



Gallop Extension

Singapore Botanic Gardens

UNESCO World Heritage Site



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The Gallop Extension is located at 5 and 7 Gallop Road, adjacent to the Learning Forest. Parking is only available at the carpark along Tyersall Ave.

Location

Admission is Free

Botanical Art Gallery
 9am to 6pm daily
 (Closed every last Thursday of the month except on Public Holidays)

Gallop Extension
 9am to 6pm daily
 (Access to unfit areas is restricted from 7pm to 7am)

Useful Information

About Gallop Extension

The Gallop Extension is an undulating terrain of open lawns surrounded by expansive Botanic Gardens' nature area, a forest habitat which includes the Rainforest and Learning Forest. As a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the premier institution for botanical discovery in Singapore, the Gardens has a rich history that is not just grounded in recreation, but also in research, conservation and education. The Gallop Extension is therefore envisioned as a place that brings nature even closer to people from all walks of life, with new opportunities to learn about Singapore's forest ecology and conservation. Visitors to the Gallop Extension will be able to see an arboretum of endangered species from the region, along with two conserved century-old black and white houses that have been refurbished into the Forest Discovery Centre @ OCBC Arboretum and the Botanical Art Gallery. The Gallery is the first in Singapore to focus on the display of botanical art, including the Gardens' own extensive collections of paintings and illustrations which began in the late nineteenth century. In addition, the Gallop Extension includes a recreated ridge-top habitat—the Mingxin Foundation Rambler's Ridge—and the COMO Adventure Grove, a nature playground. These features provide opportunities for visitors from all ages to appreciate different forest habitats found in our region.

Landscape and Architecture

History and Design Influences

English Landscape Movement

The undulating landscapes of the Gallop extension reflect clear influences from the English Landscape Movement in a tropical setting. Grand bungalows were built on the hilltops, with commanding views of the surrounding landscape and names that were largely evocative of the British countryside.

Approaching from the Learning Forest, a forest trail leads seamlessly into the OCBC Arboretum of rare and endangered forest plants. This is also the perfect moment to get a broader view of the Gallop Extension's unique landscape in relation to the Gardens.

