

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

**EXPLORE THE SITES AND STORIES OF SINGAPORE'S WORLD WAR II HISTORY
WITH NHB'S *BATTLE FOR SINGAPORE***



Singapore, 14 February 2024 – The National Heritage Board (NHB)'s annual *Battle for Singapore* invites participants to explore the sites and stories of Singapore's war-time past. In commemoration of the 82nd anniversary of the Fall of Singapore, this year's line-up features special access programmes including guided tours, theatrical experiences, talks, film screenings and exhibitions. Sites featured include one which witnessed some of the first landings of the invading Japanese forces, and the bunker where the decision to surrender to the Japanese was made.

2. Mr Goh Chour Thong, Director of International & Museum Relations, NHB, said: "Stories of human resilience, hope and perseverance through the toughest of times never grow old. We are delighted to be working again with our Museum Roundtable partners and partner agencies to present yet another edition of *Battle for Singapore*. Through our programme offerings, many of which are new, participants can appreciate the situation and context which residents of Singapore found themselves in more than 80 years ago, in novel and engaging ways. We are also always excited to help Singaporeans rediscover physical vestiges of Singapore's World War II (WWII) history which still remain amidst our changing urban landscape. As with previous years, it is our sincere hope that all *Battle for Singapore* participants will gain a deeper sense of how our WWII experiences helped shape Singapore's nationhood and future lives."

Off the beaten track exploration

3. This year's *Battle for Singapore* will take place from 17 February to 3 March 2024. One of the key programmes is the *Cycling Buona Vista* tours led by historian Dr John Kwok and heritage researcher and writer Mr Lee Kok Leong down the Buona Vista defence line. Participants will learn of the strategies employed by both the invading Japanese forces and the defending Allied forces as they trace the final battles for Singapore that erupted in the southwestern region spanning Pasir Panjang, Gillman Barracks, Alexandra Military Hospital and other military sites.

4. Another programme highlight will be the tours to Cashin House at Lim Chu Kang Nature Park. Built on a pier overlooking the Johor Strait, it witnessed some of the first landings of the invading Japanese forces during the initial wave of attacks launched by the Japanese army on 8 February 1942. The site is only accessible through the National Parks Board's (NParks) specially curated programmes and activities, covering topics such as heritage and nature appreciation.

Other *Battle for Singapore 2024* programmes

5. There will also be a diverse line-up of programmes in collaboration with NHB's Museum Roundtable (MR) members. A 110-minute immersive theatrical experience titled *NO QUESTION OF SURRENDER: Three Days Before the Fall* will premiere at the official opening of Battlebox, an educational tourist destination which used to be the Fort Canning Bunker where Lieutenant-General Arthur E. Percival and the Allied forces made the decision to surrender to the invading Japanese forces. Other new offerings which are part of *Battle for Singapore* include food-related programmes at the National Museum of Singapore, such as a special WWII edition of *Makan with Seniors* and an opportunity to taste and learn the recipes of wartime cooks.

6. The Singapore Art Museum (SAM) will also be coming on board with an artist tour and conversation with Ho Tzu Nyen and Dr Ma Jung-Yeon. The tour and conversation will centre on Ho's *Hotel Aporia* video installation currently on display at SAM (part of the ongoing exhibition *Ho Tzu Nyen: Time and the Tiger*) which confronts the complex ideological and historical backdrops that plagued the 1940s – giving participants an opportunity to delve

deeper into the role of art in unpacking complex histories. Other collaborating MR partners this year include Changi Chapel and Museum, Former Ford Factory, Fort Siloso, MINT Museum of Toys, Navy Museum and Reflections at Bukit Chandu.

7. Overall, this year's entire programme line-up will feature 33 programmes and over 70 tour runs covering various formats and collaborations, including those offered by MR members, academics, heritage enthusiasts and interest groups. The new programmes for *Battle for Singapore 2024* are as summarised in the table below:

Cashin House: Witness to Invasion

Join heritage veteran Mr Jerome Lim on a trip to the sensitively reconstructed Cashin House. Located at Lim Chu Kang Nature Park, the site witnessed some of the first landings of the invading Japanese forces. Learn about the perspectives of men on the opposing sides as they engaged in battle, and about the area's historical landscape.

This programme is presented in collaboration with NParks and Mr Jerome Lim.

