

# FROM PAST TO PRESENT

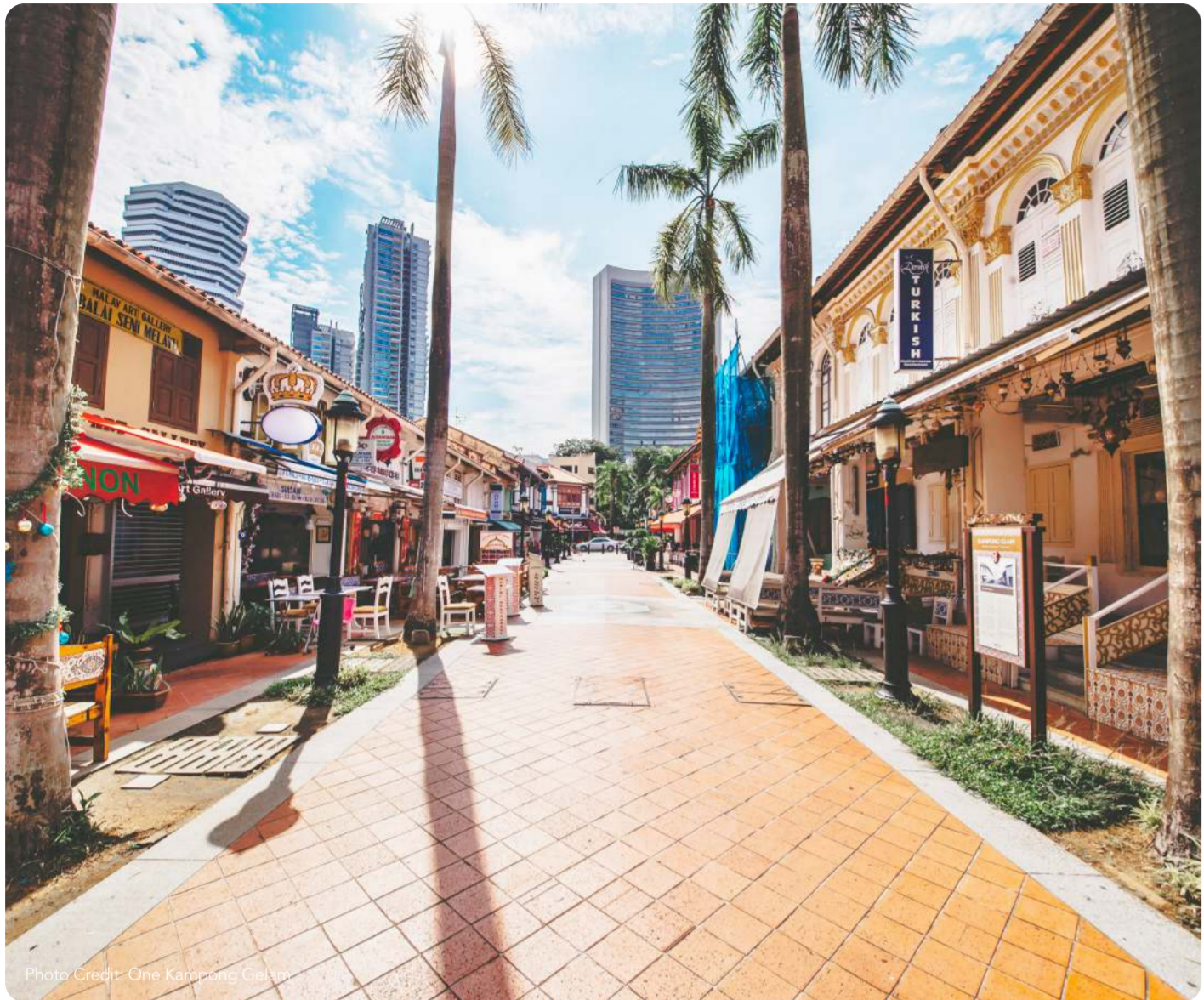


Photo Credit: One Kampong Gelam

In Malay, the word Kampong means “compound”, while Gelam refers to the the gelam tree which was found and used locally for boat-making, medicine and even as a seasoning for food.

