

Image credits: Gardens by the Bay



2 GARDENS BY THE BAY

Gardens by the Bay is a quick getaway to some serious greenery, a 101-ha horticultural park with two conservatories, the Cloud Forest and the Flower Dome. The cool-moist conservatory that is the Cloud Forest features a 35m-tall mountain covered in plants such as orchids and also sports the world's tallest indoor waterfall. Meanwhile, the Flower Dome replicates a cool-dry climate and houses plants from the Mediterranean region and also a Flower Field, where the displays change regularly.

While tickets are required for entry into the domes, the large three surrounding gardens are open to public to enjoy. The highlight within the Bay South Garden is the Children's Garden filled with adventure trails for children as well as the iconic Supertree Grove. The tree-like structures that dominate the Gardens' landscape that functions as an environment engine for the gardens and lights up at night with music for a show of its own. Get up close to the supertrees by exploring the OCBC skyway between the trees.

📍 18 Marina Gardens Drive



3 PULAU UBIN

Hop on a bumboat at Changi Point Ferry Terminal and head to the neighbouring island of Pulau Ubin. Explore the island on a rented bike, admire abundant wildlife at Chek Jawa Wetlands, and step back in time to spot Singapore's last remaining kampongs (Malay hamlets or villages). If you are hesitant to explore the wild on your own, take a tour with Subaraj Rajathurai, a nature tour evangelist who takes us into the untamed areas of Singapore, to experience the ecosystems that he has fought to preserve.

On Pulau Ubin, make your way to its southeastern hook, which is home to the Chek Jawa Wetlands. A confluence of six natural habitats, ranging from rocky beaches to seagrass lagoons, Chek Jawa is a miniature marvel of contrasting ecosystems that's definitely worth exploring.

📍 from Changi Point Ferry Terminal, 51 Lor Bekukong



Image credits: National Parks Board

4 SINGAPORE BOTANIC GARDEN

Singapore's oldest garden became the country's first and only UNESCO World Heritage Site which makes the Singapore Botanic Garden a highlight visit for any nature lovers. Its sprawling grounds in the heart of the city are ideal for an invigorating jog or a relaxing picnic with family, friends and pets while its dazzling array of over 60,000 plants makes it a nature lover's paradise.

Fancy rubbing shoulders with the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, Nelson Mandela and Jackie Chan? National Orchid Garden with a large display of orchids named after visiting dignitaries and celebrities who have contributed significantly to society. Other attractions include historical buildings such as Burkill Hall, EJH Corner House and Holttum Hall as well as beautiful views at the Swan Lake Gazebo and the Bandstand where musical performances can often be enjoyed during regularly scheduled concerts and events.

📍 1 Cluny Road

MEET SUBARAJ RAJATHURAI WILDLIFE CONSULTANT AND NATURE GUIDE

Many of Singapore's nature reserves exist due to the efforts of a few individuals like Subaraj Rajathurai: Self-taught naturalist and veteran wildlife consultant. Over the last 35 years, he campaigned peacefully behind the scenes to preserve some of Singapore's well-loved ecosystems. In 1987, he and three others drafted a proposal to save Sungei Buloh, a mangrove forest in northwest Singapore which was slated for redevelopment by the government. Thanks to their perseverance, the wetland was declared a nature park six years later. In 1992, Subaraj was also part of the research team responsible for saving the 123.8 hectares of forest at Lower Peirce Reservoir.

"You can spend five lifetimes exploring nature, and there would still be more to learn." says Subaraj, who fell in love with the rainforest at the age of 18, during a visit to Bukit Timah Reserve. Singapore's blend of urban landscapes and hidden ecosystems keeps him fighting against rampant urbanisation: *"In Singapore, you can get from a five-star hotel to a rainforest in 20 minutes."*

He believes Singapore is the gateway to Asia, as much as *"it is that gateway for nature."*

See Singapore through the eyes of a nature lover:
www.visitsingapore.com/en_my/see-do-singapore/explorers/subaraj-rajathurai.html

