

# HISTORY OF FORT CANNING PARK



Postcard of Singapore, showing Government Hill, the English Burial Ground, and the Armenian Church, 1840.

Collection of the National Museum of Singapore, National Heritage Board

Once known as Bukit Larangan, or 'The Forbidden Hill', Fort Canning Park was once the seat of power for the ancient Malay kingdom of Singapura in the 1300s. The park was later the site where Sir Stamford Raffles, the founder of modern Singapore, built his official residence in 1819. The area was subsequently known as Government Hill. In 1822, Singapore's first botanic garden was also established on this hill.

In 1860, a fort was built on the hill, and named after Lord Charles John Canning, the first Viceroy of India. From that time until the 1970s, Fort Canning was used as a military base – first by the British, then by the Japanese during WWII, and later by the Republic's armed forces.

Today, Fort Canning Park is a must-see for nature lovers and history buffs alike, with its historical sites nestled amid the lush greenery. Offering a variety of arts, heritage, and nature experiences, Fort Canning Park is a tranquil oasis, and an important green lung in Singapore's downtown city area.

# GETTING THERE

## BY BUS AND MRT

The walking time is approximately 3 to 10 minutes from each station.

### River Valley Road

Nearest station: Fort Canning, Exit B **DTL20**

Nearest bus stop: in front of Fort Canning Station

From the bus stop, walk up the stairs or take the escalators leading into the park.

### Stamford Road

Nearest station: Bras Basah, Exit C **CC2**

Nearest bus stop: Singapore Management University (SMU)

From the bus stop in front of SMU, take the escalator beside the National Museum of Singapore to the park.

### Penang Road

Nearest station: Dhoby Ghaut, Exit B **NS24 NE6 CC1**

Nearest bus stop: in front of Dhoby Ghaut Station

From Dhoby Ghaut Station, cross Penang Road and turn left. Follow the path which leads to an underground pedestrian tunnel. At the end of the tunnel, you may either go up the spiral staircase or turn right.

### Hill Street

Nearest station: Clarke Quay, Exit E **NE5**

Nearest bus stop: Old Hill Street Police Station

From the bus stop in front of the Old Hill Street Police Station, take a short walk in the direction of the traffic flow. The park entrance is on the left.

## BY CAR

Carparks are available at Percival Road, Hotel Fort Canning, Registry of Marriages, and along Clemenceau Avenue.

## CONTACT US

Fort Canning Centre

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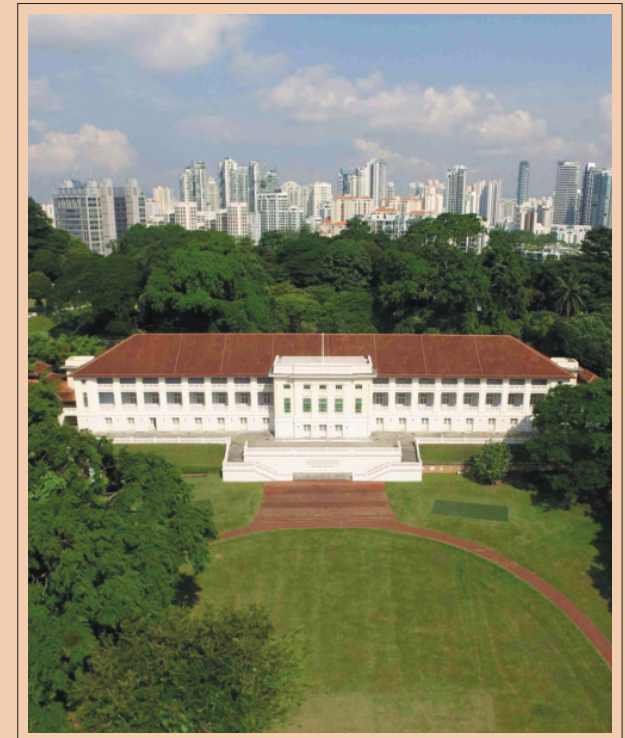
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# VISITOR MAP

# FORT CANNING PARK



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## FIRST BOTANIC GARDEN



Lt. Jackson's Plan of the Town of Singapore, 1828.  
Collection of the National Museum of Singapore, National Heritage Board

The first Botanical and Experimental Garden in Singapore was founded in 1822, and focused on growing spices and economic plants. This garden has been restored on Fort Canning Hill and stretches into its surrounding streetscapes.

