

# Islands of SINGAPORE

Do you know that as of 2014, there are approximately 44\* islands in Singapore? Find out more about the various islands of Singapore, and discover the resources available for local cartographical information.

\*Figure is based on maps of Singapore (Street and URA Master Plan 2014 maps retrieved from [www.onemap.sg](http://www.onemap.sg)) and does not include the islands which have been amalgamated to form new islands.

## Cheat Sheet

### Definition

An island is an area of land that is smaller than a continent and surrounded by water<sup>1</sup>.

### Types of Island

The islands in Singapore were formed via three types of processes: natural, reclamation and amalgamation.

#### Natural

The island was formed naturally, such as via shifting plate tectonics<sup>2</sup> or volcanic eruptions<sup>2</sup>.

E.g. Pulau Ubin, St. John's Island

#### Reclamation

The island was created artificially by filling the sea with materials such as sand and soil.

E.g. Pulau Punggol Barat, Pulau Punggol Timor

#### Amalgamation

Smaller islands were combined together via reclamation to form a single, larger island.

E.g. Jurong Island, Pulau Tekong

<sup>1</sup> 'Island.'(2014). *Encyclopaedia Britannica Online*. Encyclopaedia Britannica Inc., 2014. Retrieved from <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/295958/island>

<sup>2</sup> 'Island.'(2014). *National Geographic Education*. National Geographic Society. Retrieved from [http://education.nationalgeographic.com/education/encyclopedia/island/?ar\\_a=1](http://education.nationalgeographic.com/education/encyclopedia/island/?ar_a=1)

# Islands in Singapore and their functions



## Sports and recreation

- 1 Kusu Island (Pulau Tembakul)
- 2 St. John's Island (Pulau Sekijang Bendera)
- 3 Lazarus Island (Pulau Sekijang Pelepas)
- 4 Pulau Seringat
- 5 Pulau Tekukor
- 6 Pulau Ubin
- 7 Sentosa (Pulau Blakang Mati)

## Rich in Biodiversity

- 8 Pulau Biola
- 9 Pulau Buloh
- 10 Pulau Hantu
- 11 Pulau Jong
- 12 Pulau Ketam
- 13 Pulau Salu
- 14 Pulau Sarimbun
- 15 Pulau Sekudu
- 16 Pulau Subar Darat (Sister's Island)
- 17 Pulau Subar Laut (Sister's Island)

## Residential

- 18 Pulau Punggol Barat
- 19 Pulau Punggol Timor
- 20 Pulau Serangoon

## Industrial

- 21 Jurong Island
- 22 Pulau Bukom
- 23 Pulau Busing
- 24 Pulau Sebarok
- 25 Pulau Ular
- 26 Pulau Semakau (landfill)

## Ports and Maritime

- 27 Pedra Branca (Pulau Batu Puteh)
- 28 Pulau Brani
- 29 Pulau Damar Laut
- 30 Pulau Keppel
- 31 Pulau Samulun
- 32 Pulau Satumu
- 33 Sultan Shoal

## Military

- 34 Pulau Pawai
- 35 Pulau Senang
- 36 Pulau Sudong
- 37 Pulau Tekong

## Unused / no function

- 38 Batu Belalai (Pulau Damien)
- 39 Pulau Berkas
- 40 Pulau Palawan
- 41 Pulau Pergam
- 42 Pulau Renggis
- 43 Pulau Seletar
- 44 Pulau Seringat Kecil

## Did you Know...



Singapore has one of the best petrochemical hubs<sup>3</sup> in the world!

It is situated on Jurong Island, which was created by the amalgamation of 12 smaller islands.



Sir Stamford Raffles did not land on mainland Singapore first, but on St. John's Island!

The island, known as Pulau Sekijang Bendera in the past, was used in the 19th and 20th centuries as a quarantine centre for infectious diseases such as leprosy. It then served as a prison for political prisoners and gang leaders before it became a camping island.



Singapore's only waste landfill is created out of the sea!

The Pulau Semakau landfill was built from the sea space between Pulau Senang and Pulau Semakau<sup>3</sup>. Despite its function, the island supports a wide variety of flora and fauna.



A failed penal experiment in Singapore led to the deaths of 4 police officers!

On 12 July 1963, some convicts incarcerated at Pulau Senang rioted, destroying the facility and killing 4 prison officers. Eventually, 18 convicts<sup>4</sup> were found guilty of murder and hanged. The experiment was cancelled after this incident.

Singapore was once attacked by terrorists!

 On 31 January 1974, four terrorists attempted to bomb the Shell Oil Refinery on Pulau Bukom. They failed and took 3 local hostages instead. They only released the hostages when Singapore and Japanese Government Officials acted as guarantors and flew with them to Kuwait.



Elephants had once swum from Johor to Singapore!

