



Moments of Island Discovery

A Photographic Expedition to Singapore's Islands

by ChristinesArtVentures

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Exhibition Catalogue

(1) Cover Page

Feature picture: View into the Mangrove forest of Sungei Buloh at high tide

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Foreword

“Moments of Island Discovery - A Photographic Expedition to Singapore’s Islands” is Christine’s eighth major solo photography exhibition in Singapore, and it is the fifth exhibition of the “My Singapore” series.

The pictures featured in the exhibition will also form part of the fifth volume of the book series “My Singapore”.

Christine’s earlier exhibitions focused on her passion for travel, nature, and landscape photography. The photographs for the exhibitions during and after the pandemic are all taken in Singapore, in the neighbourhood of Christine’s home and in the parks, gardens and nature reserves, and in the different areas of Singapore.

As with all her art-related sales, Christine will donate 50% of the proceeds of this exhibition, including the sales of this catalogue, to the Singapore Cancer Society.

Introduction to the exhibition

During the Covid-19 pandemic years – as I could not follow my passion for landscape, travel, and nature photography – I began to explore my current hometown, Singapore, and started to create memories of the Singapore that I saw – “My Singapore”. This led to the idea of publishing my photographs of Singapore in a series of books. Each of the books is preceded by an exhibition.

“Moments of Island Discovery” follows “Moments in Prosperity” (2024), “Moments in Multicultural Singapore” (2023), “Moments in My Favourite Parks” (2022), and “Moments in my Neighbourhood” (2021).

General introduction

When we think of Singapore, we usually picture a single island. Yet the island-state comprises more than sixty additional islands, scattered around the main one. While a number of these are artificial, the majority are natural, varying in size from little more than a cluster of rocks to sizeable islands with their own distinctive character.

Not all these islands can be visited—some are for example closed off for military purposes—yet each contributes to Singapore’s unique maritime identity. The list of islands is longer and more diverse than most would expect and exploring them proved both rewarding and challenging. Preparing for this exhibition involved numerous boat trips under the tropical sun, enduring sunburn, rain, and even persuading my father to join me on an extended trek through the wetlands of Sungei Buloh.

For the exhibition, the islands are grouped into three categories: the Southern and Southwestern Islands, the Northern Islands, and the Artificial Islands. Together, they offer a different perspective on Singapore—one that reaches beyond the familiar urban skyline and reconnects with its maritime roots.

My focus is on the larger islands which are more easily accessible to the public:

- **Southern and Southwestern Islands:** Kusu, Satumu, St John's and Lazarus, Sentosa, and Sisters';
- **Northern Islands:** Buloh (Sungei Buloh Wetland), Coney, (former Serangoon Island), and Ubin;
- **Artificial Islands:** Chinese and Japanese Gardens.

In the appendix, page 22 onwards, I have compiled a list of all the islands I could find; however, this does not mean it is comprehensive.

Sources: please refer to the respective chapters and List of islands of Singapore - Wikipedia, Islands of Singapore - ALL ABOUT EVENTS, Singapore to study measures to protect 8 offshore islands against rising seas - CNA

About Christine Nagel

Christine grew up in Metzingen, a small town, nestled at the foot of the Swabian Alb, near Stuttgart, South-Western Germany. While growing up in the countryside kindled Christine's love for nature and the outdoors, her father's business travels early on started a keen interest for the world beyond the Swabian Alb, particularly China.

An economist by background, Christine also studied Chinese and spent a year at Fudan University, Shanghai, to attend Chinese language courses and lectures in Economics as part of a postgraduate scholarship. As the experiences made during the year in China were very captivating and fascinating, Christine decided to come back one day.

This happened in May 1997, when Christine was sent by her company – she meanwhile had started a career in the insurance industry – to Shanghai to help set up their life insurance company and later to head their Shanghai Representative Office. Christine and her husband, Boris, stayed four and a half years in Shanghai before being posted to Singapore in October 2001. Initially this was meant to be for a year or two.

Christine and Boris are still in Singapore. Both liked Singapore very much so they decided to stay. They have put down their roots in Singapore also to give their two children some stability during their schooling.

After 25 years in the financial industry, Christine decided to try out something else and spend more time pursuing her other passions: photography, sports, travelling, food, and gardening. This resulted in several projects, one of which is this exhibition.

The Exhibits – Section I

Moments of Island Discovery – Southern & Southwestern Islands

The southern and southwestern islands of Singapore form a diverse cluster that reflects the nation's rich blend of heritage, nature, leisure, defence, and industry. Some, like Kusu, St John's, Lazarus, and Sisters' Islands, are steeped in legend, biodiversity, and recreational appeal. Sentosa has transformed into a resort destination, while Pulau Hantu remains a favourite for diving. Pulau Sudong, Pulau Senang, and Pulau Pawai are reserved for military training, underscoring the strategic importance of these waters. At the same time, Jurong Island and its surrounding cluster have been reshaped into a vital hub for the petrochemical industry. From sacred sites and coral reefs to bustling tourist attractions, defence installations, and industrial powerhouses, these islands together tell the story of Singapore's evolving relationship with the sea.

