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National Museum
of Singapore

Family Time Guide

SINGAPORE HISTORY GALLERY

Recommended
for 7-12 years old

Per-Trip Preparation

- Talk to your children about what a museum is like and what they will see at the museum to build their excitement prior to the family trip.
- Show your children a family heirloom, old family photographs or personal belongings with sentimental value. Explain their importance and reinforce values such as care and respect for these items because they are priceless and irreplaceable.
- Go through the museum etiquette on the next page with your children and discuss with them other rules you would like them to follow on the trip.
- Admission to the museum is free for all Singaporeans and Permanent Residents. Do note that some special exhibitions and programmes are chargeable and / or require advance registration. For more information, please visit the museum's website <http://nationalmuseum.sg>.
- Print out this Family Time Guide (or only pages with activities you would like to engage your children in) and embark on a fun and enriching journey at the museum. After you have completed the activities, continue your exploration and engage yourselves with other exciting activities at the museum.

Museum Etiquette

- Walk quietly in the galleries and wait for each other.
- Talk softly in the galleries.
- Discover the objects in the galleries with your eyes and ears.
- Touch only objects that have signs that allow this.
- Use only pencils in the gallery to prevent leaving permanent marks.
- Handle the audio-visual equipment with care.
- Take photographs without using flash.
- Enjoy your food and drinks outside the gallery.

Discuss with your children other rules you would like them to follow on this family trip.

A Trip To The Past

Take a trip through 700 years of Singapore's history to find out how life has changed over the centuries. On your journey, you will meet various historical figures and people from different communities in the past and explore how they used to live. Look out for these symbols in the guide:



Follow the numbers in this guide to complete the trail. Refer to the gallery layout to orientate yourselves.



Have a meaningful conversation with your children.



Play "I Spy" to identify objects, numbers, shapes, colours and words.



Engage your children in various activities on the trail.

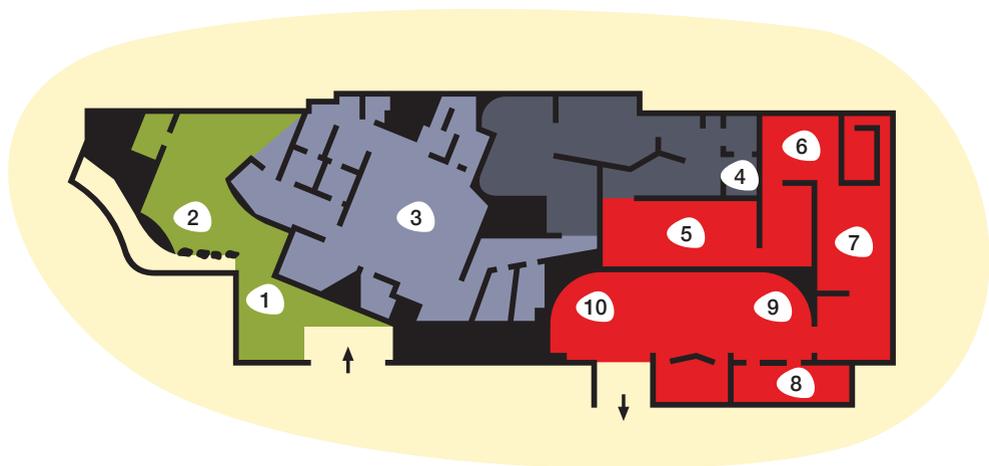


Stop at the audio-visual stations to find out more.



Think about what you have seen around you.

Gallery Layout



Zone 1

Singapura
1300s to 1800s

Station **1**

Station **2**

Zone 2

Crown Colony
1891 to 1941

Station **3**

Zone 3

Syonan-To
1941 to 1945

Station **4**

Zone 4

Singapore
1945 to 1980s

Station **5**

Station **6**

Station **7**

Station **8**

Station **9**

Station **10**

Start your family trail from the Singapore History Gallery at level 1.



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The Singapore Stone

Singapore History Gallery | Singapura Zone

Get your children to imagine themselves on board a European ship, sailing in between the two large sandstone boulders at the mouth of the Singapore River. These sandstone boulders were blown up by the British in 1843. The Singapore Stone is the only fragment left in Singapore.



Look out for the Singapore Stone as you enter the Singapura zone.



Do you know of any stories related to the Singapore Stone? Share a story with your children.



Besides "Singapura", what was ancient Singapore also known as?

When did Sri Tri Buana come to Temasek from Bintan?



The Orang Laut

Singapore History Gallery | Singapura Zone

700 years ago, Singapore was primarily inhabited by the Orang Laut (“sea people” in Malay). According to early travellers, the Orang Laut were boat dwellers skilled in sailing and spearing fish.



Look out for the Orang Laut trap in this section of the gallery. Can you identify other fishing equipment used by the Orang Laut?



Watch the multimedia clip to get an idea of what life in Singapura was like in the mid-14th century.



The Orang Laut lived on long boats known as sampan panjang. Who are you with at the museum today? Draw them in the long boat below!



Do you think an adult can fit in a sampan panjang today?





The Early Immigrants

Singapore History Gallery | Crown Colony Zone

Singapore became a British Crown colony in 1867. Many people came from China, South Asia and the Malay Archipelago to earn a living in colonial Singapore.



Look out for different trades and occupations in this section of the gallery.