In May 1990, 3 wild elephants, believed to have swum over from Johor, were spotted on Pulau Tekong<sup>5</sup>. They were eventually captured and sent back to Malaysia by the Singapore Zoo and the Malaysian Wildlife Department as the island is used for military training.



<sup>3</sup> 'Safeguard a Place to Live.'(2014). *Our Environment- Safeguard, Nurture, Cherish*. National Environment Agency Singapore (NEA).

<sup>4</sup> Cornelius-Takahama, V. (2001). 'Pulau Senang.' *Singapore Infopedia*. National Library Board (NLB) Singapore. Retrieved from [http://ereresources.nlb.gov.sg/infopedia/articles/SIP\\_728\\_2005-01-19.html](http://ereresources.nlb.gov.sg/infopedia/articles/SIP_728_2005-01-19.html)

<sup>5</sup> Cornelius-Takahama, V. (2000). 'Pulau Tekong.' *Singapore Infopedia*. National Library Board (NLB) Singapore. Retrieved from [http://ereresources.nlb.gov.sg/infopedia/articles/SIP\\_241\\_2005-01-20.html](http://ereresources.nlb.gov.sg/infopedia/articles/SIP_241_2005-01-20.html)

# Resources

Over the years, Singapore has undergone multiple transformations. Have you ever wondered how Singapore looked like in maps of the past compared to maps now? Here is a list of resources which you can use to search for information relating to maps and areas of Singapore.



Source	URL	Details
OneMap	<a href="http://www.onemap.sg">www.onemap.sg</a>	It has a comprehensive collection of all the Singapore maps created by the various governmental agencies, and historical maps dating back to 1954.
Lee Kong Chian Reference Library (LKCR)	<a href="http://catalogue.nlb.gov.sg/">http://catalogue.nlb.gov.sg/</a>	The LKCR holds a wide collection of maps, both old and new. Use the e-catalogue to search for a particular map before requesting for physical copies at the LKCR.
National Archives of Singapore (NAS)	<a href="http://www.nas.gov.sg/archivesonline/">http://www.nas.gov.sg/archivesonline/</a>	It contains low resolution pictures of historical maps of Singapore which you can view before requesting for physical copies.
NewspaperSG	<a href="http://ereresources.nlb.gov.sg/newspapers/">http://ereresources.nlb.gov.sg/newspapers/</a>	It contains information on Singapore published in older issues of Singaporean newspapers.
Singapore Infopedia	<a href="http://ereresources.nlb.gov.sg/infopedia/">http://ereresources.nlb.gov.sg/infopedia/</a>	It is an online encyclopaedia which contains a huge amount of information on Singapore, such as local events and places.
SingaporeSG	<a href="http://app.singapore.sg/">http://app.singapore.sg/</a>	It contains photos, videos and information on places and events in Singapore.
Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA)	<a href="https://www.ura.gov.sg/uramaps/">https://www.ura.gov.sg/uramaps/</a>	It contains maps which chart various areas in Singapore, such as the areas of conservation and the planning boundaries.

## Resources

OneMap.(2014). Government of Singapore. Retrieved from <http://www.onemap.sg/index.html>

Au Yong, J. (2008). 'A taste of life at Pulau Pisang Lighthouse.' *The Straits Times*. Singapore Press Holdings Ltd (SPH). <http://ereresources.nlb.gov.sg/newspapers/>

Bala, A. (2002). 'John's Island.' *Singapore Infopedia*. National Library Board (NLB) Singapore. Retrieved from [http://ereresources.nlb.gov.sg/infopedia/articles/SIP\\_228\\_2005-01-22.html](http://ereresources.nlb.gov.sg/infopedia/articles/SIP_228_2005-01-22.html)

'Pulau Semakau.' (2010). *Singapore Infopedia*. National Library Board (NLB) Singapore. Retrieved from [http://ereresources.nlb.gov.sg/infopedia/articles/SIP\\_1008\\_2010-03-22.html](http://ereresources.nlb.gov.sg/infopedia/articles/SIP_1008_2010-03-22.html)

'Semakau Landfill Brochure.' *National Environment Agency (NEA) Singapore*. [www.nea.gov.sg/cms/wmd/](http://www.nea.gov.sg/cms/wmd/)

'Semakau Landfill.' (2013). *National Environment Agency (NEA) Singapore*. Retrieved from <http://app2.nea.gov.sg/energy-waste/waste-management/semakau-landfill>

Cornelius-Takahama, V. (2000). 'Pulau Bukom.' *Singapore Infopedia*. National Library Board (NLB) Singapore. Retrieved from [http://ereresources.nlb.gov.sg/infopedia/articles/SIP\\_922\\_2005-01-19.html](http://ereresources.nlb.gov.sg/infopedia/articles/SIP_922_2005-01-19.html)

Nathan, S.R. (2011). 'The Laju Hijack.' *An Unexpected Journey: Path to the Presidency*. Editions Didier Millet Pte Ltd