



# TAMPINES HERITAGE TRAIL

« DISCOVER OUR SHARED HERITAGE »

Supported by



The Tampines 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 this trail will bring back fond memories for those who have worked, lived or played in the area, and serve as a useful source of information for visitors and new residents.



Tampines Round Market and surrounding neighbourhood, 1980s  
Courtesy of Housing & Development Board

## SUGGESTED SHORT TRAIL ROUTES

First recorded in an 1828 map as "R. Tampenus", Tampines has grown from a once rural locale into an award-winning residential town over the last two centuries. The historical transformation of Tampines can be seen in the maps, images and community stories currently on display at Our Tampines Gallery in Tampines Regional Library. In addition to the gallery, the National Heritage Board has also curated three thematic trails for visitors to explore the unique history and cultural heritage of Tampines.

### Tampines Town Trail (1.5 hours; bus and walk)

Conferred the World Habitat Award in 1991, the development of Tampines Town was a significant achievement in Singapore's public housing. This trail explores some of the town planning innovations introduced by the Housing & Development Board (HDB) as well as sites of everyday heritage that are part and parcel of the Tampines community.

(Note: You may want to embark on this trail in the morning as most of the stalls in Tampines Round Market & Food Centre are only open until around 3pm.)



Begin your journey with a visit to **Our Tampines Gallery**, located on level 2 of Tampines Regional Library at Our Tampines Hub. Here, you can learn more about the history of Tampines and enjoy the many community stories shared by past and present residents.

Next, make your way towards Festive Walk West exit to find the **World Habitat Award** commemorative sculpture located just behind the hub. Conferred by the Building and Social Housing Foundation and UN-Habitat in 1991, the award recognises the innovative town planning strategies adopted by HDB for Tampines Town, which made it a successful human settlement project that other countries can replicate.



After viewing the sculpture, stroll over to **Tampines Central Park**. The park is one of the many recreational green spaces in Tampines that also serve as connectors between neighbourhoods. In this park, you can find HDB's iconic 1980s mangosteen and watermelon playgrounds, as well as a sculpture by the late artist and Cultural Medallion recipient, Ng Eng Teng.



From the park, proceed towards 25 Tampines St. 21 where you will arrive at the **Tampines Chinese Temple**. Located next to Block 231, this temple houses 12 constituent temples, including some that have been based in Tampines since the 19th century. Within the temple's compound, you may wish to keep an eye out for the two Tempinis trees (*Streblus elongatus*) from which Tampines derived its name.



Your last stop on this trail will be the **Tampines Round Market & Food Centre**, which has been a social hub for residents since its opening in 1983. Give yourself a treat for completing the trail by trying out local dishes from the hawker food stalls, a number of which have been listed in magazines and food blogs for their delicious offerings.

### Religious Institutions Trail (1.5 hours; bus and walk)

Tampines is home to many religious institutions that speak of the diversity of its community. Some of the places of worship featured in this trail have been in Tampines for more than a century and reflect the town's rich cultural heritage. This trail allows visitors to discover these houses of faith, and explore the unique architecture and practices that define these institutions.

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



Start your journey at the majestic **Tampines Chinese Temple** situated at 25 Tampines St. 21. This temple houses 12 smaller constituent temples, including some that have been based in Tampines since the 19th century. An interesting feature of the temple is a 270m-long dragon sculpture that adorns the temple's perimeter. You can also look out for the two Tempinis trees planted within the temple's compound.



Next, head over to **Tampines Link** where you will see a cluster of temples lining the road. Some of the temples such as the **Kew Sian King Temple** (7 Tampines Ave) have been based in Tampines since its early days while others have recently relocated from different parts of Singapore. Amongst these temples, the **Jiutiaoqiao Xinba Nadutan Temple** (95 Tampines Link) is perhaps best known for housing shrines of multiple faiths. Within the temple, one can find shrines dedicated to the Taoist Tua Pek Kong, the Hindu god Ganesha and the Malayan deity Datuk Gong.

