



# **Field Studies Singapore** (Formerly Orientation Singapore) **Friends of the Museums**

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is Field Studies Singapore?**

Field Studies Singapore (formerly Orientation Singapore) is a fun and interesting, programme which runs for 10 weeks. The programme began in September 2006 and is geared towards people who would like to spend time finding out more about places in Singapore as well as its cultures, traditions, history and food.

As a group, we meet once a week on Friday mornings and visit interesting places. The outings are organised in turn by two participants with the support of group a mentor, followed by lunch in the area.

### **Who plans the itinerary?**

Group members work in pairs or small groups to plan an itinerary. Each pair/group will be responsible for one outing.

### **Where might we go?**

Past tours have included - "Into the Heartlands", Aspects of Chinatown, Kampong Glam, Changi Airport, "Ghosts of Singapore, Katong and Bugis but participants are encouraged to explore any topic or place of interest to them.

Tours can also be organised around a specific theme, for example Chinese funerals, religions of Singapore, WWII, Colonial Heritage, the Singapore Arts scene, the Chettiards, Peranakan Singapore, etc.

### **How do we choose our destination?**

At the start of the programme, we have an introductory morning where you meet your partner(s) and mentor(s). You will be asked to commit to a date for which you and your partner(s) will be responsible for organising the tour.

You will also be asked to discuss with your partner(s) possible destinations for your agreed assigned date. You may choose any of the suggested destinations or come up with alternative ideas of your own. If you are ready to commit to a topic/destination by the end of the introductory morning you may do so. If however you would prefer more time you can advise your mentor of your preferred topic at or before the next meeting but you need to be aware that topics are agreed on a first come basis.

At least two weeks prior to the tour, you will meet your mentor and discuss the precise outline of the tour.

### **When will the programme commence?**

Mid-September 2010

### **When does the programme end?**

December 2010 (more precise dates will be posted closer to program date)

**What days of the week do we meet?** We will meet as a group on Fridays: We will meet at the starting point of every tour. The groups decide on a location and inform the others two days before.

**What do I need to consider before joining this programme?**

Are you available Fridays, beginning around 9:00am until about 2:30pm

**What happens if I have to go away and miss a Friday?**

The success of the programme depends on the level of commitment of the group members. We encourage you to be available to attend all Fridays. We understand that emergencies can arise and you may not be able to attend all sessions. However, if you already know you will not be available for two or more sessions, please do not sign up.

**What does it cost?**

The cost is \$150 SGD. This includes any admission fees to certain destinations, bus transport if we travel together as a group, and any “donations” that are required. The fee also includes a contribution to FOM.

Lunch after the tour is an integral part of the programme. The lunch expense is not included in the initial cost. Each member will pay for his or her own lunch.

**Do I need to be a member of FOM?**

This programme is for FOM members. If you are not currently a member, you will need to apply and pay the FOM membership fee as well as the payment for the programme. However, you do not need to wait for your membership to be processed before you can apply to join the programme.

Payment, along with a fully completed sign up form, should be received by early February to have a confirmed place in the programme. Places are limited to 14 participants.

**Do I get a refund if I sign up for the programme, attend a session, and then decide it's not for me?**

Once payment is received and processed, it is non-refundable.

**How much work is involved in planning the itinerary for an outing?**

You and your partner/group will be asked to research a destination/subject, and then operate as our tour leaders for the morning. You will plan the arrival time, departure time, information to be given and organise lunch for the whole group. You are encouraged to delegate part of your tour to “experts” but not the whole of it.

**Report**

After your tour, you will be expected to write a short report with pictures. This report is meant to be both a summary and a remembrance of the tour. At the end of the programme all the reports will be combined into a booklet and each participant will receive a copy.

**Is there any assistance available to help us plan our itinerary?**

The programme is led by group mentors who have lived in Singapore for some time and are familiar with many of the locations. They have all previously been participants in the programme. They can give advice, tips, etc. to help you and your partner/group develop your tour. At least two weeks prior to the tour, you will meet your mentor and discuss the precise outline of the tour.

**How many people will participate in the programme?**

This programme is limited to a maximum of 14 participants.

For several reasons, mainly for team building, we cannot accept guests on the tours.

**Is there anything else I should know?**

You should have regular access to the Internet and your e-mail address. All communication for participants in the programme runs through the Internet.

You are expected to communicate to the tour organizers if you are going to be absent at least two days prior to the tour (this is important especially for the restaurant bookings).

**How do I sign up?**

Please e-mail [fomfss@yahoo.com](mailto:fomfss@yahoo.com) to request a sign up form. If you also need to join FOM, you can obtain an FOM membership form from their website [www.fom.sg](http://www.fom.sg)

**Note:** we have made every effort to provide accurate information in this document. However, minor changes may be necessary from time to time due to unforeseen circumstances.