



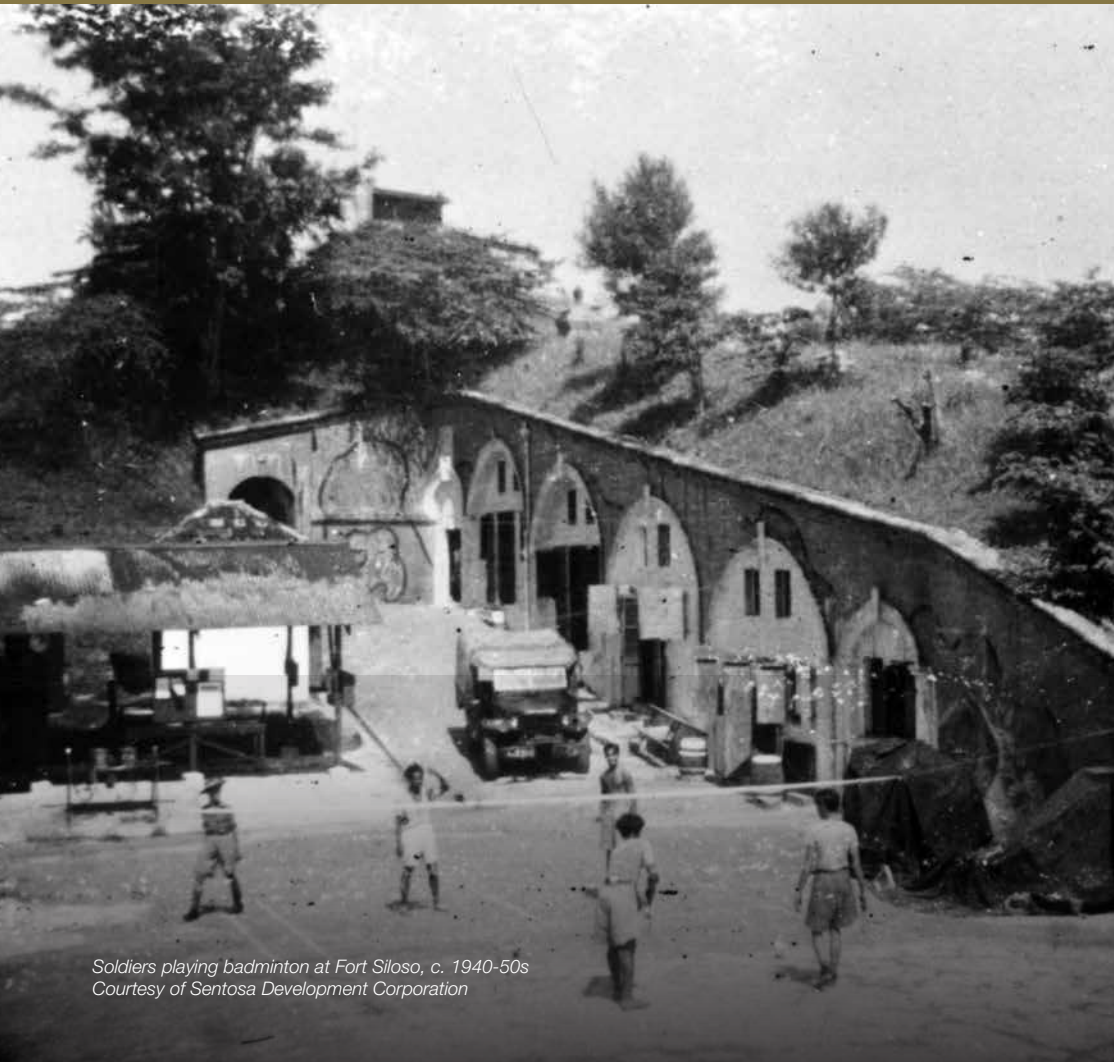
MAP & SUGGESTED ROUTES

SENTOSA HERITAGE TRAIL

The Sentosa Heritage Trail is part of the National Heritage Board's ongoing efforts to document and present the history and social memories of places in Singapore. We hope this trail will bring back fond memories for those who have worked, lived or played in the area, and serve as a useful source of information for visitors and new residents.



