

Your Guide to the Heritage Trees of Changi Walking Trail



This trail guide introduces you to 18 Heritage Trees that can be found in the Changi area.

Mature trees are part of our natural heritage and serve as important green landmarks of our City in Nature. The Heritage Tree Scheme started in 2001, advocating the conservation of Singapore's mature trees. There are over 250 Heritage Trees significant for their size, botanical, social, historical, cultural and/or aesthetical value, setting them apart from other trees in Singapore. These trees take decades to mature gracefully and beautify our landscape, helping us to identify with and stay rooted to the place we call home.

Trees play an important role in our City in Nature, offering many environmental benefits such as respite from the tropical heat and sun, minimising soil erosion and reducing stormwater run-off. They also offer ecological benefits by providing shelter and a source of food for wildlife like birds, bees and butterflies. Being around trees and natural surroundings also improves our emotional and mental well-being, helping us feel more connected to nature and the city we live in.



Tips for a safe and enjoyable trip:

- Dress comfortably and wear suitable footwear.
- Wear a hat, put on sunglasses and apply sunscreen to shield yourself from the sun.
- Spray on insect repellent if you are prone to insect bites.
- Drink ample fluids to stay hydrated.
- Walk along the designated paths to protect the natural environment.
- Dispose of rubbish at the nearest bin.
- Activities such as poaching, releasing and feeding of animals, damaging and removing plants, and those that cause pollution are strictly prohibited.



Difficulty level: Easy



Distance: 2.6 km



Activity Duration: 1 hour 15 mins





Legend

- Toilet
- Food & Beverage
- Shelter
- Carpark
- Bus Stop
- Accessible Heritage Trees
- Inaccessible Heritage Trees
- Road
- Recommended Route
- Coastal Boardwalk
- Sea
- Building

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Heritage Trees at
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Ficus stricta



Damar Hitam Gajah



Mango



Johor Fig



Inai Inai



Kelat Hitam



Chinese Olive Tree

Ficus stricta

HT 2003-72 | HT 2003-73

- 1 2 Netheravon Road, within CSC @ CHANGI II grounds
(View from footpath along Netheravon Road)

Ficus stricta is typically found in lowland rainforests. It is native to Singapore but is considered Critically Endangered here. It was overlooked until 2004, when it was first collected locally from Changi, due to its rarity.

This rare strangler fig can reach heights of 40 m and has smooth, grey bark and a wide, spreading crown that produces aerial roots.

As a hemiepiphyte, *Ficus stricta* starts its life in the canopy of a host tree, extending its aerial roots until they surround the host's trunk and finally reach the ground. It then matures into a free standing tree, enveloping the host's canopy with its own and 'strangling' it to death.

Considered a keystone species, *Ficus stricta* supports a range of animals as a food source and by providing shelter. Its figs ripen from yellow to dark red and are a staple for birds like the Oriental Pied Hornbill (*Anthracoceros albirostris*) and Asian Koel (*Eudynamis scolopacea*).



Figs

Damar Hitam Gajah (*Shorea gibbosa*)

HT 2003-113

- 3 Netheravon Road, near Bus Stop B06

The Damar Hitam Gajah is a Singapore native and the only species of *Shorea* found locally that produces black damar (resin).

The Damar Hitam Gajah has a greyish-brown trunk and large, sharp buttresses. Its bark is fissured when young, and scaly when older. It produces commercially valuable timber and is considered Critically Endangered globally. This tree is probably one of the last few of its species standing in Singapore.

Mango (*Mangifera indica*)

HT 2017-285

- 4 Netheravon Road, within CSC @ CHANGI II grounds
(View from the coastal boardwalk)

The Mango has been widely cultivated over hundreds of years for its edible fruit, which is enjoyed by both people and wildlife.

The Mango can reach heights of up to 30 m. It has a dense, rounded crown of dark green leathery leaves and rough, shallowly fissured bark. When crushed, its leaves smell of turpentine. This particular specimen is likely to have been here for more than 50 years.

Johor Fig (*Ficus kerkhovenii*)

HT 2003-65 | HT 2005-137

- 5 Catterick Road, near Fairy Point Chalet 3

6 Andover Road, near Fairy Point Chalet 7
A massive strangler fig that is native to Singapore, the Johor Fig can grow to 45 m in height with a wide-spreading crown. It has pinkish-brown bark and its fig changes colour from yellow to orange or purple-red.

The species' epithet, *kerkhovenii*, commemorates E.J. Kerkhoven, a Dutch botanist who explored Java. The Johor Fig is locally Critically Endangered in the wild. Tree number 5 can be viewed from the coastal boardwalk.

Kelat Hitam (*Syzygium syzygioides*)

HT 2003-128

- 7 Catterick Road, in front of Fairy Point Chalet 4

Syzygium syzygioides is naturally found together with the more common *Syzygium grande* along the sandy and rocky coasts of Singapore. Both are common in Changi and can reach heights of 30 m. The Malay common name references the berry-like fruit that turns black upon ripening.

Inai Inai (*Erythroxylum cuneatum*)

HT 2003-52

- 8 Leuchars Road, opposite Fairy Point Bungalow 1

The Inai Inai can grow as a shrub, small tree, or large tree reaching heights of 45 m. Native to Singapore, this evergreen species with a fine-leaved crown is only common in relatively undisturbed coastal areas such as St John's Island and around Changi.

The Inai Inai's dense timber has been used for house posts, and its leaves are reportedly used as fish poison on Luzon island in the Philippines.

