

Discover the Southern Islands

A guide to St John's, Lazarus and Seringat



About the Islands

The St John's, Lazarus, Seringat and Kias Islands are about 5 km south of mainland Singapore and just about 2 km or a short 15-minute ferry ride away from Sentosa Island.

This cluster is part of the Southern Islands which also comprises Sentosa and another 4 more islands - Pulau Tekukor, Kusu, Big Sister's and Small Sister's Islands (Pulau Subar Laut and Pulau Subar Darat respectively).

St John's Island

In the past, the island was formally known by its indigenous Malay name of Pulau Sekijang Bendera – “One Barking Deer Flag Island”. This is attributed to a legend of barking deer on the island, and a physical flagstaff as indication to passing ships calling on the port of Singapore. The current name of St John was rumoured to have been derived from the British mis-pronunciation of the island's local name of ‘Sekijang’.

Over time, the multiple historical uses of the island between the 1870s to 1970s include a quarantine station for infectious diseases, detention centre for political prisoners, an opium and drug rehabilitation centre and a refugee shelter. Today, St John's Island is used mainly for recreation, research activities in the Marine Aquaculture Centre and St John's Island National Marine Laboratory.



Gogreen Eco Adventure (Bicycle Rental Kiosk)



Marine Park Public Gallery on St John's Island



Escape from St John's Island by Tribe Tours



Ex medical station and current day chalet on St John's Island

Lazarus Island

Lazarus Island (Pulau Sekijang Pelepah where ‘pelepah’ refers to the palm fronds that used to adorn the island) was once home to the Orang Laut (sea people) and Orang Pulau (island people) community. Kampongs (villages) consisting of wooden houses on stilts straddled the coastline, with villagers living off the surrounding seas and island flora. A small population of about 400 villagers lived on the island, but they are part of a larger community of islanders beyond Lazarus, connected by the spirit of Gotong Royong (community spirit). The name ‘Lazarus’, derived from the word ‘lazaretto’ which means ‘healing station’ in Italian, named after the quarantine station located at St John's Island.

The last of its residents relocated to mainland Singapore in mid-1970s, though the island is still very much abound with its wildlife inhabitants – eagles soaring overhead, colourful insects flitting amongst the flowers, monkeys foraging in the trees, and marine creatures that fill the shores and seas with wonder. Today, the natural coastal habitats and pristine beaches create a beautiful island retreat for those looking to escape the city. Here is where you would find a beautiful man-made horseshoe shape lagoon, with its white sandy beaches and clear blue waters.



Tiny Away Escape (Tiny Home Accommodations)



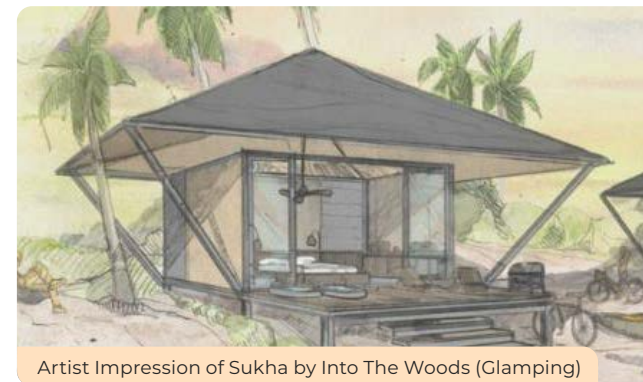
SOL by BDC (Convenience Store)



The Glasshouse Event Space



Lazarus Sea Sports Centre



Artist Impression of Sukha by Into The Woods (Glamping)

Seringat Island

The name ‘Seringit’ means ‘one dollar’ and is derived from the abundance of fish found around the island that villagers used to catch and then put up for sale. Nowadays, visitors can expect to see and enjoy the serene environment in nature that is otherwise hard to find in the bustling city on mainland Singapore.

Island Map

*Map illustration is not drawn to scale

1 The Glasshouse Event Space

A unique space nestled within the Southern Islands 2km south of Sentosa and a 15-minutes ferry ride away from Sentosa Jetty @ Cove. The air-conditioned multi-purpose space boasts floor-to-ceiling glass windows with unblocked sea views. Visit www.sentosa.com.sg/en/plan-your-event/the-glasshouse-at-lazarus for more details on how to book the space for your next event.