This thriving settlement was a home to diverse communities of immigrants and traders from Asia and the Middle East, including India, China and the Malay Archipelago, all congregating to engage in a wide range of businesses, including education and philanthropy.

Kampong Gelam was known for its bustling streets of craftsmen and shops selling an array of items from spices and silks, gold and precious stones to baskets and sarongs. While Bussorah Street might now be known as a colourful street of restaurants, it was home to a range of businesses including bookshops, blacksmiths, jewellery shops, and even coppersmiths. On Arab Street, baskets and textiles were commonplace, while Haji Lane hosted Muslim pilgrims on their yearly pilgrimage to Mecca, known as the ‘Hajj’.

Today, many of these heritage businesses still remain, giving Kampong Gelam its charm of colourful diversity that sits at the crossroads of the traditional and the contemporary. Modern businesses and cafes sit side-by-side with heritage tradesmen and eateries, within conserved shophouses along alleys peppered with vibrant street art.



**KATONG & JOO CHIAI**

A thriving community hub for Indian immigrants, Little India is filled with traditional businesses and historical architecture.



**LITTLE INDIA**

Singapore's largest conserved historic district, Chinatown was once home to early Chinese immigrants.



**CHINATOWN**

## VISIT CULTURAL AND OTHER PRECINCTS



Kampong Gelam has its origins as a thriving port town and is Singapore's oldest urban quarter. In 1819, when the Sultan of Singapore signed a treaty with the East India Company, he brought his family to the district and built a 56-acre istana, or palace, from Rochor River to Beach Road. With the arrival of traders from the region including Arab merchants, the area soon became a flourishing centre of trade for precious materials such as timber, ceramics, gems, spices and textiles. Today, Kampong Gelam retains its cosmopolitan bustle through an array of culinary delights, traditional shops and prominent sites, including Sultan Mosque and Malay Heritage Centre which is housed in the Istana Kampong Gelam, a gazetted National Monument.



# VISIT KAMPONG GELAM

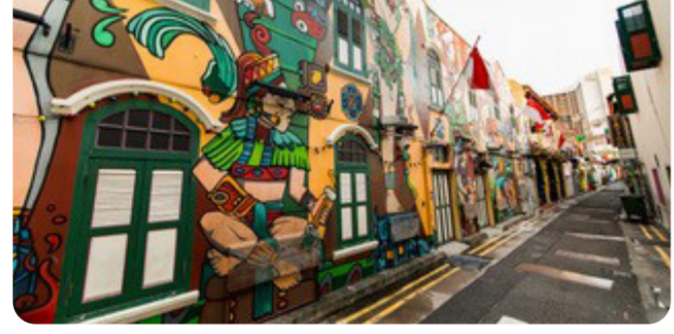
## ADMIRE THE STREET ART OF SINGAPORE



Home to street art collectives like RSCLS as well as Singapore's first physical graffiti store The Blackbook Studio, Kampong Gelam is a regular haunt for street artists and has become Singapore's street art capital. The vibrant neighbourhood boasts of street art enclaves that feature the works of local and international street artists on charming shophouses.

Wander along the streets of Kampong Gelam and you will be able to uncover street art ranging from striking realist murals to colourful futuristic murals. If you are lucky, you will be able to catch street artists in action as they practise and paint.

### HAJI LANE / BALI LANE



Along the narrow street of Haji Lane, you can find the eye-catching pop-art of artist PrettyFreakyFantasy painted across Juice Clinic. Close by, Mexican restaurant Piedra Negra showcases the huge works of Columbian-born artist Didier Jaba Mathieu while The Singapura Club features a realistic monochromatic mural by artist Ceno2.

### SULTAN ARTS VILLAGE



Located at 71 Sultan Gate, the arts enclave bursts with urban art by local and international artists. Next to The Blackbook Studio is a 14-metre-long wall where artists practise and paint — the perfect place to watch them in action. Look out for the original batik piece by artist Slacsatu near Kiah's Gallery that has been readapted all around Kampong Gelam.

