



The Singapore River

Embark On A Journey That Built A Nation

The Singapore River Walk takes you on a journey from Collyer Quay to Robertson Quay, focusing on the contributions of the river towards Singapore's mercantile development through the various communities who lived and worked by the river, as well as the spectacular architecture and social history of the bridges that criss-cross the river, facilitating the movement of people and goods across the river at various junctures. The Singapore River Walk is adopted by American Express.

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Embark On A Journey That Built A Nation

The Singapore River Walk traces the development of the Singapore River and its surroundings through the quays, bridges and other conserved landmarks that remind us of the communities who once lived and worked by the river.

Since 1819, when modern Singapore was founded, the Singapore River has served as an artery of international commerce that drew people from all over the region to work, trade and seek their fortunes on this island. Today, after a major clean-up that ended in 1983, the river continues to bustle with life. This clean and pleasant waterway now flows past modern skyscrapers and historic buildings before ending at Marina Bay, a freshwater reservoir since 2008.

Legend

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Collyer Quay | Whampoa's Ice House |
| Customs House | The Cannery |
| Clifford Pier | River House |
| Change Alley | Read Bridge |
| Cavenagh Bridge | Former Thong Chai Medical Institution |
| Raffles Place | Masjid Omar Kampong Melaka |
| Boat Quay | Tan Si Chong Su Temple |
| Elgin Bridge | Ord Bridge |
| Coleman Bridge | Clemenceau Bridge |
| Masjid Moulana Mohamed Ali | Robertson Quay |
| Clarke Quay | Alkaff Bridge |

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|----------|-----------------|----------------|
| MRT | Bus Stop | River Taxi |
| Roads | Parks | River |
| Walkways | Prominent Sites | Heritage Sites |
| | Marked Sites | |





Collyer Quay

Accessible from Fullerton Road

Clifford Pier
80 Collyer Quay

Customs House
70 Collyer Quay



Collyer Quay once greeted travellers who approached Singapore on ships before setting foot at Clifford Pier, which opened in 1933. Clifford Pier also served as a departure point for boats to the Southern Islands until 2006. The Customs House building, completed in 1969, housed officers who kept a look-out for maritime smugglers. Red beacons indicated the piers' location at night, so the area was also popularly known to locals as such in their various local languages.

Cavenagh Bridge

1 Fullerton Square



The oldest bridge across the Singapore River to have survived in its original form, Cavenagh Bridge was completed in 1869. Named after Governor Sir William Orfeur Cavenagh and located between Empress Place and the Fullerton Building, it linked the colonial offices to the financial district. Previously, people could only cross the river mouth via temporary footbridge or boat.

Raffles Place

Accessible from Raffles Place MRT Station

Change Alley
Accessible from Raffles Place MRT Station

Market Street
Accessible from Church Street

Masjid Moulana Mohamed Ali
UOB Plaza I #B1-01
80 Raffles Place

Change Alley, Market Street & Masjid Moulana Mohamed Ali



Established as Singapore's main mercantile district in the 1820s, Commercial Square was renamed Raffles Place in 1858. It was popular with shoppers who frequented places like Robinson's and Change Alley, the latter offering bargains from the 1940s to 1989. At nearby Market Street, Chettiar bankers provided working capital for businesses, and Muslims gathered for prayers at Masjid Moulana Mohamed Ali, founded in the 1950s. The latter became Singapore's only underground mosque upon moving to UOB Plaza's basement in 1994.



Boat Quay

Accessible from South Bridge Road



The first stretch of the Singapore River to be developed, Boat Quay originated with Singapore's first land reclamation project to build an embankment. This part of the river, popularly known as the "Belly of the carp", brimmed with traditional cargo boats until the Singapore River clean-up was completed in the 1980s.

Elgin Bridge

Accessible from South Bridge Road



Elgin Bridge stands on the site of the first bridge that was built across the Singapore River in 1819. Other former bridges on this location include the 1823 Jackson Bridge and Thomson Bridge from 1844. The bridge was continually upgraded to cope with rising traffic levels. The original Elgin Bridge, completed in 1862, was named after Lord Elgin, Viceroy of India. The present structure was built in 1929.