Supported by



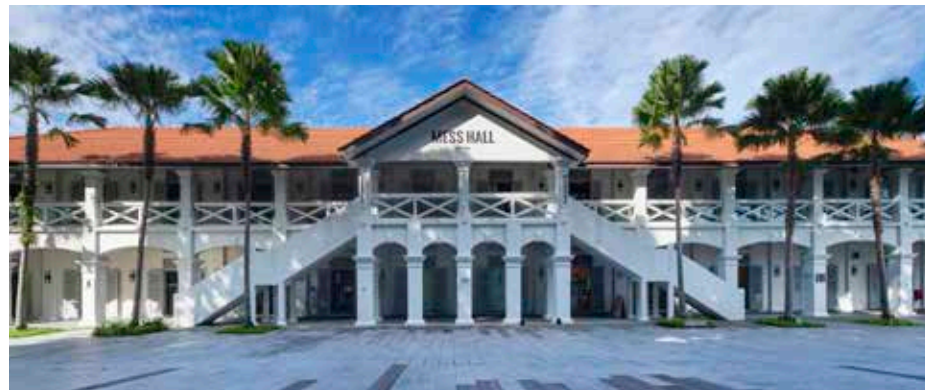
Soldiers playing badminton at Fort Siloso, c. 1940-50s
Courtesy of Sentosa Development Corporation

SUGGESTED SHORT TRAIL ROUTES

Encompassing forts and artillery batteries, conserved British barracks and stately bungalows, these three thematic trails are specially curated by the National Heritage Board to showcase Sentosa's long history from when it was known as Pulau Blakang Mati in the 17th century. Select a route and explore the heritage sites and structures in Sentosa today!

Kampongs and Barracks (2 hours; public transport, 3km)

From the Orang Laut and kampong settlers to British Army personnel, a diverse range of people and communities have called Pulau Blakang Mati home. This trail explores the lives and livelihoods of the people of Blakang Mati, as well as their living spaces that spanned kampongs, barracks and luxurious bungalows.



Start your island journey with the **People of the Straits** trail marker at the HarbourFront end of the Sentosa Gateway boardwalk, which links mainland Singapore with Sentosa. For centuries, the straits in this area have been part of global maritime trade routes, bringing merchants and sailors from across the world into contact with local communities.



These local communities included the earliest known inhabitants of the area, the Orang Laut, a boat-dwelling people comprising different *suku* (tribal groupings) from across Southeast Asia. Later settlers on Blakang Mati included diverse groups of people from across the Malay Peninsula and the Indonesia Archipelago, China and India. In the early 1800s, there were kampongs at the foot of Mount Serapong and on the south-eastern part of the island. By the 20th century, most kampong residents lived along the northern coast where Resorts World Sentosa is today.

Continue on the trail by taking the Sentosa Express light rail from VivoCity and alight at Imbiah Station. Cross Beach View Road to Oasia Resort Sentosa, which contains a **former recreation ground and barracks**. Between 1878 and 1967, Blakang Mati served as a defence outpost of the British Empire, and housed military personnel including British, Indian and Australian soldiers in barracks and quarters located around the island. Here you will find a trail marker describing how these soldiers lived and worked on Blakang Mati.



Take the stairs to the left of the hotel building and follow the sheltered walkway to explore **barracks at the former parade ground** behind Oasia Resort. This area, now part of the Barracks Lawn, was used for training, parades and military ceremonies. The barracks around it have been conserved and redeveloped into hotels and restaurants, including The Barracks Hotel and Mess Hall. Look out for boot scrapers used by soldiers that remain in front of the barracks, and learn more about military life through the Sentosa Development Corporation (SDC) information boards within the Barracks Lawn.

Exit the Barracks Lawn via Gunner Lane and make a right turn at Artillery Avenue. Along



this road, you will find a building that formerly served as the **Royal Engineers' Yard**, with information boards detailing its history. The Royal Engineers were based on Pulau Brani, but a small contingent on Blakang Mati supported engineering and development works with its workshop, shed and stores. The building was later used as a station for SDC's rangers.