For the many other southern and southwestern islands that are not described in detail in this chapter, I have provided a summary at the end of the exhibition catalogue (page 22 onward).

Kusu Island

Kusu, also known as "Tortoise Island", blends legend and devotion. A giant turtle is said to have become the island to save two shipwrecked sailors, one Malay and one Chinese. Their gratitude gave rise to shrines still venerated today: the Tua Pek Kong Temple, dedicated to Da Bo Gong and Guan Yin, and three Malay Keramat atop 152 steps, honouring Syed Abdul Rahman and his family. Each ninth lunar month, over thousands of pilgrims come seeking blessings of health, harmony, and prosperity.

Sources: *Kusu Island - Wikipedia, Kusu Island – Infopedia NLB, Kusu Island on wildsingapore, The Alluring Destinations of Kusu Island, Kusu Island, Singapore: The Ultimate Island-Hopping Guide, The Origin Stories of Keramat Kusu*



- (2) Above: Kusu Island taken during the approach by boat
- (3) Top right: The shrine of Dato Syed Abdul Rahman
- (4) Bottom Right: Yellow ribbons, believed to have the power to grant children, are tied on the trees around the Keramat



- (5) Top left: The Kusu Chinese Temple (Tua Pek Kong Temple) reflecting in the pond in front of the temple
- (6) Top right: Burning joss sticks
- (7) Middle left: Scene inside the Tua Pek Kong Temple
- (8) Middle right: The legend behind the island: the tortoise that turned into an island to save two shipwrecked sailors, one a Malay and the other a Chinese.
- (9) Bottom left: Crossing the pond in front of the Tua Pek Kong Temple
- (10) Bottom right: Praying in abundance - countless prayer ribbons at the Tua Pek Kong Temple

Satumu Island

Pulau Satumu, or “One Tree Island” in Malay, is the southernmost point of Singapore. Better known for the Raffles Lighthouse, built in 1855, the tiny islet has long guided ships safely through the busy Singapore Strait. Once nicknamed “Coney Island” by sailors, it featured on early navigational charts and even served as the formal southwestern boundary of British Singapore. Though enlarged slightly by reclamation in the 1970s, the island is mostly reserved for lighthouse staff and research. Its surrounding reefs, among the most pristine in local waters, are now priority sites for marine conservation.

Sources:

Pulau Satumu - Wikipedia, How to visit Raffles Lighthouse on Pulau Satumu - The Occasional Traveller, Pulau Satumu (NLB)



- (11) Above: Satumu Island taken from afar during the approach by boat
- (12) Top right: View of the sheltered beach towards the southernmost point of Singapore.
- (13) Bottom right: View along the jetty towards Raffles lighthouse



St. John's and Lazarus Islands

A tranquil island escape, St John's Island offers lagoons, beaches, and picnic spots amid rich flora and fauna. Once the first anchorage of Sir Stamford Raffles in 1819, the island later became one of the world's largest quarantine stations, housing thousands of immigrants and pilgrims during epidemics. It also served as a detention site for political prisoners, a drug rehabilitation centre, and even a temporary refuge for displaced communities. Today, with its serene landscapes and ecological research centres, St John's stands as a place of quiet retreat, where history and nature meet.

Connected to St. John's Island by a causeway, Lazarus Island (Pulau Sekijang Pelepah - "Island of a Deer and Palms") is today known for its beaches and turquoise waters, offering an escape from the city just a short ferry ride from the mainland. Once home to a small island community and linked with Pulau Seringat, it carries memories of fishing livelihoods, simple kampong life, and reliance on the sea. Until resettlement in the 1970s, families lived in stilt houses, fetched fresh water from nearby islands, and shared a close-knit existence. Though uninhabited now, the island retains a sense of nostalgia, shaped by its history as both a quarantine station and a home to generations of islanders.

Sources:

Saint John's Island - Wikipedia, St John's Island quarantine station – NLB, St John's Island – NLB, St John's Island, Southern Islands of Singapore, The history of Singapore St John and Lazarus Island, St. John's Island | Singapore Wiki | Fandom, st-johns-island-trail.pdf (National Parks), St John's and Lazarus Island: Singapore's Hidden Beach Getaway (The smart local), Lazarus Island - Wikipedia, From One Island to Another - Project Island Nation, Lazarus Island - SLA



(14) Top left: St. John's Island taken from afar



(15) Middle top left: Lazarus Island Beach known for its white sand

(16) Middle bottom left: View along the cliffs at the northwestern beaches of St. John's Island towards the Central Business District



(17) Bottom left: The large roots of a Sea Almond (Ketapang or Terminalia Catappa) tree and in the background some Casuarina trees, found near the St. John's - Lazarus Bridge connecting the two islands



(18) Top right: View into a small patch of the mangroves of St. John's Island: Bakau Pasir plants, with their prominent prop roots



(19) Bottom right: The old pier on St. John's Island



Sentosa

Once a British military base and later a prisoner-of-war camp, Sentosa has transformed since the 1970s into Singapore’s best-known island resort. Its name, meaning “peace and tranquillity” in Malay, replaced the earlier and ominous Pulau Blakang Mati (“Island of Death Behind”). Today, Sentosa attracts some 25 million visitors a year with its sheltered beaches, luxury hotels, golf courses, and world-class attractions such as Resorts World Sentosa, Universal Studios Singapore, Madame Tussauds, and the preserved Fort Siloso.

