

Listings

How to use the listings

This section consists of the month's events listed by genre plus a selection of the island's many visitor attractions. For current exhibitions and events at Singapore's cultural and history museums, see **Museums**; details of fine-art institutions and art galleries are in **Art** listings.

📍 Denotes an event for which tickets are available through Sistic (6348 5555, www.sistic.com.sg).

* Denotes an event we particularly recommend.

▶ Before a day denotes a closing date; after a day denotes a starting date

How to be listed

Listings must arrive in writing by the **Monday five weeks** before publication. We need the following details: address, phone number, nearest MRT, dates, times, prices and details of the event. Listings can be sent by post or emailed to listings@timeoutsingapore.com. Listings are free but, as space is limited, inclusion is not guaranteed.

Contests and competitions

National Youth Poetry Slam League Competition 2008 25 Jul; 7-9pm. HDB Hub Auditorium, Toa Payoh, 480 Lorong 6 (www.wordforward.org). 📍 Toa Payoh. It's all about rhyming and timing as teams of young bards throw words back and forth in an effort to emerge as Singapore's premier urban poets under 18. You can also expect some singing, choreography and all-around cleverness that proves poetry is alive and well in Singapore.

Events

Citi MILK Run 6 Jul; 1pm. \$30 competition; community run \$12. River Valley Primary School, 2 River Valley Green (www.milkrun.sg). 📍 Tiong Bahru, then bus 195. No, they won't be handing out cups of cow juice during this race. MILK stands for Mainly I Love Kids – an organisation that, along with BEYOND Social Services, is the beneficiary of this event. The two groups help young people skip the 'running amok and flirting with danger' stage by getting involved with community activities instead. The day's festivities include a 4.5km community run along the Singapore River with no pre-registration required, as well as a parade, youth concert and, of course, food and beverage stalls.

* **FREE Floetry Last Saturday of the month**; 6.30pm. Earshot Cafe, The Arts House, 1 Old Parliament Ln (6332 6900, www.theartshouse.com.sg). 📍 Raffles Place. Flow meets poetry in this monthly event as rappers deliver heartfelt, intelligent rhymes with and without minimal musical accompaniment. Be sure to turn up early, as space is limited.

Great Singapore Sale Until 20 Jul. Various outlets across the island (www.greatsingaporesale.com.sg). Discounts and promotions abound at major shops along Orchard Road and other places around the island. We suggest donning full battle gear to compete with visiting shopaholics and seasoned bargainers. Make sure you're armed with stacks of cash or go minimalist with that new credit card you just got.

Hair for Hope 6 Jul; noon-7pm. Velocity @ Novena Square, 238 Thomson Rd (www.cforgsg/hfh). 📍 Novena. This annual event asks for participants to shave their heads in a symbolic gesture to show solidarity with children who have cancer. Shavees sign up asking people to pledge funds for their act of baldness. All the hair's been cut, but you can still show up at the event. And for a donation of \$30, get your own 'Sinéad O'Connor' while demonstrating support for a great cause.

* **FREE The Impalement Cage** 5 Jul; 9-10pm. Clarke Quay Central Square Fountain (csqm.com/megaescape.html). 📍 Clarke Quay. 'Magic Babe' Ning is Singa-



Waxing lyrical Learn traditional batik painting at The Substation Gallery

por's only professional female magician. Depending on how this stunt goes, that title may soon be open for anyone who wants to claim it. See 'What's it like to be a...', page 10.

ISEA2008 25 Jul-3 Aug. See Museums, Listings.

* **FREE Warm and Fuzzy Feeling: The Carnival** 13 Jul; 11am-8pm. *scape Youth Park, 113 Somerset Rd (9327 2912, usstudent.nus.edu.sg/waffi). 📍 Somerset. You'll feel a different kind of Singapore warmth thanks to this event that benefits Operation Smile Singapore (OSS), a group that works with children afflicted by cleft lips and palates across Asia. OSS provides free corrective surgery as well as post-op therapy. You can help them get the job done by stopping by, enjoying food and drink and purchasing items whose proceeds go directly to the charity. Live jazz and dance performances round off the day's offerings. See '4Qs with...', page 8.

