



MONUMENT
OPEN
HOUSE
2012
17 & 18 NOVEMBER



PRESERVATION OF
MONUMENTS BOARD

MONUMENT
OPEN HOUSE 2012 -
**CELEBRATING
OUR STANDING
HISTORY**

Welcome to the 2012 edition of Monument Open House. We believe passionately that our national monuments form an important part of our collective shared memories and by learning more about how they came to be we will also grow to appreciate our own multi cultural heritage.

Riding on the success of our inaugural Monument Open House last year, we once again gather to celebrate and admire the architectural beauty of these unique landmarks which we can truly call our standing history.

We have selected a series of guided tours for you to learn more about these iconic buildings, please do register early to avoid disappointment! With many monuments once again welcoming you to visit as well as several participating for the first time, the 2012 edition of Monument Open House promises to be a journey of discovery that will intrigue and amaze.



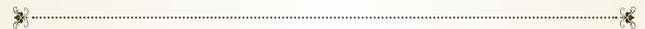
ABDUL GAFFOOR MOSQUE

Date of Construction
1907

Address
Address: 41 Dunlop Street
Singapore 209369

Sat 10am-5pm | 

Shaik Abdul Gaffoor was a mosque trustee and the Tamil chief clerk in a firm of advocates and solicitors. The mosque over which he held trusteeship was a wooden structure. In the 1880s he developed the land around the mosque, building eight shophouses and nine sheds, and presumably with the profits of this development he was able to erect a new brick mosque with Saracenic features. The Abdul Gaffoor (originally spelt "Gapore") Mosque was named after him.



ARMENIAN CHURCH OF ST GREGORY THE ILLUMINATOR

Date of Construction
1835-1836

Address
60 Hill Street
Singapore 179366

Architect
George Drumgoole Coleman

Sat 1pm-5pm/Sun 9am-5pm | 

A handful of Armenians were associated with Singapore from the start of the settlement. Catchick Moses, for example, arrived in 1820, and lived to the age of 80. Their church is the oldest one in Singapore. It was built by G.D. Coleman in 1835-36. Originally, it had a domed roof and a bell-turret. In 1853, both features were removed, and a pitched roof and a tower and spire were installed. The church retained its elegance and charm, and the tower and spire has been lauded as "an addition in refined taste".

Catchick Moses spent his own money on improvements to the church. He was a very kind man and much respected. People used to go to his house, the Pavilion on Oxley Rise, to seek advice or settle differences. Ever so considerate, "he made

his will about seven years before his death, and gave it to his children to read, so that they could ask him about it if they did not understand it, so as to avoid any discussion after his death". Armenians of a later generation, like Galistan Edgar, Thadeus Paul, Seth Paul and the Sarkies worked hard to keep the church financially afloat and structurally in good shape. In 1909, electric light and fans were installed, and Singapore's oldest church became the first to get electricity.



BOWYER BLOCK

Date of Construction
1926

Address
11 Third Hospital Avenue,
Singapore 168751

Sat 10am-6pm ! ♿

The modern history of SGH began on 29 March 1926 with the opening of 800 beds in three blocks, which were renamed Bowyer, Stanley and Norris Blocks after the Japanese Occupation. Bowyer Block is named after Dr John Herbert Bowyer, a British physician and SGH Medical Director who died from injuries sustained during torture by the Japanese military police after he was arrested in October 1944.

The Bowyer Block is a symbolic reminder of the medical heritage of the hospital. Presently, it is the only surviving block of the three buildings. Both Norris and Stanley blocks were demolished in the 1970s to make way for the construction of the new Singapore General Hospital. The clock tower distinguishes the 2-storey building from its landscape. The architectural design of the hospital grounds created a quiet, park-like setting that facilitated the recovery of patients. The garden setting provided a relaxed "home away from home" environment for patients.

The building was built in 1926 by architectural firm, Keys & Dowdeswell, alongside the General Hospital and King Edward Medical College after neo classical architecture idioms. During this period, the architectural design took into consideration the requirements of tropical climate. Hence, the hospital consisted of long and separated blocks (which promoted natural ventilation) with wide verandahs and broad roof overhands.



