

## Your Guide to **Sembawang Park**

Nature and heritage come together in this serene park facing the Straits of Johor. Sembawang Park boasts a beautiful beach that is one of the few remaining natural beaches of Singapore. The park has interesting links to the country's naval history too. Beaulieu House, Sembawang Jetty and what remains of Seletar Pier, which was constructed in the 1920s, still stand in the park today. The walkways inside the park are also restored pathways that were used during the British occupation.

Seletar Pier once stood at the end of Sembawang (formerly known as Seletar Road). The far end of the road was then a mere track so it was easier for people to travel by boat around the coast to get to the area. When the Naval Base was built, all materials and stores were brought in by boat to Seletar Pier and then transported to the base by a team of 20 bullock carts. Even though the pier was demolished around the 1970s or 1980s, the site where it once stood has not changed much.

The park is also surrounded by other places of historical interest such as Former Admiralty House, Kampong Wak Hassan, Masjid Petempatan Melayu Sembawang and Sembawang Memorial.

The park is a great place for a jog or a stroll on a weekday or a family-get-together over the weekend for some barbecuing, fishing and swimming.

### 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.
- A barbecue pit permit is required if you would like to barbecue in the park. Apply for the permit on [www.axs.com.sg](http://www.axs.com.sg) or at any AXS machine.
- Camping is not allowed.



Difficulty level: Easy

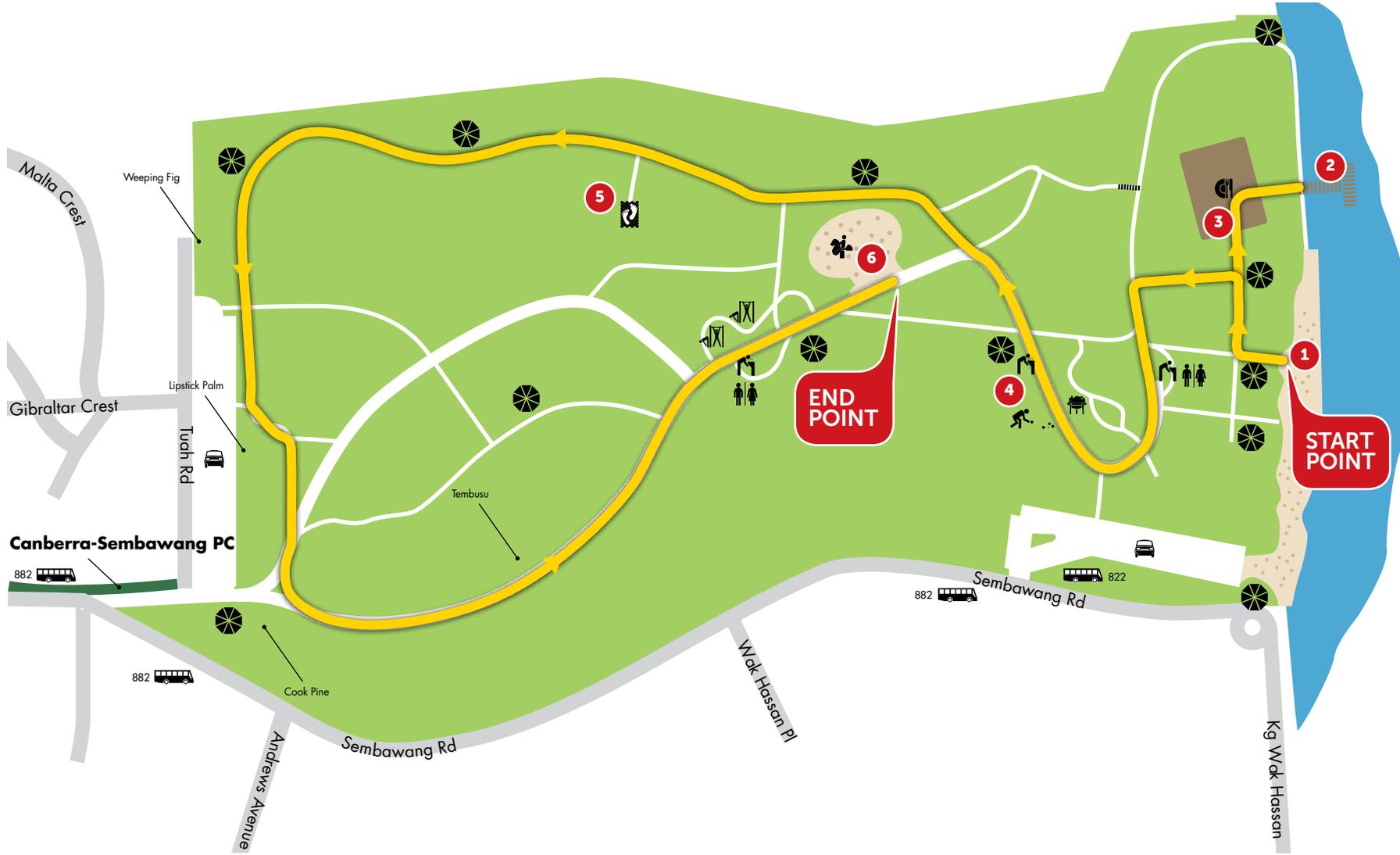


Distance: 1.5km



Walking time: 45min





**Legend**

- Shelter
- Toilet
- Food & Beverage
- Carpark
- Barbecue Pit
- Water Point
- Playground
- Foot Reflexology Area
- Petanque Court
- Fitness Corner
- Bus Stop
- Building
- Road
- Recommended Route
- Park Connector
- Sea



