

## **MEDIA ALERT**

*For immediate release*

### **NATIONAL MUSEUM OF SINGAPORE CONTINUES PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT EFFORTS AND LINEUP OF VIBRANT OFFERINGS AMID ONGOING RESTORATION AND UPGRADING WORKS**

*Starting off the year with a public call for objects and stories, visitors can look forward to another meaningful, fun-filled year at the National Museum as it remains open throughout this period.*



Affectionately termed the ‘people’s museum’, the National Museum is set to continue its efforts in getting people in Singapore involved in contributing their treasured stories and varied experiences. Aimed at engaging diverse communities in Singapore and in line with the National Heritage Board’s Our SG Heritage Plan 2.0, the National Museum’s latest open call seeks objects and stories based on four key areas relating to life in Singapore between the 1920s to 1990s. Selected submissions will be archived and may be displayed at the revamped permanent galleries that are slated to reopen in 2025 and 2026. The open call will run from now till 15 May 2024 and more information on the open call can be found in **Annex A**.

The public can also look forward to getting involved through the National Museum’s continued engagements with stakeholders and the public on its approach and content at various stages of the revamp. Through these engagement sessions, the Museum hopes to explore more ways to make its content and collection accessible to a 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 the past and present, showcasing both Singapore’s history as well as its contemporary events. Those who are keen to be part of the engagement sessions may register their interest at [go.gov.sg/nmsengageinterest](https://go.gov.sg/nmsengageinterest).

#### **Rejuvenating the museum’s offerings for the year ahead**

While the restoration and upgrading works are ongoing, the public may still visit the Singapore History Gallery and enjoy a lineup of special exhibitions and programmes presented in the museum’s modern extension building. The National Museum will continue to celebrate special occasions and spotlight Singapore’s heritage and stories through signature events including

the Singapore HeritageFest, Singapore Night Festival, Children's Season at the National Museum, National Day, and the Museum's anniversary. In its commitment to accessibility and inclusivity, the Quiet Mornings and drop-in activities and regular senior-friendly programmes at Reunion will also continue their usual run. Details on the National Museum's key offerings for 2024 can be found in **Annex B**.

In addition, the National Museum's revamped website will be rolled out in February, featuring new elements such as a digital gallery of online resources for families and seniors, as well as an itinerary planner to personalise visits. These enhancements aim to encourage deeper engagement with the Museum's content from anywhere one may be, and aid in visitors' planning of their visits in view of the ongoing restoration works.

### **Ensuring a smooth visitor experience**

With the commencement of the restoration and upgrading works at the National Monument building of the museum, the museum's main Rotunda entrance will be closed from 26 February. Visitors can enter via other convenient access points at the Museum Office building and the Reunion Social Space on Level 1 of the Museum. Visitors from Canning Walk at Fort Canning Park can continue to enter the museum via its Coach Bay on Level 2 and at Level 3. All entrances, except for the one at Level 3, are wheelchair accessible. Details on the new entrance, pick-up and drop-off points are available in **Annex C**.

### **Updates to dining and retail offerings**

Visitors looking to recharge over light refreshments and meals during their visit can dine at Café Brera at Reunion, which will remain open throughout the year. Meanwhile, Supermama the Museum Store @ NMS, the Museum's retail outlet, and the Food for Thought café will close in end-March 2024, in preparation for the building restoration works. The Museum will continue to work closely with its tenants, and further changes to retail and dining operations will be announced on the National Museum's website when details are available.

The National Museum of Singapore will remain open and accessible to visitors and will continue to present exciting offerings to the public throughout the restoration and upgrading period. We warmly welcome all to visit the Museum and participate in our exciting lineup for the year ahead. More information on the restoration and revamp will be shared as the project progresses. Do visit our [website](#) and social platforms for the latest updates.

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**For media enquiries:** Please contact [nmsteam@tateanzur.com](mailto:nmsteam@tateanzur.com).

### **About the National Museum of Singapore**

With a history dating back to 1887, the National Museum of Singapore is the nation's oldest museum with a progressive mind. Its galleries adopt multi-perspective ways of presenting history and culture featuring important artefacts that tell the stories of Singapore and the world to redefine the conventional museum experience. The museum is home to thought-provoking exhibitions and hosts exciting events all year round including the Singapore Night Festival. For more details, please visit [www.nationalmuseum.sg](http://www.nationalmuseum.sg).



