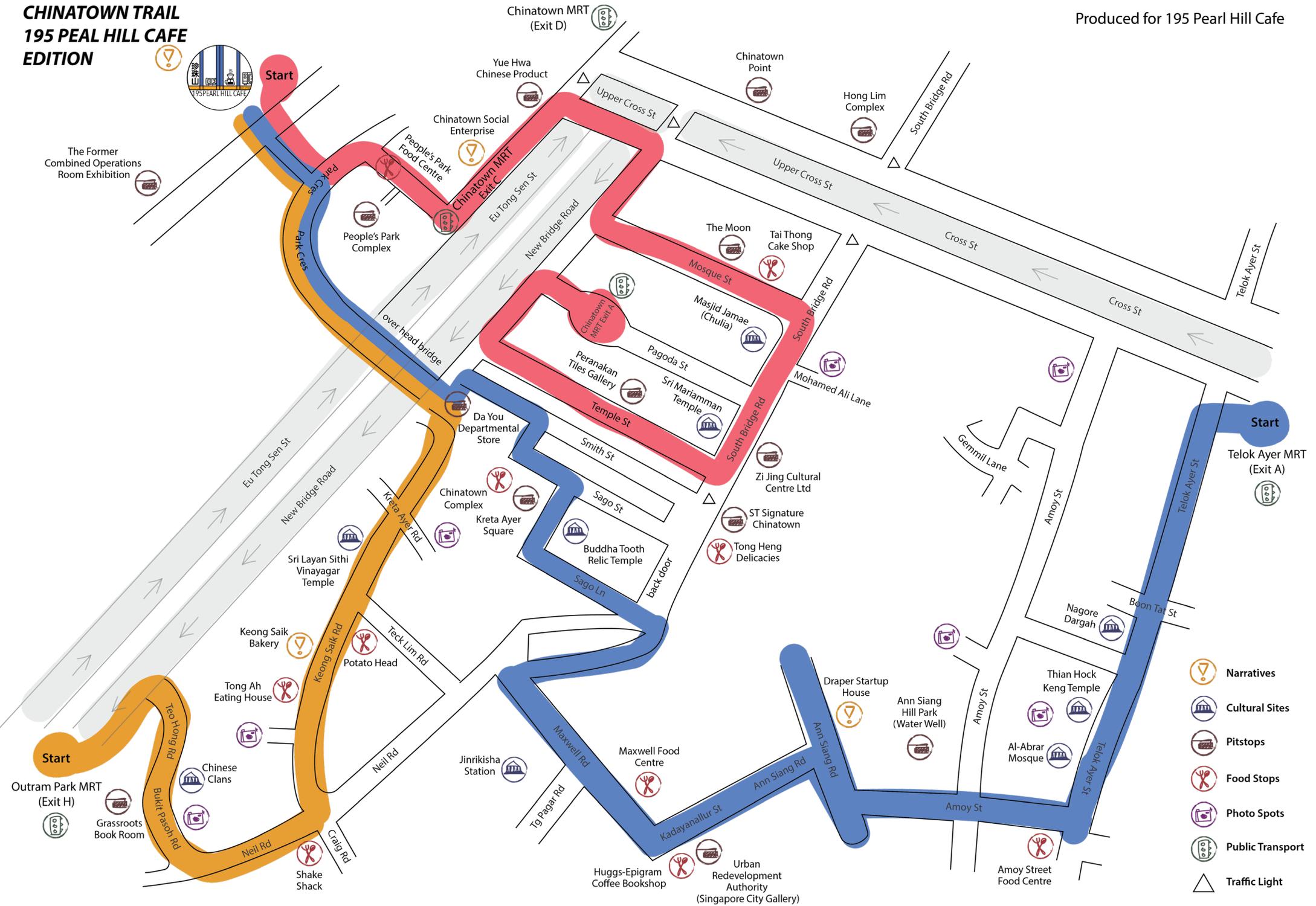


CHINATOWN TRAIL
195 PEARL HILL CAFE
EDITION

Produced for 195 Pearl Hill Cafe



1 Hour 30 Minutes Route (Recommended Timing: After Lunch Hours)

Chinatown MRT Exit A



Chinatown MRT Exit C



Chinatown MRT Exit D



People's Park Food Centre

People's Park Food Centre started as a hawker shelter in 1923 at a public park near Pearl's Hill. By 1940, it had become Singapore's largest fresh produce and fruits market. Throughout the past 80 years, People's Park Food Centre went through ups and downs- it survived the Japanese Occupation, was demolished and relocated, destroyed by a huge fire and went through upgrading renovation works before it became the People's Park Food Centre we see today. The Food Centre houses approximately 85 food stalls on the ground floor and 160 shops on levels above. These shops include boutiques, craft supplies and fabric shops, cheap toiletries shop as well as affordable hair and nail salons.



People's Park Complex

The building of People's Park Complex was completed in 1973, and it was Singapore's first multi-use building that brought shopping, residential, office and carpark facilities under one roof. The complex has 31 storeys- the first 6 storeys houses retail shops and travel agencies while the remaining 25 levels houses 264 apartments. The unique architecture of the complex has drawn numerous photographers and videographers to film at the carpark level. Unfortunately, photography was banned in the recent years due to privacy concerns.

FUN FACT: There is a Chinese supermarket hidden on 5th floor that is only accessible via stairs!



Yue Hwa Chinese Products

Yue Hwa Chinese Products is a Hong Kong department store that was established more than 60 years ago, combining both contemporary and original architecture. It features a new extension, screen walls and stained-glass skylights, complementing the building's rich historical character. Yue Hwa Chinese Products currently only has outlets in Hong Kong and Singapore, specialising in Chinese silk, food, tea, cheongsams, antiques and gifts. Located along Eu Tong Sen Street, Yue Hwa building used to be called the Nam Tin Building (南天大厦) which housed a six-storey Great Southern Hotel, which was the first Chinese hotel with a lift. It was only in 1993 where the building was bought over by a Hong Kong businessman and converted to today's Yue Hwa Building.



