
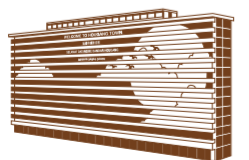







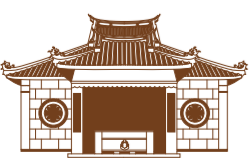
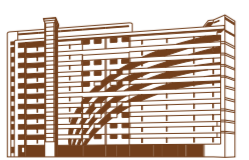



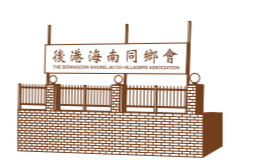


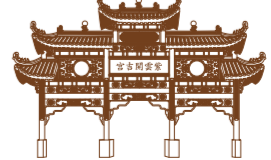



HERITAGE SITES IN THE SUGGESTED SHORT TRAIL ROUTES

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|--|---|---|--|--|---|---|---|---|
| 
AH SEAH TEOCHEW PORRIDGE | 
BLOCK 25 | 
CHEE TONG TEMPLE | 
CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY | 
FORMER SIMON ROAD MARKET | 
HOUGANG TOU MU KUNG | 
MASJID HAJI YUSOFF | 
NEO KIAN GUAN CONFECTIONERY & CAKES | 
PAYA LEBAR METHODIST CHURCH |
| 
PHOH KIU SIANG TNG | 
RAINBOW BLOCK | 
RAMAKRISHNA MISSION | 
ST. PAUL'S CHURCH | 
TECK CHYE TERRACE | 
THE SERANGOON KHIUNG JAI CO-VILLAGERS ASSOCIATION | 
TIAN KONG & KANCANARAMA BUDDHIST TEMPLE | 
TUA JIA KAR | 
ZI YUN KAI JI GONG |

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SUGGESTED SHORT TRAIL ROUTES

From National Monuments to memories of diverse communities who call Hougang home, these three thematic trails are designed to bring you on a journey of discovery. Explore Hougang beyond its modern housing estates, trace its stories through its built heritage, and get to know how it transformed from kampongs into the suburb it is today.

Landmarks of Hougang (1 hour with public transport)

Dive into the history of Hougang by visiting key landmarks along Upper Serangoon Road that have been associated with the area for more than 70 years. This trail takes you down one of Singapore's oldest roads and introduces sites that represent the diverse communities who lived and worked in Hougang.

Begin your journey at the **Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary**, the oldest landmark in Hougang and the emblem of the Teochew Catholic community here. This Roman Catholic church was established in 1852 by the Les Mission Étrangères de Paris (MEP) to serve the growing Teochew Catholic community. Schools such as Holy Innocents' English Boys' School (renamed Montfort School) and CHIJ Our Lady of the Nativity were founded on the church's grounds in 1916 and 1957 respectively. Today, the church's Teochew heritage is still evident in its weekly masses held in the Teochew dialect. The church was gazetted as a National Monument in 2005.



Next, cross the overhead bridge and take a bus to Kovan MRT. As you cross the road, you will see a row of single-storey terraced units on your right and bronze statues of a poultry seller and his customer on your left. These bronze statues commemorate the former **Simon Road market** which was built in 1948 and served the needs of the population living in Singapore's north-eastern region until its closing in 1999. Complementing the market is the row of single-storey terraced units that you still see today. This row is the only remaining building of the former market area.

This festival is marked by traditional rituals and grand processions to Sungei Serangoon to invite the deities into the temple. The temple was gazetted as a National Monument in 2005.



Continue to walk up Upper Serangoon Road to **St. Paul's Church**. Completed in 1936, this Anglican church first served British servicemen, their families and the Eurasian community living in the Teochew-dominated area. The construction of the church was funded by a Eurasian family known as the Oehlers, who were also living in Hougang. By the post-war period, the church's congregation grew to include Chinese and Tamil members.

Head further up until you reach the junction of Upper Serangoon Road and Boundary Road and you will arrive at **Teck Chye Terrace**, which was built in 1928 by Chinese businessman Lim Teck Chye. A landmark of the former Lim Tua Tow market area, Teck Chye Terrace and the market have long been known as a food haven for the people living in the vicinity. Until the 1990s, itinerant hawkers used to throng the market grounds. Today, Teck Chye Terrace is still reputed for its food offerings. You may wish to have a stop by **Ah Seah's Teochew Porridge**, a family-run business that has been serving the traditional Teochew fare since the 1960s.