**Open Call: Life in Singapore, 1920s – 1990s**

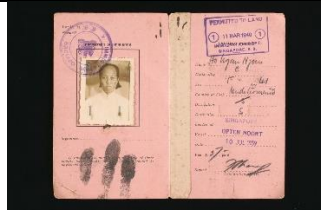
Please visit [www.go.gov.sg/lis-opencall](http://www.go.gov.sg/lis-opencall) to submit your stories and photos of the items for this open call. The open call will run from now till 15 May 2024. Only submissions sent through the online form will be assessed.

The themes for the open call are:

1. Women’s lives and opportunities in the 1920s and 1930s
2. Daily life during the Japanese Occupation from 1942 to 1945
3. Childhood experiences of the 1950s and 1960s
4. Singaporeans’ consumption of leisure, entertainment, and graphic design from the late 1960s to the early 1990s

The following are some examples of types of objects that the museum is seeking:

Theme	Example of items
<p><b>Women’s lives and opportunities in the 1920s and 1930s</b></p>	<p><b>Items that represent women’s experiences in areas such as work, education, leisure and self-expression from the 1920s and 1930s.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Women’s work: tools of the trade of female clerks, barbers, teachers, nurses and other professions</li> </ul>  <p>Hairdressing tools belonging to a female barber c.1940s–1960s Gift of Mdm Lee W.F. in memory of Mdm Aw F.L.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Women’s travel in the 1920s to 1930s: Women’s travel accounts and experiences – winter wear, souvenirs, passport, suitcases, memorabilia</li> </ul>  <p>Passport and diary belonging to Mrs Elise Vinter documenting her time on the S.S. <i>Franconia</i> c.1930s Raffles Hotel Museum Collection donated by CapitaLand Limited</p>



Landing permit  
c.1939  
Gift of Mr Chong Kim Hua

- Women's education in the 1920s to 1930s: Women's school clothing or uniforms, stationary, textbooks, report cards, diaries



(From Left)

CHIJ examination certificate  
11 October 1931

Wooden school desk used in Singapore Chinese Girls' School (SCGS)  
1940s  
Gift of Ms Julie Kwong

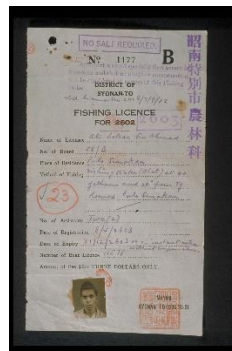
**Daily life during the Japanese Occupation from 1942 to 1945**

- Photographs of family members taken during the Japanese Occupation period. Examples include studio portraits, wedding photos, etc. Of particular attention are those belonging to ethnic minority communities.



Japanese administration officials with local staff on the steps of City Hall, 1942-1945

- Documents with photos of individuals attached, for example, in application for permits, licenses, etc.



Fishing *kelong* license issued to Ali Bakar bin Ahmad with photo, with seal of Mayor of Syonan Tokubetu-si 1943

- 3-D artefacts such as household or personal items used during the occupation (for e.g. kuih molds etc., excluding pieces of furniture).



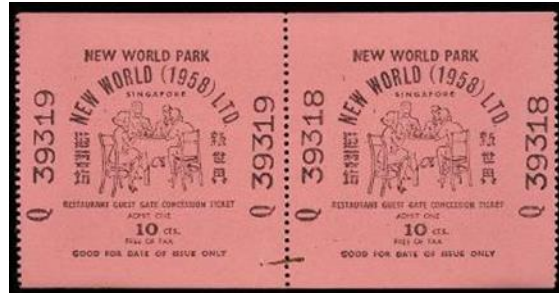
Syonan licenced radio owner badge 1942-1945

- Magazines for their illustrations, photos of street scenes etc. during this period (publications similar to the *Syonan Gaho* magazines).

**Childhood experiences of the 1950s and 1960s**

**Items from everyday experiences such as school and the home, and from leisure destinations like the amusement worlds, as well as personal items like handmade toys and clothes from the 1950s and 1960s.**

- Objects and photographs from the Great World, Happy World and New World amusement parks from the 1950s–60s



New World Park restaurant guest concession tickets  
c.1958

- Home-made or hand-made toys from the 1950s–60s such as kites, *gasing* (spinning tops) and wooden toys.



