



**MONSTER**  
DAY TOURS

EXPLORE SINGAPORE

# Your Ultimate Guide to Bras Basah

Bras Basah is an area rich in culture and tradition, boasting museums, art centres, and even religious sites. There are also great places to get food here, though, which is why it's best to start this tour in the late morning, so you truly enjoy the Bras Basah dining experience too!

*Walking tour*  
*Estimated duration*  
*between 3 - 4 hours*

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COMFORT DELGRO



# About Bras Basah



Bras Basah gets its name from the Malay term for “wet rice”. That’s because rice used to be laid out on the banks of the Bras Basah River (which you now know as the Stamford Canal).

Today, Bras Basah is a culturally significant neighbourhood, with locations as the National Museum of Singapore and the Armenian Church, which is a national monument.

It’s probably little wonder, given that Sir Stamford Raffles himself originally earmarked this to serve as Singapore Town’s European district. A good bit of history and development for the country took place here, which is why history buffs are in for a treat with this tour!



# Where are we going?



Bras Basah Complex - Photo by [Streetsdirectory](#)  
Papis Tacos - Image by Celeste Goh via [burpple](#)  
Narrative Coffee Stand - Photo by [Daniel Food Diary](#)  
National Design Centre - Photo by [My Art Guides](#)  
Maghain Aboth Synagogue - Photo by [Singapore Jews](#)

**Papis Tacos**

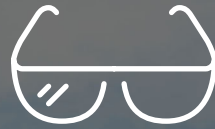
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# What will you need to bring?



Comfortable attire and footwear for walking



Sunblock, sunglasses, cap or hat



Insect repellent



A bottle of water or beverage



Umbrella or poncho in case it rains



Camera if you're into photo ops



1

# Shop for more than books at Bras Basah Complex

31 Bain Street  
Singapore 180231

Opening hours

Monday - Thursday: 10am - 7pm

Friday - Sunday: 10am - 9pm

Photo by [Street Directory](#)

[monsterdaytours.com](http://monsterdaytours.com)



# Books City



More fondly known by the older generation as “Books City”, Bras Basah Complex offers a great shopping podium if you’re into either arts or literature.

Yes, you can still find books here, but there are also quite a few shops with niche offerings as well! These include handcrafted clay pots, high-quality calligraphy supplies, fountain pens, and more.







2

# Get some fuel for the rest of the day

Now, we have quite a few more stops to go through, so it only makes sense to get some fuel for that first!

Here we have two options: one for a proper meal and the other for a quick caffeine boost. Pick which one you feel suits your needs!

Photo by Tripadvisor

[monsterdaytours.com](http://monsterdaytours.com)





Photo by [Tripadvisor](#)

## Option 1: Load up on Mexican treats at Papis Tacos

39 Seah St, #01-01  
Singapore 188395

Opening hours  
Monday - Sunday:  
11.30am - 2.30pm,  
5pm - 9.30pm



Image by Celeste Goh via Burpple

In the mood for some traditional Mexican food? Check out this taqueria in the middle of Bras Basah! From tacos de carnitas to a burrito de suadero, there's a lot of tasty Mexican fare you can indulge in here.

Here's a tip: if you happen to come by in the evening, they even have happy hour specials you can look forward to!

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## Option 2: Get a different cup of caffeine at Narrative Coffee Stand

If you're in more of a cafe mood, try this spot, which offers third-wave coffee. That means coffee made from sustainably sourced, high-quality beans - some of which even come from as far afield as Scandinavia.

They also have a pastry shelf where they sometimes sell goods from other local shops and focus on the freshness. In fact, the menu's always changing, so pop by to see what you can grab for the day!

