

Launched in 2015 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Singapore's independence, the Jubilee Walk marks key milestones of our nation-building and is a lasting physical legacy of our Golden Jubilee celebrations. It is a collaborative effort across various agencies, including Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth, National Heritage Board, National Parks Board and Urban Redevelopment Authority.

In celebration of



JUBILEE WALK



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INTRODUCTION

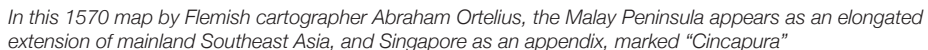
The story of Singapore and her people has always been one of resilience amid change. From the early pioneers who came to make a living, to later generations who overcame the war and struggled to build a modern, sovereign nation, Singapore's success over the past 50 years owes much to the indomitable spirit, fortitude and resourcefulness of her people.



National Day Parade, 2015

This national resilience continues to be a hallmark of independent Singapore. It has allowed the nation to weather periods of crisis, defend and strengthen herself on all fronts, and for her people to work together to transform the island into a global hub for commerce and culture. Today, this same Singapore spirit is driving a new phase of development as the nation strives to create a liveable and sustainable city; a home like no other with ample room to grow and opportunities for different communities to flourish and build a better future together.

This collective resilience, which defines Singapore's journey from 14th century trading hub, to colonial port to independent nation and global city, is the theme of the Jubilee Walk. Created in 2015 to mark Singapore's Golden Jubilee, the Jubilee Walk is a specially curated trail of iconic locations that recall Singapore's historic beginnings, her path towards nationhood, and show the way forward to Singapore's present and future as a global city.



The Jubilee Walk celebrates how far we have arrived after 50 years of independence and looks back in time to situate the island's current progress within a maritime legacy spanning over 700 years. At Fort Canning Park, one can find traces of the 14th century Malay kingdom of Temasek, which have been preserved within the lush hill park. Written records of Temasek from that time are scarce, but artefacts of Chinese, Indian and regional origins, discovered on the hill and in recent archaeological digs at Empress Place, offer evidence of Singapore's long and distinctive history as a strategically located harbour and point of confluence for many civilisations and cultures.

EARLY SINGAPORE

Like modern Singapore, Temasek was a cosmopolitan emporium for trade and commerce. However, by the 15th century, the ancient rulers of Temasek had fled the island. Many questions about this period remain unanswered as no one knows exactly why they left, but Singapore continued to serve as a port until the mid-17th century.

Though records of the settlement grow thin after the 1600s, research into this period is still ongoing. It is clear nevertheless, from the history of this time, that Singapore's location between trading routes has long lent this island some regional importance – enough for it to be fought over by ancient civilisations and later, colonial powers.

It is hardly surprising then, that Singapore's strategic potential as an entrepôt between East and West was recognised by Sir Stamford Raffles, who established a British trading post on the island in 1819.



14th century Javanese-style gold amulet and earrings discovered at Fort Canning Park in 1928 by labourers excavating for a reservoir



This 1851 painting by John Turnbull Thomson, the first government surveyor in Singapore, depicts the Padang (open square or field) as a centre of social life and shows Singapore as a multicultural society

FORGING COMMUNITIES AMID CHANGE

The free port became a magnet for people from diverse civilisations in Asia and beyond, who came to Singapore to work, trade and forge new commercial and cultural ties.

As they lived and worked alongside each other around the Singapore River, these migrants established the multicultural society that remains a cornerstone of Singapore's culture and sense of identity to this day. Our nation's diverse and thriving communities are rooted in the pioneering efforts by these early migrants who set up gathering places for purposes of education, worship and self-help for their contemporaries.

The Jubilee Walk pays tribute to such initiatives by our early communities. Many recognised the long-term importance of education in nurturing the next generation, and opened schools for this purpose. One example is the Hokkien Association, which founded Tao Nan School at Armenian Street. Established in 1906 with the support of 110 Hokkien merchants led by Tan Boo Liat, the great grandson of Chinese leader and philanthropist Tan Tock Seng, Tao Nan was notable as the first Chinese school in Singapore to implement an inclusive policy by accepting students from different dialect groups. Similarly, the nearby Anglo-Chinese School was set up with support from Chinese families who valued bilingual education for their children.



Tao Nan School students at their rented home on North Bridge Road, early 1900s

Smaller but no less influential communities have also made their mark in Singapore. One of the sites along the Jubilee Walk is the Armenian Church at Hill Street, built by the Armenian community who arrived here to trade in the early 1800s. Though a small community of fewer than 100 families, the Armenians have left an indelible legacy. Raffles Hotel and the old Seaview Hotel at Tanjong Katong, as well as *The Straits Times*, Singapore's leading English daily, were established by Armenians, while Singapore's National Flower, the Vanda Miss Joaquim, was first grown by Agnes Joaquim, an Armenian horticulturalist.

Along Hill Street also stands Masjid-al-Burhani, which has served as a mosque for the small Dawoodi Bohra community from Gujarat, India, since the late 19th century. The community began as traders, while over time a high proportion of members have taken up work as professionals and contribute to the welfare of the less fortunate in society.



Thaipusam procession at Sri Thendayuthapani Temple, also known as Chettiar's Temple, 1964

On the other side of Fort Canning Park stand the Teochew Building and Sri Thendayuthapani Temple, both ground up efforts for the collective benefit of the community. The Teochew Building was inaugurated in 1963 and is the headquarters of the Ngee Ann Kongsi and Teochew Poit Ip Huay Kuan, which were established to serve the cultural, educational and charitable needs of the Teochew community. The Sri Thendayuthapani Temple was established by South Indian Chettiars in 1859 and is the destination of the annual Thaipusam street procession.

JOURNEY TOWARDS NATIONHOOD



Civilians participating in a victory parade celebrating the Japanese surrender, 12 September 1945

While various communities flourished in Singapore following the establishment of a free port here, the Second World War was the catalyst that brought people together with the goal of forging a common and positive future for themselves and the country. Combatants and civilians alike suffered greatly during the Japanese Occupation of Singapore from 1942 to 1945. Our collective memory of the war is today preserved in the many memorials found all over Singapore which honour such individual and collective resolve. Some of these are located at or near Esplanade Park, such as the Cenotaph and the Civilian War Memorial. Esplanade Park also houses tributes to individuals who sacrificed their lives for the nation during times of war and armed struggles during the early post-war years such as the Lim Bo Seng Memorial and the Struggle Against the Communist Party of Malaya (CPM) Marker.

