

Your Guide to **HortPark & the Southern Ridges**

A seamless expanse of green open spaces, the Southern Ridges is a 10-km trail that offers a unique outdoor experience in the southwest of Singapore.

From the many architecturally striking bridges and walkways, trekkers can enjoy a panoramic view of the verdant greenery in the three parks and one nature reserve that make up the Southern Ridges – the lush hilly parks of Mount Faber, Telok Blangah Hill and Kent Ridge, and the rich flora and fauna of Labrador Nature Reserve.

Themed gardens in HortPark featuring the latest in garden and landscape designs will satisfy any gardening enthusiast or interest a curious trekker.

Replace the sounds of the hustle and bustle of city life with the symphony of insects and birds, and explore one of Singapore's most exciting recreational destinations.

Route A - From Mount Faber Park – Telok Blangah Hill Park – HortPark – Kent Ridge Park

Route B - From Mount Faber Park – Telok Blangah Hill Park – Labrador Nature Reserve



Difficulty level: **Moderate to Challenging**



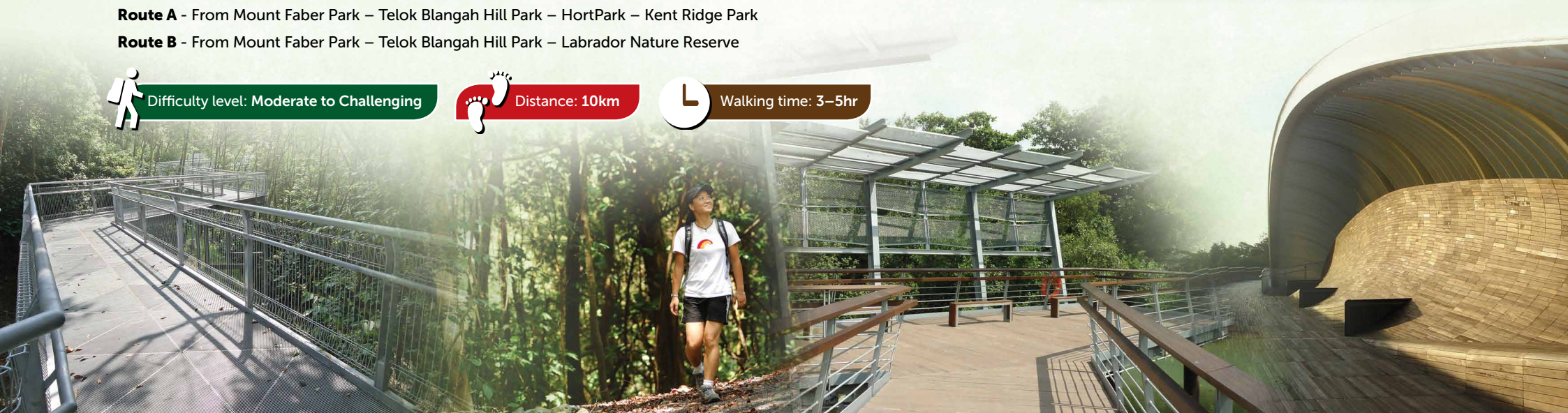
Distance: **10km**




Walking time: **3–5hr**

Tips for a safe and enjoyable trip

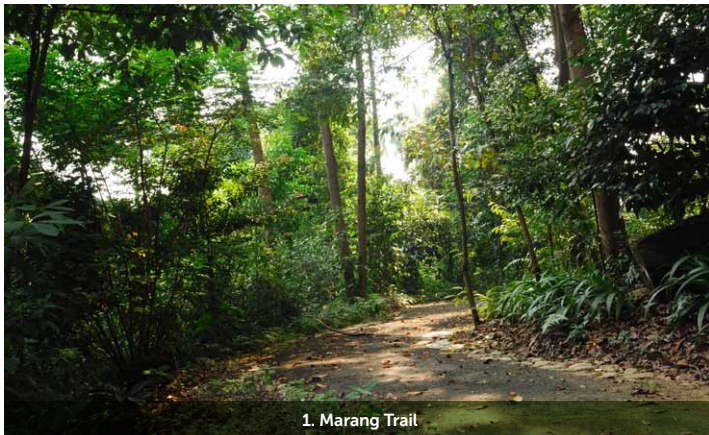
- Do not feed the monkeys and refrain from bringing food items or plastic bags into the Southern Ridges as the monkeys may snatch your food or bags and hurt you in the process.
- Activities such as poaching and releasing of animals, damaging or removing plants, and those that cause pollution are strictly prohibited.
- Do your part to bring rubbish out of the park or dispose of them at the nearest bin.
- Do not speak or play music loudly.
- Do not cordon off any area for your exclusive use.
- Clean up after your pets and keep them leashed.
- Smoking is not allowed.
- Camping is not allowed.





1

Marang Trail



1. Marang Trail



Greater Racket-tailed Drongo



Saga Tree



START POINT (Route A)

► 1 Marang Trail: Mount Faber Park

The loud chirping of cicadas breaks the silence of the forest as you step off the escalator exiting HarbourFront MRT Station and enter the Marang Trail. If you are lucky, you might spot the Greater Racket-tailed Drongo (*Dicrurus paradiseus*), Black-naped Oriole (*Oriolus chinensis*) and other birds amid the lush greenery.

