

N S
National Museum
of Singapore

Activity booklet recommended
for ages 7 & up



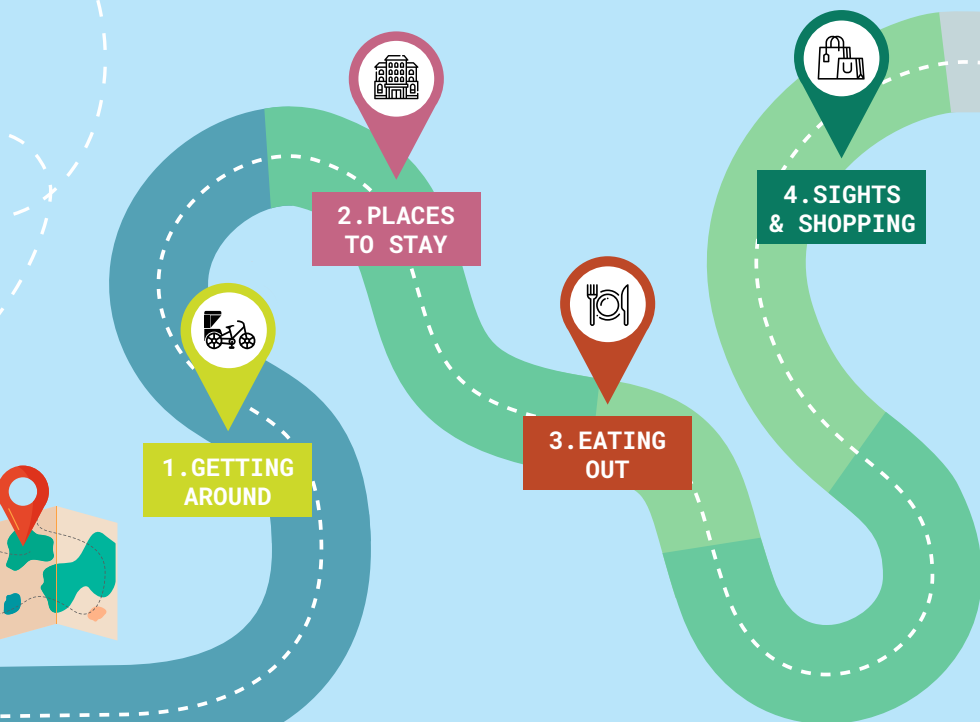
EXPLORER'S GUIDE

WELCOME PASSENGERS!



Hop on board the National Museum of Singapore's special aeroplane, Aero, and join us on an exciting journey through *Now Boarding!*

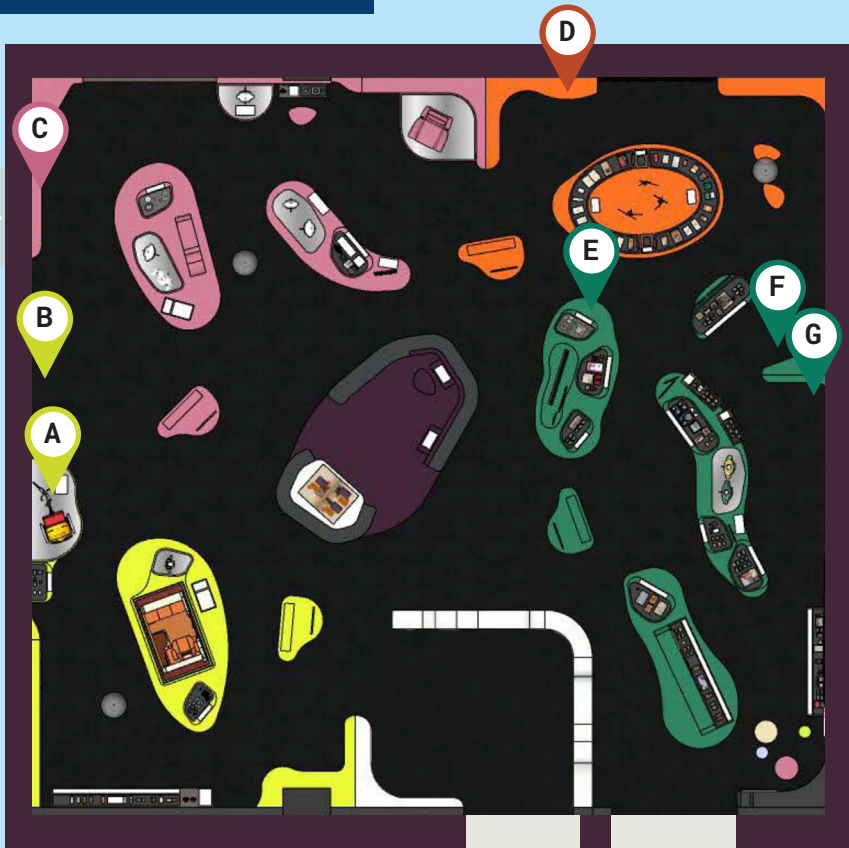
Discover the different ways in which Singapore has been presented to and perceived by travellers from the 1800s to 2000s, and look out for seven stops across four key themes:



Are you ready? Fasten your seat belts and let's prepare for takeoff!



EXHIBITION FLOORPLAN



ENTRANCE EXIT

- A** Trishaw
- B** MRT commemorative ticket
- C** Advertisement for Raffles Hotel
- D** Postcard of Newton Food Centre
- E** Merlion sculpture and luggage tag
- F** "Singapore" postcard
- G** Photograph of a taxidermised tiger on display at the Raffles Library and Museum

GETTING AROUND

STOP 1



Trishaw, 1980s. Gift of William Beardsley

There are many ways to get around Singapore today. How did people travel from one location to another in the past?

Observe this trishaw on display. What are the two parts that make up this vehicle?



*B and sidecar

Did You Know?

Trishaws first appeared in Singapore in 1914. Many early trishaw riders were rickshaw pullers who switched to riding trishaws after rickshaws were banned in 1947 due to safety concerns.



A rickshaw puller, 1920s

However, in the 1950s, the trishaw industry started declining with the increasing popularity of motorised public transport such as buses and taxis.

While trishaws are no longer a common means of travel for locals, they operate mostly in tourist areas such as Chinatown and Bugis, ferrying tourists around as a means of experiencing olden-day Singapore.



Let's Chat!

Why do you think trishaws were a popular form of transport in the past?

GETTING AROUND

STOP 2



As we fly over the island, we can see train tracks across Singapore. The Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) system runs on these tracks, ferrying people to their destinations daily.

The MRT began operations in 1987 with only five stations on the North-South line. Do you know how many lines and MRT stations we have in Singapore today?

A

5 lines with less than 130 stations

C

7 lines with more than 170 stations

B

6 lines with more than 140 stations

D

8 lines with more than 200 stations

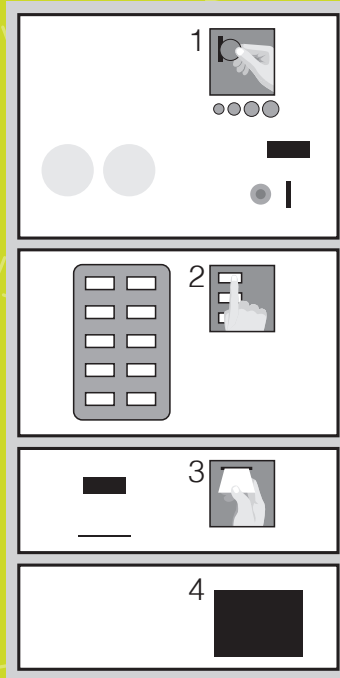
Spot this commemorative ticket. It was issued for commuters to ride the MRT on the first day of its operations on 7 November 1987!