A section of the Jubilee Walk takes us through the Empress Place area, where we relive major milestones of our nation's journey.

Public meetings for the Rendel Commission, which paved the way for limited self-rule in 1955 led by Chief Minister David Marshall, took place at the Victoria Memorial Hall from 1953 to 1954.

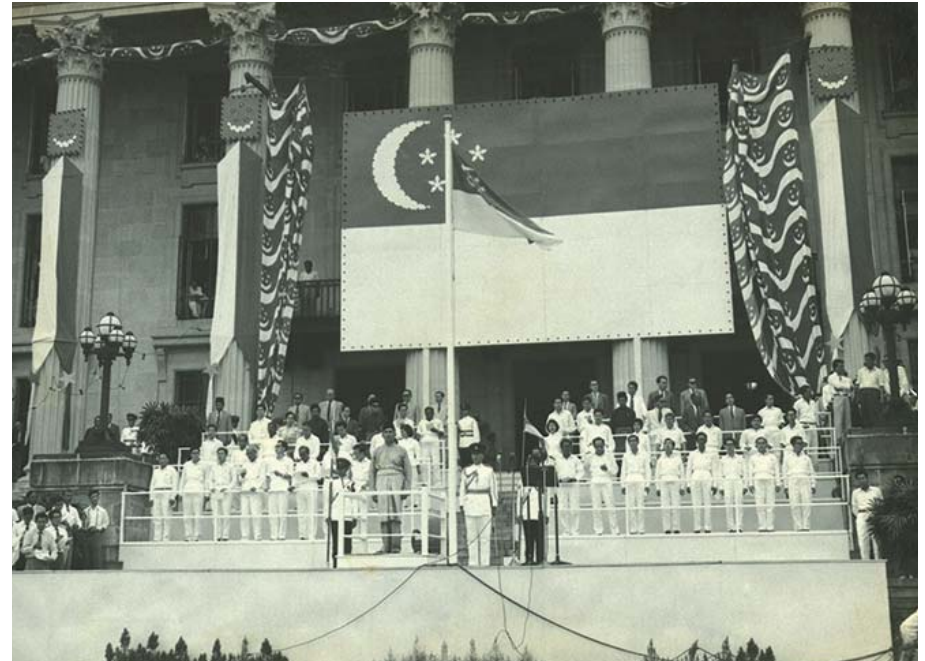


The Rendel Commission meets at Victoria Memorial Hall (now Victoria Concert Hall), 1953

Aspirations for self-governance were expressed through speeches such as the influential one in which David Marshall called for a “Malayan Merdeka” (Malayan freedom or independence), as well as demonstrations held on the grounds of the Empress Place building, today’s Asian Civilisations Museum.

This groundswell of patriotism also inspired local composer Zubir Said when he composed *Majulah Singapura* for the reopening of the Victoria Memorial Hall and Victoria Theatre in 1958. The stirring song was later adapted as the National Anthem when Singapore achieved internal self-rule in 1959.

On 3 June 1959, Singapore became a self-governing state. On that day, newly-elected Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew stood on City Hall’s steps to address a crowd who gathered to celebrate Singapore’s attainment of internal self-rule. Many were excited, some apprehensive and unsure – would any real change truly happen? The atmosphere, however, was one of hope.



Yang di-Pertuan Negara Yusof bin Ishak during the unfurling of the new State flag at the launch of National Loyalty Week on City Hall’s steps, 1959



View of parade participants at the Padang on the morning of the Installation of Yang di-Pertuan Negara Yusof bin Ishak, 1959

The elements of a nation-state soon fell into place with the installation of Yusof bin Ishak as Singapore's first head of state and the unveiling of our three national symbols: the National Flag, National Anthem and National Coat of Arms. Our nation's history took a dramatic turn when we contemplated merger with the Federation of Malaysia. The Strangers' Gallery at the former Parliament House was filled with public spectators as they followed the long and fiery debates on the proposed political union. After a referendum in its favour, merger became a reality on 16 September 1963. However, it was short-lived, and on 9 August 1965, the Proclamation of Singapore was issued, declaring that "Singapore shall be forever a sovereign democratic and independent nation".

SINGAPORE TODAY AND TOMORROW

Independence came to us unexpectedly, but it was an opportunity to take ownership of our future. As an independent country, Singapore had few resources other than her people, who had to seek creative and viable solutions to its various socio-economic challenges.

On the residential front, housing estates with high-rise flats were established outside the central city area to rehome the residents of crowded urban slums. Schools in the city centre such as Tao Nan School and Anglo-Chinese School followed in their wake, to better serve their pupils as families shifted to the suburbs. The schools' historic former premises later assumed new roles as museums and archival facilities.

Severe land constraints threatened Singapore's growth as the city-state sought to transform itself into an international financial centre. A vital solution was the reclaiming of new land from the sea. In the 1970s and 1980s, land reclamation beyond the mouth of the Singapore River and Telok Ayer Basin formed what is today the vast Marina Bay area. Apart from reinforcing Singapore's economic resilience, this massive exercise also contributed to cultural resilience by allowing the city to expand seawards whilst preserving the built history of its civic district.

Even though Singapore benefitted from its importance to the regional trading route, we also recognised how vulnerable we would be if we depended purely on that factor for survival. Instead, we sought, for instance, to expand into other industries such as manufacturing, oil refining, and finance. In time, the Singapore River lost its traditional importance for trade, setting the scene for the next stage in its development, namely a massive clean-up of the polluted waterway. When completed in 1987, the river was transformed into a clean and pleasant destination lined by historic buildings that have since been repurposed as museums, eateries, hotels and arts facilities. Keeping pace with the nation's development, the Singapore River continues to symbolise the heartbeat of the nation through its various ebbs and flows.

The technological advances that allowed the undertaking of this complex project led founding Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew to comment that further advances could make a freshwater reservoir at the Marina Bay area viable. This came to fruition in 2008 in the form of the Marina Barrage, which is also able to assist in flood control if required.

The challenge of obtaining sustainable freshwater supplies has plagued Singapore since the 19th century, when merchant and philanthropist Tan Kim Seng contributed thousands of dollars for the building of Singapore's first municipal reservoir and waterworks. The creation of the Marina Barrage has greatly boosted Singapore's freshwater capacity, adding to our infrastructural resilience.