Highlights:

- Flora and fauna of secondary forest
- Rubber Trees and Angsanans are common in this area.
- Spot the Saga Tree (*Adenanthera pavonina*) with its bright-red seeds, which are popularly collected for use in jewellery and artwork and for symbolising passion and everlasting love.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Difficulty level : Moderate to Challenging
Distance : 0.35km
Walking time : 15min

This trail is not lit after dark. Bring along a torch and take extra precaution if you wish to explore the trail at night. Marang Trail covers an elevation of 70m (the equivalent of a 24-storey building), so this trail may not be suitable for young children, the elderly and those who are less fit.

Getting there:

- By MRT – alight at HarbourFront MRT Station (NE1/CC29) and take Exit D, near Marang Road. The trail begins right after you come out of the station.
- Parking is available at the carpark on Seah Im Street. Bus services at the Bus Depot – 65, 93, 188, 855, 963.



View from Mount Faber Park



2. Faber Walk

► 2 Faber Walk

At the top of Marang Trail, the mostly sheltered Faber Walk takes you on a loop around the peak of Mount Faber. Follow the paved walkways to enjoy spectacular views of the southern part of Singapore and the Southern Islands. At night, the twinkling lights of the distant city mesmerises observers.

Chill out with a beer or have an ice-cream at any of the food and beverage establishments at The Jewel Box while enjoying breathtaking views of the harbour and Southern Islands.

Highlights:

- Bird's eye view of Singapore's waterfront and the Southern Islands.
- The Jewel Box
- Merlion Sculpture at Faber Point
- Mural Walk depicting the early history of Singapore

USEFUL INFORMATION

Difficulty level : Easy
Distance : 0.8km
Walking time : 15min



3. Henderson Waves



Brahminy Kite

► **3 Henderson Waves:** Telok Blangah Hill Park
At the start of Henderson Waves (Mount Faber Plaza) stands a nutmeg tree – a symbol of this area's past when it was a nutmeg plantation. Walk a little further and you will see the distinctive wave-like structure of the 274m-long pedestrian bridge that matches its name perfectly.

This charming, wood-panelled bridge was built to improve connectivity between nature areas. A series of seven undulating "ribs" double up as alcoves and provide shelter. Between 7pm to 7am daily, the bridge takes on a different look, with the wave-form lit up by attractive LED lights.

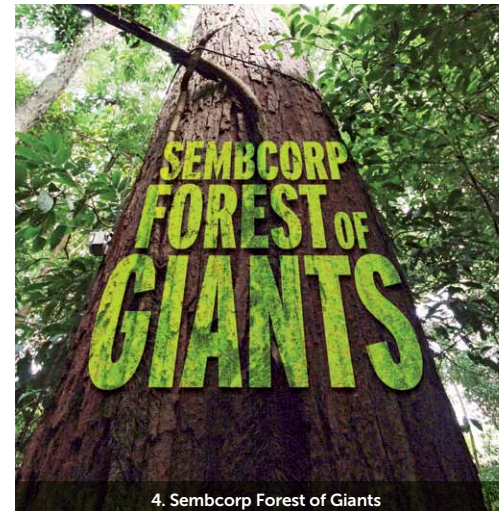
Birdwatchers visiting between September and April get to spot various birds, such as Brahminy Kite (*Haliastur indus*), raptors and other winter visitors, from atop the bridge. Take a quick breather at the old guard house and hydrate yourself before carrying on with the journey.

Highlights:

- Tallest pedestrian bridge in Singapore
- Award-winning architecture
- Look out for carvings on the slats that mark out the height at various points on the bridge.
- Good spot for viewing migratory birds of prey
- Wheelchair-friendly

USEFUL INFORMATION

Difficulty level : Easy
Distance : 0.3km
Walking time : 10min



4. Sembcorp Forest of Giants



Tualang

Jelutong

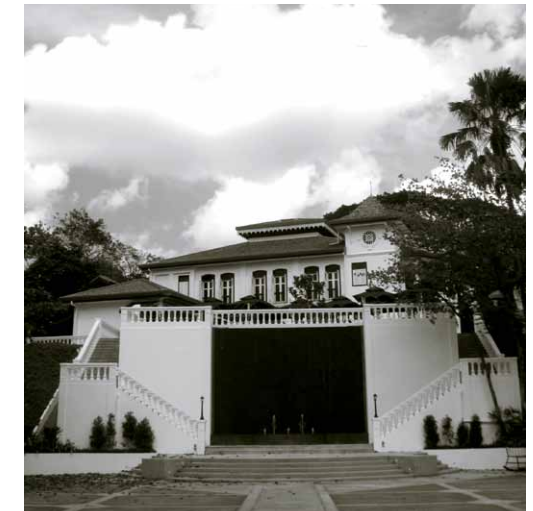
► 4 Sembcorp Forest of Giants

Past the Henderson Waves and on the right is Sembcorp Forest of Giants, a living gallery of giant tree species that are threatened in the region. Sponsored by Sembcorp via NParks' registered charity and IPC, Garden City Fund, the forest has a collection of more than 600 trees that were planted to educate people about these towering species and raise awareness for reforestation.

