



## Yishun Beyond the Headlines: NHB Refreshes the Yishun Heritage Trail with 17 Sites and 2 Thematic Routes

### Description

To many Singaporeans, Yishun needs no introduction — it has made headlines often enough. But long before the memes and the viral stories, this northern stretch of Singapore had already lived many lives. The National Heritage Board (NHB) has refreshed the **Yishun Heritage Trail**, bringing together these layered histories into a self-guided experience spanning 17 sites, eight trail markers, and two thematic routes.



## From Orang Seletar to Nee Soon Village

Before it became Yishun, this northern region was home to the indigenous Orang Seletar, who moved along its rivers and coastline. By the 1800s, Teochew planters had arrived to cultivate gambier in the area. It later grew into a hub for rubber and pineapple plantations, shaped significantly by businessman and community pioneer Lim Nee Soon – the man whose name still lives on in the district.

The refreshed trail – first launched in 2010 as the Yishun-Sembawang Heritage Trail – now draws together these threads through a curated network of sites that tell the story of how modern Yishun came to be.

## What to Expect on the Trail

The trail covers six key stops, travelling by bus with pit stops along the way:

- **Chye Kay Heritage Garden** – traces the story of the former Chye Kay Village
- **Church of Our Lady Star of the Sea** – a historic landmark of the Nee Soon community
- **Chong Pang City** – a heartland hub with deep roots in the neighbourhood’s development
- **Former Nee Soon Post Office** – the only surviving pre-war structure from Nee Soon Village
- **The Rocket Tower** – an 18-metre high tower built in commemoration of man’s first landing on the moon in 1969, standing at Upper Seletar Reservoir
- **Upper Seletar Reservoir** – the trail’s endpoint, and a tranquil close to the journey through Yishun’s past

The trail is peppered with community contributions – stories, memories, and photographs from past and present Yishun residents, giving the walk a personal dimension that official records alone cannot offer.

## Two Thematic Routes for Self-Guided Exploration

The refreshed trail offers two thematic routes for those who prefer to explore at their own pace, with eight new trail markers guiding the way. Whether you are tracing the agricultural history of Nee Soon Village or walking in the footsteps of the region’s earliest communities, there is a route suited to your interest.

The full trail details and maps are available via the National Heritage Board. Keep an eye on NHB’s channels for updates on public trail access and guided tours.

### Date Created

09/07/2026

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