Note: Admission is free but registration is required

Cycling Buona Vista

Explore the Buona Vista defence line on bicycle and learn more about the final days of the Battle of Singapore in this part of Singapore. Cycle past landmarks familiar and new, led by our volunteer guides - Dr John Kwok or Mr Lee Kok Leong - and appreciate the strategies employed by both the invading Japanese forces and defending Allied forces in the southwestern region of Singapore.

This programme is led by volunteer guides Dr John Kwok and Mr Lee Kok Leong.

Note: A charge of \$35 applies for this tour

NO QUESTION OF SURRENDER: Three Days Before the Fall

NO QUESTION OF SURRENDER: Three Days Before the Fall transports audiences to the final days before the fall of Singapore in February 1942 in a new 110-minute immersive theatrical experience written and directed by Mr Jonathan Lim. Feel the pulse of WWII as you immerse yourself in the sights, sounds and smells of the Battlebox. *NO QUESTION OF SURRENDER* challenges the traditional theatrical experience by offering a unique opportunity to live and breathe the past.

This programme is presented by Battlebox.

Note: A charge of \$48 applies for this programme

Makan with Seniors: World War II edition

Makan with Seniors celebrates seniors' stories, breaks down stereotypes and creates

friendships over food. This special edition, organised for *Battle for Singapore 2024*, will focus on second-generation war memories and the legacy of WWII in Singapore. Participants will be paired up or grouped together to converse while having a meal together.

This programme is presented by the National Museum of Singapore, in partnership with Ms Eleanor Yap, the founder of Ageless Online.

Note: Admission is free but registration is required

Hotel Aporia: Artist Tour and Conversation with Ho Tzu Nyen and Dr Ma Jung-Yeon

Why did the Japanese call it “The Pacific War” while in Singapore we call it “World War II”?

First presented at the Kirakutei Inn in Toyota City, artist Ho Tzu Nyen's *Hotel Aporia* confronts the complex ideological and historical backdrops that plagued the 1940s. Through characters that include WWII Kamikaze pilots, Kyoto School philosophers and filmmakers Yasujiro Ozu and Ryuichi Yokoyama, experience the conflicting contexts, diverging narratives and new insights gathered within *Hotel Aporia*, which reveals different perspectives about the past.

In this session, get firsthand accounts from the artist on the installation and development of the work, and the research that went into its production. Thereafter, Ho Tzu Nyen will be joined by Dr Ma Jung-Yeon in conversation to delve deeper into the role of art in unpacking complex histories.

This programme is presented by Singapore Art Museum.

Note: Admission is free but registration is required.

Twinned Tours: Singapore Navy Museum and Changi Chapel and Museum

Start your journey at the Singapore Navy Museum and learn about how a band of volunteers stepped up to defend Singapore at sea during the Malayan Campaign in 1942. Discover how they laid the foundation for today's modern and capable Navy. Continue your experience at the Changi Chapel & Museum, where you will hear stories about prisoners of war in Singapore, including local volunteers, and their courage and resilience during WWII.

The programme is co-presented by Changi Chapel and Museum and Singapore Navy Museum.

Note: A charge of \$21.80 applies for this tour

Gallant (Film Screening)

Experience a time of war and anguish through a short film that recounts a scene of the Japanese invasion of Singapore back in 1942, where love and family bond triumphed over fear and turned cowardice into heroism, amid terror and panic.

This programme is presented by Singapore Discovery Centre.

Note: Admission is free, no registration required

Second World War Vintage Toys Guided Tour and Fighter Plane Making

Ever wondered about the warplanes or ships that battled during WWII?

This programme, in collaboration with MINT Museum of Toys, examines how toys were used to normalise war, encourage war efforts and celebrate war achievements across Allied Forces (Britain, France, USSR & USA) and the Axis Powers (Germany, Italy & Japan).

Visitors will also learn about and assemble their own WWII Flying Glider Plane, a nostalgic toy produced in the 1950s and designed to represent iconic fighter planes such as Spitfire and Mitsubishi Zero - both of which also have original toy models displayed in the museum.

This programme is presented by MINT Museum of Toys.

Note: A charge of \$35 for adults, and \$25 for children and seniors apply for this tour

Peacetime Kitchen: Talk and Cooking Demonstration

Taste and learn about the creativity and ingenuity of wartime cooks from their recipes, with dishes such as banana marmalade and coconut biscuits brought to new life for contemporary kitchens.

