



1. South Bridge Road was built in 1833 and is the oldest street in **CHINATOWN**.
2. **SAGO LANE** received its name because during the 1840s, there were numerous sago factories in both Sago Street and Lane. However, it became more famous in the 19th century for its Chinese death houses or funeral homes where people near death were left to die, with the funeral parlour downstairs ready to receive them.
3. The name, **KRETA AYER**, literally comes from ox-drawn water carts that were used to deliver water to the area. This area is the heart of Chinatown and its physical development can be traced back to 1843 with the leasing and granting of parcels of land around Pagoda, Temple, Smith, Trengganu and Sago Streets to the public for the building of shophouses. Today, it is best known for its street activities and festival events held before the lunar new year and the mooncake festival.
4. Before Telok Ayer Bay was reclaimed in 1887, **TELOK AYER STREET** ran along the shoreline.
5. **KAMPONG GLAM** was once the seat of Malay royalty and its name was derived from the Gelam tree which grew in abundance in the area. Its leaves, if boiled and distilled, is a cure-all for rheumatism and cramps; its bark was once used by the Bugis and Malays to caulk the seams of boats; its wood was made into hull planks and firewood; and its fruits, when dried and ground, was consumed as black pepper. The settlement of Kampong Glam was already in existence by the time Raffles arrived in 1819 and was older than modern Singapore. Some Gelam trees can be seen in front of the Hajjah Fatimah Mosque.
6. **LITTLE INDIA**, unlike Chinatown and Kampong Glam, was not planned for in the original Raffles' Town Plan. The area, which was under betel leaves' cultivation in 1836, evolved as a result of the cattle trade and the completion of a horse race course in its neighbourhood in the 1840s.
7. Next to **LITTLE INDIA**, Ye Olde England is remembered in street names such as Durham Road, Gloucester Road, Dorset Road, Cambridge Road, Carlisle Road, Hertford Road, Owen Road and Oxford Road.
8. Before the Chinese coolies began their backbreaking work along the banks of **SINGAPORE RIVER**, the river's first inhabitants were the Orang Laut, sea people of Malay origin.
9. The **SINGAPORE RIVER** had become one huge cesspool by the 1970s. Its clean up began in 1977 and lasted for 10 years. During one month, 260 tons of rubbish was removed from the river – about the weight of 32 elephants.
10. For 6 years in the 1980s, urban planning executive Richard

Tong's job was to shoot pictures of old buildings for URA's first efforts at **CONSERVATION**. He remembers the countless times he trespassed into other people's property, where he was chased by dogs, glared at by house owners and once, had the fright of his life when he jolted a family of monitor lizards out of slumber.

11. **CONSERVATION** began in the early 1970s with the rehabilitation of the shophouses at Murray Terrace and Cuppage Terrace.
12. **CHIJMES, THIAN HOCK KENG TEMPLE** and **OLD ST ANDREW'S SCHOOL** have all been honoured by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). UNESCO recognises outstanding conservation projects of built heritage undertaken by private sector entities or through public-private partnerships. Thian Hock Keng Temple received the UNESCO Asia Pacific Heritage Award for Culture Conservation (Honourable Mention) in 2001, Chijmes received the UNESCO Asia Pacific Heritage Award for Culture Conservation (Merit) in 2002 and the Old St Andrew's School received the Honourable Mention Award in 2007. The most recent UNESCO awardee was 733 Mountbatten Road, with the 2008 UNESCO Asia Pacific Heritage Award for Culture Heritage Conservation, Jury Commendation for Innovation.
13. **CONSERVATION** buildings are selected for architectural significance & rarity; economic impact; cultural, social, religious and historical significance; and contribution to the environment and identity.
14. The first area where restoration was carried out as a public showcase: 32 shophouses along **TANJONG PAGAR ROAD AND NEIL ROAD** in mid 1980s. The restoration demonstrated that old buildings could be restored and retained as an economically viable undertaking and was well-received. It paved the way for the URA to progressively release more old shophouses in the area for sale to start Singapore's first largescale private participation in conservation. The private sector was also encouraged through this mechanism to contribute ideas, entrepreneurship and financial resources as business operators, entrepreneurs and owners.
15. A typical **SHOPHOUSE** is often narrow but very deep. This is due to the limited structural spans of timbre available in the pre-war years.
16. **EMERALD HILL** is the former home to many members of the city-state's wealthy Peranakan community and features in Singaporean literature – various novels have been set on Emerald Hill, including Emily of Emerald Hill by Stella Kon, The Nan-Mei-Su Girls of Emerald Hill by Goh Sin Tub and The Ghost Lover of Emerald Hill by Goh Sin Tub.
17. The name '**KALLANG**' is an old Malay name referring to a group of sea gypsies called Orang Biduanda Kallang. They were the indigenous inhabitants of Singapore and lived in swamps at the mouth of the Kallang River for as long as tradition went. These river people lived on boats but avoided the open sea.
18. **BALESTIER** was once the centre of Singapore's film industry. In the 1950s, the Shaw Brothers ran a film studio there for its Malay language films.
19. Various roads in **BALESTIER** have been named after places in Burma – Akyab Road (port), Bassein Road (town), Bhamo Road (town), Irrawaddy Road (river), Mandalay Road (royal capital from 1860 to 1885), Pegu Road (town), Prome Road

