

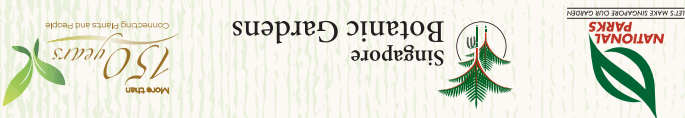


Learning Forest  
**Singapore Botanic Gardens**  
 UNESCO World Heritage Site

**A Guide to the Learning Forest Walking Trails at the Singapore Botanic Gardens**

The Learning Forest lies on the southwestern edge of the Gardens. It brings visitors on an immersive experience of the secondary rainforest and through the rare and diminishing habitat of the freshwater swamp forest.

The development of the Learning Forest took reference from maps dating back as far as the early 19th century to restore the former topography, hydrology and habitats in that area.



Or visit [www.sbg.org.sg](http://www.sbg.org.sg)  
[www.facebook.com/singaporebotanicgardens](https://www.facebook.com/singaporebotanicgardens)

Visitor Services & General Enquiries:  
 Telephone: 1800-471 7300 Fax: 6467 4832  
 Email: NParks\_sbg\_visitor\_services@nparks.gov.sg

To reach the Learning Forest by foot will vary from 5 minutes to 20 minutes depending on your point of entry into the Gardens.  
 Lake Bridge.

At the Gardens' major entrances, look out for mapboards and directional signs to the Learning Forest. The Learning Forest can be accessed from the National Orchid Garden, Ginger Garden and Swan Lake Bridge.

Parking/drop off points are available at Tyersall Car Park, off Holland Road.  
 At the Gardens' major entrances, look out for mapboards and directional signs to the Learning Forest. The Learning Forest can be accessed from the National Orchid Garden, Ginger Garden and Swan Lake Bridge.

**How to get to The Learning Forest:**  
 The Learning Forest is located within the Singapore Botanic Gardens, which is easily accessible by bus (service numbers 7, 75, 77, 105, 106, 123, 174; alight at Napier Road B03 or B04) or by MRT (Botanic Gardens station).

**Distance:**  
 Canopy trail, 1.4 km (for the protection of the nature area, no pets are not accessible for wheelchairs or strollers)  
 Discovery trail, 1 km (the Pulau Marsh and Botanist Boardwalk are allowed)

**Opening hours:**  
 Daily from 5:00am to 12:00 midnight.  
 SPH Walk of Giants and Keppel Discovery Wetlands will be closed from 7:00pm to 7:00am to maintain a conducive habitat for wildlife.

**Estimated average walking time:**  
 1.5 - 2 hours  
 Admission to the Learning Forest is free.

**Visitor Information**

Today, the 10-hectare nature area has over 700 species of plants and several prized living collections. Its collection of Staghorn Ferns (*Platycerium* sp.) is one of the most comprehensive grown anywhere.



Staghorn Ferns



*Nymphoides indica* flower  
 (Photo credit: Vicky Lim)



*Burkillanthus malaccensis* stem  
 (Photo credit: Jessica Teo)



*Stelechocarpus burahol* fruit  
 (Photo credit: Patricia Yap)



Black Crown Night Heron  
 (Photo credit: Cyrena Lin)



Four Lined Tree Frog  
 (Photo credit: Cyrena Lin)

**Viewing points**

Panoramic views of the northern parts of the Learning Forest can be enjoyed from an 8 m high boardwalk that stretches over the wetlands.



The scenery from the boardwalk that snakes through the forest is equally pleasant with views of forest birds and butterflies up in the tree canopies.



Common Flameback  
 (Photo credit: Cyrena Lin)



Painted Jezebel  
 (Photo credit: Cyrena Lin)



Carpenter Bee  
 (Photo credit: Steffi Loe)



**Observations:**

1. Come prepared to explore the Learning Forest. Be sure to bring along your water bottles, hats, walking shoes and dress in comfortable clothing.
2. Our animals hide when they hear loud noises. Walk quietly and you will spot more of them.
3. Please do not feed our animals, they have enough food in the forest.
4. Please be gentle and kind to our plants. Take nothing from the forest except photographs, leave nothing behind but footprints.

**Forest:**

**How to enjoy the Learning Forest:**

# Canopy Trail Points (1.4km) :

## 1. Canarium Drive

Walk along the driveway of the previous owners of the land. The *Canarium* trees here are believed to be more than 100 years old. If you come at the right time of the year, you will find many black fruits from the *Canarium* tree along the path. These fruits are traditionally known as 'Buah kana'.

## 2. Durian Theory

The Durian Theory on the evolution of trees, was proposed by E J H Corner, one of the pioneering botanists of the Singapore Botanic Gardens. Although the theory has since been refuted by most botanists, his ideas stimulated research and the detailed studies on fruit morphology necessary to formulate the theory are still valuable for researchers.