CENTRAL FIRE STATION

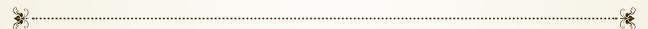
Date of Construction
1908-1909

Address
62 Hill Street
Singapore 179367

Architect
William Ferguson

Sat/Sun 10am-5pm ! ♿

The opening of the Central Fire Station in Hill Street in 1908 was a major step towards modern and efficient fire-fighting. It signalled a break from the previous century when fires were dealt with by volunteers and men from the police and military forces who often bungled at the job. This was the state of affairs until 1888 in which year the Municipal Commissioners organized the Singapore Fire Brigade. From 1888 onwards, fire stations were opened with living quarters for men trained and employed in a professional fire-fighting service. The main fire-station was at Cross Street from 1891-1908, when it was superseded by a new and modern building at Hill Street. The Hill Street Central Fire Station was fitted with residential quarters and garages for motorised engines, then coming on to replace horse-drawn engines. It has a central watchtower from which to look out for fires, but this was also used, interestingly enough, for drying out hoses. An extension to the building was added in 1926, and a further extension in redbrick but with no plastered bands was built in 1950s.



CHESED-EL SYNAGOGUE

Date of Construction
1905

Address
2 Oxley Rise
Singapore 238693

Architect
R.A.J.Bidwell,
Swan and MacLaren

! ♿ !  (only accessible to tour participants)

This synagogue was built in 1905 on Oxley Rise by Sir Manasseh Meyer, one of the first Jewish businessmen to

move to Singapore. By the late 1870s, Singapore's Jewish community, which had increased to more than 170 people, had established its own synagogue, the Maghain Aboth Synagogue on Waterloo Street. Meyer decided to build his own private synagogue, the Chesed-El on the grounds of his palatial residence on Oxley Rise.

Designed by R.A.J. Bidwell of the architectural firm Swan and MacLaren, the Chesed-El Synagogue was built with influences from English Late Renaissance, its simple white exterior contrasting with the surrounding tropical greenery. On the interior gallery deck, wrought iron railings incorporate the initials 'M M' for Manasseh Meyer.



COMMAND HOUSE

Date of Construction
1939

Address
17 Kheam Hock Road,
Singapore 298791

 (only accessible to
tour participants)

Formerly known as the Flagstaff House, this colonial period house was designed by architect Frank Brewer, known for his work on several other colonial style buildings in Singapore. Built in 1930s, this house served as the residence of the Admiral of the Fleet, Royal navy during the British colonial era. Sited off Kheam Hock Road, Major General W.G.S. Dobbie and his wife shifted into this house in end October 1938. The Command House subsequently housed fifteen succeeding British military officials, including Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten, until the British military withdrew from Singapore 1971. Following the withdrawal, the House served as the official residence of the Speaker of Parliament, Dr. Yeoh Ghim Seng who lived there until 1989. It later served as a venue for State Functions by former Singapore President Ong Teng Cheong.

The Command House incorporates common features of the late Arts and Crafts movement which include a combination of roughcast plaster rendering and facing brickwork with arches for external building facades. An interesting feature of the bungalow is that the side wings are angled forward as if to embrace and welcome visitors. Designed for tropical living, it has a large overhanging roof and the rooms are well ventilated by large doors, windows and vents.



CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Date of Construction
1901

Address
1259 Upper Serangoon
Road Singapore 534795

Architect
Attributed to
Father R.P.Charles Nain

Sat/Sun 10am-5pm 

The origins of this Catholic church can be traced to an attap (thatched roof) chapel that was built in 1853 on Upper Serangoon Road, its congregation comprising mainly Teochew farmers living in Serangoon and Punggol. Subsequently, a brick chapel was built in the area and named St. Mary's Church. Father Jean Casimir Saleilles, parish priest from 1881 to 1911, was responsible for building the present church in 1901. Father Saleilles also helped to spread the Catholic faith to Johore. He founded the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes (Johore), later renamed the Church of the Immaculate Conception. His good relationship with Sultan Ibrahim of Johore led the Sultan to present the Church of the Nativity with a statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The Church of Nativity founded many educational institutions in the region, including the Holy Innocents High School, Hai Seng Girls' High School, Convent of the Holy Infant Jesus Punggol, and Montfort School. Architecturally, the Church of the Nativity was based on the Gothic designs of Father Charles Benedict Nain who was also the designer of the Chapel of the Convent of the Holy Infant Jesus and St. Joseph's Institution on Bras Basah Road.



