

# Your Guide to Coney Island Park

Discover the rustic charms of Coney Island Park, home to a wide variety of habitats and a diverse range of fauna and flora, including several nationally threatened species. Accessible from Punggol Promenade Punggol Point Walk, this 87-hectare ecologically sustainable park can be explored on foot or by bicycle.

Be amazed by the mangroves and different themed areas that support beautiful flowering plants and critically endangered species.

Visited by more than 80 species of birds, Coney Island Park is ideal for birdwatching. Spot other wildlife that thrive on the island as well, from little critters such as the critically endangered Sultan dragonfly to larger mammals such as the Smooth-coated Otter.

Families with children will have loads of fun at the Casuarina Exploration. This adventure area, constructed from natural and recycled materials, provides an enriching experience for all.



Difficulty level: Easy



Distance: 5.1 km



Walking time: 3 hr

## Tips for a safe and enjoyable trip



- Dress comfortably and put on suitable footwear.
- Wear long pants and covered shoes, and apply insect repellent to protect yourself from insects.
- Wear a hat, put on sunglasses and apply sunscreen to shield yourself from the sun.
- Drink ample fluids to stay hydrated.
- Walk along the designed paths to protect the natural environment of the park.
- Bag your trash and bring it off the island for disposal.
- Activities such as poaching, releasing and feeding of animals, damaging and removing of plants and those that cause pollution are strictly prohibited.
- Clean up after your pets and keep them leashed.
- Camping is not allowed.
- Coney Island Park is closed from 7 pm to 7 am.

## How to get to the Start Point

### By Car



Drive to Punggol Point and park at the Punggol Settlement carpark. Walk 700 m east (past the restaurants) along the promenade towards the bridge to connect to the Start Point at the West Entrance of Coney Island Park.

### By Public Transport



Take the train to Punggol MRT station and walk towards the bus interchange through exit C. Take bus 84 from the Punggol interchange and alight at Punggol Road End (Punggol Point Park). Walk 700 m east (past the restaurants) along the promenade towards the bridge to connect to the Start Point at the West Entrance of Coney Island Park.



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Punggol Promenade Punggol  
Point Walk (700 m)

