

A Guide to Heritage Trees at Changi Walking Trail

This trail takes you to seven different species of trees nestled among lush greenery in the Changi area. These trees have been given the Heritage Tree status under the Singapore's Heritage Tree Scheme, as part of efforts to promote the conservation of mature trees in Singapore.

Apart from their age, these nine heritage trees stand out due to their size or rarity in Singapore. For instance, the Damar Hitam Gajah or *Shorea gibbosa* has not been seen in other parts of Singapore. The tall Sepetir or *Sindora wallichii* you see on this trail is most probably the biggest Sepetir outside of the Botanic Gardens. Several trees have interesting features too. The Kelat Hitam or *Syzygium syzygioides*, for instance, has a twisted trunk as a result of being exposed to wind from a certain direction for a prolonged period of time.

After the walk, linger at Turnhouse Park for more quiet moments among greenery and nature, or get on the Changi park connector for a seamless walk to Changi Village.



Trees of our Garden City: Enhancing Singapore's Liveability

Trees play an important role in our Garden City. Apart from softening and beautifying our cityscape, they provide numerous environmental benefits. Not only do they offer a welcome respite from the tropical heat and glare, they help alleviate the heat island effect by removing excess carbon and air pollutants. They also prevent soil erosion and reduce storm water run-off. Trees also serve a variety of ecological functions including being a natural habitat and source of food for wildlife. To a large extent, trees improve our emotional well-being by helping us feel more connected to nature and the city we live in.



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How to get to this walking trail

By Car:

Park at the public car park at Turnhouse Park that is located near the start of the trail.

By Bus:

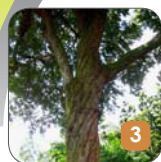
Take SBS 2, 29, 59 or 109 and alight either at Changi Village Bus Interchange, along Netheravon Road or along Cranwell Road to arrive at the trail.



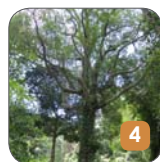
Sepetir



Buah Ca-na



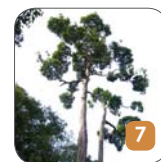
Kelat Hitam



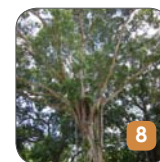
Pudu



Damar Hitam Gajah



Malayan Rengas



Strangling Fig



Bus Stop



Car Park



Bus Terminal



Heritage Trees Trail



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→ 1

Sepetir (*Sindora wallichii*)
(At junction of Cranwell Road and Netheravon Road)

This large tree, which belongs to the bean family, has a massive crown when mature. Its fruits - oval, flat pods - are covered with hard spines and contain only one seed.

This species is widely known as the Changi tree. It has been said that there was a tall and majestic *Sindora wallichii* at Changi that once stood as a landmark in this area. It was also featured on pre-war navigational charts for over a century. The British cut down this tree in 1942 (during WWII) after they discovered the Japanese used the tree as a marker to aim their guns.

→ 2

Buah Ca-na, Chinese White Olive (*Canarium album*)
(At junction of Cranwell Road and Netheravon Road)

The Buah Ca-na has a slightly scaly, pale, grayish bark and has compound leaves with opposite-arranged leaflets.

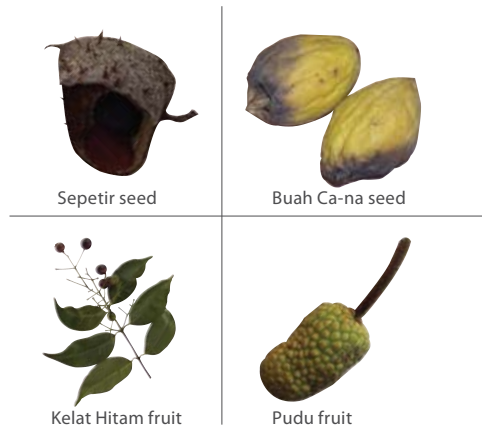
Native to Southern China and East Asia, it was most probably introduced and planted in this region for its edible olive-like fruits. The fruits appear as preserved Buah Ca-na snacks commonly sold in small grocery shops.

