Your Guide to the
Heritage Trees of Fort Canning Park

This trail guide introduces you to 17 Heritage Trees that can be found in Fort Canning Park.

Mature trees are part of our natural heritage and serve as important green landmarks of our City in Nature. The Heritage Tree Scheme started in 2001, advocating the conservation of Singapore's mature trees. There are over 250 Heritage Trees significant for their size, botanical, social, historical, cultural and/or aesthetical value, setting them apart from other trees in Singapore. These trees take decades to mature gracefully and beautify our landscape, helping us to identify with and stay rooted to the place we call home.

Trees play an important role in our City in Nature, offering many environmental benefits such as respite from the tropical heat and sun, minimising soil erosion and reducing stormwater run-off. They also offer ecological benefits by providing shelter and a source of food for wildlife like birds, bees and butterflies. Being around trees and natural surroundings also improves our emotional and mental well-being, helping us feel more connected to nature and the city we live in.

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.
- Dispose of rubbish at the nearest bin.
- Activities such as poaching, releasing and feeding of animals, damaging and removing of plants, and those that cause pollution are strictly prohibited.

Legend

- Toilet
- Food & Beverage
- MRT Station
- Shelter
- Carpark
- Bus Stop
- Vending Machine
- Escalator
- Drop-off Point
- Fitness Station
- Entrance to Park
- Automated External Defibrillator
- Stairs
- Overhead Bridge
- Heritage Trees
- Road

SMU
SMU
SMU

Stamford Rd
Fort Canning Link
Fort Canning Road
Canning Rise

National Museum of Singapore

The Substation
Peranakan Museum
Bible House

Farquhar Garden

Fort Canning Tree Tunnel Connecting Penang Road to Canning Rise

Canning Walk
Percival Road
Car Park A
Car Park B
ASEAN Sculpture Garden
Fort Canning Green
Percival Steps

Battlebox Visitor Centre

Car Park C
Fort Canning Road

Cox Terrace
Dobbie Rise
Fort Canning Centre

Spice Garden
Artisan's Garden

Registry of Marriages
Canning Rise
Car Park

Hotel Fort Canning

Old Married Soldiers' Quarters

Oxley Flyover

National Archives of Singapore
Singapore Philatelic Museum
Masonic Hall
Central Fire Station
Lewin Terrace

Utama Garden
Sang Nila
Bond Terrace

Pancur Larangan

Clemenceau Avenue

Car Park D

Five Kings Walk

Raffles Garden

Hill Street

Old Hill Street Police Station

Jubilee Park

The Foothills

Fort Canning Station
River Valley Road

Learn more about our Heritage Trees at
go.gov.sg/heritagetrees

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#NParksBuzz #AnimalBuzzSG
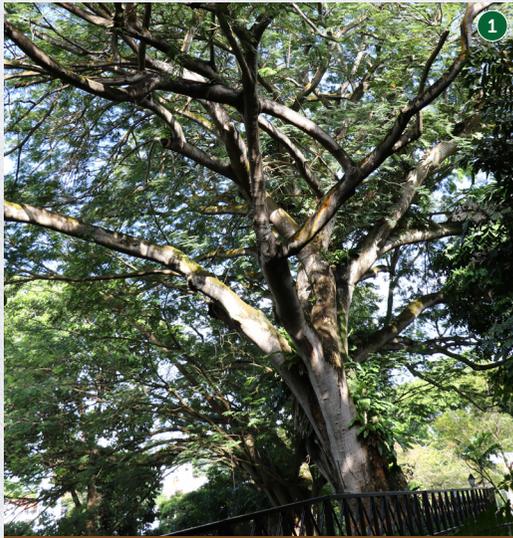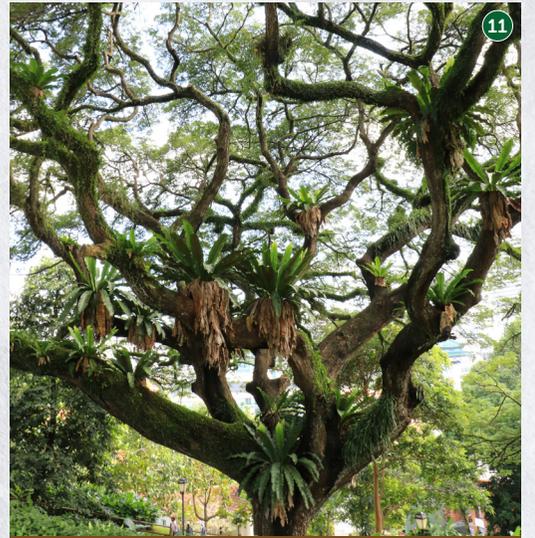
Earpod Tree

Kapok

Madras Thorn

Terap

Rain Tree

Earpod Tree (*Enterolobium cyclocarpum*)
HT 2001-11

1 Between Fort Wall and Hotel Fort Canning

Native to tropical America, the Earpod Tree is one of the largest tree species found in dry forest habitats. It reaches up to 40 m in height and 3 m in trunk diameter, and has a huge, spreading crown. In fact, older trees produce roots so large that they can crack or raise nearby sidewalks, roads or foundations.

The seeds of the Earpod Tree are contained in distinctively thickened and indehiscent (closed at maturity) pods. Each pod is shaped like an ear, giving rise to this tree's common name.

Kapok (*Ceiba pentandra*)
HT 2015-236

2 Path beside Service Reservoir

Reaching up to 70 m in height, the Kapok is a fast-growing tree that boasts a massive, often thorny, trunk and heavy buttresses. Its crown is made up of branches that are arranged in a tiered fashion, resembling a pagoda.

Deciduous in nature, the Kapok sheds its leaves before flowering and fruiting in response to drought.