**START POINT**

West Promenade

West Entrance

**END POINT**

Punggol Promenade Nature Walk

## Legend



Bicycle Parking



Wooden Benches



Toilet

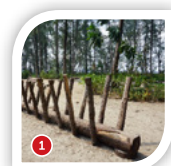


Shelter



Bird Hide

Recommended Route



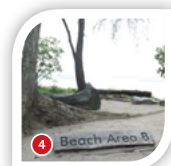
Casuarina Exploration



West Promenade



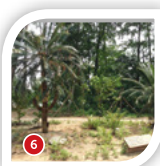
Beach Area A



Beach Area B



Mangroves



Cycads



Estuary



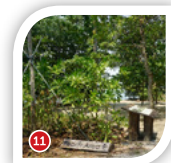
Beach Area C



Beach Area D



Old Coney Island  
Park Signage



Beach Area E



Eco-toilet



Coastal Meadows



Coney Island Park  
Connector



Area around  
Penaga Laut Shelter



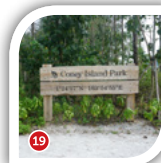
Area around  
Gelam Shelter



Area around  
Dungun Shelter



Bird Hide



Gathering Point



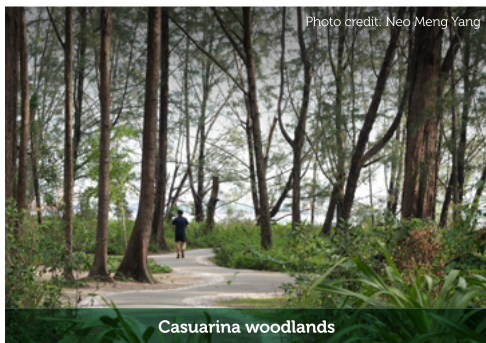
250 200 150 100 50 0 250 Metres

Lorong Halus Wetland  
1 km

East Entrance

Your Guide to  
**Coney Island Park**





Casuarina woodlands



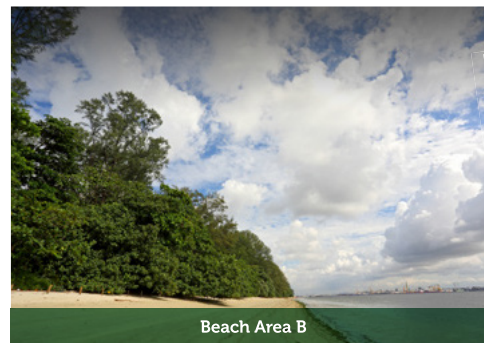
Casuarina Exploration



West Promenade



Berus Mata Buaya (*Bruguiera hainesii*)



Beach Area B



Mangroves boardwalk



*Calophyllum inophyllum*

*Cerbera manghas*

Mud Lobster mounds

## START POINT

### ► 1 Casuarina Exploration

One of the distinctive features of Coney Island Park is the many tall and slender **Rhu or Casuarina** (*Casuarina equisetifolia*) trees that dot the landscape. The Casuarina is native to Singapore and is fast-growing, sun-loving and tolerant of salt and poor soil conditions. Its wood is extremely hard and dense, so it is frequently planted as a wind break and used to stabilise coastal dunes.

This adventure area provides great fun for all ages with its rustic charm. Its ground is covered in sand recycled from the rest of the island and the wooden playsets and seats are constructed using fallen Casuarina trees, making it an environmentally-friendly adventure area.

The biophilic-themed playset structures purposefully mimic natural elements such as the earthworm and fallen trees, helping to strengthen our innate and emotional connection with the natural environment and foster strong community ownership and stewardship for our natural heritage through play.

### ► 2 West Promenade

The West Promenade offers the best views of Pulau Ubin and Pasir Gudang in Malaysia. Before reclamation, steps were built to protect the shore from erosion. Now, the steps also serve as a resting area for families visiting the park. Every now and then, otters may make an appearance!

### ► 3 Beach Area A

Each of the five beach areas in the park is home to plants of a particular habitat or theme. **Back Mangrove Trees** are featured at Beach Area A. The main species planted in this area, **Penaga Laut** (*Calophyllum inophyllum*), is critically endangered. You will also see the **Mangrove Fan Palm** (*Licuala spinosa*), a species that grows in moist areas and in clumps. Look out for the **Berus Mata Buaya** or **Eye of the Crocodile** (*Bruguiera hainesii*), a critically endangered back mangroves species with kneed roots and pale yellowish green calyx in their flowers.

### ► 4 Beach Area B

**Beach Front Shrubs** and **Coastal Climbers** are showcased at Beach Area B. These include **Sea**

**Lettuce** (*Scaevola taccada*), a shrub with medicinal properties from treatment for asthma to an antidote for poisonous fish or crab. With its red to pink-centred flowers, the **Pink-Eyed Cerbera** (*Cerbera manghas*) is a rare species locally and can be easily differentiated from another related species that can be found on the island, the **Pong Pong or Yellow-Eyed Cerbera** (*Cerbera odollam*), that has yellow-centred flowers. The former is tolerant of salt spray and saline soils, making it a good coastal foliage choice.

### ► 5 Mangroves

Mangroves are highly adaptive plants that can tolerate being partially submerged in seawater during high tide and are able to grow in soft and oxygen-poor (anaerobic) mud. These plants can also tolerate silt washed down from rivers and violent storms that hit the coast during wet season. The area along the boardwalk has undergone enhancement works to

enable the continuous inundation of seawater to encourage colonization of true mangrove species as part of mangroves rehabilitation efforts. Take a stroll on the boardwalk and observe a variety of interesting mangrove wildlife.

