

Listings

How to use the listings

This section consists of the month's events listed by genre plus a selection of the island's many visitor attractions. For current exhibitions and events at Singapore's cultural and history museums, see **Museums**; details of fine-art institutions and art galleries are in **Art listings**.

☉ Denotes an event for which tickets are available through Sistic (6348 5555, www.sistic.com.sg).

* Denotes an event we particularly recommend.

▶ Before a day denotes a closing date; after a day denotes a starting date

How to be listed

Listings must arrive in writing by the **Monday five weeks** before publication. We need the following details: address, phone number, nearest MRT, dates, times, prices and details of the event. Listings can be sent by post or emailed to listings@timeoutsingapore.com. Listings are free but, as space is limited, inclusion is not guaranteed.

Events

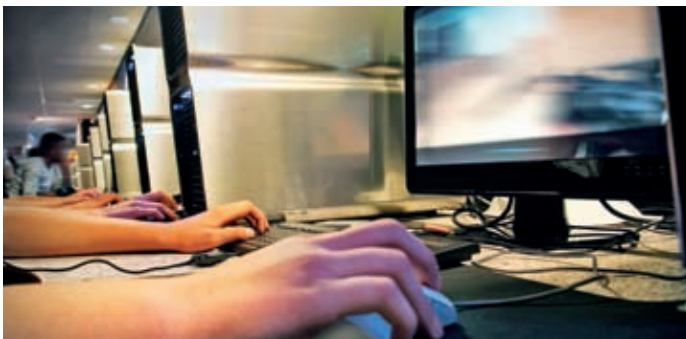
*** FREE Games Convention Asia 2008** 18-20 Sep; 10am-6pm. *Suntec City Convention Centre, 1 Raffles Blvd* (www.gc-asia.sg). ☉ *City Hall*. Kids these days are building virtual empires, vanquishing villains and smashing racing records. This annual convention will focus on multiplayer gaming – unlike the basic single-player where you're pitted against the computer, multiplayer gaming enables you to plug into a network; your opponent (or ally) could be your next-door neighbour or a teenager in Alaska. The convention will also introduce the hottest new games by the coolest software developers around. Last year's event drew nearly 70,000 people, so be sure to raise your game if you want to get your hands on a joystick.

FREE Lantern Fantasy 2008 Until 28 Sep; 6-11pm. *Chinese Garden, 1 Chinese Garden Rd* (6475 2944, www.2008lanternfestival.com.sg). ☉ *Chinese Garden*. For information on this event, go to TimeOutSingapore.com.

FREE Oris AirAsia Grand Prix Challenge & Roadshow with Cortina Watch 17-30 Sep; 11am-8.30pm. *Millenia Walk Centre Atrium, 9 Raffles Blvd* (6332 8888, www.milleniawalk.com/retail.htm). ☉ *City Hall*. Jump into this life-sized simulator and race through two laps. If you clock one of the three fastest times, you'll stand a chance to pit your speed demon against Nico Rosberg's from team AT&T – on a virtual track, of course.

*** Singapore Motorshow 27 Sep-5 Oct**; various times. \$10; children \$4. *Suntec City Convention Centre, 1 Raffles Blvd* (www.motorshow.com.sg). ☉ *City Hall*. It's motor madness at this annual gearhead extravaganza. Check out the latest and greatest wheels from the automotive world, along with driving simulators. The winner of the Polygon Bike Design competition will also be announced, with the finalists' designs on display. See Preview.

*** FREE World Food Fair 2008**



All systems go It's all hands on keyboards at the Games Convention Asia 2008

A neighbourhood aglow



Deepavali celebration It's that time of the year when Little India sparkles even more than usual, thanks to the lighting of oil lamps throughout the district. The festivities kick off on 20 September at the Kinta Road car park area. The Deepavali Festival Village and Heritage Exhibition Corner at Campbell Lane will feature a bazaar of dazzling clothing, jewellery, arts, crafts and, of course, food for the duration of the festival. 20 Sep-2 Nov; various times. (www.visitsingapore.com/1city3fest). MRT: Little India.