ESPLANADE PARK MEMORIALS

A. TAN KIM SENG FOUNTAIN

Date of Construction
1882

Address
Esplanade Park,
Connaught Drive

Designed by
Andrew Handyside & Co.
Britannia Iron Works in
Derby, Great Britain

The Tan Kim Seng Fountain is a fine example of a 19th century cast-iron fountain. It represents the Municipal Council's efforts to commemorate Tan Kim Seng's contributions towards bettering society. It was unveiled on 19 May 1882 at Battery Road in Fullerton Square by then President of the Municipality, Sir Thomas Scott. Designed by Messrs Andrew Handyside & Co. Britannia Iron Works, the fountain features four Muses in the lower bowl: Calliope holding a book or a writing tablet; Clio holding a scroll; Erato holding a lyre and Melpomene holding a garland. Tan was a supporter of the Tan Tock Seng Hospital, the President of the principal Chinese temple in Malacca and the leader of the Chinese community in Singapore. His other contributions to society include the building and endowing of the Chinese Free School, known as Chui Eng Si E, in Amoy Street.



B. CENOTAPH

Date of Construction
1920-1922

Address
Esplanade Park,
Connaught Drive

Designed by
Denis Santry of
Swan and MacLaren

The Cenotaph is the first military commemorative structure in Singapore that honours individuals who perished in both the First and Second World Wars. It was initially erected to commemorate the 124 men from the colony of Singapore who never returned from the war in Europe. Then Governor of the Straits Settlements, Sir Laurence Nunns Guillemard, laid the foundation stone on 15 November 1920 in the presence of then French Premier M Georges Clemenceau.

Prince of Wales unveiled the Cenotaph in March 1922. Designed by Denis Santry of Swan and MacLaren, the memorial bears bronze tablets with inscriptions of those who perished during the First World War, with the inscription that reads: "To Our Glorious Dead". Crowning the roof of the war memorial is a bronze medallion comprising a laurel wreath of victory enclosing the crown, symbolising the Colony of Singapore.

The bronze sculpture works on the Cenotaph were done by a well-known Swiss sculptor, Mr. R. Wenings and the Central Engine Works manufactured the bronze castings. After the Second World War (September 1945), a dedication was made on the other side of the Cenotaph, in memory of those who fought and died during the Second World War.



C. LIM BO SENG MEMORIAL

Date of Construction
1953-1954

Address
Esplanade Park,
Connaught Drive

Designed by
Ng Keng Siang

The Lim Bo Seng Memorial is a dedicated tribute to Lim Bo Seng, who died during the Japanese Occupation period in 1944. He was held captive by the Japanese Secret Police in Ipoh after a spy identified him as a member of the resistance army. The Lim Bo Seng Memorial Committee, comprising representatives from the Chung King Government, was established to raise funds for a memorial. Then British Commissioner General for Southeast Asia, Malcolm MacDonald, laid the foundation stone in 1953 and then Lieutenant-General Sir Charles Loewen, Commander-in-Chief of the Far East Land Forces, unveiled the memorial on 29 June 1954.

There are four bronze plaques with text in English, Chinese, Tamil and Jawi, illustrating Lim Bo Seng's life, embedded on the framed mouldings at the base of the memorial. Designed by prominent local architect Ng Keng Siang, the memorial is a significant piece of Chinese National Style architecture and is the only built structure to commemorate an individual who contributed to the war efforts in the Second World War.



FORMER ADMIRALTY HOUSE

Date of Construction
1939

Address
345 Old Nelson Road
Singapore 758692

Sat/Sun 11am-5pm

Located at Old Nelson Road, this two-storey brick bungalow was constructed in 1939. It was one of the largest houses to be built within the Sembawang Naval Base. During the Second World War, it served as the strategic planning headquarters of the British armed forces. Except for the period during the Japanese Occupation, the house was the official residence of the Royal Navy Commander-in-Chief, Far East Station, until the withdrawal of the British military from Singapore. The Naval Base – including the Old Admiralty House – was then transferred to the Singapore government. The Arts and Crafts influenced building was part of the Karimun Admiralty Club.

The building with its art deco facade was designed by architect Frank Brewer. At the start of the Japanese invasion, the British Malaya Broadcasting Corporation operated in the building, from which it transmitted updates on the progress of the war. The cinema screened its last movie prior to the British surrender on 15 February 1942. The building was then used temporarily as a Red Cross casualty station and shelter.