Commonly seen in mangroves, the **Giant Mudskipper** (*Periophthalmodon schlosseri*) is a fish that is able to breathe out of water by retaining water in an enlarged gill chamber. Its primary diet comprises of **Fiddler Crabs** (*Uca spp.*) and sometimes its own young.

There is also the elusive **Mud Lobster** (*Thalassina anomala*) that burrows using its powerful claws while feeding on organic matter at the same time. Look out for its mud burrows. The Mud Lobster plays an important role in the health of the mangrove by bringing organic matter up from deep underground which would otherwise be out of reach for many plants and animals.

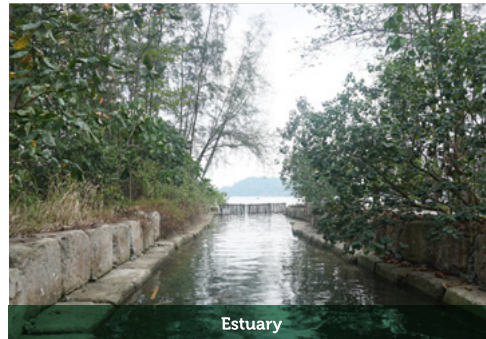




Old Coney Island Park signage



Cycads



Estuary



Photo credit: Pearlyn Sim

Buah Keras Laut (*Hernandia nymphaeifolia*)



Eco-toilet



Badam (*Terminalia copelandii*)

#### ► 6 Cycads

Locally rare in the wild, cycads typically grow very slowly and can live for as long as 1,000 years. The park is home to two **Paku Raja** (*Cycas edentata*). This species is the preferred local food plant for the caterpillars of the butterfly, the **Cycad Blue** (*Chilades pandava pandava*) that feed on the immature shoots of the plant.

#### ► 7 Estuary

The estuary refers to the tidal mouth of a freshwater river that opens into the sea, creating brackish water conditions suitable for mangroves. As the tide rises and falls, the estuary looks vastly different. At high tide, observe the many species of fish that thrive in the estuary such as the **Striped Nose Halfbeak** (*Zenarchopterus buffonis*) and **Whitespot** (*Aplocheilichthys panchax*). At low tide, look for the large and conical **Rodong Snail** (*Telescopium telescopium*) or the smaller **Red Chut-chut Snail** (*Cerithidea obtusa*).

#### ► 8 Beach Area C

Soak in the sights in this area that features **Rare and Extinct Coastal Trees**. Here, you will be able to find **Buah Keras Laut** (*Hernandia nymphaeifolia*), a tree that has leaves resembling those of a water lily. This species has become locally extinct in Singapore, and Coney Island Park is the first location where it is being introduced back into the natural environment. You can also view **Petai Belalang** (*Dendrolobium umbellatum*), a critically endangered species that typically grows along seashores, behind mangrove forests and near river mouths.

#### ► 9 Beach Area D

**Coastal Hill Forest Trees** are showcased at this beach area and the critically endangered **Jeliti** (*Planchonella chartacea*) can be found here. First spotted in Singapore in 1997 on Lazarus Island, it can now also be found at Chek Jawa Wetlands. It is used for carvings, cabinets and furniture, as well as making house posts and saltwater pilings.

The extract from various parts of the **Pasak Lingga** (*Aphanamixis polystachya*), that is also found here, can be used to protect crops against insect herbivory. Oil can also be extracted from its seeds, and the **Oriental Pied Hornbill** (*Anthracoceros albirostris*) has been observed to feed on its fruits.

#### ► 10 Old Coney Island Park Signage

This was once a frontage point for boats to sail in. Items such as the Old Coney Island Park signage and table are now being conserved to preserve the island's heritage.

#### ► 11 Beach Area E

Located at this **Beach Front Trees**-themed area, there are three *Terminalia* species that can be observed here.

