



Singapore HeritageFest 2026 Opens: Maritime Programmes To Catch This May

Description

Singapore HeritageFest 2026 has opened with a maritime theme, and this year's programme is unusually broad for anyone who wants a May outing with a clear Singapore story behind it. Running from 1 to 24 May 2026, the festival explores how the sea shaped migration, trade, work, food, neighbourhoods and everyday culture in Singapore.

The official Singapore HeritageFest site says the 2026 edition includes islandwide cultural performances, scenic water and land tours, guided trails, workshops and exhibitions. The most useful way to read the programme is not as one big festival listing, but as a set of routes through maritime Singapore: the river, the port, the museum lawn, MRT stations, community stories and hands-on craft.

The Maritime Theme Makes This Edition Coherent

A festival with more than 100 programmes can feel overwhelming, but the maritime theme gives Singapore HeritageFest 2026 a clear spine. The sea is not just scenery in this edition. It is the route through which people moved, goods arrived, communities formed and jobs developed.

That makes the festival useful for both locals and visitors. Singapore's port story is often discussed in economic terms, while migration and waterfront communities are discussed in heritage terms. This year's programme brings those threads closer together.

For families, the theme is also easy to explain. Children can connect boats, fishery ports, MRT displays, craft, food and museum spaces without needing a formal history lecture.

HOMEGROUND At ACM Green Is The Anchor



HOMEGROUND at ACM Green is a key Singapore HeritageFest 2026 highlight.

HOMEGROUND at ACM Green is the festival highlight most readers should place on the shortlist. The official page describes it as an immersive festival village at Asian Civilisations Museum Green, with an outdoor exhibition, performances, food, drinks and hands-on activities.

The exhibition runs from 24 April to 24 May 2026, with regular daytime hours and later Friday and Saturday hours. That gives office workers and families more flexibility than a one-weekend event.

The location also matters. ACM Green sits beside the Singapore River, so the maritime story has physical context. You are not reading about trade and migration in a generic hall; you are standing near the waterway that helped shape the city.

Ride & Discover Turns MRT Stations Into Heritage Stops

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Ride & Discover brings Singapore HeritageFest 2026 maritime panels to MRT stations.

Ride & Discover is one of the more accessible ideas in the programme because it uses MRT stations as exhibition spaces. The official page names Bishan, Clementi and Paya Lebar MRT stations, with maritime heritage panels running from 1 to 24 May.

That format is useful for people who do not want to book a ticket or commit half a day. You can fold the stop into a commute, family errand or weekend train ride, then decide whether to explore the larger festival.

It also shows how heritage programming can move beyond museums. When displays appear in everyday transport spaces, the story reaches people who may never have searched for a heritage tour.

Tours And Workshops Will Need Earlier Planning

The programmes most likely to require planning are guided tours, water experiences and hands-on workshops. They usually have limited capacity, fixed dates and stricter timing than open exhibitions.

If you are looking at river, port or craft programmes, check the official festival listing before promising the outing to anyone. Some events may sell out quickly, especially those tied to boats, behind-the-scenes access or smaller group formats.

For Culture Pass users, selected programmes may also be eligible under the official ticketing structure, so it is worth reading the booking page carefully rather than assuming every festival item is free.

Who Should Go This Weekend

If you want a low-effort start, HOMEGROUND at ACM Green and Ride & Discover are the easiest entry points. They give you a sense of the festival without requiring an elaborate route.

If you want a deeper experience, look for the programmes built around the Singapore River, port stories, maritime crafts and museum-linked tours. Those are likely to deliver the strongest connection to the 2026 theme.

Parents can also use the festival as a way to turn a weekend trip into a local-history conversation. The maritime theme connects food, transport, trade and family migration stories in a way that feels close to daily Singapore life.

Dates To Keep

Singapore HeritageFest 2026 runs from 1 to 24 May. HOMEGROUND at ACM Green is already open through 24 May, and Ride & Discover runs across selected MRT stations for the full festival period. Check the official programme pages before booking paid tours or workshops because capacity and timings vary by event.

How To Pick A Programme Without Getting Lost

If you only have one evening, start with HOMEGROUND at ACM Green because it puts the maritime theme in a visible riverside setting. The official programme board, food and performance elements make it easier to understand the festival without needing to book a specialist tour first.

If you are commuting through Bishan, Clementi or Paya Lebar, Ride & Discover is the low-effort option. It works well for families with children because the heritage panels can become a short station stop rather than a full-day commitment.

For readers who want the strongest story value, look for programmes that connect port work, coastal lives, craft and food. Those are the sessions most likely to show how maritime history shaped ordinary Singapore households rather than treating the sea as a distant national symbol.

Another sensible route is to pair one open programme with one booked activity. That keeps the day flexible if weather, queues or sold-out sessions change your plan, while still giving the outing a clear maritime focus.

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Official links: [Singapore HeritageFest 2026](#), [HOMEGROUND at ACM Green](#), [Ride and Discover](#).

Festival Highlight Venue

Address: Asian Civilisations Museum Green, 1 Empress Place, Singapore 179555

Opening hours: HOMEGROUND exhibition runs 24 April to 24 May; Fridays and Saturdays extend to 10pm

Nearest MRT: Raffles Place

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Author

claratan