



# Singapore Spotlight

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毎月第1週掲載



アジア屈指の目抜き通り、オーチャードロードは歩行者天国にできるのか？ 車が「王様」のように振る舞うシンガポールだが、この通りをより歩行者優先にする案について、政府も前向きに検討しているという。歩行者が快適に過ごすために検討されている案とは。

## 21) Orchard Road: For walkers only?

目抜き通りが歩行者専用には？

### ■ 最も有名なショッピング通り

“I don't think it will happen,” my wife told me. “Because the car is king in Singapore.”

We were talking about Orchard Road, and recent discussions that Singapore's premier shopping strip could become fully pedestrianized as part of a plan to draw more shoppers.

Orchard Road is world famous. When you tell friends you live in Singapore, and they have never visited before, they might have heard of a few things, like the Raffles Hotel.

Orchard Road — about 2.2 kilometers long — is one of those famous things. It's a high-end, fashionable shopping area running through the heart of the downtown.

The road remains a fashionable place for high-end shopping, eating out, seeing and being seen. But some people worry that it needs something new and fresh to keep the crowds coming.

Orchard Road has already ex-

perimented with pedestrian-only nights. Those are fun; I've gone a few times with my wife. They close the road to traffic, and people mill about on the street, with all sorts of sideshows, entertainment, and street food to create a kind of carnival atmosphere.

But that happens only occasionally, and what has been optimistically touted as “Asia's most famous shopping street” is up against stiff competition: e-commerce and hip suburban shopping malls with air-conditioning and indoor attractions. Orchard Road, to some, is too old-school.

So recently, Minister for Trade and Industry S. Iswaran, speaking at a tourism industry conference, said there are discussions to make Orchard Road more pedestrian-friendly and conducive for street-level activities — by limiting or banning all vehicular traffic.

Fully pedestrianizing Orchard Road — that is, rerouting vehicular traffic to other roads — is



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多くの人でにぎわうオーチャードロード。5車線のうち1車線を歩行者用に使用する案もある

one of the options to improve the streetscape, he said.

It's not the only option on the table to create a more enjoyable pedestrian experience on Orchard Road. Other ideas include opening up existing state land on Orchard Road to expand space for pedestrians, or a single lane reclamation on the five-lane one-way street to create more room for pedestrians, but still allow buses and traffic to flow.

### ■ 安心して楽しめる街作り

When you go to a new city, it's nice when pedestrians can feel at home, like they belong in that place. Think of the Shibuya traffic intersection in Tokyo, where pedestrians can scramble across the street without worrying about getting run over by a car. The Queen Street Mall in Brisbane, Australia, is one successful example of a pedestrian mall, where shoppers

can walk around freely.

Cities around the world try to plot better spaces for pedestrians, from Oxford Circus in London to Times Square in New York.

As a non-car owner, I'm all for rerouting vehicular traffic. Cars have a sense of ownership on Singapore's roads. But when you're walking along Orchard Road, and you want to window shop, or check out the various restaurants, all the cars seem to get in the way, and divide one side of the road from the other. You can wait a good bit of time just for a traffic light to change so you can cross the road. Sometimes, you don't bother crossing the road, it takes too much time.

Still, the car is a status symbol on Singapore streets. My guess is that they'll always have a place driving down Orchard Road. Cars are the king of the road.

Tom Benner is a freelance journalist who moved to Singapore from Boston, U.S., in fall 2012. His recent journalism has appeared in Al Jazeera English, Global Post and Nikkei Asian Review.

### KEYWORDS

**premier** 第1位の  
**shopping strip** 商業エリア  
**pedestrianized** 歩行者専用の(後出 pedestrian は歩行者、歩行者<専用>の、pedestri-

anize は<道路を>歩行者専用にする)

**draw** 引きつける

**high-end** 最高級の

**downtown** 中心街

**(vehicular) traffic** (車両)交通

**mill about** 動き回る

**sideshow** 出し物、大道芸

**optimistically** 楽観的に

**(be) touted as ~ ~** とうたわれている

**(be) up against ~ ~** に直面する

**stiff** 厳しい

**e-commerce** ネット通販

**hip** 流行っている

**suburban** 郊外の

**old-school** 保守的な、旧式な

**Minister for Trade and Industry** 貿易産業相

**conducive for ~ ~** を促進さ

せるような

**ban ~ ~** を禁止する

**reroute** 迂回させる

**streetscape** 街並み

**on the table** 検討中で

**reclamation** (ここでは)活用

**traffic intersection** 交差点

**scramble across** (ここでは)入り乱れて横断する

**get run over by ~ ~** にひかれる

**plot** (ここでは)作り出す

**(be) all for ~ ~** に賛成である

**bother~ing** わざわざ~する

### 多読チャレンジ

オーチャードロードを歩行者天国にする理由は？ A 車が多く危険だから B 信号の待ち時間が長いから C 新たな客を引きつけるため

[本文 - 550 words]



## MACHIGAI! © Tim Young

毎週掲載



by Tim Young

### Weather series, part 4

東京は今日一日ほとんど晴れです。

### ✗ Today it will be almost sunny in Tokyo.

This “✗” sentence means 「もう少ししたら晴れる」. 「ほとんど」 usually doesn't mean “almost.” In this case, a better translation is “mostly.”

### ○ Today it will be mostly sunny in Tokyo.



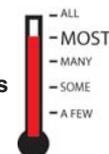
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米アイオワ州出身。イリノイ州オーガスタナ大学で英文学士号取得。1989年から日本在住。現在はスカイプでマンツーマンの英語レッスンをするほか、高校でのALT(外国人英語指導助手)やポッドキャストの製作など幅広く活躍。Twitter (@machigai) でも日々つぶやいている。著書「I can't eat natto!」がアマゾンで発売中。



### MACHIGAI Meter

How many of Tim's students made this mistake?



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