The **Sea Almond** or **Ketapang** (*Terminalia catappa*) is a pagoda-shaped tree that can grow

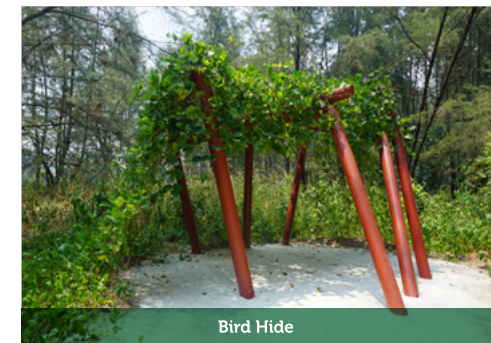
up to 35 m tall and has leaves that are clustered at the end of the twigs. Native to Malaysia, the **Badam** (*Terminalia copelandii*) looks similar to the Sea Almond, only with much larger leaves, and is usually found in inland forests. The **Jelawi** (*Terminalia subspatulata*) has an open and tiered crown that large birds use as a nesting site.

#### ► 12 Eco-toilet

This is a rustic park and there is only one public toilet. This Eco-toilet has been designed to conserve energy and water. The electricity used to move the pumps is generated from solar power and the water used for flushing and hand washing is harvested from rainwater.

The Eco-toilet and other shelters around the park have green roofs that help to cool the area under the structures.



Star Apple (*Chrysophyllum cainito*)Fruit of the Simpoh Ayer (*Dillenia suffruticosa*)Gelam or Kayu Puteh (*Melaleuca cajuputi*)

Bird Hide



Coney Island Park Connector



Area around Penaga Laut Shelter

Fruit of the Dungun (*Heritiera littoralis*)

Gathering Point

### ► 13 Coastal Meadows

Walk around and you will be welcomed by the **Coastal Meadows** that contain flowering shrubs such as the **Rose Myrtle** (*Rhodomyrtus tomentosa*), an attractive woody shrub with silvery-grey leaves. It bears magenta-pink flowers that resemble cherry blossoms and purple velvety berries enjoyed by birds.

If you come across a bushy shrub with silvery leaves and clusters of tiny pink flowers, chances are that it is the **Indian Camphorweed** (*Pluchea indica*). Pollinated by butterflies and other insects, this free-flowering plant can be found across Southeast Asia, India, South China as well as Australia and the Pacific Islands.

With alternate, trifoliate stalked leaves, the **Beach Bean** (*Canavalia rosea*) is a trailing, non-woody plant. This legume creeper is found mainly along seashores and forms dense mats along the shoreline that help to stabilise the sand.

Try to spot the **Seashore Purslane** (*Portulaca pilosa*), a creeping herb with fleshy leaf blades that are spirally arranged. Its pink flowers are covered with hair. Each flower has four to six petals and two to six sepals.

### ► 14 Coney Island Park Connector

Take in the scenic views of Serangoon Reservoir and Punggol Promenade Nature Walk on the opposite bank as you travel along Coney Island Park Connector.

### ► 15 Area around Penaga Laut Shelter

This area showcases trees with interesting leaves. Tolerant of salt-spray, seawater inundation and urban pollution, the **Sea Gutta** (*Planchonella obovata*) has papery to slightly leathery leaf blades. In traditional medicine, the leaves can be used to relieve headache, chest pain and lower backache. Easily spotted is the **Star Apple** (*Chrysophyllum cainito*), a small evergreen tree with leaves that are deep green on the top and golden brown on the bottom.

### ► 16 Area around Gelam Shelter

Trees with interesting bark are featured at this area, including the **Gelam** or **Kayu Puteh** (*Melaleuca cajuputi*) with its seemingly peeling white and flaky bark. Flakes of the bark are used for stuffing

pillows. Spot the **River Tristania** (*Tristaniaopsis whiteana*) with its smooth and colourful bark, a native species that grows along rivers.

