Museum-hop...

PUT on your best pair of walking shoes. Life! plans an itinerary around the most exciting events from tomorrow morning to night at three downtown museums.

National Museum (right)
93 Stamford Road, Mon to Fri 9am to 8pm, Sat to Sun 9am to 7pm
30th If you haven't paid a visit to the grand dame of Singapore museums since its relaunch last year, here's your chance.

After its three-year, $117.9-million makeover, the 120-year-old museum is now a hip lifestyle destination, complete with bars, restaurants and shops.

Warm up by strolling through the new Singapore History Gallery. Explore Singapore's history from the 14th century to the modern day through the stories of national events, personal stories and works of art.

> Admission to the Singapore History Gallery is $10 for adults and $5 for senior citizens, students and children.

Now that you've explored some local history and heritage, it's time to delve into other exotic cultures.

Join a 1½-hour guided tour around the museum's temporary exhibition, Under The Crescent Moon: Domestic Culture In The Arab World.

The exhibition shows the diversity of Arab homes in Morocco, Syria and the Arabian peninsula.

Learn about round tents, clay dwellings and magnificent houses with inner courtyards through evocative pictures.

> For the free tour, call 6332-3858 or e-mail nmu_nationalmuseum@nhb.gov.sg. Maximum of 18 participants per session.

Nasiu Lunch in the museum at 11am (26-02, tel: 6336-8779) or W4 (06-0465, tel: 6337-1397).

Tuck into European-style dishes at Novum, a chic restaurant and bar in the museum's main courtyard. Try the daily-changing four-course lunch set menu ($45), or splash out on a main course by ordering the Warga beef tenderloin with garlic, pears, parmesan and served English spinach ($39).

Or drop by the cool W4 for delicious sandwiches and desserts. Try a fanny drink like a lemon lavender mocktail ($5).

Singapore Philatelic Museum
23B Coleman Street, Mon to Sat 9am to 7pm (Sun), Mon to Thu 9am to 7pm
3pm Scroll over to Singapore's stamp museum for a tour that will take you around Fort Canning Hill and the Singapore River.

Called Down Memory Lane, A Postcard Trail, the tour will weave in stories about Singapore from more than 100 years ago. Bonus: Everyone also gets a free postcard for participating.

Too tired for the sun? There is plenty to see in the shade of the museum, with seven galleries of international and local stamps, first-day covers and original stamp artwork.

If you have children, take them to an exhibition called An Nyeon Haeyo Korea! (Hello Korea! in Korean).

It features the museum's collection of Korean stamps (above right) as well as artefacts such as yoon, Korean kites, and hanbok, the Korean traditional dress.

> Admission to the museum is $8 for adults and $4 for senior citizens, students and children.

To register for the tour, call 6337-3888 or e-mail nhb_npmuseum@nhb.gov.sg. Tickets are $7 for adults and $5 for children. Maximum of 15 participants per session.

> 4.45pm Would you like to say "oui" to "parlez-vous Francais"? Attend a free beginner's French class called Bonjour.

If you don't manage to get into the class, which has a capacity of 15, wander around the rest of the colonial building, which will be bustling with activity.

To stay up to date with Idealism, a gorgeous exhibition by hot contemporary Chinese artist Zeng Fanzhi.

The subject matter of the show's 36 works is intriguing: tragic masked men, gory hospital scenes and bloody scenes.

> The French class is free, but visitors must pay museum admission fees of $9 for adults and $4 for senior citizens, students and children.

Singapore Art Museum (far right)
71 Bras Basah Road, Mon to Thu 10am to 7pm, Fri to Sun 10am to 9pm
6.30pm Go to Speakasy Vs Dubwise, a party that blends hip-hop, poetry and drum and bass music.

> E-mail nhb_sam_programs@nhb.gov.sg or call 6332-3200. Tickets are $4.

7pm Join the afterparty at Joe Cool III's at Singapore Management University, just across the street from the museum. Kick back with a beer – you'll need it after all that eating, walking and headspace stimulation.