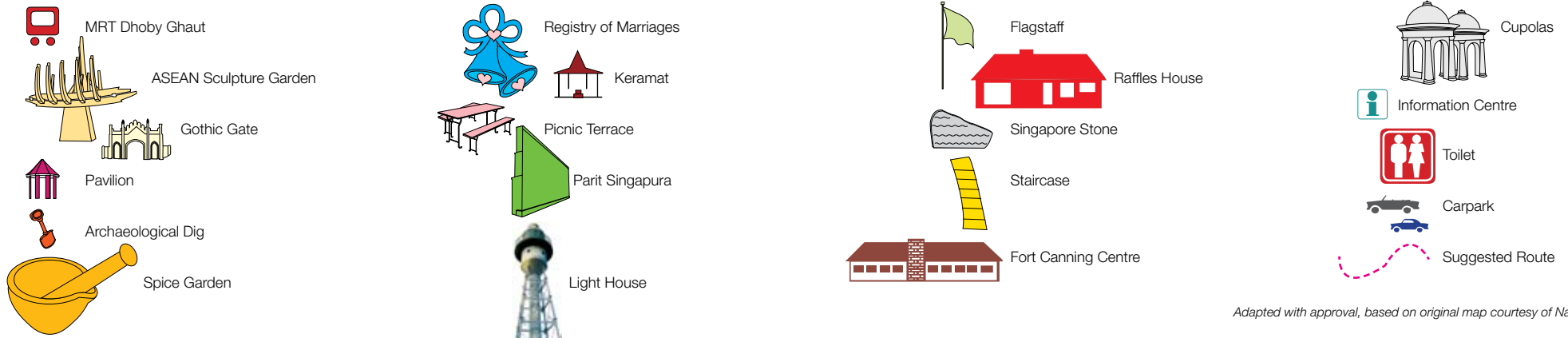
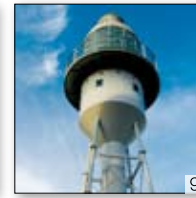
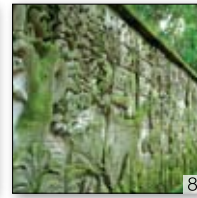


FORT CANNING PARK LEGEND



Adapted with approval, based on original map courtesy of National Parks Board.

FORT CANNING PARK



1. Percival Road

Did you know that Fort Canning Park bore three different names in the past? Your discovery route begins with hoisting up the pram for a long climb of stairs ahead. Look out for traffic as you bypass Canning Walk. At the summit of the staircase cross the road and take a left turn towards Percival Road, which is named after Lt Gen A. E. Percival, General Officer Commanding during the Malaya world war. The road is slightly upslope path so held on tight to the pram and remember to keep to the pedestrian path.

2. ASEAN Sculpture Garden

Once past car park B, filter into the minor path on the right where you will enter the ASEAN Sculpture Garden. Check the signpost located at the car park exit if you are unsure where you are headed. Several towering sculptures created for the 1981 ASEAN Sculpture Symposium are on permanent display in the Garden. These works of art symbolise the ties amongst ASEAN nations and are best enjoyed in the company of cricket calls. Beware of vehicles turning out of the car park and keep the pram off the grass.

3. Fort Canning Green

From the Sculpture Garden, head in the direction of car park A until you reach the Gothic Gate. A pair of these gates, built in 1846, marks the two entrances to Fort Canning Green, once a Christian cemetery it is now a grassy oval for concerts and performances. This is also the start of the Spice Trail (as guided by banners along the way). To the left, elaborate wartime tombs stand beneath several saga trees. Pick a few saga seeds (love seeds) and keep them in a bottle as a family memento – beware of red ants though.

March up the nearest brick path leading to the Fort Canning Centre and observe the tombstones that have been set into the wall. (The moss-filled steps are a little slippery so be careful.) You might catch some chamber music coming from the building, a former army barrack in the 1920s. Winding down the other pathway, you will pass by the James Brooke Napier Memorial and a pair of cupolas built by prominent architect George Coleman. Have a read on their background.

4. Spice Garden

Stepping past the second Gothic Gate, you will the educational spice trail continues in the Spice Garden, a well manicured lawn where fruit trees, flowers, spices, and all things nice grow. Here, you can lead the children on a discovery journey by getting them to draw and describe the fruit or flower they see in their notebooks. They can also go around smelling the herbs to collect stamps at six different stations around the Park.

5. Archaeological Dig

En route the spice trail is an archaeological site where over 30,000 pieces of stoneware, earthenware, and such, dating back to the 14th century when Fort Canning was known as Bukit Larangan (or "The Hill"), have been excavated. Some of these artefacts are about 700-years-old and are currently on display at the National Museum of Singapore, a stone's throw away from the Park. Smaller porcelain fragments are on onsite display. There is a vending machine here if you need to quench your thirst. Opening hours are from 8.30am to 6.30pm and a historical guided tour is available on every last Saturday of the month (except Public Holidays). Register by phone at 6332 1302.

6. Keramat

Not far off from the old Christian cemetery is, allegedly, the resting place of a former Temasek ruler named Iskandar Syah. Known as a Keramat, the pavilion-like structure has a *pendopo*, a 14th century Malay architectural-styled roof, supported by numerous pillars of Javanese origin. Get the children to count the number of pillars and describe their elaborate design.

7. Picnic Terrace

A stone's throw away from the Keramat is where you can stop for a little picnic in the serenity of the Picnic Terrace. Enjoy a leisurely self-packed picnic basket under the pavilion or at the outdoor picnic tables erected in the embrace of shading frangipani trees, the rustling of the sealing-wax palm leaves, and the trickling sound of a nearby fountain. The children can also learn about the history of Singapore through a large comic board at the Terrace.

8. Parit Singapura

Legend has it that a moat (deep trench) and a wall, measuring 5m in height and 3m in width, ran along a Fresh Water Stream on the hill but its authenticity could not be verified although a partial trench still exists today. Whether this tale is true or false, perhaps a look at the moss covered walls of the Pari Singapura (Moat of Singapore) will give you a better insight.

9. Raffles Terrace

The Raffles Terrace is a treasure trove containing some of Singapore's historical icons. You will find a flagstaff that was an important territorial marker for the Japanese and British troops, a 24.3m-tall lighthouse that was beacon to ships docking at

the ports until December 1958, and the Raffles House that Sir Stamford Raffles built as his private residence on the southern summit of Government Hill as Fort Canning was then known as. Raffles Terrace is also a beautiful recreational garden, excellent for a leisurely stroll in the evening, as well as home to a stunning Flame of the Forest, one of many heritage trees in the Park.

10. Singapore Stone

On the southwestern end of the hill sits a plaque relating the history of the Singapore Stone. From this spot, you can catch a glimpse of the mouth of the Singapore River where the massive stone used to stand. Unfortunately, only fragments of the stone were recovered after it was being blown up by the British Army in 1843. One such piece can be found in the National Museum of Singapore. If you amber down the red brick path at sunset, you can catch a flattering silhouette of the bustling Clarke Quay.

