

# TIONG BAHRU TRAILS!

Let's explore heritage-rich Tiong Bahru! Learn its history, take Insta-worthy photos, and eat delicious local cuisine!

[All places mentioned can be found in this Google Map!](#)



By National Institute of Education  
Group Endeavours in Service Learning - Group  
10 (Sec/JC 2022)

Isabelle Teo  
Jeremiah Tan  
Mohammad Firdaus  
Syazwan Shaha

(Reference links are correct as of 30 May 2022.)

# Fast Facts about Tiong Bahru!



Image Source: [Roots.gov.sg](https://www.roots.gov.sg)

## HOUSING

Home to the oldest public housing estate in Singapore built in the 1920s by the Singapore Improvement Trust (SIT), Tiong Bahru stands as testament to the colonial influence in Singapore's governance. Block 55 was the first SIT block built in 1936! Its monthly rental costs were really high, which made it inaccessible to the masses.

## OUR FIRST CC!

Singapore's first community centre is located in Tiong Bahru!

In 1948, the residents of Tiong Bahru formulated a plan to build a community centre which would assist and facilitate the progress of Tiong Bahru as an estate. The centre was officially opened in July 1951 by Duncan Robertson. It held weekly film screenings and various entertainment events for its residents.



Image Source: [Roots.gov.sg](https://www.roots.gov.sg)

# Fast Facts about Tiong Bahru!

## THE FIRST PUBLIC HOUSING BUILDING WITH AN AIR RAID SHELTER



Image Source: [Roots.gov.sg](https://www.roots.gov.sg)

In 1939, SIT constructed an air raid shelter at Block 78 Chuan Guan Street located in Tiong Bahru. This was the first public housing building in Singapore with an air raid shelter and it still stands as a remnant of the war history associated with Singapore. The shelter could fit about 1,600 people at one time! What makes this place truly unique is its modern-day existence as the only remaining pre-war air raid shelter in Singapore.



Image Source: [Weekender](#)

National Heritage Board. (2021, October 18). *Tiong Bahru Market Air Raid Shelter*.  
<https://www.roots.gov.sg/resources-landing/online-exhibitions/tiong-bahru-air-raid-shelter>

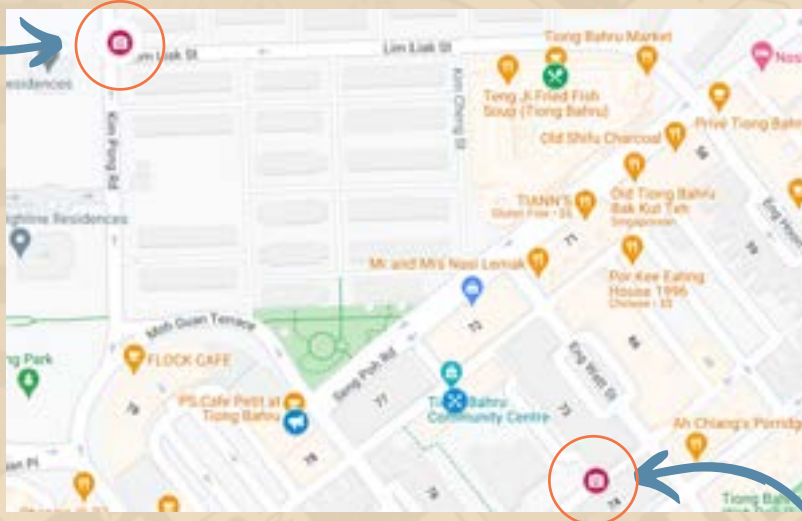
# Tiong Bahru Photowalk!

Tiong Bahru's iconic streets boast a delightful mix of old architecture and new murals, all prime for Insta-worthy photoshoots!

The iconic old-school apartment buildings were designed in the 1930s, and in line with the Art Deco movement, features sleek designs and smooth lines. Their rounded stairwells are so unique and instantly recognisable!



Image Source: [Anders + Cindy](#)



Between the two mural points (the red camera icons) in the Google map are three more animal murals. Can you find them all?



Image Source:  
[The Animal Book Co.](#)

## Photo-Op with Murals

Go on a treasure hunt for Ernest Goh's surrealist giant animals strutting through Tiong Bahru Estate!

Invite your friends to guess which of Singapore's many colourful murals you're posing in front of, for fun interactive Insta-stories. Get that conversation going!

# Strike Your Best Pose!

## Best time to take photos?

As this is an outdoor location, photographers are beholden to the weather. Catch Tiong Bahru when there are clear skies and fewer clouds to really take advantage of natural light!

## Golden Hour Glow!

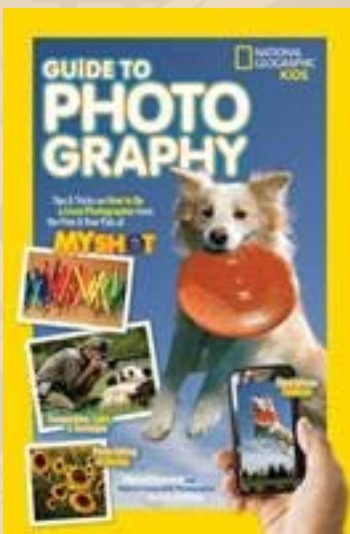
Golden hour refers to the hour after sunrise and before sunset. The warm, golden glow is ideal for both portrait and landscape photography.