Award-winning food writer, culinary instructor and photographer, Mr Christopher Tan, will share tales and tid-bits in this talk and live demonstration of heritage dishes from popular cookbooks and personal notebooks written and used during WWII.

This programme is presented by National Museum of Singapore.

Note: A charge of \$21.80 applies for this programme

We Shall Remember: The Story of Singapore at War - Children's Tour

Join us on an exciting afternoon's discovery at the Battlebox through a curator's tour and author talk, specially designed for curious participants aged 9-14 years old! Uncover bite-sized secrets and stories of the Battlebox with curator and historian Tan Teng Teng.

After the tour, participants can enjoy an author's talk and conversation with Sim Ee Waun - the author of *We Shall Remember: The Story of Singapore at War*, and be regaled with little-known stories about the war in Singapore, and learn about the intricacies, conundrums and surprises that came with writing the book.

This programme is presented by Battlebox.

Note: A charge of \$15 applies for this programme

Peace Blossoms Display at Fort Siloso

Fort Siloso, Singapore's best-preserved 19th century fort, was officially gazetted on the Total Defence Day (15 February 2022) as a National Monument, and is home to the remains of fortified military structures, guns and tunnels that were used during WWII.

As we commemorate the Battle of Singapore from 15 to 19 February 2024, we remember

the crucial role that Fort Siloso had played in defending Singapore. The muzzles of eight guns at Fort Siloso will be decorated with flowers in a symbolic gesture of peace, called the Sentosa Peace Blossoms. Flowers of peace, such as Peace Lily, Gerbera, Eustoma, Lavender and Chrysanthemum, will be arranged into beautiful floral bouquets to “silence the guns” as our message for peace.

This programme is presented by Fort Siloso.

Note: Free. No pre-registration is required for visiting this display.

Please refer to [Annex A](#) for a full list of the outdoor guided tours and programmes by *Battle for Singapore 2024* partners and [Annex B](#) for additional programmes organised by MR members.

8. Members of the public may visit www.museums.com.sg for more information and to sign up for *Battle for Singapore 2024* programmes. Registration for tours and programmes commences **15 February 2024, Thursday at 10am**, on a first-come first-served basis.

– END –

For media enquiries, please contact:

Say Hua Lee
Tate Anzur
9668 4605
sayhua.lee@tateanzur.com

Jia Xuan Seah
Tate Anzur
9617 4343
jiaxuan.seah@tateanzur.com

About National Heritage Board

The National Heritage Board (NHB) was formed on 1 August 1993. As the custodian of Singapore’s heritage, NHB is responsible for telling the Singapore story, sharing the Singaporean experience and imparting our Singapore spirit.

NHB’s mission is to preserve and celebrate the shared heritage of our diverse communities, for the purpose of education, nation-building and cultural understanding. It manages the national museums and heritage institutions, safeguards and promotes intangible cultural heritage, and sets policies relating to heritage sites, monuments and the national collection. Through the national collection, NHB curates heritage programmes and presents exhibitions to connect the past, present and future generations of Singaporeans. NHB is a statutory board under the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth. Please visit www.nhb.gov.sg for more information.



About Museum Roundtable

The Museum Roundtable (MR) is a collective of museums established by the National Heritage Board (NHB) in 1996 to promote a museum-going culture amongst Singaporeans and to position museums as unique cultural destinations. More than 60 public and private museums and heritage galleries are MR members today, spanning across diverse categories of focus and interest: Art, Culture & Community, Defence, Healthcare, Lifestyles & Collectibles, National History and Science & Innovation.

As part of NHB's efforts to develop a vibrant and diverse museum and heritage landscape in Singapore, NHB works closely with MR members in various ways. These include signature outreach programmes, as well as capability development initiatives.

Outdoor Guided Tours and Programmes

Battle of Bukit Brown and Mount Pleasant

Date: 3 March 2024

Time: 8.30am - 12pm

The tour follows the course of the battles on 14-15 February 1942 as the Japanese 5th Division attempted to capture the MacRitchie Reservoir area and attack south through Bukit Brown and Mount Pleasant, which were defended by the British 18th Division.

Note: Admission is free but registration is required.