During the Japanese Occupation, the cinema was renamed Dai Toa Gekijo (Greater East Asian Theatre) and the building housed the Japanese Broadcasting and Military Propaganda departments and the Military Information Bureau. In the post-war period it served as Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten's headquarters. Cathay was the first cinema to reopen after the war with the screening of *The Tunisian Victory* (1944) on 23 September 1945.

The building was 'returned' to its Cathay owners in November 1946. Cathay Restaurant reopened in 1948, and the new Cathay Hotel was opened in 1954. The hotel was converted into office space in the early 1970s. In 1990, Singapore's first art house cinema, the Picturehouse, was added to the complex and in 1991, the cinema was turned into a three-screen cineplex. Cathay underwent redevelopment in 2001 with architect Paul Tange designing the new structure we see today.



FORMER CATHAY BUILDING

Date of Construction
1937

Address
2 Handy Road
Singapore 229233

Architect
Frank W. Brewer

Sat/Sun 10am-7pm | ♯

The flagship 1,300 seat Cathay cinema, belonging to Cathay Organisation was housed in the Cathay Building on Handy Road. Both cinema and building were inaugurated on 3 October 1939 by Loke Wan Tho, with the screening of A. Korda's *The Four Feathers* (1939). The 17-storey building was 79.5m high, making it the first skyscraper in Singapore and at that time the tallest building in Southeast Asia. With luxury apartments and a restaurant, Cathay was also the first public building in Singapore to be air-conditioned.



FORMER NANYANG UNIVERSITY LIBRARY AND ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, MEMORIAL AND ARCH

Date of Construction
1954-1956

Address
Nanyang Drive and
Upper Jurong Road

Architect
Ng Keng Siang

Sat/Sun 10am-5pm

The library and administrative building of the old Nanyang University was a four-storey building constructed with elegant Chinese architectural features. Since 1995 it has been the home of the Chinese Heritage Centre. The Nanyang Gateway Arch, with its roof of glazed green Chinese tiles, was originally located at the entrance of Nanyang University. It has been preserved in a community park in Jurong West, near Yunnan Gardens housing estate.



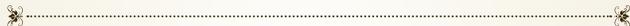
HONG SAN SEE

Date of Construction
1908-1912

Address
31 Mohamed Sultan Road
Singapore 238975

Sat/Sun 9am-5pm | 🚶 | 🚗

Hokkiens from Nan Ann in Fukien Province built a temple at Tanjong Pagar in the early 19th century. They had to give up the land in 1907 due to road widening. The decorative woodwork in this temple is rather exquisite. The wood was carved and painted with red lacquer and gold leaf. There are scenes of warriors on horseback and angels in streamlined flight. If you stand in the altar hall and look up, you will see above you the Eight Immortals of Taoism.



HOUSE OF TAN YEOK NEE

Date of Construction
1882

Address
207 Clemenceau Avenue
Singapore 239925

🚶 (only accessible to
tour participants)

Tan Yeok Nee, a Teochew towkay engaged in the pepper and gambier trade, built his traditional Chinese house in 1882. At the turn of the 20th century, the house was acquired for the purposes of the railway which went past Tank Road and Orchard Road towards Newton Circus and Bukit Timah. The house was used as the station master's residence, then recycled as a girls' home and school under Anglican supervision, and at some stage was a boarding house. The Salvation Army purchased the property from the Anglican Trust in 1938 and became the Salvation Army Command Headquarters for Singapore and Malaya. Since undergoing restoration in 1999, the house is now the Asian campus for the University of Chicago Graduate School of Business.



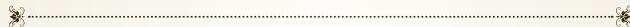
JAMAE MOSQUE

Date of Construction
1830-1835

Address
218 South Bridge Road
Singapore 058767

Sat/Sun 10am-12pm & 2pm-5pm

South Indian Muslims, known as Chulias, were traders and money-changers who contributed to building up the entrepot economy of Singapore from a very early period. A Chulia by the name of Ansar Saib built a mosque in South Bridge Road in 1826 or 1827. But it was replaced by the Jamae Mosque built between 1830 and 1835. A simple brick and plaster structure, it has a prayer hall with a spacious courtyard.