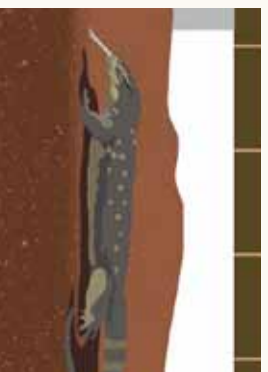
## 3. Bark of Trees

Bark morphology, the shape and form of bark, is a very little studied field of science. At this rest point, visitors can find out more about the diversity of bark types, as well as the science of bark formation.



## 4. Tunnels

To preserve the ecological connection between the eastern and western parts of the forest, tunnels were constructed under the boardwalk. These tunnels are not only useful for reptiles, but for a variety of other creepy crawlies that may want to traverse from one side to the other.



## 5. Products of the Forest

It has been well established that the forest is an invaluable, and sadly diminishing, natural resource. Come and explore the trees from which the materials are sourced to produce the crackers that you may enjoy, the chairs that you sit on, and many other products that we often use. Can you identify the plants?



Photo credit: Boo Chih Min



## 6. SPH Walk of Giants

Walk amongst the towering trees and reach the height of the canopies of species such as Sea Apple tree (*Syzygium grande*), Tembusu (*Cyrtophyllum fragrans*) and Medang (*Litsea elliptica*). Other saplings that will one day grow into giants include the Yellow Meranti (*Shorea faguuetiana*) and the Changi tree (*Sindora wallichii*).



## 7. Canopy Web

Well-loved by children and adults alike, the Canopy Web suspends you high off the ground. Enjoy the web, but take care of your belongings – coins and other small items may fall through the gaps.



Photo credit: Kathleen Yap

## 8. Rubiaceae collection

As children growing up in Singapore, you may remember tasting the nectar from flowers of *Ixora* shrubs. The collection here includes a wide variety of species related to *Ixora* in the plant family *Rubiaceae*, from trees to shrubs.

## 9. The Keppel Discovery Wetlands

The Keppel Discovery Wetlands is a re-creation of a freshwater swamp habitat. The Orchid Islands is one of the highlights of the wetlands, showcasing a large number of native and cultivated hybrids of orchids and an island with a stunning display of Tiger Orchids (the largest orchid in the world).

# Discovery Trail Points (1km) :

## 10. Cerbera Pond

This pond, featuring *Cerbera* trees, more commonly referred to as 'Pong-pong' trees, is also a biofiltration pond. Rain water from the coach park, car park and visitor services area is funneled through a series of swales that lead to the Cerbera Pond. Here, the silt, nutrients and other pollutants are removed from the rain water before it is discharged into the wetlands.

## 11. Rassaau-Belt

'Rassaau' is the Malay term for Pandan. Find species of *Pandanus* that grow like trees – more than 3 m in height!

## 12. Wild Fruit Trees

Fruiting almost all year round, the Kaya Mata Hari common name (*Lepisanthes amoena*) is a close relative of the Longan tree (*Dimocarpus longan*). Although edible, its fruits of Kaya Mata Hari are very sour, unlike the Longan.



LEGEND	
	Visitor Services Counter
	Automated External Defibrillator
	Toilet
	Shelter
	Steps
	Path closed from 7.00pm to 7.00am
	Boardwalk
	Gate
	Vehicular Access
	Drop-off Point
	Taxi Stand
	Carpark
	Coach/Car Parking

## 17. Botanists' Boardwalk

The Singapore Botanic Gardens is the result of years of hard work by the Gardens' team as well as the defining visions of several key people. The Botanists' Boardwalk commemorates the founding fathers of the Gardens, such as Henry Ridley, Henry Burkill and E J H Corner.

## 18. Wetlands Elevated Boardwalk

Raised 8 m above the water's surface, this boardwalk affords visitors a 360 degree view of the wetlands (opening hours 7am-7pm).



## 13. Bambusetum

Bamboos are the tall relatives of grasses. They can even grow taller than some trees! The Giant Bamboo (*Dendrocalamus giganteus*), which can be found in the middle of the Bambusetum, grows up to 30 m tall.



## 14. Pelawan Belt

Take a break at the shelter and take some pictures of the whole wetlands from this breathtaking view point.

## 15. Canarium Pond

Surrounded by majestic *Canarium* trees, the Canarium Pond is a biofiltration pond that collects water from Tyersall Avenue and the Bambusetum area. It is dry most of the time, but listen carefully and you will realize that it is teeming with frog life.

## 16. Pulau Marsh

Two species of Pulau (*Alstonia pneumatophora* and *Alstonia spatulata*) are found in freshwater swamp forest. They are able to withstand perpetually waterlogged soils and have special features that help to keep their roots alive underwater.