



Statue commemorating the visit of the Supreme King of Siam



Swissotel The Stamford



THE ESPLANADE THEATRE BY THE BAY



Bum Boats



ACM Green

LEGEND



MRT City Hall



Victoria Theatre and Concert Hall



Carpark



ACM @ Empress Place



Lim Bo Seng Memorial



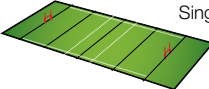
Padang



Tan Kim Seng Mountain



River Cruise Down Singapore River



Singapore Recreation Club



(Former) Supreme Court



City Hall (Judicial Stretch)



Singapore Cricket Club



The Arts House

Suggested Route



Statue of Sir Stamford Raffles

BOAT QUAY

SINGAPORE RIVER

COLEMAN ST

NORTH BRIDGE RD

HILL ST

HIGH ST

STAMFORD RD

RAFFLES CITY

RAFFLES BLVD

ESPLANADE DR

CIVIC DISTRICT



1. Singapore Recreation Club

You can't enter the Singapore Recreation Club without membership but you can watch games like cricket and rugby outside its fenced playing field every Sunday, or spot Swissotel the Stamford, Singapore's tallest hotel.

2. Padang

The Padang is a lush field of green and little else but that's what it was intended for when Sir Stamford Raffles decreed it as a public recreational space in 1822. It's not quite the same as nasi padang (ayam bakar with rice) but still deliciously good to kick a goalie, play cricket, play baseball, or read the papers at one of the many spectator stands while you are here. Walk 82 tiles down to the centre walkway and head to the middle of the parade square. Roll on the grass and soak up the sun and breeze, or imagine you are former President Yusok Ishak at the swearing-in ceremony back in December 1959. Then shout, "(Your name) am here!" and see if it echoes back.

3. City Hall (Judicial Stretch)

Read the "no jaywalking" sign before crossing over to City Hall. Tread carefully and respectfully around this grand dame because firstly, there's a pyramid of steps waiting to be climbed, and secondly, here's where the most important events leading to the sovereignty of Singapore were observed. Take a moment of silence in appreciation of the grand architecture which lorded over the Judicial stretch since 1929. And if you are more patriotic, maybe you could recite the national pledge or hum the national anthem beneath the national flag.

4. (Former) Supreme Court

Be still and know that you are now standing outside the former Supreme Court, the highest court in the state. Spot the distinctive green dome which is a replica of the one at St Paul's Cathedral in London, below which sits the Allegory of Justice. Look out for legal personnel catwalk-ing up and down the judicial stretch in their power suits. Spot one lawyer with a wig and guess the bald one out. Take a picture at this signpost, and figure the direction of your next checkpoint.

5. Singapore Cricket Club

Stroll down the Padang and enjoy an unobstructed view of the centre business district which forms the backdrop to the Singapore Cricket Club. The stoic architecture with its red-tiled roof stands unfazed in the busyness of the commercial hub. The quaint 155-year-old sports club is the second oldest in Singapore, and is probably one of British expats' favourite hangouts where cricket and beer go hand in hand.

6. The Arts House at the Old Parliament House

His Majesty (now try reading the name under two seconds) Somdech Phra Paramindr Maha Chulalonkorn, the supreme king of Siam, was here. This statue celebrates the arrival of the ruler in 1871 to the first foreign country outside Siam. Swing round to the entrance of the Arts House and take five at the many rustic seats at the porch. Enjoy music, breeze, and exhibits surrounding the entrance, pop in for a film or two, or simply enjoy a hot cuppa at the Earshot Café tucked away at the rear of the building.

7. Statue of Sir Stamford Raffles

Welcome to the landing site of Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles, the man who first stepped foot at this very spot in Singapore in 1819, and went on to write our history. The debatable question here is: did he actually arrive on 28 Jan or 29 Jan? Two plaques in the area offer two different dates of arrival. Locate them and deliberate for a minute how this is possible. Strike a pose with Sir Stamford Raffles and give your most serious look.

8. River cruise down Singapore River

Hop on (a fashionable bum boat) and cruise down Clarke Quay, Robertson Quay, Boat Quay, and the now defunct Clifford Pier, and journey through that part of the Singapore River where more than five million yellow rubber duckies have swam before, raising over half a billion for charities since 1998. Imagine what it was like wadding in a big bathtub amongst throngs of cool yellow ducks. Ernie could croon a tubby song till the ducks came home! Prices start from \$6 for children and \$12 for adults.

9. ACM @ Empress Place

The Asian Civilisation Museum (ACM) at Empress Place is the perfect place to enjoy a tranquil afternoon by the mouth of the Singapore River. The museum houses 11 stroller-friendly galleries which exhibit artefacts from all over Asia – that's enough collections to entertain you for hours. Catch glimpses of the river while you are in the gallery and then pop into the Siem Reap II Café or the Indochine Waterfront Restaurant for your afternoon tea. Family package costs \$20 for three adults and two children. While you are here, check out the snake charmers or space out at the grassy knoll of Museum Greens.

10. Victoria Theatre and Concert Hall

The Victoria Theatre and Concert Hall is an important cultural hub in Singapore's history. It still offers operas and theatrical plays today as it did yesteryears. Here, spot the original statue of Sir Stamford Raffles.

