A MAP FOR THE MOUNTAIN LOVERS

Take your own journey through Singapore's vibrant Tanjong Pagar district with this unique map, inspired by the walking tour, “Where the Hills Once Stood: Walking Singapore’s Vanished Peak” led by artist Syahrul Anuar and The Urbanist Singapore. By traversing the lines between the contemporary and historical, the factual and the fictional, this map helps you explore a landscape where sites that were once hills are now flattened, revealing the untold narratives that forged our nation.

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CONTEMPORARY ART IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

MAXWELL MRT STATION

Maxwell was the base of a natural hill system that ran along Telok Ayer.

MOUNT WALLICH

What was once a prominent high point in the Tanjong Pagar area is now the site of Guoco Tower, Singapore’s tallest building. Wallich Hill, named after colonial botanist Dr. Nathaniel Wallich, was completely flattened in the 1890s, with its earth used for land reclamation projects in the area.

MOUNT PALMER

At its peak, Mount Palmer holds the *keramat*, a sacred resting place of Habib Noh, a revered 19th-century Muslim saint. Generations of Muslims and non-Muslims have made pilgrimages to this site. The shrine continues to be maintained and respected, even as it is surrounded by modern highways, ports, and skyscrapers.

ANN SIANG HILL

Ann Siang Hill, named after merchant Chia Ann Siang, is a surviving part of Singapore’s original landscape. The hill’s presence is a reminder of how important the terrain was to early Chinese migrant communities.

FUN FACT
The last remaining well from the 1800s in Chinatown is hidden behind a row of shophouses at the foot of the hill.

MOUNT ERSKINE

Mount Erskine was named after John James Erskine, a British civil servant who lived in Singapore in 1824.

The hill itself no longer exists today, having been replaced by modern buildings like the Ministry of National Development (MND) Complex, the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) Centre, and Kada, a wellness space in the former St. Andrew’s Mission Hospital.

While the hill is gone, its name lives on in Erskine Road, which connects to Kadayanallur Street, named after Tamil Muslim migrants from South India.

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