



MAP & SUGGESTED ROUTES
HERITAGE TRAIL
PASIR RIS

The Pasir Ris Heritage Trail is part of the National Heritage Board's ongoing efforts to document and present the history and social memories of places in Singapore. We hope this trail will bring back fond memories for those who have worked, lived or played in the area, and serve as a useful source of information for visitors and new residents.



Supported by



Pasir Ris Beach, 1958
Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

SUGGESTED SHORT TRAIL ROUTES

The coastal environment of Pasir Ris has shaped the way people lived, worked and played here for centuries. Through the three thematic trails specially curated by the National Heritage Board, you can trace the evolution of coastal living in Pasir Ris, and uncover design and architecture gems hiding in plain sight within this seaside town.

Coastal Heritage (1 hour on foot; 0.5 hours on bicycle)

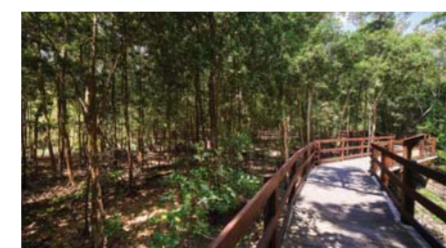
Developed in the 1980s, Pasir Ris Town retains characteristics of the area's past, including its resort feel and its fishing and coastal heritage. A mangrove forest within Pasir Ris Park also maintains a living connection to the past, when mangrove timber served as an important resource for villagers. This route brings you to sites of heritage significance along Pasir Ris' coast and beachfront.



Begin your journey at the entrance of **Pasir Ris Park** (near Carpark B), which was developed by the former Parks and Recreation Department (now National Parks Board) in the 1980s. More than half of the park's 70 hectares were reclaimed from mangrove swamps, mudflats and waterways, and its long seafront stretches from Pasir Ris Beach to Sungei Loyang.



Head into the six-hectare **Mangrove Forest**, which stands as a reminder of rural Pasir Ris before redevelopment. Walk along the boardwalk to learn about mangrove species that once covered the coastline, such as the red-flowered *Teruntum Merah* and the *Nipah Palm*, the source of *attap chee* fruit and *gula melaka* (palm sugar). You will also come across a bird-watching tower, which provides a good vantage point to observe the wildlife here. If you have a pair of binoculars, you might be able to spot Grey Herons, otters or even the occasional estuarine crocodile!



After leaving the forest, head towards **Pasir Ris Beach**. This area was where the former holiday bungalow of Jewish businessman Joseph Elias once stood. Elias' bungalow was one of many such dwellings built in Pasir Ris by wealthy families from the early 20th century. In 1952, Elias' bungalow was redeveloped into Pasir Ris Hotel, which operated until 1983. During this time, facilities such as seats, shelters and barbecue pits were also installed at the beach for public use. Today, swimming, kayaking and lounging at the beach remain popular activities.

After sinking your feet into the white sands of Pasir Ris Beach, take a stroll further down the park and cross the bridge spanning **Sungei Api Api**. This stream is one of two rivers that flow through the park, and its name *Api Api* is derived from the local name for the *Avicennia* family of mangroves, which used to be found abundantly in the area.

As you continue walking down the path, look out towards the sea and spot a number of *kelongs*, or stilt fishing structures, as well as *fish farms*. Before *kelongs* were introduced to Singapore in the early 1800s, spear-fishing was the dominant mode of fishing on the island. During the kampong era, *kelongs* were built using *bakau* timber, which was obtained from mangroves in areas like Pasir Ris.

Next, make your way past the former **People's Association (PA) Holiday Flats**. Completed in 1973, these holiday facilities enabled Singaporeans to rent a chalet at an affordable price. In the 1980s, they were among the most popular holiday facilities operated by the PA, which included flats and camps in Punggol and St. John's Island. You can also check out the now iconic **Elephant Playground** within the neighbouring cluster of chalets. Just past the Holiday Flats is **PAassion WaVe @ Pasir Ris**, a specialist community club offering water sports such as dinghy sailing and kayaking.



Finally, make your way to **Adventure Playground**, where you can wind down by enjoying the play facilities at one of the largest playgrounds in Singapore, or watch the kids hard at play climbing the giant space net or riding on swings. Although the trail ends here, you may wish to continue on exploring the town by going on the **Play @ Pasir Ris** trail.

Play @ Pasir Ris (1 hour on foot)

Pasir Ris has earned a reputation as a place for play and recreation since the 19th century, and later generations continue to enjoy various forms of leisure here. This trail takes you through sites of recreation in Pasir Ris, such as one of Singapore's largest playgrounds and the country's only commercial saltwater fishing pond.



Start at **Adventure Playground**, which opened in 1986. This play complex is one of Singapore's largest playgrounds, and features equipment and facilities designed to stimulate the imagination. These include a seven-metre-tall netted rope pyramid, cableways, thematic play stations and large sandpits recalling the sand quarries that dotted this area in the past.



From the modern play complex, take a bus towards Elias Mall. Next to Elias Mall is a 1980s playground built by the Housing & Development Board (HDB), popularly known as the **Bumboat Playground**. This is one of HDB's mosaic series of playgrounds, which are known for their terrazzo tiles, geometric lines and designs based on Asian cultures, animals, trades and food. The centrepiece of this playground is the bumboat or *twakow*, a distinctive boat with a red-green-white livery and painted eye motifs on its bow that was used to transport goods.



