



SUGGESTED SHORT TRAIL ROUTES

Known as Serangoon before the 1980s, the Little India precinct melds the old with the new and hosts trades from the past alongside modern businesses. Through the three thematic trails below, discover the rich and diverse histories, cultures, religions and trades in this colourful historic precinct.

Serangoon in the 1900s

40 Minutes

The early 20th century was a defining period that shaped today's Little India as migrants from India, China and Britain settled in the area and established a diversity of trades and institutions. Follow this trail and explore the rich history of the Little India precinct.



Begin your journey at the **Indian Heritage Centre** and obtain an overview of the history of the Indian community in Singapore. Then walk down Serangoon Road and cross over to Kerbau Road, whose name refers to the buffaloes that were kept here in the 1900s.



Walking along this road, you will come across the colourful **Former House of Tan Teng Niah**. The only remaining Chinese villa in Little India, this is a legacy of the time when small Chinese cottage industries thrived alongside the Indian-dominated cattle trade in this area.



Turn around and walk towards Belilios Lane where you will spot the large mural **Traditional Trades of Little India** by Psyfool. Continue towards Belilios Road and turn right to the **Sri Veeramakaliamman Temple** which was built as a shrine by Tamil workers from the lime pits in this area. From here, turn left onto Serangoon Road and left again onto Race Course Lane.



At Race Course Lane, you will encounter a number of **Chinese Clan Associations** which were established to provide social and economic support for Chinese immigrants from the same clans. Turn left onto Race Course Road and you will come across the **Foochow Methodist Church** at the corner of Rotan Lane. The church was established in 1897 as a Christian mission for working class immigrants from Foochow, China, such as rickshaw pullers and coolies.



Continuing along Race Course Road, keep a lookout on the left for a small unnamed street where you will encounter the origins of this road name in the form of a mural entitled **A Ride Through Race Course Road** by Jaxton Su. The **Former Racecourse** was at the location of the current Farrer Park Field just opposite.



Along Hampshire Road beside the field, you will see the **Former Kandang Kerbau Hospital** (now the Land Transport Authority building) which served as general hospital in the 1900s. In the background, you can also spot the distinctive shape of the new KK Women's and Children's Hospital building.



If you are hungry or wish to rest your feet, walk straight down to **Tekka Centre**, which is the new incarnation of the Tekka Market that was once located across the road and considered the "people's market". Here you can enjoy local hawker fare, or purchase fresh meat to cook at home. Then it's a short walk to Little India MRT station for a ride home.



Walk of Faiths

1 Hour

The Little India precinct contains a great number and diversity of religious spaces. These institutions span across all the major ethnic and religious groups in Singapore. This trail provides insights into different religious spaces, architecture and practices found in Singapore.

(Note: Most of these institutions are open to the public but be sure to follow any instructions on appropriate behaviour and clothing.)



Start off at the beautiful **Abdul Gafoor Mosque** at Dunlop Street which is one of Singapore's oldest mosques and a National Monument. You may wish to enter the mosque for a visit and if so, do remember to dress respectfully and take off your shoes.

From here, head down Perak Road to the Anglican **Church of the True Light** which catered mainly to Chinese trishaw riders during its beginnings. At the end of Perak Road, turn left onto Upper Weld Road and then right to Kampong Kapur Road. Here you will see the architecturally different **Kampong Kapur Methodist Church** which started around the same time but catered to the Straits Chinese or Peranakans.



Walk up Veerasamy Road and across Serangoon Road to the **Sri Veeramakaliamman Temple** which was originally built as a shrine by Tamil workers from the lime pits in this area. Another Hindu temple and the only North Indian temple in Singapore, the **Shree Lakshminarayan Temple** is located down the next street at Chander Road.



Then venture up Rotan Lane to view the **Foochow Methodist Church** which developed from a mission started in 1897 for working class immigrants from Foochow, China. After this, walk back down to Serangoon Road and head towards the **Angullia Mosque** to take a look at its conserved 19th century entrance gatehouse.