Search for these words below:
Amah Chettiar Clerk Coolie Dhoby
Hawker Syce Teacher

T	A	W	D	R	G	C	Y
S	E	Z	P	L	I	O	J
S	C	A	M	A	H	O	H
F	Y	G	C	B	H	L	A
K	N	C	J	H	M	I	W
R	K	L	E	Q	E	E	K
E	D	H	O	B	Y	R	E
L	S	E	F	T	Y	J	R
C	H	E	T	T	I	A	R

The Early Pioneers

Singapore History Gallery | Crown Colony Zone

Match the names of these early pioneers to their contributions to the development of early Singapore.



- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| Syed Omar Aljunied ● | ● He set up Singapore's first pauper hospital in 1844 at Pearl's Hill. |
| B. P. de Silva ● | ● He was possibly the first Arab trader to invest his trading profits in Singapore's real estate. |
| Tan Tock Seng ● | ● He recommended sanitary improvements to public works. |
| Tan Kah Kee ● | ● He provided funds to build the town hall in Singapore. |
| Eunos Abdullah ● | ● He advocated for better living conditions and education opportunities for the Malay community. |
| Seah Eu Chin ● | ● He founded the Anglo-Chinese Free School at Telok Ayer Street in 1885. |
| Gan Eng Seng ● | ● He contributed to the building of the temple, Wak Hai Cheng Bo, and was a founder of the first Teochew association. |
| Lim Boon Keng ● | ● He donated to schools and founded seven Chinese language schools in Singapore. |



Look out for other contributions made by these early pioneers to the local community.



What qualities did these early pioneers possess? How do you think these qualities helped them to overcome their difficulties and achieve success in life?

The War Heroine

Singapore History Gallery | Syonan-to Zone

The British surrendered Singapore to the Japanese on 15 February 1942. Singapore was placed under military occupation and renamed Syonan-To (“Light of the South” in Japanese).



Images Courtesy of the
National Museum of Singapore,
National Heritage Board



Who did this set of clothing belong to? What happened to him or her during the Japanese occupation?



As individuals, what can we do to contribute to peace and harmony in our society and in the world?

Building A Nation

Singapore History Gallery | Singapore Zone

Singapore became an independent nation in 1965. Many political leaders contributed to the development of independent Singapore. Find out more about them in this section of the gallery.



Who did this armchair belong to?



Who did these pipes belong to?



Which leaders did these objects belong to? Fill in their names.



Look out for other leaders who have contributed to the development of independent Singapore in this section of the gallery.



Which Singaporean leader do you admire the most? Share stories about him or her with your children.



Who did this barrister gown belong to?



National Symbols

Singapore History Gallery | Singapore Zone



What is the significance of Singapore's red-and-white flag?

What does the crescent moon on the Singapore flag represent?

What do the five stars on the Singapore flag represent?



Besides the Singapore flag, look out for the other national symbols.



What other symbols do you think are representative of Singapore's national identity?



Building An Economy

Singapore History Gallery | Singapore Zone

From the 1960s, Singapore underwent the process of industrialisation and achieved remarkable economic growth.

What were some products manufactured in Singapore in the 1960s? Draw them here.



Explore the multimedia stations to find out more about Singapore's economic developments.



What other local brands do you remember from the 1960s and 1970s? Share them with your children.

Building A Home

Singapore History Gallery | Singapore Zone

Many families began to own their own Housing and Development Board (HDB) flats in the 1970s.

Feeling inspired? Design your own 1970s living room or retro kitchen!

Count the number of electrical appliances you see on the kitchen cabinet.

What was the first electrical appliance you had in your house? Share the story of this electrical appliance with your children.

Sit back and enjoy the film "Changing Landscapes" to learn about the changes in Singapore's physical and social landscapes.

When did you move into a HDB flat? How did you feel? Share your thoughts and feelings with your children.



Transforming The Landscape

Singapore History Gallery | Singapore Zone



When was the clean-up of the heavily-polluted Singapore River and Kallang Basin completed?



In what year was Tree Planting Day launched?



Lie under the rain tree and learn more about the different types of flora and fauna that can be found in Singapore's urban areas.



Look out for the branch from the rain tree planted by Dr Goh Keng Swee on the first Tree Planting Day.

Do you know the tembusu tree is featured on Singapore's five dollars note? Smell the scent of the tembusu flowers. Find out why the tembusu tree was not selected for roadside planting in the 1960s.

How can we be responsible citizens and keep our environment clean and green?





Becoming A Global City

Singapore History Gallery | Singapore Zone

Since independence, Singapore has developed into a well-connected air, sea and financial hub despite its limited geographical size and lack of natural resources. At the same time, Singapore must also continue to be anchored on a strong sense of identity as a nation state.



Key in your postal code at the multimedia stations at the end of the gallery to learn about Singaporeans' memories of your neighbourhood. You can also key in the name of a country to learn interesting facts about Singapore's relationship with this country.



What other memories do you have of your neighbourhood or a country that you have visited with your family? Share these memories with each other.

The exhibition continues on Level 2, where the *Life in Singapore: The Past 100 Years* galleries are located.



Post-Trip Reflection

Reflect on Singapore's past and present. What are the differences and similarities? What do you value about Singapore's past? What do you appreciate about the present?

Which part of this family trip to the museum was the most memorable for you? Share your experience, thoughts and feelings with the family.

Get your little ones to use one word to express their thoughts and feelings about the trip, or draw their most memorable scene during the trip.

**Thank you for visiting the National Museum of Singapore!
We hope to see you again soon.**



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