→ 3

Kelat Hitam (*Syzygium syzygioides*)
(At junction of Catterick Road and Leuchars Road)

Syzygium syzygioides is found together with the more common *Syzygium grande* along the borders of sandy and rocky coasts. Both are common in Changi and can reach a height of 30 m. The Malay name "Kelat Hitam" is a reference to the berry-like fruits that turn black upon ripening.

An interesting feature of this particular tree is its twisted trunk in reaction to wind movements.

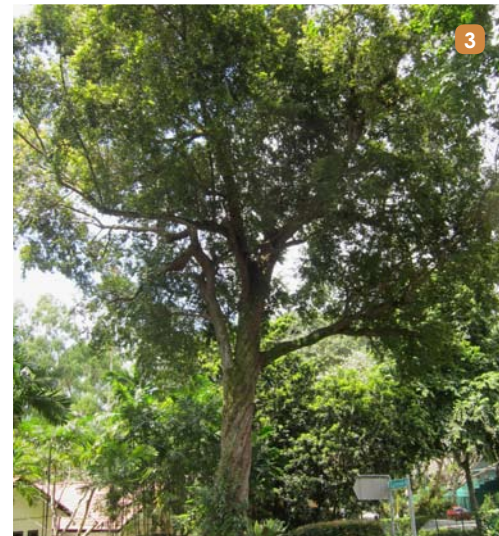


Sepetir seed

Buah Ca-na seed

Kelat Hitam fruit

Pudu fruit

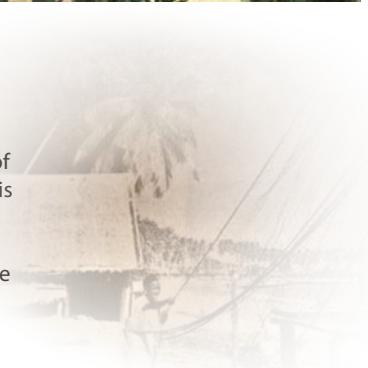


→ 4

4. Pudu (*Artocarpus kemando*)
(Along Netheravon Road)

A member of the Jackfruit family, this species can reach a height of 40m or more with buttresses up to 2.5m in height. The fruits of this tree resemble miniature jackfruits.

This tree, usually found in forests and swamps in this region, is rare in Singapore.





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→ 5 6

Damar Hitam Gajah (*Shorea gibbosa*)
(Along Netheravon Road and Turnhouse Road)

Probably one of the last few standing in Singapore, these magnificent trees belonging to the Dipterocarp family (a characteristic component of Asian tropical rainforest) can grow to a height of more than 30m. They can be identified by their cauliflower-like tree crowns. The fruits typically look like shuttlecocks with two to five vanes (wings).

The *Shorea gibbosa* produces commercially valuable timber and is popular with loggers because it is relatively free from defects and works well and cleanly with power and hand tools.

→ 7

Malayan Rengas (*Gluta malayana*)
(Along Turnhouse Road)

The Malayan Rengas is a very large tree that can reach a height of 40m or more. The timber is excellent for furniture but it is infrequently used because of the sap, which blisters skins. Another species, *Gluta usitata*, produces black sap that is known as Burmese lacquer.

→ 8 9

Strangling Fig (*Ficus stricta*)
(Along Netheravon Road)

A strangling fig starts life in the canopy of its host tree. It then extends its aerial roots downwards which progressively surround the host's trunk, which cannot grow and eventually dies. The fig also shades the host by extending its canopy above that of the host tree.

Ficus stricta is a rare lowland rainforest species. Its figs ripen to a purplish red and attract many feeding birds.

We hope you have enjoyed your walk on this trail. To get up close and personal with more Heritage Trees, embark on the Heritage Trees trail at the Singapore Botanic Gardens.



Fruit of Strangling fig



Shorea fruit



Malayan Rengas leaves