From the temple, proceed to **Masjid Darul Ghufuran**, located along Tampines Ave 5. Completed in 1990, the mosque's towering minaret made it a distinctive landmark in Tampines. It was the second largest mosque in Singapore at the point of construction, and is currently undergoing upgrading works since 2016 to further increase its capacity. The mosque is slated to re-open at the end of 2018.



Finally, make your way to the last stop on this trail and pay a visit to the **Catholic Church of the Holy Trinity** at Tampines St. 11. This Roman Catholic church has served the Roman Catholic community in Tampines since its opening in 1990, and its main church hall features stained glass panels imported from Milan, Italy.

### Green Spaces Trail (1 hour; on bicycle)

Tampines is home to a number of parks and green spaces, including some of which were former industrial sites. This cycling trail takes you through a few scenic locales including a converted quarry, sites where some of Tampines' former kampongs were once located, as well as Lorong Halus, a former landfill turned wetland.



Begin your journey at Tampines Ave 10 (as indicated on the map) with **Bedok Reservoir Park**, which was formerly a sand quarry. During the 1960s, there were more than 20 such quarries in Tampines which provided sand for the construction of HDB flats across Singapore. Most of these quarries were filled in when Tampines Town was built in the late 1970s although this quarry was converted into a reservoir in 1986. Today, Bedok Reservoir Park is a popular recreation destination for joggers and water sports enthusiasts.



Continue along Tampines Ave 10 towards **Tampines Link** where you will find a cluster of temples lining the road. Some of the temples here such as the **Kew Sian King Temple** (7 Tampines Ave) have been in Tampines since the early 1900s while others were relocated from other parts of Singapore. On your right, you will see the **Tampines NEWater Service Reservoir**, which is marked by two inverted cone-shaped water tanks which hold up to 8,448 cubic metres of NEWater each. These futuristic-looking structures make for a unique photograph especially when taken at dusk.



