



The one-hour guided walking tour of the Istana begins at the tour booth near the Main Gate, where our friendly volunteer guides will introduce you to the fascinating history of the Istana, its architectural heritage and unique green lung of flora and fauna.

# ISTANA HERITAGE TOUR

Upcoming availability:  
Sunday, 13 April 2025

## WHAT IS THE 'ISTANA'?

The Istana, which means 'Palace' in Malay, is a significant historical landmark in Singapore. Built by the British colonial government in 1869, the Istana grounds cover an area of about 40 hectares and have witnessed many important events in Singapore's history. It is also home to some 260 plant species and diverse wildlife.

**Fun Fact:** The first Istana Open House was held on 1 January 1960.

Held during the Istana Open House, the Istana Heritage Tours are conducted in English and Mandarin at hourly intervals from 9am to 4pm. Fees apply, and all proceeds go to the benefitting organisations supported by the President's Challenge. Registration fees are not inclusive of admission fees to enter the Istana.

Secure your spot on the tour early at the next Istana Open House 2025. Sign up at the link or scan the QR code:

[Go.gov.sg/istanatour](https://go.gov.sg/istanatour)



<https://go.gov.sg/istanatour>

# MAP OF ISTANA AND TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

## SWAN POND

HOME TO A PAIR OF WHITE MUTE SWANS - AN ICON OF THE ISTANA.

## GUN TERRACE, SRI TEMASEK AND THE LODGE

**GUN TERRACE** - A PERFECT PHOTO-TAKING SPOT!  
DISCOVER THE FASCINATING HISTORY OF **SRI TEMASEK**, A 19TH-CENTURY BUNGALOW, AND **THE LODGE**, WHICH SITS ON THE SITE OF THE SRI MELATI, THE FORMER HOME OF SINGAPORE'S FIRST HEAD OF STATE, YANG DI-PERTUAN NEGARA, ENCIK YUSOF BIN ISHAK.

## MAIN BUILDING\*

LEARN ABOUT THE ICONIC ISTANA BUILDING, ITS ARCHITECTURE, AND IMPORTANT HISTORICAL EVENTS THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE HERE.

\*THE MAIN BUILDING IS CURRENTLY **CLOSED** FOR RESTORATION WORKS.



## JAPANESE GARDEN

FEATURING A DRY ROCK GARDEN, TRADITIONAL LANTERNS, AND A MERKUS PINE WITH NEEDLE-LIKE LEAVES, THIS TRANQUIL SPACE ADDS TO THE SERENE QUALITY OF ITS SURROUNDINGS.

## THE VILLA

THE VILLA HAS SERVED AS A GUESTHOUSE FOR STATE VISITORS UNTIL 1984 - AMONG ITS DISTINGUISHED GUESTS WERE THE LATE QUEEN ELIZABETH II AND PRINCE PHILIP.

GABRIEL KON (2003)