Aerial view of Marina Bay area in 1986



Aerial view of Marina Bay area in 2015



SG50 celebrations at the Marina Barrage, 2015

Today, the Marina Bay area has blossomed into a chain of cultural attractions such as the Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay, The Fullerton Waterboat House, Merlion Park and Gardens by the Bay, all of which visitors can savour via seamless walking links such as the Jubilee Bridge and Helix Bridge. Gardens by the Bay, a “people’s garden” built on valuable reclaimed land, encapsulates Singapore’s goal of becoming a City in a Garden, which evolved from the longstanding aim of making Singapore a Garden City.

Surrounded by all these transformations, some constants remain. The National Museum at Stamford Road was originally built as a museum, and remains today as a showcase for the national story through the nation’s historic treasures. It has, in the Jubilee Year, unveiled revamped galleries that tell the Singapore Story from fresh perspectives and in captivating ways.

Additionally, the green expanse of the Padang in the heart of the Lion City holds special historic resonance for Singaporeans as the site for independent Singapore’s very first National Day Parade in 1966. And it was here that the nation gathered once more on 9 August 2015 to celebrate 50 years of independence with a spectacular SG50 National Day Parade.



National Day Parade at the Padang, 2015



JOIN US ON THE JUBILEE WALK

Looking at Singapore today, no one can deny how far we have come and how much we have achieved in these five decades.

The Jubilee Walk commemorates this journey by reflecting on our past and celebrating Singapore’s present achievements amidst a unique cityscape that looks towards the future. Singapore’s globalism and progressiveness beckon from the gardens and bridges of the reclaimed waterfront, but the Jubilee Walk also remembers and honours those whose resilience and spirit have allowed Singapore to survive and prosper, creating a nation to be proud of despite the constant changes and challenges.

Let us go on the Jubilee Walk together today to rediscover the milestones that have shaped Singapore’s journey as a nation, reconnect with shared memories that define us as a people, and recommit ourselves to the future of Singapore with renewed confidence and resolve.





NATIONAL MUSEUM OF SINGAPORE

93 Stamford Road

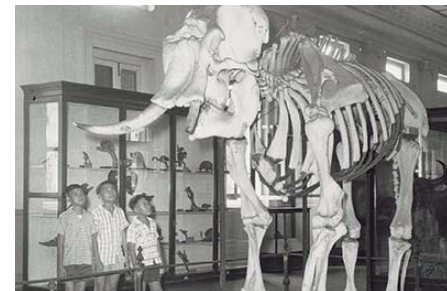


This building is Singapore's first purpose-built museum, opened in 1887 as the Raffles Library and Museum. The idea of a museum in Singapore was mooted by the British in 1823 as a centre for learning. Over the years, the museum acquired a diverse collection related to the history, natural history, ethnology, archaeology and art of Singapore and its surrounding regions.

The museum was renamed the National Museum a year after Singapore attained self-government in 1959 to reflect its role in charting the collective memories of the nation and presenting the story of Singapore. It became part of the National Heritage Board in 1993. In 2015, in commemoration of Singapore's Golden Jubilee, the museum unveiled a new gallery that highlights Singapore's post-independence achievements and milestones.



The earliest known photograph of the Raffles Library and Museum (now National Museum of Singapore), 1890



Raffles Library and Museum interior, c. 1950s



Hawkers on the National Museum's grounds, 1960s



Visitors at the Singapore History Gallery at the National Museum of Singapore, 2015



National Museum of Singapore during Night Festival, 2015

The National Museum of Singapore is open daily from 10am to 7pm (last admission at 6.30pm).



FORT CANNING PARK

Bounded by Hill Street, Canning Rise,
Clemenceau Avenue and River Valley Road



Once known as Bukit Larangan (Malay for “Forbidden Hill”), this hill was the seat of Temasek, a 14th century Malay kingdom also known as Singapura. Keramat Iskandar Shah, a tomb on the eastern slope, is believed to be the final resting place of Temasek’s last king.

Ancient brick ruins, Chinese porcelain and coins as well as locally made pottery were later discovered on the hill. In 1928, workers uncovered gold ornaments dating to the Javanese Majapahit period of the 14th century.

Other archaeological discoveries from the hill include 14th century artefacts such as Yuan dynasty stoneware, Indian glass bangles and ceramics from around the region. These treasures, confirming Singapore’s status as a thriving regional trading hub during the 14th century, are now held at the National Museum of Singapore.

