

SINGAPORE MARITIME TRAIL

Brought to you by
Maritime and Port
Authority of Singapore



OUR LEGACY

AHOY!

Do you know that Singapore was not a sleepy fishing village before the British arrived, despite popular lore? In fact, Singapore has a maritime landscape that evolved from that of a British trading post in the mid-1800s to that of a premier global hub port and international maritime centre!

Are you ready to put on your walking shoes and comfortable attire whilst we take you on a journey to discover more about Singapore's rich maritime stories through the different Singapore Maritime Trails?

The Singapore Maritime Trail 3 will bring you on a journey to uncover the past maritime trade activities influencing our rich culture and identity today.



----- Walking Route
—— Bus Route



Telok Ayer Basin

A natural sea bay standing on the original shoreline of Singapore, Telok Ayer was literally named after its geography: in Malay, “*telok*” means “bay”, and “*ayer*” means “water”. A major landing site for Singapore’s earliest immigrants, Telok Ayer was at the centre of many aspects of life back then.



What can you find along Telok Ayer street?

Besides residences and shophouses, Telok Ayer is rich with temples, mosques, shrines and churches as many grateful immigrants set up houses of worship to give thanks for a safe journey across the perilous sea.

Nagore Dargah Shrine

Nagore Dargah Shrine was built in memory of Shahul Hamid, the Saint of Nagore, South India, who was reputed to have miraculously saved sailors in distress. The building served generations as a meeting place and a house of worship for Indian Muslims.

Did you know?

Unlike most shrines, Nagore Dargah Shrine contains no bodily relic of the holy man it commemorates.



Thian Hock Keng Temple

Thian Hock Keng Temple grew out of a simple shrine set up in 1821 by the Hokkien Chinese community from southern China. Dedicated to Ma Zu, the Goddess of the Sea, the temple served both spiritual and practical needs of the immigrant community, including even funeral services.

Al-Abrar Mosque

Al-Abrar Mosque was first built in 1827 in the form of a humble thatched hut by the Chulia community of Tamil Muslims from the Coromandel Coast of South India. Today, the beautiful mosque hosts up to 800 attendees.



Find out!

Telok Ayer Street earned the nickname “Street of Harmony” in the 19th century. Can you guess why? (Hint: the name has something to do with the early settlers in the area.)



Telok Ayer Mural

The streetscape of Telok Ayer includes an extensive 40-metre mural. Can you spot rickshaw riders, bullock carts, *majies* (women who worked as domestic helpers) and *samsui* women (labourers with red headgear)? These were everyday sights in the past.



Look closely.

The artist Yip Yew Chong begins this mural with sepia tones and few details. However, as viewers move across the span of the mural, Yip's use of richer tones, colours and definition creates the effect of movement from the past to the present.

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Commercial Square

Find out!

What is Commercial Square known as today? (Hint: the place was renamed in 1858, after one of Singapore's founders. Can you guess which?)

The growth of maritime trade transformed the area into a flourishing commercial hub where prosperous Asians and Europeans lived and traded side-by-side, top-to-bottom. (Yes, the merchants lived literally just above their business offices.)

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Rochor River

Did you know?

This area was once home to a large Malay-Muslim district known as Kampong Rochor. Today, the Hajjah Fatimah Mosque is the last surviving landmark of this district.

In the past, Rochor River was an important waterway for Singapore's timber industry. This maritime transportation route gradually gave way to urban redevelopment, creating a vibrant waterway lined with pedestrian-friendly promenades.



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Old Kampong Glam Waterfront

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Kampong Glam

Malay and Muslim communities flocked to this thriving port town following the resettlement of the Sultan Hussein Shah of Johor in the 1800s. The Masjid Sultan (Sultan Mosque), *madrasahs* (Islamic religious schools), Malay schools and printing houses were set up as a result.

Find out!

Kampong Glam is also known as Kampung Gelam in Malay. How did this name come to be? (Try asking some residents for the answer.)

Kampong Dalam

AT PAHANG STREET

Historically, Pahang Street was part of an area known as Kampong Dalam or Inner Village, an area reserved for blacksmiths and masons, and for special royal events.

A thriving hub of maritime commerce, the old Kampong Glam waterfront used to occupy the stretch of land from Beach Road Garden Estate to Kallang River. The earliest settlers were the Bugis traders (*orang gelam*), seafarers from the southwestern peninsula of Celebes (now known as *Sulawesi*) and the Hadhramis, merchants from the southern part of the Arabian Peninsula.



Photo credit: Kee Kip Lin and National Library Board

What can you find around Kampong Glam?

The colourful streets and lanes of Kampong Glam are home to diverse communities. Explore the area for a glimpse of what life used to be like!

Kampong Khaji (Kaji/Haji)

AT BUSSORAH STREET

In the 19th century, Bussorah Street was mainly a residential shophouse area for the Javanese population.



Photo credit:
Wikimedia
Commons

Kampong Jempot

AT MUSCAT STREET

Two Omani arches were erected on Muscat Street in 2012 to commemorate the close relationship between Singapore and Oman. Maritime relations have indeed played a big part in bringing nations closer together.



Sultan Gate

One of the most striking landmarks here is the Masjid Sultan, with its large golden domes, minarets and balustrades.

The Sultan Gate used to lie along the road leading to Istana Kampong Glam. In the early 1900s, this area was a hub for blacksmiths and foundries specialising in ship paraphernalia such as anchors, hooks and pulleys, serving the shipyard and boat repair areas nearby.



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Find out!

The Malay Heritage Centre houses interesting exhibits exploring how maritime is important to the Malay society. The word *dagang* is closely related to this. Guess what it means!

Malay Heritage Centre

This site was once the residence of Malay royalty (including Sultan Hussein Shah). Redeveloped into the Malay Heritage Centre, the elegant building now features six permanent galleries over two floors, showcasing the Malay community's rich history and heritage.



“In a new age of globalisation, different parts of the world are connected once again by trade. [...] Diversity may be a reason for conflict, but it also can be a source of learning and creativity. In celebrating that glorious past, we can draw inspiration for the future.”

George Yeo
(ex-Minister for Foreign Affairs,
Singapore),

*Shipwrecked: Tang Treasures
and Monsoon Winds*

Bon Voyage!





Information about the Singapore Maritime Trails can be found at **www.mpa.gov.sg**.

For enquiries and group bookings*, please contact us at **mpasmt@gmail.com** or +65 6836-6466 (Mon – Fri, 9.00am – 6.00pm).

**Terms and conditions apply*

