

# A DIY Guide to The Southern Ridges



If you enjoy walking or cycling in lush open spaces, do not miss the great outdoor experience that the Southern Ridges offers. Away from the hustle and bustle of city life, it is one of the latest and most exciting recreational destinations that Singapore offers.

The most distinguishing feature about the Ridges is the seamless experience it offers to visitors – the 9-kilometre chain of green, open spaces spanning the hills of Mount Faber Park, Telok Blangah Hill Park and Kent Ridge Park are mostly connected by nature pathways and bridges.

The other highlights of the Southern Ridges are the Forest Walk and Canopy Walk – bridges cutting through the *adinandra belukar*, a distinct type of secondary forest where the forest regenerates after exhaustive agriculture exploitation. These trails are excellent for bird watchers to observe birds in their natural habitats. You can also find a rich variety of flora and fauna here.

Gain a deeper insight of Singapore's history as you walk on the Ridges. Take beautiful photos of wild flowers and birds, and panoramic shots of the city, harbour and Southern Islands from strategic spots along the Southern Ridges.

**What to wear and bring**

- Do dress comfortably and wear walking shoes.
- Bring a hat, sunscreen lotion, water, insect repellent, binoculars, camera

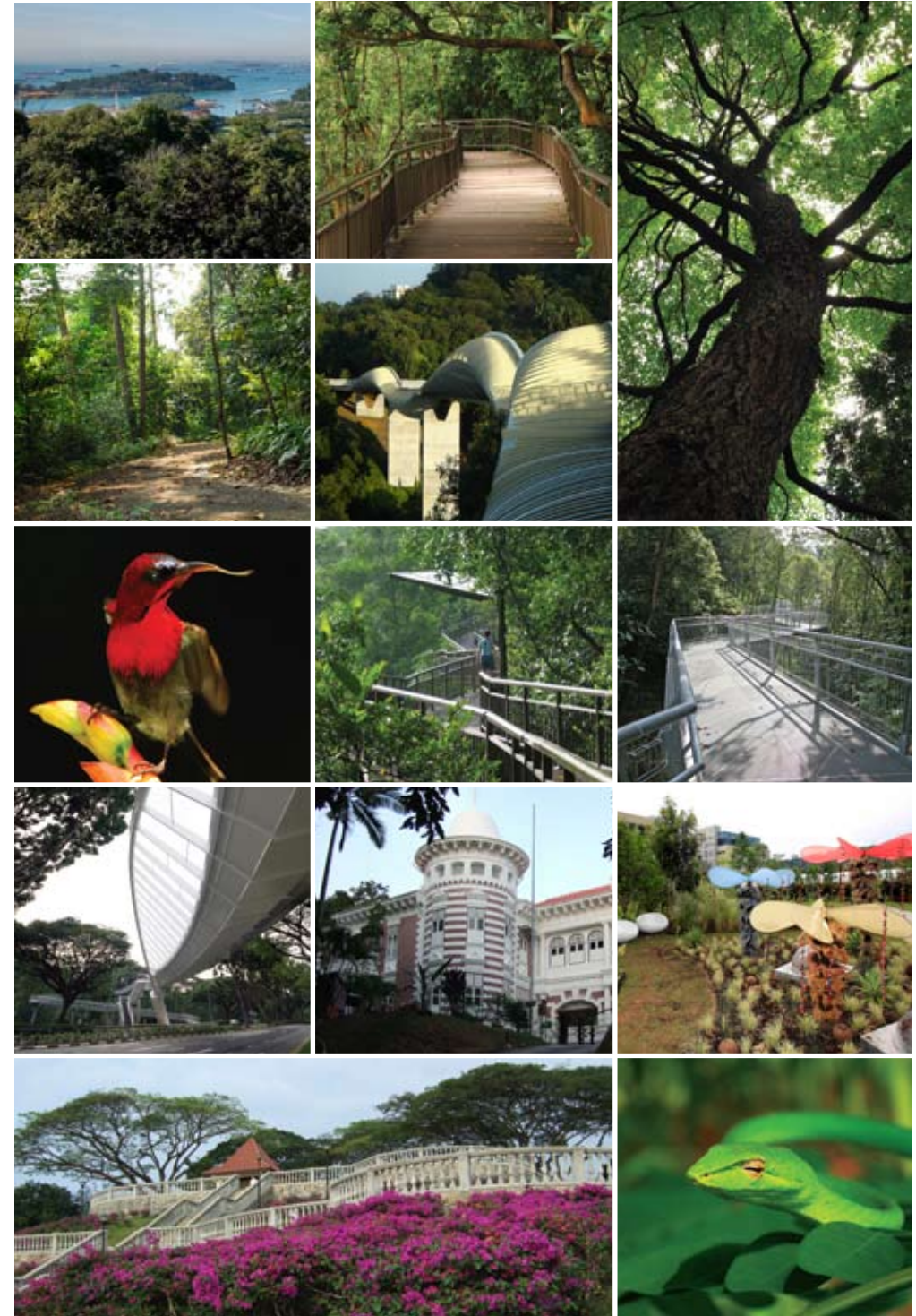
**Guided walks available**

1. SR guided walk (\$6/pax, at least 15 to sign up, 1 guide to max 20 pax)  
**Route for SR guided walk:**  
 Henderson Waves (Mt Faber side) → Hilltop walk Terrace Garden → Forest Walk → Alexandra Arch → Floral Walk (HortPark) → Ends in HortPark
2. HortPark guided walk (\$4/pax, at least 15 to sign up, 1 guide to max 30 pax)
3. Kent Ridge Park guided walk

Please email [nparks\\_hortpark@nparks.gov.sg](mailto:nparks_hortpark@nparks.gov.sg) or call the HortPark hotline at 64715601 to sign up for the guided walks.

**The building of the Southern Ridges**

The Southern Ridges was one of several areas in Singapore targeted for preservation. A plan to improve access to and connectivity within this 9km chain of hills by building a series of pedestrian linkages to connect Mount Faber, Telok Blangah Hill and Kent Ridge was developed. The Southern Ridges was opened to the public in 2008.