Slingshot made from a twig  
c.1950s  
Gift of Wong Yoke Ching

- Home-sewn or home-altered children's and teens' clothing from the 1950s–60s



Child's jumper embroidered by the donor's mother for her daughter  
1960s  
Gift of Ms Angeline Lee Seow Luan

- Textbooks and other school items from the 1950s–60s, especially from vernacular or vocational schools



Tun Seri Lenang Secondary School report book  
1963

Gift of Mr Nooramam Bin Tukisan

- Photographs of children from the 1950s–60s, especially at and around their home



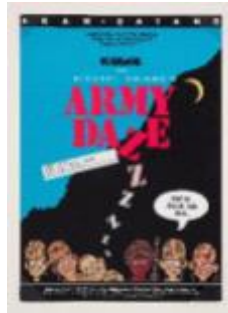
Photograph of a family at their house  
1960s–70s

Gift of Lum Koon Nam

**Singaporeans' consumption of leisure, entertainment, and graphic design from the late 1960s to the early 1990s**

**Items related to the various forms of leisure (shopping, sight-seeing etc) and popular entertainment (music, TV, film and theatre) that Singaporeans enjoyed from the late 1960s to early 1990s, as well as items related to graphic design in Singapore from the same period.**

- Radio and television programming in Singapore from the late 1960s to early 1990s: TV magazines, photos
- English, Chinese, Malay and Tamil theatre in Singapore from the late 1960s to early 1990s: Programme booklets, flyers, posters, scripts and/or even props from productions



*Army Daze* poster  
1987

Gift of TheatreWorks (Singapore)

- Singapore music scene during in the 1970s and 1980s: vinyl records, CDs, cassette tapes, musical instruments, performance outfits, accessories and photographs featuring performing artistes active during the period.



Costume inspired by Elvis Presley worn by Wilson David  
circa January 1978

Gift of Mr Wilson David

- Leisure destinations, attractions as well as performance and sporting venues dating from the late 1960s to early 1990s: souvenirs and other memorabilia featuring local sights, entertainment spots, shopping centres etc.





Postcard of the Big Splash aquatic centre  
c.1980s



Postcard featuring Ah Meng and a visitor at the Singapore  
Zoological Gardens  
1980s

- Singapore graphic design and graphic designers active in Singapore from the late 1960s to early 1990s: institutions teaching and promoting design, works created by local graphic designers.



Baharuddin Vocational Institute 1971 Yearbook  
1971  
Gift of Nancy Wee Hong Mui

## 2024 calendar of key offerings by National Museum of Singapore

While the restoration and upgrading works are ongoing, visitors can still look forward to the Singapore History Gallery as well as a lineup of special exhibitions and programmes presented in the museum's modern extension building.

From January 2024, visitors will be treated to a weekend of meaningful programmes to celebrate the opening of a new international exhibition, *Plastic: Remaking Our World*, which is making its Asian debut. In February, the National Museum will be abuzz as it ushers in the Lunar New Year with its popular annual lion dance performance, as well as an exciting weekend of programmes in conjunction with the closing of its ongoing special exhibition, *Now Boarding: Experiencing Singapore through Travel, 1800s – 2000s*.

The National Museum will continue to celebrate special occasions and spotlight Singapore's heritage and stories, through signature events including the Singapore HeritageFest, Singapore Night Festival, a three-week National Day light-up culminating in the National Day celebrations on 9 August, and the Museum's anniversary in October! Youth and adults can also enjoy mindful moments at the museum through its regular programmes such as HistoriaSG and A Lighter Side of History, Mindfulness at the Museum, and exciting workshops.

Amid the restoration works, the National Museum will also be leveraging on the construction hoardings to launch an immersive pop-up experience titled *Play:Date – Unlocking Cabinets of Play* in mid-2024, inviting visitors to rediscover their inner child and reopen those long-forgotten cabinets to discover toys that will ignite nostalgia, unlock happy memories and bridge generations through play.

As part of its ongoing commitment to accessibility and inclusivity, the National Museum will continue its Quiet Mornings and drop-in activities for visitors who appreciate exploring the museum and its collection in a more calming and conducive environment. Senior-friendly programmes at Reunion, the dedicated social space for seniors which opened in April 2023, will also continue throughout the year.

The National Museum will end 2024 on a bittersweet note, as it bids farewell to the ever-popular immersive installation, *Story of the Forest* in the Glass Rotunda, which will be ending its run. Visitors can look forward to saying their goodbyes to the beloved flora and fauna of the 'forest' through a lineup of exciting offerings in the latter half of the year, leading up to the closure of the installation.

As the year draws to a close, visitors can continue to explore the themes of sustainability and the environment around us, in a special exhibition that explores the Amazon through the lens of the renowned photographer, Sebastião Salgado.

