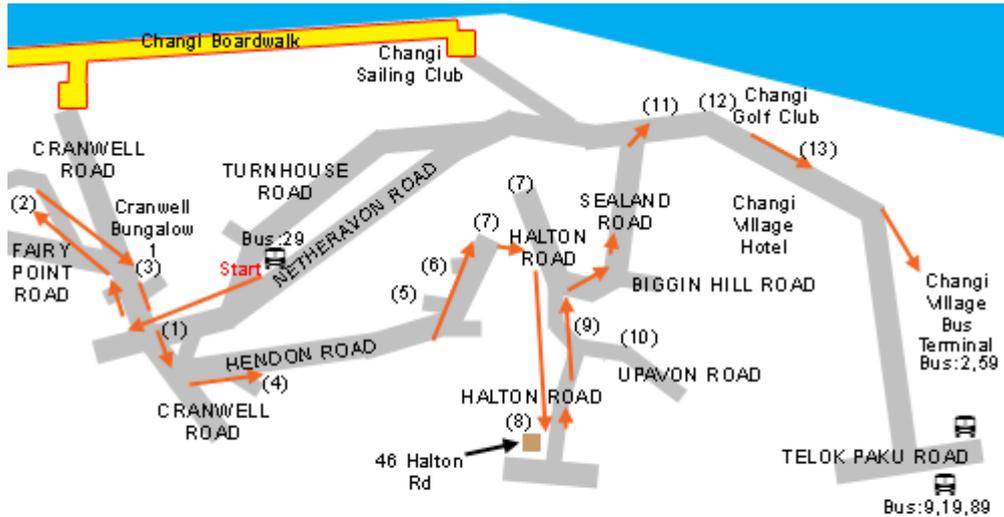


# Changi Point Walkabout

(by [www.myonlinetour.com](http://www.myonlinetour.com))



If you decide to take the preferred route, take Bus 29 at Tampines Interchange and alight at the first bus-stop along Netheravon Road.

**Netheravon Road (1)** presumably was named after the Airfield Camp in Netheravon Wiltshire, which is home to the Army Parachute Association (APA), probably the oldest parachute club in the world and the centre of where parachuting, as a sport, was born in the U.K.

**Old Commando HQ (2)** was built in 1935 by the British together with the other barracks, it is part of a naval and air base to protect the eastern front to the Johor Straits from any Japanese attack from the sea during the Second World War. Located on top of Fairy Point Hill, it has a commanding view over the Serangoon Harbour and Johor Straits.



After the British left Singapore in the 1970s, the building was leased to private for retreat use before MINDEF resumed its military use until it was vacated.

## Sepetir - *Sindora wallichii* (3)

Look out for this heritage tree. A large tree belonging to the bean family, they possess massive crowns when mature and are supported by mighty trunks and main branches.



[ According to sources, there was a massive tree of this species that stood as a landmark in pre-WWII Changi. Apparently, this tree was felled by the British during WWII, why? ]

## 42 Hedon Road (4)



This Royal Engineers Headquarters building was built in 1936. Changi was initially used as a base for artillery. The Royal Engineers were tasked with clearing and identifying the gun positions and buildings to house the ancillary support organizations. By the time these tasks were completed in 1936, the Anti-Aircraft units started to be located here as well to protect the coastal batteries. The Royal Engineers played an important role in shaping the developments in Changi. After the Japanese surrendered in 1945, the Royal Engineers returned and set up the Headquarters in Block 42.

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## 35 (5) & 36 (6) Hedon Road –



35 Hedon Road

These buildings served as the Headquarters for Far East Air Forces and were built in 1930. The Japanese built the first runways in Changi between 1943 and 1944. Aircrafts first flew from Changi in late 1945. After the Japanese surrendered in 1945, the British Army handed over the base to the Royal Air Force (R.A.F.) in 1946. By 1948, the R.A.F. was firmly established at Changi and it became the main R.A.F. Headquarters on the island. After World War II, the Far East Air Force Headquarters Building housed the Headquarters for R.A.F. Malaya and Singapore. The airbase evolved into a huge air terminus for British military operations. Squadron 48, a transport wing, and Squadron 52 were heavily involved in the anti-Communist operations in Malaya during the Malayan Emergency years.

## Former Changi Hospital (7)



The earlier block, Block 2, was constructed in 1930 as the Royal Air Force Hospital. Block 37 was built in 1935. The engineers held cinema shows twice weekly in the hospital.

You may want to skip (8) and proceed to (9) instead...

## Site of felling of *Hopea sangal* tree (8).



On 24 Mar 2003, the court imposed a fine of \$8000 on a property management company for the illegal felling of the 150-year old, 35m tall *Hopea sangal* at this location, within the Changi Tree Conservation Area (TCA). The court also awarded \$76,035 to the state as compensation for the loss of the tree.



On 20 Nov 2002, it met its end at the hands of the Defendant's building supervisor. The tree, thought to have been the last of its kind in Singapore, is believed to have given the Changi area its name because it was commonly referred to as Chengal pasir or Chengal mata kuching.

## 52 (9) & 53 (10) Biggin Hill –



Currently occupied by Orange Valley Nursing Home. Completed in 1928, these buildings served as the married soldiers' quarters at Battery Hill. There were two 6-inch guns at Battery Hill that were blown up on 2 February 1942 under the direction of Churchill when the British withdrew from Changi, as the Japanese attacked Singapore.



**Park Connector along Netheravon Road (11)** connects Changi Village with the Changi western boardwalk, completed in early 2005. The 1.5km connector cost \$2.3 million consisting of a jogging and cycling track, fitness corners, rest areas and a surface car park to serve visitors.

## Changi Golf Club (12)



Built by the British Royal Air Force in 1946, the course ambles around the jungle covered Changi Hill with scattered relics of the British Military presence, such as Barracks, Guard Houses and Officers' Quarters bordering the course.

**Manasseh Meyer House (13)** at 2 Netheravon Road. Currently occupied by Changi Clubhouse.



Manasseh Meyer was a rich Jew who built the Chesed-El Synagogue at Oxley Rise in 1905. He also built a large generator plant in 1911 to supply electricity to the Sea View Hotel as well as to his house at the junction of Meyer Road and Amber Road. He built this bungalow before Major General Sir Webb Gillman, R.A. surveyed the area in early 1927. With the growing military family population in Changi, this bungalow was bought from Mr Meyer in 1933 to be used as a proper school.

[ When the British surrendered to the Japanese in Feb 1942, what happened to the bungalow? ]