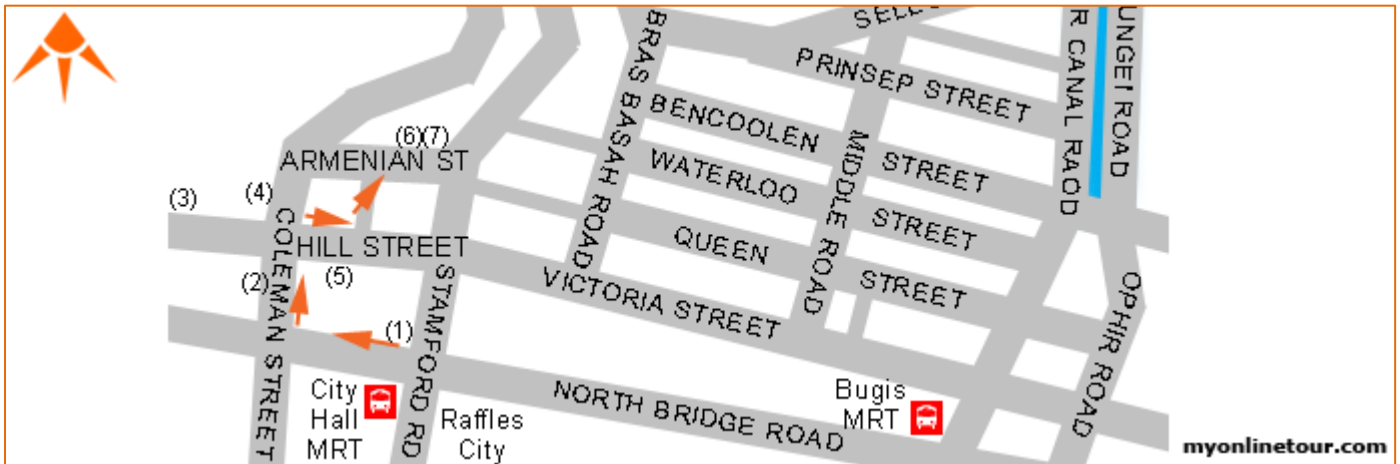


Bugis Walkabout



Start at City Hall MRT Exit B. At the junction of North Bridge Road and Stamford Road was used to be **Capitol Theatre (1)**. Capitol Theatre, later known as Capitol Cinema, was built on the site of a 19th-century Dutch hotel, Van Wyke, and opened in 1930. Initially a venue for cabaret performances, it only became a movie theatre in 1946 when the Shaw Brothers took over the running of the building. It was the largest movie theatre in Singapore, with a seating capacity of over 1,500. Capitol Cinema was well-patronised; by the mid-1980s, it had invested in a state-of-the-art audio visual system. However, stiff competition was emerging in the form of multiplexes. By the mid-1990s, Capitol was the only single-screen cinema left in Singapore. On 30 December 1998, it bowed out to overwhelming competition and screened its last movie. The adjacent four-storey building, Capitol Building (previously known as Shaw Building before it was renamed in 1989), was completed in 1993. As of 2010, the landmark site that includes Capitol Theatre, Capitol Building and Stamford House will be conserved and restored while Capitol Centre will be torn down to make way for a new 15-storey building that will also house four basements.

George Drumgoole Coleman, who served as Superintendent of Public Works from 1833, designed many of the settlement's finest buildings, including St Andrew's Cathedral and the Armenian Church. He also built three residences

for himself on the street that now bears his name – **Coleman Street (2)**. The first was at 3 Coleman Street, where he lived until 1841. The site changed hands many times; its present owner is the Peninsula Shopping Centre and Hotel.

Beside the Central Fire Station you will see an overhead bridge. One end of it connects to Funan Centre, the other end of it used to connect to **Hill Street Hawker Centre (3)**. It still remains in popular memory for its much sought after kway teow and duck rice. The food court took the first two floors of the Hill Street Centre which was built in 1984. By 2000, the food court had been closed and soon after the Hill Street Centre was demolished.

In between the Central Fire Station and Singapore Philatelic Museum is the **Masonic Lodge (4)**. Designed by D.M. Craik in 1879. Although it has been altered and extended 3 times since being built, it still retains its original shape and character. Originally, the Masonic Lodge was located in the house of Thomas Church on the Esplanade.