### GELAM GALLERY



Singapore's first outdoor art gallery, Gelam Gallery can be found in the back alley adjacent to Muscat Street. The out-of-the-box gallery displays over 30 artworks by local and international artists. Be immersed in unique wall murals and framed art as you explore the artsy neighbourhood.

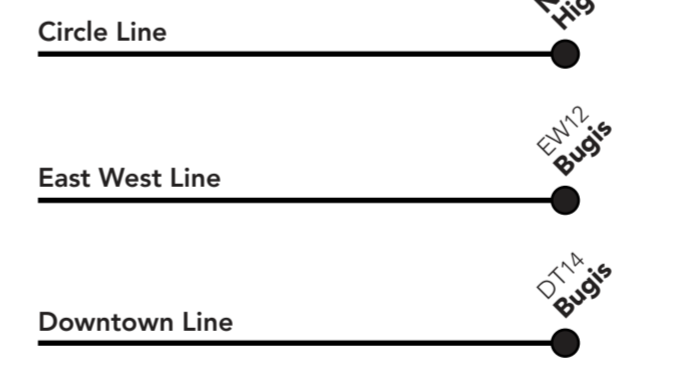
### ALIWAL ARTS CENTRE



The multi-disciplinary arts hub is decorated with vivid murals by local street artists — a testament of their support for local budding creatives. Check out the wall of artwork behind the centre that changes every one to six months and the multi-coloured batik-inspired mural by Slacsatu near the entrance of the centre.