For sunny vibes, go during mid-day for the full effect of the high sun!



This photo uses the mid-day light to reflect the iconic architecture in the background!

## Recommended Reading:



### Guide to Photography

Author: Nancy Honovich

Call No.: J 770 HON

In the age of smartphones and selfies, why not learn from the pros how to take great photos to share with friends and family! Here's a fun, fact-filled, kid-friendly guide that is jam-packed with all the essentials for budding photographers.

Publisher: National Geographic Kids, 2015 | Adapted from NLB Catalogue.

Image Source: [NLB Catalogue](#). Book cover is copyright of the respective publisher.

Is that your  
tummy rumbling?

If it is, you might want to hit the pause button on your photoshoots and scoot over to **Tiong Bahru Market & Food Centre!**

Address: 30 Seng Poh Rd



Image Source: [YP SG](#)

## Present: Tiong Bahru Market & Food Centre

Completed in 2005, the Tiong Bahru Market & Food Centre's latest revamp sees itself having a two-storey building fitted with user-friendly features such as lifts and escalators. The first level houses the fresh market while the second is home to delectable local dishes such as *chwee kueh*, *mee siam*, and let's not forget a warm cup of soybean milk. With a large central garden courtyard, you can even take a quick breather and a picture or two while you're at it!



Image Source: [Remember Singapore](#)

## Past: Seng Poh Road Market

The market only had “Tiong Bahru” in its name from 1993 onwards. Opened in 1951, it was originally named Seng Poh Road Market after the street it was on. The market sheltered a large number of street hawkers who served the expanding community in Tiong Bahru. Interestingly, the market also doubled up as a “Town Hall” of sorts—hosting meetings and even rallies in its early history!

Flip to the next page  
for an activity!

**Know your kopi!**

Now that we know more about **Tiong Bahru Market & Food Centre**, have a go at this matching activity to see how familiar you are with the different types of kopi. You might need this for your visit to the food centre!