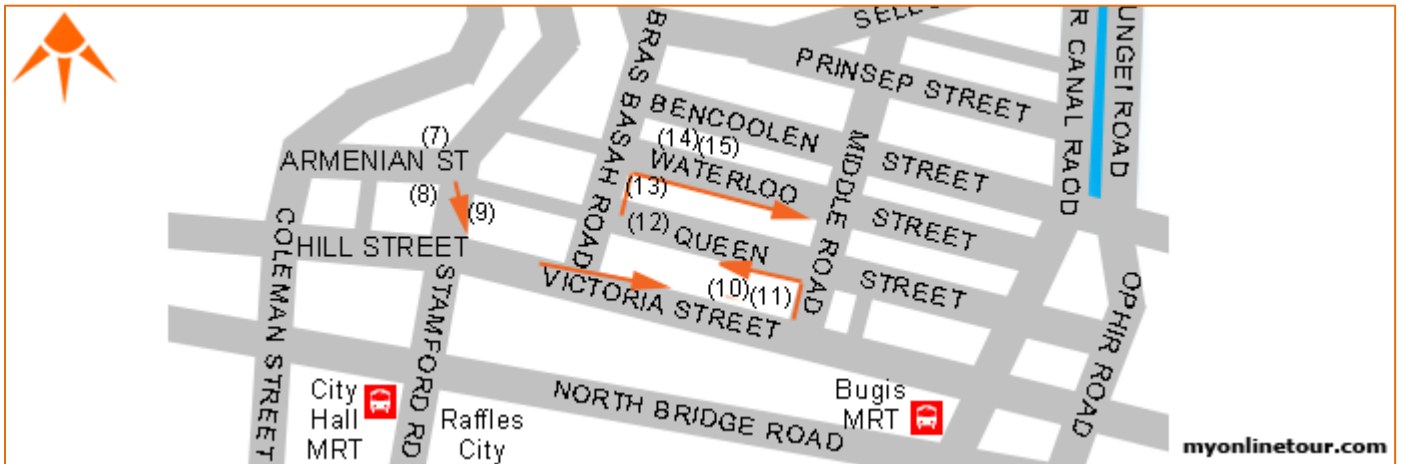
Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCCI) (5) building is a blend of Chinese and Western architectural styles. Although this site has housed the SCCCI's headquarters since the early 20th century, the current building was built only in 1963/4 by Chung Swee Poey & Sons to replace an old two-storey

structure. The large lions at the entrance were imported from China. This building was opened by The Honourable, Mr. Lee Kuan Yew, Prime Minister of Singapore on the 20th September 1964. Established in 1906 as the General Chinese Trade Affairs Association, the SCCCI's original purpose was to look after the interests of the Chinese business community, but it has expanded its scope over the years. It served as a guardian of Chinese customs and values, provided assistance in times of crisis and promoted business, educational, cultural and community activities, and continues to do so today.

The Substation (6), located beside the Peranakan Museum, was a former Singapore City Council Substation (1926 to 1963) and former PUB Substation (1963 to 1982) and is now Singapore's most vibrant arts centre, home to artists and art lovers who use the space to interact, experiment and exhibit that was founded in 1990 by the late Kuo Pao Kun.

United Chinese Library (7). On 8 August 1910, the United Chinese Library was inaugurated by Sun Yat Sen, under the name Tong Teck Book Newspapers Association. It was then located at the foot of Fort Canning, in what is now River Valley. It was one of more than 50 reading rooms set up in Singapore and Malaya between 1908 and 1911 by Chinese republicans to promote their political cause among overseas Chinese,

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and the only one that has survived to the present day. The library moved to 51 Armenian Street on 8 August 1910. A plaque was put up over the library entrance in Sun Yat Sen's Honour. In 1987, the library moved again but the Armenian Street building still stands.

Vanguard Building was previously known as the **MPH Building (8)**, located at 73 Stamford Road. Before Vanguard Building, it was converted to a commercial school (AIT) that later went bust. Built in red brick, the MPH Building has been a landmark in Stamford Road since it was unveiled in 1908. Then known as the Methodist Publishing House, it later became the Malaya Publishing House, as it is better known. Architecture by Swan & Maclaren.

Opposite Vanguard Building, in front of the city campus of the Singapore Management University (SUM), you will find the **Original RGS School fence from Queen Street (9)**. Established on 4 March 1844, with six boarders and five day scholars, Raffles Girls' School (RGS) functioned as a moral development and vocational training class at the Singapore Institution. The school progressed as an educational institution which provided for both primary and secondary students. In 1928, RGS moved to a new building at Queen Street which was occupied by the Japanese during World War II. As the student intake expanded, the secondary section of RGS moved to

Andersonn Road in 1959 and the primary section to Holland Grove in 1979. Today, RGS is a premier school in Singapore, nurturing "Daughters Of A Better Age."

