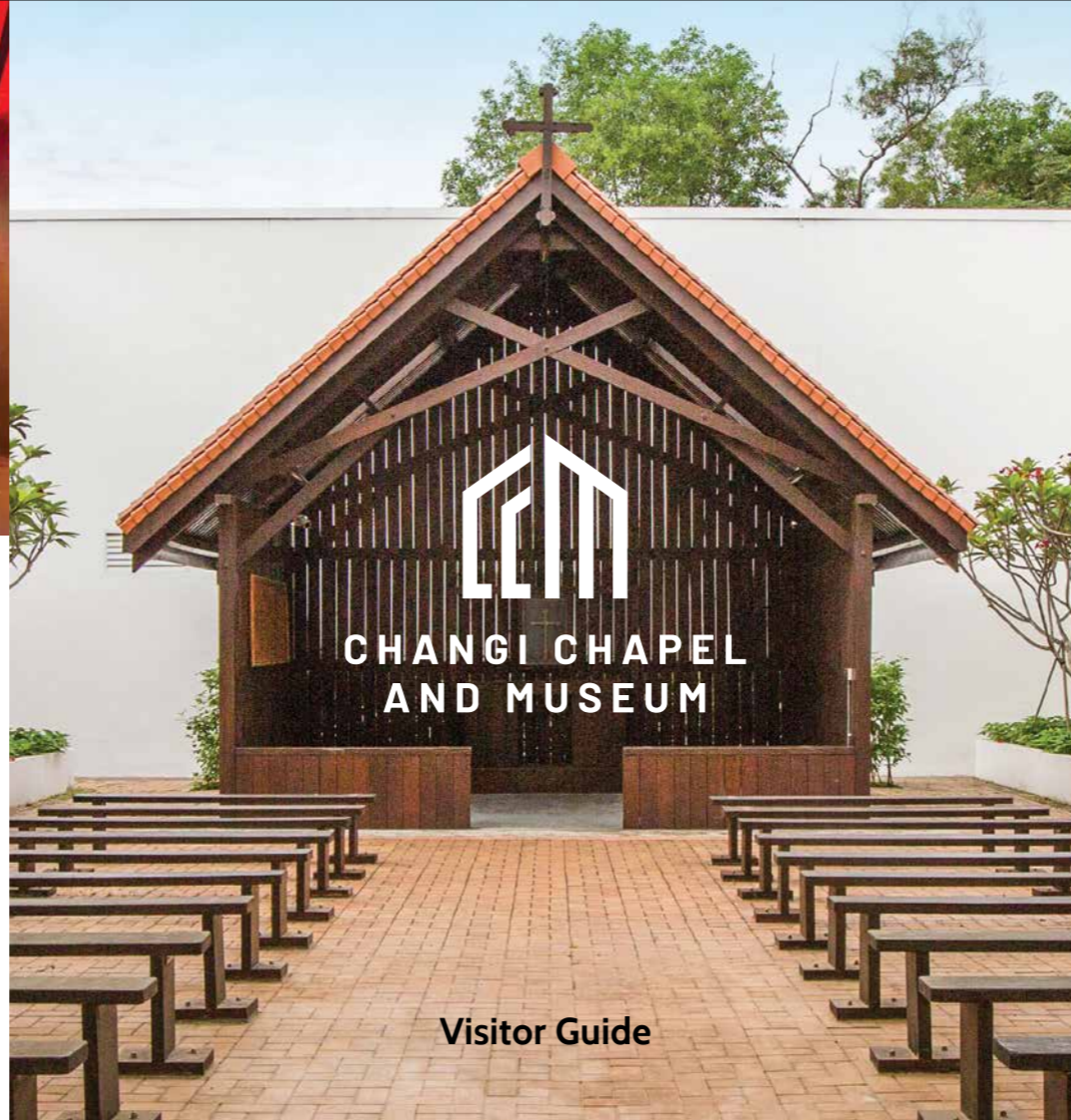




Changi Prison Cell Door



# CHANGI CHAPEL AND MUSEUM

## Visitor Guide



Changi Fortress

### MUSEUM LABEL

9.30am – 5.30pm (Tuesdays to Fridays)  
 Closed every Monday except Public Holidays  
 NHB\_museumlabel@nhb.gov.sg

Bring home museum publications and specially-designed MUSEUM LABEL merchandise inspired by the Changi Chapel and Museum's collection. Every purchase at our shop helps to support the museum and its exhibitions.



### Support Us

Support the Changi Chapel and Museum so that stories of the prisoners of war and civilians interned in Changi prison camp during the Japanese Occupation continue to be remembered. Your donation enables us to preserve and present these stories in the hope that they inspire future generations to remain resilient even in the most challenging of times. Please scan the QR code to make a donation or enter the UEN No: T08GB0036BNHF when you log in to your mobile banking app (PayNow).