The island is also remembered as the venue of the historic 2018 summit between U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, held at the Capella Singapore. Despite its heavy development, Sentosa retains pockets of rainforest and wildlife, though much of its natural landscape has been reshaped by tourism projects and land reclamation. More than twice the size of Monaco, Sentosa remains a symbol of Singapore’s ability to reinvent its spaces — from fortress and quarantine ground to playground of leisure, history, and international diplomacy.

Sources:

Top Things to Do in Singapore | Explore Sentosa Attractions, Beaches & More, Explore Sentosa Island | Top Attractions & Things to Do, Sentosa - Wikipedia, Sentosa Cove, Resorts World Sentosa - Wikipedia, Sentosa Island Then and Now: A Journey Through Time – Lionhearlanders, Singapore’s Sentosa Island is a paradise with a brutal past - Nat Geo



- (20) Top left: Welcoming the visitors to Sentosa at Gateway Avenue
- (21) Middle left: Lost in mist: feature of the Sensory Scope
- (22) Bottom left: Symphony Streams, a water feature of the Sensory Scope
- (23) Top right: View of over the Marina at Sentosa Cove
- (24) Bottom right: The prominent roof construction of the Resort World Sentosa





- (25) Top left: Along Imbiah trail
- (26) Middle left: Tanjong beach
- (27) Bottom left: View along the Big Bridge towards Palawan Island, advertised as the “southernmost point of continental Asia”
- (28) Top right: Tempinis Cascade along Imbiah trail
- (29) Middle right: View from Palawan Island towards Palawan beach
- (30) Bottom right: View from Fort Siloso Skywalk over Siloso Beach and the Siloso Beach islands

Sisters’ Islands

The Sisters’ Islands, Pulau Subar Laut (Big Sister’s Island) and Pulau Subar Darat (Small Sister’s Island), are part of Singapore’s first marine park, gazetted in 2014. Rich in coral reefs, seagrass meadows and sandy shores, the 40-hectare Sisters’ Islands Marine Park serves as a sanctuary for marine life and a learning space for visitors. Reopened in 2023 after major rejuvenation works, Big Sister’s Island now features lagoons, a floating boardwalk with coral panels, and a coastal forest trail leading to a hilltop viewing deck. Visitors can snorkel, join guided intertidal walks, or simply explore habitats created for kingfishers, bats and bees. Small Sister’s Island remains closed to the public to protect its sensitive ecosystems. Legend has it that the islands were formed when two devoted sisters drowned while trying to escape pirates, their love immortalised as two islets forever side by side.

Sources: *Sisters' Islands Marine Park – National Parks, Sisters' Islands Marine Park reopens; visitors can hike a coastal trail and see corals up close | The Straits Times, Sisters' Islands - Wikipedia, Sisters' Islands – NLB, Re-vamped Big Sister's Island reopens after 3 years, with floating boardwalk and tidal pools - CNA, Sisters' Island – CAN, Speech by Minister Desmond Lee at the Opening of Enhanced Sisters' Islands Marine Park, Sister's Island Reopens With Tidal Pool, Floating Boardwalk, And Forest Trails – Timeout Singapore, Sisters' Island Marine Park in Singapore | Things To Do At Sisters' Island Marine Park, 5 things about the Sisters' Islands, Singapore's first marine park | The Straits Times, The Sisters Islands on the Shores of Singapore, Sisters' Islands – National Parks*



- Top to bottom
- (31) Both Sisters' Islands as seen from Kias Island
 - (32) Young leaves
 - (33) View along the larger of the two swimming lagoons on Sisters' Island
 - (34) Venturing out to the end of the protective seawall or tropical island perspectives
 - (35) Along the floating boardwalk that also serves as coral habitat



Other Islands



Left Top to Bottom

(36) Terumbu Buran, South of Sentosa Cove

(37) Pulau Tekukor

(38) Pulau Seringat, now connected to Lazarus Island

(39) Bukom, the "petrochemical" island, as seen from Pulau Palawan

(40) Sebarok Island, houses Singapore's first floating oil storage terminal

(41) On the left side partial view of Semakau (artificial island) and on the right-side the small Pulau Jong

(42) Senang Island (military use) with a few rocks of the Pemalang reef in the foreground

Bottom

(43) Pulau Biola (Violin Island) as seen from Satumu Island



The exhibits – Section II

Moments of Island Discovery – Northern Islands

The northern, northwestern, and northeastern waters of Singapore are dotted with a fascinating mix of islands, each with its own character and story. In this chapter, I share my experiences visiting Coney Island, Sungei Buloh, and Pulau Ubin, exploring their landscapes, wildlife, and heritage. For the many other islands that are either inaccessible or difficult to reach, a summary is provided at the end of the exhibition catalogue (page 22 onward).

