

scentopia



Where *past meets* **future**

Stop 1- The Pill Box

A pillbox is a small concrete fort that is built partially underground to house machine guns by the British in the 1930s. These were placed at strategic locations to repel the advancing enemy.

Sentosa (Pulau Belakang Mati) once had 12 machine gun pillboxes all over the island. These were mainly put on the southern beaches and were manned during the Battle of Singapore. Most of these pillboxes were demolished in the seventies when the island was redeveloped into a tourist destination.



Scan the QR code to find an aircraft. Do you think this was used in world war?



Stop 2- The Dinosaur

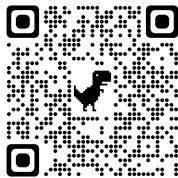
Dinosaurs once roamed the earth & also in Singapore! One dinosaur-like foot print has been discovered in a loose block of red mudstone.

Where is it? Not too far from where you are standing. It is concluded that these muds and silts were deposited in a shallow lake called Lake Sentosa. Yes! Sentosa used to be a lake back then!

Singapore is mostly granite, so not many fossils have been found here.



Scan the QR code to find the dinosaur that roamed Singapore



Stop 3- Sook Chin

Sook Ching is a Chinese term meaning "purge through cleansing". Known massacre sites include beaches at Punggol, Changi, Katong, Tanah Merah and Blakang Mati (now Sentosa island – off the Golf course)

Surrendered British gunners were waiting for Japanese on Siloso Battery, when they saw about 300 human bodies floating in Keppel Harbour. Many of these washed ashore on Pulau Blakang Mati (today's Sentosa Island). These 300-bullet ridden corpses were Sook Ching victims whose bodies had drifted over after being shot at sea or executed at other beach sites.



Scan the QR code to find Japanese temple of peace



Stop 4- Original inhabitants of Sentosa

Pulau Blakang Mati's heritage is rich with oral tradition, folk tales and legends, illustrated through its historical events and cultural practices.

Its original settlers were Bugis from Indonesia, who were fantastic boat makers. Once the island was swept by a mysterious epidemic (malaria), that killed most of the people. By 1848, its population of around 60 was reduced to 2 Bugis households.

Bugis have interesting traditions. For example, like many Asian countries they believe in multiple genders. In fact, they have 5 genders!



Makkunrai - Female women

Oroani - Male men

Calalai - Female men

Calabai - Male women

Bissu - Transgender priests

Scan the QR code to find Bugis boat



Stop 5- Singapura: The story

Singapore was referred to as Temasek in Malay and Javanese literature. Sometime in the 14th century the name was changed to Singapura, which is now known as Singapore in English.

As the story goes- There once was an adventurous king named 'Sang Nila Utama'. He wanted to travel to faraway places and came to this island. Upon arrival, he saw a creature. It was large and moved with grace, had a black head, covered in a furry mane, a whitish neck and a red body.

He wondered what that animal was. At that time, a wise man appeared and told him that it's a Singa (Malaysian for "Lion")

So 'Sri Sang Nila Utama' decided to call this island – Singa (Lion) + Pura (City)

Scan the QR code
to meet the Singa
of Singapura



Stop 6- Scents of Raffles Botanicals

1. *Azadirachta indica* (Exotic)

The flowers have a sweet, almost mystical jasmine like scent



2. *Syzygium grande* (Native)

Strong sweet smell, attracting bees & butterflies

Smell the nature

3. *Etilingera elatior*, Torch Ginger (Exotic)

Bright-pink, red & white inflorescence.
Sweet strong-smelling flower



4. *Memecylon edule* var. *Ovatum* (Native)

Flowers are generally fragrant and are more distinct during the night.

Stop 7- Sir Raffles Alien plants

After Stamford Raffles 'founded' Singapore in 1819, man, animals and plants arrived in great numbers. These are classified as "alien". First few alien plants were harvested from commercial crops like gambier, pepper, pineapple, opium and tobacco.

As the settlement grew, more aliens were introduced, from faraway places like South America. For example, Rubber was introduced from Brazil. Rubber was first grown in Singapore botanical garden by Mr Ridley. Today 2/3 of natural rubber comes from off-shoots of this original plants from Singapore.

Many flora and fauna are named after "Raffles". For example, meat eating plant "Rafflesia" is "Raffles+Asia"



Rafflesia

Scan the QR code to see the Rafflesia in 3D



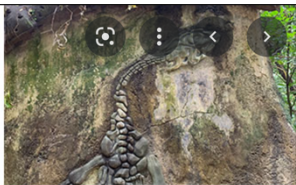
Stop 8- Imbiah trail natural waterfall

Imbiah trail has lot of interesting plants and experiences. Some are easy paths, some paved, some dirt track, going up and down the hill.

Look out for “Moss corner”, “Imbiah waterfall” amongst several other waterfalls. Those who are adventurous can even try and venture to the top of the waterfall using a little path on the right hand side.

Also at the summit of Mount Imbiah is a 10-metre tall bird watching tower. You can climb up the three-storey tower to get a birds-eye view of the cable cars sailing past.

And very likely that also be able to spot a peacock



Scan the QR code to meet the bird of Sentosa



Stop 9- Angsana & other native plants

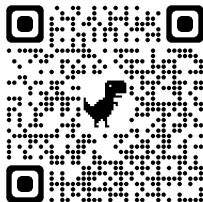
Angsana is usually full of green leaves.

But once a year, just for one day the tree become bright yellow. That's because of floral buds of the Angsana. This brilliant display of colour lasts only for a day, after which the tree lays a soft carpet of yellow flowers on the ground beneath it.

What's unique about the Angsana is its bark. The combination of its rose-like scent and lovely colour – varying from light yellow to golden or reddish-brown – makes it one of the best & most popular woods for making furniture, particularly in Malaysia.



Scan the QR code to find the native house made with native wood.



Stop 10- Fort Siloso

The word "Siloso" of the fort's name is derived from a Malayan word meaning "rock". It's a fort on the rock to protect against an invasion by sea from the south.

However, during the Battle of Singapore in February 1942, the guns were instead turned 180 degrees inland to fire at rapidly-advancing Japanese forces approaching Singapore from the north (via British Malaya).

Fort Siloso has now been converted into a military museum in 1974, displaying its history and various naval guns.



Scan the QR code to check the cannon





Bonus: Story of Pulau

- 11 Sarong, Singapore Girl and New Sentosa