Botanic Gardens to Bukit Brown

Date: 2 March 2024

Time: 8.30am - 12pm

Participants will be taken on a walk through the heritage corridor from the Botanic Gardens to Bukit Brown cemetery. During the tour, the guides will share stories of WWII heroes and prominent personalities at heritage landmarks, including the Jacob Ballas Garden and old Raffles College. Participants will pass by the Former Command House along the route and end in Bukit Brown to learn about the battle that took place there with the British and Indian soldiers at the former kampung (village).

Note: Admission is free but registration is required.

Bukit Brown (Hills 3 and 2)

Date: 17 February 2024

Time: 9am - 11.30am

Bukit Brown is, by accident of history, the largest repository in Singapore of WWII stories outside of a museum. It is the final home to tragic patriots like Tan Ean Kiam, valiant fighters for justice like Tay Koh Yiat and many countless victims like Soh Koon Eng. It is a story book that never stops regaling. Let Fabian Tee take you back to a time when fate collided and all lives in Singapore were turned upside down.

Note: Admission is free but registration is required.

Bukit Brown (Hills 3 and 4)

Date: 24 February 2024

Time: 9am - 11.30am

Join Peter Pak of All Things Bukit Brown as he takes you on an exploration of Bukit Brown and hear stories of tragedy (the sinking of a ship that led to the deaths of many women and children) and of betrayal (leading to the death of the King's Medal recipient whose ashes were only returned 11 years later and given a hero's burial). Peter will also reveal the stories of an ambush by the resistance forces that led to the death of a pioneer whose burial was touted by the Japanese Military Administration as Syonan-to's first public funeral, and of another survivor of that very same ambush whose life was transformed by that event and who went on after the war to play a pivotal role in the growth of Buddhism in Singapore.

Finally, we will hear stories of Chinese leaders who were forced to collaborate with the Japanese under duress, or who did so to survive or reap personal gain. Hear the stories of how they survived or died during this difficult period in Singapore's history at Bukit Brown.

Note: Admission is free but registration is required.

Cashin House: Witness to Invasion

Date: 24 February & 2 March 2024

Time: 9am - 10.30am; 10.30am – 12pm; 12.30pm – 2pm

Join heritage veteran Jerome Lim on a trip to the sensitively reconstructed Cashin House. Located at Lim Chu Kang Nature Park, the site witnessed some of the first landings of the invading Japanese forces. Learn about the perspectives of men on the opposing sides as they engaged in battle, and about the area's historical landscape.

Note: Admission is free but registration is required.

Cycling Buona Vista

Date: 17 & 24 February, 2 March 2024

Time: 8.30am - 11am; 9.30am - 12pm

Get on a bicycle to explore the sites and spaces traversed by the invading and defending forces during the final days of the Battle for Singapore in 1942. Led by volunteer guides Dr John Kwok and Mr Lee Kok Leong, learn about the wartime stories and military tactics employed from the Buona Vista defence line to the Pasir Panjang defence line as we retrace portions of the route the forces took in this southwestern region of Singapore.

Note: The 2 March, 8.30am - 11am tour will be conducted in Mandarin language. A charge of \$35 applies for this tour.

Lest We Forget

Date: 17 & 24 February, 2 March 2024

Time: 4.30pm - 6pm

Throughout history, people have erected statues and sculptures in honour of men and women of valour, courage and sacrifice. Tall, impressive and often austere – what do these memorials actually stand for? Who, or what, are we meant to remember?

Discover the symbolism in each memorial's design as well as the hidden stories behind each sculpture and engraving. More importantly, learn about the heroes who sacrificed themselves for Singapore, lest we forget.

Monuments covered: Civilian War Memorial, Cenotaph, Lim Bo Seng Memorial.

Note: A charge of \$5 applies for this tour.

Under Occupation

Date: 25 February 2024

Time: 9am - 11.30am

What was life like under Occupation - in the beginning when the Singapore fell in the midst of the Lunar New Year celebration and also closer to the end of the Occupation, when



National
Heritage
Board

there were clear signs the Japanese were losing control? Catherine takes you on a walk on the dark side, touching on the historical events of Sook Ching, of the humiliation the Chinese leaders had to go through, and of accusations of betrayal and post war exoneration.

Note: Admission is free but registration is required.