The restroom next to the Sembcorp Forest of Giants is a good place to take a break before you continue to the next attraction.

Highlights:

- Giant native trees can grow as tall as 60–80m when they mature.
- Look out for Tualang (*Koompassia excelsa*), Kempas (*Koompassia malaccensis*) and Jelutong (*Dyera costulata*).



5. Alkaff Mansion

► 5 Alkaff Mansion

A hundred metres from Sembcorp Forest of Giants lies the white and orange Alkaff Mansion at Telok Blangah Green. This unique conservation mansion restored by the Singapore Tourism Board serves authentic Italian cuisine to visitors drawn to its historic charm.

A panoramic view of Singapore can be enjoyed from the semicircular terraces of the Terrace Garden, which is the vantage point of Telok Blangah Hill Park.

Highlights:

- Alkaff Mansion was built primarily as a retreat for the Alkaff family and to entertain their numerous clients and guests. Their American guests would sometimes refer to the hill as Mount Washington.

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6. Forest Walk



Pink-necked Green Pigeon



Straw-headed Bulbul



Common lora



Brown-throated Sunbird



Simpo air

► 6 Forest Walk

Take a stroll on the step-free elevated Forest Walk of Telok Blangah Hill Park. Enjoy 1.3km of lush secondary forest canopy before moving on to Alexandra Arch.

The triangular-shaped leaves of the fast-growing "Mile-a-Minute" plant (*Mikania micrantha*) inspired the elevated floors of the walkway. From there, you can spot Simpo Air (*Dillenia indica*), a large common shrub. In the past, hawkers and villagers used its leaves to wrap food items.

Highlights:

- Rich biodiversity
- The elevated walkway is an excellent platform for spotting birds such as the Pink-necked Green Pigeon (*Treron vernans*), Yellow-vented Bulbul (*Pycnonotus goiavier*), Common lora (*Aegithina tiphia*), Brown-throated Sunbird (*Anthreptes malacensis*), Black-naped Oriole (*Oriolus chinensis*), Spotted Dove (*Streptopelia chinensis*) and Straw-headed Bulbul (*Pycnonotus zeylanicus*).

USEFUL INFORMATION

Difficulty level : Easy (Elevated walkway),
Moderate (Earth trail)
Distance : 1.3km
Walking time : 35min



7. The Singing Forest



Dollarbird



White-throated Kingfisher

► 7 The Singing Forest

Midway through Forest Walk, you will find the Singing Forest, an area with more than 200 bird-attracting trees native to the region.

While there is no guarantee that any particular bird species will lend its voice to the Singing Forest, NParks' tree planning ensures that food sources for them are increased so as to attract a larger number and a wider variety of birds.

Highlights:

- Bird species spotted here are the Common Tailorbird (*Orthotomus sutorius*), White-throated Kingfisher (*Halcyon smyrnensis*) and Dollarbird (*Eurystomus orientalis*).



8. Alexandra Arch



► 8 Alexandra Arch

Alexandra Arch links Forest Walk to Floral Walk at HortPark. This 80m-long bridge opens like a leaf over Alexandra Road. In the evening, attractive colour-changing LED lights on the bridge complement the dusk falling over the forested hill parks. It is a dazzling sight you do not want to miss!

USEFUL INFORMATION

Difficulty level : Easy
Distance : 80m
Walking time : 2min



9. HortLawn



Water Garden



Edible Gardens



Pitter Patter Potter Garden



► 9 HortPark

Be greeted by a floral runway at HortPark – a unique park that brings together nature appreciation and gardening-related activities, be it recreational, educational, research or retail.

Families and trekkers can relax by the Water Garden while children run freely on HortLawn, a spacious plot next to the Greenhouse. The Greenhouse-Garden Retail area offers gardening items for sale or you can simply grab a quick snack and cool down with a drink.

Take two hours to explore the rest of this 23-hectare park, which features a collection of beautiful themed gardens suitable for indoor and outdoor activities. Next to the Vineyard, an alfresco fine dining restaurant, is the Lifestyle Corner, an area where you can find a range of indoor plants and DIY decor ideas for your home or office.

Walk down the boardwalk and enjoy the various

themed gardens that showcase to home owners different concepts and gardening trends. Children will also gain a better appreciation of plants and nature.

Highlights:

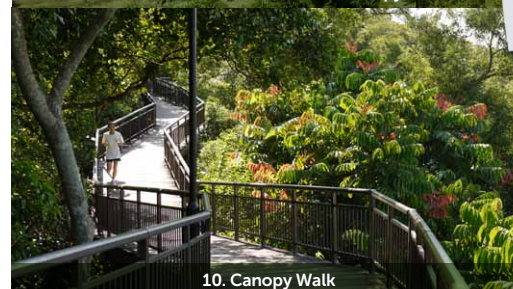
- Explore the themed garden displays such as Silver Garden, Plant Introduction Garden, Home Gardens, Native & Cultural Gardens, Edible Gardens, Community Gardens, Golden Garden, Prototype Glasshouses.
- Pitter Patter Potter Garden is where children learn about plants and various seed dispersal methods through active and experiential learning.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Difficulty level : Easy
Distance : 3.2km
Walking time : 2hr



View from Canopy Walk

Reflections at
Bukit Chandu

10. Canopy Walk

END POINT (Route A)

► 10 Canopy Walk: Kent Ridge Park

Past the Prototype Glasshouses is a park connector that links HortPark to Kent Ridge Park. The Canopy Walk can be reached via this park connector.