Exhibitions

FREE Every Piece Is Beautiful in Its Own Way 16-30 Jul; 10am-10pm. The Arts House, 1 Old Parliament Ln (6332 6900, www.theartshouse.com.sg). 📍 Raffles Place. Hand-sewn by Dorothy, founder of Dot's Dolls, each doll is different from the other, much like you and I.

* **Vietnam Festival 2008 @ Singapore** Until 20 Jul; Mon-Sun 10am-7pm, Fri 10am-9pm. \$8; students & seniors \$4. Singapore Art Museum, 71 Bras Basah Rd (6332 3222, www.singart.com). 📍 Dohy Ghaut. To celebrate 35 years of diplomatic ties between Singapore and Vietnam, this exhibition features Vietnamese modern and contemporary art, Vietnamese art talks, lectures, workshops and guided tours. See Art, Listings.

Festivals

* **Night Festival** 18 & 19, 25 & 26 Jul. See 'Inside out', page 83.

* **Singapore Heritage Festival** 12-27 Jul; various times and venues (www.heritagefest.org.sg). Since 2004, the National Heritage Board has been putting together these festivals with varying themes such as 'What Makes You You?' and 'What's Your Story?'. This year's theme will be 'Who's Your Hero?', with an anchor exhibit at the Festival Hub @ Suntec City showcasing people we admire. The festival will also include concerts and a grand prix featuring vintage cars. Go to the website for details.

* **Singapore Food Festival** 4-27 Jul; various times and venues (www.singaporefoodfestival.com). After February and Valentine's Day, this has got to be the month with the most happy tongues in the country. That's because they get to dip into sugar, spice and all things nice in celebration of the one thing all Singaporeans truly have in common – a love of food. This is the 15th year in which locals and visitors alike grab their chopsticks and get busy chowing

around restaurants and exhibitions across the island. Look for special deals and events island-wide all through the month; go to the website for details. See Preview.

* **Singapore Garden Festival** 25 Jul-1 Aug; 10am-10pm. \$6; weekend \$12; discounts for children, students & senior citizens. Suntec Singapore International Convention and Exhibition Centre, 1 Raffles Blvd (www.singaporegardenfestival.com). 📍 City Hall. July certainly is a festive month in Singapore. This particular fest focuses on all things growable. Stroll through specially themed garden spaces and view all manner of shrubs, grasses and flowers without fear of sunburn or getting bitten by a dengue-carrying mosquito. See Preview.

Talks

FREE An Afternoon of Vietnamese Art Connoisseurship 19 Jul; 3pm. Auditorium, Singapore Art Museum, 71 Bras Basah Rd (6332 3220, www.nhb.gov.sg/sam). 📍 City Hall. The Vietnamese art scene is currently considered to be one of the most vibrant in Asia. Come listen to Singapore's former ambassador to Vietnam, Toh Hock Kim, and Michael Koh, chief executive officer of the National Heritage Board, as they share insights on how it all started in Hanoi in the 1980s and early '90s. Advanced registration required.

EQ and Career Success 27 Jul; 11.30am-1pm. \$33; members \$27. SAFRA Toa Payoh, 293 Lorong 6 (6355 4506, www.safra.sg). Attend this talk to find out how to improve your Emotional Intelligence Quotient (EQ) to get ahead in business. Among other things, people with high EQs are better at managing negative moods. So the next time the copy machine fizzles out, it won't bother you a bit.

Workshops

Batik Painting 5-30 Jul; Mon & Wed 7-9pm, Sat 2-4pm. \$120 for four sessions plus \$40 for materials. Classroom 1, The Substation Gallery, 45 Armenian St (6337 7800, www.substation.org/courses). 📍 City Hall. When you think of taking a class, you probably think of learning something new. Here's your chance to learn something old and traditional instead. Evidence of batik artwork in Asia dates back over 2,000 years. Revel in the freedom of being able to spill hot wax on fabric and not get in trouble for it.

Classical Feng Shui 12 Jul; 10.30am-1pm. \$144; members \$120. SAFRA Yishun Country Club, 60 Yishun Ave 4 (6377 9889, www.safra.sg). 📍 Yishun. Here's your chance to really get your house in order by learning to use the 'Eight Mansions System', the most common feng shui theory. A take-home workbook and six months' post-course support are included.