### ► 17 Area around Dungun Shelter

This area is characterised by trees with interesting fruits, such as the **Dungun** (*Heritiera littoralis*), a critically endangered species that produces woody, ellipsoid shaped fruits that have a pronounced keel. This makes the buoyant fruit resemble the head of 'Ultraman'. Another tree featured is the **Simpoh Ayer** (*Dillenia suffruticosa*) with its fruit that opens into a star shape as it matures, revealing seeds covered by a fleshy red aril.

### ► 18 Bird Hide

Stop by one of the island's five bird-watching hides for the opportunity to observe wildlife, especially birds, from a closer distance without alarming them. More than 80 species of resident and migratory birds can be spotted at Coney Island Park and the surrounding forested area.

### ► 19 Gathering Point

End your journey with a selfie or wifie at the Coney Island Park signboard.

### ► Reforestation Efforts

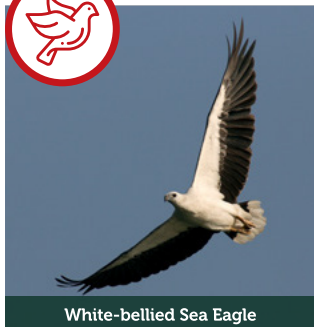
Parts of Coney Island Park are undergoing reforestation with native coastal trees to improve the genetic diversity and attract biodiversity. This is part of NParks' continuous effort to reforest Coney Island Park to a native coastal forest.

We hope you have enjoyed exploring Coney Island Park. For another park experience, embark on the trails at Punggol Waterway and the Northeastern Riverine Loop.

[www.nparks.gov.sg/eguides](http://www.nparks.gov.sg/eguides)  
[www.facebook.com/nparksbuzz](https://www.facebook.com/nparksbuzz)  
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## Biodiversity at Coney Island Park



White-bellied Sea Eagle

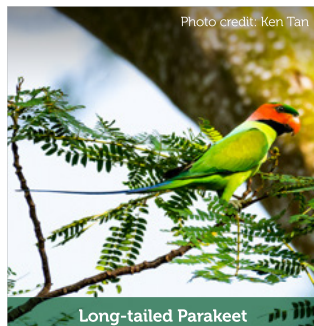
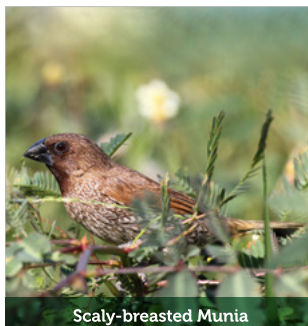
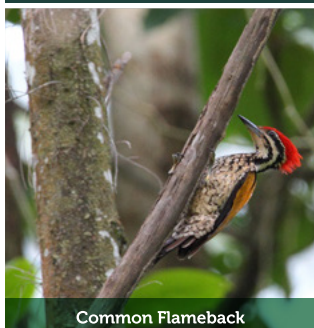


Photo credit: Ken Tan

Long-tailed Parakeet



Scaly-breasted Munia



Common Flameback



White-breasted Waterhen

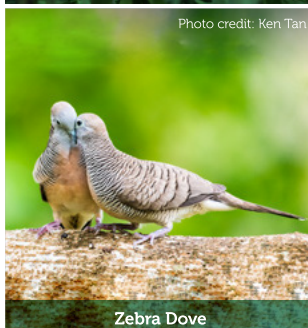


Photo credit: Ken Tan

Zebra Dove

### ► High Flyers in the Air

Some common residents are the **Collared Kingfisher** (*Todiramphus chloris*), the most common kingfisher in Singapore, and the **White-breasted Waterhen** (*Amaurornis phoenicurus*). The former is a carnivore that consumes a variety of prey including fish, reptiles and crabs. The latter is often spotted scurrying across the main track to forage for prey, such as insects, earthworms, and plant roots and shoots. Chicks have all-black down feathers.

Another common resident is the only native parakeet in Singapore, the **Long-tailed Parakeet** (*Psittacula longicauda*). A highly gregarious species, it roosts in large flocks that can number up to several hundred birds. Easily identifiable by the golden yellow feathers on its back and black and white face pattern, the **Common Flameback** (*Dinopium javanense*) has stiff tail feathers that help it to balance as it climbs the trunks and branches of trees in search of prey.

