

Factsheet on Boat Quay ORAs

Boat Quay promenade

Total length of Boat Quay promenade:	Approx. 335m
Total width of Boat Quay promenade:	Approx. 13m
Width of public walkway:	4m

ORAs

Total area of ORAs:	Approx. 1,700 sqm
Average size of one ORA:	Approx. 25 to 30 sqm
Maximum height allowed for ORAs:	4m
No. of ORA lots:	59

Evolution of Boat Quay ORAs



When ORAs were first introduced on the Boat Quay promenade in 1990s, the alfresco dining concept and the umbrella structures used then allowed good views of the Central Business District and to the river from the ORAs, as well as the conserved shophouses from the opposite bank of the River. In response to stakeholders' feedback, URA later allowed tent structures in 2002.



As the ORAs evolved over the years, large structures, high partition screens and menu boards were erected by businesses, obstructing the view to the River from the promenade and to the conserved shophouses from the opposite bank. The bulky structures also led to a cluttered outdoor dining experience. The type of ORA structures used currently includes a variety of canopies, pitched roofs, flat roofs and tent structures of multiple colours and third party logos. Some of these were also not well-maintained by the businesses. These give the stretch of ORAs an inconsistent and disorganised look and feel.

These, coupled with the touting from some of the business operators, have led to negative reviews and general boycott of the area from the public/visitors. Boat Quay has been labelled “tourist trap” and “scam” on international travel review websites such as TripAdvisor, with several reviews going so far as to advise future visitors to “avoid at all costs”.