

A Guide to Labrador Nature & Coastal Walk



Just a stone's throw away from homes, busy wharfs, offices and shopping centres, the Labrador Nature & Coastal Walk seamlessly connects the Southern Ridges to Labrador Nature Reserve and the Southern Waterfront. It runs along Alexandra Road from Depot Road to Telok Blangah Road, through the Berlayer Creek mangrove area and skirts the foothills of Bukit Chermin. Providing visitors with a wide variety of habitats to explore – mudflat, mangroves, coastal forest, rocky shore, parkland and *Adinandra belukar* (a type of secondary forest) – there is a myriad of experiences which will definitely thrill and enrich your senses as you embark on this connected loop.

Located within walking distance of Labrador Park MRT Station, the 2.1km Labrador Nature & Coastal Walk comprises three distinct segments – Alexandra Garden Trail, Berlayer Creek mangrove trail, and Bukit Chermin Boardwalk. Visitors can now enter mangrove and coastal areas which were previously inaccessible to pedestrians. These tranquil nature spots not only contain 40% of the endangered and vulnerable plant species in Singapore; they are also an oasis of calm for visitors amidst the hustle and bustle of the city.

Other than introducing Labrador Nature & Coastal Walk, this guide will also briefly take you on a route through Labrador Nature Reserve and the Southern Ridges. If you are looking to explore the southern part of Singapore in a day or hankering for an adventure in the midst of nature, this trail is definitely for you.



Estimated average walking time:
45 minutes

Distance of Labrador Nature & Coastal Walk : 2.1km

Level of difficulty:
Easy and wheelchair-friendly



(Photo by Sek Jun-Yan)



(Photo by Sek Jun-Yan)



(Photo by Cai Yixong)



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Highlights

- An up-close and personal experience with rich mangrove flora and fauna
- Exposure to a wide variety of habitats around the seamless loop - mudflat, mangrove, coastal forest, rocky shore, parkland and *Adinandra* belukar
- Mesmerising views of Keppel Harbour, Sentosa island and Labrador Nature Reserve
- Easy access by foot from Labrador Nature & Coastal Walk to Labrador Nature Reserve and the Southern Ridges

How to get to Labrador Nature & Coastal Walk

By Car:

For Labrador Nature & Coastal Walk only, car parking facilities are available opposite the Labrador Park MRT station at the junction of Pasir Panjang Road and Labrador Villa Road.

For Routes 1 and 2, it would be advisable to commute using public transport.

By Bus:

For Route 1 -

- Bus services 10, 30, 51, 143 and 176 take you to Pasir Panjang Road. From there, proceed on foot to Labrador Park MRT Station.
- Bus services 61, 93, 97, 100, 166 and 963 take you to Alexandra Road. Alight on the same side or opposite NOL Building along Alexandra Road and proceed on foot to Labrador Park MRT Station.
- Service Parks 408 is a direct service that plies between HarbourFront Bus Interchange and Labrador Park (Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays from 11 am to 9 pm). The service departs from the interchange every 30 minutes.



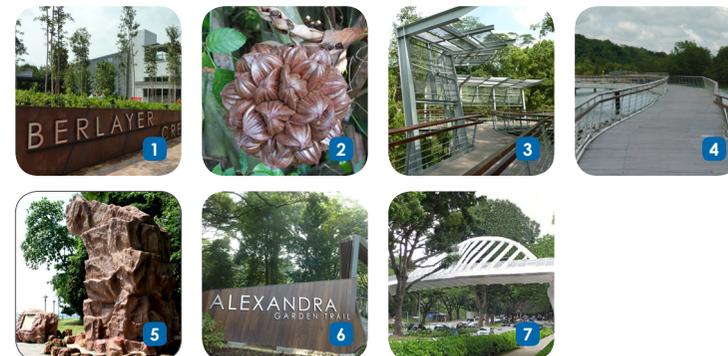
For Route 2 -

HarbourFront MRT Station > 7 > 6 > 1 > 2 > 3 > 4 > 5 > Labrador Park MRT Station

- Bus services 65 (from Tampines Interchange), 80 (Sengkang Interchange), 93 (Eunos Interchange), 188 (Choa Chu Kang Interchange), 855 (Yishun Interchange), 963 (Woodlands Regional Interchange) take you to HarbourFront Bus Interchange. You may then proceed on foot to Marang Trail at the Southern Ridges.