Canopy Walk is yet another trail on the Southern Ridges that offers trekkers the experience of walking through a secondary forest at eye-level with the forest canopy. It takes about 10 minutes to explore this 280m-long boardwalk that links Kent Ridge Park to the museum "Reflections at Bukit Chandu".

Listen out for the sounds of birds and insects interrupting the serenity of the park. Sunbirds, doves, squirrels, lizards and the White-crested Laughingthrush (*Garrulax leucolophus*) are part of the rich biodiversity thriving here.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Difficulty level : Easy
Distance : 0.3km
Walking time : 10min

The boardwalk is disabled-friendly – it allows access to people in wheelchairs as well as parents with baby strollers.

Highlights:

- Largest number and species of dragonflies recorded
- Large number of birds
- Flora such as pitcher plants and wild orchids can be found.
- This area is rich in historical value. One of the last battles for Singapore was fought on this hill, which overlooks the harbour and the British military depots in the Ayer Rajah area. To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, a plaque was installed at Carpark B.
- Reflections at Bukit Chandu Museum houses the history of Opium Hill and the Malay Regiment that defended the Pasir Panjang area in World War II.
- Access from Pepsys Road or Tembusu Grove to the boardwalk is wheelchair-friendly and accessible for parents with strollers.

Getting to the nearest MRT Station:

- Walk down Pepsys Road to Pasir Panjang MRT Station.
- Walk to end of Science Park Drive. Take bus service 92 to Kent Ridge MRT Station.
- Walk down Vigilante Drive. Take bus service 200 to Haw Par Villa MRT Station.

HortPark & the Southern Ridges guided tours, workshops and gardening talks are available for both adults and children.

For more details, email us at nparks_hortpark@nparks.gov.sg, visit www.nparks.gov.sg/thesouthernridges or call our hotline at 6471 5601.

We hope you have enjoyed exploring HortPark and the Southern Ridges. For another exciting experience, embark on one of the loops in the Park Connector Network.

www.nparks.gov.sg/eguides
www.facebook.com/nparksbuzz

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Bakau Pasir and Nipah Palm



Pavilion at Labrador Park MRT Station



Alexandra Arch



The Singing Forest



Forest Walk



Alkaff Mansion



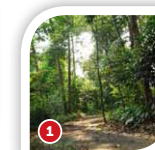
Sembcorp Forest of Giants



Henderson Waves



Faber Walk



Marang Trail



Berlayer Creek



Dragon's Teeth Gate



Red Beacon



Old Fort Entrance



6-inch Cannon



Labrador Nature Reserve

Route B:

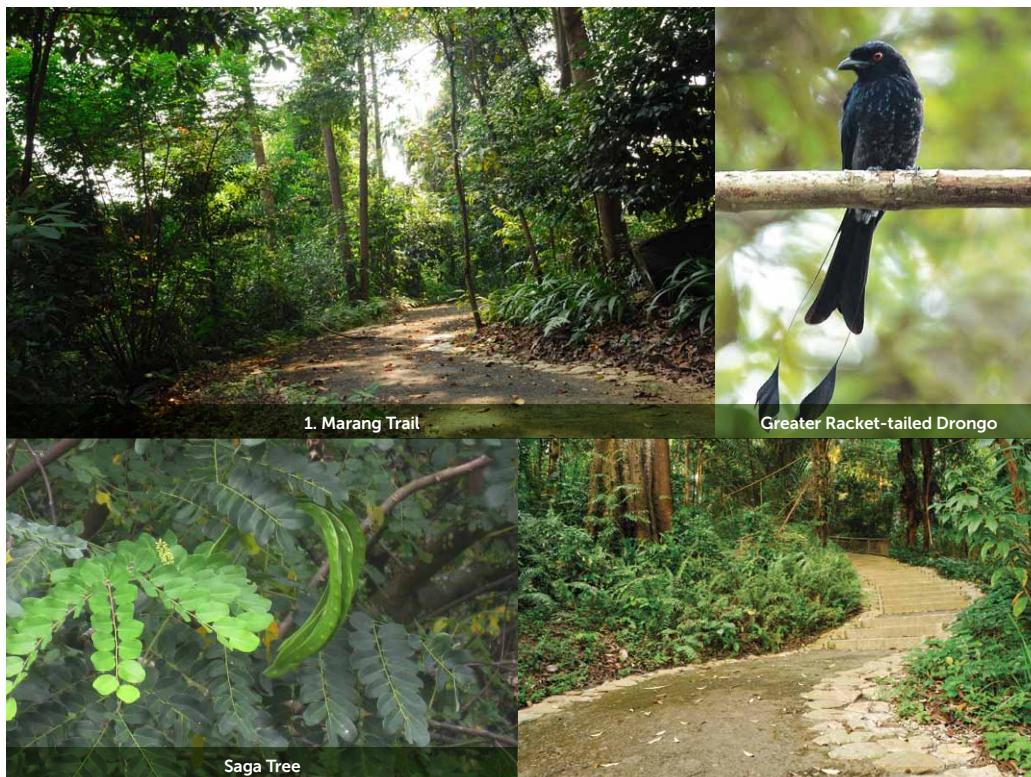
From Mount Faber Park – Telok Blangah Hill Park – Labrador Nature Reserve (3–5hr)

This route takes you on a trail from the eastern edge of the Southern Ridges to the remaining mangroves in the south of our island. You will go through **Mount Faber Hill**, past the iconic **Henderson Waves** and up **Forest Walk**, before continuing on to **Alexandra Garden Trail** and ending at **Berlayer Creek**.