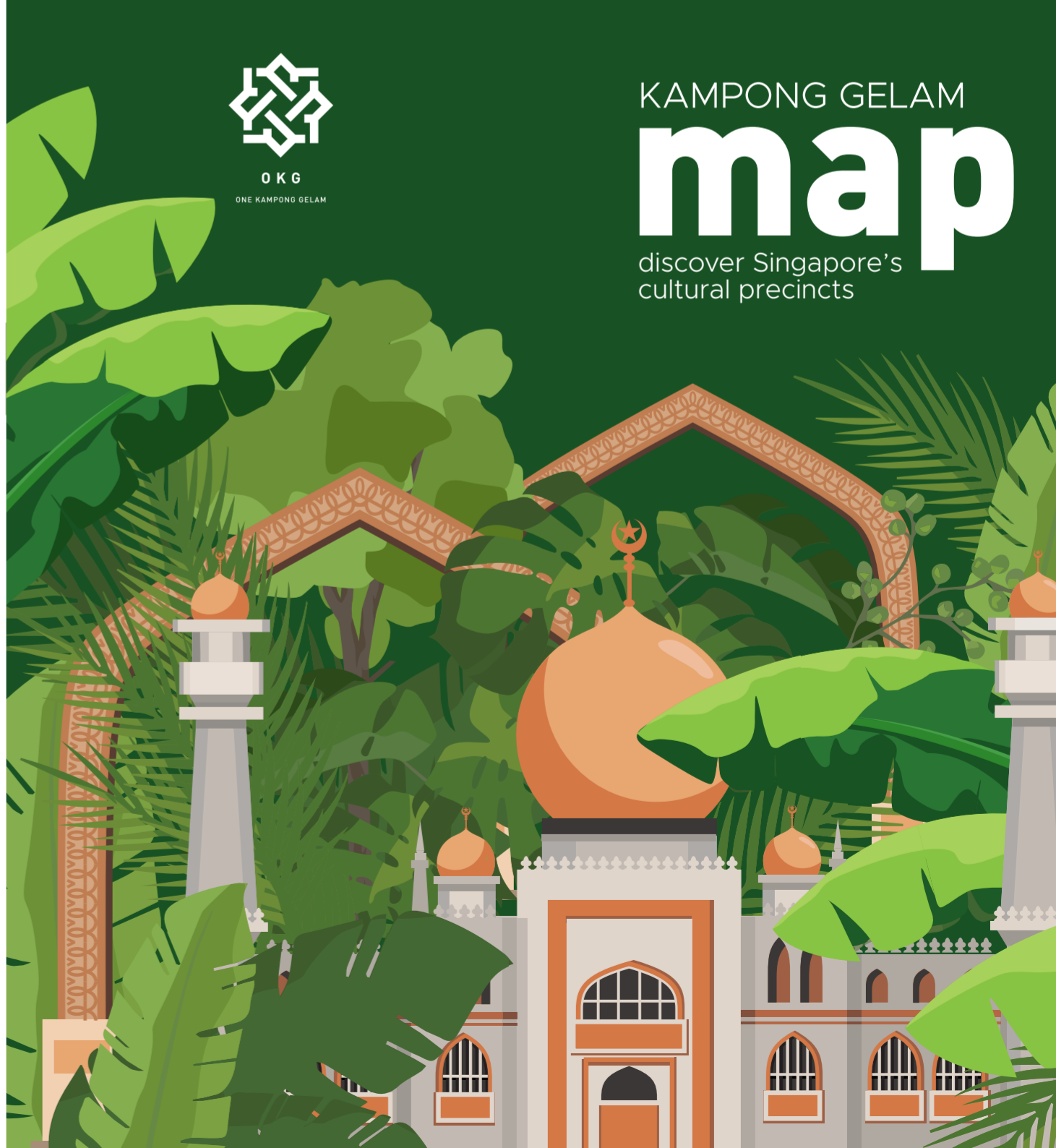
## HOW TO GET THERE

### MRT



### BUS

- 2N, 4N, 12e, 48, 57**  
to Ophir Road, Landmark Village Hotel (B01559)
- 107, 107M**  
to Jalan Sultan, Opposite Textile Centre (B01231)
- 7, 7A, 32, 51, 61, 63, 80, 145, 175, 197**  
to North Bridge Road, Before Sultan Mosque (B01229)
- 100, 107, 107M, 961, 961M, 980**  
to Beach Road, Opposite Plaza Parkroyal (B01521)
- 2, 2A, 7, 12, 32, 33, 51, 61, 63, 80, 130, 133, 145, 175, 197**  
to Victoria Street, Stamford Primary School (B01121)





### THINGS TO SEE/ DO

- A1 Crafune**  
38 Haji Lane, #02-02, Singapore 189231  
Express your creativity in a leather craft workshop.
- A2 Gelam Gallery**  
Along the back lanes of Muscat Street  
Uncover over 30 diverse artworks by local and foreign artists.
- A3 Malabar Mosque**  
471 Victoria Street, Singapore 198370  
Admire the mosque's charming blue and white façade.
- A4 Malay Heritage Centre**  
85 Sultan Gate, Singapore 198501  
Learn about Malay culture and heritage at this museum.
- A5 Sultan Arts Village**  
71 Sultan Gate, Singapore 198496  
Explore an enclave of art and retail spaces.
- A6 Sultan Mosque**  
3 Muscat Street, Singapore 198833  
Marvel at the national monument's ornate gold detailing.
- A7 Vintage Camera Museum**  
8C, 8D Jalan Kledek, Singapore 199263  
Enter a world of vintage cameras and old-school photography.

### FOOD & BEVERAGE

- B1 Bhai Sarbat Stall**   
21 Bussorah Street, Singapore 199439  
Enjoy a cup of freshly pulled traditional milk tea (teh tarik).
- B2 Blu Jaz Café**  
11 Bali Lane, Singapore 189848  
Socialise with drinks amidst live music and good vibes.
- B3 Good Luck Beerhouse**  
9 Haji Lane, Singapore 189202  
Chat with friends over dim sum and local craft beer.
- B4 Hjh Maimunah**   
11-17 Jalan Pisang, Singapore 199078  
Try special nasi padang dishes like Sundanese grilled chicken.
- B5 Islamic Restaurant**   
735 North Bridge Road, Singapore 198713  
Savour halal Asian heritage food like dum bryani.
- B6 Rich & Good Cake Shop**  
24 Kandahar Street, Singapore 198887  
Bring home baked goods and pastries with a local twist.
- B7 Rumah Makan Minang**   
18 Kandahar Street, Singapore 198884  
Taste Minangkabau flavours in Indonesian fare.
- B8 Sabar Menanti II**   
737 North Bridge Road, Singapore 198705  
Tuck into heirloom dishes like ikan bakar (charcoal grilled fish).
- B9 Singapore Zam Zam**   
697-699 North Bridge Road, Singapore 198675  
Dig into bryani at the family-run eatery established since 1908.
- B10 Victory Restaurant**   
701-703 North Bridge Road, Singapore 198677  
Their murtabak has earned a name for itself since 1910.
- B11 Warong Nasi Pariaman**   
736-738 North Bridge Road, Singapore 198704  
Try heritage classics like ayam bakar (charcoal grilled chicken).