Container Gardening Through 27 Dec. Last Saturday of the month; noon-1pm. \$30 (inclusive of materials). Hands-on House at HortPark, 33 Hyderabad Rd

(6471 5601, www.nparks.gov.sg/events/shub.asp). Take a taxi. Space is an issue in Singapore. Become an expert at using containers, planters and dishes to grow a little slice of green at home. All materials are provided, and you can take home your own piece of Eden after the workshop.

Explore Singapore Through Your Lens! 12 Jul; 9.30-11am for intro session. 19 Jul-6 Sep; 8-11am for outdoor shooting sessions. \$135 (participants must own a camera and film). The Substation Gallery, 45 Armenian St (6337 7800, www.substation.org/courses). 📍 City Hall. This class will teach you the basics of outdoor photography including composition, exposure and metering. The outdoor sessions will cover topics like architecture, nature, landscapes and night photography.

Zoos and gardens

Jurong BirdPark

2 Jurong Hill (6265 0022, www.birdpark.com.sg). Daily 9am-6pm. \$18; children \$9. 📍 Boon Lay, then bus 94 or 251. This park has a lot to brag about. It is the largest of its kind in the Asia-Pacific region. It features the tallest man-made waterfall, and is home to the biggest walk-in aviary in the world. Oh yeah, and then there are the birds. With more over 9,000 birds on a wire, there'll be enough chirping to make everyone's day.

* **Be a Falconer** It isn't cheap, but then again, falconry was once only practised by nobility. So for \$200, you can join the ranks of the elite few who have ever handled an impressive bird of prey. You'll don a falconer's vest and glove, learn how to feed the raptors and make them take to the skies (Daily 2pm, Fuji Hawk Walk).

• **Dino Descendants** The similarities between dinosaurs and certain birds have been well documented. In this exhibit four flightless birds will be on display, each bearing a striking resemblance to its *Jurassic Park* predecessor. Species include the ostrich, which is the biggest, and heavi-

Critics' choice



The Impalement Cage

Clarke Quay Central Square, 5 Jul. Singapore's only professional female magician takes the idea of stilettos to a whole new level. See Events.

Warm and Fuzzy Feeling: The Carnival

*scape Youth Park, 13 Jul. Come and show your support by raising funds to provide free corrective surgery to children with cleft lips. See Events.

Singapore Food Festival

Various times and venues, 4-27 Jul. Every foodie's dream comes true in this large-scale re-creation of Singapore's favourite pastime – eating, talking about eating, and then eating some more. See Festivals.

Singapore Garden Festival

Suntec Singapore International Convention and Exhibition Centre, 25 Jul-1 Aug. Visit gardenscapes from around the world in air-conditioned comfort. See Festivals.

Be a Falconer

Jurong BirdPark, ongoing. Pricey, but a chance to work with birds of prey? Priceless. See Zoos and gardens.

Museums



Hang loose... at Singapore Zoo

est bird alive today, and the double-wattled cassowary, which is often regarded as the world's most dangerous bird. So watch those fingers!

Singapore Botanic Gardens

1 Cluny Rd (6471 7361, www.sbg.org.sg). Daily 5am-midnight. National Orchard Garden \$5; concession \$1; children under 12 free. Orchard, then bus 106, 123, 124.

FREE Shell-MOE Band Fiesta 13 & 20 Jul; 6-7pm. Shaw Foundation Symphony Stage. School bands from across the island will be tooting their own horns as they get a chance to entertain the public with an assortment of tunes from various genres. Their funky moves are sure to inspire some of your own.

*** FREE Evolution Garden Tour** Every fourth Saturday; 9am. This tour tells the story of how plants evolve into the myriad and complex lifeforms we see today. Register 15 minutes before the tour at the Visitor Centre.

*** FREE Rainforest Tour** Every second Saturday; 9am, 10am, 11am & 4pm. This one-hour guided tour will expose you to the island's expanses of lush tropical rainforest. Register 15 minutes before the tour at the Visitor Centre.