The **Scaly-breasted Munia** (*Lonchura punctulata*) feeds on the seeds of long grasses found in the park. The back of the bird is light brown and its white breast feathers are edged with a deep mahogany, giving the bird a beautiful scalloped appearance. Native to Southeast Asia, the **Zebra Dove** (*Geopelia striata*) is a small and slender bird with a long, narrow tail and is most commonly seen in parks and gardens, foraging either alone or in pairs.

Try to spot the **Changeable Hawk Eagle** (*Spizaetus cirrhatus*) in the canopy as it lies in wait for prey such as mammals, reptiles and other birds. The **White-bellied Sea Eagle** (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*), the largest raptor in Singapore, is also known as Lang Laut in Malay. It has a wingspan of about 50 cm while its body is about 70 cm long. It is commonly seen flying along the coast with its wings in a V-shape, unlike other raptors which hold their wings horizontally.



Photo credit: Goh Pei Shuan

Sultan

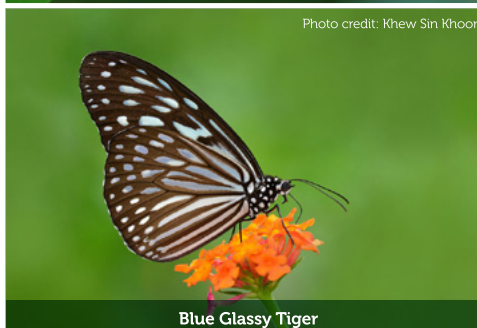


Photo credit: Khew Sin Khoon

Blue Glassy Tiger



Grenadier

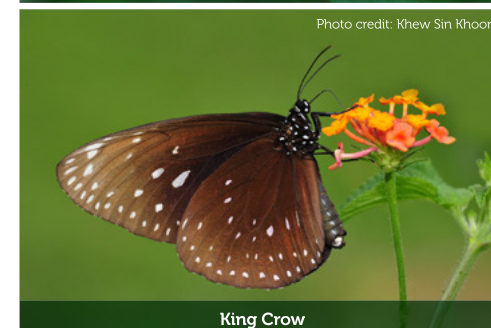


Photo credit: Khew Sin Khoon

King Crow

### ► It is an Insect World!

Some common butterfly residents are the **Common Tiger** (*Dananeus genutia genutia*) and the **Blue Glassy Tiger** (*Ideopsis vulgaris macrina*). The former is easily spotted amongst the flowers due to its strikingly bright orange wings with a series of white spots in a broad black border, and often found on its host plant, *Cynanchum tunicatum*. The latter is mostly bluish-grey with blackened veins and borders. This sun-loving butterfly is commonly found in coastal mangrove habitats.

Typically spotted in open scrublands, the male **Great Eggfly** (*Hypolimnas bolina bolina*) is territorial and will guard its perch persistently despite being disturbed by other butterflies. The female is polymorphic, occurring in various forms such that it is difficult to find two exactly matching samples.

The largest species of its kind, the **King Crow** (*Euploea phaenareta*) has dark brown wings with a series of white spots that have a slight violet tinge. It is frequently encountered around sites where its host plant, the **Pong Pong Tree** (*Cerbera odollam*), can be found, such as Beach B.

Look out for the little ponds around Coney Island Park where many dragonfly species call home. One common dragonfly resident is the **Common Parasol** (*Neurothemis fluctuans*), an easily spotted species due to its reddish coloration that extends from the wings to the thorax and abdomen.

If you are lucky, you may spot the **Sultan** (*Camacinia gigantea*), one of the largest dragonfly in Singapore with a total body length up to 56 mm and hindwing length up to 48 mm. While males are dark red in colour, the slightly larger females are yellow in colour.