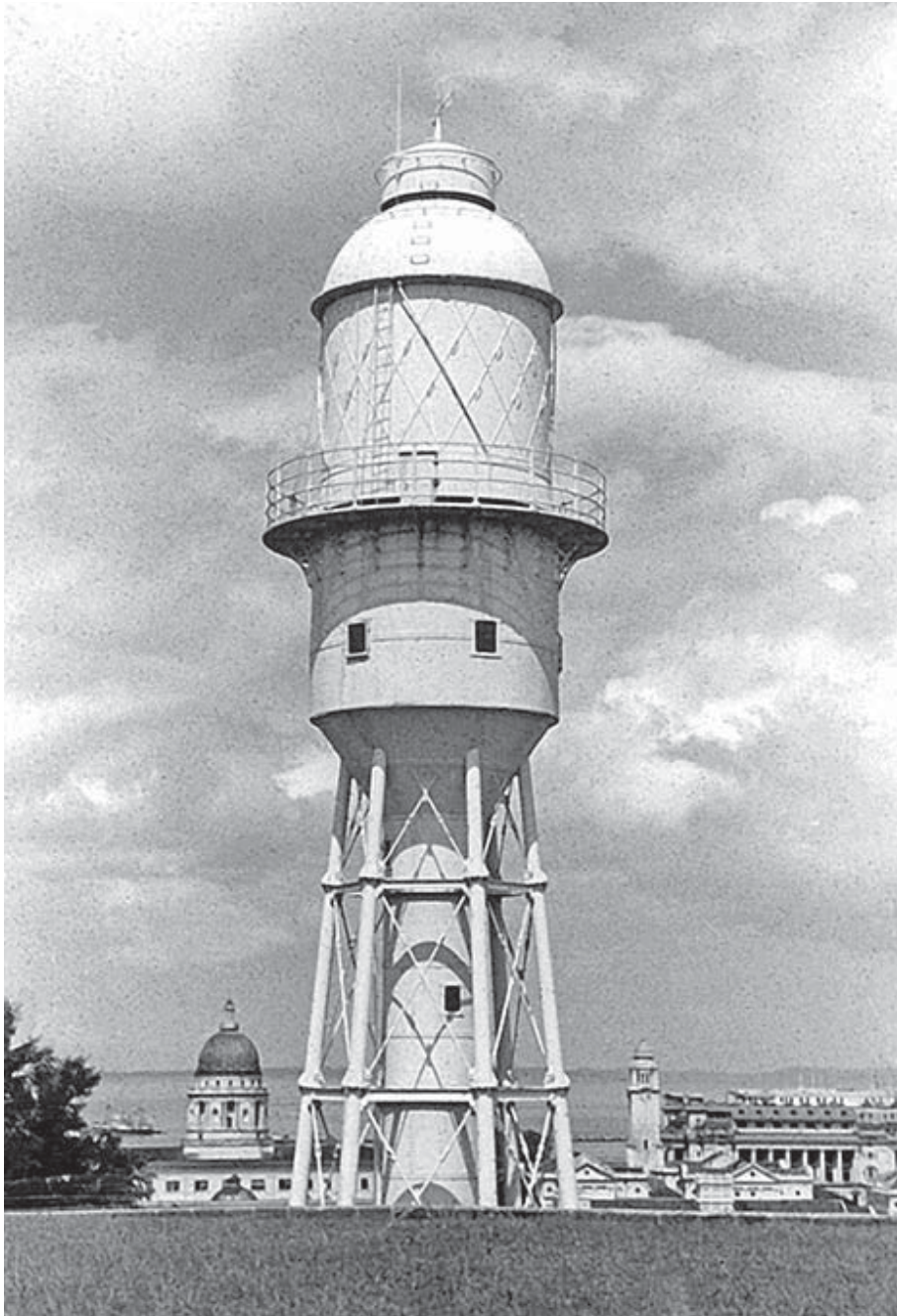
In the early 19th century, this site became known as Government Hill as it was where the British raised the Union Jack when they arrived in 1819 and also where British governors resided.



Visitors watching a film depicting Singapore’s pre-colonial history at the Singapore History Gallery at the National Museum of Singapore, 2015



View of Singapore from Government Hill (now Fort Canning Park), 1846



Fort Canning lighthouse, located on top of Fort Canning Hill, was one of the 13 important lighthouses in the Straits of Malacca. Together with a flagstaff and a time ball, it played an essential role during the early maritime history of Singapore, c. 1950s



Boat Quay from Government Hill (now Fort Canning Park), 1860s

The hill's summit once housed a flagstaff that guided ships to Singapore's harbour. To guard the growing port, a fort was built on the hill in 1859. The fort was later replaced by a complex of buildings and underground bunkers which served as the nerve centre for British military operations in the Far East during the Second World War.

After the war, the military buildings and other structures were progressively converted into recreational facilities. On 1 November 1981, the hill was renamed Fort Canning Park with the planting of a jelutong tree on its slopes by then Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew.

Within sight of the western slope of Fort Canning Park is the Sri Thendayuthapani Temple, which was established by South Indian Chettiers in 1859 and is the destination of the annual Thaipusam street procession.

Nearby stands the Teochew Building. Inaugurated in 1963, the building is the headquarters of the Ngee Ann Kongsi and Teochew Poit Ip Huay Kuan, which were established to serve the cultural, educational and charitable needs of the Teochew community.



The hill was renamed Fort Canning Park and opened on 1 November 1981 by Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew



Explore an original excavation site featuring 14th century artefacts. These artefacts suggest that this location was used by palace craftsmen manufacturing glass and gold items.

The Fort Canning Archaeological Dig and Exhibition Area is open daily to the public.



PERANAKAN MUSEUM

39 Armenian Street



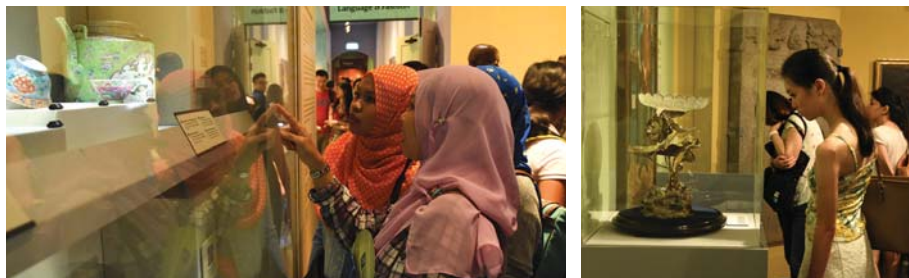


Tao Nan School (now the Peranakan Museum), c. 1970

Between 1912 and 1982, this building housed the Tao Nan School. Although it was originally established to educate the children of the Hokkien community, the school began admitting students from all Chinese dialect groups from 1909. It was the first local Chinese school to teach in Mandarin rather than dialect in 1916. It began teaching English from as early as 1914.

In 1957, Tao Nan, along with many other Chinese schools, became a government-aided school and part of a unified national education system. Later, as families shifted out of the city centre and school enrolment dwindled, the school moved to Marine Parade in 1982.

This building was part of the Asian Civilisations Museum from 1997 to 2005. It was refurbished in 2005 as the Peranakan Museum, which opened to the public in 2008.



Visitors at the "Great Peranakans" exhibition at the Peranakan Museum during the Singapore Night Festival, 2015

The Peranakan Museum is open daily from 10am to 7pm; Fridays from 10am to 9pm.