St Joseph's Church (10) – a landmark of the Portuguese Mission. The history of St Joseph's and that of its predecessor, St Jose, both built on the same site, is inextricably linked with the Portuguese Mission in Singapore. Partly funded by Father Francisco de Silva, head of the Portuguese Mission until 1850, and partly by the King of Portugal, St Jose's was established by Father Vincente de Sante Catharina in 1851-53. In 1906, the present St Joseph's replaced it. Built between 1906 and 1912. The Portuguese Mission ran St Joseph's until the late 1990s when it was handed over to the Archdiocese of Singapore. Today, St Joseph's is perhaps most noted for its annual good Friday procession, during which Christ's Passion is honoured.

Beside is the **Former St Anthony's Convent (11)**. On the façade of the building you will find the embedded Cross still remains with the flagpoles. In August 1879, the priest of St Joseph's Church, Father Jose Pedro Santo Anna de Cunha, decided to set up a school for the poor children of the parish. The school started with an enrolment of just 6 students, and was known as St Anna's School. As the years passed, enrolment increased. In 1894, the girls came under St Anthony's Girls School while the boys

Formed the population of St Anthony's Boys School. In 1906, the school was known as St Anthony's Convent. During World War II, the Japanese Occupation of Singapore (1942 – 1945), the school became a refuge for the sick and the homeless.

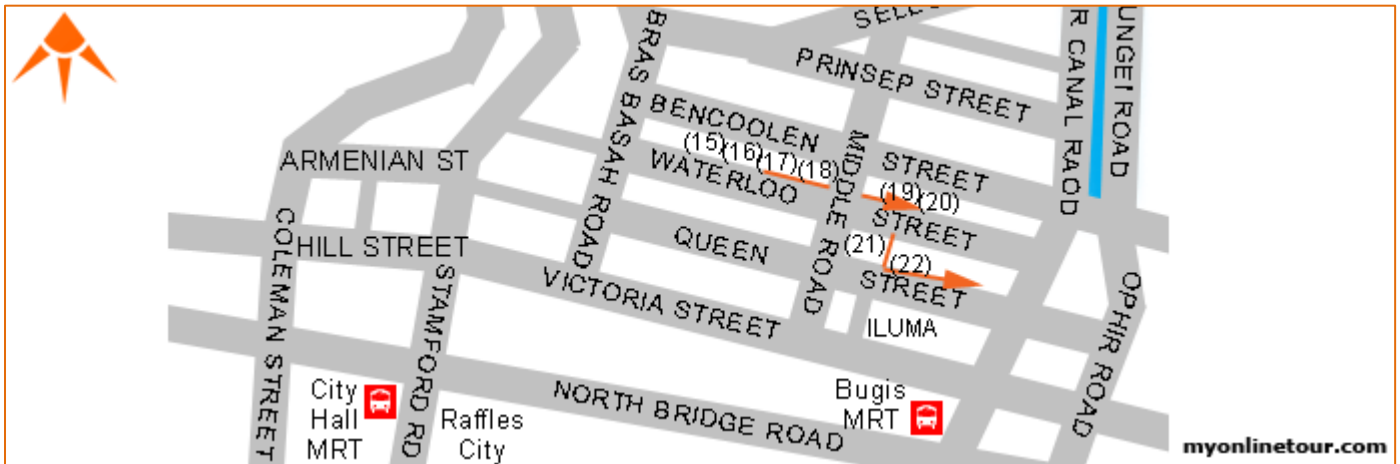
You are now walking along **Queen Street (12)** (aka San Ma Lu, which means "the third horseway") is one of the oldest streets in Singapore. Named after Queen Victoria, the street was part of the European enclave in Singapore's past and had several distinguished schools clustered around the area, so much so that Queen Street was also called Eurasian Street.

Along Waterloo Street, corner of Singapore Art Museum, you will see two sculptures (i) **Another Day (The Coolies)** & (ii) **The Explorer' (13)**. *Another Day* immortalizes the collie – that archetype of the labourer or workman of bygone days. By Chong Fah Cheong, this sculpture was created for exhibition at the Singapore Tourism Board's pavilion during the *Expo 2000* in Frankfurt, Germany. *The Explorer'* was created by Ng Eng Teng to commemorate the New Millennium, December 1999.

42 Waterloo Street (14) is a restored pre-war bungalow.

Singapore Calligraphy Centre (15), where regular calligraphy exhibitions and classes are conducted.

Bugis Walkabout



YMS Arts Centre (16), preserved with interiors redesigned to accommodate offices and a 200-seat auditorium.

Dance Ensemble Singapore (17) which has established a name for itself overseas, for traditional and contemporary Chinese dance performances.