Coleman Bridge

Accessible from Eu Tong Sen Street



Coleman Bridge, named after its designer, George Dromgold Coleman, was the second bridge across the Singapore River. Coleman's designs include the Armenian Church (1835), the first Government House on Fort Canning Hill (1822), and the former Parliament House (1827). The original Coleman Bridge was first built in 1840, replaced in 1865 and again in 1886. The present bridge is a reconstruction from 1991.

Clarke Quay

3 River Valley Road

River House
3A River Valley Road

The Cannery
Accessible from River Valley Road

Whampoa's Ice House
3E River Valley Road



Clarke Quay was developed in the late 19th century as trade grew rapidly along the Singapore River. Known for its distinctive warehouses and traditional buildings, Clarke Quay was named after Governor Sir Andrew Clarke. Some of the important landmarks in the area landmarks include the River House from the 1880s, The Cannery (1891), and a replica of Whampoa's Ice House (1854).

Read Bridge

1B Clarke Quay



Named after William Henry Macleod Read, a prominent socio-political figure and merchant, Read Bridge was originally built in 1889 to replace an earlier structure, Merchant Bridge, or Tock Seng's Bridge. The latter, named after pioneering merchant and philanthropist Tan Tock Seng, required replacement as it was too low for *tongkangs* (traditional river boats) to pass underneath. Read Bridge was converted into a pedestrian bridge in 1991.

Former Thong Chai Medical Institution

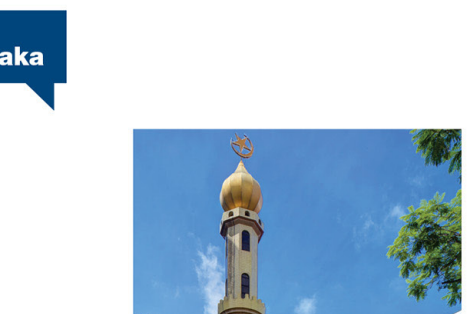
50 Eu Tong Sen Street



A rare local example of secular Chinese architecture, this building originally housed a clinic established in 1867 by seven Chinese merchants to provide free medical care to the needy. The institution provided free medical advice to all regardless of race, religion and social status. It was declared a National Monument in 1973.

Masjid Omar Kampong Melaka

10 Keng Chow Street



First built in 1820, Masjid Omar Kampong Melaka is Singapore's oldest mosque and place of worship. It was named after its builder, Syed Sharif Omar bin Ali Aljunied, a Yemeni-Arab merchant. Masjid Omar was a gathering point for the Malay community, as well as Muslims originating from India, the Middle East and Southeast Asia. It was rebuilt in 1855 and remained until the 1980s, when the present building was built.

Tan Si Chong Su Temple and Clemenceau Bridge

15 Magazine Road

Tan Si Chong Su Temple
15 Magazine Road

Clemenceau Bridge
Accessible from Merchant Road



Tan Si Chong Su Temple is a National Monument built in 1883 by prominent Hokkien merchants belonging to the Tan clan. It is also known as *Po Chiak Keng* (Hokkien for "protection of the innocent"). Clemenceau Bridge was first built in 1940 and named after French Prime Minister Georges Clemenceau, who visited Singapore in 1920. It replaced Pulau Saigon Bridge, and was rebuilt into a vehicular bridge in the 1990s.

Ord Bridge

Accessible from Clarke Quay



Completed in 1886, Ord Bridge was named after Sir Harry St George Ord, Singapore's first Governor after the island became a Crown Colony in 1867. Ord Bridge replaced the earlier ABC Bridge or Ordance Bridge. Locals once called it Green Bridge because of its colour or Toddy Bridge as there were many toddy (palm liquor) shops nearby.

Robertson Quay

Accessible from Martin Road and Mohamed Sultan Road



Boatyards and warehouses, rather than shophouses, dominated Robertson Quay, with commercial facilities being established here in the early 20th century. Probably named after Dr Thomas Murray Robertson, a medical doctor and Municipal Commissioner, Robertson Quay was redeveloped in the 1990s into a modern neighbourhood with housing, eateries, hotels and arts facilities.

Alkaff Bridge

1 Havelock Road



Alkaff Bridge, shaped like a *tongkang*, was built in 1997. It is named after Alkaff Quay, a former riverside warehouse complex owned by the Alkaffs, a prominent Yemeni-Arab family of landowners and philanthropists. Their legacy includes the Alkaff Kampong Melayu Mosque (1932) and the Alkaff Upper Serangoon Mosque (1932).