Along the same road, you will encounter yet another National Monument, the **Sri Srinivasa Perumal Temple**, with its intricately carved



gopuram (entrance tower) depicting a story from Hindu mythology. Further down the road is the **Sri Vadapathira Kaliamman Temple** with its stepped **vimana** (pyramid-shape tower over the main shrine) adorned with Hindu deities.



Next head up Beatty Road on to Race Course Road to view two Buddhist temples built in a completely different style. The **Sakya Muni Buddha Gaya Temple**, popularly known as the "Temple of a Thousand Lights", houses a monumental 15-metre tall Buddha statue while the **Leong San See Temple**, meaning "Dragon Mountain Temple", is dedicated to Guan Yin, the Goddess of Mercy.

You have now completed the longest route on the Little India Heritage Trail! Take a well-deserved break at one of the eateries along Race Course Road or head straight back to Farrer Park MRT for a ride home.



Shop Till You Drop!

30 Minutes (not inclusive of shopping time)

Little India is home to many traditional businesses that offer experiences that cannot be found elsewhere in Singapore. This trail offers a chance to try authentic Indian food, purchase traditional clothing and hunt for bargains at various shops in this area.



Start along Campbell Lane and experience the kaleidoscope of sights, sounds and smells along this street. You can visit the **Little India Arcade** and enjoy some Indian sweets or have a henna design drawn on your hands. Or you can head to the **Jothi Store & Flower Shop** where locals shop for everyday Indian goods ranging from incense sticks to copper utensils.



One street down at Dunlop Street is **Haniffa Textiles** which is famous for its saris and Indian clothing, and further down Serangoon Road is where you will find **Komala Vilas**, an Indian vegetarian fast-food restaurant established in 1947. Try their refreshing **lassi** or have a meal here if you're hungry!



After your break, walk down the five-foot way (or covered pedestrian walkway) along Serangoon Road and enjoy a variety of traditional and modern shops selling everything from clothes to knick-knacks. Feel free to stop and pick up a bargain or just window-shop along this stretch.



Ahead you will see the expansive **Mustafa Centre**, Singapore's first 24-hour department store which offers everything including diamonds, watches, electronics, clothing, confectionery and fresh foods. Shop to your heart's content here, and when you start to feel tired, head across the road to **Ananda Bhavan**, Singapore's oldest Indian vegetarian restaurant, for a snack or meal.



LITTLE INDIA HERITAGE TRAIL

« DISCOVER OUR SHARED HERITAGE »

The Little India Heritage Trail is part of the National Heritage Board's ongoing efforts to document and present the history and social memories of places in Singapore. We hope to bring back fond memories for those who have worked, lived or played in this historical and cultural precinct, and serve as a useful source of information for visitors and new residents.

