BUGIS

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Bugis (Kampong Bugis in Malay) is an area in Singapore that covers Bugis Street now located within the Bugis Junction shopping mall. Bugis Street was renowned internationally from the 1950s to the 1980s for its nightly gathering of transvestites and transsexuals, a phenomenon that made it one of Singapore's most notable destinations for foreign visitors during that period.

In the mid-1980s, Bugis Street underwent major urban redevelopment into a retail complex of modern shopping malls, restaurants and nightspots mixed with regulated back-alley roadside vendors. Underground digging to construct the Bugis MRT station prior to that also caused the upheaval and termination of the nightly transgender sex bazaar culture, marking the end of a colourful and unique era in Singapore's history.

Today, the original Bugis Street is now a cobblestoned, relatively wide avenue sandwiched between the buildings of the Bugis Junction shopping complex. The lane presently touted as "Bugis Street" is actually developed from the New Bugis Street that was recreated opposite its original location. Although the former exotic atmosphere can never be restored, the sheltered street is filled with a myraid of shops offering low priced souvenirs, clothing and local snacks. It is frequented by many Singaporeans and foreign workers looking for bargains and a good shopping experience.

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