

Fort Canning Park, Singapore



Established in 1859 as an arms store, barracks and hospital, Fort Canning contains precious memorials of Singapore's early history dating back to the 14th century and Sir Stamford Raffles' personal bungalow. Originally known as Bukit Larangan, or "Forbidden Hill", this park now overlooks Orchard Road and is a popular venue for the arts, including sculpture exhibitions, plays and open-air ballet.

Horticulturally, this garden contains many interesting specimens and areas of note, such as the Spice Garden, a small replica of the original 19 hectare tract Raffles established in 1822 as the first experimental and botanical garden in Singapore.

Beyond the general tourist glances given to this park the majestic trees cast valuable shade over the delicate tropical plants and create cool havens to escape from the sweltering tropical heat. Iconic trees to this Park are the magnificent fig tree (*Ficus variegata* and other species), saga (*Adenanthera pavonina*), silk-cotton tree (*Ceiba pentandra*), yellow flame (*Peltophorum pterocarpum*) and the rain tree (*Samanea saman*). Beneath the canopy, Bird's nest ferns (*Asplenium nidus*) and other epiphytics festoon the trees.

Birdlife is abundant with the calls of the black-naped oriole, collared kingfishers, coppersmith barbets and yellow-vented bulbuls. Additional wildlife sported darting about trees include squirrels, bats and lizards.

Fort Canning Park is an oasis for city workers, city-dwellers and tourists keen to absorb the history and uniqueness of Singapore's culture and horticulture.

Location

Fort Canning Centre, Cox Terrace, Singapore

www.nparks.gov.sg