NAGORE DARGAH INDIAN MUSLIM HERITAGE CENTRE

Date of Construction
1827-1830

Address
140 Telok Ayer Street
Singapore 068604

Sat/Sun 10am-5pm

This shrine built between 1827-1830 to the memory of a holy man, Shahul Hamid of Nagore, but it contains no bodily relic of him. It is fascinating for its combination of Palladian features on the street level with the Islamic balustrade above. There is also a Nagore Durgha shrine located in Chulia Street, Penang. This suggests that the pioneers of this community in both Singapore and Penang meant to build replicas of the original shrine in Negapatam, South India, to commemorate in the places they ventured out to as expatriates and sojourners



RAFFLES HOTEL

Date of Construction
c.1840s (Beach House),
1893 (Palm Court Wing),
1897-1899 (Main Building),
1902-1904
(Bras Basah Wing)

Address
1 Beach Road
Singapore 189673

Sat/Sun 10am-7pm (Gallery)

The Armenian Sarkies brothers started this hotel in 1886. In 1889, they undertook major renovations to create the building which Ilsa Sharp in her book on the hotel described as “a marvellous French Renaissance-style ‘wedding cake’”. The Raffles Hotel, as it developed was instilled with Britishness. Somerset Maugham and Noel Coward were among its guests. British rubber planters from Malaya came down for a much needed change. The hotel catered to the rituals and victuals of colonial life, such as tiffin, tea dance and the cocktail hour. Today, the Raffles is a celebrity with books written about her, and devoted fans from near and far. To former British civil servants and military men who choose to live out their lives in Singapore, the Raffles Hotel has a glory and a melancholy such as only the exiled heart can know.



ST GEORGE'S CHURCH

Date of Construction
1910-1911

Address
Minden Road
Singapore 248816

Sat 9am-5pm |

The Tanglin Barracks was established in the 1860s. A garrison church was also part of the set up, but we cannot be certain as to where it was located. In 1911, a new garrison church was built, the present St. George's. During the Second World War the church was used as an ammunition dump. When the war was over, thanksgiving and rededication of the church was held on Sunday, 10 November 1946. Field Marshall Montgomery read the lesson at Morning Prayer on 29 June 1947. As a result of the British military withdrawal from Singapore, St. George's Church had a new beginning in 1971 as a civilian church.

The church has an interesting external feature called the “lych gate”. It was originally built in December 1942 by British military prisoners of war interned at Changi, and placed at the entrance to the internment camp cemetery. After the war, the graves were re-sited to the Commonwealth War Cemetery at Kranji, and the abandoned lych gate was then transferred to St. George's Church. When the British withdrew from their military base in Singapore, the lych gate was dismantled and shipped to England and a replica was erected in its place.



ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH

Date of Construction
1906-1912

Address
143 Victoria Street
Singapore 188020

Architect
Swan and MacLaren

Sat/Sun 10am-5pm |

Shortly after the founding of modern Singapore in 1819, amongst the first Catholics to arrived in 1821 were Portuguese. The first Catholic priest to be permanently based in Singapore was Father Fransico de Silva Pinto Maia, who arrived from Macau in 1825. He started a small chapel on Victoria Street. He was succeeded by Father Vincente de Santo Catharina in 1850 who completed the remodelled building. This was consecrated as St. Joseph's Church and used by the Portuguese and Eurasian Catholics for five decades.

Between 1906 and 1912, the congregation had a new church built. They commissioned the architectural firm of Swan and MacLaren. Officially opened on 30 June 1912, the new church took the form of a Latin cross, which was 65m long and could accommodate a congregation of 1,500. The church has five altars. The main altar is dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.



SRI MARIAMMAN TEMPLE

Date of Construction
1843

Address
244 South Bridge Road
Singapore 058793

Sat/Sun 8am-12pm

Naraina Pillay came to Singapore from Penang in the company of Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles during the latter's second visit to Singapore in May 1819. Pillay set up his business but soon lost it in a fire. With a little help from Raffles, he was back on his feet again, and was one of the first traders to move into Commercial Square (later to be renamed Raffles's Place). Pillay, as an act of piety and gratitude, built a temple of wood and attap (palm-fronded thatch) in South Bridge Road in 1827. This structure was replaced by one of brick and plaster by 1843. As was the common practice then, convict labour was used. Since then the temple has been repaired and refaced many times.