Proceed along Upper Serangoon Road towards **Masjid Haji Yusoff**, the oldest mosque in Hougang that was founded in 1921. This institution was built on land donated by Gujarati merchant and philanthropist Ahmad Mohamed Salleh Angullia, who was also a Justice of the Peace and a prominent figure within the Muslim community. The mosque catered to Muslims living in the surrounding Malay kampongs of Hougang and Upper Paya Lebar, such as former Kampong Haji Sirat near Jansen Road.



A short distance away from the mosque stands **Hougang Tou Mu Kung**, the oldest temple in Singapore that is dedicated to the Nine Emperor Gods. It was first founded as a shrine at Lim Loh Village (at present-day Wolskel Road) before relocating to its current site in 1921. The temple is noted for the 11-day long Nine Emperor Gods festival during the ninth month of the lunar calendar.



Finish your exploration of Upper Serangoon Road at **Paya Lebar Methodist Church**, sited just across the junction of Upper Serangoon Road and Boundary Road. Established in 1932, this church is the first and only church in Hougang to offer service for Peranakan Christians conducted in Baba Malay. This service originated from the Malay Prayer Service started in 1934 to reach out to the Peranakan community living in the area. The present-day Covenant Centre behind the main church building is also the former site of the Paya Lebar Methodist Girls' School before it relocated to Lorong Ah Soo.



Architectural Gems (1 hour 45 min with public transport)

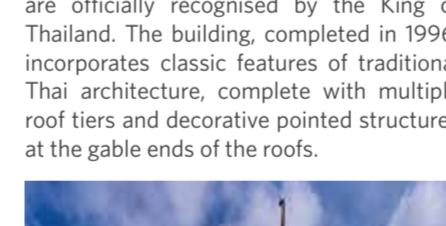
Hougang is a showcase of architectural styles that reflect the time period and cultural landscape of the area before the modern Housing & Development Board (HDB) town was built in the early 1980s. This trail allows you to explore the built heritage of Hougang, such as its pre-war shophouses, religious institutions and National Monuments.



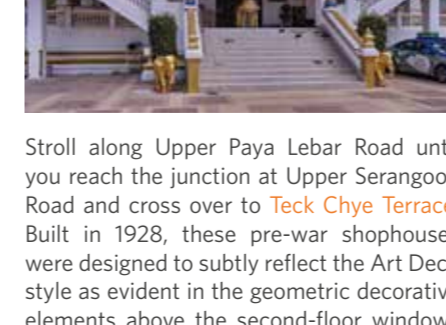
Start your journey at **Ramakrishna Mission**, just a short walk from Bartley MRT station. The conserved buildings within the mission's compound were completed in the 1950s, shortly after Commissioner-General for Southeast Asia Malcolm MacDonald laid the foundation stone for the boys' home in 1948. Look out for the blue and cream temple that was modelled after the mission's main temple in West Bengal, India and erected on the grounds in 1952. It integrates architectural features and motifs from different religions such as Buddhism and Islam, and reflects the mission's belief that all religions lead to the same goal of enlightenment.



Next, walk through How Sun estate and along Upper Paya Lebar Road to reach **Tian Kong & Kancanarama Buddhist Temple**, a complex housing a Thai Buddhist temple and a Taoist temple. This institution is one of the five Thai temples in Singapore that are officially recognised by the King of Thailand. The building, completed in 1996, incorporates classic features of traditional Thai architecture, complete with multiple roof tiers and decorative pointed structures at the gable ends of the roofs.



Optional: If you would like to explore further, take a stroll along Hougang Avenue 3 to **Chee Tong Temple**, which was completed in 1987. During its construction, the architects underwent regular consultations with the temple's deities through mediums to seek divine inputs on the building design. As a result, the architects deliberately excluded sharp corners in the building, which are considered to be inauspicious. In addition, the apex of the roof is designed in a series of eight-sided prisms, evoking the lotus, which is the symbol of purity in Chinese culture.



and the simple clean lines that frame building facade.

Walk along Upper Serangoon Road to reach **Hougang Tou Mu Kung**. This temple was originally built in 1902 in the traditional Hokkien architectural style, with pronounced curvatures in its roof ridges. The temple integrated Teochew architectural features during subsequent renovations which resulted in gentler slopes for the roof. Take a closer look at the walls around the windows on the main building and spot the geometric decorative carvings that were engraved onto the walls when the building was first constructed. During past renovations, these carvings were covered by plaster and were only rediscovered and restored during the temple's most recent renovation in 2016.