(Back to Introduction page)



Your Guide to
HortPark & the Southern Ridges



1. Marang Trail

Greater Racket-tailed Drongo

Saga Tree

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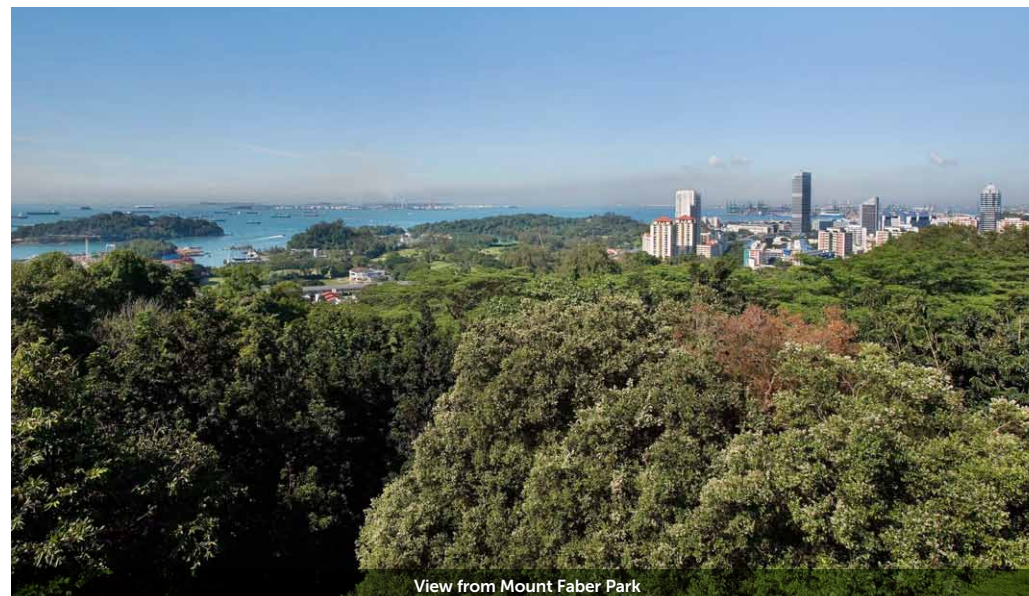
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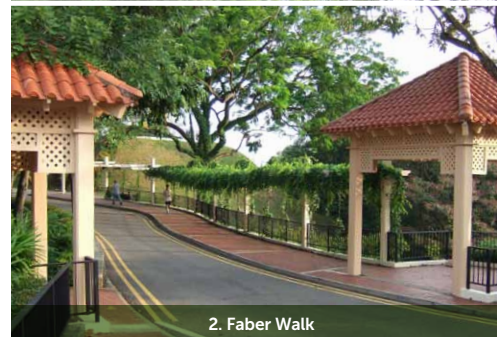
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View from Mount Faber Park



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Brahminy Kite

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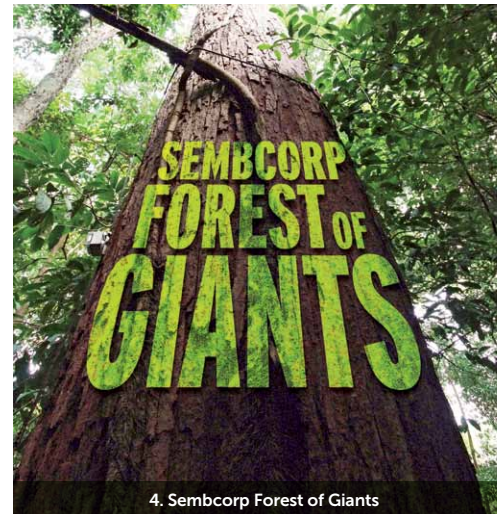
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- Award-winning architecture
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- Good spot for viewing migratory birds of prey
- Wheelchair-friendly

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Walking time : 10min



4. Sembcorp Forest of Giants



Tualang

Jelutong

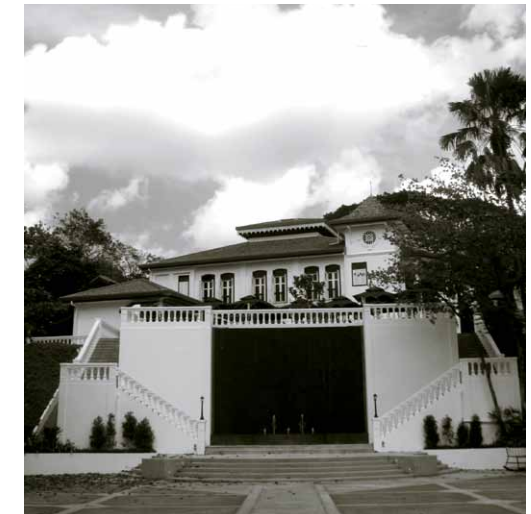
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A panoramic view of Singapore can be enjoyed from the semicircular terraces of the Terrace Garden, which is the vantage point of Telok Blangah Hill Park.