The Moon

The Moon is 3 in 1 bookstore, café and event space located along mosque street in Chinatown. The Moon celebrates diversity and multiculturalism, featuring works that are not your mainstream titles, with special emphasis on women authors and writers/artists of colour. The café also offers a variety of food and beverage options, promoting inclusivity with vegan, dairy and gluten free options readily available too. Each month, there will be a few events held at The Moon, appealing to audiences of different age groups with different needs. Some events may simply be a book club reading session, while other events encourage participants to practice self-care through art therapy or meditation. Oh, and did we mention that you can book a tarot reading with The Moon's residential tarot reader! If you are into the universe, astrology, tarot reading, aura and energy, The Moon is a must visit for you!



Tai Thong Cake Shop

Tai Thong Cake Shop (大同饼家) was founded in 1950 by a Cantonese pastry chef and offers a variety of freshly baked Chinese Pastries ranging from light snack options like egg tarts and almond cookies, to traditional wedding cookies/cakes. Having been around for nearly 7 decades, they are most well known for their Mid-Autumn Festival mooncakes in their signature brown paper bag with red wordings. Tai Thong Cake Shop takes pride in the quality of their pastries, hence they insist on handmaking pastries till date despite the long hours and hard work.



Masjid Jamae (Chulia)

Masjid Jamae, also known as Jamae Mosque is one of the oldest mosques in Singapore. Built between 1830 and 1835 by Tamil Muslim migrants from south India, Masjid Jamae is a mosque for the Chulia community. It is also known as Periya Palli ('Big Mosque' in Tamil) as it is larger compared to Al-Abrar Mosque, another Chulia mosque along Telok Ayer Street. Masjid Jamae can hold up to 1,500 worshippers and was designated a national monument in 1974. It is also one of the few mosques in Singapore that holds religious classes in Tamil.

FUN FACT: The adjacent Mosque Street was named after Jamae Mosque!