3-7 Sep; 11am-10pm. Level 6, *Suntec City Convention Centre, Halls 601 & 602, 1 Raffles Blvd* (www.worldfoodfair.com.sg). ☉ *City Hall*. If you can eat it or use it to create something to eat, you're likely to find it here. More than 100 food and beverage manufacturers and suppliers will be displaying the latest kitchen gadgets and food in all its forms, including canned, frozen and cooked. Since this is Singapore, everything will be for sale, with some items discounted. Food-tasting stations representing cuisine from all over the world will keep you well fed as you do all that shopping.

WaterFest 2008 Until 11 Oct; various times and locations (www.waterfestivalsingapore.com). For information on this event, go to TimeOutSingapore.com.

Festivals

FREE Chinatown Mid-Autumn Festival Street Light-Up Until 30 Sep; Fri & Sat 7pm-2am, Sun-Thu 7pm-midnight. *Chinatown*. ☉ *Chinatown*. For information on this event, go to TimeOutSingapore.com.

Singapore River Festival 19-28 Sep; various times and locations. (www.visitsingapore.com/sgpseason/singapore_river_festival.html). International and local artists celebrate our country's iconic river. There will also be song, dance, games, parties, exhibitions and much more. See Preview.

F1 Detour

Spend \$168 on a three-day pass, or buy six chocolate race cars (\$28 each) from the Gourmet Carousel, with \$5 from each purchase going to charity.

Talks and walks

Dhobis, Saris and a Spot of Curry Every Wed; 9.30am. \$25; children \$15. Meet at Little India MRT station outside exit E. Delve into Little India as this guided walk navigates spice stalls, around garland sellers and a fortune-telling bird. Oh, and if you're up for some divine intervention, the colourful Sri Veeramakaliamman temple will make you stop and stare.

Life & Living – Food and Culture Series 2008

The Salon, National Museum of Singapore, 93 Stamford Road (6332 3659, www.nationalmuseum.sg). ☉ *Dhoby Ghat or City Hall*.

• 13 Sep; 7-8pm: **The Art of Chinese Etiquette** We're not talking about not taking someone's seat at the hawkler centre when there's a tissue pack on the table. We're talking about the fine art of manners from a country that has often been called 'The Nation of Etiquette'. Among other fascinating customs, you'll learn about the specific protocol that exists for eating mooncakes – just in time for the Mid-Autumn Festival. \$10.

• * 20 Sep; 4-5pm (talk), 6.30-8.30pm (dinner): **Ancient Chinese Food** If your idea of ancient Chinese food is that box of noodles you brought home from the coffee shop last week, then you really need to attend this workshop. It will take you back through 5,000 years of history to a time when China's food wasn't known to anyone outside its borders. The talk will be followed by dinner at the museum's Chef Chan's Restaurant, where the award-winning Chinese master chef will prepare a special menu inspired by the night's theme. \$88.

Critics' choice



World Food Fair 2008 *Suntec City Convention Centre, 3-7 Sep* Still not satisfied by Singapore's range of global cuisine? You need to stop by here.

Games Convention Asia 2008 *Suntec City Convention Centre, 18-20 Sep* World domination, high-powered weapons and really cool racing cars come to Suntec. Virtually, of course.

Ancient Chinese Food *The Salon, National Museum of Singapore, 20 Sep* We're always up for anything that combines a little learning with a lot of food.

Singapore Motorshow *Suntec City Convention Centre, 27 Sep-5 Oct* Unlike the F1 cars to hit our streets this month, this show will spotlight cars you might actually own one day.

Zoos and gardens

Jurong BirdPark 2 Jurong Hill (6265 0022, www.birdpark.com.sg). Daily 9am-6pm. \$18; children \$9. ☉ *Boon Lay, then bus 94 or 251*. This park has a lot to brag about. It is the largest of its kind in the Asia-Pacific region. It features the tallest man-made waterfall, and is home to the biggest walk-in aviary in the world. Oh yeah, and then there are the birds. With more than 9,000 birds on a wire, there'll be enough chirping to make everyone's day.

• Daily 2pm: **Be a Falconer** It isn't cheap, but falconry was once the preserve of nobility. For \$200, you can join the ranks of the elite few who've handled an impressive bird of prey. You'll don a falconer's vest and glove, learn how to feed the raptors and make them take to the skies (Fuji Hawk Walk). See 'What's it like...', page 12.

• 11am-3pm: **Birds 'n' Buddies Show** The All-Star BirdShow was renamed and reworked in collaboration with a Las Vegas creative consultant, and now the plumage on characters like Cranky the Crow and Pedro the Pelican is flashier than ever. The show combines these costumed creatures with the real thing for a fun- and feather-filled spectacle.

