

Fact Sheet



SHIPWRECKED: TANG TREASURES AND MONSOON WINDS **ArtScience Museum at Marina Bay Sands**

Introduction

Uncover the hidden treasures of the golden age in Chinese history, the Tang Dynasty, through the shipwrecked remains of a ninth century Arab dhow at The ArtScience Museum at Marina Bay Sands. In 1998, this amazing discovery of some 60,000 well-preserved artefacts was found in Indonesian waters, 4 nautical miles north of Belitung Island in 17metres of shallow water with treasures dating back more than 1,000 years. This impressive collection is considered the most important discovery of late Tang Dynasty artefacts ever found outside of China, and serves as an affirmation to the existence of a Maritime Silk Route between the East and West via Southeast Asia centuries ago.

Fast Facts

- *Shipwrecked: Tang Treasures and Monsoon Winds*, will comprise of 12,000 sq ft of exhibition space structured into five sections
- Sections 1 and 2 will be the prologue and will provide the context of the exhibition, from the big picture of the world in the 9th Century, Indian Ocean trade, China and its ceramics industry, to insights about the boat and the crew's life onboard. The importance of the Singapore Straits in international maritime trade will be featured in this section.
- Section 3 will show the different steps behind the discovery, the recovery and the conservation of the salvaged cargo. Visitors entering this area will be treated to a dramatic simulation of a ship sinking.
- Section 4 will be the highlight of the exhibition for the viewing of about 450 artefacts, which will showcase a particular order from commodities to rarities, presenting the artefacts from everyday wares to valuable metalwork and unique precious gold pieces.
- Significant items that visitors can expect to see in this section will be the Green-splashed Ewer with a dragon head-shaped lid, which is possibly the most visually striking piece in the entire cargo and Blue and White Dishes decorated with stylized flowers which from a historical perspective, are the most important items discovered in the wreck. These have never been discovered in complete pieces during earlier salvages.
- Section 5 is the epilogue, leaving visitors with thought provoking questions raised by the exhibition.
- *Shipwrecked: Tang Treasures and Monsoon Winds* is organized by the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery of the Smithsonian Institution, the Asian Civilizations Museum, National Heritage Board (NHB), Singapore and the Singapore Tourism Board (STB).