- (town & port) and Rangoon Road (capital of British Burma).
20. There are two buildings named Hoover along **BALESTIER ROAD**. This is because both are built in the Art Deco style that was especially popular in Singapore from 1930 to 1960. The Hoover Hotel and the Hoover Restaurant were built in the 1950s and have vertical 'fins' that give an impression of height and dignity to the building.
 21. While **JALAN BESAR** literally translates from Malay to mean "large road", it could also mean "main street". A peculiarity of the street names in Jalan Besar is that many bear the names of World War I British generals and admirals and two French generals – Allenby, Kitchener, French, Maude, Jellicoe, Tyrwhitt, Foch, Sturdee, Beatty and Petain. The names of battle places such as Flanders, Somme and Verdun are also reflected.
 22. **KATONG** is the name of an exotic species of sea turtle now extinct. In the first three decades of the twentieth century and especially after World War I, Katong still had a beachfront and developed from a weekend seaside retreat into a home for the wealthy, who built their main residence away from the hustle and bustle of town-life in the form of ornate and immense colonial seaside bungalows.
 23. At 36 m, **HENDERSON WAVES** is the highest pedestrian bridge in Singapore. It is also 274 m long.
 24. **ORCHARD ROAD** got its name from the nutmeg, pepper and fruit orchards that used to lie on either side of the street in the 1800s. Commercial development only began in the twentieth century, and took off in the 1970s. The first shop of note on Orchard Road was TANGS, founded in 1934 and established on Orchard Road in the 1950s.
 25. The area surrounding **NOVENA** Church used to be a Jewish cemetery. When the original Jewish cemetery behind Fort Canning was closed for development, the Jewish synagogue bought this piece of land in 1900 to replace the old cemetery.
 26. In the early 1950s and 1960s, the former **ISTANA** used to screen movies for free to the public weekly. It also provided car parking for the Muslims going to pray at Sultan Mosque nearby.
 27. Although **JURONG**'s name is derived from the Malay word, Jerung, which means 'shark', the swamp on which Jurong developed used to be infested with crocodiles not sharks.
 28. Mount Faber is 105 m high. It was formerly known as **TELOK BLANGAH HILL** until Captain Faber cut a road up the top to establish a signal station in 1845.
 29. Behind Chun Tin Road in the **ANAK BUKIT** area are a series of connected roads named after different banana varieties (pisang in Malay) since 1965. These include Lor Pisang Batu (Stone), Lor Pisang Udang (Prawn), Lor Pisang Hijau (Green), Lor Pisang Emas (Gold), Lor Pisang Raja (King) and Lor Pisang Asam (Sour).
 30. The number of plant species growing in the **BUKIT TIMAH NATURE RESERVE** is more than that in the whole of North America.
 31. **BUKIT TIMAH** was once swarmed with tigers that swam across the narrow straits separating Kranji and Johor. In the 1860s, an average of 200 were killed each year by tigers.
 32. **BUKIT TIMAH HILL**, standing at 164 m, used to be Singapore's highest point until the Singapore Flyer, which is taller by 1 m, was built.
 33. Several roads in **KATONG** are named after tropical fruits, among which are Duku Road, Rambai Road, Rambutan Road and Chiku Road.

34. Progressive construction methods expedited the development of the **TAMPINES** town infrastructure. Using prefabricated parts, a block of high-rise flats could be built in a month.
35. The beach area on the northern side of Pulau Ubin, **CHEK JAWA**, is only possible to visit at low tide and visitors are restricted to a first-come-first-served basis.