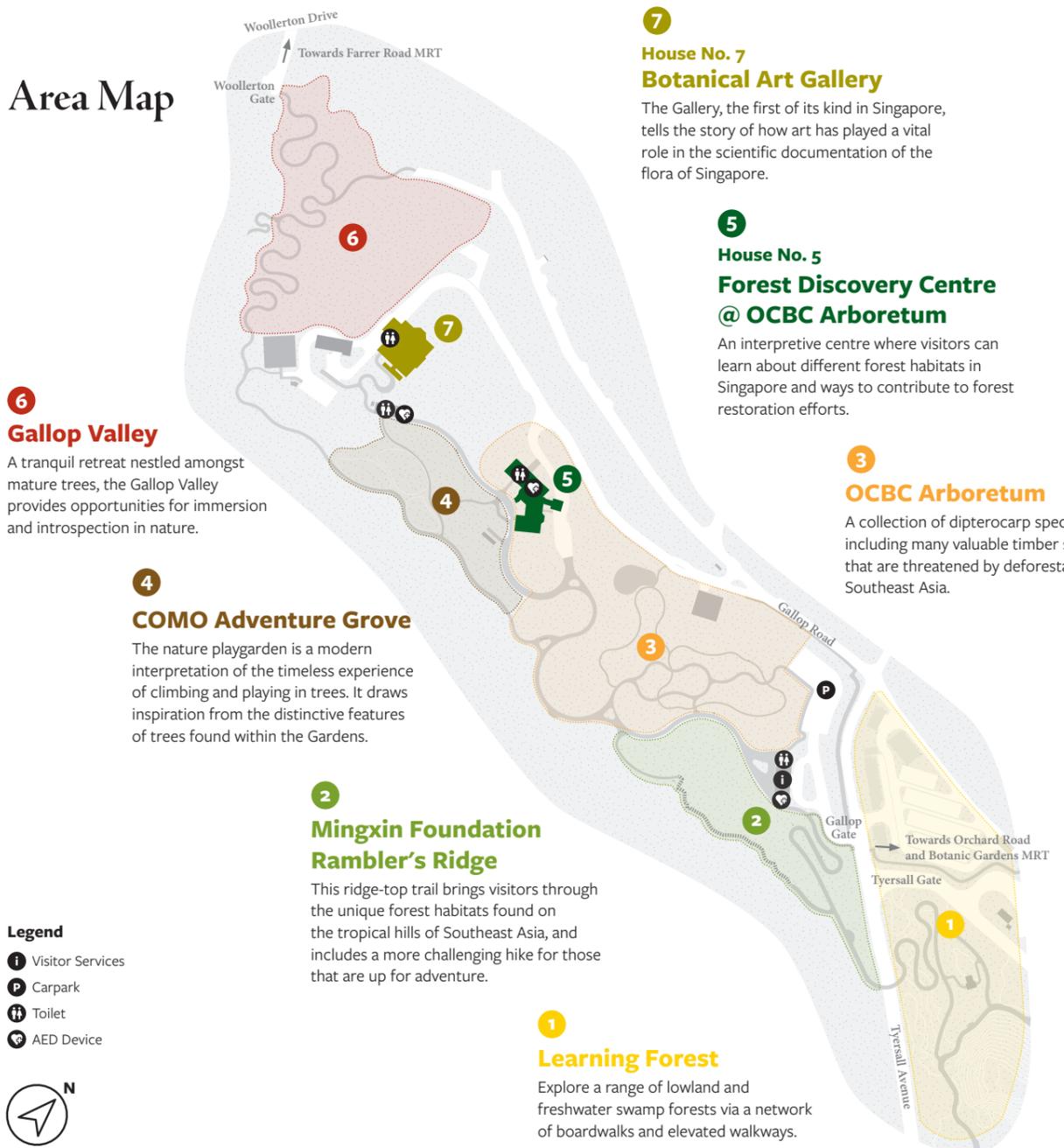
At the end of the trail, visitors first arrive at Forest Discovery Centre @ OCBC Arboretum. A short walk amidst a garden setting then takes the exploration further on to Botanical Art Gallery.

Architecture Heritage

Situated at 5 and 7 Gallop Road are two conserved black and white houses known as **Atbara** and **Inverturret**, now home to the **Forest Discovery Centre @ OCBC Arboretum** and the **Botanical Art Gallery** respectively. Both houses were designed by R.A.J. Bidwell, the British architect most renowned for designing the Raffles Hotel and Goodwood Park Hotel in Singapore.

Open to the public for the first time, the houses of the Gallop Extension, with their broad eaves, generous verandahs, Gothic porches and Moorish arches, provide an immersive way to experience the unique architecture of the British colonial era.

Area Map



Forest Discovery Centre @ OCBC Arboretum

Atbara, House No. 5

Atbara at 5 Gallop Road is the oldest surviving black and white colonial house in Singapore. Built in 1898, it was originally owned by John Burkinshaw who set up one of Singapore's earliest law firms. For several decades, the house also served as the former French embassy.

Today, the refurbished Atbara houses fascinating exhibitions on Singapore's living forests and ongoing efforts to conserve their rich biodiversity and complex ecosystems. Everything in this centre is designed to complement the outdoor experiences of the Gallop Extension and Learning Forest.



Room 1 Welcome to Atbara

A series of historical photographs showcases the architectural heritage of Atbara and Inverturret, and the story behind their English garden landscape setting.



Room 2 Our Living Forests

An audiovisual and interactive overview of Singapore's protected forest habitats—past, present and future.



Room 4 Pangolin Room

A workshop space, a nature education lab, a children's activities area and a Citizen Science corner—all dedicated to the love and appreciation of all living things.