The table below summarises the National Museum's key offerings for 2024:

2024 key events at the National Museum	Dates
<i>Plastic: Remaking Our World and Opening Weekend</i>	27 January to 23 June 2024  <i>This is a ticketed exhibition. \$5 per admission for Singaporean citizens and PR.</i>  Opening Weekend: 27 January 2024
Lunar New Year Lion Dance Performance	18 February 2024
Closing Weekend of <i>Now Boarding: Experiencing Singapore through Travel, 1800s – 2000s</i>	24 February 2024
Family Fun	9 to 16 March 2024
Singapore HeritageFest	May 2024
Children's Season at the National Museum	June 2024
Hoarding Pop-Up Experience – <i>Play:Date – Unlocking Cabinets of Play</i>	Opening mid-2024
National Day Light-up and Celebrations	Mid-July to August 2024
Singapore Night Festival	August 2024
National Museum's Anniversary Celebrations	October 2024
<i>Amazônia: An Exhibition of Photographs by Sebastião Salgado</i>	Opening November 2024

## Details on alternative entrances to the National Museum of Singapore and carpark closure

The museum's main Rotunda entrance will be closed from Monday, 26 February 2024 for the commencement of restoration and upgrading works at its monument building. Visitors can enter via the convenient access points listed below. All entrances, except for the one at Level 3, are wheelchair accessible. Visitors can approach our visitor services staff or visit our website for the latest information.

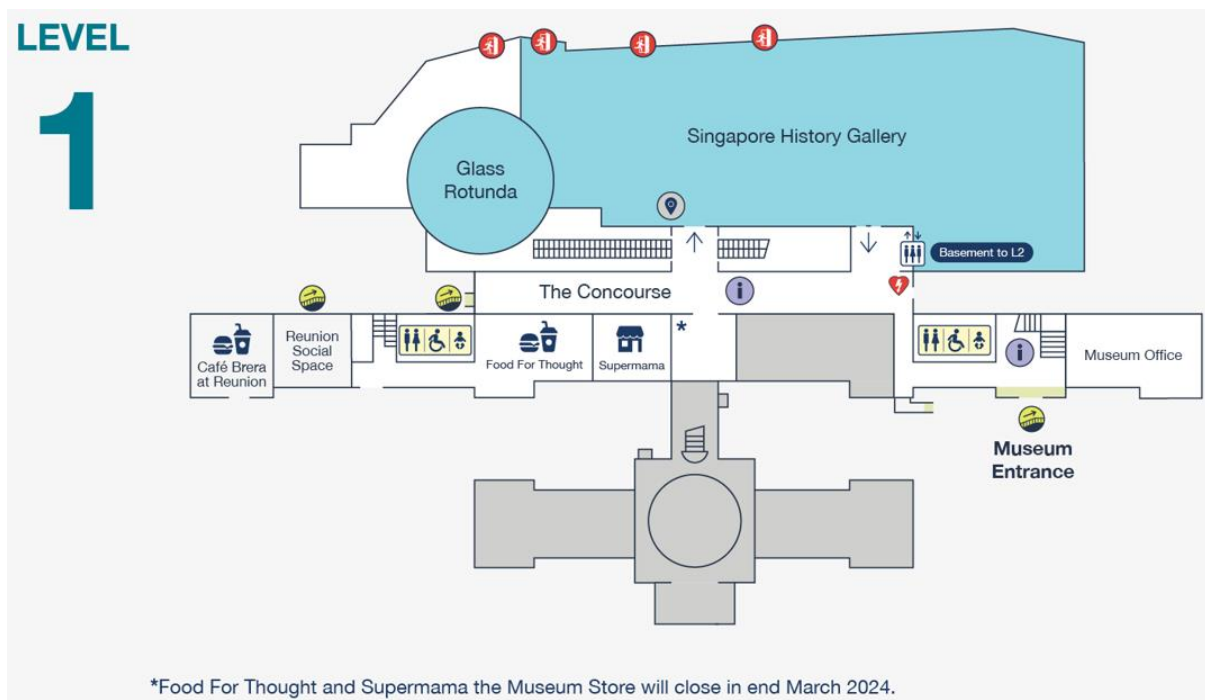
### Museum Opening hours: 10am – 7pm / 9am – 7pm (on Quiet Mornings)

#### Permanent Exhibition\*

Learn more about stories in Singapore in these galleries.