SINGAPORE PHILATELIC MUSEUM AND NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF SINGAPORE

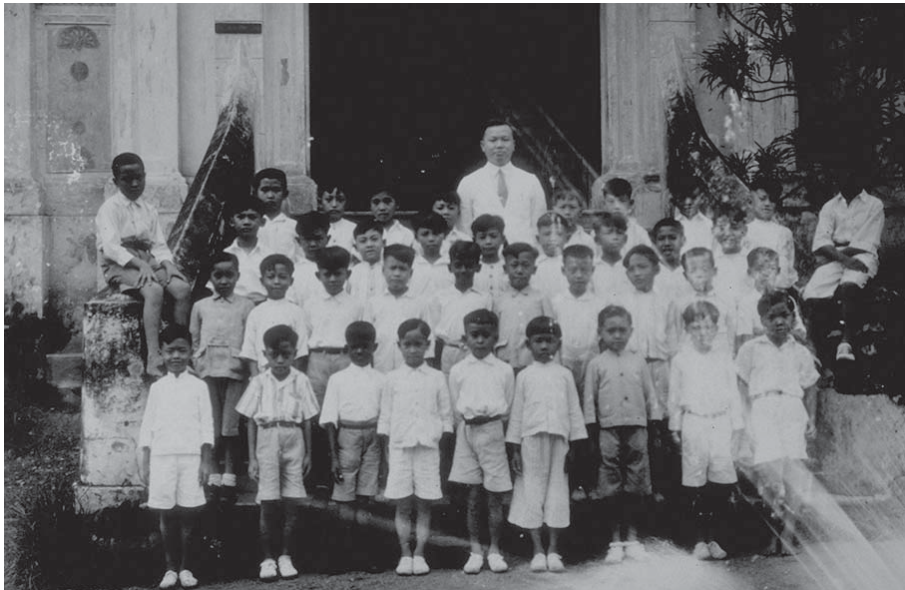
23B Coleman Street
(Singapore Philatelic Museum);
1 Canning Rise
(National Archives of Singapore)





*Anglo-Chinese School at Coleman Street, 1910s
The building on the left houses Singapore Philatelic Museum today. The buildings on the right were redeveloped in the 1950s. The National Archives of Singapore is now located on this site.*

This site was once home to the first Methodist Church in Malaya, built in 1886, and the first Methodist-run school in Singapore, named the Anglo-Chinese School because it offered instruction in English in the morning and Chinese in the afternoon.



Teacher Mr Lim Beng Quan and Anglo-Chinese School boys at Coleman Street, 1940s



Visitors interacting with the displays at the Singapore Philatelic Museum, 2014

In 1908, the church moved to Fort Canning Road, where it built the current Wesley Methodist Church. The school continued to expand at Coleman Street. A new double-storey building was built to accommodate more classrooms. This extension later housed the Methodist Book Room which supplied literature to churches and schools in Malaya. It was converted into the Singapore Philatelic Museum in 1995.

The original church and school buildings on the rest of the site were redeveloped in the 1950s. This redevelopment became the home of the National Archives of Singapore in 1997. Located on the ground floor of the National Archives of Singapore building is the Archives Reading Room, the primary physical space where researchers and members of the public seek access to archival records. The Room holds reference copies of records in microfilm and digital formats which include Straits Settlements Records, private records, maps, building plans, cemetery, marriage and school records and records from overseas archives.

The Singapore Philatelic Museum is open on Mondays 1pm to 7pm;
Tuesdays to Sundays 9.30am to 7pm (last admission at 6.30pm).

The Archives Reading Room is open on Mondays to Fridays from 9am to 5.30pm;
Saturdays from 9am to 12noon (closed on Public Holidays and Sundays).



ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH OF ST GREGORY THE ILLUMINATOR

60 Hill Street



Built in 1835, the Armenian Church recalls the influence of the Armenian community, who came to Singapore to trade in the early 19th century. As they brought over their families and called Singapore home, they made plans for a church of their own.

The church grounds house a parsonage building built in 1905, as well as the tombstones of notable Armenians, such as Agnes Joaquim who, in 1893, cultivated the Vanda Miss Joaquim orchid which was named as Singapore's National Flower in 1981.



Carols being sung at the Armenian Church, 1969



Christmas service at the Armenian Church, 1981

In the church's neighbourhood are two other landmarks built by migrant communities who set down roots in Singapore: the Masjid-al-Burhani, established in the late 19th century by a group of Muslim traders from northwest India known as the Dawoodi Bohras, and the headquarters of the Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, which was founded in 1906.



Vanda Miss Joaquim stamp from the series of Fishes, Orchids & Birds Definitives, 1962

The Armenian Church is open daily from 9am to 6pm.



CENTRAL FIRE STATION

62 Hill Street

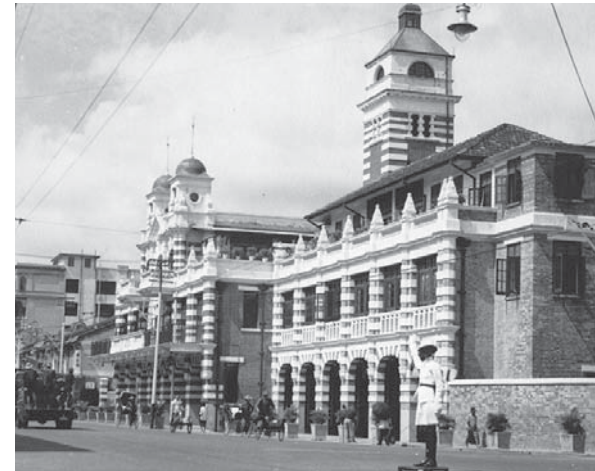


The construction of the Central Fire Station, which opened in 1909, marked the modernisation of the Singapore Fire Brigade between 1905 and 1912 under Superintendent Captain Montague Pett.

The station's striking "Blood and Bandage" façade of red bricks and white plaster was covered in camouflage paint during the Second World War to hide the building from Japanese bombers. However, it still sustained several direct hits.

Located centrally within the city, the station has played a key role in battling some of the major fires that plagued post-war Singapore, including the 1972 fire that destroyed Robinson's Department Store at Raffles Place.

Today, Singapore's oldest surviving fire station continues to serve the nation as part of the Singapore Civil Defence Force.



Central Fire Station, late 1940s



Interior of Central Fire Station, 1930s



The Civil Defence Heritage Gallery traces fire-fighting and civil defence developments in Singapore from the late 1800s until modern day, and is intended as a twin vehicle for showcasing the Singapore Civil Defence Force's proud and long history, as well as heightening public awareness of civil defence.

The Civil Defence Heritage Gallery is open on Tuesdays to Sundays from 10am to 5pm.



OLD HILL STREET POLICE STATION

140 Hill Street



Hill Street Police Station and Barracks, c. 1934

after which it housed various public agencies including the Official Trustees, Public Receiver, Board of Film Censors and National Archives until 1997.