The buoyant and water-resistant fibre is sometimes used to stuff pillows and mattresses.

Trunk

Madras Thorn (*Pithecellobium dulce*)
HT 2001-04 | HT 2001-05 | HT 2001-06 | HT 2001-07

3 4 5 6 Path beside Service Reservoir

At heights of up to 15 m, the Madras Thorn is a medium-sized tree. Its branches are fairly low down on the trunk; they start off thick and become thinner and more numerous towards the ends. This gives the crown its characteristically dense yet wispy appearance.

When ripe, the coiled pods of the Madras Thorn split open, exposing thick, white pulp surrounding shiny black seeds that dangle out on short, rose-red 'strings'. Birds feed on the pulp contained in these pods, helping to disperse the seeds.

Native to tropical America, the Madras Thorn was introduced to this region by the Portuguese and Spanish. In the past, it was commonly planted along Singapore's roadsides. However, after this species suffered major caterpillar attacks in 1970, it was phased out from roadsides and housing estates.

The Madras Thorn is relatively resistant to fire, and resprouts rapidly through basal or aerial shoots.

Terap (*Artocarpus elasticus*)
HT 2016-279 | HT 2001-12 | HT 2015-235 | HT 2014-223

7 Near Five Kings Walk

8 Path beside Service Reservoir

9 Raffles Garden

16 Fort Green, near Canning Rise lamp-post 11F

When young, the leaves of the Terap are deeply lobed. However, as it matures, its leaves become more entire (non-lobed) and its trunk more heavily buttressed. Its fruit are almost 18 cm long. When ripe, they darken from cream yellow to brown and emit a nauseous rancid smell.

The Terap is native to Singapore. It can also be found in Myanmar, Thailand, Sumatra, Peninsular Malaysia, Borneo, Java, the Philippines and the Lesser Sunda Islands. This tree's latex, known as *gutta terap*, is used as gum (bird lime) to trap birds.

Fruit

Rain Tree (*Samanea saman*)
HT 2001-08 | HT 2014-228

10 Near Bond Terrace

11 Near Registry of Marriages

The Rain Tree gets its name from how its leaflets close during the day when the sky is overcast. It is also referred to as Pukul Lima, meaning '5 o'clock', by the Malays because its leaflets also fold up in the evenings.

Reaching up to 30 m in height, the Rain Tree has an umbrella-shaped crown, spreading almost 20 to 30 m across. It has dark brown bark that becomes rough and flaky in mature specimens. Epiphytes like ferns and orchids tend to perch on old Rain Trees.

This species is native to tropical America, and was introduced to Singapore in 1876. By the mid-1900s, due to its excellent shade it had been planted extensively in coffee and nutmeg plantations as well as along roadsides. Cattle, goats, horses, pigs and even children relish the taste of its sweet fruit pulp.

Flowers

Tamalan Tree

Merbatu

Horse Mango

Indian Rubber Tree

Tamalan Tree (*Dalbergia oliveri*)
HT 2014-224

12 Fort Green

The Tamalan Tree looks extremely graceful with its spreading crown of delicate, feathery-looking foliage. Native to Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam, it was introduced to Singapore as an ornamental wayside tree. Although widely planted on Fort Canning Hill during the early 1900s, few are found along the roadside now.

Certain species of *Dalbergia*, such as the Brazilian Rosewood (*D. nigra*), Indian Rosewood (*D. latifolia*) and African Blackwood (*D. melanoxylon*), are timber trees of great value.

This particular Tamalan Tree is located within Fort Green, which is the site of the Old Christian Cemetery. It has been growing here since before 1974, as it can be seen as a mature tree in photographs taken that year.

Flowers

Merbatu (*Maranthes corymbosa*)
HT 2001-30 | HT 2001-31

13 Canning Rise, near Spice Gallery

15 Canning Rise, Singapore Management University Law School

Even amid changing landscapes, these two Merbatu trees stand firmly on the lower slopes of Fort Canning Hill. They are sometimes seen in old images of the former National Library Building (built in 1960, where the nearby SMU Law School currently stands).

The Merbatu is native to Singapore. Reaching up to more than 30 m in height, this large evergreen tree has a dense, heavy and dark green crown. It has pale grey bark that is flaky in younger trees, and smoother in older trees. Its oblong, slightly hairy fruit contains two seeds.

Fruits

Horse Mango (*Mangifera foetida*)
HT 2014-227

14 Canning Rise, opposite lamp-post 7

Native to Singapore, the Horse Mango is a large tree that reaches up to 40 m in height. Its dome-shaped crown is dense with stiff and leathery leaves. Near its branch tips, reddish-pink flowers bloom in upright panicles.

The light brown bark of the Horse Mango produces irritant white sap. Its yellowish-green fruit is spotted in brown. The Horse Mango's fruit is fibrous and juicy, but not palatable because it smells strongly of turpentine.

The Horse Mango is considered locally vulnerable in the wild.

Flowers

Indian Rubber Tree (*Ficus elastica*)
HT 2010-181

17 National Museum of Singapore grounds

The Indian Rubber tree is a fast-growing species found in moist tropical forests. Reaching up to 30 m in height, it develops numerous descending aerial roots. This fig tree can easily be distinguished from other fig trees by its young leaves which are enclosed in a red sheath.

Known for its latex, the Indian Rubber was once an economically important plant in this region. Its latex was tapped and processed into a type of rubber known as *gutta rambong*. However, the cultivation of Indian Rubber for its latex was slowly phased out after the Pará Rubber (*Hevea brasiliensis*) was introduced to this region. Pará Rubber produces higher quality latex and at a faster rate, making it the preferred choice.

This particular Indian Rubber tree has stood here since at least 1949. It can be identified in old photographs dating back to that year.

**We hope you enjoyed this trail!
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go.gov.sg/heritagetrees**