Other Museum Roundtable Programmes

Battlebox

NO QUESTION OF SURRENDER: Three Days Before the Fall

- 23 February & 1 March: 6.30pm & 9pm (110 mins)
- 24 & 25 February, 2 & 3 March: 6pm & 8.30pm (110 mins)

It is 12 February 1942 and the invaders have already reached Bukit Timah.

Enter the Battle Box as a member of the Straits Settlements Volunteer Corps, suddenly assigned to this bunker as the battle for Singapore draws near the city. As you receive your introduction to the inner workings of the secretive Fortress Command, let the staff - colonial and local - reveal how the war is really going. Discover the astounding mis-steps that charted our fall, and the brutal lessons that mapped out our future.

Whose war was it? Whose land is it?

NO QUESTION OF SURRENDER: Three Days Before the Fall transports audiences to the final days before the fall of Singapore in February 1942 in a new 110-minute immersive theatrical experience written and directed by Jonathan Lim.

Feel the pulse of World War II as you immerse yourself in the sights, sounds and smells of the Battlebox. *NO QUESTION OF SURRENDER* challenges a traditional theatrical experience by offering a unique opportunity to live and breathe the past.

Written and Directed by Jonathan Lim

Starring Alfred Loh, Izzul Irfan, Al-Matin Yatim & Justin Lee

Produced by Global Cultural Alliance in collaboration with the Battlebox

Note: A charge of \$48 applies to this programme, with concessionary prices available.

Secrets Beneath The Surface: A Curator's Tour of The Battlebox

Date: 2 March 2024

Time: 11am - 12pm

The Battlebox invites you to unveil the secrets of Singapore's only operational WWII bunker; and journey through a meticulously recreated past to experience the pulse of strategic decisions leading to the fall of Singapore. Led by historian and curator, Tan Teng Teng, this exclusive tour uncovers the history of the Battlebox, including insights on the pivotal roles each room played within the labyrinthine complex. Hear everyday accounts of the soldiers who once occupied the hallowed halls. Teng Teng will also share personal stories and anecdotes about her experience researching the Battlebox.

Note: A charge of \$15 applies to this programme.

We Shall Remember: The Story of Singapore at War - Children's Tour

Date: 2 March 2024

Time: 12.30pm - 2pm

Join us on an exciting afternoon's discovery at the Battlebox through a curator's tour and author talk, specially designed for curious participants aged 9-14 years old! Uncover bite-sized secrets and stories of the Battlebox with curator and historian Tan Teng Teng.

After which, participants are in treat for an author talk and conversation with Sim Ee Waun - the author of *We Shall Remember: The Story of Singapore at War*. Be regaled with little-known stories about the war in Singapore, and learn about the intricacies, conundrums and surprises that came with writing the book.

Note: A charge of \$15 applies to this programme.

Changi Chapel and Museum*

Dancing Poppies by Artist Florence Ng

Date: 17 February – 17 August 2024

Time: 10am - 5pm

In times of war, the human spirit perseveres not only through resilience but also creativity. As we reflect on the courage and formidable spirit of those interned in Changi Goal during the Japanese Occupation, let us appreciate the human ability to find joy in simple acts of creativity. This poppy installation by artist Florence Ng features kinetic elements that capture sunlight and move together with the wind, highlighting the red poppy as a symbol of remembrance with hope and joy.

DIY Paper Poppies

Date: 17 February – 10 March 2024

Time: 10am - 5pm

Complete your visit and make your own paper poppy flower at the last stop of the exhibition. Pen down your thoughts and head to the Chapel to 'plant' it.

Note: This is a drop-in activity. No pre-registration is required.

Twinned Tours: Changi Chapel and Museum and Changi Prison Wall

Date: 17 February 2024

Time: 9am - 11.30am; 10am - 12.30pm

Explore both the Changi Chapel and Museum (CCM) and the Changi Prison Entrance Gate, Wall and Turrets – a National Monument of Singapore – in one tour! Gain exclusive access to this monument to discover Changi Prison's past, and through a complementary visit to the CCM, find out more about the experiences of prisoners of war during the Japanese Occupation from 1942 to 1945.