Coney Island

Coney Island, formerly Pulau Serangoon, has a rich history. Once owned by the Aw brothers of Tiger Balm fame, it was called Haw Par Island in the 1930s–40s and featured a private bungalow. In 1950, businessman Ghulam Mahmood attempted to transform it into Singapore’s first island health resort, inspired by New York’s Coney Island, but the venture lasted only three years. The Singapore government acquired the island in 1972, expanding it through land reclamation and later connecting it to Punggol by bridge. In 2015, Coney Island Park officially opened, offering beaches, boardwalks, and trails, while a portion now hosts the Outward-Bound Singapore campus.

The island supports diverse habitats, including mangrove swamps, coastal forests, and woodlands, with casuarina trees stabilizing the coastline. It is home to over 80 tree species, including the last surviving native cycads from mainland Singapore. Wildlife is abundant, with more than 150 animal species and around 80 bird species, including endangered, black-crowned night herons and spotted wood owls. Smooth-coated otters and the rare sultan dragonfly also inhabit the island.

Sources: www.nparks.gov.sg/visit/parks/park-detail/coney-island-park, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coney_Island,_Singapore, www.nlb.gov.sg/main/article-detail?cmsuuiid=e76ce001-56c4-476e-9391-e207f320fa61, thesmartlocal.com/read/coney-island-guide/, www.sg101.gov.sg/resources/connectionsg/islandsofsingapore-coney-island/, explorersg.com/the-history-behind-coney-island/, www.timeout.com/singapore/things-to-do/the-guide-to-coney-island-in-singapore, www.nparks.gov.sg/gardens-parks-and-nature/parks-and-nature-reserves/coney-island-par





- (44) Previous page: Gate at the West entrance of the Coney Island Park
- (45) Top left: View onto the beach area A
- (46) Bottom left: West coastal view with Malaysia (Johor port / industrial area / Pasir Gudang) in the background
- (47) Top right: Looking up into the Casuarina trees
- (48) Bottom right: View from beach area B to Pulau Ubin (with Outward Bound Pulau Ubin Camp 1)

Buloh Island (Sungai Buloh Wetlands)

Located in the northwest of Singapore, Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve is the nation's first gazetted wetlands reserve (2002) and an ASEAN Heritage Park (2003). Initially championed by the Malayan Nature Society in the 1980s, it was opened as a nature park in 1993 and later expanded to its present 202 hectares of mangroves, mudflats, ponds, and forests.

The reserve is internationally recognised as part of the East Asian–Australasian Shorebird Site Network, serving as a critical stopover for migratory birds from Siberia to Australia. It is home to more than half of Singapore's bird species, including rare sightings such as the milky stork and the lesser whistling-duck. Other wildlife includes smooth coated otters, saltwater crocodiles, monitor lizards, snakes, and the region's largest moth, the atlas moth.

Beyond conservation, Sungei Buloh plays a key role in environmental education. With observation hides and boardwalks, the reserve also offers both scientific value and a tranquil experience of Singapore's rich biodiversity.

Sources: *Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve - Wikipedia, Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve – National Parks website, Nature areas and nature park networks (National Parks websites)*



- (49) Top left: No need to explain
- (50) Bottom left: View from Aerie Tower towards Johor
- (51) Top right: } View into the mangroves
- (52) Bottom right: } at high tide

Pulau Ubin

Just a short bumboat ride from Changi, Pulau Ubin is Singapore’s last true kampong. Once home to thriving granite quarries and farming communities, the island today preserves a slower pace of life with rustic wooden houses, heritage temples, and a living landscape of forests, mangroves, and wetlands. Its name, meaning “Granite Island,” recalls the stone once quarried here for landmarks like Horsburgh Lighthouse and the Johor–Singapore Causeway. Ubin’s history is woven with Malay legends, Chinese and Malay kampongs, colonial plantations, and traces of wartime occupation. By the 1960s, thousands lived here, but only a handful of residents remain today. The island’s biodiversity, most famously at Chek Jawa Wetlands, makes it an important refuge for wildlife and a vital stop for migratory birds. Now managed by National Parks, Pulau Ubin has become a beloved escape for cyclists, hikers, and nature lovers. With its quarries turned into tranquil lakes, its wayang (street opera) stage and temples still in use, and its kampong houses nestled in greenery, Ubin endures as a rare window into Singapore’s past.

Sources: Pulau Ubin - National Parks Website, Pulau Ubin - National Parks Website, Pulau Ubin - Wikipedia, Pulau Ubin - roots.gov.sg, Pulau Ubin - NLB website, Pulau Ubin - National Parks Website, Unravelling the Mystery of Ubin’s German Girl Shrine, German Girl Shrine - Wikipedia



- Left from top to bottom
- (53) Jetty welcoming you to Pulau Ubin
 - (54) Boat waiting for high tide at Pulau Ubin village
 - (55) An old, make-shift jetty at Pulau Ubin village
 - (56) A withered leaf turned white
 - (57) On fertile grounds: Mushrooms growing under the protection of a fallen, rotting tree
 - (58) Mature seeds of the Nipah Palm (a mangrove palm)

- (59) Top left: Autumn feeling along Sensory Trail
- (60) Top right: Sunburst through the top of a tall Common Pulai tree believed to be more than 100 years old



- From top to bottom
- (61) Pretty in purple
 - (62) Blue Glassy Tiger butterflies on Butterfly Hill
 - (63) A ginger flower