Sri Mariamman Temple

Sri Mariamman Temple was constructed in 1827 so that immigrants from the South India were able to worship the Goddess Mariamman. Goddess Mariamman was known for her power to cure illnesses and diseases while "Mari" means "rain" in Tamil, an important element in rural life. Aside from serving as a worship place, the temple also served various purposes within the Hindu community as such refuge for new immigrants, dispute mediation venue, and an early registry of marriages for Hindus.

Sri Mariamman Temple was gazetted as a national monument in 1973 and is the oldest Hindu temple in Singapore. The temple is also known for celebrating Theemithi (Fire walking ceremony), which is held annually in October/ November.



Zi Jing Cultural Centre

Zi Jing Cultural Centre offers a chill and quiet space for one to relax in. Although it is located along the busy South Bridge Road, Zi Jing Cultural Centre contains a mini library where visitors can enjoy reading a variety of texts in an air-conditioned environment. The selection of books ranges from various religious text, philosophical text, classical Chinese novels, and even books on traditional Chinese medicine. Though majority of the books are in Chinese language, Zi Jing Cultural Centre also offers English language book options for guests to enjoy. On the second level, there is a mini exhibition on historical drawings and artefacts related to Chinese culture, philosophy and religion. If you are looking for a rest stop while gaining some extra knowledge at the same time, Zi Jing Cultural Centre is a great place for you to visit!



ST Signature Chinatown

ST Signature Chinatown is a co-living hotel located along the ever-bustling South Bridge Road. Upon entering the hotel, there is a flight of stairs surrounded by a documentary photograph series (Singapura Seasons) that celebrates the ordinary and joy of so-called mediocrity. Unlike ordinary hotels, ST Signature Chinatown has no front desk/receptionist assisting you to check in! One can experience their self-check-in technology where nearly everything is automated during one's stay in ST Signature Chinatown. To ensure the demands of guests are met, the hotel ensures online services are available, from managing hotel bookings, making payments, and even virtual assistance, all of which can be done independently by the guests. Despite relying greatly on technology, ST Signature Chinatown still provides communal facilities and spaces to ensure the human touch is not lost and to provide a platform for guests to interact with one another.



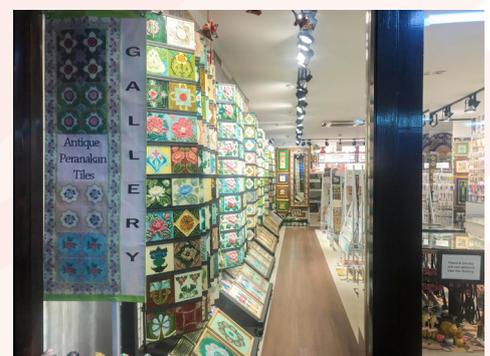
Tong Heng Delicacies

Tong Heng Delicacies is a family business that has been around for close to 90 years, spreading across 4 generations. They offer traditional Chinese pastries, shortcakes, cookies, even desserts, but they are predominantly recognised for their signature diamond shaped egg tarts. The invention of their diamond shaped egg tarts dates back to the 1980s where they sold egg tarts in varying shapes. In order for customer to identify their egg tarts, Tong Heng Delicacies decided to use an unconventional diamond mould to make their egg tarts stand out.



Peranakan Tiles Gallery

Previously located along Telok Ayer street beside Thian Hock Keng temple, Peranakan Tiles Gallery has since shifted to Temple Street. The gallery showcases a variety of vintage peranakan tiles from England, Belgium and Japan. Some of them are for sale and others are just for display (be careful not to break these tiles!) There is also a display and step by step explanation on how to restore old dirty tiles to make them look good as new! Aside from the tiles collection, the gallery displays other vintage peranakan knick-knacks that is sure to evoke a pang of nostalgia, especially among the older generation. Peranakan Tiles Gallery also offers Peranakan themed souvenirs such as peranakan tile's coaster and magnet at affordable prices, making them excellent gift items, rich in beauty and heritage.