• Daily; 9am-6pm: **Dino Descendants – Flightless Birds Exhibit** Immerse yourself in a 'land before time' with dinosaurs' closest living relatives: flightless birds. The ostrich, emu, cassowary and rhea run wild in a natural setting with elevated walkways and observation decks. \$9-\$18.

• Daily; 8.30am (breakfast), 9.15-9.45am (show): **Early Bird Breakfast Show** They say the early bird gets the worm, and you just might want to let them have it at this interactive breakfast. Instead, you can choose from a variety of delectable dishes off the Bongo Burgers Terrace menu while you make new feathered friends like Big John, the park's oldest cockatoo, and Merlin, a yellow-naped Amazon who tells fortunes. Various prices (breakfast), free (show).

Singapore Botanic Gardens

1 Cluny Rd (6471 7361, www.sbg.org.sg). Daily 5am-midnight. *National Orchid Garden* \$5; *concession* \$1; *children under 12 free*. ☉ *Orchard, then bus 106, 123, 124*.
• 13 Sep; 10-11.30am: **Lantern Making**

With the Mid-Autumn and Deepavali festivals happening concurrently, lanterns will be lit all over town. This workshop teaches kids to go green by making their own lantern out of plant material (Jacob Ballas Children's Garden). \$30.

● **FREE** Every first Saturday; 9am & 10am: **Edible & Medicinal Plants** Learn what you can and cannot eat should you ever get stranded on a deserted island. Register 15 minutes before the tour at the Visitor Centre.

● **FREE** Every fourth Saturday; 9am: **Evolution Garden Tour** This tour tells the story of how plants evolve into the myriad and complex life forms we see today. Register 15 minutes before the tour at the Visitor Centre.

● Every third Saturday; 9am, 10am, 11am & 4pm: **National Orchid Garden Tour** Find out facts that are every bit as colourful as the petals themselves on this guided walk through the garden. Register 15 minutes before the tour at the Visitor Centre. \$5.

● **FREE** Every second Saturday; 9am, 10am, 11am & 4pm: **Rainforest Tour** This one-hour guided tour will expose you to the island's expanses of luscious tropical rainforest. Register 15 minutes before the tour at the Visitor Centre.

Singapore Zoo

80 Mandai Lake Rd (6269 3411, www.zoo.com.sg). Daily 8.30am-6pm. \$15; children (ages 3-12) \$7.50. ☎ Ang Mo Kio, then bus 138 or ☎ Choa Chu Kang, then bus 927. One of the world's first 'open concept' zoos - residents live in landscaped enclosures instead of traditional cages - this 28-hectare attraction is home to more than 4,000 animals, including the world's largest colony of orangutans, the exotic white tiger, Hamadryas baboons, flying squirrels, and cheetahs in their newly revamped enclosure.

● **Until 7 Sep: Rainforest Fights Back** This theatrical performance shows us how Mother Nature rids herself of parasites (that would be us). Like they say, it ain't over till the fat lady sings.

● **Bat Exhibit** For information on this exhibition, go to TimeOutSingapore.com.

● **Giant Flying Squirrel Exhibit** These mammals from Vietnam can glide about 400m off the ground. What's even more amazing are the females who are the proud owners of three pairs of mammarys.

● **Orangutan Exhibit** For information on this exhibition, go to TimeOutSingapore.com.

● **Polar Bear Viewing Exhibit** Yes, Singapore has polar bears. And like most of us, they prefer to live in air-conditioned dens. In addition to providing these marine mammals with an icy habitat, the zoo also releases live fish for the bears to hunt like they would in the wild. An underwater viewing gallery allows you to see just how surprisingly graceful the great white furry beauties can be.



● **Reptile Garden** Featuring the endangered Komodo dragons outside of Indonesia as well as a selection of marmosets, iguanas and tortoises. If you enjoy cold-blooded animals, this is your Garden of Eden.

● **Night Safari** For information, go to TimeOutSingapore.com.

Compiled by Michael Franco

Museums

Army Museum of Singapore

500 Upper Jurong Rd (6799 7929, www.armymuseum.gov.sg). ☎ Boon Lay, then bus 182, 193. Tue-Sun 10am-6pm. Free till end Sep.