(64) Top left:
Mangroves
along Jalan
Noordin

(65) Bottom left:
Mangroves at
high tide near
the Sensory
Trail

(66) Top right: Lotos
leaves at the
Sensory Trail
pond

(67) Bottom right:
Looking up in a
bamboo grove
near Butterfly
Hill



(68) Right: View from the jetty at Check Jawa
Visitor Centre

(69) Top left: Kampong Melayu Muslim Cemetery

(70) Bottom left: Prayer wheels at the Wei Tuo Fa
Gong Temple

(71) Top right: Burning joss sticks along Jalan
Jelutong not far from Ah Ma Drink Stall

(72) Bottom right: At the Wei Tuo Fa Gong Temple





(73) Top: Inside the Datuk Shrine along Jalan Endut Senin
 (74) Bottom: German Girl Shrine, off Ketam Mountain Bike Trail. This Taoist shrine commemorates a young unknown German woman said to have died on Pulau Ubin during World War I. Over time she became venerated as a local deity, with visitors leaving offerings for luck and protection.



Other islands



(75) Top: Pulau Sekudu or "Frog Island", off Pulau Ubin
 (76) Middle: Ketam Island as seen from Pulau Ubin (off Ketam Mountain Bike Trail)
 (77) Bottom: View towards Tekong island (with the polder construction site). Taken from Jejawi Tower



The exhibits – Section III

Moments of Island Discovery – Artificial Islands

During my explorations, I visited several of Singapore’s artificial islands, including Kias, Punggol Barat, Punggol Timor, the Sentosa Cove islets, and the islands within Jurong Lake, home to the Chinese and Japanese Gardens. I had also hoped to visit Semakau, Singapore’s only offshore landfill, an impressive project designed to manage waste in an environmentally sustainable manner. However, this will have to wait until 2026, as the island is currently closed to visitors (“due to operational limitations, public visits to Semakau Landfill are suspended till further notice...”).

In the following pages, I focus on the Chinese and Japanese Gardens. A chapter on Semakau is planned for the next volume of the My Singapore series. For the other artificial islands, please refer to the complete list on page 25.



(78) This page: Looking down on the Chinese Gardens from the top of the Cloud Pagoda

Next page:

(79) Top left: Seeing double – The White Rainbow Bridge reflecting in Jurong Lake

(80) Bottom left: Standing tall – The Cloud Pagoda

(81) Top right: Entrance gate to the Chinese Garden at the White Rainbow Bridge

(82) Bottom right: Double happiness forever – Capturing a wedding photo shoot at the Twin Pagodas

Jurong Lake Gardens – Chinese and Japanese Garden

Nestled on an artificial island in Jurong Lake, the **Japanese Garden** was built in 1974 to evoke serenity and reflection. It follows Japanese garden traditions from the Muromachi and Azuchi–Momoyama periods. Features include arched bridges, Tōrō stone lanterns, koi-filled ponds, and traditional houses, all designed to encourage calm and contemplation. The garden also houses a Turtle & Tortoise Museum and a sundial representing Venus. Celebrated for its beauty year-round, the Japanese Garden is a tranquil sanctuary in Singapore’s Jurong Lake Gardens.

Opened in 1975, **Chinese Garden** is a serene oasis in Jurong East, designed in the northern Chinese imperial style. The garden artfully blends architecture and nature, featuring the iconic 7-storey pagoda, the Stone Boat, Tea House, and the White Rainbow Bridge, which mirrors the Seventeen-Arch Bridge of Beijing’s Summer Palace. Highlights include the Bonsai Garden, housing over 2,000 bonsais, and the Garden of Abundance with pomegranate trees and the twelve Chinese Zodiac sculptures. Connected to the Japanese Garden by the Bridge of Double Beauty, Chinese Garden offers a tranquil retreat celebrating Chinese horticultural artistry and cultural heritage.

Sources: *Chinese Garden – Wikipedia, Chinese Gardens – National Parks, The Ultimate Guide To Chinese And Japanese Gardens In Singapore -Timeout Singapore, What To See At Chinese & Japanese Gardens In SG (2024) – The Smart Local, Japanese Garden: Where Tranquility Awaits With Water Lilies, Sunken Garden At Jurong Lake Gardens - Little Day Out, Chinese, Japanese gardens reopen with rejuvenated landmarks and new eco-friendly spaces | The Straits Times, Japanese Garden – Wikipedia, Japanese Garden – National Parks, What To See At Chinese & Japanese Gardens In SG (2024) – The Smart Local*





(83) Top left: Looking down at the staircase of the Cloud Pagoda

(84) Top right: ... and looking upwards. A light at the end.