Singapore Zoo

80 Mandai Lake Rd (6269 3411, www.zoo.com.sg). Daily 8.30am-6pm. \$15; children (ages 3-12) \$7.50. Ang Mo Kio, then bus 138 or Choa Chu Kang, then bus 927. One of the world's first 'open concept' zoos - residents live in landscaped enclosures instead of traditional cages - this 28-hectare attraction is home to more than 4,000 animals, including the world's largest colony of orangutans, the exotic white tiger, Hamadryas baboons, flying squirrels, and cheetahs in their newly revamped enclosure.

• Orangutan Exhibit The Singapore Zoo is home to the largest-scale exhibit of these 'people of the forest'. Watch them monkey around in the world's first free-ranging area made to mimic their natural environment. To date, the zoo has successfully bred 33 orangutans, reversing the declining population of this endangered species.

• Giant Flying Squirrel Exhibit The Vietnamese giant flying squirrels are the new kids on the block, in addition to the red-and-white giant flying squirrels currently residing at their recently revamped habitat. Watch these creatures in action as they glide about 400m off the ground, and even more amazing are the females who are the proud owners of three pairs of mammarys.

• Night Safari (6263 3411, www.nightsafari.com.sg). Daily 7.30pm-midnight (last admission 11pm). \$20; children (ages 3-12) \$10. For more information, go to TimeOutSingapore.com.

Compiled by Michael Franco

Army Museum of Singapore

500 Upper Jurong Rd (6799 7929, www.armymuseum.gov.sg). Boon Lay, then bus 182, 193. Tue-Sun 10am-6pm. Price TBA; all service personnel free.

NEW Ops Blue Heron (OBH): Our People, Our Contributions In 1999 the SAF activated Operation Blue Heron, a force that would join other organisations from around the world to help with peacekeeping activities in East Timor. This sight-and-sound exhibit honours that initiative and the brave people who participated in it.

Birth of Our Army This permanent gallery is a tribute to the country's National Service (NS) pioneers and servicemen. The key feature here is an overturned bus to remind visitors of the race riots of the 1960s.

*** Making of a Soldier** The key item in this exhibit, which portrays an NS man's life in the 1970s and 1980s, is an original basic military bunk bed from Pulau Tekong camp.

*** Orientation Gallery** Above the entrance to the galleries are 40 screens, each showing 40 different NS enlistees from all walks of life. This multimedia presentation was commissioned by the museum to commemorate the last four decades of National Service and demonstrates how these men come together to form a cohesive platoon.

*** Our People** A ten-minute short by filmmaker Royston Tan (of 881 fame) shows how National Service has influenced the lives of generations of Singaporeans.

Asian Civilisations Museum

1 Empress Pl (6332 7798, www.acm.org.sg). Raffles Place. Mon 1-7pm; Tue-Thu, Sat & Sun 9am-7pm; Fri 9am-9pm. \$5; seniors and students \$2.50; children under six free; Fri 7-9pm (discount) \$4; seniors and students \$2.

Viet Nam! From Myth To Modernity A fascinating collection of sculptures, textiles, ethnographic objects and other material on loan from national museums in Vietnam, some of which dates back 2,500 years. ▶30 Sep (Special Exhibitions Gallery).

MINT Museum of Toys

26 Seah St (6339 0060, www.emint.com). Bugis. Daily 9.30am-6.30pm. \$15; concession \$7.50; various family packages (two adults and two children \$36; three adults and one child \$42). For information on this museum, go to TimeOutSingapore.com.

National Museum of Singapore

93 Stamford Rd (6332 5642, www.national-museum.sg). Dhoby Ghaut or City Hall. Singapore History Gallery daily 10am-6pm, Singapore Living Galleries daily 10am-8pm. \$10; seniors, students, NS men \$5; infants free. Free daily 6-8pm.

*** FREE Transient Light Whispering Breeze** For information on this exhibition, go to TimeOutSingapore.com. ▶13 Jul; 10am-6pm (The Atelier).

*** FREE Night Festival** Spectacular performances abound with international acts like Studio Festi (Italy) and Electric Canvas (Australia) on the first weekend. For the second weekend, the grounds of SMU will be transformed into The Beatnik Picnic organised by Zouk. Local artists come together to provide music, song, dance and art with free silk-screening and a breakdance competition. See 'Inside out', page 83. 18 & 19 Jul, 9pm-2am; 25 & 26 Jul, 6pm-2am.