The complex was renovated and reborn in 2000 as “the building with the colourful windows”. It then housed the Ministry of Communications and Information, and from 2012, also the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth. The inner courtyard, which is now a covered atrium, was once a parade square.

The Hill Street Police Station and Barracks was erected in 1934. The largest government building then, it also had on-site living quarters for 280 staff.

During the Second World War, the building was used as an interrogation centre by the Japanese. Thereafter, it continued to serve as a home to the police force until 1980,

after which it housed various public agencies including the Official Trustees, Public Receiver, Board of Film Censors and National Archives until 1997.

The complex was renovated and reborn in 2000 as “the building with the colourful windows”. It then housed the Ministry of Communications and Information, and from 2012, also the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth. The inner courtyard, which is now a covered atrium, was once a parade square.



THE SINGAPORE RIVER

Accessible from Boat Quay

The Singapore River is the birthplace of modern Singapore.

A statue of Sir Stamford Raffles marks the site where he landed in 1819. Raffles foresaw Singapore's potential as a strategic trading post between the East and the West, and declared Singapore a free port.

The river quickly became the island's lifeline, as commerce flourished along the wharves and immigrant communities settled close to the banks. Singapore's first land reclamation project took place here in the 1820s, when the river's swampy south bank was converted into what are now Boat Quay and Raffles Place.

By the 1970s, the city's booming trade and urban population had turned the river into a veritable cesspool. Then Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew called for a clean-up of the river, which took over ten years to complete and paved the way for its transformation into the vibrant and scenic place it is today.



Boat Quay at Singapore River, after the Fort Canning Lighthouse (background) was built, 1903



Singapore River, 1978



ASIAN CIVILISATIONS MUSEUM

1 Empress Place



Completed in 1867, this building originally served as a courthouse, but was subsequently used by the Colonial Secretariat and Legislative Council and known as the Government Offices. The adjacent square was named Empress Place in 1907 in honour of Britain's Queen Victoria, who also held the title Empress of India.

Empress Place was the setting for early calls for self-governance, notably a rousing 1956 speech by Singapore's first Chief Minister David Marshall, in which he called for a "Malayan Merdeka".



An aerial view of the Empress Place area, late 19th century

Singaporeans flocked to the building to register as voters for the Legislative Assembly elections of 1959 when Singapore embarked on the era of self-rule, and as citizens of the Republic of Singapore after full independence in 1965.

The building was converted into the Empress Place Museum in 1989 and became home to the Asian Civilisations Museum in 2003.



David Marshall delivering his "Malayan Merdeka" speech at Empress Place, 21 March 1956



Visitors at The Mary and Philbert Chin Gallery at the Asian Civilisations Museum, 2014



Visitors at the opening of the "China Mania!" exhibition at the Asian Civilisations Museum, 2014

The Asian Civilisations Museum is open daily from 10am to 7pm; Fridays from 10am to 9pm.



Completed in 1862, Singapore's oldest performing arts facility began as the settlement's Town Hall. In the early 20th century, a Memorial Hall was built and linked to the Town Hall via a clock tower. Renamed Victoria Theatre and Memorial Hall, the complex later served as a hospital for air-raid victims during the Second World War.



The Town Hall (now Victoria Theatre & Victoria Concert Hall), 1860s

These halls witnessed key milestones in Singapore's journey towards nationhood, including the counting of ballot papers for Singapore's first elections in 1948; public meetings of the Rendel Commission from 1953 to 1954 that paved the way for internal self-rule; and the first performance of *Majulah Singapura*, written by Zubir Said in 1958 in the era of rising nationalism. This song was adapted as Singapore's National Anthem in 1959 upon the attainment of self-governance.



A performance at Victoria Concert Hall, 2014

The building underwent several renovations over the years and reopened as the Victoria Theatre & Victoria Concert Hall in July 2014. Today it is also the home of the Singapore Symphony Orchestra.

A Monument to Our History is Victoria Theatre & Victoria Concert Hall's heritage gallery. It celebrates the architectural highlights, stories and memories of these buildings as well as its milestones as an iconic performance venue for local and international acts in Singapore. The gallery pays tribute to the veritable institution with a showcase of its rich legacy and heritage through a collection of memorabilia depicting its history and collective stories from the community.



A Monument to Our History is open daily, from 10am to 9pm.



Unveiling of the Lim Bo Seng Memorial, 1954

ESPLANADE PARK

Accessible from Connaught Drive



A scenic spot for social gatherings and evening strolls since the 19th century, Esplanade Park also houses significant memorials to the nation's early struggles.

The Tan Kim Seng Fountain commemorates Tan's donation towards building Singapore's first public waterworks. The Cenotaph honours those who fell in combat during the two World Wars. The Lim Bo Seng Memorial is dedicated to one of Singapore's heroes during the Second World War, while the Civilian War Memorial a stone's throw away remembers the civilians who perished during the Japanese Occupation from 1942 to 1945. The Indian National Army marker is one of 11 historic site markers that commemorate the 50th anniversary of the end of the Second World War.



Connaught Drive at Esplanade Park, 1926



Tan Kim Seng Fountain, 2015



The Cenotaph, 2015

The Struggle Against the Communist Party of Malaya (CPM) Marker is dedicated to all who resolutely rejected communism and supported the democratic path to independence and nationhood.



Indian National Army marker, 2015



The Struggle Against the Communist Party of Malaya (CPM) Marker at Esplanade Park, 2015



SG50 National Day Parade at the Padang, 2015

THE PADANG

Accessible from St Andrew's Road



This green expanse, which once directly fronted the sea before land reclamation formed Esplanade Park, has been the site of many momentous events in Singapore's history.

The Padang (Malay for "field") was where the people of Singapore gathered to mark the end of the Japanese Occupation on 12 September 1945, and to witness the installation of Yusof bin Ishak as Singapore's first Yang di-Pertuan Negara (Head of State) and the unveiling of the State Flag, State Crest and National Anthem on 3 December 1959.



First National Day Parade at the Padang, 1966

The Padang was also the site of the first National Day Parade of newly independent Singapore on 9 August 1966, and the heart of Singapore's Golden Jubilee National Day Celebrations on 9 August 2015.

Home to the Singapore Cricket Club and Singapore Recreation Club since the 19th century, the Padang remains a popular social and recreational space.