2 Tiny Away Escape (Tiny Home Accommodations)

Retire for the day in the comfort of tiny houses, equipped with amenities such as air-conditioning, kitchenettes, bathrooms, and hot shower facilities. The houses are built using eco-friendly materials like reconstituted wood and are powered primarily by solar energy.

3 SOL by BDC (Convenience Store)

Enjoy a curated selection of daily essentials, ready-to-eat meals, and ready-to-grill food items at this convenience store. Featured seafood, herbs, and vegetables are sourced from sustainable and local establishments such as the fish and vertical farms in Singapore.

4 Sukha by Into The Woods (Glamping)

Embrace a slower pace of life by retreating into this sanctuary that is tucked away from the bustle of the city. Expect luxurious eco-friendly amenities, fresh linen and a heavy-duty canvas tent that opens up to uninterrupted coastal views.

5 Lazarus Sea Sports Centre

Check out the variety of water activities that is suitable for all levels. Enjoy standup paddleboarding, kayaking and waterbiking while surrounded by the pristine beauty of the islands, with the guidance of experienced instructors, trained to ensure safe exploration of the sea.

6 Gogreen Eco Adventure (Bicycle Rental Kiosk)

Exploration of the island has gotten easier – discover the tranquil beaches and picturesque views with Gogreen's range of bicycles, kick scooters, camping equipment and island essentials.

15 mins

Kias Island

1

2

4

5

Seringat Island

Seringat Jetty

3

Lazarus Island

6

St John's Island



Scan here for more information on our offerings!

Ideas on Things to Do

Day Trip

Morning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Hop on a ferry at Sentosa Jetty @ Cove.Visit the Sisters' Islands Marine Park Public Gallery at St John's Island National Marine Laboratory to learn more about the marine life around our waters and also the history of the islands.Go on a self-guided St John's Island nature trail with this e-guide (bit.ly/sji-trail) and also observe the standing structures of what remains of the old Quarantine Station.Enjoy water activities or yoga.
Afternoon	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Grab a bite at SOL by BDC (Convenience Store) for a picnic and enjoy the afternoon at Lazarus Island Beach.Rent a bike at Gogreen Eco Adventure (Bicycle Rental Kiosk) and take in the picturesque skyline view at Kias Island.
Evening	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Head back to Sentosa Jetty @ Cove for dinner with night views of the marina.

2 Days 1 Night Trip

Morning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Start off your day with breakfast along Sentosa's beaches.Dive deep and experience the beauty of the underwater world at Resorts World Sentosa's, S.E.A. Aquarium.
Afternoon	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Lunch at Sentosa Cove while enjoying views of the marina.Hop on a ferry at Sentosa Jetty @ Cove.Check into your accommodation for the night at Tiny Away Escape (Tiny Home Accommodations) or Sukha by Into The Woods (Glamping).Water Activities at Lazarus Sea Sports Centre by Camelot.
Evening	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Head back to Sentosa Jetty @ Cove for dinner with night views of the marina.
Morning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Catch the sunrise at Lazarus Island Beach.Head back to Sentosa Jetty @ Cove for brunch to wrap up your trip.

Want to extend your stay?

Consider joining a variety of nature and heritage guided tours on Sentosa and the Southern Islands or charter a cruise to island hop and also visit the Malay shrines and Chinese temple on Kusu Island.

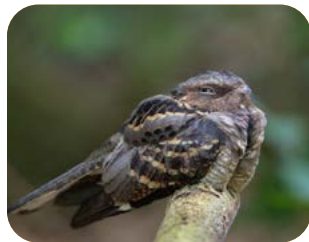
For a full list of things you could do for on Sentosa and the Southern Islands head over to www.sentosa.com.sg.

Nature Highlights

Spot these magnificent wildlife on your trip!

Parts of the islands support rich coastal habitats, each with a complex system connecting all within. Some coastal habitats you can find around the Southern Islands are coastal forests (which are “rare” in Singapore), mangrove patches, intertidal rocky and sandy shores, seagrass meadows, and coral reefs. Here are some of the more common wildlife you may find on your adventures to the Southern Islands!