**Kopi**

**Coffee with less condensed milk**

**Kopi O**

**Black coffee with condensed milk and a frothy top**

**Kopi Tarik**

**Iced coffee with condensed milk**

**Kopi Peng**

**Black coffee with sugar**

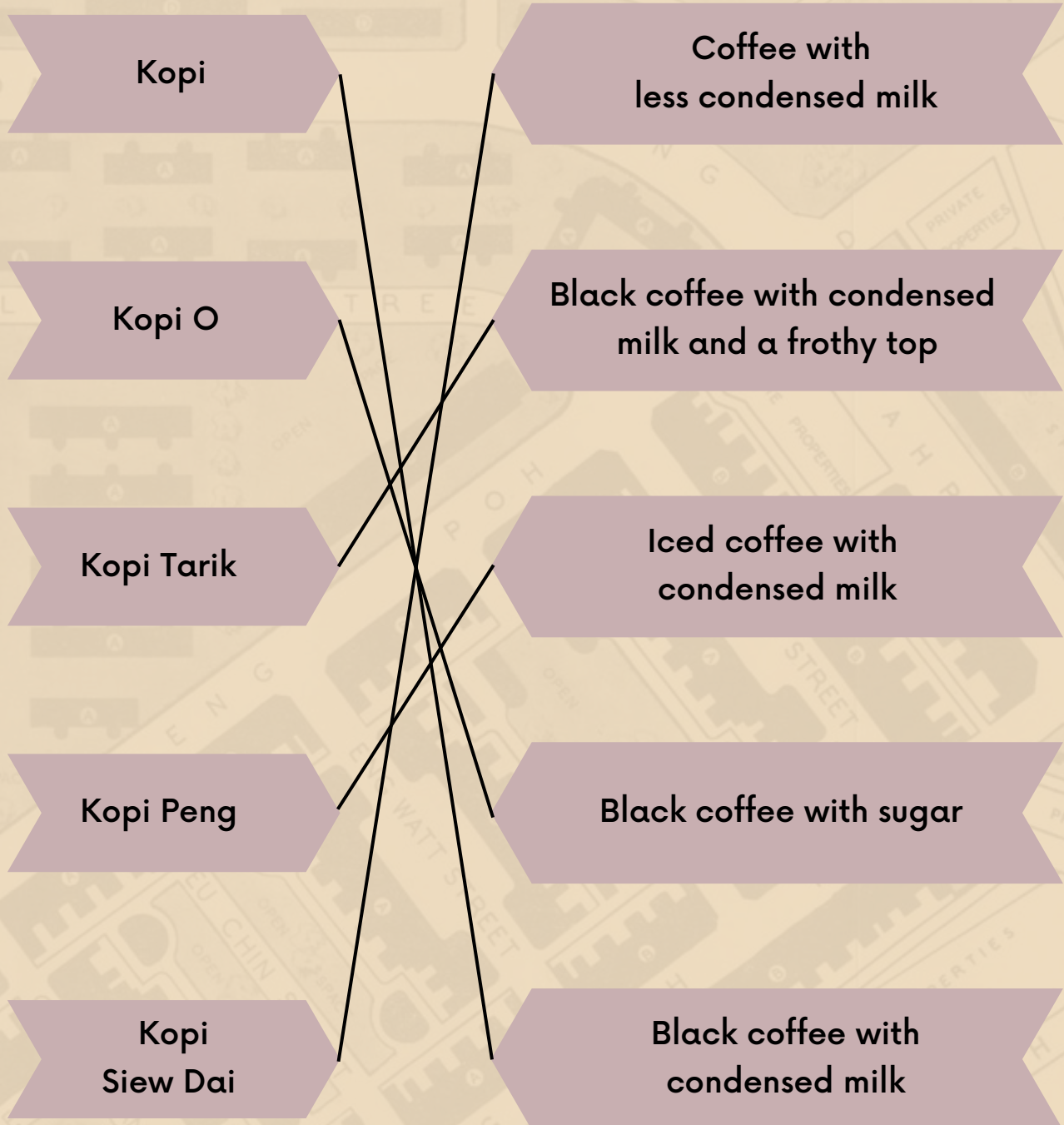
**Kopi Siew Dai**

**Black coffee with condensed milk**



**Know your kopi!**

Check your answers on this page! Once you are confident with the different types of kopi, do try them out in your next order!

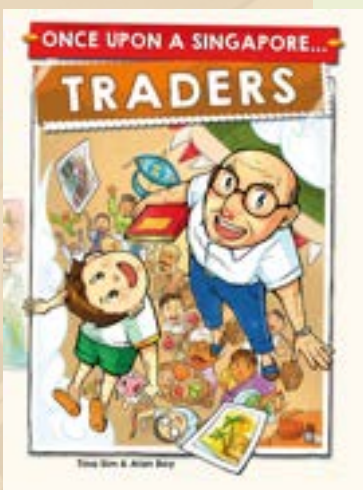


INTERESTED TO FIND OUT MORE?

Check out these  
great reads!

Looking for a light-hearted read to wind down  
but interested to learn more about  
Singapore history?

Check out *Once Upon a Singapore... Traders* to find out what life in old Singapore was like! Learn about Singapore's history in a fun and engaging comic book!



**Once Upon a Singapore... Traders**

Author(s): Tina Sim and Alan Bay

Call No.: J SING SIM

Also available as an eBook on NLB OverDrive.

Join Aloysius and Grandpa on a zany journey to the past! Just as Aloysius and Grandpa were transported through their book, *Once Upon A Singapore... Traders* will bring you on a fantastic and colourful ride as you get to meet the traders who are still remembered fondly by generations of Singaporeans today.

Publisher: Asiapac Books Pte Ltd, 2021 | Synopsis adapted from [NLB Catalogue](#).

Image Source: [NLB Catalogue](#) (Book cover is the copyright of its publisher.)

## I'm interested in the real HISTORY stuff.

For history buffs, National Heritage Board's MUSE SG online magazine contains a bite-sized and highly readable summary of Tiong Bahru's history in a conveniently accessible and downloadable PDF format.



Image Source:  
[Roots.gov.sg.](https://www.roots.gov.sg/)

### **MUSE SG Volume 12, Issue 02**

Author(s): National Heritage Board

MUSE SG commemorates Singapore's bicentennial with a four-part series that explores how our place histories have shaped and contributed to the Singapore Story. In this issue, we focus on the unique heritage of Tiong Bahru, Bidadari, Buona Vista, Kembangan, Seletar, Singapore River and Little India.

Publisher: National Heritage Board, 2019 | Synopsis from [Roots.gov.sg.](https://www.roots.gov.sg/)

## Don't mind a bit of fun fiction?

Take a new spin on old Southeast Asian legends with Theresa Fuller!

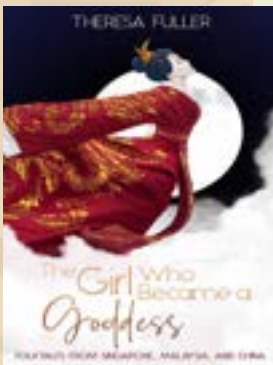


Image Source:  
[NLB Catalogue](https://www.nlb.gov.sg/)

### **The Girl Who Became a Goddess: Folktales from Singapore, Malaysia and China**

Author: Theresa Fuller

Call No.: Y SING FUL

Also available as an eBook on NLB OverDrive.

*The Girl Who Became a Goddess* is more than just a book of fables, it is a tribute to the childhood stories of someone who has experienced multiple cultures and learned to love them all. These are tales passed on from generation to generation, some to delight, some to terrify, all to enlighten. Theresa Fuller retells her favorite folk stories and puts a unique spin on ageless classics.

Publisher: Bare Bear Media, 2021 | Synopsis adapted from [NLB Catalogue](https://www.nlb.gov.sg/).

Book covers are the copyright of their respective publishers.  
All websites were last accessed on 30 May 2022.