● **NEW Ops Blue Heron (OBH): Our People, Our Contributions** In 1999 the SAF activated Operation Blue Heron, a force that would join other organisations from around the world to help with peace-keeping activities in East Timor. This sight-and-sound exhibit honours that initiative and the brave individuals who participated in it.

● **Birth of Our Army** This permanent gallery is a tribute to the country's National Service (NS) pioneers and servicemen. The key feature here is an overturned bus to remind visitors of the race riots of the 1960s.

● **Making of a Soldier** The key item in this exhibit, which portrays an NS man's life in the 1970s and 1980s, is an original basic military bunk bed from Pulau Tekong camp.

● **Orientation Gallery** Above the entrance to the galleries are 40 screens, each showing 40 different NS enlistees from all walks of life. This multimedia presentation was commissioned by the museum to commemorate the last four decades of National Service and demonstrates how these men come together to form a cohesive platoon.

● **Our People** A ten-minute short by filmmaker Royston Tan (of 881 fame) shows how National Service has influenced the lives of generations of Singaporeans.

Asian Civilisations Museum

1 Empress Pl (6332 7798, www.acm.org.sg). ☎ Raffles Place. Mon 1-7pm; Tue-Thu, Sat & Sun 9am-7pm; Fri 9am-9pm. \$5; seniors and students \$2.50; children under six free; Fri 7-9pm (discount) \$4; seniors and students \$2.

● **Viet Nam! From Myth To Modernity** A fascinating collection of sculptures, textiles, ethnographic objects and other material on loan from national museums in Vietnam, some of which dates back 2,500 years. ▶30 Sep (Special Exhibitions Gallery).

● **Seeing Red: Propaganda and Material Culture in China (1966-1976)** To this day, Chairman Mao's image has appeared on watches, posters and pop art knick-knacks. This exhibit features an intriguing collection of books, badges and porcelain imprinted with Maoist and other Cultural Revolution images. ▶12 Oct.

MINT Museum of Toys

26 Seah St (6339 0060, www.emint.com). ☎ Bugis. Daily 9.30am-6.30pm. \$15; concession \$7.50; various family packages (two adults and two children \$36; three adults and one child \$42). For information on this museum, go to TimeOutSingapore.com.

National Museum of Singapore

93 Stamford Rd (6332 5642, www.nationalmuseum.sg). ☎ Dhoby Ghaut or City Hall. Singapore History Gallery daily 10am-6pm. Singapore Living Galleries daily 10am-8pm. \$10; seniors, students, NS men \$5; infants free. Free daily 6-8pm.

● **NEW Singapore Living Galleries: Fashion Clothes** Examine the history of women in Singapore through fashion. This display is not only a survey of the wardrobe changes that accompany the blossoming of girls into adulthood, but of women's changing societal roles. A special section provides insight into the garment-making process. ▶31 Dec.

● **FREE Weapons of Mass Desire**

Discover how technologies, inventions and design sensibilities (developed for and during World War II) led to the advancement of automation, and postwar consumer goods like television sets. ▶16 Nov.

● **Museum Toddlers** For information, go to TimeOutSingapore.com. ▶21 Dec; every Sun 1.30-2.30pm & 3-4pm. \$25 for parent and child.

● **Singapore History Gallery** At this exhibit, you get to pick your own journey into the past. You can choose to walk along the 'events' path, which highlights the major happenings in Singapore's history from a scholarly point of view, or you can go down the 'personal' path for a more intimate look at yesteryear. ▶31 Dec; 10am-6pm (Glass Atrium).

● **Singapore Living Galleries: Film & Wayang** For information on this series, go to TimeOutSingapore.com. ▶31 Dec; 10am-8pm (Rotunda).

● **Singapore Living Galleries: Food** For information on this series, go to TimeOutSingapore.com. ▶31 Dec; 10am-8pm (Rotunda).

Peranakan Museum

39 Armenian St (6332 7591, www.peranakanmuseum.sg). ☎ City Hall. Mon 1-7pm; Tue-Thu, Sat & Sun 9.30am-7pm; Fri 9.30am-9pm. \$6; family \$25, joint ticket with Asian Civilisations Museum \$12. This museum features the most comprehensive collection of Peranakan artefacts in the world, displayed through ten galleries that explore the various facets of this vibrant culture.

