

Sights and Activities in **Woodlands Waterfront Park**

With an exceptional view of the sea from the north, Woodlands Waterfront Park is a favourite among residents and visitors young and old. A scenic and tranquil 11-hectare coastal park, it houses a large playground with a wide range of equipment and a 1.5km-long waterfront promenade. From high vantage points along the scenic trail, visitors are offered an unobstructed and panoramic view of the entire coastal park and the Straits of Johor. The undulating terrain of the park is furnished with rest shelters and dedicated jogging and cycling tracks, providing exercise enthusiasts with both adventurous and challenging trails.

Woodlands Waterfront Park also forms part of the comprehensive network of parks and park connectors in the area, improving accessibility to the waterfront. It is also linked to the existing Admiralty Park via the 25-km Northern Explorer Loop.

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 of the park.
- Dispose of rubbish at the nearest bin.
- Activities such as poaching, releasing and feeding of animals, damaging and removal of plants, and those that cause pollution are strictly prohibited.
- Clean up after your pets and keep them leashed.
- Camping is not allowed.



Difficulty level: Easy



Distance: 2km



Walking time: 1-2hr • Cycling time: 45min





1 Playground 2 Simpoh Ayer 3 Sea Almond 4 Tembusu



5 Sea Hibiscus 6 Sea Lettuce 7 Bamboo Orchid 8 Fish Poison Tree



9 White-bellied Sea Eagle 10 Jetty



11 Purple Heron 12 Cattle Egret 13 Zebra Dove



14 Lookout Point 15 Common Rhu



16 Scaly-breasted Munia

Shell Jetty
(No access)

Promenade



Legend

- Shelter
- Fitness Corner
- Water Point
- Toilet
- Food & Beverage
- Vending Machine
- Playground
- Carpark
- Bus Stop
- Road
- Path
- Park Connector
- Sea

Sights and Activities in Woodlands Waterfront Park





1. Playground



2. Simpoh Ayer



Simpoh Ayer fruit



3. Sea Almond



4. Tembusu



5. Sea Hibiscus



6. Sea Lettuce



7. Bamboo Orchid



8. Fish Poison Tree

▶ 1 Playground

A highlight of the area, the playground boasts a wide range of exercise and play equipment to bring families together and offer the community a space to interact. Two-storey high adventure play equipment, which includes the netted Sky Bridges and Sky Cabins, is ideal for adventurous and energetic youth and adults. The elderly can use the fitness equipment which is specially tailored to their needs, while young children can enjoy the slides and swings.

▶ 2 Simpoh Ayer (*Dillenia suffruticosa*)

Originating from Malaysia, the Simpoh Air is a large shrub that can grow as high as 5m. Usually found along forest edges, freshwater swamps and the banks of streams, it has large oval leaves which are bright green and leathery. Its yellow flowers have five petals each, and last only a day. When ripe, the fruits split into segments resembling a star-like structure. In the old days, its leaves were used to wrap food like *rojak*, *tempeh* and *nasi lemak*. In Brunei, the fruit pulp is eaten and is even used as shampoo!

▶ 3 Sea Almond (*Terminalia catappa*)

A common tree in this region, the fast-growing and colourful Sea Almond tree can grow up to 25m with a spreading, pagoda-shaped crown. It has greenish-white flowers and almond-shaped fruits, which turn from red to purple as they ripen. The seed is surrounded by a layer of corky fibres or a shell. The corky rind allows the fruits to be dispersed by wind and water. The nut is edible and tastes like almonds, hence the common name Sea Almond. The Malays and some Pacific Islanders eat these nuts. In South America, oil is extracted from the dried nuts and used in cooking.

▶ 4 Tembusu (*Cryptophyllum fragrans*)

A colourful tree with small, sweet-smelling flowers and round orange to red berries which attract birds, the Tembusu originates from Singapore and Peninsular Malaysia. Its wood is used for building houses and bridges, while its leaves, twigs and bark have medicinal uses. For instance, a concoction of the bark is known to be taken for malaria. Planting this tree can suppress the growth of lalang, a pesky weed in open areas. Found along roadsides, the Tembusu is featured on the back of Singapore's five dollar note.