Often spotted perching in shady areas, the **Grenadier** (*Agrionoptera insignis*) has a thin and largely red abdomen with mottled yellow markings on its thorax. This forest edge species can be distinguished from the largely similar **Scarlet Grenadier** (*Lathrecista asiatica*), which has a dark brown thorax with yellow stripes.





Smooth-coated Otter



Long-tailed Macaque



Wild Boar



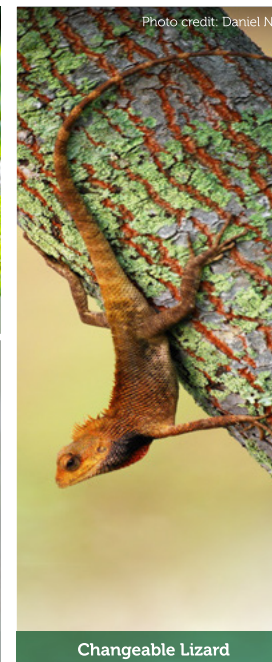
Plantain Squirrel



Malayan Water Monitor Lizard



Oriental Whip Snake



Changeable Lizard



Paradise Tree Snake

### ► Warm-blooded Creatures

A local favourite, the **Smooth-coated Otter** (*Lutrogale perspicillata*) can be spotted frolicking on land or in the water, in pairs or small families. Mainly fish-eating, this species is active in the mornings and evenings, and highly territorial against other families.

Mischievous and playful, the **Long-tailed Macaque** (*Macaca fascicularis*) lives in a big troop of 20 to 30 individuals. Also known as the crab-eating macaque, the family that resides on the island has been observed swimming in the mangroves.

A shy and elusive resident on the island, the **Wild Boar** (*Sus scrofa*) is the largest resident land

mammal in Singapore. Using its snout, it digs for roots and worms in the soil, and sometimes gathers under fruiting trees to forage for fallen fruits. Infants with brown and white stripes resemble watermelons with legs!

An extremely adaptable species, the **Plantain Squirrel** (*Callosciurus notatus*) can be encountered in many habitats, from coastal forest to mangroves to parklands. Easily identified by the cream and black stripes on its side and an orange belly, this species feeds mainly on fruits.

### ► Scaly Critters

Occasionally mistaken for an **Estuarine Crocodile** (*Crocodilus porosus*), the **Malayan Water Monitor Lizard** (*Varanus salvator*) is not only a good swimmer, but can also climb trees! It is often spotted close to water and swims with its limbs against its body and its long and slender tail undulating from side to side. This species eats small animals and fishes, and also scavenges on dead animals.

A naturalised species in Singapore, the **Changeable Lizard** (*Calotes versicolor*) is typically brownish to greenish yellow, but males will develop an orange head and black blotch over the cheeks and throat during the breeding season to attract females.

If you are observant, you may spot the well-camouflaged **Oriental Whip Snake** (*Ahaetulla prasina*) among the leaves and vines. It has a lime green colouration with a broad head and horizontal eyes, and feeds primarily on lizards.

If you are lucky, you may spot the beautiful **Paradise Tree Snake** (*Chrysopelea paradisi*), which is known for its ability to glide from tree to tree by flattening its body before launching itself from a high branch. It has a pattern of dark-edged yellow scales, and some individuals have red scales.

## WILD ANIMAL ADVISORY



Keep food out of sight.



If you encounter any animals, do avoid approaching or disturbing them.



Do not feed them.



Do not use flash photography.



Keep your belongings in a backpack instead of hand-carrying or slinging plastic bags.

For more information of our biodiversity, please visit NParks Flora&FaunaWeb at [www.florafaunaweb.nparks.gov.sg](http://www.florafaunaweb.nparks.gov.sg)

For more information of our wild animal advisory, please visit [www.nparks.gov.sg/gardens-parks-and-nature/dos-and-donts/animal-advisories](http://www.nparks.gov.sg/gardens-parks-and-nature/dos-and-donts/animal-advisories)