Room 3 Forest Conservation Gallery

Learn more about Singapore's many vital forest landscapes, including its coastal and mangrove forests, freshwater swamp forests and tropical rainforests.

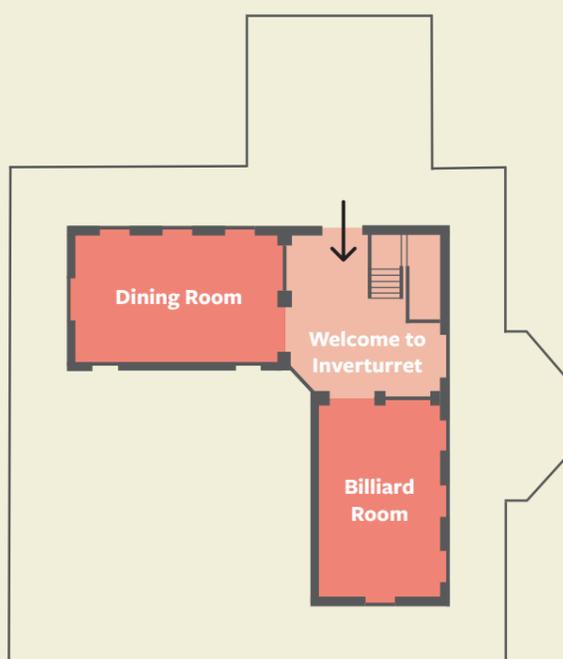
Botanical Art Gallery

Inverturret, House No. 7



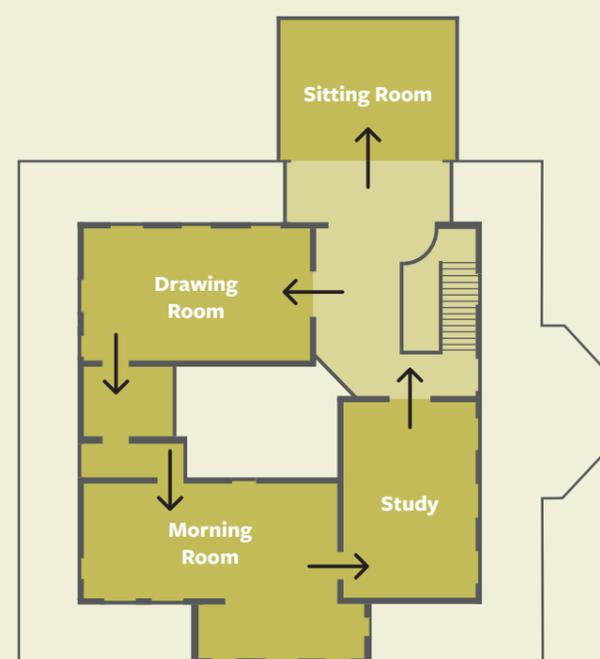
Inverturret at 7 Gallop Road is one of the oldest black and white colonial houses in Singapore. Built in 1906, Inverturret and the surrounding land was sold to Charles MacArthur, an early chairman of the Straits Trading Co.. For several decades, it also served as the residence of the French ambassadors.

Today, Inverturret houses Singapore's first permanent gallery of botanical art. An extensive in-house collection of watercolour paintings, ink drawings, prints and other artefacts collectively tell a story about art's vital role in the scientific documentation of the flora of modern Singapore.



Level 1 Temporary Exhibitions

A designated exhibition space featuring botanical artworks, works from the Gardens' own collections, as well as art pieces on loan from other galleries, museums and botanical institutions.



Level 2 Permanent Exhibition

Beginning with the development of the Gardens' collection of botanical art from 1890 to the present, the exhibition tells the story of how painting and drawing have contributed to scientific discovery. It then explores how botanical art supports the Gardens' efforts to study and conserve our local and regional botanical heritage.

There is also an activity room where both adults and children get to try out basic botanical illustration techniques.