Further down you will see Singapore Council of Women's Organisations (SCWO), take in the delightful mural on the boundary wall designed and painted by the NAFA (located behind SCWO) students.

Sculpture Square, 155 & 161 Middle Road – **Middle Road Church (18)**, now known as Sculpture Square. Built between 1870-75, the Middle Road Church was first known as The Christian Institute. Here, young men gathered for recreational activities and daily worship made possible by Charles Phillips, its trustee. He invited the Methodists to use it from 1885 until it was formally transferred to them in 1892. It housed the Methodist Girls' School until 1900 and was shared with a group of Straits Chinese formed by Methodist missionaries in 1890. When it was officially inaugurated as the Malay Church in 1894, it became the first Straits Chinese Methodist Church in Singapore. It remained here until 1929 when it moved to Kampong Kapur and is now known as the Kampong Kapur Methodist Church.

After Fortune Centre is **Sri Krishnan Temple (19)** was built in 1870 & is one of the oldest temples in Singapore. Hanuman Beem Singh set up a shrine for Lord Krishna under a Banyan tree in Waterloo Street in 1870. It was to cater to the needs of the large Hindu community from North & South India living in the vicinity. As the congregation grew so did the temple. The temple management was passed on to Hanuman Beem Singh's son, Humna Somapah before Joognedd Ammal took over. During her tenure, sculptors brought in from South India built the main shrine and dome and the temple was consecrated in 1933. In 1935, V. Pakirisamy Pillai, an Indian philanthropist, took over the leadership of the temple. It was largely through his efforts that the temple was developed on a grand scale. In 1958, he constructed a concrete mandapam (hall) in memory of his mother and a two-storey ancillary building. The consecration ceremony was held in 1959. In 1987, his son, Sivaraman initiated another major redevelopment, which included the construction of a colourful and artistically ornate main entrance. A consecration ceremony was held for the redeveloped temple in 1989. To serve the Hindu community better, the multi-purpose hall was re-built as a four-storey building with a basement and temple structures such as the main entrance were renovated extensively in 2001. The consecration ceremony for this phase of development of the temple was held on

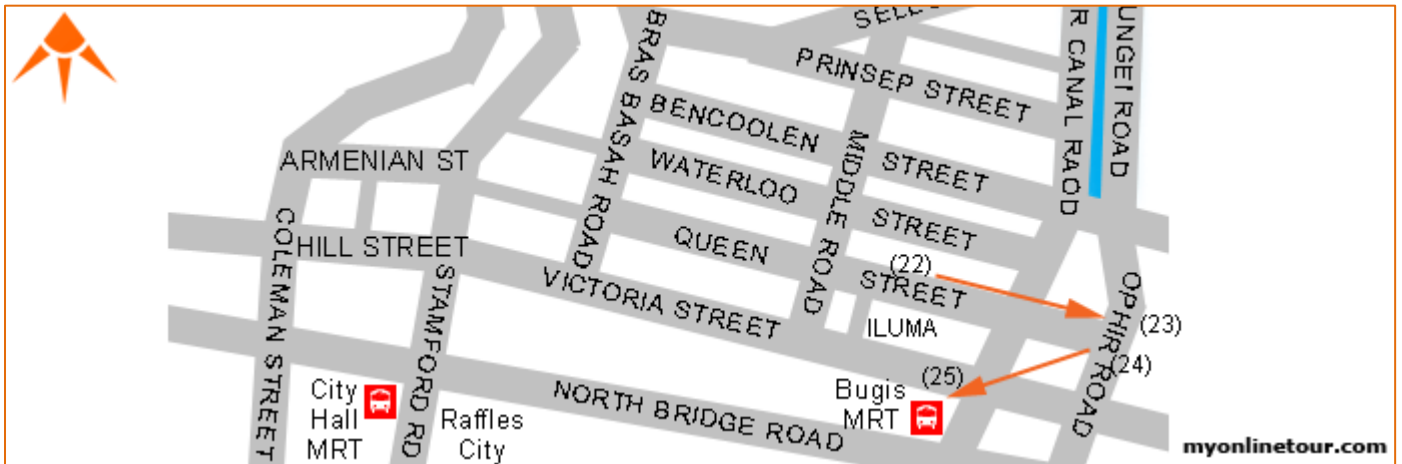
24 November 2002.