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6. Forest Walk



Pink-necked Green Pigeon



Straw-headed Bulbul



Common Iora



Brown-throated Sunbird



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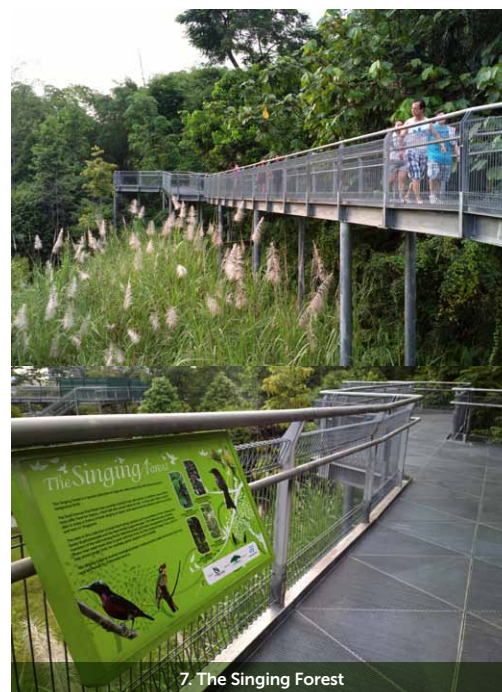
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Highlights:

- Rich biodiversity
- The elevated walkway is an excellent platform for spotting birds such as the Pink-necked Green Pigeon (*Treron vernans*), Yellow-vented Bulbul (*Pycnonotus goiavier*), Common Iora (*Aegithina tiphia*), Brown-throated Sunbird (*Anthreptes malacensis*), Black-naped Oriole (*Oriolus chinensis*), Spotted Dove (*Streptopelia chinensis*) and Straw-headed Bulbul (*Pycnonotus zeylanicus*).

USEFUL INFORMATION

Difficulty level : Easy (Elevated walkway),
Moderate (Earth trail)
Distance : 1.3km
Walking time : 35min



7. The Singing Forest



Dollarbird



White-throated Kingfisher

► 7 The Singing Forest

Midway through Forest Walk, you will find the Singing Forest, an area with more than 200 bird-attracting trees native to the region.

While there is no guarantee that any particular bird species will lend its voice to the Singing Forest, NParks' tree planning ensures that food sources for them are increased so as to attract a larger number and a wider variety of birds.

Highlights:

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8. Alexandra Arch



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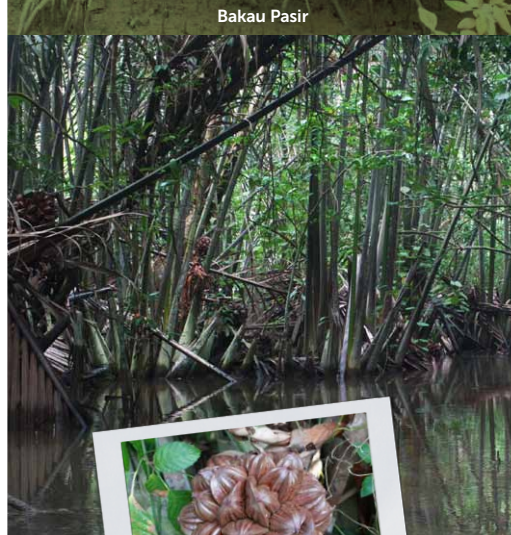
Difficulty level : Easy
Distance : 80m
Walking time : 2min



9. Pavilion at Labrador Park MRT Station



Bakau Pasir



Nipah Palm

Nipah Palm seeds, "attap chee"

► 9 Pavilion at Labrador Park MRT Station

A wood-panelled pavilion stands adjacent to the MRT station. Enjoy a treetop view of the Berlayer Creek from the pavilion's roof deck, which was named after a historic rock formation – *Batu Berlayer* ("Sailing Rock" in Malay) – that once stood at the mouth of the creek.

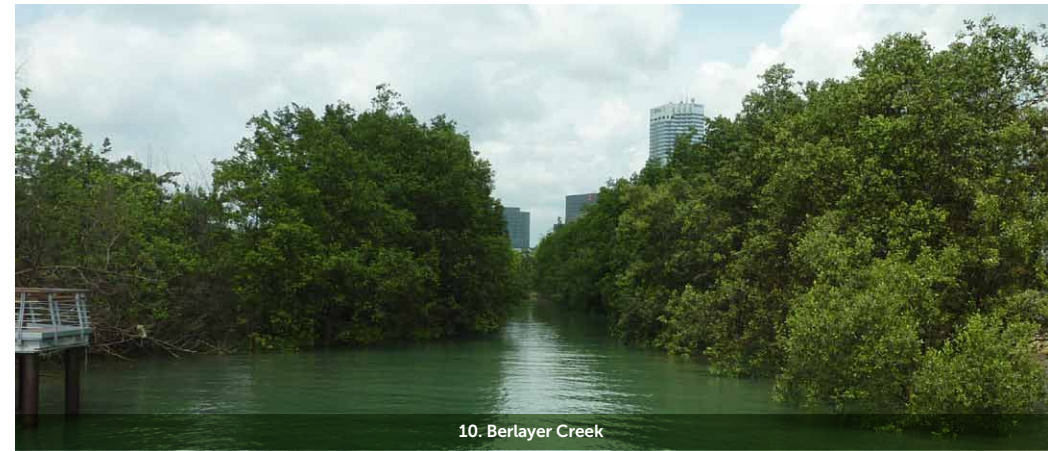
► 10 Bakau Pasir (*Rhizophora stylosa*) and Nipah Palm (*Nypa fruticans*)