Blk 231 Bain Street, #01-05  
Bras Basah Complex  
Singapore 180231

Opening hours  
Monday - Friday:  
9am - 4pm  
Saturday - Sunday:  
10am - 5pm







3

# Indulge your inner bookworm at the **National Library**

100 Victoria St,  
Singapore 18806

Opening hours  
Monday - Sunday:  
10am - 9pm

[monsterdaytours.com](http://monsterdaytours.com)





## The National Library is pretty much a haven for any book lover.

At present, they run at around 50% occupancy to account for social distancing, but you can still enjoy as many books as you like!

Moreover, they have regular exhibitions on topics like Singapore's environmental history and headlines over the years. There are also programmes for various ages, like storytelling and literacy workshops for little ones.







4

# Admire the visual arts at the **National Design Centre**

11 Middle Rd, Singapore  
188969

Opening hours  
Monday - Sunday: 9am - 9pm

Photo by [SG Passion Made Possible](#)

[monsterdaytours.com](http://monsterdaytours.com)



# National Design Centre

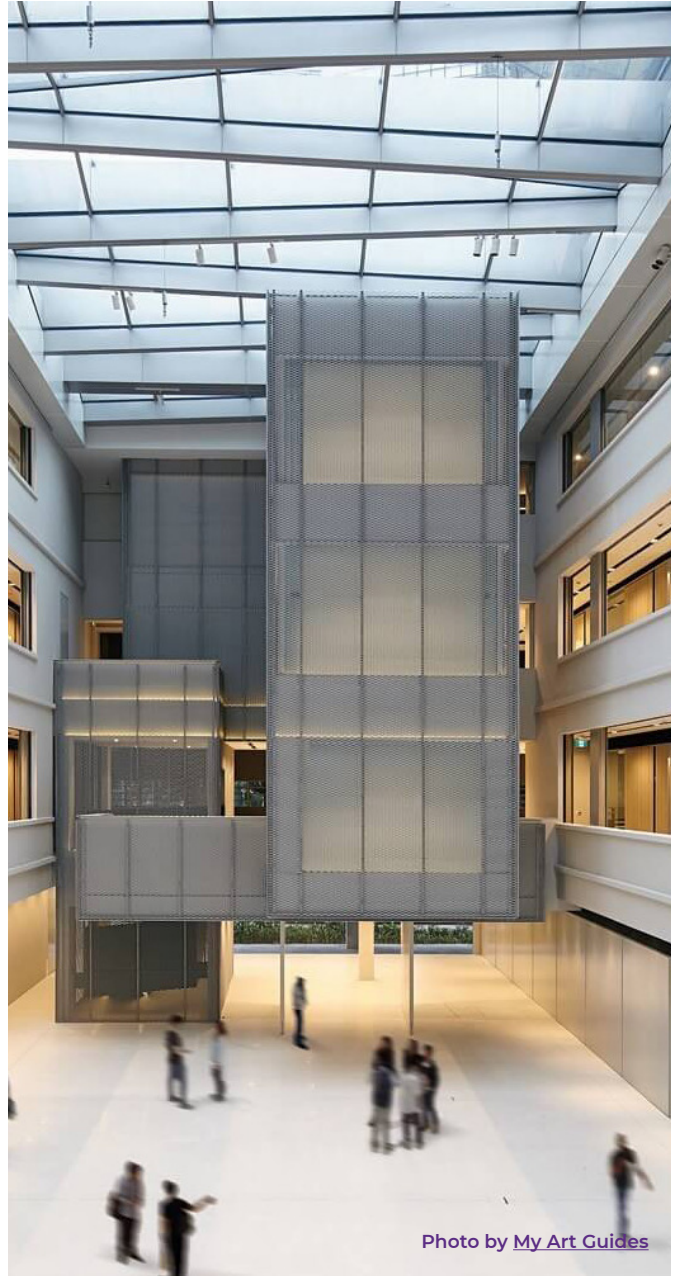


Photo by [My Art Guides](#)

The National Design Centre (NDC) sits on an area that used to be home to St Anthony's Convent, the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, and the Chinese Opera Institute. The buildings here were restored and developed to form the NDC today.

