

# LAND USE HISTORY BUKIT TIMAH AREA

Photo credit: Gretchen Liu Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore



Pepper plantation

Photo credit: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore



Prior to colonization, the Bukit Timah area was home to dryland dipterocarp forest. While some of the dipterocarp forest has been retained within Bukit Timah Nature Reserve, other remaining forests surrounding the reserve now comprise various types of mixed age secondary growth after a period of forest removal. These forests were shaped by the proliferation of agricultural plantations such as gambier, rubber, and oil palm, quarrying, and infrastructure for human settlement.

This is the Poh Kim Granite Quarry at the base of Bukit Batok Hill. The disused quarry which stopped operations in the late 70s has been converted to the Bukit Batok Nature Park.

Then Minister of Finance Dr Goh Keng Swee and Malaysian Minister of Commerce and Industry Dr Lim Swee Aun tour Ford Factory at Bukit Timah.

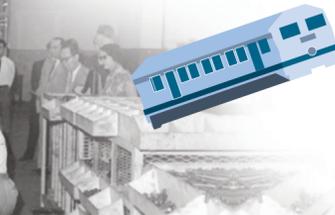


Photo credit: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

The Asian Fairy Bluebird can sometimes be seen in our Nature Parks. Keep an eye out for their bright blue plumage!

Photo credit: NParks

# IMPORTANCE OF NATURE PARKS

Nature parks are green buffers that serve to reduce pressures and stressors on our nature reserves. They are commonly located on the fringes of nature reserves, where much of Singapore's remaining biodiversity reside.

As the number of visitors to nature reserves has grown over the years, human impacts such as erosion, soil compaction and trail widening can cumulatively result in habitat degradation and fragmentation within our reserves. Therefore, nature parks are introduced to reduce the impact of visitors on areas of high conservation value. As part of our Forest

Restoration Action Plan (FRAP), nature parks are being restored such that they can be a part of the mature forest landscape in time to come.

We invite you to explore our nature parks, which offer exciting nature-based recreational experiences and have curated 4 hiking trails for you to explore.

Photo credit: NParks



Photo credit: Joseph Koh

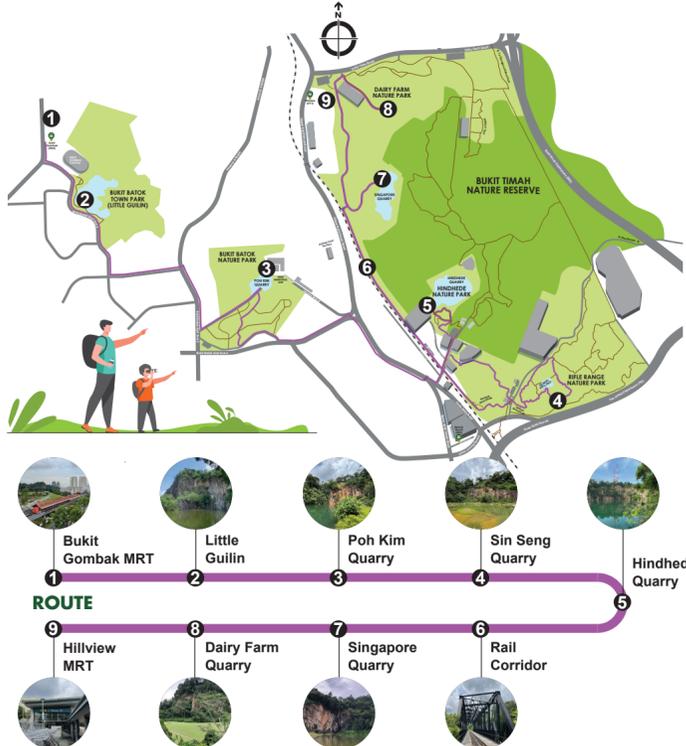


TOP Community volunteers help to pull up invasive weeds such as *Dioscorea sansibarensis*. Invasive weeds often outcompete or smother our native plants and have to be removed regularly to promote good regeneration of native trees.

BOTTOM NParks Friends of Bukit Timah volunteers help to plant native trees at Dairy Farm Nature Park. Photo credit: Joseph Koh

