Today, most Singaporeans know Bintan for its sandy beaches, seafood and high-end resorts. Few visitors to the island know of its close historical connections with Singapore. Its capital Tanjung Pinang, located on the southwestern part of the island, is the largest town in the Riau Islands and has been an important centre of the Johor Riau Empire since the 17th century. In particular, the island of Penyengat, located off the coast of Tanjung Pinang, was the spiritual and political seat of the Johor Sultanate at the time Raffles claimed Singapore for the British in 1819. It was to Penyengat that Raffles’ men sought out Tengku Long and invited him to Singapore island to be crowned Sultan Hussein of Johore. Not far from Tanjung Pinang is the old settlement of Senggarang where you can find one of the oldest Chinese temples in the region.

The Singapore Heritage Society proudly presents Royal Tanjung Pinang, a journey to the island of Bintan, once the centre of the Johor Riau-Lingga empire. The tour is led by local anthropologist and scholar, Dr Vivienne Wee.

Cost includes all meals, hotel, entrance fee, transportation, guides and all local transportation.

The following are not included: telephone, laundry and all other sundry expenses.

To Book

Contact Ms Wendy Chua (Email: shs.secretary@gmail.com) to book a place on this not-to-be-missed tour. This tour is limited to 30 persons only. Hurry!

Royal Tanjung Pinang

About Our Guide

Dr Vivienne Wee is an independent anthropologist and researcher. Previously, she had been Associate Professor at the City University of Hong Kong and also at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. She received her BFA (summa cum laude) from the University of Minnesota, her MSocSc from the University of Singapore and her PhD from the Australian National University.

Since 1981, Vivienne has been actively researching the ethnography of the Riau archipelago and is an acknowledged expert of the region and its peoples. Her doctoral thesis was on the the Malays of Riau. She is also a founder member of AWARE (Association of Women for Action and Research).
Tour Programme

Day 1: Friday (11 March)
8.00 am  Assemble at Tanah Merah Ferry Terminal
9:15 am  Depart Singapore for Tanjung Pinang via ferry.
10.45 am  Arrive in Tanjung Pinang and transfer to Comfort Hotel. Check-in.
12.00 pm  Depart Tanjung Pinang for island of Penyengat.
12.30 pm  Arrive for lunch at Penyengat
1.30 pm  Lecture on history & history of Penyengat.
2.30 pm  Walking tour of historic sites of Penyengat.
6.00 pm  Boat ride from Penyengat to Tanjung Pinang and off to early dinner.
Evening at leisure.

Day 2: Saturday (12 March)
8.30 am  Breakfast
9.30 am  Trip to Bintan Bukit Batu to see the graves of the pre-Temasik royals
12.00 pm  Packed lunch
1.00 pm  Boat ride to Hulu Sungai Riau, sites of pre-Penyengat graves of Bugis royals
5.00 pm  Return to hotel, rest
6.30 pm  Dinner
Evening at leisure

Day 3: Sunday (13 March)
8.00 am  Breakfast and check out by 9.30 am
9.30 am  Boat ride to Senggarang (old Chinese settlement on stilts).
10.00 am  Walking tour of Senggarang.
12.00 pm  Return to Tanjung Pinang for lunch. Post-lunch time at leisure for shopping.
5.45 pm  Arrive at Tanjung Pinang ferry terminal
6.30 pm  Depart Tanjung Pinang by ferry for Singapore.

Your Hotel
Comfort Hotel & Resort Tanjung Pinang is located at Jalan Adi Sucipto, just 20 minutes from Seaport and 5 minutes from Airport. It is close to Tanjung Pinang’s central business district, commercial center and government offices. The Hotel is designed in resort style and the grounds are lusciously landscaped.