

## **FACT SHEET**

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<b>About</b>	<p>The National Museum of Singapore is Singapore's oldest museum with the youngest and most innovative soul. Designed to be the people's museum, the National Museum of Singapore prides itself on introducing cutting-edge and varied ways of presenting history to redefine conventional museum experience.</p> <p>More than just a space for exhibitions and artefacts, the Museum buzzes with festivals and events all year round, unleashing new creative possibilities in culture and heritage. The programming is supported by a wide range of facilities and services including food &amp; beverage, retail, Resource Centre, Gallery Theatre and the Public Sculpture Garden among others.</p> <p>Unlike conventional history museums, the National Museum showcases Singapore's history from the 14<sup>th</sup> century to the present as a multitude of stories by employing state-of-the-art modes of presentation and using narrative approaches inspired by contemporary film, installation and theatre.</p> <p>On 7 December 2006, the re-developed National Museum of Singapore was officially open by HE S R Nathan, President of the Republic of Singapore and opened to the public on 8 December 2006.</p>
<b>Established</b>	1887
<b>Address</b>	93 Stamford Road, Singapore 178897
<b>Admission Fees</b>	<p>S\$10.00 Adults S\$5.00 Seniors (above 60 years old), Students &amp; NSF Both prices include admission into the Singapore Living Galleries and Singapore History Gallery Free admission to Singapore Living Galleries from 6pm – 8pm Free admission for children 6 years and under Free admission to all galleries for seniors, every Monday</p>
<b>Operating Hours</b>	<p>Singapore History Gallery, 10am – 6pm, daily Singapore Living Galleries, 10am – 8pm, daily</p>
<b>Tel</b>	+65 6332 3659 / +65 6332 5642
<b>Website</b>	www.nationalmuseum.sg
<b>Floor Area</b>	20,296 square metres
<b>Galleries</b>	<p><b>Singapore History Gallery</b> (2,800 square metres) <b>Singapore Living Galleries</b> (1,395 square metres) <b>Photography</b> - <i>Framing the Family</i> <b>Fashion</b> - <i>Shopping for Identity</i> <b>Food</b> - <i>Origins of Street Food Culture</i> <b>Film &amp; Wayang</b> - <i>Scripting a New Dream</i></p> <p><b>Changing Exhibitions Galleries</b> (1,196 square metres)</p>

## Guided Tours

### Tour of the Museum

English 2.30pm, Every second and last weekends of the month  
Mandarin 1.30pm, Every last Saturday of the month

### Singapore History Gallery Tour

English 11am & 2 pm, Monday to Friday  
11.30am, 2pm & 3.30pm, Saturday & Sunday  
Mandarin 2.30pm, Monday, Saturday & Sunday  
Japanese 10.30am, Tuesday to Friday  
1.30pm, Every first Saturday of the month

### Singapore Living Galleries Tour

Mandarin 11am & 4pm, Monday, Saturday & Sunday

Estimated Duration: 60 minutes

Limited to 15 people per tour

*Please note that all tours are subject to the availability of volunteer guides.*

## Membership

The National Museum of Singapore membership offers free admission to all its exhibitions, discounts for programmes and many more.

### Annual Membership

Individual	S\$50 per year
Dual	S\$80 per year
Family	S\$120 per year
Student & Senior Citizen	S\$20 per year

Gift memberships are also available, to find out more please call +65 6332 0121.

## Interesting Facts

### Plaster Recreations

The Queen Victoria's Coat-of-Arms, the intricate flower motifs and emblems were done by skilled artisans who specialised in Indian temple motifs, from Chennai, India. The duration taken to complete the Queen Victoria's Coat-of-Arms is a total of 1½ months.

### Spiral Staircase

The spiral staircase holds many memories and plenty of ghostly stories from its years of history. The ornate 33-step cast-iron staircase is the sole entrance to the museum's rooftop where maintenance and repair work on the roof are conducted regularly.

### Gallery Theatre

The 247-seat Gallery Theatre's raw brick interior design is inspired by its former neighbour, the National Library building at Stamford Road.

### Time Capsules

The National Museum of Singapore houses two time capsules. One of the capsules, the Millennia Time Capsule was installed as part of Singapore's centennial celebrations in 2000.

### The *Living World* sculpture

The sculpture of the "sitting figures" previously located outside the Museum building was created by renowned Taiwanese sculptor, Juming. It is now situated at the front of the Singapore Art Museum.

### The Whale Bones

Formerly suspended in the National Museum's passageway, the whale bones were officially transferred to Muzium Negara, Kuala Lumpur in 1972 by the then Ministry of Culture. It currently resides at the Labuan Maritime Museum.