Continue along Artillery Avenue until you reach the trail marker for the **former Officers' Mess and quarters**, which is now part of Capella Hotel. The hotel development includes colonial bungalows that previously housed officers, including two buildings that now form the hotel's grand façade, as well as two manor-like bungalows that were reserved for senior officers. In the past, the officers' mess hosted parties and festivities, with celebrations spilling out into the wide verandahs of the buildings. Head up the hill to take a closer look at the conserved buildings, and explore the dining options here!



To reach the final stop on this route, head back to Artillery Avenue and take buses A or C to Imbiah Lookout. Head past Sentosa Cable Car Station to arrive at the **former military hospital**, which now houses Madame Tussauds Singapore. This building was completed in the 1890s and served as the military hospital for British troops. During the Japanese Occupation (1942-1945), the hospital was used as barracks by Japanese troops. From the 1970s, the building housed the Surrender Chambers exhibition and other attractions, including Madame Tussauds Singapore in 2014.

Forts (2 hours; on foot, 4km)

Pulau Blakang Mati had been identified as a potential defence outpost since at least the 17th century. However, it was only in the late 1800s that the island was militarised, with artillery batteries, forts, barracks and other infrastructure constructed by the British. This trail explores the extensive fortifications on Sentosa, including Fort Siloso, Imbiah Battery and Fort Serapong, and how they featured in the defence of colonial Singapore.



Start your journey from **Siloso Point Station**, which is accessible via buses A and C, and by cable car. Head to **Fort Siloso Skywalk** and ascend the tower for sweeping views of Keppel Harbour and the straits around Singapore. Located between the harbour and the straits, Sentosa was well-placed as a base from which to protect the maritime trade vital to Singapore over the centuries. During the colonial era, the artillery batteries and forts installed by the British were key elements in the wider defence of Singapore.

Enter **Fort Siloso** via the Skywalk to explore the only preserved coastal fort in Singapore. Fort Siloso was constructed from 1878 and its artillery emplacements protected the western entrance to Keppel Harbour and the surrounding straits. Over the decades, Fort Siloso also incorporated anti-aircraft and anti-motor torpedo boat gun emplacements, as well as searchlight and command posts.



The extensive infrastructure built into Mount Siloso includes barracks, casemates, underground magazines and tunnels. Here, you can take a deeper exploration of Fort Siloso through the various self-guided trails by Sentosa Development Corporation (SDC) or wander around at your leisure.



Leave the fort through the Guardroom exit, which was the fort's original entry point. Here, you will find a trail marker detailing the **fortification of Pulau Blakang Mati**. In the 17th century, the rival colonial powers Portugal and the Dutch Republic had both considered building a fort here, but it was only in the 1800s that the British constructed Fort Siloso, Imbiah Battery, Fort Serapong, Fort Connaught, as well as a battery at Berhala Reping and other military infrastructure.

Continue down Siloso Road to reach **Siloso Pier**, where you'll find a trail marker exploring the history of this pier and others on Sentosa. Siloso Pier was constructed from 1878 to service the nearby fort, and is

located near the western end of the island known as Sarang Rimau ("tiger's den" in Malay). Before roads were laid on the island, the pier was essential for the construction of Fort Siloso.



Go down the stairs, and head east back to Siloso Point Station. Access the Mount Imbiah Nature Trail via Siloso Road, and take an uphill stroll towards the former Imbiah Battery, which is next to Mega Adventure Park.

In the early 20th century, **Imbiah Battery** housed an infantry fortification and a battery with a 9.2-inch breech loading gun. The battery became non-operational in the 1930s, after gun upgrades at Fort Connaught rendered it obsolete. Today, a Battery Command Post, Position Finding Cells and gun emplacements remain, and you can learn more about Imbiah Battery through the information boards here.



To exit Imbiah Battery, head down Imbiah Hill Road to reach Imbiah Lookout bus station, where you can take a bus to other parts of Sentosa island.

Optional: To experience more of Sentosa's defence heritage, head to **Fort Serapong**, which is a short walk from Sentosa Cove Village bus station (accessible via bus B). The summit of Mount Serapong is the highest point on the island, and the hill afforded a vantage point for artillery batteries. Learn more about the guns and history of Fort Serapong through information boards here, but please do not stray off the road as public access to forested areas and some structures is restricted. If you would like to explore these structures, please visit go.gov.sg/sentosanature for more information.