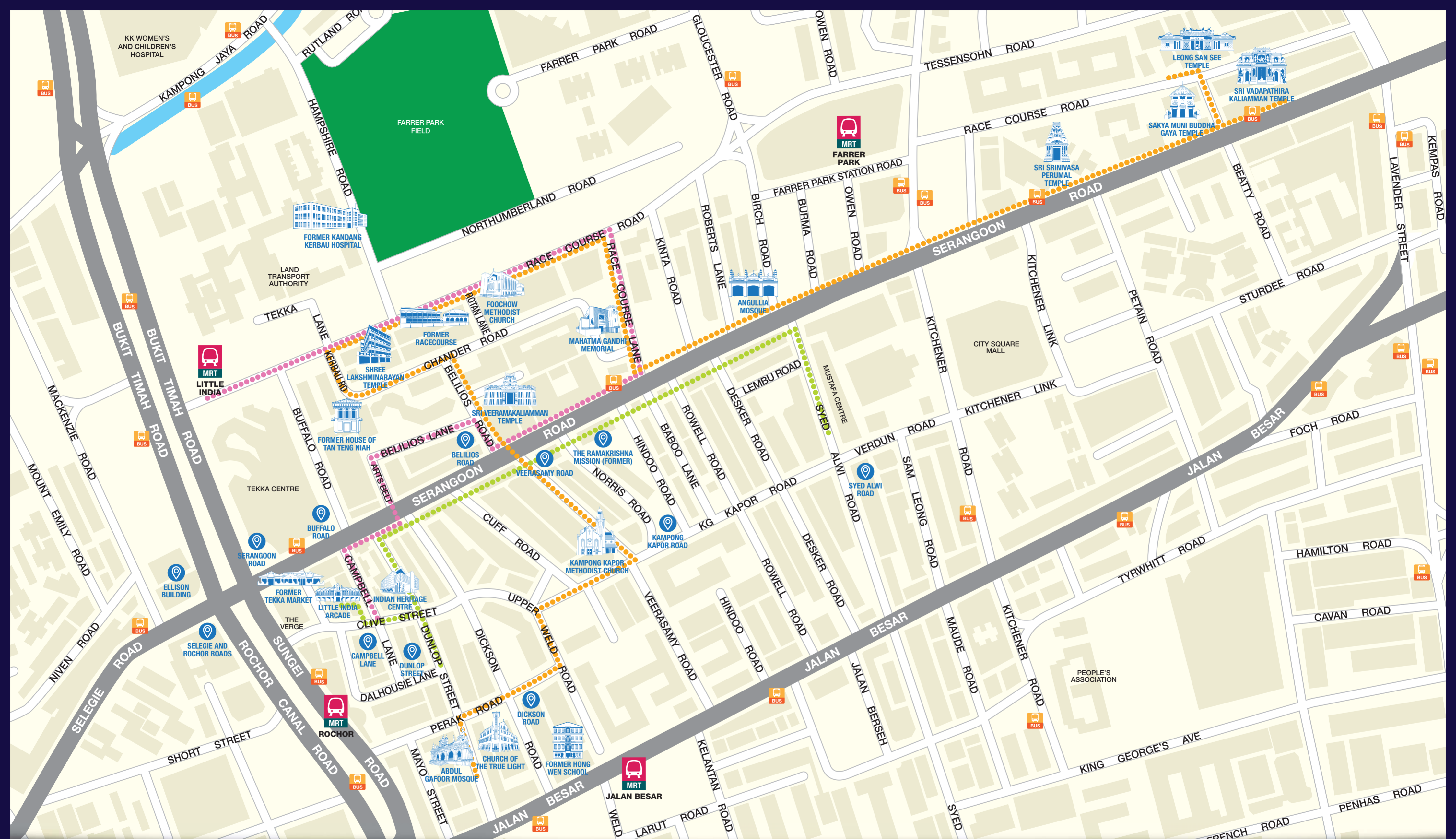


Supported by



A tempoh (Indonesian soy dish) seller attending to customers at Tekka Market, 1971
Courtesy of Singapore Press Holdings Limited

PRODUCE OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA



LITTLE INDIA HERITAGE SITES

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| | | | | | | | | | |
| Indian Heritage Centre | Little India Arcade | Former Tekka Market | Former House of Tan Teng Niah | Shree Lakshminarayan Temple | Former Kandang Kerbau Hospital | Former Racecourse | Fochow Methodist Church | Sri Veeramakaliamman Temple | Mahatma Gandhi Memorial |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| Angullia Mosque | Sri Srinivasa Perumal Temple | Sakya Muni Buddha Gaya Temple | Leong San See Temple | Sri Vadapathira Kaliamman Temple | Kampong Kapor Methodist Church | Former Hong Wen School | Church of the True Light | Abdul Gafoor Mosque | |

PLACES OF CULTURAL / HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

- The Ramakrishna Mission (Former)
- Syed Alwi Road
- Kampong Kapor Road
- Veerasamy Road
- Belilios Road
- Dunlop Street
- Dickson Road
- Buffalo Road
- Campbell Lane
- Serangoon Road
- Ellison Building
- Selegie and Rochor Roads