(85) Middle: Framed – Looking out through a window in the Bonsai Garden – This photo, in the black and white version, is a Dodho Magazine Monochromatic Awards 2025 finalist and published in the Dodho “Monochromatic” book

(86) Bottom left: Rounded perspectives in the Sunken Garden in the Japanese Garden – The central cenote

(87) Bottom right: Focal point – an artificial waterfall at the end of the bamboo grove in the Chinese Garden

Appendix - List of Islands

Civilian use islands

	Name*	Area (km ²)	Region**	Highlights
1	Singapore	~710	-	Main island
2	Anak Bukom	<0.1	West	Tiny islet between Bukom and Bukom Kechil. Its name means "child of Bukom".
3	Berkas	0.3	West	Submerged patch of reef north of Pawai, part of a restricted island cluster due to its proximity to SAF live-firing zones.
4	Biola (Violin Island)	<0.1	Central	Lies between Senang and Satumu. Renowned dive spot with diverse corals and marine life.
5	Branca	<0.1	East	Singapore's easternmost point is a small granite islet. Its name means "white rock" (Portuguese) and refers to the guano covering its surface.
6	Brani	1.2	Central	"Isle of the brave" (Malay) between the mainland and Sentosa. Historically, it hosted a tin smelting plant and later served as a naval base. Currently, it houses a port terminal and the Police Coast Guard's Brani Regional Base.
7-10	Bukom, Busing, Ular, Bukom Kechil	1.5 2.1	West	A cluster of four islands focussing on petrochemical businesses. Established in 1961 as Singapore's first refinery, the site has evolved to focus on producing low-carbon energy products like biofuels and integrating circular processes.
11	Buloh	1.3	North	Forested islet located at the estuary of Sungei Buloh; part of the Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve.
12	Coney (Serangoon)	1.3	North-east	Previously called Serangoon and owned by the Haw Par siblings before being sold in 1950 to Indian businessman Ghulam Mahmood, who planned to develop it into a resort inspired by Coney Island, New York.
13	Damar Laut	~0.9 (?)	West	North of Jurong Island. It houses Jurong Port Tank Terminals and several cement manufacturing companies.
14	Damien	?	North-east	Small, uninhabited rocky islet located off the northern coast of Tekong in northeastern Singapore.
15-16	Hantu Besar Hantu Kechil	0.1	West	Big (Hantu Besar) and Little (Kechil) "Ghost Islands" (in Malay) is a pair of small islets south of Singapore known for its rich marine life.
17	Jong	<0.1	West	Also known as Junk Island: small, uninhabited islet south of the main island. It has a distinctive conical shape and is surrounded by rich marine biodiversity.
18	Keppel	<0.1	Central	Private island in Keppel Bay, connected to the mainland by the Keppel Bay Bridge. The island prospered in the 19th century with the development of Keppel Harbour and was used for shipbuilding until 2000. In 2008, it became part of a waterfront luxury development.
19	Ketam	<1?	North-east	South of Ubin. It has lost much of its mangrove forests due to erosion, waves, and land clearance for fish farms. While the fish farms are gone, an aquaculture business now operates on the island's southern edge.
20	Khatib Bongsu	~2.4 (?)	North	North of Singapore's main island, mangrove nature reserve composed of interconnected islets whose outlines are blurred.
21	Kusu	<0.1	Central	Known for its temples and legends.

22	Lazarus	0.5 ***	Central	Connected to St. John's Island by a causeway and known for its beach. Also known as Sekijang Pelepah.
23	Malang Siajar	<0.1	North-east	Small rocky islet north of Singapore's main island (north of Tekong); barren and uninhabited.
24	Palawan	<0.1	Central	Small islet off Sentosa's Palawan Beach, promoted as the "southernmost point of Continental Asia."
25	Saint John's (Sakijang Bendera)	0.4	Central	Historically, it served as a quarantine station for immigrants in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Later, it functioned as a detention centre and drug rehabilitation facility.
26	Salu	<0.1	West	Small island south of Jurong and north of Sudong. The island is popular for scuba diving, with a rich marine life to be seen.
27	Samulum	<0.1	West	Small island in the Jurong Industrial Estate, less than a kilometer from the mainland. It houses the Jurong Shipyard. Formerly, the island was home to a Malay community, featuring a mosque and a school before industrial development in 1961 led to the relocation of 150 families.
28	Satumu	<0.1	West	Also known as "One Tree Island," is Singapore's southernmost islet, located approximately 23 km southwest of the mainland.
29	Sebarok (Middle Island)	0.5	West	Near Bukom and southwest of Sentosa. Serves as a hub for the refinery and petrochemical industries, housing facilities such as the Jurong Island Chemical Tanker Terminal. It also houses Singapore's first floating oil storage terminal.
30	Sekudu (Frog Island)	<0.1	North-east	Off Ubin, separated by a narrow but deep channel. The islet features seagrass meadows, a natural reef lagoon, rock formations, and a scatter of mangrove trees. It is rich in marine life.
31	Selatar	0.4	North	Located in the Straits of Johor. Characterized by its mangrove ecosystems, with some trees reaching up to 80 feet in height. The island is situated in a bay where several streams converge, including the waters of one Singapore's two hot springs.
32	Seringat	0.5 ***	Central	Once a separate islet, it was merged with Lazarus Island
33	Seringat Kechil	<0.1	Central	Seringat Kechil is a small islet off the larger Seringat.
34	Sentosa	4.7	Central	Sentosa is popular resort destination known for its beaches, luxury hotels, and attractions. Once a British military base and later a Japanese prisoner-of-war camp during World War II, it was transformed into a tourist hub in the 1970s.
35-36	Sisters'	<0.1	Central	Consist of two islets—Big Sister's Island and Small Sister's Island—separated by a narrow channel.
37	Sultan Shoal	<0.1	West	Around 150 metres from Phase 2 of the new Tuas Port. It houses the Sultan Shoal Lighthouse, built in 1895.
38	Tekukor (Penyabong)	<0.1?	Central	South of Sentosa, once used as an ammunition storage facility. Historically, it was believed to be a pirates' hideout, adding an air of mystery to its past.
39	Terumbu Buran	<0.1	Central	South of Sentosa Cove, not much more than a few rocks sticking out above the water ... and a submerged reef.
40	Ubin	10.2	North-east	Known for its preserved natural landscapes and kampong (village) lifestyle. Once a thriving granite mining site, it has remained largely undeveloped, offering visitors a glimpse of Singapore's past. The island is home to Chek Jawa Wetlands.