*\*All galleries are high sensory areas, with more people, multimedia, loud sounds and/or dim lighting.*

- |  |  |   |   |  |
|--|--|---|---|--|
|  Visitor Services/Ticketing Kiosk |  AED                |  Cafe    |  Gift Shop                 |  Restrooms          |
|  Guided Tour Meeting Point        |  Emergency Exit     |  Lift    |  Quiet Room                |  Baby Changing Room |
|  Access-friendly Points          |  PWD Holding Point |  Locker |  Rest Spots/Quiet Corners |  |



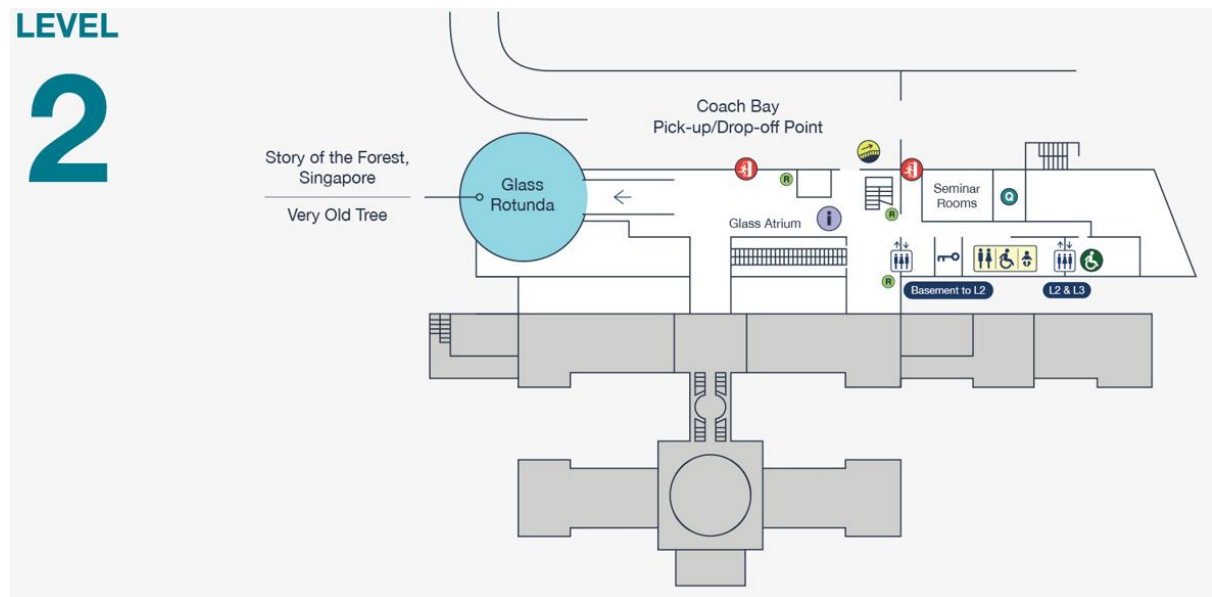
### Level 1 | Museum Office Building

Main alternative entrance

This entrance leads directly to the ticketing kiosks.

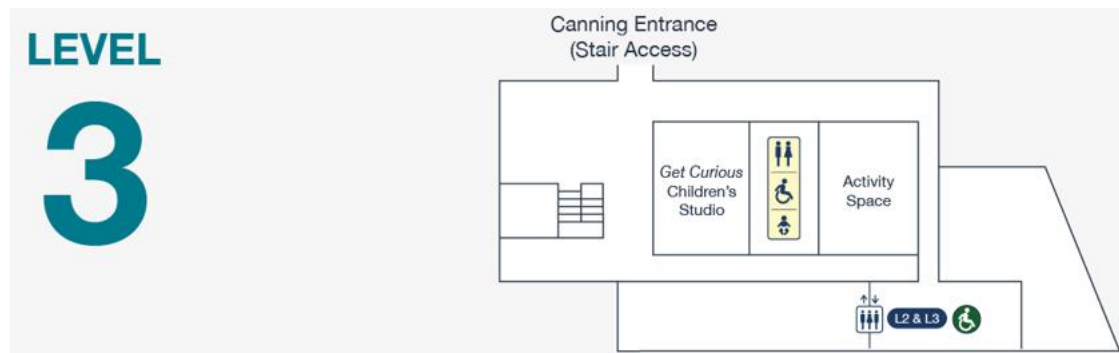
## Level 1 | Reunion Social Space

Alternative entrance for visitors heading to Reunion Social Space and Café Brera at Reunion.



## Level 2 | Coach Bay

Designated pick-up and drop-off point for all pick-ups including private hire cars. All vehicle pick-ups and drop-offs, including private hire cars, will be directed to the Level 2 Coach Bay to ease visitor and vehicular congestion at the Museum Office building.



## Level 3

Alternative entrance that serves visitors entering the National Museum from Canning Walk at Fort Canning Park and the public carpark at Fort Canning.

## **Closure of public carpark at National Museum**

The National Museum's front car park will be **closed to public** to facilitate the restoration and upgrading works. Visitors can still drive in and drop off passengers at the Museum Office building but will need to park their vehicles at Fort Canning Park or other carparks in the vicinity.