2 Hours Route

(Recommended Timing: Morning-noon)

Telok Ayer MRT Exit A



Chinatown MRT Exit C



Nagore Dargah Heritage Centre

Nagore Dargah is an Indian Muslim heritage centre and it might possibly be the world's only Indian Muslim heritage centre till date. Nagore Dargah was originally a shrine built between 1828 to 1830 by the Chulias (Indian Muslim minority) to remember Shahul Hamid, a holy man from Nagore in South India. The shrine was designated as a national monument in 1974 and opened in 2011 as Nagore Dargah, showcasing Indian Muslim culture, diaspora and heritage.



Thian Hock Keng Temple

Thian Hock Keng Temple, Singapore's oldest Chinese temple, was built in 1839 dedicated to Mazu (妈祖), the Goddess of the Sea. It started off as a little shrine, where many Chinese immigrants from Fujian Province, China, gave thanks for their safe voyage across the South China Sea. Thian Hock Keng Temple also attracted the attention of the Chinese Qing Emperor Guang Xu, who presented a calligraphy plaque* with the phrase bo jing nan ming (波靖南溟) which translates to 'Gentle Waves Over the South Seas' in 1907. Not only was Thian Hock Keng Temple gazetted as a National Monument, it was also mentioned in the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage 2001 Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation



*The plaque is now permanently exhibited at the National Museum of Singapore.

Al-Abrar Mosque

Al-Abrar Mosque was first established in 1827 as a simple thatched hut and was reconstructed in 1850 as the present brick mosque. The mosque was built for the Chulias (Indian Muslim from South India) hence it was also known as Masjid Chulia or Chulia Mosque. Renovations took place from 1986 to 1989 to enhance the interior of the mosque. A second level was also added where the mosque's imam* now resides. Al-Abrar Mosque can be spotted in a row of shophouses, with a frontage of three shophouses widths. The mosque has also been gazetted as a National Monument.



*Imam is an Islamic leadership position referring to a prayer leader of a mosque

Amoy Street Food Centre

Located in the vicinity of the central business district, Amoy Street Food Centre can be seen brimming with office workers during lunch hours. The two-storey hawker centre along Maxwell Road was built in 1983 and provides a variety of food options that is sure to satisfy your food cravings. Don't be fooled by its hawker centre exterior, the food centre houses hipster stalls that offer a range of cuisines and delicacies. 6 stalls from Amoy Street Food Centre were previously listed in the Michelin Guide. Out of which 4 were given Bib Gourmand* distinctions.



*The Bib Gourmand category celebrates eateries that provide diners with great value-for-money meals for under S\$45.

Ann Siang Hill Park (Water Well)

Located at the end of Ann Siang Road, Ann Siang Hill Park is surrounded by shophouses constructed between 1903 and 1941 near Ann Siang Road, Amoy Street and Club Street. There lies a water well with historical background that traces back to the 19th century. In the 1800s, there was limited fresh water supply in Chinatown hence many traders and residents drew water from wells at Ann Siang Hill. The water was collected in bullock-drawn carts (hence Chinatown's local name Niu Che Shui, which stands for 'Bullock Cart Water') to Kreta Ayer and Telok Ayer areas. However, these wells were often polluted as they were situated near drainage channels hence many wells were closed. Although not in use, one of the rare wells that remains till date is the Ann Siang Hill Water Well.



Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) (Singapore City Gallery)

As the name suggests, the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) aims to make Singapore a great city to live, work and play, through long-term and comprehensive planning to guide the physical development of Singapore in a sustainable manner. Aside from being an office building, the Singapore City Gallery in URA showcases and explains land planning in Singapore through multimedia and interactive exhibitions.

FUN FACT: The set-up of URA's foyer which sits beside the Ministry of National Development changes periodically. The setup serves as a prototype to observe how people interact with the space around them, before URA decides on how void decks and common areas should be designed.