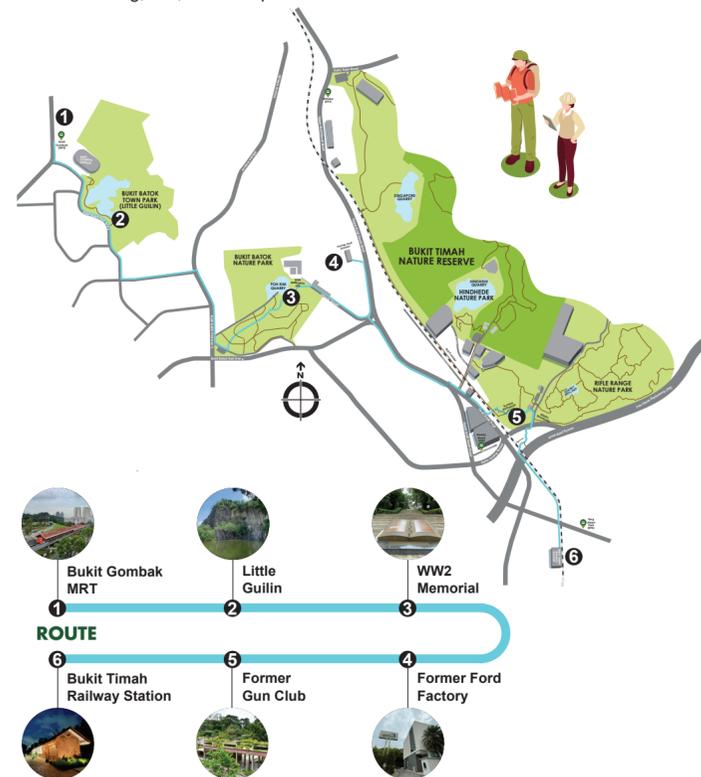
## SCENIC QUARRIES (11 KM)

During the growth in construction in 1980s to 1990s, demand for granite soared and quarrying became a booming industry. As the dangers of quarry mining became apparent, quarries in Singapore were shut down by 2000. Many have since been filled with water or soil and turned into nature parks, creating scenic landscapes for visitors to enjoy.



## PIECES OF BUKIT TIMAH'S HISTORY (6.6 KM)

On top of their rich biodiversity, our nature parks and green spaces have unique histories behind them. Embark on this trail and take a step back in time as you visit places which have a part of Singapore's mining, manufacturing, war, and transport histories.



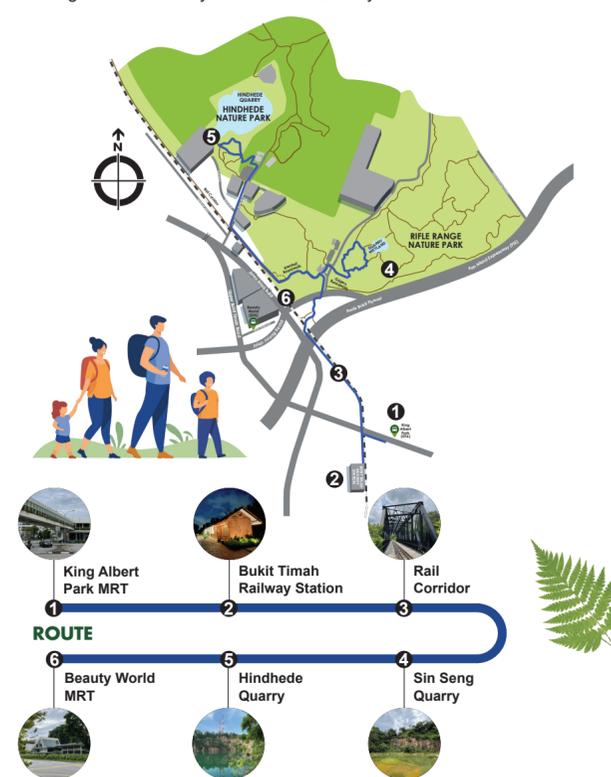
## HOW FAR CAN YOU GO? (>12 KM)

Challenge yourself with this hiking trail that runs from Central to Northern Singapore. Stop by nature parks along the way, each with their unique charms. After Point 9, continue your journey towards the Northern Explorer Loop (PCN) and discover more gems of the north.



## EASY WALKING (4.5 KM)

Families with children and seniors who are keen on exploring our nature parks should attempt this family-friendly trail. These green spaces have easy walking trails and can be completed within an hour for a brisk and relaxing hike followed by a meal at the Beauty World area.



# TRAIL ETIQUETTE



### Tips for safety and enjoyment

- Wear comfortable walking shoes and light clothing. Bring along a water bottle, insect repellent and an umbrella/raincoat.
- Observe all signs and information boards which are provided for your safety and enjoyment.
- Keep to the designated trails and roads. Hikers should not use the biking trails for hiking.
- Open fires and camping are prohibited.