Military use islands

	Name*	Area (km ²)	Region **	Highlights
41	Bajau	?	West	Situated in the Western Water Catchment. It is an island located within the Poyan Reservoir. It serves as a live-firing zone for the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF). The island's name is derived from the Bajau people, an indigenous ethnic group renowned for their seafaring traditions in areas like Sabah (East Malaysia) and parts of Indonesia.
42-44	Pawai, Senang, Sudong	0.2 0.8 2.1	West	Off Singapore's southern coast, owned by the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) and used for live firing exercises. Pawai and Sudong were once fishing settlements before being converted into military training areas. Senang, however, served as a penal settlement from 1960 to 1963, where a "prison-without-bars" experiment was conducted. The initiative came to a tragic end when inmates staged a violent uprising, resulting in the deaths of the superintendent and two attendants.
45	Pergam	?	West	Small, forested island located off the western coast. The island is part of the Lim Chu Kang Restricted/Reserve Area and serves as a live-firing zone for the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF).
46	Sarimbun	<0.1	West	Located in the Straits of Johor off Singapore's western coast. In the 1920s, William Arthur Bates Goodall regularly visited the island and later lived there permanently in the 1930s until his death in 1941. Today the island is part of Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) live-firing area.
47-49	Tekong	24.4	North-east	Serves as a military training ground for the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF). Situated off the northeastern coast, it is one of the largest outlying islands and continues to expand through ongoing land reclamation. Formerly separate islets, Tekong Kechil and Semechek , were integrated into Tekong as part of these reclamation efforts. Once home to fishing villages and farms, it was depopulated in the 1980s for military use. Tekong is also home to Singapore's second hot spring, the Tekong Hot Spring, located on the former site of Kampung Unum.

Artificial islands

	Name *	Area (km ²)	Region **	Highlights
50	Chinese Garden	?	West	Located in Jurong Lake, the garden was designed by Taiwanese architect Prof. Yuen-chen Yu and opened in 1975. Inspired by the imperial style of the Song Dynasty, its design reflects traditional Chinese landscaping principles.
51	Japanese Garden	?	West	The Japanese Garden is situated next to the Chinese Garden in Jurong Lake. It was completed in 1974 and designed by Japanese architect Prof. Kinsaku Nakane. Its design is inspired by the Muromachi and Momoyama periods, reflecting Zen philosophy.
52	Jurong	32	West	Created by merging several smaller islands through extensive land reclamation, completed in 2009. It is now the largest outlying island, covering about 32 km ² . Key hub for the petrochemical industry. It is also home to Singapore's first offshore power station.
53	Kias	?	Central	Connected to Seringat/Lazarus Island via causeway. Originally a submerged coral reef, it was reclaimed to support the infrastructure of nearby St. John's, Lazarus, and Seringat. The island houses an electricity generator that supplies power to this cluster of islands.
54	Punggol Barat	1.9	North-east	North of Singapore's Seletar region. Created through land reclamation, it lies at the mouth of the Lower Seletar Reservoir, adjacent to Punggol Timor. Punggol Barat remains undeveloped, with ongoing earthworks preparing it for future use.
55	Punggol Timor	1.1	North-east	Off the northeastern coast. Created through land reclamation announced in 1995, it was first utilized as a military exercise ground between 1998 and 1999. Currently, it is primarily utilized by cement production companies and serving as a hub for sand and gravel storage. The island also features extensive worker housing complexes.
56	Semakau	3.5	West	South of mainland Singapore. It was formed by merging Semakau and Sakeng through land reclamation. Opened in 1999, it serves as Singapore's only offshore landfill, designed to manage waste in an environmentally sustainable way.
57-61	Sentosa Cove	1.2	Central	Coral, Paradise, Pearl, Sandy, and Treasure Islands are luxury residential enclaves nestled within Sentosa Cove.