### **The Banyan Tree**

The banyan tree that sits majestically next to the museum could possibly be as old as the Museum. Located in the Museum's Stamford Garden, it actually comprises two trees, *Elastica* and *Benjamina*. With such nostalgic scenery, the National Museum Cinémathèque conducts regular free open-air screening for visitors to enjoy. Under the Banyan Tree is one of the Museum popular programmes that feature popular favourite and most beloved movie classics.

### **Permanent Installations**

The Museum has commissioned five Singaporean artists to create beautiful artworks in the Museum. One of the unique installations is the largest red pepper in Singapore, *Pedas-Pedas*. Placed at the museum's Fort Canning entrance, this bronze artwork was created by Kumari Nahappan. The highly interactive installation by Matthew Ngui titled, *Remembering the Building/The Building Remembers* seamlessly integrates with the existing architectural feature to create an anamorphous work using LEDs, camera projections and technology. *Seeds* by cultural medallion recipient, Han San Por can be found in the Stamford Garden, and were carved from boulders that were found at Fort Canning site during the excavation stage where the new museum's extension building stands today.

### **Interesting Statistics**

**Total redevelopment project cost:** S\$132.6 million  
**Amount of soil excavated:** 110,000 cubic metres from Fort Canning Hill, about 14 football field's worth  
**Number of timber windows:** 420, 135 brand-new and 295 conserved  
**Amount of time taken to recreate Queen Victoria's Coat-of-Arms:** 1.5 months, with daily work by 2 artisans  
**Length of diaphragm wall:** 266 metres long  
**Number of teams consulting on the Museum project:** 18  
**Number of bricks used in the Gallery Theatre:** 16,720  
**Number of fish-scaled tiles covering the Dome:** 3,770 pieces  
**Largest Artefact:** Tan Jiak Kim Funeral Hearse (325 X 180 X 425 cm)  
**Highest Valued Artefact:** Portrait of Sir Frank Althestane Swettenham, S\$4.125 million  
**Total gross floor area:** 20,296 square metres

### **Project Team**

**Main Consultants:** CPG Consultants Pte Ltd  
**Main Contractor:** Sato Kogyo (Pte) Ltd  
**Project Manager:** PM Link Pte Ltd  
**Architecture & Interior Design Consultant:** W Architects Pte Ltd  
**Exhibition Design Consultant:** GSM Design Exhibits Inc, (Montreal, Canada)  
**Façade Engineering Consultant:** Connell Wagner Pte Ltd  
**Lighting Consultant:** Lighting Planners Associates, Japan  
**Landscape Consultant:** Studio Steed Pte Ltd  
**Building Conservation Consultant:** Architectural Restoration Consultants

## Milestones

- 1887 The Museum was initiated as a double entity – the Raffles Library and Museum, by the Governor of the Straits Settlements, Sir Frederick Weld when Singapore was part of the British Straits Settlements. It was known for its natural history collection of Southeast Asia as well as its ethnology and archaeology collections.
- 1942 – 1945 During World War Two, the Raffles Library and Museum managed to stay intact under the charge of Japanese vulcanologist Professor Hideko Tanakadate, who was on friendly terms with General Yamashita, the Commander of the conquering Japanese Army.
- 1960 The Museum separated from the library and was renamed the National Museum.
- 1993 The National Museum became part of the National Heritage Board (NHB). NHB's National Museum arm comprises three component museums - the Singapore History Museum (now known as the National Museum of Singapore), the Singapore Art Museum and the Asian Civilisations Museum as well as a subsidiary museum, the Singapore Philatelic Museum.
- 2003 The then 116-year-old National Museum at Stamford Road was closed on 28 April for the multi-million-dollar redevelopment project, which includes the construction of a new purpose-built extension to complement the refurbished National Museum building. The Museum was relocated to Riverside Point and the *Rivertales* exhibition was launched in August 2003.
- 2004 The National Museum of Singapore's Foundation Stone-Laying Ceremony was held on 25 November.
- 2005 The Topping Off Ceremony was held on 28 November to announce the structural completion of the National Museum of Singapore building and its new extension.
- 2006 The *Rivertales* exhibition at Riverside Point was closed in April. From April to November, a series of Preview Season events and exhibitions was held at the National Museum building. These included the Singapore Biennale exhibition, *The Art of Cartier* exhibition and film screenings. The National Museum of Singapore was officially opened on 7 December by President S R Nathan of the Republic of Singapore.

## Contact

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