- Step 1: Log in to your mobile banking app
- Step 2: Scan the PayNow QR code using your mobile banking app
- Step 3: Enter your desired amount. Input CCM under reference and confirm the transfer

### Opening Hours

9.30am to 5.30pm (Tuesdays to Sundays)  
 Closed every Monday except Public Holidays  
 Last admission at 5pm.

### Guided Tours

Free guided tours are available, subject to prevailing safe management measures and availability of guides. Please visit our website for more information.

### Contact

Changi\_Museum@nhb.gov.sg

### We're Online Too!

- www.changichapelmuseum.gov.sg
- changichapelmuseum
- changichapelmuseum

### Changi Chapel and Museum

The Changi Chapel and Museum tells the story of the prisoners of war and civilians interned in Changi prison camp during the Japanese Occupation. Managed by the National Museum of Singapore, the Changi Museum was revamped and reopened in May 2021. The revamped museum features new content and artefacts, including stories and personal objects collected from families of former internees, presented in an intimate and engaging format. The museum's narrative is centred on remembrance and reflection, encouraging visitors to contemplate both the hardships that the internees underwent, as well as their courage and resilience in the face of difficulties.

### Public Programmes

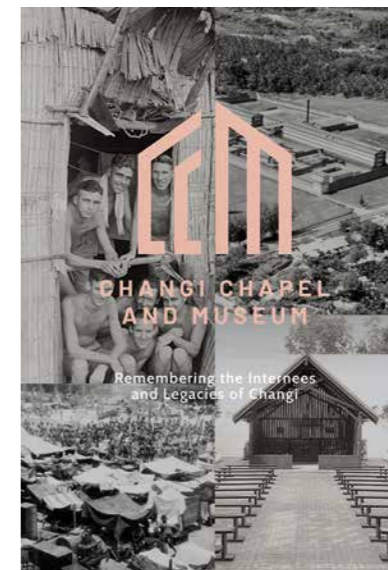
In February and September, enjoy a range of special programmes including curator tours and talks, held in commemoration of key events that took place during World War Two in Singapore.

### School Visits

Bring your students to visit and explore the Changi Chapel and Museum!

Through stories and personal belongings of former internees, students can learn more about the experiences of the prisoners of war and civilians interned in Changi prison camp during the Japanese Occupation, the hardships they faced, as well as stories of courage and resilience during those difficult times.

To make a booking, email [NHB\\_CCMB\\_CProgrammes@nhb.gov.sg](mailto:NHB_CCMB_CProgrammes@nhb.gov.sg) with details of your intended visit. Educational resources are available to help guide your visit, and detailed Safe Management Measures will be shared upon confirmation of booking.



### Exhibition Catalogue

The Changi Chapel and Museum exhibition catalogue is intended as a narrative guide to the eight sections within the gallery.

Featuring essays and key insights from the exhibition's curators, personal stories and highlight artefacts from each zone, it offers an intimate glimpse into the prisoner-of-war and civilian internee experience in Changi prison camp during the Japanese military occupation in Singapore.

Grab your copy now at the Museum Label shop located beside the museum entrance!