Hop on a bus to Hougang's second National Monument, the **Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary**. Along the way, be sure to look out for **Block 25** on your right, an HDB block with a mural of a bright and sunny sky. Upon arriving at the church, take a look at the building's Neo-Gothic features, such as pointed arches and ribbed vaults. Over a century old, the church was built in 1901 and was later extended in 1933 to accommodate a new sanctuary and a sacristy. Look out for the marble statue of the Immaculate Conception of Mary located in front of the church which was donated by Sultan Ibrahim of Johor in 1946.

Continue down Hougang Avenue 7 and head to **Block 316**, more popularly known as the **Rainbow Block of Hougang**. Like Block 25, Block 316 stands out visually with a colourful and bright rainbow mural. Although the mural has been redesigned a few times, it continues to be a modern icon of Hougang Town today.

Stroll along Upper Paya Lebar Road until you reach the junction at Upper Serangoon Road and cross over to **Teck Chye Terrace**. Built in 1928, these pre-war shophouses were designed to subtly reflect the Art Deco style as evident in the geometric decorative elements above the second-floor windows



Institutions of Service (1 hour 30 min with public transport)

Hougang is home to several establishments and places that have been set up to serve the various communities in the area. This trail brings you on a tour of the different establishments and places in Hougang to explore how they catered to the needs of communities.



Begin the trail at **Phoh Kiu Siang T'ng**, which is a short walk from Kovan MRT. This organisation is one of the three *shantangs* or charitable halls in Hougang, which are strongly affiliated with the Teochew community. Phoh Kiu Siang T'ng was founded in 1929 at Upper Circular Road and relocated here in 1953. Since 1967, this Teochew organisation has been operating a free medical clinic and regularly supports charitable initiatives such as donations to the elderly.

Walk through Kovan City to reach **Tua Jia Kar** ("foot of the big well" in Teochew), a commemorative replica of a large well that once supplied clean water to the kampong residents of the area. The communal well was originally sited at the former Upper Serangoon Somapah Village (now Kovan City). Although piped water was later installed in the village, it was said that many villagers still preferred to draw water from Tua Jia Kar. This well was so important to the long-time residents that a replica with a commemorative plaque was installed here in 2005.



Next, walk to Hougang Avenue 3 to visit **Neo Kian Guan Confectionery & Cakes**, a family business that has served Hougang's residents for more than 70 years. Famed for its traditional Hokkien and Teochew pastries, the business was originally founded in the 1930s in Jalan Kayu. In 1949, the founders moved to Lim Tua Tow Road where they became popular among Hougang's residents and temples. The shop moved to its current premises in 2008 and is now run by the family's third generation.



Take a stroll down Hougang Avenue 3 to **Zi Yun Kai Ji Gong**. This temple complex houses three smaller temples that relocated here since the 1990s: Kai Hock Tong Temple, Keat Sun Beo and Chao Ying Kong Temple.

Notably, Kai Hock Tong Temple was founded by Lim Loh, father of war hero Lim Bo Seng. During the late 1800s, Lim Loh brought incense from his clan's temple in Fujian, China, to his brickworks factory at Wolskel Road to serve as a family shrine. In 1919, a permanent temple was built in the shrine's location and operated until the 1990s before relocating to its present site. Today, many of the descendants of the Lim clan still worship at the temple.



Return to Tampines Road, take a bus into Lorong Ah Soo and alight at **The Serangoon Khiong Jai Co-Villagers Association**. This association was established in 1958 by the Hainanese community living along Lorong Ah Soo, an area that residents referred to as Hai Lam Hng ("Hainan Garden" in Teochew and Hokkien). The association provided social support and mutual aid to the Hainanese living in Lorong Ah Soo and was also known for nurturing Hainanese opera performers during the 1960s and 1970s. Today, the association continues to offer programmes and services to the community, including education bursaries for children living in Hougang.



Finally, take a bus or walk down Upper Paya Lebar Road and cut through How Sun Estate to arrive at **Ramakrishna Mission**, a branch of the Ramakrishna Order of India. In 1943, the mission founded a boys' home for the destitute and orphaned at its Bartley Road site. In 1950, then Prime Minister of India Jawaharlal Nehru visited the mission and officially opened a new building in the compound for the boys' home. Since then, the mission expanded its outreach and philanthropic efforts to include a former Tamil language school, a medical clinic, counselling services, a kindergarten and a small library open to the public.

MAP & SUGGESTED ROUTES

HOUGANG HERITAGE TRAIL

The Hougang 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.

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