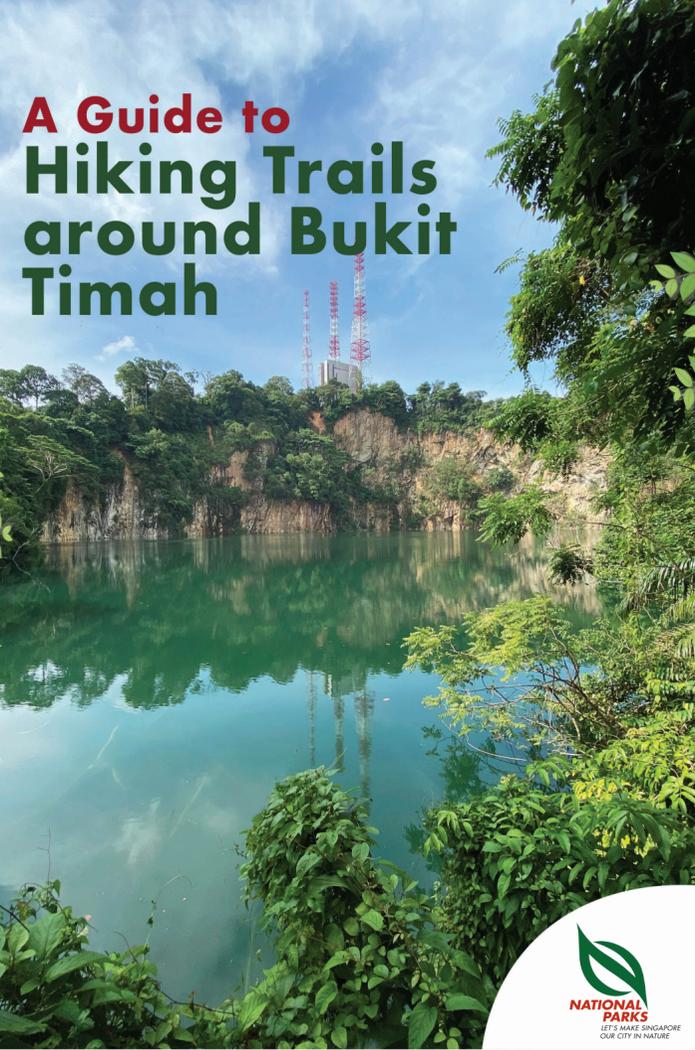
### Consideration for others

- Respect your fellow visitors' rights to peaceful enjoyment of the nature reserves and leave radios and sound systems at home.
- For the safety and convenience of other visitors, please do not put up any signs or markers without authorisation.
- Encourage others to protect the natural environment.

This free guide is made available through Garden City Fund, National Parks Board's registered charity and IPC. Support the conservation of our natural heritage at [www.gardencityfund.gov.sg](http://www.gardencityfund.gov.sg).



Share your love for nature and animals of #NParksbuzz #AnimobuzzSG



# A Guide to Hiking Trails around Bukit Timah

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**Bukit Batok Nature Park**  
**Opening hours: 24hrs**  
 Revisit history where an abandoned mining quarry and the World War II memorial plaque await you.



**Bukit Batok Town Park**  
**Opening hours: 24hrs**  
 Known to many as 'Little Guilin' as it features granite rock formations that resemble its namesake in Guilin, China. Take a quick getaway to this park nestled in a quiet neighbourhood.



**Bukit Timah Nature Reserve**  
**Opening hours: 7am to 7pm**  
 Home to one of the few remaining patches of primary forests and the highest peak in Singapore, Bukit Timah Nature Reserve is an area with high conservation importance.



**Chestnut Nature Park**  
**Opening hours: 7am to 7pm**  
 At 81 hectares, this is Singapore's largest nature park to date. While known for its mountain biking trails, it is also home to many hiking trails and is a great place to visit for bird watchers.



**Zhenghua Nature Park**  
**Opening hours: 24hrs**  
 Admire a curated planting of bird and butterfly-attracting plants as you travel between the Bukit Panjang Park Connector and the Bukit Timah Nature Park Network.



**Dairy Farm Nature Park**  
**Opening hours: 7am to 7pm**  
 Despite what its name suggests, there is no longer a Dairy Farm here. Instead, the forest has regrown and been restored to a nature park with lush biodiversity. Families can also look forward to visiting the Wallace Education Centre which showcases our natural history.



**Hindhede Nature Park**  
**Opening hours: 7am to 7pm**  
 Tucked away in a corner of the Nature Reserve, Hindhede Nature Park is a popular photography spot with abundant wildlife, scenic Hindhede Quarry and easy walking trails.



**Rail Corridor**  
**Opening hours: 24hrs**  
 Once the KTM railway that ran from Tanjong Pagar to Johor, the Rail Corridor now serves as an important ecological corridor for wildlife movement.  
 \*Take note that there is no lighting provided at night.



**Rifle Range Nature Park**  
**Opening hours: 7am to 7pm**  
 The newest addition to the Bukit Timah Nature Park Network. Check out the Colugo Deck to enjoy panoramic views of Singapore!



LEGEND			
	Trail		Easy Walking Trail
	Long Distance Trail		Scenic Quarries Trail
	Bukit Timah's History Trail		Rail Corridor
	Bridge		Shelter
			Toilet
			Carpark
			Automated External Defibrillator
			Building
			Bus-stop
			MRT
			Visitor Centre
			Water Point