Huggs-Epigram Coffee Bookshop

Huggs-Epigram Coffee Bookshop is a cozy and chill hideout for anyone who wants a break. Located just opposite Maxwell Food Centre, Huggs-Epigram Coffee Bookshop sells coffee (duh) and offers only Singapore literature! They also organise regular book events such as readings and book launches.

Unlike ordinary book stores, Huggs-Epigram Coffee Bookshop holds weekly 'Authors/Artist-in-Attendance' sessions, where an author, poet or artist will be at the bookshop during opening hours and visitors are encouraged to interact with them.



Maxwell Food Centre

Maxwell Food Centre was originally Maxwell Market back in the 1920s. During the Japanese occupation, Maxwell Market operated as a government co-operative store that controlled certain types of wholesale and retail trade. It was then converted to a Family Restaurant after the war, providing cheap and nutritious meals to the masses.

Currently, many of the hawkers at this food centre are second and third generation owners having inherited their parents' businesses and traditional recipes. Maxwell Food Centre is known for serving traditional Chinese food and its affordable prices and was voted Singapore's favourite hawker centre in the 2014 to 2016 editions of City Hawker Food Hunt*.



*City Hawker Food Hunt is so far the most prestigious award conferred on hawkers from an island-wide selection. It aims to highlight Singapore's all-time favourite hawker foods.

Jinrikisha Station

Jinrikisha Station which served as the main depot for rickshaws was built in 1903. However, the building was used for several other purposes, such as a family-planning clinic and a maternal and childcare centre after a ban on rickshaws was passed in 1947. Although the Jinrikisha Station no longer serves its original function during the postwar era, it is a conserved building with architectural heritage, reminding Singaporeans of the sacrifices made by early immigrants such as the rickshaw pullers.

FUN FACT: Jinrikisha Station was sold to Hong Kong movie star Jackie Chan in 2007!



Buddha Tooth Relic Temple

Venerable Cakkapala was the abbot* of the Bandula Monastery in Mrauk U in Myanmar. In 1980, Ven. Cakkapala was restoring a collapsed stupa (Buddhist relic structure) and Buddha statue, when he discovered a tooth in a solid gold stupa, and he regarded it as Buddha's left canine tooth. This discovery was not publicised and the tooth was enshrined at Bandula Monastery. As part of the Golden Pagoda Temple's 10th anniversary in 2002, the the Bandula relic was featured as an exhibition and was reported that it would remain at the Golden Pagoda Temple. Ven. Cakkapala advised Ven. Shi Fazhao from the Golden Pagoda Temple to build a monastery to house the relic and receive Buddhist pilgrims, which resulted in the building of Buddha Tooth Relic Temple.



*abbot is considered the spiritual leader of all the monks in residence and chief representative of the community to the outside world.

Kreta Ayer Square

Many may recall a familiar sight of elderly playing chess at Kreta Ayer Square. Situated between the Buddha Tooth Relic Temple and Chinatown Complex, Kreta Ayer Square is a space where elderly Chinatown residents gather to bond and kill time. During festive seasons, the area will be transformed where activities and performances will be held, adding extra vibrancy to the lively community. Those who are keen to find out what's going on can head to <https://chinatownfestivals.sg/programmes/> to check out more details.



Chinatown Complex

The Chinatown Complex (Market and Food Centre) was built in 1981 and was known as 'Kreta Ayer Complex' until it was renamed in 1984. The complex was primarily built to resolve the issue of the thousands of illegal street hawkers along the streets of Chinatown. Hence, the building was established in the heart of the street hawker district to solve the issue of illegal street hawkers while ensuring the street hawkers' livelihood wouldn't be threatened.



Da You Departmental Store

Da You Departmental Store is located next to Chinatown Complex and is above the myCK departmental store. Da You Departmental Store may seem inconspicuous but be prepared to be pleasantly surprised with the items sold there. From daily necessities, food and snacks, stationery to even pots and pans and statues of Chinese Gods, Da You offers quirky yet useful items. The highlight of Da You Departmental Store is the sales of old CDs, television and movie series at super low prices. One can easily reminisce his/her childhood and youth simply by browsing the array of CDs sold there!

