



## Malay Heritage Centre Reopens Tomorrow with Refreshed Galleries and a Free Nine-Day Festival

### Description

Mark your calendars – the newly revamped **Malay Heritage Centre (MHC)** reopens to the public tomorrow, **25 April 2026**, and it’s bringing a whole new experience to Kampong Gelam. After an extensive revamp, the iconic institution nestled within the historic Istana Kampong Glam is back with refreshed galleries, newly commissioned artworks, and a spectacular nine-day Reopening Festival.

Better still – admission to the galleries is **free for all visitors, including tourists**, from 25 April to 28 June 2026. That’s a great excuse to make a trip down to one of Singapore’s most culturally rich precincts.

### A New Narrative: Dari Rantau Ke Rumah

The revamped MHC is anchored on a compelling new narrative – *Dari Rantau Ke Rumah* (From the Region to Home) – that traces the evolution of Malay identities in Singapore. It examines how the Singaporean Malay community’s deep connections to a multicultural society and the wider Malay world have shaped its identity across generations.

### Six Galleries, 279 Artefacts

The heart of the revamped MHC is its six permanent galleries, featuring 279 artefacts – a quarter of which have been loaned by the community. The galleries take visitors on a journey from 19th-century Singapore all the way to imagining the future of Malay identity:

- **Gallery 1 – We are Playing Relatives!** explores kinship and community formation in Singapore and Riau-Lingga
- **Gallery 2 – An Era of Changing Kings** examines the complex political landscape of the Malay peninsula and Singapore in the early 20th century
- **Gallery 3 – Journeying to Settling** explores the cultural rite of passage of migration

- **Gallery 4** *City of Dreams: Making A Mark* highlights the changing roles of Malay women in the 1950s and 1960s
- **Gallery 5** *Our Living Heritage* explores how Malay traditions, memories and values are passed down and sustained
- **Gallery 6** *We+ Heritage* encourages visitors to envision the future of Malay identity in Singapore



The refreshed galleries feature 279 artefacts and newly commissioned artworks by local Malay artists. Photo: Malay Heritage Centre

## **Pesta Pecah Panggung** *Transcending Boundaries* A Nine-Day Reopening Festival

From **25 April to 3 May 2026**, MHC presents the *Pesta Pecah Panggung* *Transcending Boundaries* festival, featuring over 50 programmes by more than 60 partners. The festival spills beyond the walls of the Centre into the Kampong Gelam precinct, with highlights that include:

- **Pecah Panggung Parade** *Transcending Boundaries* over 300 community participants with themed pushcarts and cultural performances at Bussorah Street
- **Kota Impian: Modern Women** *Transcending Boundaries* a musical-theatre production by an all-female ensemble spotlighting pioneering Malay women in Singapore
- **Wajah & Bayang: Nusantara Arts Showcase** *Transcending Boundaries* featuring performers from Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia across music genres and art forms
- **Santai Sampai Pagi** *Transcending Boundaries* MHC's first-ever overnight event with film screenings, dance workshops, karaoke, pyjama contests and more

## Plan Your Visit

The Malay Heritage Centre is located at **85 Sultan Gate, Singapore 198501**, in the heart of the vibrant Kampong Gelam precinct. While you're in the area, do explore the charming streets of Haji Lane, Arab Street, and Bussorah Street. For more information and to register for festival programmes, visit [www.malayheritage.gov.sg](http://www.malayheritage.gov.sg) or follow @malayheritage on Facebook and Instagram.

After the free-admission period ends, Singaporeans and Permanent Residents can continue to enjoy complimentary gallery entry year-round – a wonderful ongoing resource for anyone curious about the richness of Malay culture and heritage in Singapore. If you're looking for more cultural experiences in the city, check out our [guide to Singapore HeritageFest 2026](#).

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