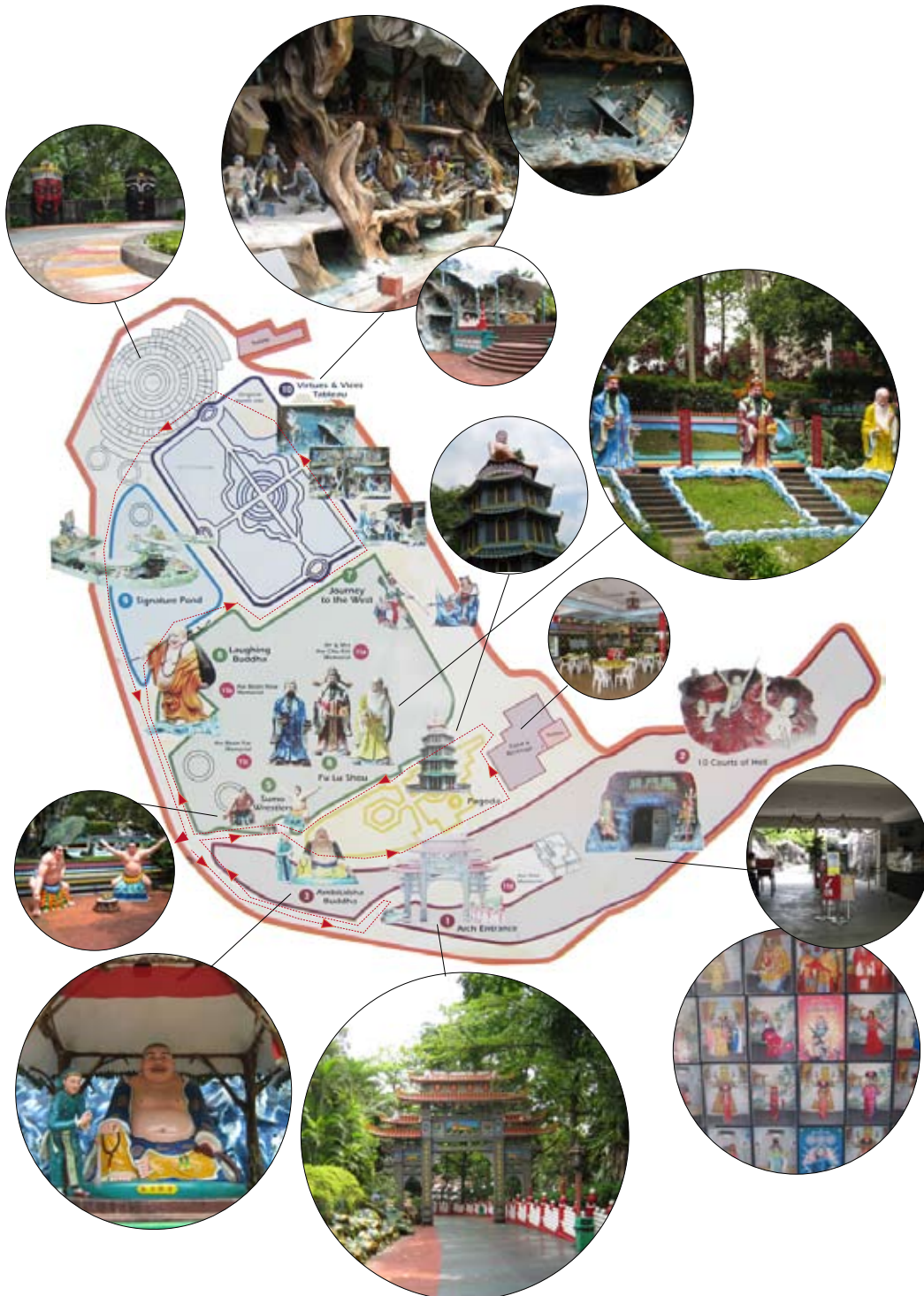


# HAW PAR VILLA



## Haw Par Villa at a Glance

If you are into history and folklore, Haw Par Villa does not disappoint. The park is a very unique attraction and promises to be an interesting outing for you and baby on board. It is probably not ideal to visit if you have toddlers or young children since some figurines may be a tad scary. Come expecting a walking workout since the park is large with some uphill climbs via stairs or road and little shade. You can avoid the stairs but you'd miss some figurines and their descriptions.

Originally called Tiger Balm Gardens, Haw Par Villa was constructed in 1937 by Aw Boon Haw for his brother Aw Boon Par, the creator of Tiger Balm ointment. Aw Boon Haw decided to use the park to teach and preserve Chinese values through a collection of statues centered around Chinese folklore, legends, history, and Confucian ideology.

Admission to the park is free and it is open from 9am to 7pm everyday but parking costs \$5. Upon paying the attendant, you'll drive right into Haw Par Villa to get to the car park located behind the building housing the Hua Song Museum and Made in China Restaurant.

With the number of statues and tableaus at the park, it is impossible to see everything in one visit, especially if you need to read the stories to understand the significance. It will also be tiring since many of the exhibits are open-air with limited shade. Bring an umbrella in case of rain or for shade. The Ten Courts of Hell is the only section that requires an admission fee of \$1. It is open from 9am to 6pm. Skip this if you have kids with you.

## 1. Ring the Fu Lu Shou Bell

You can't miss these large scale Taoist deity statues at the park. Go up close to Fu (God of Good Luck and Happiness), Lu (God of Wealth) and Shou (God of Longevity) and you'll see a bell you can ring once for luck.

## 2. Inspiring National Heroes

Close to the entrance of the park, you'll notice the life-size statue of Lin Zexu, a patriot and national hero. Read the description to learn why Lin Zexu reflects the Aw brother's nationalistic spirit.

## 3. Statues With Stories

When walking around the park, you'll find yourself being captivated by some very large and beautiful statues and structures. The whole layout will strike you as random and chaotic. Oddly, that's why it's so unique. Some smaller statues tucked in various cave-like nooks, also called tableaus, are more focused on delivering messages. Don't miss the story of Madam White Snake and the Virtues and Vices Tableau towards the end of the park.

## 4. Dress Up Opportunity

Located near the entrance to the Ten Courts of Hell is an ancient Chinese costume rental vendor. For \$6 per outfit per person, you can rent a costume and take all the pictures you wish with your own camera. There are five different backdrops to choose from in the studio too. Take your next family portrait here for that special Chinese effect!

Haw Par Villa is located at 262 Pasir Panjang Road. Call 6872 2003 or email [orientmgt@pacific.net.sg](mailto:orientmgt@pacific.net.sg) for more info.