▶ 5 Sea Hibiscus (*Talipariti tiliaceum*)

Low-standing with spreading branches, the Sea Hibiscus can grow up to 12m tall. It produces flowers all year round with bright yellow petals featuring a maroon centre. Each flower opens at about 9am and closes at 4pm. The petals fall off in the evening or the next morning, with the round capsules splitting to disperse the flat seeds. The spirally-arranged and heart-shaped leaves are dark green on the top and greenish-white underneath. The fibre of the bark is used for making string, rope and for sealing boats, while the leaves can be used for cattle feed.

▶ 6 Sea Lettuce (*Scaevola taccada*)

Naturally occurring on sandy shores from India to Polynesia, this shrub is commonly found in Singapore. The paddle-shaped, light green leaves are arranged in a spiral formation. Its yellow-white ripe fruits, which are small and round, are eaten by birds while its white flowers, with petals split down one side, are visited by bees and wasps. The Sea Lettuce is a good plant choice for coastal parks as it is very tolerant of seawater.

▶ 7 Bamboo Orchid (*Arundina graminifolia*)

A medium-sized ground orchid that can grow up to 2m tall, the Bamboo Orchid can be found growing with lalang, wasteland grasses and in *Adinandra belukar* (secondary forest growing on degraded soil caused by exhaustive agricultural use). The orchid has an upright, slender stem bearing narrow grass-like leaves. The flowers are dainty and attractive, and are bluish-purple or white in colour with light purple and yellow markings on the lip. After pollination, the flower develops into a cigar-shaped capsule, which splits open to release its seeds when the fruit is ripe.

▶ 8 Fish Poison Tree (*Barringtonia asiatica*)

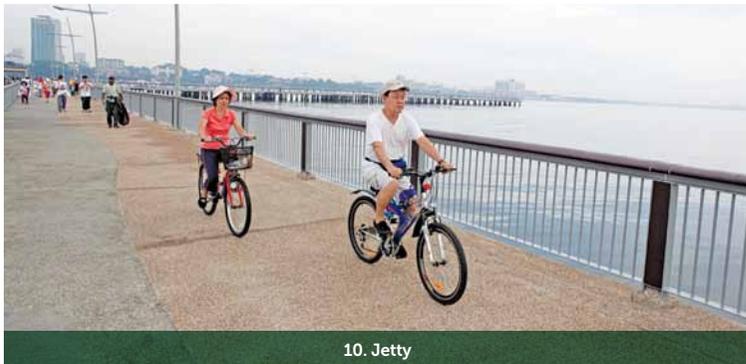
This large seashore tree found in the region can grow as high as 25m. It has a shiny crown of large leaves which spreads widely. The leaves are thick, leathery and cluster at the ends of twigs. When young, they appear to be pinkish in colour, but turn yellow when they are older. The tree has large, reddish-white flowers which open at night. They give off a powerful scent which attracts large moths and nectar-feeding bats, and their stamens usually drop to the ground the day after they bloom. The tree has large fruits resembling hanging lanterns. They contain a poison which can be used to stun fish in streams.



9. White-bellied Sea Eagle



11. Purple Heron



10. Jetty



12. Cattle Egret

► **9 White-bellied Sea Eagle**
(*Haliaeetus leucogaster*)

The White-bellied Sea Eagle, which is the largest raptor (carnivorous bird) in Singapore, is also known as *Lang Laut* in Malay. It has a wingspan of about 50cm while its body is about 70cm long. It is commonly seen along the coast with its wings in a V-shape, unlike other raptors which hold their wings horizontally. It hunts for prey such as sea snakes, fish, birds, turtles and crabs near the water's surface. This bird of prey is found mainly on the coast, on wooded rocky shores and in mangroves, though sometimes it can be spotted near inland reservoirs or rivers. It is a large raptor with a white head, underparts and tail, with black upperparts and wings. Its bill is brown and its wedged tail is visible in flight.