It's a great spot to visit for exhibitions and programmes on topics ranging from emotive design to sustainable design. Just check which ones are available when you visit!



Photo by [SG Passion Made Possible](#)





5a

# Visit the Kwan Im Thong Hood Cho Temple

178 Waterloo Street  
Singapore 187964

Opening hours  
Monday to Saturday:  
7am - 6.30pm  
Closed on Sunday





This is among the most-visited temples in Singapore, where visitors pray to Kuan Yin or the Goddess of Mercy. It's also among the oldest in the area, having sat here since 1884.

The temple has seen a lot, as such, from serving as a refuge in World War II to being rebuilt in 1982 in order to accommodate the rising number of worshippers.

You'll find most of its visitors coming on the 1st or 15th day of Chinese New Year, with cross-worshippers even coming to it from the Hindu temple nearby!





5b

# See the **Sri** **Krishnam** **Hindu Temple**

152 Waterloo Street  
Singapore 187961

Opening hours  
Monday to Sunday:  
8am - 12pm, 6pm - 8.45pm





## About the Sri Krishnam Hindu Temple

Yes, this is the Hindu temple we just mentioned. We grouped these two locations together because they're right next to each other and their visitors have been cross-worshipping at the two spots for decades!

The Sri Krishnan Temple goes all the way back to 1870, which actually makes it older than the temple next door to it. It's been renovated as well, and like the other temple, sees peak worshipper numbers around Chinese New Year.

Of special note is that it's been gazetted as a national monument. It's also the only South Indian temple in the country that's dedicated to Krishna and his consort Rukmini.





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# Go on the hunt for street art

Waterloo Street, Queen  
Street and Armenian  
Street

Street art is all over Bras Basah. It's wonderfully representative of the local culture, which tends to be young and high-energy in those areas.

Check out the rotating art at The Substation or pieces like the RSCLS work commissioned by the National Heritage Board at the carpark next to the Peranakan Museum.

Or just amble along Waterloo Street, Queen Street, and Armenian Street to spot samples. You can even find some within the Bras Basah Complex itself!

Image by Maureen via Miss Tam Chiak

[monsterdaytours.com](http://monsterdaytours.com)





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# Check out the Maghain Aboth Synagogue

24/26 Waterloo Street  
Singapore 187968

Image by Maureen via [Miss Tam Chiak](#)

[monsterdaytours.com](http://monsterdaytours.com)





The Maghain Aboth Synagogue goes all the way back to 1878, making it one of the oldest extant Jewish buildings in the region! The name means “Shield of Our Fathers”, and the building is a neoclassical-colonial architectural hybrid - definitely worth a visit!

You do have to book a tour if you want to visit it, though. And if you’re there for prayer, note that Shacharit is at 7:30am daily (8am Sunday & Public Holidays) while Mincha is at 6:45pm. The former is followed by breakfast; the latter, by Arvit.





8

# See our heritage on display at the **National Museum of Singapore**

93 Stamford Road  
Singapore 178897

Opening hours  
Monday to Sunday: 10am - 7pm



# National Museum of Singapore



Of course, no one can possibly go to Bras Basah without seeing the National Museum of Singapore. It's not only the oldest museum in the country and a repository of our history and culture but an amazing architectural piece in its own right!

Exhibitions tend to change, but the Singapore Gallery and the Life in Singapore Gallery are permanent and offer a lot for the history buff. Along with the art installations and performances are cafes and restaurants, so there's a lot to check out.

If you're visiting it in 2021, don't forget to use a SingapoRediscover voucher! You can use them to book a trip here on a discount.





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# Ending note

And that's the tour! As you saw, Bras Basah is an amazing place. Full of religious sites and rich in tradition and culture, this is one neighbourhood you have to visit if you're at all interested in Singaporean history and heritage.

Interested in seeing more of our beautiful island? Check out [monsterdaytours.com](http://monsterdaytours.com) if you want more guides on exploring other precincts in Singapore!