

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

The National Museum of Singapore Invites Visitors to Celebrate National Day Through the Myths, Legends and Stories That Made Us

The Migrant Workers Photography Festival will also be held at the National Museum of Singapore for the first time – alongside a full day of National Day programmes celebrating the stories and communities that shape the city we share.



Singapore, 30 July 2026 – Celebrate Singapore’s 61st year of independence at the National Museum of Singapore this August with a dynamic line-up of programmes inspired by the theme “Myths, Legends & the Stories That Made Us”. From interactive storytelling and workshops to live performances and a photography showcase by our migrant workers, the museum invites families and visitors across generations to rediscover the stories that shape Singapore’s identity — from founding legends to the living traditions that continue to define us today.

2 Chung May Khuen, Director of the National Museum of Singapore, said, “This National Day, we celebrate the beloved stories in our collective memory, and pay tribute to how

Singapore has been built by many communities, each contributing to this place we call home — a fact that holds true now, as it did in the past. We hope the Museum can be a social space for everyone to connect over the stories and memories that bind us, and to leave with a deeper sense of belonging, pride and appreciation for our nation.”

Come Together at the National Museum for a Full Day of Celebrations



*From left: Once Upon a Shore: The Founding of Singapura; Half Lion, Half Fish, Wholly Delicious;
Live Telecast of National Day Parade on the National Museum's Lawn*

3 On 9 August, the Museum also presents a full day of free and ticketed programmes, including a colouring competition for children, immersive storytelling sessions inspired by the legend of Sang Nila Utama, workshops, drop-in crafts, and a museum-wide heritage hunt – a lively celebration of Singapore’s birthday through culture, creativity and connection.

4 Museumgoers can also round off their day with live performances by local acts and a free live telecast of the National Day Parade under the stars on the Museum’s Front Lawn. Admission to all galleries will be free, including entry to *Singapore Odyssey: A Journey Through Time*, the National Museum’s immersive installation housed in the iconic Shaw Foundation Glass Rotunda, as well as the *Once Upon a Tide: Singapore’s Journey from Settlement to Global City* special exhibition before it closes on 9 October 2026.



5 This year, the Museum will also join the wider Bras Basah.Bugis precinct's National Day celebrations with ***Voyage of Icons***, a projection mapping work by visual artist Howie Kim. Presented in collaboration with HeritageSG as part of Light Together BBB (LTB) 2026, the Museum's iconic facade will transform into a living storybook each evening from 1 to 12 August. Unfolding across five imaginative chapters, the projection takes audiences on a journey from the founding legend of Sang Nila Utama to a bold vision of Singapore's future, celebrating the myths, icons and stories that have shaped the nation over time.

Seeing Singapore Through Diverse Perspectives



6 A key highlight of this year’s celebrations is a photography exhibition jointly presented as part of the fourth edition of the Migrant Workers Photography Festival (MWPF) — a biennial festival that showcases the creative talents and amplifies the perspectives of Singapore’s migrant community. Inspired by the dual meaning of “haunt”, ***Our Favourite Haunts: Through the Lens of Migrant Workers*** features photographs by selected finalists of the competition, with scenes of community and belonging alongside otherworldly portraits. Winners from the Series and Singles categories will be announced at the opening ceremony on 2 August as well as on the MWPF website, with the exhibition running through to 13 September.

7 Through this collaboration, the National Museum spotlights the diverse communities who call Singapore home, inviting visitors to see familiar places through the eyes of migrant workers. The exhibition celebrates the many people who have helped build and enriched Singapore, while revealing how our shared spaces hold distinct meanings and memories for different communities. Together, these perspectives offer a richer understanding of the Singapore we all share.

8 While this marks the first time the MWPF photography showcase is being presented at the National Museum of Singapore, both organisations have collaborated previously. At the MWPF showcase, migrant worker visitors are welcome to pick up postcards with handwritten notes of appreciation from members of the public. These postcards are from the special “Thank You” corner, a complementary experience to the *Once Upon a Tide* exhibition, which includes a feature of migrant workers who helped build Singapore. Here, visitors are encouraged to pen a note of appreciation on postcards featuring photographs from the 2019 to 2024 editions of the Migrant Workers Photography Festival.

9 Work Permit and Special Pass holders can enjoy free entry to the National Museum’s permanent galleries on 2 August 2026, to mark the official opening of the Migrant Workers Photography Festival. In addition, free admission continues to be offered to these communities on the last Sunday of every month until September 2026, reinforcing the museum’s ongoing commitment to being an inclusive and engaging space for all communities.

10 The full list of programmes, as well as quotes from featured photographers in *Our Favourite Haunts: Through the Lens of Migrant Workers* can be found in the appended **Annexes**.

For more information, please visit the National Museum's [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages.

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For media enquiries, kindly contact nmsteam@tateanzur.com.

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About the National Museum of Singapore

With a history dating back to 1887, the National Museum of Singapore is the nation's oldest museum with a progressive mind. Its galleries adopt multi-perspective ways of presenting history and culture featuring important artefacts that tell the stories of Singapore and the world to redefine the conventional museum experience. The museum is home to thought-provoking exhibitions and hosts exciting events all year round including the Singapore Night Festival. For more details, please visit www.nationalmuseum.nhb.gov.sg/.