

TBB HERITAGE TRAIL

FORT CANNING CEMETERY

Fort Canning Cemetery was formerly one of Singapore's earliest Christian cemeteries from 1822, full by 1865 and subsequently closed to further burials. Over a few decades starting from the 1950s, the graves were gradually exhumed and the original tablets were mounted onto the brick wall which runs down the park's slope. Only 12 standing gravestones remain—moved in 1971 from the now-defunct Bukit Timah Cemetery.

SPICE GARDEN

All spice and everything nice! Singapore's first botanical and experimental garden was set up in 1822 by Sir Stamford Raffles with the help of Dr. Nathaniel Wallich, and it covered a sprawling expanse which includes the area where Spice Garden is situated. What started out with 125 nutmeg trees, 1,000 nutmeg seeds, and 450 clove trees now holds an extensive collection of assorted aromatics. You may have tasted many of these herbs and spices before, but have you ever seen them in plant form? Keep your eyes peeled and your noses clear, and inhale the fragrant scent of pandan, roselle, and more.

SANG NILA UTAMA GARDEN

From the moment you step foot into Sang Nila Utama Garden, you'll find yourself transported to what feels a little like ancient Bali with the iconic gate of heaven beckoning you welcome. Go on a journey through time in this tranquil piece of Fort Canning Park, beautifully reminiscent of South-east Asian gardens of the 14th century. Find the aptly-named Meditation Garden, and you'll know you're in the right place.

9-POUND CANNON

Did you know that the 9-pound cannon was actually never used in combat? In fact, none of the cannons in Fort Canning ever saw combat! One was fired 3 times a day at 5am, 1pm, and 9pm to announce the hours of the day, and others were used as a salute and alarm system for town fires. Fort Canning was decommissioned in 1907 without ever being used for active defence. Here's a hot tip: here's more than one cannon located in the park!

RIVER VALLEY SWIMMING COMPLEX

If you can smell the baked goods, you're on the right track. That's right, the lawn in front of TBB Foothills used to be a swimming pool! Opened in 1959, it was Singapore's second-oldest swimming complex and home to an Olympic-sized pool and wading pool, constructed at a whopping cost of \$520,000. As more swimming pools were built in the other parts of Singapore, the popularity of River Valley Swimming Complex declined. It was finally shut down in April 2003.

FORT CANNING LIGHTHOUSE

The current Fort Canning Lighthouse is in fact, a small replica of the original that used to stand on Fort Canning Hill. Formerly one of the 13 important lighthouses in the Straits of Malacca, it was used as a communication centre after the British established port here in 1819 to guide ships safely towards the Singapore Harbour. In the 1950s, the lighthouse survived the destruction of World War II but was overshadowed by the construction of tall buildings and eventually closed.

MAP CREDIT: NPARKS