NATIONAL GALLERY SINGAPORE

1 St Andrew's Road



The National Gallery Singapore occupies two historic buildings: the former City Hall and Supreme Court.

City Hall, which was completed in 1929, was where Japanese forces officially surrendered to the Allied Forces in 1945. The Supreme Court, which opened in 1939, was where war crime trials were held in 1946.

From the steps of City Hall, founding Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew addressed the nation at a mass rally on 3 June 1959 to celebrate the attainment of self-government, and read the Malaysia Proclamation on 16 September 1963 to declare merger with Malaysia.

Singapore's first Cabinet was sworn in at the City Hall Chamber in 1959. When Singapore separated from Malaysia to become a fully independent country on 9 August 1965, Prime Minister Lee issued the Proclamation of Singapore from his office in City Hall.

Today, the two buildings have entered a new era as the National Gallery Singapore, a visual arts institution showcasing the art of Singapore, Southeast Asia and the world.



City Hall during the first National Day Parade, 1966



National Gallery Singapore during the National Day Celebrations, 2015

The National Gallery Singapore is open on Mondays to Thursdays from 10am to 7pm; Fridays to Sundays from 10am to 11pm.



THE ARTS HOUSE AT THE OLD PARLIAMENT

1 Old Parliament Lane



Completed in 1827 as the only merchant's home on the administrative northern bank of the Singapore River, this is the oldest surviving public building in Singapore.

It served as the seat of the Legislative Assembly from 1955 to 1963 and was representative of the life and struggles of the people of Singapore on the road towards independence. Crowds filled up the Strangers' Gallery during moments like the 1962 debates on the proposed merger with Malaysia, which continued into the wee hours of the morning. From 1963 to 1965, Singapore was only a state assembly. After independence on 9 August 1965, the building was renamed Parliament House, and the House made great strides in consolidating, defending and developing the young nation.

Today, this complex is a venue for multidisciplinary arts programmes and festivals, especially the literary arts.



Yang di-Pertuan Negara Yusof bin Ishak addressing the House during the Opening of the First Singapore Parliament (now The Arts House at The Old Parliament), 8 December 1965



Celebrations during the 10th Anniversary of The Arts House at The Old Parliament, 2014

The Arts House at The Old Parliament is open daily from 10am to 10pm.



PARLIAMENT HOUSE

1 Parliament Place



This stately and dignified building has housed the Singapore Parliament since 1999. Parliament moved here as it needed a larger chamber and better facilities and educational programmes to reach out to the public.

Parliament House stands for the system of parliamentary democracy as a key institution in Singapore.

Singapore's parliamentary system has undergone refinements to meet the nation's unique challenges. Some of these initiatives include the Presidential Council for Minority Rights to prevent discriminatory legislation, the Group Representation Constituencies that ensure representation of minority groups in Parliament, Nominated Members of Parliament to represent non-partisan views in Parliament, and the Elected Presidency to help safeguard Singapore's financial reserves.



President S. R. Nathan presiding the Opening of the Second Session of the Ninth Parliament, which was the first sitting held in this building, 4 October 1999



ParlConnect is an exciting Parliament Visitor Centre for walk-in visitors who wish to find out more about the Singapore Parliament. It provides a public access point for visitors to learn about the various aspects of the Parliament, such as its functions, historical developments, MPs and so on. ParlConnect engages visitors through its interactive features and multimedia displays.

ParlConnect is open on Mondays to Fridays, from 9am to 5pm.



FULLERTON BUILDING

1 Fullerton Square



The Fullerton Building by the Singapore River, 1950



The General Post Office (now The Fullerton Hotel), 1963

Completed in 1928, this waterfront building looms large in Singaporeans' memories as the former General Post Office. It also once housed the Chamber of Commerce, the Singapore Club and various government offices.

From 1958 to 1978, a lighthouse beacon on the building's rooftop guided vessels approaching the harbour. The plaza in front of the building, Fullerton Square, was a popular spot for political rallies from the 1950s until the early 1980s.

In the late 1990s, the building was renovated and adapted as The Fullerton Hotel. Opened in 2001, it commands a spectacular vista of the Civic District as well as Marina Bay, an extension of the Central Business District built on land reclaimed from the sea.



The Fullerton Hotel during the 2015 National Day Celebrations



The Fullerton Heritage Gallery showcases the rich heritage and history of the precinct. The 800-square foot gallery features displays that include photographs, maps, stamps and philatelic materials that date back to 1932. Some of the highlights include two red pillar post boxes, which found their way to the streets of Singapore in 1873 during the British Colonial rule, and the return of the Foundation Stone laid by Yusof bin Ishak, the first President of Singapore.

The Fullerton Heritage Gallery is open daily from 9am to 10pm.



THE FULLERTON WATERBOAT HOUSE

3 Fullerton Road

This area by the mouth of the Singapore River offered a commanding view of the straits and was the site of the office of the Master Attendant, the harbour's most senior official, in the late 19th century.

Built in 1949, The Fullerton Waterboat House once housed the offices of Hammer & Company, then a key supplier of fresh water to visiting ships in the Singapore harbour. The building was later taken over by the Port of Singapore Authority, served as its office and continued the provision of the vital port service until 1990.

The building was conserved in 2002 as part of the Urban Redevelopment Authority's efforts to retain Singapore's historic waterfront at Collyer Quay. Its ship-like Art Deco features now stand as a striking reminder of Singapore's maritime legacy.



The Waterboat House, 1952



The Fullerton Waterboat House, 2011



MERLION PARK

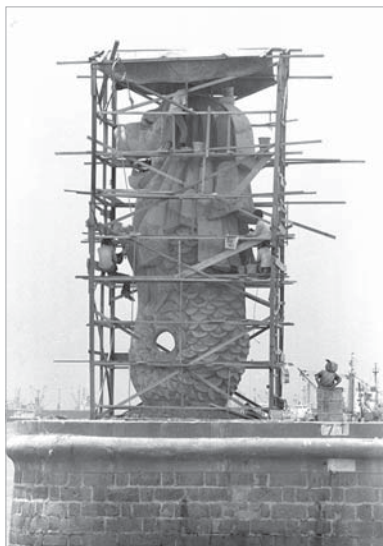
Accessible from Esplanade Drive



The Merlion, with its lion head, symbolises Singapore as a “Lion City” so named by Sang Nila Utama, a Sumatran prince, who according to legend, spotted a lion upon landing on this island at the turn of the 14th century. The Merlion’s fish-like body is a reference to the other ancient name of Singapore, “Temasek”, which means “Sea Town” in Javanese.

