

Northern & Central Singapore

Neighbourhood Top Five

1 Trekking through Singapore's steamy heart of darkness in **Bukit Timah Nature Reserve** (p117), a listed Asean Heritage Park and home to one of the largest surviving tracts of primary rainforest on the island.

2 Treating your kids to breakfast with orang-utans

at the lush, engaging, utterly inspired **Singapore Zoo** (p115).

3 Spotting leopards and dodging bats as you give the tram tour the slip and roam around the **Night Safari** (p116).

4 Seeing the forest from a dizzying new angle on the 25m-high Treetops Walk

at soul-tonic **MacRitchie Reservoir** (p116).

5 Travelling back to humbler island days at **Lorong Buangkok** (p117), Singapore's last surviving *kampung* (village).



For more detail of this area see Map p209. ➔

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Places like Bukit Timah and MacRitchie Reservoir are by no means remote, but they can get exceedingly hot and humid, and once you're out on those walking trails there's nowhere to buy anything. So as well as remembering to don a hat and slap on some mosquito repellent, make sure you carry plenty of water, and perhaps a few snacks to keep you going.

Best Places for Adventure

- ➔ Bukit Timah Nature Reserve (p117)
- ➔ MacRitchie Reservoir (p116)
- ➔ Night Safari (p116)
- ➔ Green Corridor (p118)

For reviews, see p116. ➔

Best Singaporean Surprises

- ➔ Lorong Buangkok (p117)
- ➔ Lian Shan Shuang Lin Monastery (p116)
- ➔ Handlebar (p119)

For reviews, see p116. ➔

Best Places for Kids

- ➔ Singapore Zoo (p115)
- ➔ Night Safari (p116)
- ➔ River Safari (p118)
- ➔ MacRitchie Reservoir (p116)

For reviews, see p116. ➔

Explore Northern & Central Singapore

This wonderfully wild and gloriously green part of Singapore is packed with sights and activities that take time to see and do, so unless you're here for an extended stay you're going to have to pick and choose carefully among the main attractions.

If you fancy taking advantage of the excellent walking trails, try to get your hiking done early in the morning. The weather will be cooler, and it will leave you most of the rest of the day to do other sightseeing.

The zoo and the night safari are both crammed with restaurants and cafes, but if you're visiting the other local sights, you might have to do some preplanning around meal times. Eat before you set off, bring some food with you (especially if you're planning to trek round MacRitchie Reservoir), or grab some grub at one of the MRT stations you'll be passing through.

Local Life

➔ **Green Corridor** Join local joggers, nature enthusiasts, foragers, cyclists and curious squirrels on a stretch of Singapore's Green Corridor, an impromptu nature reserve and verdant escape running along the old Singapore–Malaysia rail route.

➔ **Biker bar** Guitar riffs in the air, open sky above, and Malaysia just across the Strait. Trek to Singapore's northern edge for a slice of the city you never thought existed at sultry biker hangout Handlebar (p119).

➔ **Suburban feasts** Get sticky fingers in Singapore's HDB-heavy Heartlands, packed with in-the-know, cult-status local eateries. One of the best is Mellben Seafood (p119), famed for its spicy, eggy chilli crab.

Getting There & Away

➔ **MRT** Northern and central Singapore is encircled by the North–South Line. None of the stops are close to the nature reserves, but they're close enough to limit your taxi costs, or shorten your bus rides. From 2016, Bukit Timah Nature Reserve will be easily accessible from Beauty City MRT station on the under-construction Downtown Line extension.

➔ **Bus** Bus 170 goes from Queen Street Bus Terminal to Bukit Timah in around 50 minutes. Other buses depart from the hubs at Toa Payoh or Ang Mo Kio MRT stations.