Craftsmen from Madras were employed for their plastering skills. They drew their inspiration not only from Indian tradition but also from the military tradition of the British Raj in India, and they incorporated models of Indian Sepoy soldiers into the crowd of figures on the gopuram and walls of the Sri Mariamman. The Sepoy images were complete in khaki uniform and armed with rifles. The Sepoy images were erased in later renovations, and now the sculptures are in Indian traditional and national costumes.



THIAN HOCK KENG

Date of Construction
1839-1842 (Thian Hock Keng),
1849 (Chung Wen Pagoda),
1913 (Chong Hock Pavilion)

Address
158 Telok Ayer Street
Singapore 068613

Sat/Sun 9am-4pm | ♪

Situated at the site of a joss house where immigrants from China to Singapore offered thanks for a safe voyage, the temple was built between 1839-1842. Historical data relating to the

founding of the temple, and the list of donors were inscribed on several plaques inside the main courtyard to the right and left of the main entrance.

Tan Tock Seng was the biggest donor, and the Hokkien Association was initially based at the temple. Tan Tock Seng's son, Tan Kim Ching, inherited his father's mantle as head of the Hokkien Association. One of his duties was to register Hokkien marriages at his office within the temple precincts. The pillars of iron wood and granite and the carved stonework used for this temple were imported from China at a handsome expense. The chief deity, Ma-Cho-Po or Goddess of the Seafarers, was brought from Fukien Province and enshrined here in 1840.



AL-ABRAR MOSQUE

Date of Construction
1850-1855

Address
192 Telok Ayer Street Singapore 068635

Sat/Sun 10am-12pm & 2pm-5pm | ♪



CATHEDRAL OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Date of Construction
1846

Address
A Queen Street Singapore 188533

Architect
Denis Lesley McSwiney

Sat/Sun 10am-5pm | ♪



CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES

Date of Construction
1888

Address
50 Ophir Road Singapore 188690

Architect
A.W.Lermit, Swan and Lermit

Sun 10am-5pm | 🚌



FORMER THONG CHAI MEDICAL INSTITUTION

Date of Construction
Completed in 1892

Address
50 Eu Tong Sen Street Singapore 059803

Sat 1pm-5pm



FORMER PARLIAMENT HOUSE

Date of Construction
1826-1827 (Main Building), 1839 (Annexe)

Address
10 Empress Place Singapore 179557

Sat/Sun 10am-5pm



FORMER SIONG LIM TEMPLE (NOW LIAN SHAN SHUANG LIN MONASTERY)

Date of Construction
1902-1908

Address
184 Jalan Toa Payoh Singapore 319944

Sat/Sun 10am-5pm | 🚗



SUN YAT SEN NANYANG MEMORIAL HALL

Date of Construction
c.1880s

Address
12 Tai Gin Road Singapore 327873

Sat/Sun 10am-5pm | 🚗 (admission charges applies)



HAJJAH FATIMAH MOSQUE

Date of Construction
1845-1846

Address
4001 Beach Road Singapore 199584

Sat 10am-5pm



MAGHAIN ABOTH SYNAGOGUE

Date of Construction
1878

Address
No. 24 Waterloo Street Singapore 187950

Sun | 🚶 | 🚗 (only accessible to tour participants)



PRINSEP STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Date of Construction
1930

Address
77 Prinsep Street Singapore 188649

Architect
C.J.Stephens, Swan and MacLaren

Sat 10am-4pm | 🚶 | 🚗



SRI PERUMAL TEMPLE

Date of Construction
c.1870s

Address
397 Serangoon Road Singapore 218123

Sat/Sun 8am-12pm



SULTAN MOSQUE

Date of Construction
1924-1928

Address
3 Muscat Street Singapore 198833

Architect
Denis Santry, Swan and MacLaren

Sat/Sun 10am-12pm & 2pm-4pm



TAN SI CHONG SU

Date of Construction
1876-1878

Address
15 Magazine Road Singapore 059568

Sat/Sun 9am-4pm



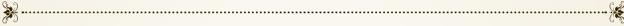
TELOK AYER CHINESE METHODIST CHURCH

Date of Construction
1924

Address
235 Telok Ayer Street Singapore 068656

Architect
Swan and McLaren

Sat 9.30am-1.30pm |



YING FO FUI KUN

Date of Construction
1843/1844

Address
98 Telok Ayer Street Singapore 048474

Sat | (only accessible to tour participants)

