



## ANZA's Telok Ayer Amazing Race

Originally, Telok Ayer was situated along the old shoreline of Singapore and was a landing ground for immigrants. In Malay, Telok Ayer means “bay” and “water”. Given the congregation of Chinese immigrants, it led to a concentration of temples and clan associations in the area . Some of these clan associations include Singapore Hokkien Huay Kuan, the [Ying Fo Fui Kuan](#)- a Hakka clan association, and [Keng Teck Whay](#) – a welfare association set up by 36 Hokkien families who came down from Malacca.

*From the MRT, cross the intersection diagonally, where you will find the first Clan House.*

### **Clue 1 - Who was the founder of the Ying Fo Fui Kun clan house?**

Ying Fo Fui Kun's clan house has since been rebuilt several times but it has always remained at its original site here in Telok Ayer. The clan house features [inscribed stone tablets](#) and [carved boards](#) from the nineteenth century. The clan's oldest surviving [artefact](#) is an 1846 inscribed board.

*Make your way back to the MRT and head down Telok Ayer St.*

### **Clue 2 - Still in Telok Ayer St and below the flowery shophouse, you'll find a place selling cupcakes. What is the name of the shop?**

**Bonus point for a picture of your favourite flavour.**

*Continue north along Telok Ayer St.*

### **Clue 3 - What is Nagore Dargah?**

### **Clue 4 - What was the original shrine built of?**

### **Clue 5 - Find another clan house in Telok Ayer St?**

### **Clue 6 - Thian Hock Keng temple is located at 158 Telok Ayer St and began construction in 1821. What did the temple begin life as?**

Thian Hock Keng is one of the oldest and most important Hokkien temples in Singapore. It was visited by Chinese immigrants giving thanks to Mazu (Goddess of the Sea) for their safe voyage. The construction of Thian Hock Keng was completed in 1840. The temple was built in traditional southern Chinese architectural style. The entire structure was assembled without nails. It is an architectural masterpiece of stone, tiles and wood, carvings of dragons and phoenixes, intricate sculptures and imposing columns.

**Clue 7 - What shape are the base plinths of the Dragon Pillar?**

**Clue 8 - What does the beast (shou) represent?**

**Clue 9 - How many bells do you need to make a wish?**

**Clue 10 - How much money did the Zhong San Hui Guan association donate to the Chung Hwa Clinic?**

*Turn right at the end of Telok Ayer St and make your way past the hawker centre to Amoy St. Amoy Street was named after Amoy, now known as Xiamen, the major trading port-city of Hokkien (Fujian) Province. The area features shophouses of the Early, Transitional, Late and Art Deco Shophouse styles. At the top of the street, opposite the purple mural, you will find a wooden covered pathway and staircase.*

**Clue 11 - Near the staircase find the name of this rather large and prestigious school that began on the site**

The Ann Siang Hill area is a quiet enclave amid the hustle and bustle of Chinatown. Ann Siang Hill has an interesting history, located beside the former Telok Ayer Bay, it was one of three hills (the others being Mount Wallich and Mount Erskine, which were eventually levelled) collectively known as Telok Ayer Hills. It also had its name changed twice, having been owned by three different people – the last of whom was the wealthy Malacca-born landowner Chia Ann Siang. In the 1800s, one of Singapore's earliest Cantonese Chinese burial grounds was located at the foot of this hill.

### *Nutmeg*

Walk up the spiral staircase that takes you to a timber deck with a trellis covered by a creeper known as Chinese Honeysuckle or Rangoon Creeper (*Quisqualis indica*). From the deck, see if you can spot the Nutmeg Tree. The original owner of this hill, Charles Scott, cultivated nutmeg and clove plantations in this area. Nutmeg, a slow-growing tree native to the Banda Islands (a tiny archipelago in eastern Indonesia, also known as the Moluccas or Spice Islands), has a dense conical crown with small, glossy and dark-green leaves. Its fruit, oval in shape and yellowish brown in colour, opens slightly when ripe to reveal bright-red flesh encasing a brown nut. Nutmeg is used in traditional medicine for illnesses related to the nervous and digestive systems.

### *Tamarind*

Widely cultivated in several parts of the tropics, this slow-growing tree thrives in full sun. It has an umbrella-shaped crown of light-green foliage. See if you can spot its fruits – long, brown, thick velvety pods – scattered on the ground. The pods contain sweet-sour pulp known as tamarind or asam jawa (commonly used in local cuisine for the tangy flavour it gives to dishes).

### *Cinnamon*

Look out for the Cinnamon Tree in this park. This is a small evergreen tree with oblong-shaped leaves. When young, the leaves are reddish pink, adding colour and vibrancy to the entire tree. Its flowers are greenish in colour and emit a distinct smell. The spice, cinnamon, is obtained from the bark of the tree.

*From the staircase and PS Cafe head down the hill to the laneway behind the Amoy st shops. There you will find a well.*

### **Clue 12 - What was the original name of the hill you have just descended?**

In the 1800s, there was limited fresh water supply in Chinatown. Residents had to collect fresh water in bullock-drawn carts (hence Chinatown's local name Niu Che Shui, which stands for 'Bullock Cart Water') from several wells situated on Ann Siang Hill. The well you see here is the only one left standing at Ann Siang Hill.

*Return back to Amoy St and head south in the direction of the MRT station.*

## **Bonus Points at the Yip Yew Chong Mural**

Yip Yew Chong is a Singaporean artist who practises different visual mediums like murals, canvas, sketches, installations, digital drawing, photography and video-making. In mid-2018, he left his career in finance to work fulltime as an artist. A common feature of all his artworks is the intricately detailed way he tells stories, especially those of his childhood, a bygone era or lost place; and at times, mixed with present day real scenes in a whimsical manner.

### **Bonus Clues:**

- 1. What is another name for a coolie?**
- 2. In what year was the Hokkein Huay Kuan founded?**
- 3. Who is Mazu?**
- 4. Which dynasty was Emperor Guang Xu from?**
- 5. How much money was donated to build the hospital for the poor at Pearl's Hill?**
- 6. How many schools did the Hokkein community establish between 1906-1971?**
- 7. How many boats are in the Boat Quay?**
- 8. Yip Yew Chong always includes a cat in his murals. The larger cat is standing next to a little girl. What colour is her dress?**
- 9. What did the women in red headdresses help to build in Singapore?**

The Eng Choon Hway Kuan building at 106 Amoy St has an interesting history. Clan members originate from Yongchun in mainland China, called "Taoyuan" in ancient times. This association was established in 1867 and moved into this building in 1905. In 1942, the Japanese army occupied Singapore, and the hall activities ceased. After the recovery of Singapore in 1945, funds were raised to renovate the building.

**Clue 13 - What is the name of the academy that occupies part of the building today?**

**Clue 14 - Towards the end of Amoy st you will find some fish swimming on the front of a shophouse. What is the number of the shophouse?**

**Clue 15 - The tour concludes at the end of Amoy street in the grassy patch, but one more clue must be found. How many scales on the middle fish?**

Clue	Answer - Team Name:
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
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10	
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	

**Yip Mural Bonus Clues**

Clue	Answer	Clue	Answer
1		6	
2		7	
3		8	
4		9	
5			