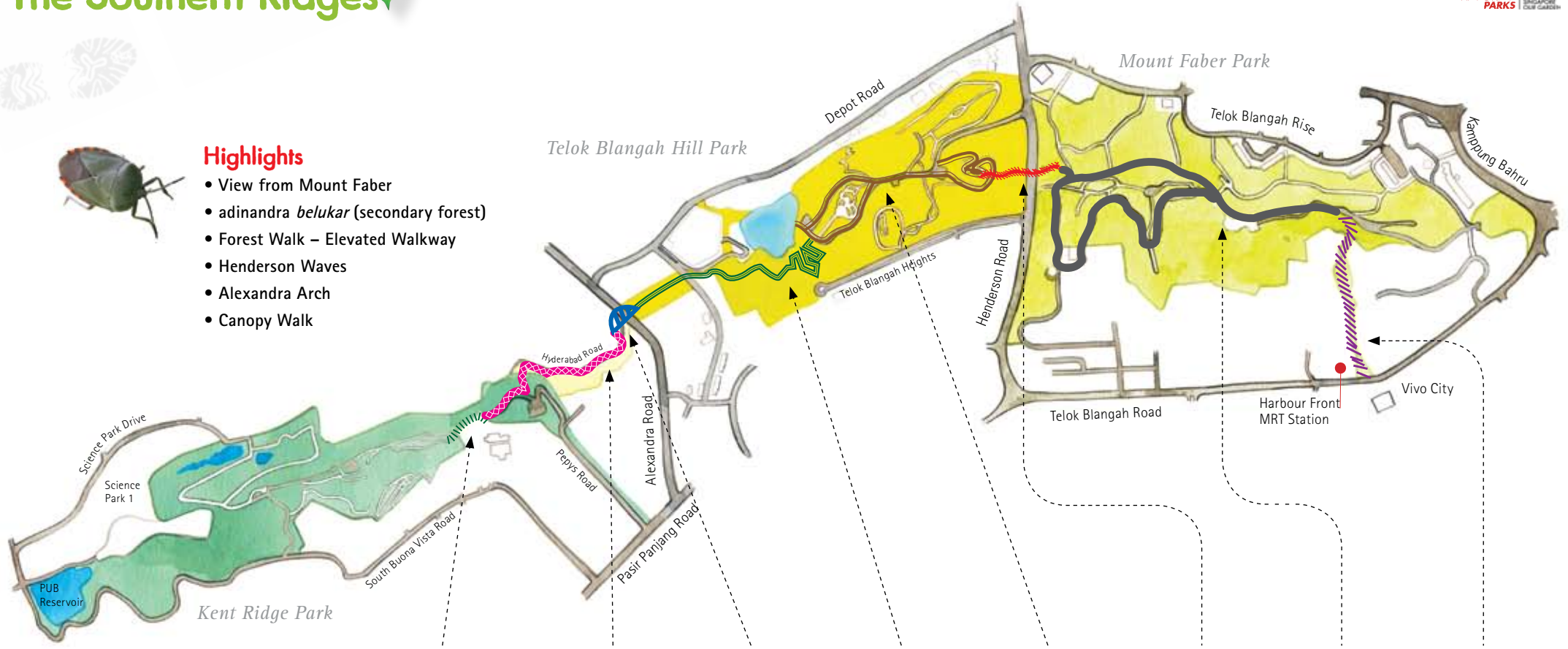


# A DIY Guide to The Southern Ridges



## Highlights

- View from Mount Faber
- *adinandra belukar* (secondary forest)
- Forest Walk – Elevated Walkway
- Henderson Waves
- Alexandra Arch
- Canopy Walk



Canopy Walk  




Flora Walk and HortPark  




Alexandra Arch  




Forest Walk  




Hilltop Walk  




Henderson Waves  




Faber Walk  




Marang Trail  


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## Marang Trail

(Harbourfront MRT Station Exit D next to Marang Road).

The Marang trail begins right after you step off the escalator exiting from Harbourfront MRT Station (Exit D) near Marang Road. This trail leads you to the cable car station at the Jewel Box on Mount Faber.