Managed by



Supported by



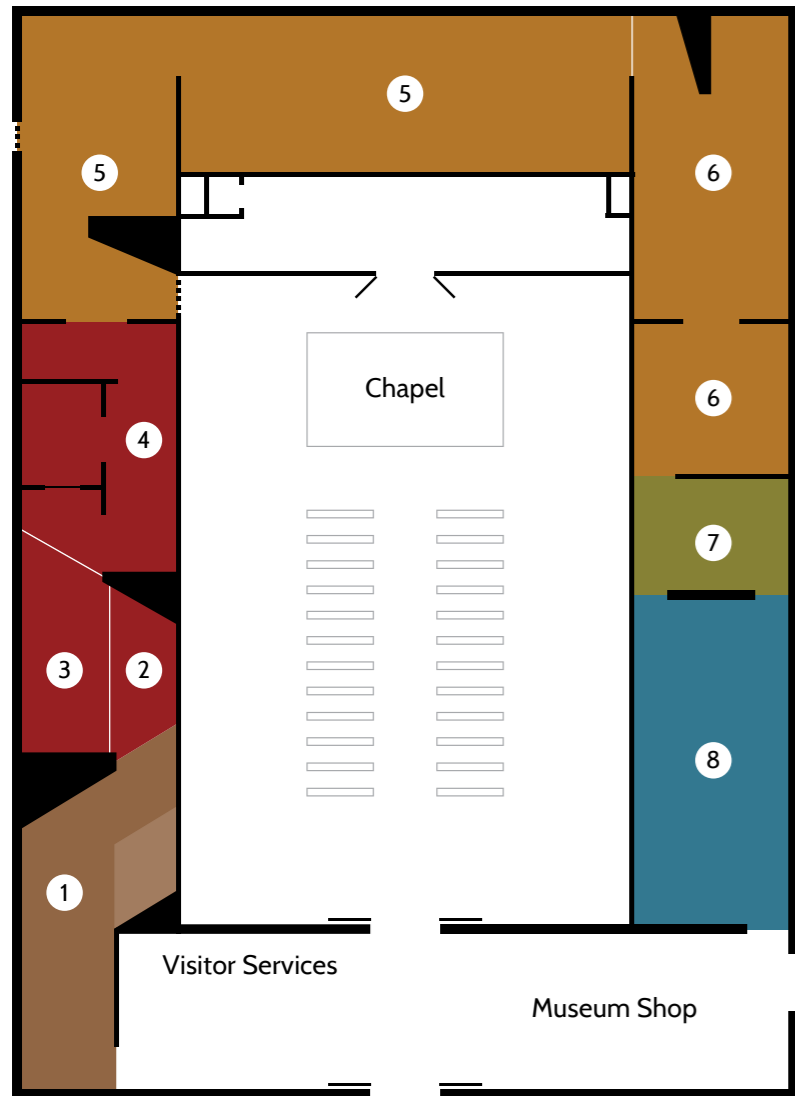




Creativity in Adversity

Liberation

Legacies



Washroom

Restaurant

Entrance

Drop-off point

- 1 Changi Fortress
- 2 Fallen Fortress
- 3 The Interned
- 4 Life as Prisoners of War
- 5 Resilience in Adversity
- 6 Creativity in Adversity
- 7 Liberation
- 8 Legacies

### Introduction

In 1942, tens of thousands of prisoners of war (POWs) and civilians were interned in Changi prison camp during the Japanese Occupation. They would be imprisoned for the next three and a half years, and often relied on their ingenuity and strength of spirit to survive. The exhibition spans eight main sections that delve into the daily lives of the internees, their responses to the challenges that they faced, and their eventual liberation.



### Changi Chapel

Modelled after St George's Church, the chapel was one of the numerous churches built by the prisoners of war in Changi during their internment. It was started by Reverend Eric Cordingley, who presided over it for the rest of the war. A second version of the church was built at Kanchanaburi when POWs were sent to work on the Thai-Burma Railway, and two more versions were rebuilt at Changi Gaol by the returning POWs. In all of its iterations, the church continued to provide hope and comfort to the men who attended its services.

#### 1 Changi Fortress

This section introduces the history of Changi, which in the 19th century was largely covered by mangrove swamps and rainforests. In the 1920s, this quiet idyll began to change as the British started to construct batteries and barracks to protect Singapore from attack.

#### 2 Fallen Fortress

Less than three months after the Japanese invasion of Malaya in December 1941, Singapore capitulated. This section covers the fall of Singapore as well as the fate that soldiers and civilians alike faced in the aftermath.

#### 3 The Interned

Approximately 48,000 soldiers and civilians were marched to Changi, which was converted into a vast prison camp. Learn more about the stories of the men, women, and children who were interned in Changi in this section.

#### 4 Life as Prisoners of War

In this section, enter an exact replica of a Changi prison cell and listen to conversations on the day-to-day lives of those imprisoned in Changi.

#### 5 Resilience in Adversity

The internees made the best of their difficult circumstances, using their resourcefulness and ingenuity to overcome challenges. This section offers a glimpse into both the hardships that the internees faced as well as how they responded to their situation.

#### 6 Creativity in Adversity

Creative expression was deeply important to the internees, who found ways to write, draw, read, craft, play sports, and even stage concerts and plays. Discover how they kept their morale up in this section.

#### 7 Liberation

Japan surrendered on 15 August 1945, bringing an end to the three and a half years of the Japanese Occupation of Singapore. This section captures the internees' feelings about their liberation as well as what happened immediately after the war.

#### 8 Legacies

The legacy of Changi camp continues to live on in the present day. In this concluding section, look up the names and stories of the internees, and view some artefacts that were produced to remember how they had survived the internment.

### Chatbot for More



Enjoy exclusive audio tours, exhibit captions in various languages and more right from your phone with our Changi Chapel and Museum chatbot! Listen to the story of a soldier who was interned in Changi and let his experience guide you through the galleries. Check out suggestions for nearby World War Two-related sites that you can either explore in person or virtually. Simply scan the QR code (left) and chat away!

### General Information

The well-being of our visitors and staff remains our primary concern. For your safety and the safety of others, please perform SafeEntry when entering and exiting, provide proof of your fully vaccinated status, wear a mask at all times and practise safe-distancing of at least one metre.

To provide a pleasant experience for all and to protect our national collection, please also help us observe the following:

- No food and drinks
- No flash photography
- No videography
- Do not touch artefacts
- No bulky items
- Please speak softly
- Please attend to children

The Changi Chapel and Museum is committed to ensuring an accessible and enjoyable museum experience for all. Speak to our visitor services officer to find out more about our **access-friendly amenities and services** for all\*!

\* All galleries and facilities are wheelchair and stroller accessible. Limited manual wheelchairs are also available at our Visitor Services counter. Exhibition captions are available in large font in English, Chinese, Malay and Tamil on our mobile interactive platform as well.