### RETAIL

- C1 Aliwal Street Barber**  
Behind a row of shophouses along Aliwal Street  
Experience old-world haircuts in a back alley.
  - C2 Haji Tawakal Trading**  
50 Arab Street, Singapore 199747  
Bring home beautifully-woven carpets and rugs.
  - C3 Scene Shang**  
263 Beach Road, Singapore 199542  
Peruse modern homeware made with Chinese elements.
  - C4 Sifr Aromatics**  
42 Arab Street, Singapore 199741  
Create your own customised scent to take home.
  - C5 Supermama**  
265 Beach Rd, Singapore 199544  
Take home stunning tableware decorated with local motifs.
  - C6 The Heritage Shop**  
93 Jalan Sultan, Singapore 198997  
A treasure trove of antiques and collectables.
  - C7 Utopia Apparels**  
47 Haji Lane, Singapore 189240  
Shop modern outfits decorated with batik prints.
- : Heritage Business : Halal Certified

### HERITAGE DISHES



**Nasi Padang**  
Work up an appetite while exploring Kampong Gelam and stop for a hearty meal of nasi padang, or rice with a medley of Malay dishes. Heritage establishments you can choose from include Warong Nasi Pariaman (B11), Hjh Maimunah (B4) and Sabar Menanti II (B8).



**Briyani**  
For a mild fiery kick in your meal, sample the Indian rice staple briyani—a spiced rice dish that comes with meat or vegetables—at Islamic Restaurant (B5), Victory Restaurant (B10) or Singapore Zam Zam (B9). The stretch can be easily found along the stretch of North Bridge Road.



**Murtabak**  
Stuffed with egg, onion and mutton or chicken, murtabak is a South Indian flatbread dish that can be enjoyed on its own or paired with a side of savoury curry. Head down to Singapore Zam Zam (B9) or Victory Restaurant (B10) to fill your bellies with their tasty murtabak.

### DISCOVER MORE

- Find more information about Kampong Gelam online or at any of our visitor centres.
- SINGAPORE VISITOR CENTRE @ Cube Boutique Capsule Hotel**  
55 Bussorah Street, Singapore 199471  
Hotline: +65 6291 7386  
Email: reservationskg@cubebestay.sg  
Website: <https://www.cubehotels.com.sg>
  - SINGAPORE VISITOR CENTRE @ Rest Bugis Hotel**  
8 Jalan Kubor, Singapore 199207  
Hotline: +65 6298 8638  
Email: Bugis.fo@rest-collection.com
- [www.visitkamponggelam.com.sg](http://www.visitkamponggelam.com.sg)  
 @visitkamponggelam  
 @visitkamponggelam

## DISCOVER KAMPONG GELAM

Discover Kampong Gelam's rich history, living traditions, excellent eateries and trendy shops.

**2HR ROUTE**

Get a glimpse of tradition and culture on your walk. Take a stroll down Haji Lane and enjoy colourful conserved shophouses housing trendy offerings. Visit the majestic Sultan Mosque (A6) for an understanding of history and Islam in Singapore. Go back through time at the Malay Heritage Centre (A4), once the palace of the Sultan of Singapore. Enjoy authentic Malay cuisines such as *nasi padang* (steamed rice served with a variety of dishes) and Malay *kuih* (cakes and cookies).

**4HR ROUTE**

Spend half a day in the neighbourhood and uncover stories of heritage and culture. Be inspired by vintage photography at the Vintage Camera Museum (A7) before capturing the colourful and expressive murals of Kampong Gelam. Visit heritage businesses steeped in tradition, like the old-school barber, Aliwal Street Barber (C1). Treat yourself to a variety of food offerings that range from Malay and Indian to Middle Eastern and Indonesian fare.