Sembawang Beach



Sembawang Jetty



Beaulieu House



Petanque Court



Foot Reflexology Area



Battleship Playground

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1. Sembawang Beach



View of Shipyard from Sembawang Jetty



2. Sembawang Jetty



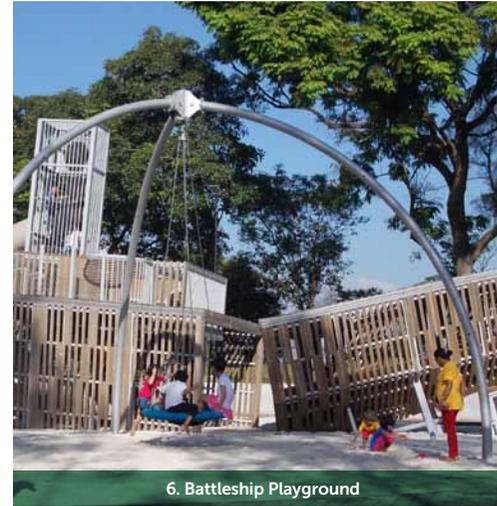
3. Beaulieu House



4. Petanque Court



5. Foot Reflexology Area



6. Battleship Playground



Tembusu Trees



Purple Heron



Brahminy Kite

## START POINT

### ▶ 1 Sembawang Beach

This is the only park in the north of Singapore that allows park visitors to access a natural beach. It is also the only park that has a timber-clad path along the coastline.

The view from the beach is always scenic and varies from tide to tide. At very low tide, a wide expanse of mudflats is revealed in the direction of Kampong Wak Hassan, with water gently lapping onto the shore. Beachcombers can revel in the expanse available for exploration and watch the birds search for food in or on top of the mud.

### ▶ 2 Sembawang Jetty

The 30m long jetty attracts many fishing enthusiasts, especially on weekends. It was initially built by the British in the final phase of the naval base's construction in the early 1940s, but it was the Japanese who completed it during their occupation of Singapore in World War II.

### ▶ 3 Beaulieu House

The house was built around 1910 and was originally occupied by a David family that was in the mining business. Later, in the 1940s, it became the residence of the most senior British naval officer in Singapore and the Far East, Vice-Admiral Geoffrey Layton, Commander-in-Chief, China Station.

After World War II, while the house was still part of the naval base, it became the residence of a Senior Fleet Officer. This was akin to a Chief of Staff, who would descend the steps of the house and stand on the jetty to receive salutes from the crews of ships that passed through the naval base.

Today, the Beaulieu House has been converted into a restaurant, which serves both Western and Asian cuisines and is popular with tourists and locals alike.

### ▶ 4 Petanque Court

Discover the unique ball game Petanque, one of Europe's most popular outdoor games, at this Petanque court. Designed for park users, the game originated in the early 1900s from the south of France.

### ▶ 5 Foot Reflexology Area

The foot reflexology area allows park users to massage their feet and provides an option for people to cool down after an intense workout.

### ▶ 6 Battleship Playground

The customised play equipment, built to resemble a battleship, is one of the park's main icons. This unique structure has both play and heritage values that tie in with the park's past as a former naval base.

## Flora and Fauna

Look out for the **Weeping Fig** (*Ficus benjamina*) with its small reddish fruit. This tree is often planted as a hedge as it can be pruned to a desired shape and size. Spot the **Lipstick Palm** (*Cyrtostachys renda* Blume), which occurs as a clump with bright red leaf sheaths around the stems. This attractive ornamental palm is also used in the Singapore Botanic Gardens logo. The tall and evergreen conifer, **Cook Pine** (*Araucaria columnaris*), is also not hard to spot. Named after Captain James Cook, who discovered it in New Caledonia, the tree is valued for its timber. Try looking out for the mature **Tembusu** (*Cyrtophyllum fragrans*), which has a large canopy and trumpet-shaped flowers.

Catch a glimpse of migratory birds dipping into the waters for a feed along the coastline. You will be amazed to see resident birds such as the **White-bellied Sea Eagle** (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*), **Brahminy Kite** (*Haliastur indus*), **Purple Heron** (*Ardea purpurea*) and **Striated Heron** (*Butorides striatus*) hunt for their prey in the open.

*We hope you have enjoyed exploring Sembawang Park. For another park adventure in your neighbourhood, embark on the trail at Tampines Eco Green.*

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