MRT commemorative ticket, 7 November 1987

Did You Know?

Before EZ-Link cards were introduced, commuters had to either purchase single-trip tickets or stored-value magnetic farecards (\$10 each) from machines like these to pay for their trips.



Let's Chat!

Do you have a favourite station or MRT line? Why is it your favourite?



PLACES TO STAY

STOP 3



Advertisement for Raffles Hotel, 1907–1913.
Raffles Hotel Museum Collection donated by CapitaLand Limited



Have you found a place to rest after a day of exploring Singapore?
How about staying at one of Singapore's renowned hotels?

Look closely at this advertisement for the Raffles Hotel on display.
It was advertised as a hotel patronised by

_ O _ _ _ Y AND _ B _ _ _ Y

Tip: find out what these words mean!

The Raffles Hotel is Singapore's oldest hotel. Today, it is one of our National Monuments, an integral part of Singapore's built heritage, which the National Heritage Board preserves and protects.



The Raffles Hotel

Did You Know?

The Raffles Hotel was originally a bungalow owned by a wealthy Arab merchant. In 1887, four brothers from the Sarkies family leased the property and renovated it into a luxurious 10-room hotel.

The Raffles Hotel became very popular with travellers and new buildings were added to provide more rooms for accommodation. Today, the hotel remains an icon of Singapore's tourism industry and continues to welcome guests from all over the world!



Let's Chat!

Why do you think the Raffles Hotel was popular with travellers?



If you could design your own hotel, what would it look like? Flip to **page 17** to design your own hotel!

EATING OUT

STOP 4



Postcard of Newton Food Centre at Newton Circus, 1980s

After a good rest at the hotel, are you ready for some yummy local food?

Do you know when hawker centres were first built in Singapore?

(a)
1940s

(b)
1970s

(c)
1990s

(d)
2000s





Singapore is known for our hawker centres, where dishes from different cultures can be found in one location. But did you know that before hawker centres were built, hawkers would sell their food on the streets?



Photograph of street hawkers on the grounds of the former Raffles Museum (the present-day National Museum of Singapore), 1950s–1960s

Food peddling (food sold on the street) was a common sight in the 1800s to mid-1900s as it provided income for the hawkers and affordable food for people.

As the number of street hawkers increased, many hygiene issues surfaced. The shortage of clean water, poor proper storage equipment and disposal of trash were causes of food contamination.

Street hawkers were later relocated to hawker centres with better amenities in the 1970s. There are more than 110 hawker centres located across Singapore today.



Let's Chat!

How similar or different were the hawker centres then and now?

Do you have a favourite hawker food?



SIGHTS & SHOPPING

STOP 5



"Singapore" postcard, Early 1980s

There is plenty to see and explore in Singapore. Look around you and spot this postcard which shows the various attractions in the 1980s.

There is an attraction missing from this list. Can you guess what it is?
Hint: you are standing right in it!



a) Sentosa



b) Changi
Airport



c) National
Museum



d) Singapore
Zoo

Did You Know?

Formerly known as the Raffles Library and Museum, the National Museum of Singapore is the oldest museum in Singapore. The museum will be 136 years old this year! Back in 1887, the museum had a great zoological section.

Let's move on to the display of photographs in a black frame on the wall. Try to spot one with a preserved animal!



Photograph of a taxidermied tiger displayed at the Raffles Library and Museum, Early 20th century. Gift of Sam Kai Faye

In 1972, the National Museum's natural history collection was transferred to the Department of Zoology at the National University of Singapore (formerly University of Singapore). The National Museum today focuses on the history and culture of Singapore.



Let's Chat!

Which is your favourite attraction in Singapore? Why do you enjoy visiting this attraction?



SIGHTS & SHOPPING

STOP 6



Merlion sculpture, 2002

No visit to Singapore is complete without a trip to the Merlion statue at the Merlion Park (One Fullerton). Can you spot a Merlion sculpture in one of the displays?