Kwan Im Thong Hood Cho Temple (20), 178 Waterloo Street. This is a well-known and popular temple to many local devotees of the deity Kuan Yin, the Chinese Goddess of Mercy, also believed to be a manifestation of the Bodhisattva Avalokitesvara. Built in 1884, The temple was built twice – once in 1895 and again in 1982 to increase its capacity. Besides fulfilling the religious and cultural needs of its followers, the Temple also played an important role during the Japanese Occupation in providing refuge for the sick, the wounded and the homeless. All deities are now placed on a single altar in the prayer hall with the elevated statue of Sakyamuni Buddha positioned just behind that of the Goddess Kuan Yin and one each for Da Moh, also known as Bodhidharma (the chief of the six Buddhist Patriarchs), and Hua Tuo (the Chinese patron saint of medicine and healing) on the flanking altars.

Behind you will is Block 269B, on the right of it (opposite of Sri Krishnan Temple) you will see the Stamford Arts Centre. It was **formerly Stamford Primary School (21)** (1955 to 1986).

Walk through between Blk 269B and Stamford Arts Centre, at end turn left onto the pavement beside the road. In front of Cheng Yan Court, in front of shop #01-234 you will see a story board on **Central Sikh Temple Site (22)**.

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In 1912, a group of Sikhs saw the need to move out of the first premises devoted to Sikh worship at Pearl's Hill Police Barracks. The Central Sikh temple, also known as Wadda Gurdwara, was then set up in a bungalow at No. 175 Queen Street. The temple was reconstructed in 1921 to cater to the growing Sikh community. In 1977, the land in Queen Street was acquired for urban renewal and the temple was vacated in December 1979. It was temporarily housed in the former Bukit Ho Swee Community Centre at Seng Poh Road until it moved to the Central Sikh Temple at Towner Road.

Next building you will see is Queen Street Blk 270 (Albert Centre). This hawker centre is popular with both locals and tourist alike. The hawker centre is also famous for dried seafood items and textiles, sold at the lock-up stalls within the market section. This building underwent a facelift; this upgrading has injected a new lease of life into the centre with a history of 31 years and re-opened for business from 1 December 2009. Patrons can now look forward to a new environment after 17 months of upgrading works that cost \$10.42 million. Opposite you will see Bugis Street, we shall talk about Bugis Street later.

Next building on your left is Fu Lu Shou Complex. It is a shopping centre that specialises in Taoist and Buddhist religious paraphernalia. The mall is

named after the Taoist concept of *Fu Lu Shou*, meaning, respectively, good fortune (*fu*, 福), prosperity (*lu*, 祿) and longevity (*shou*, 壽), clearly signalling its specialisation to consumers.

Across the road is Rochor Centre, you will see an array of four colourful HDB blocks. Below these blocks is an approximately 21,800 sq m of commercial space containing 193 retail shops, this is the largest number of shops in a HDB block. Here you can find all sorts of merchandises sold, furniture shops, artifact shops, banks, post office, supermarket, money changer, etc.

Across Ophir Road is the **Church of Our Lady of Lourdes (23)**. By the 1880s, the Indian Catholic community in Singapore, from Ceylon (Sri Lanka) and French Pondicherry in South India, had grown significantly in numbers. But they had no church of their own. So in 1883, The Church of Our Lady of Lourdes was built as Singapore's first Indian Catholic parish, serving Indian Catholics from all over the island. The Indian Catholic community to a large extent kept to themselves from the main congregation of St. Peter and Paul's Church on Queen Street. It continued to serve mainly Indian Catholics for almost a century, only becoming a parish for all Catholics in 1974. The church commemorates the apparitions of the Virgin Mary at Lourdes, France.

Ophir Road (24) is named after Mount Opher (or Gunong Ledang), a hill situated in Muar, West Johor, Malaysia. Ophir Road has dubious honour of being the first road in Singapore to have the Electronic Road Pricing (ERP) gantry installed on 8 September 1997. This road was once a major residential area for rickshaw pullers.

Look around and you will find **Bugis Street / Bugis Village / Bugis Junction Complex (25)**. This area is more affectionately remembered as being the notorious Bugis Street, the favourite haunt of transvestites, transsexuals and prostitutes and their clients-soldiers and sailors passing through. The transvestites and transsexuals won a curious and sometimes raucous audience, people who loved their performances and the air of gaiety they exuded. A profusion of hawker stalls selling cheap, delicious food until the wee hours of the night also kept customers coming back for more. This scene gradually disappeared in the 1960s and, in the early 1990s, the two- and three-storey shophouses that characterized the area were torn down to make way for the Bugis Junction Complex. Built in 1995, Bugis Junction comprises a hotel, a shopping centre, offices and restaurants. A glass roof covers the old streets, allowing them to be air-conditioned and incorporated into the complex, Singapore's first glass-covered, air-conditioned shopping streets.