

For residents of [Your Community]

THIS WEEK'S TOPIC · WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 24, 2026

Caves You Can Walk Into

Is a perfect copy of a place worth visiting? Would you rather see a copy up close, or the real thing from behind a rope?

THE STORY IN BRIEF

Singapore's Asian Civilisations Museum presents Buddhist cave art from Dunhuang, an oasis city on China's old Silk Road. The exhibition runs from September 25, 2026, to March 7, 2027, and includes four life-size reproductions of cave interiors.

THREE THINGS TO KNOW

1. The Mogao Caves near Dunhuang were painted over about a thousand years, from the 4th to the 14th century.
2. Visitors' breath and body heat harm the murals, so China limits daily tickets. Three of the four caves copied for Singapore are restricted or closed.
3. The Silk Road was not one road. It was a web of routes that carried silk, spices, religions and ideas between China and the Mediterranean.

SET THE TABLE

A pot of green tea with dried apricots and raisins, a nod to Dunhuang's oasis orchards and the old Silk Road.

Day

Time

Room

Come to talk, or just to listen. Coffee is on us.

No reading needed beforehand. About 45 minutes.