*** FREE ISEA2008** It's an exciting time for Singapore as it welcomes its first International Symposium on Electronic Art, showcasing interactive and digital technologies from around the world. This biennial event will feature various artworks by Experimenta Play++, Relocations, Cloudland, Lucid Fields and SPEKTR!. 25 Jul ▶3 Aug.

*** FREE Surrounding David** For information on this exhibition, go to TimeOutSingapore.com. ▶11 Aug (Rotunda, level 1).

FREE Children's Season: Imprint For information on this series, go to TimeOutSingapore.com. ▶31 Aug; 10am-6pm (Rotunda).

*** Museum Toddlers** For information, go to TimeOutSingapore.com. ▶21 Dec; every Sunday 1.30-2.30pm & 3-4pm. \$25 for parent and child.

Singapore Living Galleries: Film & Wayang Treat yourself to viewings of early films and listen to movie theme songs written by P Ramlee, the icon of Malay entertainment. You can also take in lavish Chinese opera costumes and an impressive puppet stage belonging to a southern Chinese troupe from the 1930s. ▶31 Dec; 10am-8pm (Rotunda).

Singapore Living Galleries: Food This exhibit will transport you to the two decades between 1950 and 1970 to explore what the ethnic food scene was like back in the day. A display featuring the most frequently used spices in Singaporean cooking will get your tummy grumbling. ▶31 Dec; 10am-8pm (Rotunda).

Singapore Philatelic Museum

23-B Coleman St (6337 3888, www.spm.org.sg). City Hall or Clarke Quay. Mon 1-7pm; Tue-Sun 9am-7pm. \$5; children (age 3-12) \$4. Singapore's only stamp museum is also a fully operational post office.

Flavours of Life: A Herbs and Spices Exhibition Spice up your life by taking in colourful, nature-themed stamps from around the world featuring herbs and spices. The exhibition will also provide info on the history of herbs and spices in South-East Asia - in particular the important role Singapore played in the spice trade, and which parts of the island used to be spice plantations. ▶13 Jul.

*** A Rat's Tale** For information on this exhibition, go to TimeOutSingapore.com. ▶30 Sep.

Journey Through the Land of Lotus It's surprising how much can be learned about a culture through its stamps. This exhibit examines Vietnam's heritage through the tiny sticky squares. In addition to the stamps, traditional Vietnamese outfits and a collection of water puppets will be on display. ▶23 Nov.

Critics' choice



Night Festival

National Museum & SMU, 18 & 19, 25 & 26 Jul

It may not be Mardi Gras, but come and experience the first night festival of its kind here. See National Museum.

ISEA2008

LaSalle College of the Arts, National Museum of Singapore, Sculpture Square & The Substation, 25 Jul-3 Aug

Twenty-two international artists will show their work, with 16 experimental pieces developed specifically for this event on display. See National Museum.

The Observatory

Singapore Science Centre, every Friday
Get all starry-eyed while spying on our cosmic cousins.

Singapore Science Centre

15 Science Centre Rd (6425 2500, www.science.edu.sg). Jurong East. Tue-Sun 10am-6pm. \$6; children (ages 3-16) \$3; senior citizens \$3.60.

*** FREE The Observatory** Look past the artificial illumination of the city and to the stars light years away with this mega-telescope. Because this observatory is one of the few in the world located so close to the equator, it offers stargazers views of both the northern and southern hemispheres. Every Friday; 7.50-10pm.

Ecogarden Escape the concrete jungle and visit a tree house, mini-plantations, orchids and ponds in this 'Garden of Eden'.

iSpace This exhibition offers you the chance to see how hi-tech the home and office of the future will be.

Living with Viruses Through 3-D galleries, video documentaries and information panels, this exhibition fills you in on Singapore's most notorious and potentially lethal viral afflictions of the last decade such as HIV, AIDS and SARS.

The Mind's Eye Test your eyesight at this exhibition featuring optical illusions - to see is to believe.

Waterworks Learn all you need to know about H₂O in this fun-filled, open-air exhibition featuring 11 hands-on displays.

Compiled by Michael Franco

Try something new
To find out about the ten-day Bonfire festival, check our August issue.



Viva la diva Extravagant opera costumes on show at Singapore Living Galleries

LESTER LEDESMA