Did You Know?

This mythical creature with the head of a lion and the body of a fish was created by the Singapore Tourist Promotion Board (STPB) as a logo from 1964 to 1997.



Why does the Merlion have a head of a lion and the body of a fish? The fish is a symbol of Singapore as a fishing village in its early years, and the lion refers to the lion sighted by a Palembang prince in the 13th century, Sang Nila Utama, leading him to rename the island Singapura (“lion city” in Sanskrit).

Did you know that the Merlion can be found overseas as well? One location is Hakodate, the third-largest city in Hokkaido, Japan. An 8.6m-tall Merlion, which is identical to Singapore's, was erected as a symbol of friendship between the two cities and to introduce Singapore to the locals in Hakodate!

Now, try to spot a luggage tag in the same display. How many blue Merlions are there on the tag?

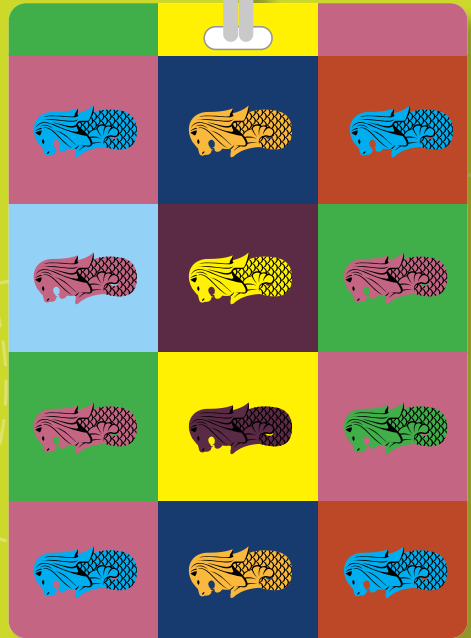
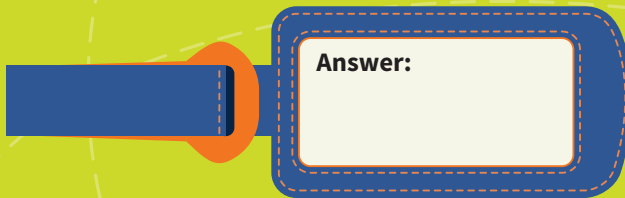


Illustration of "Your Singapore" campaign — Merlion luggage tag



Let's Chat!

If you could choose an icon to represent Singapore, what would it be and why?

PREPARE FOR LANDING

LAST STOP



Changi Airport Terminal 2 flight information display flip board, 1999.
Gift of Changi Airport Group (Singapore) Pte. Ltd.

Thank you for joining Aero on this short trip around Singapore! We hope that you've gained some insight into how Singapore was presented to and viewed by travellers in the past.

Please return to your seats and fasten your seat belts as we prepare for landing! Before you board the plane to your next destination, remember to check your flight details at the Rotunda near the museum's main entrance!

We hope that you will fly with us again next time. See you soon!





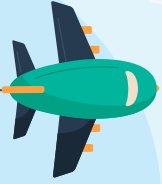
Activity Time!

If you could design your own hotel, what would it look like?

A large, blank, cream-colored rectangular area with rounded corners and a dark blue border, intended for drawing or writing a response to the question above.

ANSWERS

Travel Plan



Stop 1

Bicycle

Stop 2

b. 6 lines with more than 140 stations

Stop 3

Royalty and nobility

Stop 4

b. 1970s

Stop 5

c. National Museum

Stop 6

4



Presented by



An institution of



Supported by



All information is correct at time of print. The National Museum of Singapore reserves the right to make changes and modifications to the exhibition without prior notice. Images used are from the Collections of the National Museum of Singapore, National Heritage Board unless otherwise stated.

All rights reserved. Materials in this publication may not be reproduced in part or in whole without written consent from the Museum, the publisher.