Terrestrial Treasures



The nocturnal **Large-tailed Nightjar (Caprimulgus macrurus)** often camouflages against dry leaves and can be recognized by their distinct and monotonous calls.

Photo Credit: Francis Yap
Status: IUCN Least Concern



Brahminy Kites (Haliastur indus) are usually spotted over water bodies, scavenging for dead fishes and crabs. They have a unique call similar to that of a whining baby.

Photo Credit: Stephen Beng
Status: IUCN Least Concern



The highly sociable **Scaly-breasted Munia (Lonchura punctulata)** are often found in small flocks. They feed on grass seeds and small berries.

Photo Credit: Stephen Beng
Status: IUCN Least Concern



Common Sandpipers (Actitis hypoleucos) are migrant birds that can be spotted along water bodies, foraging for insects and small crustaceans. Whilst walking, their tails bob up and down in a distinct motion.

Photo Credit: Francis Yap
Status: IUCN Least Concern



White-bellied Sea Eagles (Haliaeetus leucogaster) are often seen near water bodies and coastal areas. They feed primarily on fishes and are identifiable by their white plumage, black underwing, and V-shaped wingspan.

Photo Credit: Stephen Beng
Status: IUCN Least Concern



Blue-throated Bee-eater (Merops viridis) are brightly-coloured insectivorous birds. Their breeding habit is unique, nesting within sandy burrows either found or excavated themselves.

Photo Credit: Stephen Beng
Status: IUCN Least Concern



Gold-ringed Cat Snakes (Boiga dendrophila) are mainly found in mangroves or riverine habitats. During nightfall, they forage for small rodents and amphibians. As it is mildly venomous, it would be wise to avoid it when spotted.

Photo Credit: Noel Thomas
Status: IUCN Least Concern



The **Paradise Tree Snake (Chrysopelea paradisi)** can be found slithering on the crowns of coconut palms. Their mild venom is capable of stunning prey, which largely consists of small, tree-dwelling lizards.

Photo Credit: Noel Thomas
Status: IUCN Least Concern

Marine Marvels

The waters around the islands are also teeming with coral reefs and marine life which are often hidden from view. It is wise to wade cautiously in the waters, sliding your feet instead of stomping, so as to warn any wildlife of your presence and avoid getting stung. Caring for these sensitive habitats is a collective effort, being gentle will not only protect yourself, but also the homes of these marine life for generations to come!



Despite having venomous spines, the **Blue-spotted Ribbontail Stingrays (Taeniura lymma)** are docile and timid creatures. Its bright blue spots serve as a warning that it is venomous and would cause harm when threatened.

Photo Credit: Ria Tan
Status: IUCN Near Threatened



The **Hollow-cheeked Stonefish (Synanceia horrida)** is one of the most dangerous fishes commonly found on our shores. It resembles an encrusted stone that easily camouflages with the sand. Exercise caution whilst walking in shallow waters as its dorsal fin spines are capable of injecting venom that can be fatal to humans.

Photo Credit: Ria Tan
Status: IUCN Least Concern



Sand-sifting Sea Stars (Archaster typicus) are usually found on the beach or barely submerged below sand. Though it looks immobile, it can travel distances with its numerous tube feet found on its underside.

Photo Credit: Ria Tan
Status: Singapore Red Data Book Vulnerable



Horn-eyed Ghost Crab (Ocypode cerathophthalmus) are nocturnal and commonly found within intertidal zones. They can run fast at speeds of up to 2 m/s. Burrows found along the beach is an indicator that the crabs are present.

Photo Credit: Ria Tan
Status: IUCN Unknown



Differing from other crabs, **Land Hermit Crabs (Coenobita violascens)** do not create their own hard carapace for protection. They occupy abandoned shells and as they grow, they search for new shells to use as their homes.

Photo Credit: Ria Tan
Status: IUCN Unknown



Moon Snails (Family Naticidae) are commonly spotted on our sandy shores. It produces hundreds of thousands of eggs in one egg mass and protects it using a combination of sand and mucus. This creates structures called sand collars that one might find while exploring the shores.