At Armenian Street, discover the plants that are significant to Peranakan culture. Some are used in traditional Peranakan cuisine, while others have a deeper symbolism and are used in important ceremonial occasions.

At the Farquhar Garden, take a look at the plants that captured the interest of Major-General William Farquhar, the first British Resident and Commandant of Singapore. Farquhar commissioned many botanical drawings of the plants he encountered in the Malay Peninsula. See these species come to life as 'living paintings' in giant frames.

Stroll through the Spice Garden, a nod to the spice garden that Sir Stamford Raffles started on this hill in 1819. At the Spice Gallery, learn all about the early history of spice plantations in Singapore, and how Singapore grew as a trading hub for spices.

## HISTORICAL GARDENS

### Sang Nila Utama Garden

Named after Singapore's first ancient king, the Sang Nila Utama Garden re-imagines the Southeast Asian palace gardens of old. Such gardens were integral parts of palaces such as the one which stood on this hill in the 14th century. Come and learn about the plants which populated these gardens, and their symbolic significance.

### *Pancur Larangan* (Forbidden Spring)

There was once a Forbidden Spring on present-day Fort Canning Hill. In ancient times, it was the bathing place of the ancient kings' consorts. Experience a re-interpretation of historical life on the hill through a wading pool and a handcrafted mural wall.

### Artisan's Garden

The Artisan's Garden was once the site of a palace craftsmen's workshop and living quarters. Today, part of this area has been revamped as an exhibition site, where you can learn about the archaeological excavations conducted on Fort Canning Hill.

### Jubilee Park

New play features have been installed at Jubilee Park to make Fort Canning Park a more family-friendly destination. Have fun at the giant see-saws, slides and other play features at the children's play area. Join us for outdoor events and performances at the lawns too!

## Raffles Garden

This garden is named after Sir Stamford Raffles, the founder of modern Singapore. Did you know that Raffles was passionate about nature, and spent his free time on natural history research? Discover the plants that Raffles encountered, collected, and cultivated in Singapore, and take a peek into his friendships with the botanists he worked with.

## Fort Canning Heritage Gallery





Enter this gallery for an engaging and in-depth view of the immensely rich history of Fort Canning Park. Have an up-close look at the unique artefacts found on the hill, while learning about its changing role as the centre of governance in Singapore, then as a military site, and eventually as a public park and historical landmark.



# FORT CANNING PARK



## ATTRACTIONS

-  Historical Gardens
-  First Botanic Garden
-  Spice Gallery
-  Fort Canning Heritage Gallery

## Historical Landmarks

- 1 Fort Wall
- 2 Fort Gate
- 3 Old Gunpowder Magazine
- 4 Battlebox
- 5 Sally Port
- 6 Cemetery Walls
- 7 Gothic Gate
- 8 Cupolas
- 9 Napier Monument
- 10 9-Pound Cannon
- 11 Keramat Iskandar Shah
- 12 Reservoir
- 13 Lighthouse
- 14 Flagstaff
- 15 Raffles House
- 16 Timeball

## LEGEND

- |  |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |
| Entrance to Park   | MRT Station   | Bus Stop  | Car Park  |
|  |  |  |  |
| Escalator  | Pedestrian Underpass  | Drop-off Point  | Fitness Station   |
|  |  |  |  |
| Stairs   | Food and Beverage   | Vending Machine   | Shelter   |
|  |  |  |  |
| Toilet   | Automated External Defibrillator  | Overhead Bridge   | Heritage Tree   |
|  |   |  |  |
|  |   | Playground  | Playground  |

