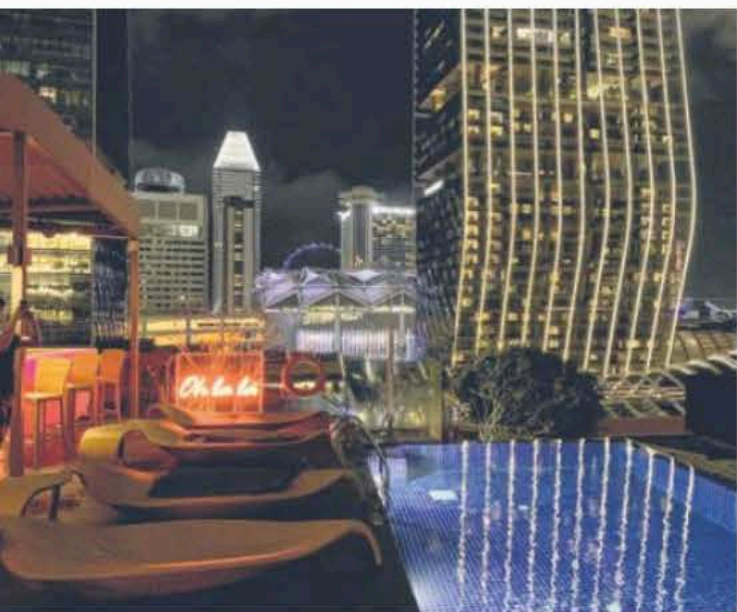
(Left) Escape the crowds at Bugis’ many popular eateries by getting takeaway for dinner with a romantic view by the pool.



views of Bugis and the Central Business District.



to the Eden & Nirwana room.



(Left) Escape the crowds at Bugis' many popular eateries by getting takeaway for dinner with a romantic view by the pool.

there is no hotel breakfast. But **Naumi** is creating a new concept for the restaurant and aims to reopen it next month.

### What else is there to do?

Foodies will appreciate the wide selection of food around the hotel. The Garibaldi Italian Restaurant and Bar in Purvis Street, and the fancy restaurants at Raffles Hotel,

### Hot tip

Are just a minute's walk away.

For casual options, head to Chin Chin Eating House, which serves Hainanese fare in a coffee shop.

Bustling Liang Seah Street, with its mix of eateries such as the popular Ah Chew Desserts, is a five-minute walk away.

Other hangouts such as Chijmes, Raffles City, Bugis Junction and Suntec City are within walking distance too.

### Verdict: Bliss or miss?

It costs about \$400 a night for the Eden & Nirwana room, but with the splendid bathtub, Apple TV and comfortable bed, you can enjoy a proper break within the four walls of the room even if you choose not to explore the vibrant neighbourhood.

In this light, the lack of a view from some rooms is a relatively minor shortfall.

To escape the queues at popular eateries in the area, get takeaway and pop up to the rooftop for dinner with a view by the pool. Just remember to book a time slot.



The Straits Times  
30 Mar 2021 (C5)

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