Legend

Walking Tours

Bus Tours

MONUMENTAL WALKING TOURS

17 November 10 – 11.30am

1. Those Catholic School Days
2. Stained Glass Stories
3. Of Saints and Stars
4. Monumental Makeovers
5. Mixed Blessings
6. Hokkiens on Telok Ayer Street

17 November 3 – 4.30pm

1. Order Out of Chaos
2. Monumental Makeovers
3. A Tale of Two Communities in Telok Ayer
4. The Spirit of Saving Lives

17 November 4 – 5pm

1. Esplanade Park Memorials
(Conducted by National Parks Board)

18 November 10 – 11.30am

1. Those Catholic School Days
2. Diaspora - Armenians and Jews in Singapore
3. Order Out of Chaos
4. Monumental Makeovers

18 November 3 – 4.30pm

1. Order Out of Chaos
2. A Walk of Faith
3. The Spirit of Saving Lives

MONUMENT OPEN HOUSE BUS TOURS



17 November 12.30pm

Monuments of the Chinese Community

1. House of Tan Yoke Nee
2. Sun Yat Sen Nanyang Memorial Hall
3. Former Siong Lim Temple
(now Lian Shan Shuang Lin Monastery)

Of Brick and Mortar

1. Command House
2. St George's Church
3. Prinsep Street Presbyterian Church

A Community Connection

1. Ying Fo Fui Koon
2. Abdul Gaffoor Mosque

18 November 12pm

Monuments of Faith 1

1. Maghain Aboth Synagogue
2. Church of the Nativity of the
Blessed Virgin Mary

Monuments of Faith 2

1. Chesed-El Synagogue
2. Hong San See
3. Church of Our Lady of Lourdes

Pre-registration is required. To register, email nhb_nationalmonuments@nhb.gov.sg with your name, NRIC, age and contact number. Due to limited places per tour, registration is on an individual basis only, bookings of more than two people under one name is not allowed.

All walking tours are free. Bus tours are chargeable at \$5 per person.

TOUR SYNOPSIS

A Tale of Two Communities in Telok Ayer

This tour centres on two historical buildings at the Telok Ayer Basin – Ying Fo Fui Kun and Telok Ayer Chinese Methodist Church. While they served different dialect groups in the Chinese community, both monuments are similar in their altruistic contributions to Singapore in the 19th and 20th centuries. Besides exploring the architectural features and artefacts of these two buildings, be regaled by songs from the communities, fascinating accounts of Chinese secret society rituals and stories about hideouts from Japanese troops during WWII.

Monuments covered: Ying Fo Fui Kun and Telok Ayer Chinese Methodist Church

Esplanade Park Memorials

Take a stroll along the mouth of Singapore River, once the heart of Singapore's commercial activity and entrepôt trade.

Relive the memories of Singapore's history, growth and development in this trail that takes you to several historical landmarks and national monuments.

Note: This tour is conducted by National Parks Board

Monuments covered: Lim Bo Seng Memorial, Cenotaph, Tan Kim Seng Fountain

A Walk of Faith

Visit two historical places of worship – Hong San See Temple on Mohammed Sultan Road and Chesed-El Synagogue on Oxley Rise – to gain a deeper understanding of how they instilled a sense of belonging amongst Singapore's early immigrants. Learn more about the societal contributions made by individuals who worshipped at the respective buildings and the symbolism of religious architecture, and see how these contributions are evident even till today.

Note: Participants will be required to climb steps at Hong San See Temple. Identification details are required for entry to the synagogue.

Monuments covered: Hong San See Temple and Chesed-El Synagogue

Diaspora – Armenians and Jews in Singapore

In 19th-century Singapore, a small number of Armenian and Jewish traders and merchants settled here and set up places of worship. This tour through the Armenian Church, the oldest Christian church in Singapore, and the Maghain Aboth Synagogue, the oldest Jewish synagogue in Southeast Asia, provide insights on these two communities who thrived through enterprise and hard work. Learn more about prominent Armenians and Jews in Singapore such as the Sarkies brothers (the Armenian founders of Raffles Hotel) and David Marshall (Singapore's first Chief Minister, who was Jewish).