Memories of Sentosa (1 hour; on foot, 2.5km)

Since the 1970s and following its reinvention as a leisure destination, Sentosa has continually refreshed its attractions to adjust to shifting visitor preferences over the decades. A number of former attractions including the Musical Fountain and the monorail helped define Sentosa in the 1980s and 1990s, and still feature significantly in the social memories of Singaporeans. This trail revisits some of these locations and the memories associated with them.



Start at **Siloso Point Station**, which is accessible via buses A and C, and by cable car. From the station, head down the stairs to **Siloso Beach**, one of three beaches with swimming lagoons created by Sentosa Development Corporation (SDC) during the 1970s and 1980s.



Head towards Siloso Beach Walk, and you will come across the entrance to Mount Imbiah Nature Trail on your left. Here you will find a section of the **former Sentosa Monorail** tracks, as well as a trail marker detailing its history. The monorail service operated from 1982 to 2005 and served both as an attraction and as transport on the island. A 30-minute ride around the island afforded scenic views of the island's varied environments and locations, spanning forests, beaches and the sea as well as man-made attractions.



Head into the nature trail and follow the monorail tracks overhead. Cross Imbiah Walk and then make a right turn when you reach the T-junction further ahead. Exit the nature trail at Imbiah Lookout and cross Imbiah Road, before taking the sheltered walkway towards Sentosa Cable Car Station.

Installed in 1974, the **Singapore Cable Car** is a gondola lift system connecting mainland Singapore and Sentosa, and quickly became popular for offering panoramic views of the island and surrounding waterways. At the outset, the network comprised stations at Mount Faber, HarbourFront and Carlton Hill (now Sentosa Station), before undergoing expansion in 2015 to include stations at the former Merlion Plaza, Mount Imbiah and Fort Siloso.

From Sentosa Station, take a short stroll towards Madame Tussauds Singapore. This conserved building was a **former military hospital** for British troops. After Sentosa's development into a leisure destination, the building was turned into an attraction that housed the Surrender Chambers exhibition, and subsequently, the Sentosa Wax Museum, which was later renamed Images of Singapore. Today, it houses Madame Tussauds Singapore, which opened in 2014.



To get to the final stop, follow the signs to Resorts World Sentosa (RWS), which is also in the direction of Imbiah Station. Head down the escalators and you'll find a trail marker for three well-loved attractions that formerly stood in this area from the 1980s: **the Musical Fountain, the Ferry Terminal and the Fountain Gardens**. The Musical Fountain drew crowds for its music and laser light shows, and was also a popular concert venue for Singapore's thriving Malay rock scene, including regular concerts by Ramli Sarip, Search and Lovehunters in the 1980s-90s.



Completed in 1987, the Ferry Terminal allowed for vessels carrying a larger number of visitors on each trip, while the Fountain Gardens was a scenic thoroughfare designed in the style of 18th century European gardens.

This is the final stop of the trail, and to conclude your exploration of Sentosa, you may wish to treat yourself to one of the many dining options available at RWS!





Please note!


Please keep in mind that some areas are privately owned and accessible only by guests and customers.





HERITAGE SITES IN THE SUGGESTED SHORT TRAIL ROUTES


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BARRACKS AT
FORMER PARADE GROUND
- 


FORMER MILITARY HOSPITAL
- 


FORMER OFFICERS' MESS
AND QUARTERS
- 

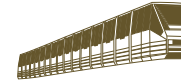
FORMER RECREATION
GROUND AND BARRACKS
- 


FORT SERAPONG
- 


FORT SILOSO
- 


IMBIAH BATTERY
- 


MEMORIES OF THE
MUSICAL FOUNTAIN,
FOUNTAIN GARDENS
AND FERRY TERMINAL
- 

PEOPLE OF
THE STRAITS
- 

SENTOSA MONORAIL
- 

SILOSO BEACH
- 

SILOSO PIER
- 

SINGAPORE
CABLE CAR
- 

THE FORTIFICATION OF
PULAU BLAKANG MATI

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