This 8.6-metre tall, 70-tonne statue, which blends Singapore’s ancient past with its maritime progress, was designed by artist and educator Kwan Sai Kheong and carved by craftsman Lim Nang Seng.

The Merlion was originally sited at the mouth of the Singapore River in 1972. In 2002, after the construction of the Esplanade Bridge, the Merlion was moved to its current position at the Merlion Park to retain the unobstructed waterfront views of the statue.



Installation of the Merlion at the mouth of the Singapore River, 1972



JUBILEE BRIDGE

Accessible from Merlion Park and Esplanade Drive



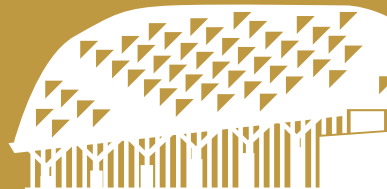
Opened by Singapore’s third Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong as part of Singapore’s Golden Jubilee Celebrations, this bridge was a suggestion by Singapore’s founding Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew to provide a friendly, barrier-free connection between the Merlion Park and the waterfront promenade in front of the Esplanade.

The 220-metre bridge offers a panoramic vista of the historic Civic District to the east and of the Central Business District and Marina Bay to the west. Marina Bay is the result of the foresight of Singapore’s planners, who had initiated land reclamation at Marina South and Marina Centre in 1971 to create a substantial land bank for the future growth of the city centre. The reclaimed land formed an inland bay that provided a new focal point for the city and a stage for national celebrations.



ESPLANADE – THEATRES ON THE BAY

1 Esplanade Drive



The completion of Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay in 2002 was the fruition of the idea for a performing arts centre, first mooted in the 1970s, to nurture a creative and culturally vibrant society.

Located on the site of a popular hawker centre called the Satay Club, the Esplanade provoked much debate, particularly for its spiky roof domes which were designed to provide shade while allowing views of the city from the inside.

The Esplanade has since become a well-loved icon on the Marina Bay waterfront, known affectionately to Singaporeans as the “Durians”, after the local spiky fruit. Built for the people of Singapore as a cornerstone of the performing arts ecosystem, it serves as Singapore’s premier home for the performing arts, with programmes and community festivals catering to diverse audiences.



Baybeats music festival at Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay, 2014



Passages is an exhibition space located at the Upper Concourse that is open to the public. Visit the exhibition to find out more about Esplanade’s history and its place in the development of the arts in Singapore.

Passages is open daily from 6am to 12am.



HELIX BRIDGE

Accessible from Raffles Avenue



The Helix Bridge was constructed in 2010, connecting Bayfront to Marina Centre as part of a continuous 3.5-kilometre waterfront promenade around Marina Bay. The waterfront promenade is part of an 11.7-kilometre waterfront route around Marina Reservoir, linking Gardens by the Bay, Marina Barrage and the Singapore Sports Hub.

Designed with a unique spiralling steel structure that resembles DNA, the 280-metre long Helix Bridge is a world's first. The double helix structure symbolises “life and continuity”, reflecting Singapore's aspirations for the Marina Bay area as a bustling business hub where people can live, work and play in an environment nestled among gardens and flanked by water.

With four viewing pods that cantilever out over the water, the Helix Bridge is a popular look-out spot for pedestrians to enjoy the panoramic city skyline and major celebrations around Marina Bay.



GARDENS BY THE BAY

18 Marina Gardens Drive



Comprising three waterfront gardens – Bay South, Bay East and Bay Central – Gardens by the Bay is a key component of Singapore's journey to becoming a City in a Garden. Since its opening in 2012, it has become a “people's garden” in the heart of the city.



Gardens by the Bay aerial view with the Marina Barrage in the background, 2012



Supertrees Grove at Gardens by the Bay, 2012

The award-winning Gardens welcomes visitors into diverse botanical worlds, and offers a glimpse into a sustainable future where urban development takes place in harmony with nature. The two conservatories are cooled with energy generated by horticultural waste, and the Supertrees are lit using solar power. Aquatic plants in the lakes filter and cleanse run-off before the water flows into the adjacent Marina Reservoir.

The Gardens is also the site of the SG50 Future Exhibition and SG50 time capsule, which connects Singapore's Golden Jubilee celebrations with the future.

Gardens by the Bay is open daily, with opening hours as follows:

Bay South Outdoor Gardens from 5am to 2am.

Cooled Conservatories and OCBC Skyway from 9am to 9pm
(last ticket sale at 8pm).

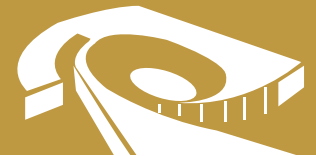
Far East Organisation Children's Garden open on Tuesdays* to Fridays from 10am to 7pm (last admission at 6.30pm); Weekends and Public Holidays from 9am to 9pm (last admission at 8.30 pm).

**Closed on Tuesday if a public holiday falls on the preceding Monday.*



MARINA BARRAGE

8 Marina Gardens Drive



The opening of Marina Barrage in 2008 was the fulfilment of a vision decades in the making. Guided by the belief that “every other policy had to bend at the knees for water survival”, then Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew led efforts to expand local rainwater catchment areas and initiated a decade-long clean-up of the Singapore and Kallang Rivers in 1977. He envisaged the possibility of damming the marina for flood control and creating a reservoir in the city which could also be a beautiful place for everyone to enjoy.

Marina Reservoir is now a freshwater reservoir with a catchment area one-sixth the size of Singapore, and a much-loved family attraction. It is a symbol of Singapore's continuing innovation to overcome our constraints and make this island a better home for all.



Families gather at the Marina Barrage to catch the Black Knights' aerial display during the Golden Jubilee Weekend, 2015



The Sustainable Singapore Gallery is an information and sensory extravaganza showcasing Singapore's efforts towards environmental sustainability. Explore six galleries, each sharing a unique aspect of Singapore's sustainable story. Uncover, through interactive and innovative multimedia, how a small country with limited resources meets the needs of a fast developing community in an environmentally-friendly manner.

The Sustainable Singapore Gallery is open on Wednesdays to Mondays from 9am to 9pm.

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