Note: A charge of \$21.80 applies for this tour

Twinned Tours: Changi Chapel and Museum and Changi Point

Date: 18 February 2024

Time: 9am - 12pm; 11am - 2pm

Uncover stories of WWII in Singapore in this special twinned tour of CCM and Changi Point. The programme begins with a docent-led tour of the CCM where you will learn about the experiences of the POWs imprisoned at Changi.

Then, explore Changi Point in an outdoor walking tour with Jerome Lim of the Long and Winding Road, uncovering the history of various historical sites and the role they played during WWII. The tour will include the newly re-opened boardwalk along the Changi coast, as well as former military buildings in the area.

Note: A charge of \$21.80 applies for this tour.

Stamping Activity

Date: 17 February – 10 March 2024, daily (except Mondays)

Time: 10am - 5pm

Venue: Various locations within CCM

Pick up a postcard from our Visitor Services counter at CCM and look out for our stamping stations within each exhibition. Turn the postcard into a keepsake artwork for you to bring home at the end of the exhibition!

Complete the stamping activity at both CCM & Reflections at Bukit Chandu to redeem a mystery gift.

Note: The mystery gift is limited to the first 50 redemptions per week at each museum. Redemption is on a first come, first served basis and while stocks last. Limited to one gift per person.

Eurasian Heritage Gallery

Against All Odds: Stories from Eurasian WW2 Survivors

Date: 24 February & 2 March 2024

Time: 11am - 1pm

Through a specially curated tour and video screening, you will hear first-hand accounts from Eurasian WW2 survivors and their family members about the horrors of the Japanese Occupation. You'll be inspired by their determination to survive in the face of hardship and deprivation. Plus, you'll even get a taste of WW2 as you sample war-inspired refreshments.

Note: A charge of \$10 applies for this tour

Former Ford Factory

Guided Tour of Former Ford Factory

Date: 17 February 2024

Time: 11.30am - 12.30pm & 2.30pm - 3.30pm

Every year, Singapore commemorates Total Defence Day on 15 February, which marks the fall of Singapore in 1942. Join us for a guided tour of the Former Ford Factory and discover stories of the Japanese invasion and Occupation of Singapore, as well as the resistance and resilience of the people.

Note: Admission is free but registration is required

Archives Invites: Lee Geok Boi, Researching the Syonan Years at the National Archives of Singapore

Date: 15 February 2024

Time: 7 - 8pm

The collections at the National Archives of Singapore give incredible insights into Singapore's history. Besides official records, there is a treasure trove of oral history interviews on the Japanese Occupation of Singapore (1942 - 45) as well as relevant materials from other archival collections. The talk will explore the difficulties of accessing archival records when they were paper records, today's ongoing digitisation efforts, and privacy law and its effects on researchers.

Note: Admission is free but registration is required

Fort Siloso

Peace Blossoms Display at Fort Siloso

Date: 15 - 19 February 2024

Time: 9am - 6pm

Fort Siloso, Singapore's best-preserved 19th century fort, was officially gazetted on Total Defence Day (15 February 2022) as a National Monument, and is home to the remains of fortified military structures, guns and tunnels that were used during World War II. As we commemorate the Battle of Singapore from 15 to 19 February 2024, we remember the crucial role that Fort Siloso had played in defending Singapore. The muzzles of eight guns at Fort Siloso will be decorated with flowers in a symbolic gesture of peace, called the Sentosa Peace Blossoms. Flowers of peace, such as Peace Lily, Gerbera, Eustoma, Lavender and Chrysanthemum, will be arranged into beautiful floral bouquets to "silence the guns" as our message for peace.

Note: Admission is free and no pre-registration is required for visiting this display.

Free Day Tour at Fort Siloso

Date: 10, 16, 17 & 18 February 2024

Time: 3pm - 4.30pm

Come and explore Fort Siloso, Singapore's best-preserved 19th century fort, and the remains of fortified military structures, guns and tunnels that were used during World War II with our passionate guides, as Sentosa commemorates the Battle of Singapore where we remember the crucial role that Fort Siloso had played in defending Singapore.

Note: Admission is free but registration is required.

MINT Museum of Toys

Second World War Vintage Toys Guided Tour and Fighter Plane Making

Date: 17 February - 3 March 2024

Time:

- Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, Saturday & Sundays: 10.30am - 11.30am; 11.30am - 12.30pm; 2.30pm - 3.30pm; 4.30pm - 5.30pm

- Programme not available on Wednesdays & the Museum is closed on Mondays.