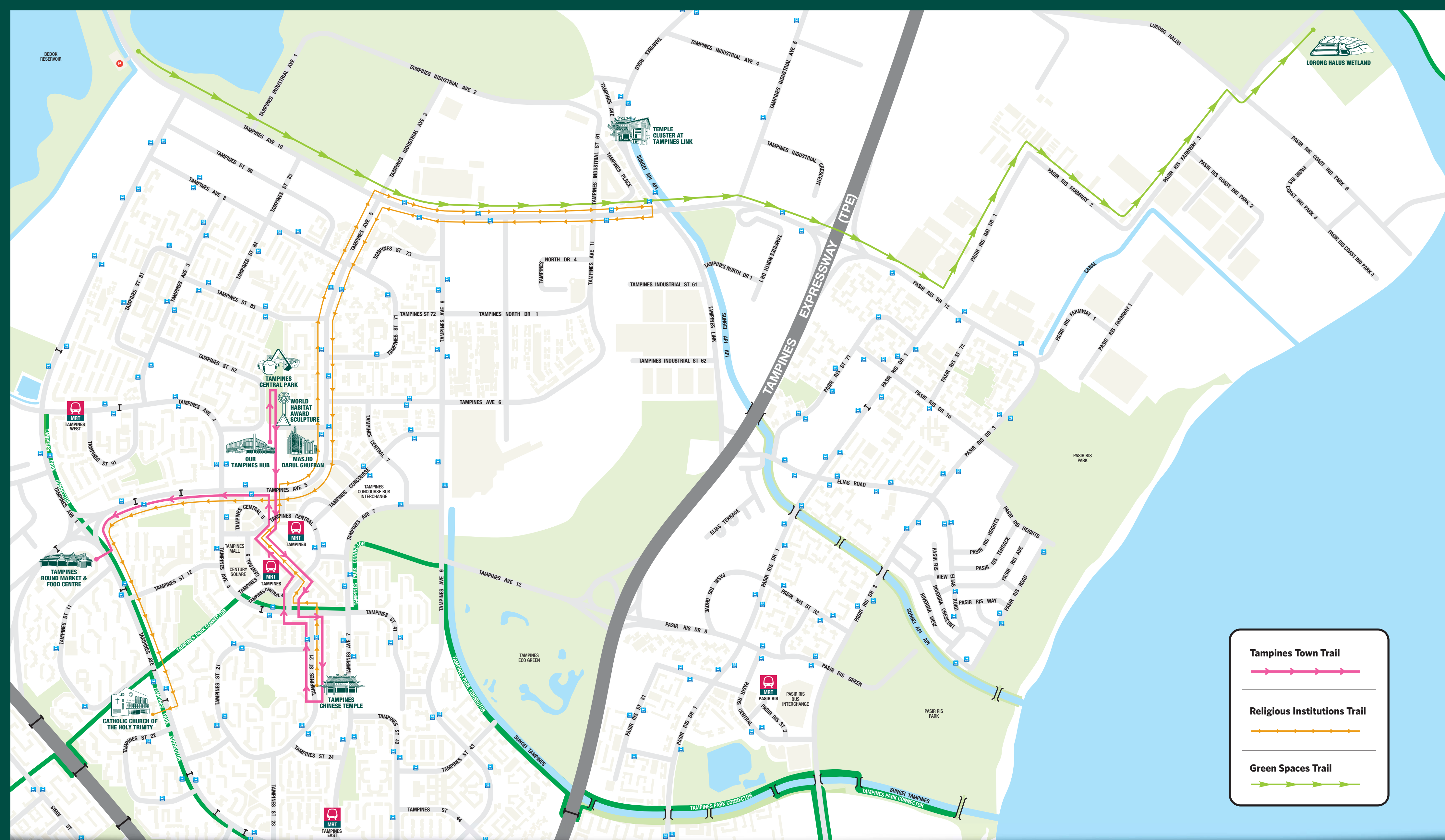
At the end of the cluster of temples and along Tampines Ave lies a row of shophouses that was once a part of the former **Hun Yeang Village**, which takes its name from the 20th century plantation owner, Khoo Hun Yeang. These shophouses, along with Hun Yeang Road and Jalan Sam Kongsi Road, are among the few physical reminders left of the Tampines of the past. You may wish to have a short rest and a drink here before continuing on the trail.




Continue your journey down Tampines Ave 10 until you reach the junction intersecting Pasir Ris Industrial Dr 1 and make a left turn. At the end of the street, turn right into Pasir Ris Farmway 2 and follow the road as it curves left into Pasir Ris Farmway 3. You will arrive at **Lorong Halus Wetland**, which was formerly the site of the Serangoon Sludge Treatment Works. Established by the colonial Municipal Commission in 1941, the centre treated sewage and night soil until 1987. In the 1950s, part of the former swampland around the Sludge Works was used as a landfill until 1999. It was only in the 2000s that the site was rehabilitated and transformed into a wetland.


The cycling trail ends here, but you may wish to continue exploring the greenery around Lorong Halus. Alternatively, you can also cross the red bridge which connects Lorong Halus Wetland to Punggol Waterway, and continue to enjoy the natural beauty of Singapore's north-eastern region.






**Tampines Town Trail**  


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**Religious Institutions Trail**  


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**Green Spaces Trail**  


**HERITAGE SITES IN THE SUGGESTED SHORT TRAIL ROUTES**

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**CATHOLIC CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY**
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**LORONG HALUS WETLAND**
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**MASJID DARUL GHUFRAN**
-   
**OUR TAMPINES HUB**
-   
**TAMPINES CENTRAL PARK**
-   
**TAMPINES CHINESE TEMPLE**
-   
**TAMPINES ROUND MARKET & FOOD CENTRE**
-   
**TEMPLE CLUSTER AT TAMPINES LINK**
-   
**WORLD HABITAT AWARD SCULPTURE**