From Elias Mall, walk east along Pasir Ris Drive 3 to **Pasir Ris Town Park**. Here, you can try your hand at fishing in Singapore's only saltwater fishing pond, which was established in 1989. The large pond was previously one of the main attractions of the former Golden Palace Holiday Resort, which operated from 1967 to the early 1970s. Today, this facility is well known among anglers as a place to catch marine fish, prawns and crabs.



The Town Park also includes a sports centre with a swimming pool, a playground and gardens, as well as the nearby **Pasir Ris Central Hawker Centre**, which opened in 2018 and is the only hawker centre in this town. Cool down at the hawker centre by grabbing a drink and trying out the specialty dishes that this centre is known for. If you are still up for more exploring, please proceed onto the next trail!



Optional: If you are in the mood for more recreation, head to **Downtown East**, a leisure and theme park complex established in 1988 and envisioned as a "country club for workers". Modelled after the popular Butlins holiday camps in the United Kingdom when it was first conceived in the 1970s, this complex has grown to include chalets, various recreational facilities, the former Escape Theme Park and today's Wild Wet water park.

Architectural Highlights (1.5 hours on foot)

Pasir Ris is a showcase of unique architectural styles and elements, many of which draw inspiration from the town's coastal heritage. This trail explores the built environment of Pasir Ris Town, from its maritime-themed public housing blocks to its diverse range of cultural and religious institutions.

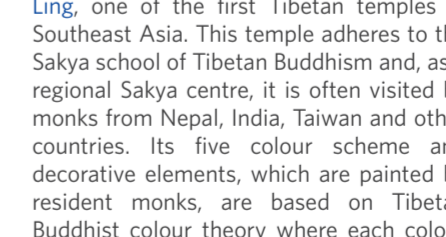


From Pasir Ris Town Park, head towards the bridge spanning Sungei Tampines and take the sidewalk towards Pasir Ris Drive 1. This stretch of **riverfront flats**, and those at Sungei Api Api, were built in the 1980s when the HDB was seeking to diversify the designs of public housing. Here, low blocks with a distinctive pitched-roof design are interspersed with higher blocks to create a picturesque view along the river. To complement the natural environment, the sidewalk running along the river is landscaped with coconut palms, riverside seating and viewing decks.

Cross the traffic lights when you reach Pasir Ris Drive 1, and head east to Pasir Ris Street 11. Take a stroll down the street and look out for the unique housing designs here, which feature nautical motifs resembling a ship's portholes (Blocks 130-137) as well as **lighthouse-shaped façades** (Blocks 138-146).



At the intersection of Pasir Ris Street 11 and Street 12, head north-east along Street 12 until you reach Pasir Ris Drive 4. At the end of the street you will find **Sakya Tenphel Ling**, one of the first Tibetan temples in Southeast Asia. This temple adheres to the Sakya school of Tibetan Buddhism and, as a regional Sakya centre, it is often visited by monks from Nepal, India, Taiwan and other countries. Its five colour scheme and decorative elements, which are painted by resident monks, are based on Tibetan Buddhist colour theory where each colour represents a particular Buddha.

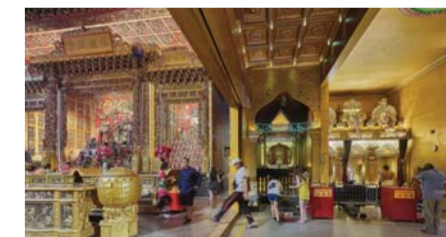


Optional: If you would like to explore more, head down to the green corridor running alongside Sungei Api Api between Pasir Ris Drives 1 and 3. The award-winning residential estates here are an example of how built and natural environments can come together. Here, you can enjoy the diverse flowers, plants and animal life supported by the mangroves that line Sungei Api Api, which were conserved by National Parks Board to recreate the area's original mangrove habitat. The environmental restoration and engineering solutions used here helped pave the way for later projects such as Punggol Waterway and the Active Beautiful Clean (ABC) Waters programme.

Ahmed Mosque, better known as the "Blue Mosque" in Istanbul. It derives its name from the Arabic word *istighfar*, which is an Islamic concept of seeking repentance in God. Al-Istighfar features two blue onion domes, with the larger dome crowned with a crescent and star, and the smaller dome topping the minaret.



Next, walk south along Pasir Ris Drive 3 before turning into Loyang Way. The **Loyang Tua Pek Kong Temple**, a temple housing multiple faiths, is located here. The main hall houses its presiding deity, Tua Pek Kong, as well as other Taoist deities including Tai Sui. The elaborate interior architecture includes carved stone panels, an abacus with a lotus motif mounted on the ceiling, and another abacus set on the ground, which feature the 12 animals of the Chinese zodiac. The temple also includes shrines for Ganesha and other Hindu deities, as well as a *keramat* dedicated to Datuk Kong, a local guardian spirit.





Coastal Heritage	Play @ Pasir Ris	Architectural Highlights
	Extended Trail	Extended Trail

HERITAGE SITES IN THE SUGGESTED SHORT TRAIL ROUTES



All information contained in this trail map is provided in good faith, and every reasonable effort has been made to ensure that the information is accurate and up to date at time of print. Accordingly, NHB makes no warranty or representation relating to the trail map and all information contained therein, and users relying on any of the information contained in the trail map shall do so at their own risk and diligence.

© 2019 National Heritage Board. All rights reserved.