



Singapore HeritageFest 2026: Maritime Programmes To Catch Before 24 May

Description

Singapore HeritageFest 2026 is one of the Singapore stories worth having on your radar this week.

The theme this year

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Singapore HeritageFest 2026 uses a maritime theme across islandwide programmes.

Singapore HeritageFest 2026 is now running islandwide until 24 May, and this year's theme is maritime heritage. The official festival page frames it as a chance to "sail the currents that shape us", with cultural performances, water and land tours, guided trails, workshops and exhibitions built around Singapore's relationship with the sea.

That is a strong theme for Singapore because maritime history is not a museum side note here. It touches trade, migration, food, labour, neighbourhoods, defence, port work and the way communities formed around water. A good heritage festival should make those connections feel concrete rather than abstract.

The Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore has also listed the festival in connection with MPA's 30th anniversary, noting that community partners are involved in a slate of programmes. That gives the festival a current institutional layer alongside its cultural programming.

What to look for before 24 May

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The festival runs from 1 to 24 May 2026.

The official Singapore HeritageFest page highlights HOMEGROUND @ ACM Green as a central festival feature, with living maritime traditions, a central exhibition and interactive weekend programmes. For families or casual visitors, that is likely the easiest anchor: one recognisable location, a broad theme and enough variety to make the trip work even if you do not book a niche tour.

For people who prefer deeper experiences, the festival's tours and trails are the better bet. Maritime heritage is best understood by moving through places: riverside sites, coastal stories, port-linked histories and communities shaped by trade. If tickets are required, check availability early because small-group tours tend to fill faster than open exhibitions.

This is also a good companion to other May arts and culture planning, including our [SIFA 2026 planning guide](#). The difference is that HeritageFest is more place-based; it asks you to look at Singapore's built and living history rather than only a stage or gallery programme.

How to plan a useful visit

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HOMEGROUND @ ACM Green is one of the festival highlights.

Start by deciding whether you want a low-commitment walk-in experience or a booked programme. If you are bringing children or older family members, open programmes around ACM Green may be more forgiving than a long tour in hot weather. If you are going with heritage-loving friends, a guided walk or workshop will probably be more memorable.

Wear practical shoes, bring water, and check whether a programme is indoors, outdoors or moving between sites. Heritage events can sound gentle on paper, but a mid-afternoon walk in May is still a Singapore mid-afternoon walk.

The most rewarding way to approach the festival is to pick one theme and follow it properly. Maritime food, port labour, river trade, coastal ecology and migration stories all lead to different versions of Singapore. Trying to skim everything may leave you with photos but not much understanding.

Key details

Event: Singapore HeritageFest 2026. Dates: 1 to 24 May 2026. Theme: maritime heritage. Organised through the Singapore HeritageFest platform, with MPA listing its collaboration in conjunction with MPA's 30th anniversary.

Highlight named by the festival: HOMEGROUND @ ACM Green. Check the official festival website for the live programme list, ticketing status and any capacity limits.

Maps for ACM: [Open in Google Maps](#) | [Open in Apple Maps](#).

Official details are available from [the main official source](#), [supporting official source](#).

Good Picks For Different Visitors

Families should start with programmes that have flexible timing, clear facilities and a strong visual component. Maritime heritage can be surprisingly accessible for children when it involves boats, maps, food, objects and stories about how people travelled. A tightly scheduled lecture may be less suitable unless the child is already interested in history.

Adults who enjoy walking tours should look for programmes that connect waterfront sites with social history. Singapore's maritime story is not only about trade statistics. It is also about dock workers, boatmen, migrant communities, food routes, temples, warehouses and riverfront change. A guided walk can make those links more vivid than reading a panel indoors.

Culture lovers may prefer performances and workshops because they show heritage as something people continue to practise. The strongest programmes are often the ones that make you see a familiar place differently on the way home.

How To Avoid Festival Fatigue

Because the festival runs across many venues and formats, the temptation is to over-plan. A better approach is to choose one anchor programme and one nearby add-on. For example, if you are going to ACM Green, look for a related activity around the Civic District instead of crossing the island for a second event on the same day.

Check whether registration is required and whether the event is ticketed, free, walk-in or already full. HeritageFest programmes can have very different capacities. A large open event may welcome casual visitors, while a specialist tour may close once its small group is filled.

Most importantly, leave time to read, listen and ask questions. Heritage programming is not a race. The reward is noticing how a port city's everyday details still carry traces of older trade, migration and community life.

Small Details That Make The Festival Better

Bring a portable charger if you are following digital maps or ticket confirmations across multiple venues. Heritage trails often involve stopping for photos, checking addresses and reading programme notes. A

dead phone turns a pleasant route into unnecessary friction, especially if you are moving between the Civic District, waterfront areas and public transport.

It is also worth reading the programme description before attending rather than only the title. Some events are hands-on, some are performance-based, and others are more lecture-like. Matching the format to your group matters more than choosing the most impressive-sounding title.

For the maritime edition, it is especially worth leaving room for questions. Ask guides how a site connects to trade, migration or working life, because those answers often make the programme feel more local and less like a history label.

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