Note: Identification details are required for entry into the synagogue.

Monuments covered: Armenian Church and Maghain Aboth Synagogue

Mission Possible

Get a historical and personal insight into how inspiration, faith, grit and destiny combined to make the seemingly insurmountable task of establishing Catholic churches in 19th century Singapore possible.

Monuments included: Church of St Joseph, Church of Sts Peter and Paul and Cathedral of the Good Shepherd

Mixed Blessings

Go on a trail of religious monuments along Telok Ayer Street to experience the bustling street life, diversity and harmony of architectural styles and religions that continue to exist even today! Look out for the Church with a unique Chinese pavilion roof top and the Chinese temple and mosque with European influences in this trail!

Monuments covered: Thian Hock Keng Temple, Al-Abrar Mosque and Telok Ayer Chinese Methodist Church

Monumental Makeovers

Join a veteran museum guide for a behind-the-scenes look at the transformation of monuments into museums, complete with unique stories, personal anecdotes and special access to a secret spot in one of the museums!

Monuments included: Asian Civilisations Museum, former City Hall and Supreme Court (The National Art Gallery of Singapore) and Peranakan Museum

Stained Glass Stories

Discover the origins and stories of magnificent stained glass found in Singapore's churches and how they contribute to the emotional and visual power of neo-Gothic architecture.

Monuments included: Church of St Joseph, Church of Sts Peter and Paul and CHIJMES Chapel

Of Saints and Stars

Gain illuminating insights into Singapore's religious and film history – from pious priests and dedicated Christian leaders who were shining examples of community service, to the glamorous stars of the 1930s who once graced Singapore's first air-conditioned cinema at Cathay Building. At the same time, learn about various architectural styles such as Romanesque, Gothic and Art Deco that are featured in these monuments.

Monuments covered: St. Joseph's Church, Prinsep Street Presbyterian Church and the former Cathay building

Order Out of Chaos

Find out about some of the public institutions established by the British authorities to transform "Sin-galore" (a 1920s nickname for Singapore when murder and mayhem ruled the country) into a clean and orderly Singapore and to protect the people in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Monuments included: Central Fire Station, former Hill Street Police Station and former Ministry of Labour Building

The Hokkiens on Telok Ayer Street

Uncover the history and culture of the Hokkiens -- the largest and first dialect group that arrived in 19th century Singapore -- through a visit of places of worship, schools and associations along Telok Ayer Street that served the community. Gain an insight into prominent personalities that have left their imprints in these monuments!

Monuments covered: Thian Hock Keng Temple and Telok Ayer Chinese Methodist Church

The Spirit of Saving Lives

Three national monuments that lie within the Singapore General Hospital (SGH) compound bear testament to this country's medical history – the College of Medicine Building, Tan Teck Guan Building and Bowyer Block. Be inspired by the generosity of members of the Chinese community such as Tan Jiak Kim, as well as passionate doctors such as Lim Boon Keng, who dedicated their lives to laying the foundation of Singapore's medical education and healthcare system. At the same time, learn more about SGH's role during the Japanese Occupation.

Monuments covered: College of Medicine Building, Bowyer Block and Tan Teck Guan Building

Those Catholic School Days

Early missionaries to Singapore came from thousands of miles away to a place they had never seen, and devoted their lives to tend to the spiritual needs and education of the people here. Visit two former Catholic mission schools that are now preserved for very different functions. Explore the gorgeous compounds, relive what school life might have been like and hear about famous alumni who went on to make significant contributions to Singapore.

Monuments covered: Former St. Joseph's Institution (now Singapore Art Museum) and former CHIJ Chapel and Caldwell House (now CHIJMES)

ABOUT THE PRESERVATION OF MONUMENTS BOARD



The Preservation of Monuments Board (PMB) is the national authority responsible for identifying, preserving and protecting Singapore's monuments. PMB's administration of the preservation gazette is complemented by its outreach objectives to promote a renewed appreciation and understanding of monuments and their history, and encourage the public to enjoy them as site of memory that convey a sense of place, identity and belonging.

PMB's educational and public outreach efforts include school and public trails, special programmes and activities at the monuments. PMB was formed in 1971, and has been an institution under the National Heritage Board since 2009. To date, PMB gazetted 64 structures as national monuments. For more information on PMB, please visit www.pmb.sg