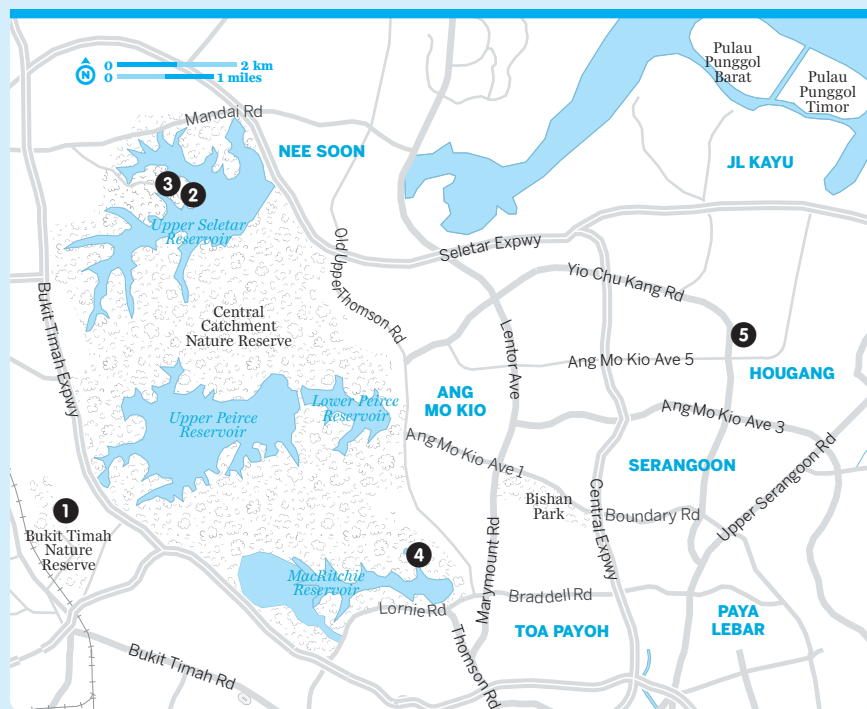


Northern & Central Singapore

Neighbourhood Top Five

- ➊ Trek to Singapore's steamy heart of darkness in the primary rainforest of the **Bukit Timah Nature Reserve** (p98).
- ➋ Spot leopards and dodge bats as you give the tram tour the slip and walk around the **Night Safari** (p100).
- ➌ See the forest from a dizzying new angle on the 25m-high Treetops Walk at peaceful **MacRitchie Reservoir** (p99).
- ➍ Visit Singapore's last remaining *kampong* (village), at **Lorong Buangkok** (p101), before city developers get their hands on it.



For more detail of this area, see Map p207 ➡

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 round here, then 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 sights mentioned in this chapter, you might have to do some pre-planning around meal times. Eat before you set off or bring some food with you (especially if you're planning to trek round MacRitchie Reservoir). Alternatively, grab a meal at one of the MRT stations you'll be passing through. Both Ang Mo Kio and Toa Payoh stations are large transport hubs and have popular, well-stocked food courts as well as buses that go out to some of the main sights.

Local Life

- ➔ **Bus it** It's tempting to take cabs to all the out-of-the-way sights round here, but there's no need: A combination of MRT and bus rides will get you anywhere you need to go, and save you money.
- ➔ **Zoo tucker** Most of the food options in and around the zoo and the night safari are pricey, Western-friendly chains, but there is one locals' coffeeshop by the entrance to the zoo. Take advantage of it while it's still here and grab a *kopi* (coffee) and some *kaya* (coconut jam) toast, or a simple bowl of noodles before you dive into the animal magic.
- ➔ **Monkeys** Singapore's laws are as strict as anywhere on the planet and they're applied just as stringently when it comes to protecting animals. Get caught feeding wild monkeys in places like Bukit Timah and, not only should you feel ashamed of yourself, but you'll also be left to consider remortgaging your house to pay the potentially astronomical fines.

Getting There & Away

- ➔ **MRT** Northern and central Singapore is encircled by the North South Line. None of the stops is close to the nature reserves, but they're close enough to limit your taxi costs, or shorten your bus rides.
- ➔ **Bus** Bus 170 goes from Queen St Bus Terminal to Bukit Timah in less than half an hour. Other buses depart from the hubs at Toa Payoh or Ang Mo Kio MRT stations.

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 (p98)
- ➔ MacRitchie Reservoir (p99)
- ➔ Night Safari (p100)

Best Places for History

- ➔ Lorong Buangkok (p101)
- ➔ Sun Yat Sen Nanyang Memorial Hall (p101)
- ➔ Cheng Huang Temple (p100)

Best Places for Kids

- ➔ Singapore Zoo (p99)
- ➔ Night Safari (p100)
- ➔ MacRitchie Reservoir (p99)