► **10 Jetty**

Previously used by the Royal Malaysian Navy as a training base camp, Woodlands Waterfront Jetty still houses old hoist systems at the shed, once used to lift heavy loads. It has since been refurbished, but mooring anchors can still be seen along the jetty aisle, which now function as seats for visitors to take a rest. At 400m, this jetty is one of the longest coastal jetties in Singapore and fishing is permitted

at certain stretches (please refer to signs along the jetty for more information). There is also a restaurant nearby if you would like to take a break.

The current Woodlands Waterfront Park is actually the site of five jetties: Torpedo Jetty, Royal Malaysian Naval Jetty, Woodlands Jetty, Ruthenia Oiling Jetty and Customs Jetty. By 2009, only two of the five jetties remained. Woodlands Jetty is currently known as Shell Jetty and the Royal Malaysian Naval Jetty is currently known as Woodlands Waterfront Jetty. The remains of other jetties can be seen during very low tide.

► **11 Purple Heron** (*Ardea purpurea*)

The Purple Heron is a large bird, standing at 1m in height with a wingspan of 1m. It tends to be less active in the day, feeding chiefly in the early morning and late evening. It feeds in shallow waters by waiting for its prey in a motionless position or slowly stalking its victim. When fish, frogs, insects and small mammals get close enough, it uses its beak to secure its meal. Its plumage is ash-grey at the base of its neck, upper body and wings, while its head and neck are reddish-brown with a black stripe from the base of its mouth down to the belly.



15. Common Rhu



13. Zebra Dove



16. Scaly-breasted Munia

► **12 Cattle Egret** (*Bubulcus ibis*)

This bird got its name from its association with cattle in pastures and padi fields, feeding on the insects which are disturbed by the larger animals. Originally from Africa, the Cattle Egret is much shorter and stockier than other egrets. Its bill is blunter and it has a little frill of feathers under its jaw. During non-breeding periods, it has no plumes and its body is all white, although some may have a yellow tinge on the crown. It usually carries its neck hunched down into its shoulders, but when searching for insects, it will stretch it out and walk with its neck swaying, like the walk of a goose.

► **13 Zebra Dove** (*Geopelia striata*)

Native to Southeast Asia, the Zebra Dove is a small and slender bird with a long, narrow tail. The upperparts of its body are brownish-grey with black-and-white barring. The underparts of its body are pinkish with black bars on the sides of its neck, breast and belly. Its face is blue-grey, with bare blue skin around the eyes. It is commonly seen in parks and gardens, foraging either alone or in pairs on bare ground, short grass or roads.

► **14 Look-out Point**

Catch a glimpse of some migratory birds along the coastline taking a dip in the waters for a feed. Long-tailed Macaques can also be sighted along the forest edge next to Admiralty Road West, foraging the tall trees for food.



14. Look-out Point

► **15 Common Rhu** (*Casuarina equisetifolia*)

Native to this region, the Common Rhu is a fast-growing, graceful tree which has green twigs resembling pine needles. These fine twigs bear leaves, which have been reduced to minute scales. The twigs are cast off as they age, causing the ground around the trees to often be covered with a mat of brown needles. Young trees have a conical shape which may be lost as the trees mature, and usually reach a height of 30m. The Common Rhu forms useful windbreaks along the coast, protecting the soil from erosion and providing shelter from the wind. Its wood is hard and strong, and is used for fence posts, poles and beams, and as fuel for trains and brick kilns (a type of oven used to make bricks). Its bark extracts are used for tanning hides, staining fabrics and preserving fishing lines.

► **16 Scaly-breasted Munia**
(*Lonchura punctulata*)

A very common resident found in all habitats of Singapore, the Scaly-breasted Munia 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. The head, throat, back and wings are chestnut, with the area around the face being the darkest shade, while its breast and belly are white.

You can also view Shell Jetty (also known as Woodlands Jetty) from this point.

We hope you have enjoyed exploring Woodlands Waterfront Park. For another park experience, embark on the trail at Admiralty Park.

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