Ever wondered about the warplanes or ships that battled during the Second World War?

This programme examines how toys were used to normalise war, encourage war efforts and celebrate war achievements across Allied Forces (Britain, France, USSR & USA) and the Axis Powers (Germany, Italy & Japan).

The museum's Second World War collection features figurines of iconic war heroes, collectables of Sikh soldiers who fought bravely during the Battle of Singapore in 1942, propaganda toys as well as a focus on fighter planes and battleship toy models that have left a legacy until today.

Visitors will also learn about and assemble their own WW2 Flying Glider Plane, a nostalgic toy produced and widely played in the 1950s, designed to represent iconic fighter planes such as the Spitfire and Mitsubishi Zero - both of which also have original toy models displayed in the museum.

Note: Charges of \$35 per adult and \$25 per child applies for this programme.

National Museum of Singapore*

Makan with Seniors: World War II edition

Date: 24 February 2024

Time: 12pm - 3pm

Makan with Seniors celebrates seniors' stories, breaks down stereotypes and creates friendships over food.

This special edition, organised for Battle for Singapore 2024, will focus on second-generation war memories and the legacy of World War Two in Singapore. Join us if you are a senior (aged 60 and above) who has stories to share or a youth (aged 35 and below) interested to find out more about the war through personal accounts! Participants will be paired up or grouped together to converse while having a meal together.

Note: Admission is free but registration is required.

Peacetime Kitchen: Talk and Cooking Demonstration

Date: 25 February 2024

Time: 2pm - 4pm

Taste and learn about the creativity and ingenuity of wartime cooks from their recipe legacies, with dishes such as banana marmalade and coconut biscuits brought to new life for contemporary kitchens.

Award-winning food writer, culinary instructor and photographer Christopher Tan will share tales and tidbits in this talk and live demonstration of heritage dishes from popular cookbooks and personal notebooks written and used during World War Two.

Note: A charge of \$21.80 applies for this programme.

Singapore Discovery Centre

Defence Through The Ages Guided Tour

Date: 24 February 2024

Time: 1 - 2pm

Embark on a hero's journey at Singapore Discovery Centre where you won't just commemorate 40 years of Total Defence – you'll live it.

Join us on our Defence Through The Ages Guided Tour and discover some of the key historical events that have shaped our defence strategy through the years. Then take a glimpse at how these strategies can play a part in keeping Singapore safe and secure at our Total Defence Special Exhibition.

Note: Admission is free.

Gallant (Film Screening)

Date: 24 February 2024

Time: 3pm - 3.30pm

Experience a time of war and anguish through a short film that recounts a scene of the Japanese invasion of Singapore back in 1942, where love and family bond triumphed over fear and turned cowardice into heroism, amid terror and panic.

Note: Admission is free.

Reflections at Bukit Chandu*

Loyal and True: A Theatrical Experience at Reflections at Bukit Chandu

Date: 3 March 2024

Time: 3pm - 3.30pm; 4.30pm - 5pm

Immerse yourself in the story of the Malay Regiment in this interactive theatrical experience! Hear from the characters about their thoughts and feelings regarding their experiences during World War Two, and discover the heroic and human aspects of the Malay Regiment.

Note: A charge of \$16 applies for this programme.

Twinned Tours: Battle of Pasir Panjang and Reflections at Bukit Chandu

Date: 2 March 2024

Time: 9am - 11.30am; 11.30am - 1pm

Explore both Reflections at Bukit Chandu (RBC) and key sights of Pasir Panjang and Kent Ridge, and find out more about the last stand of the Malay Regiment during World War Two in Singapore, as well as the story of Bukit Chandu itself.

The tour starts at Kent Ridge, where heritage researcher Sarafian Salleh will trace the route taken by Japanese imperial forces and the 1st Malay Regiment led by Lieutenant Adnan Saidi during the Battle of Pasir Panjang in 1942. Continue on to a docent-guided tour of RBC, which presents a multi-faceted look at Bukit Chandu and Pasir Panjang,

while inviting participants to reflect on our nation's wartime experience and the brave sacrifice of the soldiers.

Note: A charge of \$21.80 applies for this programme.