Within walking distance from the Creek's entrance, a Bakau Pasir (*Rhizophora stylosa*), stands on the right of the boardwalk. You will be able to identify it by its small, eye-shaped leaves and overground roots. A rare mangrove tree threatened by habitat destruction, the plant's flowers grow on long stalks but the petals fall off soon after blossoming. Found in the tropical northern parts of Australia as well, the Australian aborigines use this plant to make boomerangs, spears and ceremonial objects.

Right next to the Bakau Pasir is the Nipah Palm (*Nypa fruticans*), which is also known as "a plant of a thousand uses". The leaves of this palm were used for thatching roofs back in the olden days. The seeds of the Nipah Palm, known as *attap chee* in Singapore, are commonly added to the local dessert, *ice kacang*. The Nipah Palm is increasingly rare, as most of the mangrove areas have been reclaimed to make way for urban development.

Highlights:

- Enjoy the serene view of mangroves from the look-out decks at Berlayer Creek.
- Rich biodiversity



10. Berlayer Creek



Berlayer Creek – Look-out decks

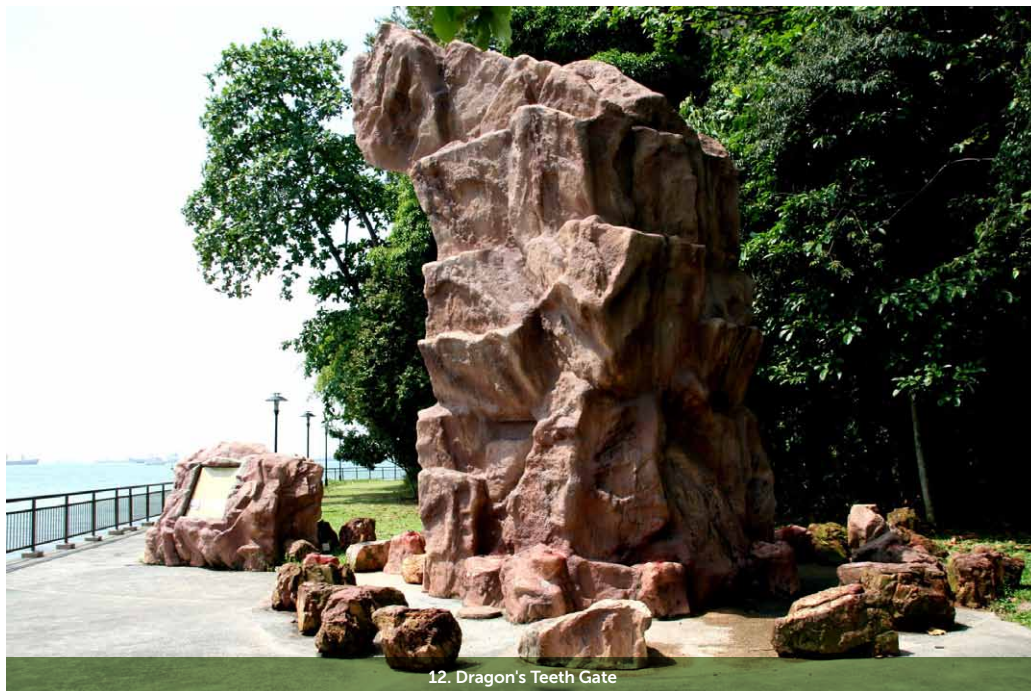
Common Flameback Woodpecker (*Dinopium javanense*)Blue Glassy Tiger (*Ideopsis vulgaris macrina*)

Bukit Chermin Boardwalk

► 11 **Berlayer Creek:** Labrador Nature Reserve
Currently one of two remaining mangroves in the south of mainland Singapore, Berlayer Creek is home to a myriad of flora and fauna.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Difficulty level : Easy
Distance : 0.9km
Walking time : 15min



12. Dragon's Teeth Gate

► 12 Dragon's Teeth Gate

Also known in Chinese as *Long Ya Men*, this stone feature was originally a natural outcrop that stood in the waters just off the shores of Labrador Nature Reserve. These waters now house Keppel Harbour, Singapore's main port since the 19th century. This granite outcrop used to serve as the gateway to Keppel Harbour's western entrance, acting as a navigational guide to sailors travelling through the narrow channel.