By MRT:

- For Route 1, take the Circle Line to Labrador Park MRT Station.
- For Route 2, take the Circle Line or North East Line to HarbourFront MRT Station.



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Route 1: From Labrador Park MRT Station to HarbourFront MRT Station

Estimated average walking time: 3 hours

Level of difficulty: Moderate to challenging

→ 1 Berlayer Creek – Pavilion at Labrador Park MRT Station

Upon stepping out of the MRT station, you will notice a sheltered pavilion with wooden panels on your right. Go up to the pavilion's roof deck to enjoy an elevated treetop view of the Berlayer Creek, which was named after a historic rock formation, *Batu Berlayer* ("Sail Rock" in Malay), that stood at its mouth to the sea. Possibly the only mangrove patch in the southern part of Singapore island with the convenience of an integrated MRT station entrance, you are immediately greeted by the lush landscape of the entrance plaza before you enter the 960m Berlayer Creek.

→ 2 Berlayer Creek – Bakau Pasir (*Rhizophora stylosa*) and Nipah Palm (*Nypa fruticans*)

Within metres of the Creek's entrance, the **Bakau Pasir** (*Rhizophora stylosa*) with its small, eye-shaped leaves can be spotted on the right of the boardwalk. A rare mangrove tree threatened by habitat destruction, the plant's flowers appear on long stalks, but the petals would fall off soon after blossoming. Interestingly, the Australian aborigines use the plant to make boomerangs and spears.

Just next to the Bakau Pasir is the **Nipah Palm**

(*Nypa fruticans*), also known as a "plant of a thousand uses". In the past, the leaves of this palm were used for roof-thatching. Its seeds, known as "Attap Chee", are commonly added to a local dessert, ice-kachang. The Nipah Palm is an increasingly rare sight in Singapore as most of the mangrove areas are reclaimed to make way for urban development.

→ 3 Berlayer Creek – Look-out points

As you continue walking along the boardwalk, you will come across two look-out points or rest areas on the left. Perched over the creek, these look-out points allow you to observe the surrounding mangroves and get closer to the rich biodiversity.

Currently one of two remaining mangroves in the south of mainland Singapore, Berlayer Creek is home to a myriad of fauna and flora - some 60 recorded bird species, 19 species of fishes and 14 true mangrove plant species have been recorded here. Despite its relative small area of 5.61 hectares, Berlayer Creek also has one of the highest densities of **molluscs** in Singapore with some 50 species being recorded. Keep a lookout for the *Pythia scarabaeus*, a species of snails found only on back mangrove plants. These snails graze on microscopic algae growing on the surfaces of leaves and tree bark.

At low tide, be sure to look out for the **Giant Mudskipper** (*Periophthalmodon schlosseri*), one of the largest mudskippers in the world. It can be identified by its huge goggle eyes on top of its head (a distinctive feature of all mudskippers) and a black band across its sides. Also, if you are observant enough, you might just spot a **Brahminy Kite** (*Haliastur indus*) or an **Oriental Dollarbird** (*Eurystomus orientalis*) perching among the trees or soaring in the sky.



Berlayer Creek



Bakau Pasir
(Photos by Sek Jun-Yan)



Brahminy Kite

Little Tern
(Photo by Cai Yixiong)



Nipah Palm
(Photo by Sek Jun-Yan)



Pythia scarabaeus
(Photo by Cai Yixiong)



Giant Mudskipper



Oriental Dollarbird

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→ 4

Bukit Chermin Boardwalk

Walk on to the end of Berlayer Creek and continue to Bukit Chermin Boardwalk on the left. The 330m Bukit Chermin Boardwalk connects the Berlayer Creek mangrove trail and the circular plaza at the tip of Labrador Nature Reserve to the promenade at the Reflections at Keppel Bay. This elevated boardwalk on sea will bring you across the mouth of Berlayer Creek and along the coastal foothill of Bukit Chermin.