Embark on this walk of steps and shaded footpaths that pave the way to beautiful sights and sounds of the secondary forest. Enjoy the peace and tranquility of nature as you jog or walk on this trail. Listen to the loud chirping of cicadas that break the silence of the forest. Cicadas live on the tuip tuip tree, the dominant tree in the *adinandra belukar*, making loud mating calls to attract females. If you are lucky, you can spot the drongo, yellow oriole and other birds in the lush greenery.

At the top of the Trail is the Jewel Box, an F&B establishment comprising bars, restaurants and various entertainment options on Mount Faber. Chill out with a beer or have an ice cream as you enjoy a panoramic view of the harbour and southern islands from different vantage points. You can also get to Sentosa Island from the Jewel Box in a cable car.

**Highlight**  
Flora and fauna of secondary forest



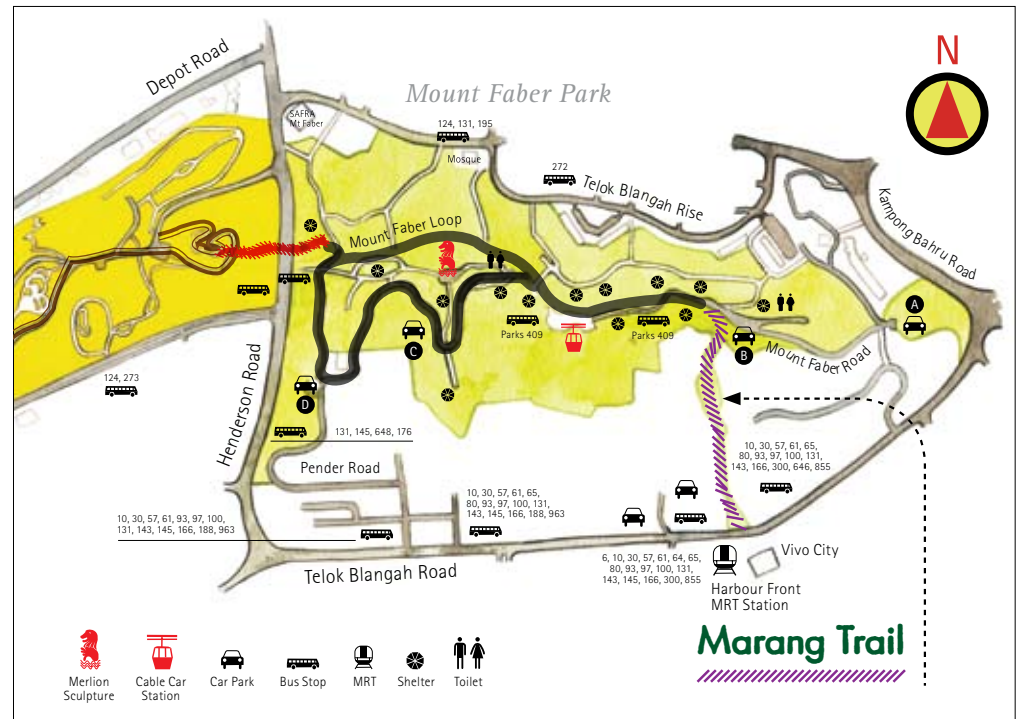
Some common tree species you can see on this trail:

- Angsana tree - a common, fast-growing tree in this region.
- Saga Tree - its seeds are commonly picked and used in jewellery and artwork; popular for their bright red colour that symbolizes passion and everlasting love.
- Shrubs, plants, climbers and flowers like the Bat lily, ground orchids and Crape ginger.

The Marang Trail is deliberately unlit after dark to minimize disturbance to nocturnal life in the forest. Do bring along a torch and take extra precautions if you wish to walk on this trail after dark.

**Do note that the Marang Trail covers an elevation of 70 metres (or the equivalent of a 24-storey building), so this trail may not be suitable for young children, the elderly and the less fit.**

**Difficulty level : moderate to challenging**  
**Distance : 0.8km**  
**Walking time : 15 min**





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## Faber Walk



At the end of Marang Trail lies Faber Walk. If you wish to give Marang Trail a miss and head straight for Faber Walk, you can get your transport to drop you off at Mount Faber Road, or park at one of the car parks at Mount Faber Park.

Faber Walk, of which many parts are sheltered, meanders through Mount Faber Park and ends at the start of Henderson Waves. The slopes of this 56-hectare park are covered by dense secondary rain forest, and are home to an amazing array of flora and fauna.

The trail, which takes you on a loop around the peak of Mount Faber Hill, offers spectacular views of the southern part of Singapore and the Southern Islands. For a close-up view, use one of several telescopes situated at Palm Plaza and along some parts of the trail. You can catch sight of passing ocean liners and cruise ships in the far distance. This trail will also take you to small landmarks at Mount Faber including the Merlion Sculpture and the Danish Seaman's Church.

At night, the park is one of the more popular romantic spots on the island. Join several couples and families in enjoying breathtaking sights of the city's twinkling lights.

### Highlights

- Bird's eye view from Mount Faber
- Merlion Sculpture
- Jewel Box

### The naming of Mount Faber

In 1823, Sir Stamford Raffles gave orders for the removal of the former Chief of the Island, Temenggong Abdul Rahman, a prince of the House of Johore. Together with his followers, he was moved "lock, stock and barrel" to Telok Blangah.

The Temenggong and his entourage were allotted space along the beach from Tanjong Pagar to Telok Blangah covering an estimated 200 acres of ground.