The landmark was blown up in 1848 to widen the channel for modern ships to sail through. What stands today is a symbolic replica of the original. It was installed in 2005 when Singapore celebrated the 600th anniversary of famous Chinese explorer Admiral Zheng He's maiden voyage.

Highlights:

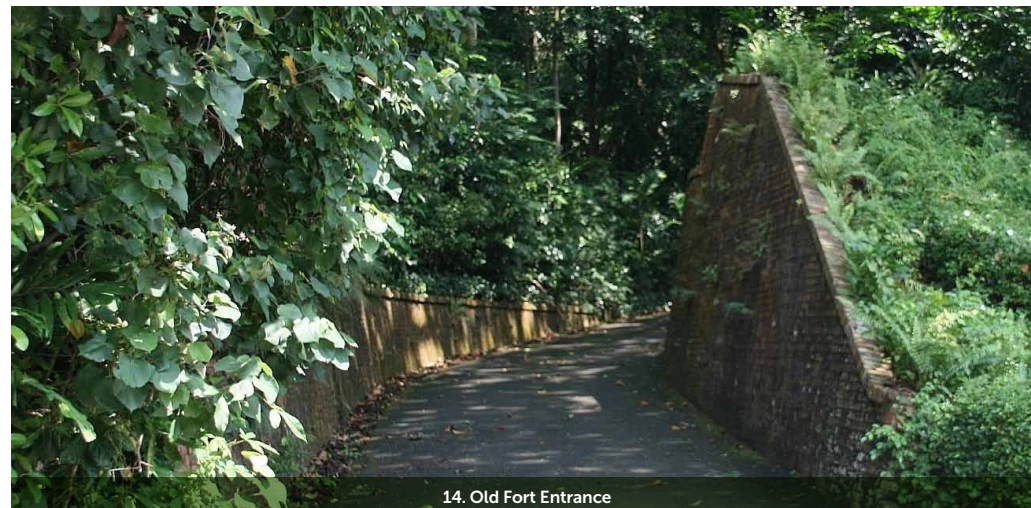
- Symbolic replica of the landmark which was installed in 2005 when Singapore celebrated the 600th anniversary of famous Chinese explorer, Admiral Zheng He's maiden voyage.

► 13 Red Beacon

A stone's throw away from Dragon's Teeth Gate, a red steel beacon stands fenced in by red wire and red concrete. It once served as a navigational guide for mariners, and also marks the shortest distance between Sentosa and mainland Singapore (about 240m).



Sentosa Island



14. Old Fort Entrance



WWII Machine Gun Post



15. 6-inch Cannon

► 14 Old Fort Entrance

Enter the Old Fort Entrance and you will be surrounded by the remaining brick walls of an old fort built around 1886. A portcullis (vertical iron gate) spanned the gateway of this sea wall, preventing access to the fort from the sea. Only the infantry could pass through this portcullis. Support for the garrison, including supplies and ammunition, had to arrive by sea. This made the portcullis the only gateway to the fort until a road was built in 1892.

► 15 6-inch Cannon

Get acquainted with the display of six-inch, quick firing cannons from Singapore's colonial past. These war relics were discovered at the former Beach Road Camp in 2001.

These cannons, aimed south and seaward with concrete barriers behind them, were installed as a form of defence against coastal attacks. However, during the 1942 invasion, the Japanese attacked from the north. In the battle for Pasir Panjang, these guns aided the Malay Regiment by firing high explosive shells at enemy troops advancing along the coastal road. Tunnels and bunkers beneath the battery were used to supply ammunition and to house the troops.

Highlights:

- See war relics that were part of Singapore's colonial past.



16. Rocky shores of Labrador Nature Reserve

Barringtonia flower (*Barringtonia asiatica*)Screw Pine (*Pandanus utilis*)Sea Grape (*Coccoloba uvifera*)Malayan Water Monitor Lizard (*Varanus salvator*)

END POINT (Route B)

► 16 Labrador Nature Reserve

In this nature reserve, there are two types of habitats – coastal cliffs and rocky shores. As one of Singapore's four protected nature reserves, Labrador Nature Reserve provides a safe haven for a diverse range of organisms.

Interesting features help coastal plants thrive in the harsh, windy environment here. Discover rich wartime and maritime history while experiencing breathtaking scenery in a wide variety of habitats. Singapore's only protected coastal rocky shore is also found here.

Highlights:

- Rich wartime and maritime history
- Breathtaking scenery in a wide variety of habitats
- Singapore's only protected coastal rocky shore is found here.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Difficulty level : Easy
Distance : 4.5km
Walking time : 2.5hr



Getting to the nearest MRT Station:

- Walk down Labrador Villa Road towards Labrador Park MRT Station.

Other forms of transport available at Labrador Nature Reserve

Bus services

- Service Parks 408 is a direct service that plies between HarbourFront Bus Interchange and Labrador Nature Reserve (Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays from 11am to 9pm). The service departs from the interchange every 30 minutes.

HortPark & the Southern Ridges guided tours, workshops and gardening talks are available for both adults and children.

For more details, email us at nparks_hortpark@nparks.gov.sg, visit our website or call our hotline at 6471 5601.

We hope you have enjoyed exploring HortPark and the Southern Ridges. For another exciting experience, embark on one of the loops in the Park Connector Network.

www.nparks.gov.sg/eguides
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