

Kampong Glam Walkabout

(by www.myonlinetour.com)



Alight at Lavender MRT and start with **ICA Building (1)**. It was renamed from SIR Building from 1 April 2003. Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA) has brought together the former Singapore Immigration & Registration (SIR) and the enforcement work performed by the former Customs & Excise Department (CED) at the various checkpoints. ICA is responsible for the security of Singapore's borders. There is an ICA Gallery – Insight ICA which occupies 282.5 square metres of the ground floor of ICA Building.

In 1920, Hin Ann Huay Kwan was set up in Queen Street. **Hong Wen School (2)** was founded in the same year. In 1923, the school was closed due to the economic recession. It reopened in 1925. The school moved to Waterloo Street the following year. The school closed again in 1941 during the Japanese Occupation. In 1945 the school functioned again in a rented building situated at Dickson Road. In 1973, the management committee of the school saw the need to relocate the school as many people in the neighbourhood were shifting to new housing estates. A piece of land along Victoria Street was bought to construct a new building for the school. The present premises were finally completed in 1981.

Malabar Mosque (3) has an attractive blue & green mosaic façade & sturdy golden domes. The mosaic tiles serve a practical purpose in saving exterior painting costs, making the Malabar a unique totally tiled mosque here. Behind it, there's a small, disused cemetery for Malabar Indians. Built by A.H. Siddique, an immigrant from northern India in the 1920s, who designed a number of buildings in Singapore. It's said he refused to take fees for religious buildings. Completed in 1963 to serve the Malabar Muslims.

At the junction of Jln Kubor & Victoria St, you will see the **Muslim Cemetery (5)** on your left and the **Old Malay Cemetery (4)** opposite it. Dating from about 1819 this is the oldest recorded Malay cemetery in Singapore. J.B.Tassin's map of 1836 labels this area "Tombs of the Malayan Princes". Located across Jln Kubor from the Old Malay Cemetery is the Muslim Cemetery which is larger and more open.

Alsagoff Arab School (6) is one of the few Islamic religious centers in Singapore. Founded by the Alsagoff family and built in 1912, it's a simple 2-storeyed design with semicircular arches on pillars and an odd-shaped pediment over the portico. A new wing, in an unsuccessful pastiche, was added in 1992.

Jln Sultan's Chinese name is Ji Chap Keng (Twenty Houses), but most of these 20 are no longer standing. It's currently lined with unexceptional shophouses on its west side and faced with just as mediocre commercial buildings, which date from the 1980s and '90s.

No. 93 The Heritage Shop (7) is an antique shop, specializing in old Singaporean objects. Open only in the afternoons.

Follow Minto Rd to its end and you will see **Hajjah Fatimah Mosque (8)** on your right. Built in 1845-46, it is named after its female benefactor, Hajjah Fatimah, a Malaccan lady said to be married to the Sultan of Gowa in the Celebes. This is the oldest mosque in Singapore. It has been painted brown and cream and has a Malaccan-style neoclassical minaret which leans towards the dome. Altered in 1932 (by the French firm Brossard Mopin) and repaired in 1973. This is one of the few mosques on the island named after a woman.

Beach Road (9) is one of the principal residential roads in early Singapore, Beach Rd followed the seashore before the land was reclaimed for the present Nicoll Highway.

Kampong Glam Walkabout

(by www.myonlinetour.com)

At the corner of Sultan Gate is **321 Beach Road** (10).



It is a well-balanced and nicely proportioned 3-storeyed art deco building. Its architectural style is strikingly different from that of the rest of the area.

No. 39 Lee Loy Hin (11) works with wrought iron. The father of the current owner started the shop about 80 years ago. They make barbeque stands used in hawker centres.

This is the location of a small, symmetrical wooden building, originally a theatre for Javanese immigrants, **Pondok Java** (12).

Sultan Palace (13) was built in 1840 by Sultan Ali, son of Sultan Hussein and in original condition. It has been converted to **Malay Heritage Centre** – see www.myonlinetour.com for more information under Malay Heritage Centre.

Kandahar Street (14) was named after Kandahar, a city in south-central Afghanistan, originally part of the British Empire. Kandahar St was the site of a Sook Ching (mass execution of suspected rebels) during the Japanese Occupation.



This street consists of a row of decorative Late Style Shophouses, No. 44-54 being especially ornate.

Muscat Street (15) is another street in the area name after a town in Arabia. Muslims and Arabic names in this area reflect the past ownership of the area by Arab traders.

Sultan Mosque (16) is one of Singapore's most spectacular religious buildings and a focal point for Muslims, it is the principal mosque on the island. Its an attractive mix of Western Classical and Arabic designs, which form a recognizable Muslim style.



The first mosque on this site was built in 1824-26 with a grant of 3,000 from the East India Company. The present structure was completed in 1928. Architect Dennis Santry (an Irish guy) combined a mix of Persian, Moorish, Turkish and classical themes. The mosque was designated a national monument in 1975.

When North Bridge Rd was being laid out, it was diverted to avoid this mosque. The base of this mosque's gilded dome is decorated with bottles.

Bussorah St, also known as **Bussorah Mall** (17). Presumably named after the East India Company factory and residency at Bussorah in the late 18th century or named after a prominent Arab businessman. This street and mall was recently restored and pedestrianised. Completed in 1992 by the Urban Redevelopment Authority, Bussorah Mall fronts the Sultan Mosque.

Baghdad Street (18) was named after abs Arab town because this whole area was formerly owned by the Arab merchant Syed Ali bin Mohamed Al Junied.

Arab Street (19) was named for Singapore's substantial Arab community, who were responsible for bringing trade and the Islamic faith to the region, this is one of the liveliest streets in the city and is famous for its wide variety of handcrafted goods, rattanware, Indian silk, etc. A great fire occurred here in 1889.



Haji Lane (20) was used to be owned by the Arab merchant Syed Ali bin Mohamed Al Junied, this lane is named after Muslim Haj.



Bali Lane (21). The Chinese used to refer to this lane as *sin ba li* meaning "New Bali", to distinguish it to the adjoining Shaikh Madaesah Lane which was know as *ku ba li* meaning "Old Bali".

Parkview Square (22) is a modern classic in Singapore. The granite clad, art deco building designed by American consultant James Adams together with DP Architects of Singapore, houses a truly modern, column-free interior. The landscaped plaza is a reminiscent of St. Marco Square in Venice. You have to check out the lobby, besides the interior, there is also a 12 metres tall wine cellar where 'wine angels' are attached to invisible wires to reach ordered bottles. Was the movie "Batman and Robin" shot here?



Parkview Square