Stamping Activity

Date: 17 February – 10 March 2024, daily (except Mondays)

Time: 10am - 4.30pm

Pick up a postcard from our Visitor Services counter at Reflections at Bukit Chandu and look out for our stamping stations within each exhibition. Turn the postcard into a keepsake artwork for you to bring home at the end of the exhibition!

Complete the stamping activity at both Changi Chapel and Museum & Reflections at Bukit Chandu to redeem a mystery gift.

Note: The mystery gift is limited to the first 50 redemptions per week at each museum. Redemption is on a first come, first served basis and while stocks last. Limited to one gift per person.

Surviving The Wild by Beyond Expeditions SG

Date: 17, 18, 24 & 25 February 2024

Time: 11am - 4.30pm

In times of war, survival skills play a critical role in enabling individuals to overcome adversity, secure essential resources and adapt to unforeseen circumstances. Pick up skills similar to those used by military troops in Singapore during wartime such as rope weaving, camouflage techniques and map-reading skills. Survival activities are guided by local outdoor adventure team, Beyond Expeditions Singapore. This year, enjoy a more immersive experience as you travel through a forest in the dark in our special forest maze set-up.

Complete all survival stations and bring home a mystery gift!

Note: This is a drop-in activity. No pre-registration is required. The mystery gift is limited to the first 200 redemptions per week. Redemption is on a first come, first served basis and while stocks last. Limited to one gift per person.

Singapore Art Museum

Hotel Aporia: Artist Tour and Conversation with Ho Tzu Nyen and Dr Ma Jung-Yeon

Date: 3 March 2024

Time: 3pm – 4.30pm

Why did the Japanese call it 'The Pacific War,' while in Singapore we call it 'World War II'?

First presented at the Kirakutei Inn in Toyota City, artist Ho Tzu Nyen's Hotel Aporia confronts the complex ideological and historical backdrops that plagued the 1940s. Through characters that include World War II Kamikaze pilots, Kyoto School Philosophers and filmmakers Yasujiro Ozu and Ryuichi Yokoyama, experience the conflicting contexts, diverging narratives and new insights gathered within Hotel Aporia, revealing different perspective on the past.

In this session, get firsthand accounts from the artist on the installation and development of the work, and the research that went into its production. Thereafter, Ho Tzu Nyen will be joined by Dr Ma Jung-Yeon in conversation to delve deeper into the role of art in unpacking complex histories.

Note: Admission is free but registration is required.

Singapore Navy Museum

Twinned Tours: Singapore Navy Museum and Changi Chapel and Museum

Date: 17 & 18 February 2024

Time: 2pm - 5pm

Visit two museums in one special tour!

Start your journey at the Singapore Navy Museum and learn about how a band of volunteers stepped up to defend Singapore at sea during the Malayan Campaign in 1942. Discover how they laid the foundation for today's modern and capable Navy.

Continue your experience at the Changi Chapel & Museum, where you will hear stories about prisoners of war in Singapore, including local volunteers, and their courage and resilience during World War Two.

Note: A charge of \$21.80 applies for this programme.

*** Free shuttle service between the National Museum of Singapore, Changi Chapel and Museum & Reflections at Bukit Chandu**

Date: 17, 18, 24 & 25 February

Time: Various timings

For two weekends in February, visitors can hop on a complimentary shuttle bus service that goes between the National Museum of Singapore, high-traffic MRT stations near the museum (Tampines MRT and Harbourfront MRT), Changi Chapel and Museum and Reflections at Bukit Chandu. Visitors can hop on at our various pick-up points (no drop-off except at museums). Enjoy a day of convenient travelling around our museums and learning about the stories of WWII in Singapore.

Saturday (17, 24 Feb) routes and estimated pick-up times:

National Museum of Singapore (12.30PM), Tampines MRT Exit B (1PM), Changi Chapel and Museum (2.10PM), Harbourfront MRT Exit D (2.40PM), Reflections at Bukit Chandu (3.50PM), return to the National Museum at 4.20PM.

Sunday (18, 25 Feb) routes and estimated pick-up times:

National Museum of Singapore (12.30PM), Harbourfront MRT Exit D (12.50PM), Reflections at Bukit Chandu (2.10PM), Tampines MRT Exit B (2.35PM), Changi Chapel and Museum (3.50PM), return to the National Museum at 4.25PM.

Note: Timings are subject to change and may vary due to traffic conditions.



National
Heritage
Board