● **NEW Food and Feasting Gallery** Like so many other ethnic groups, Peranakan family life largely centres around food. This gallery displays 'Tok Panjang' porcelain that is used for the traditional wedding feast, as well as for other special occasions. A traditional kitchen exhibit creates an 'I was here' feel through a sound-and-light show.

● **Junk to Jewels: The Things That Peranakans Value** A true exhibit for the people by the people, this installation features loans from more than 20 Peranakan families. Each item has a personal story associated with it, and collectively, the artefacts paint a portrait of Peranakan culture through the years. ▶7 Sep.

● **Religion Gallery** Step into the mystical world of Peranakan spiritual beliefs. See how the mix of Taoism, Buddhism, ancestral worship and other components of the supernatural world evolved through the years.

● **Wedding Gallery** The traditional Straits Chinese wedding takes place over the span of 12 days. This exhibit shows just what goes on during that time - besides plenty of sleepless nights for the bride and groom. Wedding-specific jewellery, beadwork and furniture are on display.

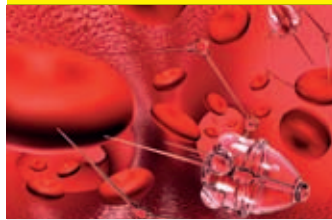
Singapore Philatelic Museum

23B Coleman St (6337 3888, www.spm.org.sg). ☎ City Hall or Clarke Quay. Mon 1-7pm; Tue-Sun 9am-7pm. \$5; children (ages 3-12) \$4. Singapore's only stamp museum is also a fully operational post office.

● **NEW Dragons, Treasures and Masterpieces** This exhibit offers a glimpse of the enormity of Chinese history through the small window of the stamp. On display will be stamps featuring dragons, scenes from the Beijing opera, artefacts, the work of master painters, Chinese calligraphy, literature and more. Of particular interest are the stamps from the time of the Cultural Revolution when they were used to reinforce Communist ideals. ▶Jan 2009.

● **A Rat's Tale** For information on this

Critics' choice



Nanotechnology Exhibit

Singapore Science Centre, ongoing. Find out how über-small particles exert a mega-influence over science, commerce and medicine.

Food and Feasting Gallery

Peranakan Museum, ongoing. Get a flavour of Peranakan life in this exhibit as you sample gastronomic spreads enjoyed by the Straits Chinese.

Dragons, Treasures and Masterpieces

Singapore Philatelic Museum, through Jan 2009. Humble stamps tell the mighty history of China.

exhibition, go to TimeOutSingapore.com. ▶30 Sep.

● **Journey Through the Land Of Lotus** This exhibit examines Vietnam's heritage through the tiny sticky squares. In addition to the stamps, traditional Vietnamese outfits and a collection of water puppets will be on display. ▶23 Nov.

● **Climate Change Exhibition** For information on this exhibition, go to TimeOutSingapore.com.

Singapore Science Centre

15 Science Centre Rd (6425 2500, www.science.edu.sg). ☎ Jurong East. Tue-Sun 10am-6pm. \$6; children (ages 3-16) \$3; senior citizens \$3.60.

NEW Nanotechnology Exhibit

Things at the nanoscale are thousands of times smaller than a single human hair, yet they're becoming increasingly responsible for major scientific breakthroughs. Through fun and interactive displays, this awe-inspiring exhibit will show you just how massive an impact tiny particles like buckyballs and carbon nanotubes are having on our lives.

● **Ecogarden** For information on this exhibition, go to TimeOutSingapore.com.

● **iSpace** This exhibition offers you a chance to see how hi-tech the home and office of the future will be.

● **Living with Viruses** Through 3-D galleries, video documentaries and information panels, this exhibition fills you in on Singapore's most notorious and potentially lethal viral afflictions of the last decade, such as HIV, AIDS and SARS.

● **The Mind's Eye** Test your eyesight at this exhibition featuring optical illusions - to see is to believe.

● **The Observatory** Look past the artificial illumination of the city and to the stars light years away with this mega-telescope. Because this observatory is one of the few in the world located so close to the equator, it offers stargazers views of both the northern and southern hemispheres. Every Friday; 7.50-10pm.

● **Waterworks** Learn all you need to know about H₂O in this fun-filled, open-air exhibition featuring 11 hands-on displays.

Compiled by Michael Franco