Take a leisurely stroll along this coastal boardwalk, while enjoying the different views of the expansive waters of Keppel Harbour, the lush greenery of Bukit Chermin hill, and the distant rocky cliffs of Sentosa island. During high tide, the low-lying boardwalk will bring you close to the water surface where schools of **fishes** can be sighted; while at low tide, you can also spot **seagrass beds** and different species of **crustaceans** found on the extensive mudflat, which is a habitat that supports a wide variety of marine organisms. Also, spend some time to appreciate the conserved heritage of the four existing black-and-white bungalows on Bukit Chermin.

In future, visitors will be able to continue walking seamlessly all the way to Sentosa and HarbourFront MRT Station via the public promenades at the Reflections at Keppel Bay, the Caribbean at Keppel Bay, Harbourfront and Vivocity.

→ 5

Labrador Nature Reserve

Tread back to the end of Berlayer Creek and turn left to Labrador Nature Reserve if you would like to explore two other types of habitats – the coastal cliffs and the rocky shores. One of Singapore's four protected nature reserves, Labrador Nature Reserve provides a safe haven for biodiversity. Experience the fascinating connection between the landscape and historical themes by tracing the journey back to the 1870s. In addition to being rich in wartime and maritime history, the Reserve has a rich range of coastal plants that have interesting features which help them survive in the harsh, windy environment. You can always look forward to a breathtaking experience with nature in a wide variety of habitats, including Singapore's only protected coastal rocky shore. For a trail-guide on the Reserve, visit www.nparks.gov.sg/eguides.

→ 6

Alexandra Garden Trail

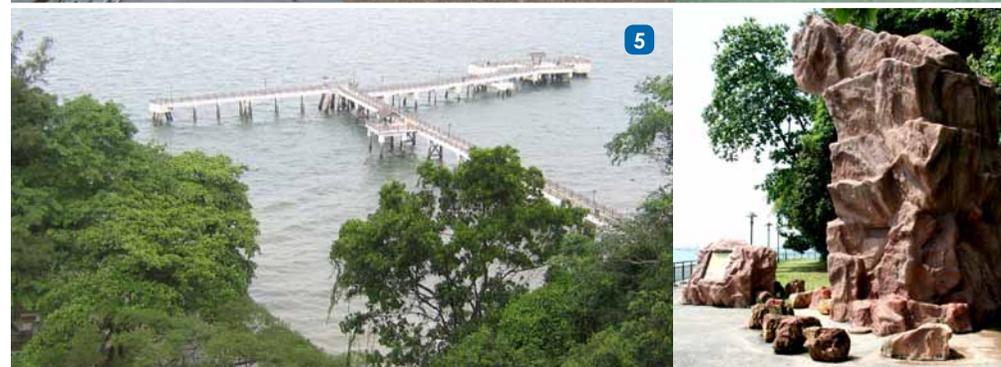
Stroll on to the Alexandra Garden Trail from Labrador Nature Reserve via Port Road. Pedestrians and cyclists can revel in the scenic views and greenery along the 830m Alexandra Garden Trail, which is connected to key recreational destinations in the area such as Alexandra Arch, Forest Walk and the future arts cluster at Gillman Village.