FUN FACT: There is an overhead bridge at the exit (beside the CD sales) of Da You Departmental Store. Cross this overhead bridge for a shortcut to reach 195 Pearl's Hill Café!



1 Hour Route

(Recommended Timing: Late Afternoon)

Outram Park MRT Exit H



Chinatown MRT Exit C



Grassroots Book Room

Grassroots Book Room is a cosy and chill bookstore which offers a variety of quality books, stationaries and little knick knacks. Majority of the books sold are Chinese books, including some that were written by local authors. Aside from these titles, the book room sells art pieces and merchandise drawn and designed by local illustrators. Grassroots Book Room also periodically houses mini art exhibitions to showcase local talents and for artists to have a platform to express themselves. To top it off, there is a café hidden within the Book Room. The Katasumi Koohee Café (隅珈琲) literally looks like it was take out from a movie scene with its vintage décor that adds a rustic feel to the café. Whether you're looking for a space to sip on some coffee while enjoying a read, or if you are looking for a photo worthy spot, Grassroots Book Room and Katasumi Koohee Café may just be what you are looking for.



Chinese Clans

While walking down Bukit Pasoh street, one may notice the colourful shophouses along both sides of the streets. Many of these shop houses are various Chinese clans such as 东安会馆 (Tung On Wui Kum), 颜氏公会 (The Gan Clan Association) and 余氏总会 (Yee Clan Association). These Chinese clans are rich in historical background and were established in the 19th century to help Chinese immigrants with accommodation and employment while providing a support system for them. These efforts to foster unity and kinship prompted the formation of clan associations, mostly based on locality (different dialect groups) or kinship (surname). In today's modernized society, the role of clans has evolved to preserve the rich Chinese culture, where they organise cultural activities and events to promote Chinese language, culture and heritage.



Shake Shack 🍷

Shake Shack is a highly raved American fast food chain that has international outlets in 14 other countries. It opened its first Singapore Shack at Jewel Changi Airport last year and is expanding to the CBD area just next to The Pinnacle@Duxton! Nough said about this popular burger restaurant, give them a try if you wanna find out why people are willing to queue for hours just to purchase their burgers!

FUN FACT: Shake Shack first started out selling hotdogs!



Tong Ah Eating House 🍷

Tong Ah Eating House (東亞) started business in 1939 and was originally located at the junction of Keong Saik Road and Teck Lim Road (where Potato Head now stands). Located at the red-light district of the sixties, Tong Ah Eating House survived the second World War, witnessed gang fights, gambling and opium abuse. However, with surging rental fees and property prices, Tong Ah Eating House was forced to shift to another unit a few meters down the road after 74 years of operations. Aside from operating as a coffee shop, Tong Ah Eating House also serves tze char (chinese stall that serves a wide selection of common and affordable dishes) and offers reunion dinner packages during the Chinese New Year season.



Potato Head 🍷

Potato Head (Singapore) is a 3-in-1 dining establishment that offers different experiences to diners. At the ground floor lays Three Buns, serving different types of burgers, hot dogs and sides, some even with locally infused flavours! In the evening, the rooftop bar offers Tropical cocktails to customers who just want to unwind up high while enjoying the scenic view around them. For those who prefer a cosier lounge area, studio 1939 on level 3 is a drinking den with an ever-evolving cocktail menu. Potato Head also holds music event periodically, welcoming those who are up for some drinks and fun!



Sri Layan Sithi Vinayagar Temple

In the past, there was a Hindu temple at Outram Road, near the mortuary of Singapore General Hospital. However, the government acquired the land from the temple in 1920 and used it to expand the hospital, compensating the Nagarathars*, who happened to be the temple managers. With the sum of money compensated from the government, the Nagarathars decided to build grander temple at the junction of Keong Saik Road and Kreta Ayer Road in 1925 and named it Sri Layan Sithi Vinayagar Temple.

