

50 Singapore firsts

The year Singapore became independent was also the year the first escalator arrived on this island. There's a first worth highlighting in each of the last 50 years, including the first woman general this year. Each first speaks of a specific era that will stir nostalgia for a particular generation. Ten Chung Ping, Chng Choon Hong and Tay Chern Hui recount some of the highlights.

<p>1965 The opening of Orchard Theatre opens the tradition of the first escalator in Singapore.</p> 	<p>1966 The first Allair outdoor opens in Raffles Road, the first hot food chain in Singapore.</p> 	<p>1967 The first series of rotary notes, the Dollar Series, is issued by the newly formed Board of Commissioners of Currency, Singapore.</p> 	<p>1968 Singapore holds its first General Election as an independent nation. The Peoples Action Party wins 53 seats.</p> 
<p>1969 Lee Kuan Yew holds the first Singapore Dinner to raise funds for the construction of the first National Stadium. First award is S\$100,000.</p> 	<p>1970 The first Aircon Hotel, The Plaza Express, opens in Orchard Road. It has 14,000 sq meters of built-up area.</p> 	<p>1971 The first Ampex Drive-in Cinema opens. It is the first and only drive-in cinema and the largest in Asia. It is still in operation.</p> 	<p>1972 The first Japanese department store in Singapore opens in the Raffles Hotel complex, Raffles Hotel.</p> 
<p>1973 The first Eighty presents is held from Jalan Besar. It is the first Singaporean event to attract more than 1,000 people from different associations.</p> 	<p>1975 The first use of full facial prosthetics is recorded after the police force to fight the rising crime rate of kidnapping. World records.</p> 	<p>1977 The first double-deck bus service - service 801 - is launched by the Singapore Bus Service. The service runs from Singapore to Bras Basah.</p> 	<p>1979 The first bank introduces Singaporean banknotes. The first banknotes introduced are the 100-dollar and 50-dollar banknotes. The first banknotes introduced are the 100-dollar and 50-dollar banknotes.</p> 
<p>1974 The first use of full facial prosthetics is recorded after the police force to fight the rising crime rate of kidnapping. World records.</p> 	<p>1976 The first 'off' service is started by the Singapore Overseas and Domestic Telephone Service.</p> 	<p>1979 The first bank introduces Singaporean banknotes. The first banknotes introduced are the 100-dollar and 50-dollar banknotes. The first banknotes introduced are the 100-dollar and 50-dollar banknotes.</p> 	<p>1980 A group of 100 people are invited to the first 'Whale found off Pulau Bukom' by the Shell.</p> 
<p>1987 The first 'off' service is started by the Singapore Overseas and Domestic Telephone Service.</p> 	<p>1985 The first 'off' service is started by the Singapore Overseas and Domestic Telephone Service.</p> 	<p>1983 The first 7-Eleven store opens in Upper Changi Road. There would be 477 such stores scattered throughout the island by 2013.</p> 	<p>1981 The school, Yehuda M. Jacobson, is chosen as the first school to be named after a foreigner. The school is named after the Yehuda M. Jacobson, an American resident of Singapore.</p> 
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<p>1989 A team of Singaporean divers discover the first shark in Singapore to implant an electronic tracking device - the 'Red Bull'.</p> 	<p>1990 The first plastic currency, a \$10 note, is issued to mark the centenary of Singapore to implant an electronic tracking device - the 'Red Bull'.</p> 	<p>1991 The first National Family Day carnival is held at East Coast Park. More than 100,000 families turn up for the event.</p> 	<p>1992 Singapore's first child care centre, the first child care centre, is established. The first child care centre, is established. The first child care centre, is established.</p> 	<p>1993 Singapore's first woman general, Mrs. J. S. Gnanapavan, is elected as the first woman general. The first woman general, is elected as the first woman general.</p> 
<p>1994 The first 'off' service is started by the Singapore Overseas and Domestic Telephone Service.</p> 	<p>1995 Under the Road Singapore's first social football tournament is first season. It is held for a total of seven seasons and is reported to Australia, Malaysia, the Philippines, South Korea and Canada.</p> 	<p>1996 The first 'off' service is started by the Singapore Overseas and Domestic Telephone Service.</p> 	<p>1997 Singapore's first and of qualitative - two-year and three-year, initially conceived as part of the Easting Family Hospital.</p> 	<p>1997 Singapore's first and of qualitative - two-year and three-year, initially conceived as part of the Easting Family Hospital.</p> 
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