Designed as a linear garden, you may cycle or jog on the cycling and foot paths which meander around mature roadside trees. Many species of flowering plants and foliage plants were also added at the foot of the trees to enhance the trail. These include more than 10 species of butterfly-attracting and scented plants such as **Flaming Beauty** (*Carphalea kirondron*),



Seagrass
(Photo by Lim Weiling)

Flower Crab



Paradise Flower
(Photo by Jane Li)

Common Iora

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Flowering Banana (*Musa coccinea*), and **Paradise Flower** (*Caesalpinia pulcherrima*). They not only bring life to the garden with their vibrant orange-red flowers, they also attract delicate butterflies such as **Plain Tiger** (*Danaus chrysippus*), **Lemon Emigrant** (*Catopsilia pomona pomona*) and **Common Mormon** (*Papilio polytes*). Besides beautifying the area, these plants also act as buffers, shielding pedestrians and cyclists along the trail from the heavy traffic along Alexandra Road.

→ 7

The Southern Ridges

If you enjoy walking or cycling in lush open spaces, do not miss the great outdoor experience that the Southern Ridges offers. From Alexandra Garden Trail, you may wish to continue on to HortPark and Canopy Walk on the left, or Alexandra Arch on the right. Away from the hustle and bustle of city life, the Southern Ridges is one of the latest and most exciting recreational destinations that Singapore offers.

The most distinguishing feature about the Ridges is the seamless experience it offers to visitors – the 9-kilometre chain of green, open spaces spanning the hills of Mount Faber Park, Telok Blangah Hill Park and Kent Ridge Park are mostly connected by nature pathways and bridges. The other highlights of the Southern Ridges are the Forest Walk and Canopy Walk – bridges cutting through the *Adinandra* belukar, a distinct type of secondary forest where the forest regenerates after exhaustive agriculture exploitation. These trails are excellent for bird watchers to observe birds in their natural habitats. You can also find a rich variety of flora and fauna here.

Gain a deeper insight of Singapore's history as you walk

on the Ridges. Take beautiful photos of wild flowers and birds, and panoramic shots of the city, harbour and Southern Islands from strategic spots along the Southern Ridges such as the Henderson Waves.

If you travel towards Marang Trail, your last stop will be at HarbourFront MRT Station, which marks the end of your green experience in southern Singapore.

For trail-guides on the Southern Ridges, visit www.nparks.gov.sg/eguides.

Route 2:

From HarbourFront MRT Station to Labrador Park MRT Station

Estimated average walking time: 3 hours

Level of difficulty: Moderate to challenging

You might choose to begin your exploration of the loop from HarbourFront MRT Station, which will take you through the Southern Ridges 7 before reaching Labrador Nature & Coastal Walk through Alexandra Garden Trail 6. After that, you can continue on to Berlayer Creek mangrove trail 1, 2, 3, Bukit Chermin Boardwalk 4, followed by Labrador Nature Reserve 5, and finally end your adventure at Labrador Park MRT Station.

We hope you have enjoyed your walk on this trail. For other intimate encounters with flora and fauna, embark on Prunus Trail or Chemperai Trail at The MacRitchie Boardwalks. To obtain another DIY trail-guide on a walking trail in one of Singapore's parks, visit www.nparks.gov.sg/eguides.



Flowering Banana
(Photo by Gary Chua)



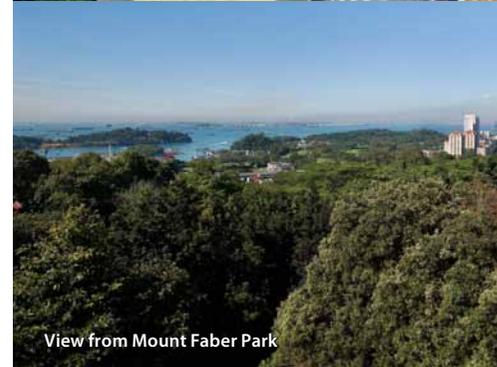
Canopy Walk



Henderson Waves



Telok Blangah Hill Park



View from Mount Faber Park



Crimson Sunbird



Raffles' Pitcher Plant



Plain Tiger



HortPark



Lemon Emigrant
(Photo by Khew Sin Khoon)



Common Mormon
(Photo by Khew Sin Khoon)

Acknowledgements:

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