

IMPORTANT NOTICE

7 June 2023

Parts of the National Museum of Singapore will be undergoing restoration and upgrading works later this year. The museum will continue to remain open with exhibitions, programmes as well as dining and retail offerings.

The Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth shared at the Committee of Supply debate in March 2023 that the National Museum of Singapore, a National Monument, will undergo restoration works and upgrading of facilities later this year. These are part of our on-going efforts to preserve the building for future generations and to provide a quality museum experience for our visitors. We would like to share more details of our building restoration and upgrading plans.

Restoration and upgrading plans

The National Museum of Singapore will commence restoration and upgrading works from September 2023. The works are expected to be completed in 2025.

The works will be carried out in phases to minimise disruptions to museum operations and the use of its spaces. **The National Museum will remain open and accessible to visitors, and will continue to present exciting offerings to the public throughout the period of restoration and upgrading.**

The National Museum comprises two sections: the National Monument building (monument building) and the modern extension. Restoration works will be carried out on the National Museum's monument building façade which has stood on Stamford Road since October 1887. The works will address common building deterioration conditions due to wear and tear. In tandem with the restoration works, the museum will also carry out upgrading of its toilets, lifts and escalators, as well as repainting and other replacement works, across both its monument building and modern extension.

Rejuvenating the National Museum's offerings

Together with the infrastructure upgrading efforts, the National Museum will also rejuvenate its permanent galleries. While the museum will refresh some of the displays in its Level 2 galleries (the four Life in Singapore galleries and the Goh Seng Choo Gallery which features a rotational selection from the William Farquhar Collection of Natural History Drawings), the museum is exploring a larger revamp of its Singapore History Gallery and the Glass Rotunda experience.

Members of the public can look forward to getting involved in the rejuvenation efforts as the National Museum will be engaging stakeholders and the public on the approach and content at various stages of the revamp. Through these engagements, the museum hopes to explore ways

to make its content and collection accessible to the wider audience. As the nation’s flagship museum, it is also a timely effort for the National Museum to evolve as a constant bridge between Singapore’s past and present, showcasing both Singapore’s history and contemporary happenings.

Members of the public who are keen to be part of the engagements may register their interest at go.gov.sg/nmsengageinterest.

Phased closure and opening periods

To facilitate the restoration and upgrading efforts, the museum will close its galleries on Level 2 of the monument building, and the Stamford Gallery on Level 1 from 4 September 2023. Visitors can continue to access the museum from its main Rotunda entrance facing Stamford Road until early 2024, when the main Rotunda entrance and other spaces are slated to close for restoration. More details, including alternative entry to the museum from Stamford Road for visitors to the Singapore History Gallery, Glass Rotunda experience, and other special exhibitions in its basement galleries, will be announced nearer the date.

The table below summarises notable closure and opening periods of the National Museum’s permanent galleries:

	Estimated Closing Period	Estimated Opening Period
Level 2 Galleries	September 2023	2025
Glass Rotunda (at modern extension)	Second half of 2024	2025
Singapore History Gallery	Early 2026	End 2026

Singapore citizens and Permanent Residents will continue to enjoy free admission to all the museum’s remaining permanent galleries during the period of restoration and upgrading works.

Its dining tenant Flutes restaurant will cease operations from 8 October 2023, and will advise on their new location in due time. Other dining and retail offerings at the museum, including Food for Thought, Café Brera at Reunion, and Supermama, The Museum Store will remain open. Further changes to retail and dining operations due to the restoration and upgrading works will be announced when details are available. The National Museum will continue to work closely with its tenants.

We warmly welcome everyone to visit (and revisit!) the museum’s permanent galleries before they close for a facelift and return to delight even more visitors. More information on the restoration and revamp will be shared as the project progresses.