

NAUTICAL CAMARADERIE

Of friends, food, and fun: The maritime business precinct serves a wide array of delectables and delicacies – the perfect anchor for enduring friendships.



“Shipping is sensitive to **global geopolitical events** and we are presented with **different issues all the time**. It is this dynamic nature of the sector that is exciting and keeps me going everyday.”

– **Jermaine, Operations Executive at BW Pacific**



Lunchtimes for the maritime folks have always been an exciting affair. They are not only respite from the rigour of work but also opportunities to forge bonds over the wide variety of cuisines and dishes available at the area. Indeed, many of these connections will later prove unbreakable.

Benjamin Oh, Jermaine Toh, and Lim Tzer Jing, batchmates turned lunch buddies from NTU's Maritime Studies course, found themselves warming up to each other over home-cooked meals and lakeside barbeques during a six-month long exchange programme in Norway. Six years on, they still bond over the occasional meal.

What better way to catch up than over a warm bowl of herbal chicken broth, or rich laksa steamboat?

The friendships of these three maritime professionals have proven to be a source of support. As they share a common interest in Singapore's position in global maritime trade, they bring their different experiences and opinions to the lunch table for engaging discussions. Benjamin, Manager (Futures and Strategic Planning) at Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) quips that the lunch sessions allow him to “appreciate how the various sectors are performing, and how things come together in the bigger picture.”

“No two days are the same in the terminal. It is a dynamic, **fast-paced environment that has its challenges but also its rewards...** there is always something new to learn and do.”

– **Tzer Jing, Assistant Operations Manager at PSA Corporation**

The tantalising food along the maritime business precinct promises that lunch is but an opportunity to treat your tastebuds. Follow the trail of three maritime professionals to find out their favourite food hunts along the West Coast Highway.

PASIR PANJANG HAWKER CENTRE (HENG HUAT CHAR KWAY TEOW)

Take a breather at this open-air hawker centre during lunchtime. Seafood is abundant here, and the variety of other cuisines will keep you coming back. All 3 friends recommend the Char Kway Teow, which comes with a pile of fresh greens on top - you can now enjoy your Kway Teow with less guilt.

SAN LAKSA STEAMBOAT AT TELOK BLANGAH ROAD

Take your steamboat sessions to the next level, with the spicy laksa soup broth. Benjamin's belief is that bonding over steamboat is more effective than any type of cuisine, and recommends this unique eatery to groups of friends or colleagues who wish to wind down after a long day of work.

YA HUA BAK KUT TEH

A mere 5 minutes drive away from the Maritime House, the spacious coffeehouse at Keppel Road offers Teochew style Bak Kut Teh. Talk about life over these tender ribs in rich soup. The welcoming and inviting atmosphere will remind you almost of home.

TANJONG PAGAR MARKET (HERBAL KITCHEN)

A flurry of well-dressed office workers form snaking queues as haphazard tissue packets and umbrellas lie watching over "chope-d" tables in Tanjong Pagar Market. Touted by Jermaine to be a must-visit for its vast spread of hawker fare and bustling atmosphere, this hawker centre will not disappoint. Try the herbal chicken broth to warm your body and soul especially on a rainy day. The market is teeming with the office crowds, a mad rush especially during lunch hour, so you may want to head straight there once it hits 12.

EVERTON PARK ANG KU KUEH (JI XIANG CONFECTIONARY)

Known for being the only store in Singapore to produce nothing but pure Ang Ku Kuehs, Everton Ang Ku Kueh's soft, handmade Chinese tortoise cakes are available in a variety of flavours. The best-sellers are the red mung bean and peanut flavoured ones. Buy a box of 12 to split with your office desk-mates: the memories shared are as sweet as this delight.

NYLON COFFEE

Tucked away beneath an unassuming void deck is the cosy artisan coffee nook - Nylon. Carefully curated beans are roasted and brewed meticulously and passionately by the couple whose dreams became reality. The small space is usually swarmed at lunchtime, so pop-by with your pals and grab a cup (a good change from the usual Kopi'O!) to-go.