Photo Credit: Ria Tan
Status: IUCN Unknown



Giant Carpet Anemone (Stichodactyla gigantea) are usually found amongst the coral rubble near the reefs. Like the closely related jellyfish and corals, they have stinging tentacles for capturing prey. People with sensitive skin may get welts when stung.

Photo Credit: Ria Tan
Status: IUCN Unknown



Tape Seagrass (Enhalus acoroides) creates an important nursery for young marine animals, and is one of the main food sources of the Dugong. It also produces edible fruits that taste like chestnuts when fried.

Photo Credit: Ria Tan
Status: IUCN Vulnerable

Living in Harmony

Understanding the wildlife around us is the first step to co-existing harmoniously. The **Long-tailed Macaques (Macaca fascicularis)** are highly intelligent native primates. Like humans, they express different emotions in different situations. It is good to recognize some of their common facial expressions so as to avoid potential conflicts with them.



Neutral

Photo Credit: Jayasri Lakshminarayanan



Fear Grin

Feeling fearful and anxious, eyes open, mouth closed.

Photo Credit: Jayasri Lakshminarayanan



Baring Teeth

Giving a warning, eyes open, mouth open.

Photo Credit: Jeanne Tan



Yawn

Feeling tired and sleepy, eyes closed, mouth open.

Photo Credit: Jeanne Tan

Make Your Presence Count!

Marine Mammal Sightings

Though it is uncommon knowledge, it is possible to spot wild dolphins in our Singaporean waters! One such species is the **Indo-Pacific Humpbacked Dolphin (Sousa chinensis)**. According to researchers, they are usually spotted near shores including our Southern Islands and Sentosa.



Photo Credit: Karenne Tun



Photo Credit: Stephen Beng

Turtle Sightings

The **Green Turtle (Chelonia mydas)** and the **Hawksbill Turtle (Eretmochelys imbricata)**, both continually return to Singapore's sandy shores to lay their eggs, despite our high rate of urbanisation and busy waters. They are also known to visit the Southern Islands!

If you spot a nesting turtle, speak softly, keep your distance and refrain from using lights and flash photography to avoid scaring it. Also, contact the National Parks Board helpline at **1800 471 7300** to report your sighting.



Scan here for more information on Hawksbill Turtles!

Island Etiquette



Take nothing home but photographs.



Engage qualified guides when exploring intertidal areas as they can provide more insights to what you see and minimise the impact of your visit while keeping you safe.



Bag your litter and take it off the island – you can do your part in keeping the island litter free.



Camping on Lazarus Island is only permitted at SLA designated campsites which are available for booking. Scan the QR code below to book.



Keep your personal belongings always supervised and close to you.



Call the MPA whistle blowing hotline at **+65 6325 2489** if you spot unauthorized high-speed water activities within Eagles Bay.



Stay on the designated paths and tracks – don't stray from the beaten path.



Slide your feet as you wade in the waters look out for stone fish, cone snails, scorpion fish and hard corals which may be venomous or cause injury!



Avoid open fires around the island as they pose a safety risk.



Respect and keep a distance away from the wildlife on the island, they may defend themselves if they feel threatened.



Many tiny animals live among the seagrass around the island. Avoid stepping on their habitats.



Avoid swimming near the St John's Island Jetty and Seringat Jetty where there are constant vessel movements.



Do not use flash whilst photographing wildlife.




Do not feed the wildlife as they have their own natural food sources on the island. Feedings will only encourage them to be reliant on human sources over time.




Scan here to book your campsite!


Getting to the Islands




Board the Sentosa Intra-Island Bus B from Beach Station and alight at Sentosa Cove Village.



Regular ferry services serve Seringat Island on fixed schedules from Sentosa Jetty @ Cove. Visit **www.sentosa.com.sg/ferryservice** or scan the QR code for more details.



Private hire boat services are also available for charter from Sentosa Jetty @ Cove if you prefer a more flexible schedule.



Scan here to explore ferry services!

Contact Us

- Need help? Drop us a message at **<https://www.sentosa.com.sg/en/contact-us/>**
- For emergencies, call Ranger Station at 1800-RANGERS (726 4377), 24/7.

Special Thanks

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