Chinese Olive Tree (*Canarium album*)

HT 2005-136

- 9 Cranwell Road, within Changi Cove Hotel grounds

The Chinese Olive Tree has slightly scaly, pale-grey bark and compound leaves. Its oblong-shaped fruit resembles those of the Western Olive (*Olea europaea*), giving rise to its common name.

Native to South China, Vietnam, Laos and the Philippines, the Chinese Olive Tree was likely introduced and planted in this region for its edible olive-like fruit. Its fruit is familiar to locals as the preserved Buah Ca-Na snacks sold in corner shops.



Fruits



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Sindora x changiensis



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Stem-fruited Fig



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Keruing Kerut



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Jelawai Jaha



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Tempinis



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Mock Lime



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Sparrow's Mango

Sindora x changiensis

HT 2003-115

10 Cranwell Road, in front of Cranwell Bungalow 1

Sindora x changiensis is the first recorded natural hybrid within the genus *Sindora*, and this particular tree is the only wild-born specimen known in Singapore. Seeds have been collected from this tree and nurtured in our nurseries, and its offspring have been planted around Singapore.

Belonging to the Legume family (Fabaceae), this hybrid has flat, roundish seedpods with stiff spikes. The fruit splits open when dry to reveal a single seed.

This specimen was previously thought to be *Sindora wallichii* (Sepetir) which is likely the same species as the legendary Changi tree. The famous Changi tree was so tall and distinctive in the landscape that it was featured in pre-war sea navigation charts for over a century. It was cut down in 1942 by the British to prevent the Japanese from using the tree as a marker to aim their guns.



Fruit

Stem-fruited Fig (*Ficus caulocarpa*)

HT 2014-221

11 Hendon Road, opposite No. 35

The Stem-fruited Fig is a large strangler fig with a vast, spreading, umbrella-shaped crown. Its figs are whitish or pale yellow with pink spots and the whole fig changes to a dark purplish black when ripe. Birds feed on the ripe figs. When young, the Stem-fruited Fig has large, leathery oblong-shaped leaves with red leaf stalks.

Deciduous in nature, the Stem-fruited Fig undergoes a remarkable leaf renewal process. Just before it changes its leaves, it sheds the old ones rapidly, lining the ground beneath with fallen leaves. It then remains bare for a few days and new leaves emerge simultaneously. This whole process takes about a fortnight from the first opening of its buds.

Keruing Kerut (*Dipterocarpus sublamellatus*)

HT 2003-49

12 Cranwell Road, near junction with Loyang Avenue

The Keruing Kerut is native to Singapore and typically found in lowland rainforests. It is a tall emergent tree that reaches up to 70 m in height.

Its pale yellow flowers have dark pink striations in the centre. Flowering only once every few years in an event known as "mast seeding", the Keruing Kerut overwhelms seed predators with an abundance of seeds to ensure the survival of a new generation.

This individual is believed to be part of the original rainforest inhabitants of the Changi area.

Jelawai Jaha (*Terminalia subspathulata*)

HT 2003-124 | HT 2003-125

13 14 Loyang Avenue near junction with Halton Road

Native to Singapore, the Jelawai Jaha is a tall emergent tree that can reach 45 m in height. It has a wide and flat-topped crown and a heavily buttressed trunk. Large birds of prey often use its open tiered crown for nesting.

The Jelawai Jaha grows in inland forests, where its flat, light and yellow fruit with two broad wings are scattered by the wind.

Tempinis (*Sloetia elongata*)

HT 2003-116

15 Andover Road, Fairy Point Chalet 7 (Accessible only to Chalet guests)

The Tempinis tree is a slow-growing, evergreen species native to lowland forests of Singapore. Able to reach heights of 35 m, it produces a watery, white latex when parts of the plant are cut or damaged. Its leaves are asymmetrical at the base. Free-flowering and fruiting, the Tempinis tree bears greenish-white flowers on catkins (cylindrical clusters).

The Tempinis tree used to grow abundantly in the forests nearby and along Sungei Tampines, thus giving the Tampines estate its name. Its timber is durable, and resistant to termite and marine borer attacks. These properties make the Tempinis tree's timber very valuable, leading to overharvesting in the early 20th century and making large Tempinis trees scarce in Singapore.

Mock Lime (*Murraya paniculata*)

HT 2018-296 | HT 2019-305

16 17 Andover Road, Fairy Point Chalet 7, beside the BBQ pits (Accessible only to Chalet guests)

The Mock Lime is commonly cultivated in the landscape as hedges of about 2.5 to 3.5 m in height. However, if left to grow, it can reach heights of 12 m, just like this unique specimen.

Native to South and Southeast Asia, northern Australia and New Caledonia, the Mock Lime has compound, glossy and dark green leaves.

Its bright white flowers are intensely perfumed and its bright red fruit attracts birds like the Yellow-vented Bulbul (*Pycnonotus goiavier*), Black-naped Oriole (*Oriolus chinensis*) and Coppersmith Barbet (*Megalaima haemacephala*). These birds also help to disperse its seeds after feeding on the fruit.

Sparrow's Mango (*Buchanania arborescens*)

HT 2003-45

18 Andover Road, Fairy Point Chalet 6 (Accessible only to Chalet guests)

Native to Singapore, the Sparrow's Mango is an evergreen tree with a compact crown of upright leaves. Its bark is pinkish brown and red on the inside; it is smooth and oozes greyish gum when cut.

The Sparrow's Mango is a favourite fruit tree for many birds, including the Yellow-vented Flowerpecker (*Dicaeum chrysorrheum*) and Coppersmith Barbet. Its fruit may look like little mangoes, but are not edible.

We hope you enjoyed this trail!
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