Former islands

Name *	Region **	Highlights
Ayer Chawan & more	West	The islands of Anak, Ayer Chawan, Ayer Merbau, Bakau, Buaya, Merlimau, Meskol, Pesek, Pesek Kechil, Mesemut Laut, Mesemut Darat, Sakra, and Seraya were all merged to become part of Jurong Island.
Christmas	Australia	Christmas Island was annexed by Britain in 1888, primarily for its rich phosphate deposits. It was administered as part of the Straits Settlements, by Singapore, under British colonial rule. Christmas Island became an Australian territory on October 1, 1958, when Britain transferred sovereignty from colonial Singapore to Australia. This occurred as part of Britain's post-WWII decolonization. Australia compensated Singapore for the lost phosphate revenue.
Cocos (Keeling)	Australia	In 1827, British adventurer John Sydney Clunies-Ross first occupied the Cocos Islands, which were later officially annexed by Britain in 1857. Throughout much of the 20th century, the islands were administered as part of the British colony of Singapore. In 1955, the British government decided to transfer the administration of the Cocos Islands to Australia.
Karang Campong	West	Merged to the main island with the development of Tuas.
Renggis	Central	Located northwest of Sentosa, near the present-day Singapore Cruise Centre. Historical records indicate that in the past, there were three islands in this vicinity: Hantu (now Keppel Island), Selegu, and Renggis. Over time, land reclamation projects led to significant changes in the area's geography and water levels. Selegu was reclaimed to become part of Sentosa. Renggis, on the other hand now is submerged under water and has transformed into a reef, known today as Terumbu Renggis, marked by the Renggis Beacon.
Saigon	Central	Saigon was a small island in the Singapore River, near Robertson Quay. Originally a mangrove marsh, it appeared on maps as early as 1839 and was named Kampong Saigon on an 1878 map. In 1888, British projects to widen and deepen the river improved access to warehouses, leading to commercial development on the island. By 1972, the western arm of the river was drained, connecting Pulau Saigon to the mainland, and in 1991, the eastern arm was also drained, fully merging it with the mainland at Magazine Road.
Seking	West	Also known as Sakeng or Siking, was a small island off Singapore's southern coast, inhabited by the Orang Selat. It had a close-knit kampong community with more than 40 houses. In the late 20th century, the Singapore government resettled the residents to the mainland to develop the Semakau Landfill. By 1991, the island was merged into the landfill and no longer existed as a separate island.
Selugu	Central	Merged to form part of Sentosa serving as the site for the cable car tower.
Terumbu Retan Laut	Queens-town	Merged with the main island to form part of the Pasir Panjang Container Terminal

* Excluding Pulau / Island

** Administrative Zone

*** Lazarus and Seringat combined

Exhibitions and Awards

Past Awards

- 2019 Monovision Awards, Honourable mention in several categories
- 2020 Monovision Awards, Honourable mention in several categories
- 2021 Monovision Awards, Honourable mention in the abstract category for “Void” (HDB void deck abstract series I / black and white)
- 2021 Neutral Density Awards, Honourable mention in the architecture category for “Void” (HDB void deck abstract series I / colour)
- 2022 Monovision Awards, Honourable mention in the nature and wildlife category for “Passage of Time – Leaves Textures”
- 2022 Dodho Magazine Colour Awards Finalist for “HDB Colour Coding_04”
- 2023 Monovisions Awards, Honourable mention in the street photography category for “In the alleyways of Singapore’s China Town”
- 2024 Dodho Magazine Colour Awards Finalist for “Little Yellow Dot”
- 2025 Dodho Magazine Monochromatic Awards Finalist for “Framed”

Past Solo Exhibitions

- 2018 A Moment in Time, Trinity Art Space, Singapore: Retrospective of Christine’s work (1998-2018)
- 2019 Moments & More, The Substation, Singapore: Christine’s work 2017-2019
- 2020 Moments Suspended, The Substation, Singapore: Christine’s “pandemic” work 2020
- 2021 Moments in my Neighbourhood, UltraSuperNew Gallery, Singapore: Urban exploration of Christine’s neighbourhood
- 2022 Moments in my Favourite Parks, UltraSuperNew Gallery, Singapore: A photographic exploration of Singapore’s urban jungles
- 2023 Moments in Multicultural Singapore: A photographic exploration of Singapore’s ethnic areas.
- 2024 Moments in Prosperity: A photographic journey into Singapore’s economic success

Other Exhibitions

... and, in addition, individual pictures of Christine have been exhibited in galleries around the world: in America, Asia, Australia, Europe, and South Africa.

2025 and Upcoming Exhibitions

Jan	Your favourite nature shot	Sparks Gallery, San Diego , USA
Jan	Solo Single Subject	Valid World Hall, Barcelona , Spain
Feb	Our Amazing Planet	FotoZA Gallery, Johannesburg , South Africa
Mar	Art of Photography	Modeka Gallery, Manila , Philippines
Apr	Best of Black & White	Blank Wall Gallery, Athens , Greece
May/Jun	Art of Photography	6x6 Centre for Photography, Limassol , Cyprus
Jun	Solo - Single Subject	Valid World Hall, Barcelona , Spain
Jul	My Perfect Shot	Coningsby Gallery, London , UK
Jul	Your Favourite Exhibition Shot	Bridgeport Art Center, Chicago , USA
Sep	Dramatic Lighting	Blank Wall Gallery, Athens , Greece
Nov	Creative Composition	Artful Yoga Gallery, Melbourne , Australia
Jan 2026	Solo Single Subject	FotoZA Gallery, Johannesburg , South Africa

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