The Sri Layan Sithi Vinayagar Temple houses several Hindu idols including the Vinayagar (also known as the elephant-headed god, Ganesha), Naagar (snake god), the Holy Spear and the Rama Naamam. One of the major festivals celebrated grandly at the Sri Layan Sithi Vinayagar Temple is Vinayagar Chathurthi, which celebrates the arrival of Ganesha to earth.

* Nagarathars or Nattukottai Chettiar are Tamil caste who are involved in trade, banking and money lending



Chinatown Point

Chinatown Point is an air-conditioned shopping mall/office block located within Singapore's Central Business District. The building is 25-storeys high with the first 6 storeys serving as a retail mall and the remaining floors as an office building. Chinatown Point is truly a multi-purpose building, where one can find almost everything ranging from fashion retail outlets, restaurants, clinics, travel agencies and even a public library on the 6th storey. Chinatown Point is also highly accessible, where it is connected to Chinatown MRT, and has linking bridges to Hong Lim Complex and People's Park Centre.



Hong Lim Complex

Hong Lim Complex was built by the Housing Development Board with the first 3 levels occupied by bakeries, retail stores, and offices, and the remaining 15 floors as residential apartments. However, the first thing most will think of at the mention of Hong Lim Complex would be the adjoining Hong Lim Market & Food Centre. Built in 1978 with the aim to house street hawkers, this 2-storey food centre has made a name for itself! Hong Lim Market & Food Centre houses several hawkers that were included in Michelin's Bib Gourmand list namely the Famous Sungei Road Trishaw Laksa, Outram Park Fried Kway Teow Mee and Tai Wah Pork Noodle!



FUN FACT: The site of Hong Lim Complex used to be one of the screening centres for the Sook Ching operation during World War II. The operation was conducted by the Japanese military aimed at eliminating Chinese who were anti-Japanese. Those suspected of being anti-Japanese were executed.

The Former Combined Operations Room Exhibition

Did you know that 195 Pearl's Hill Terrace used to be the police headquarters during the mid 20th century? The building was built in the 1930s to house the Sikh Contingent of the Straits Settlement Police (SSP) and was used as the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) or the Police Headquarters in the 1950s. Just right beside the terrace lays the former combined operations room, also known as the police bunker, which served a critical role when unrest broke out in the olden days. The police force would hold meetings and commands would be given from the room. Sign up for a free tour of the bunker and be prepared to be surprised!



FUN FACT: Pearl's Hill and 195 Pearl's Hill Terrace were named after Captain James Pearl who sailed into Singapore with Sir Stamford Raffles back in 1819.

195 Pearl Hill Cafe

CBD Hideout with great Nanyang coffee, salads, 'wiches, Tiong Bahru satay, heritage bar bites, thin-crust pizzas, and awesome eats. Free Wi-Fi. Alfresco courtyards and verandas galore.

195 Pearl Hill Café is all about innovation with heritage - a fusion of old and new, adding a modern touch to our local delights. 195 Pearl Hill Café offers more than what meets the eye so be prepared to be wowed!



Content adapted from:

China Buddhism Encyclopedia
Chinatown Point
Chinatownology
Epigram
HistorySG
Hungrygowhere (Singapore)
Jennifer Lim Art
Michelin Guide Singapore
Money Smart
Mothership
MUIS: Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura
Nagore Dargah
National Heritage Board (Roots SG)
National Library Board (Singapore Infopedia)
National Parks
Our Grandfather Story
Peranakan Tiles
Potatohead
Remember Singapore
SG Bicentennial
Singapore Federation of Chinese Clans
Sri Layan Sithi Vinayagar Temple
Sri Mariamman Temple
ST Signature Chinatown
The Hindu Endowments Board
The Moon
Thian Hock Keng Temple
Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA)
Visit Singapore/Singapore Tourism Board
Wikipedia
Yue Hwa Chinese Products

Special Thanks:

Chinatown Social Enterprise
Draper Startup House
Keong Saik Bakery