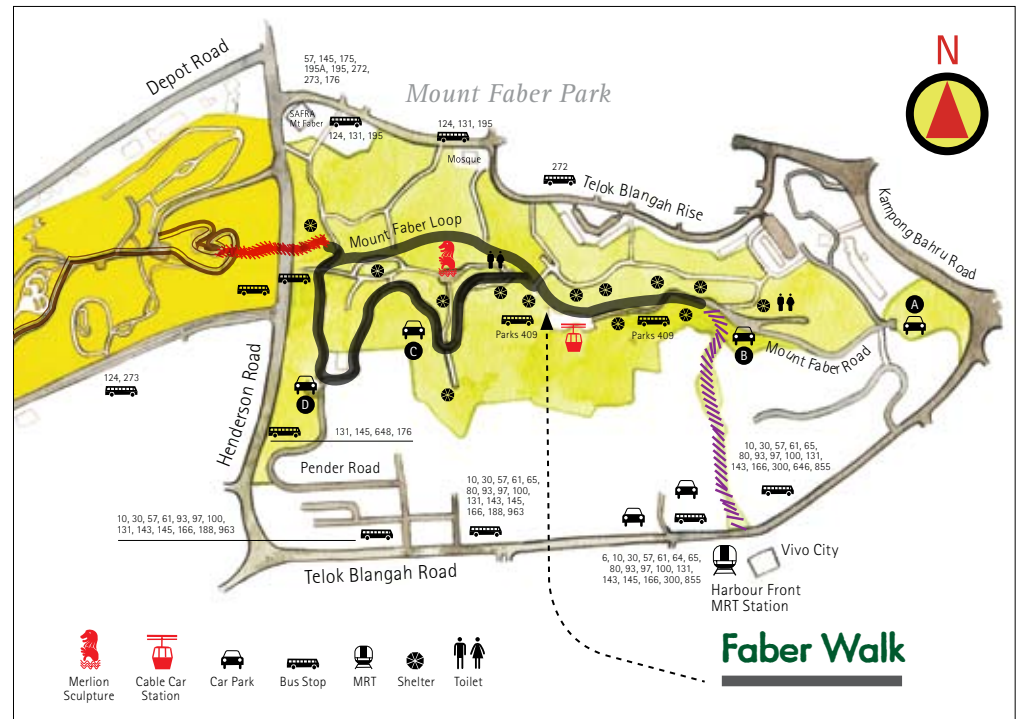
At the same time, one of the first western merchants, a native of Scotland named Alexandra Guthrie, acquired a piece of land behind Telok Blangah Hill.

Prior to this the site was known as Telok Blangah Hill.

The park was renamed after Captain Charles Edward Faber, a British engineer who cut a road up to the summit in 1845 to set up a signal post. This ship to shore communication post was constructed to direct ships through the water channels. This Signal Post was eventually demolished during the redevelopment in 1994 due to the unstable condition of the structure.

*(Extracted from the Oral History Department)*

Difficulty level : Easy  
Distance : 0.8km  
Walking time : 15min





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## Henderson Waves

Henderson Waves is a stone's throw from Faber Walk. You can also park at Mount Faber Carpark D. Alternatively, take the staircase from Henderson Road up to Mount Faber Park.

Admire the beautiful skyline as you stroll across this 274 metre-long pedestrian bridge that spans Henderson Road to connect Mount Faber Park to Telok Blangah Hill Park.

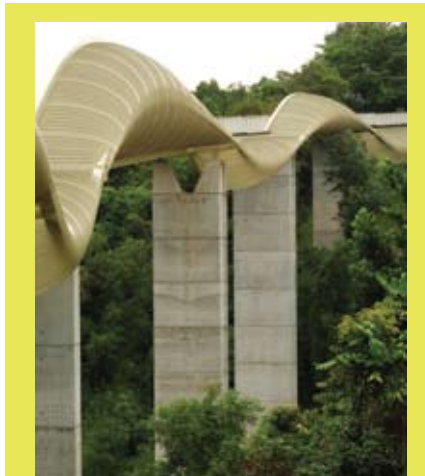
The bridge is also worth visiting for its artistic, distinctive wave-like structure consisting of a series of undulating curved "ribs". These "ribs" also double up as alcoves providing shelter to the public. Slats of yellow bakau wood, an all-weather timber found in South-East Asia, are used in the decking.

Joggers, couples and families with children are a common sight on Henderson Waves during weekends. The bridge has also become a popular photography location in recent months for wedding couples posing against the scenic skyline.

The bridge takes on a different look at night, with the wave-form illuminated with attractive LED light from 7pm to 2am daily.

### Highlights

- Highest pedestrian bridge in Singapore
- Distinctive architecture of bridge
- Good point for viewing migratory birds-of-prey



At 36m above Henderson Road, Henderson Waves is the highest pedestrian bridge in Singapore and one of several recent projects to improve connectivity between nature areas.

Look out for carvings on the slats marking the height you are at on various points on the bridge.

This bridge is disabled-friendly.



Difficulty level : Easy  
Distance : 0.3km  
Walking time : 5min





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## Hilltop Walk

From Henderson Waves, you can continue on to Hilltop Walk that runs through Telok Blangah Hill Park. This park was once a gathering place for trading communities in the area in the early nineteenth century. This is an easy trail to walk on as you will be walking downhill until you reach Terrace Garden.

Make your way to the top of the park via Terrace Garden and stop for a moment to enjoy a stunning 360-degree view of Singapore and the decks of bougainvillea at the Garden.

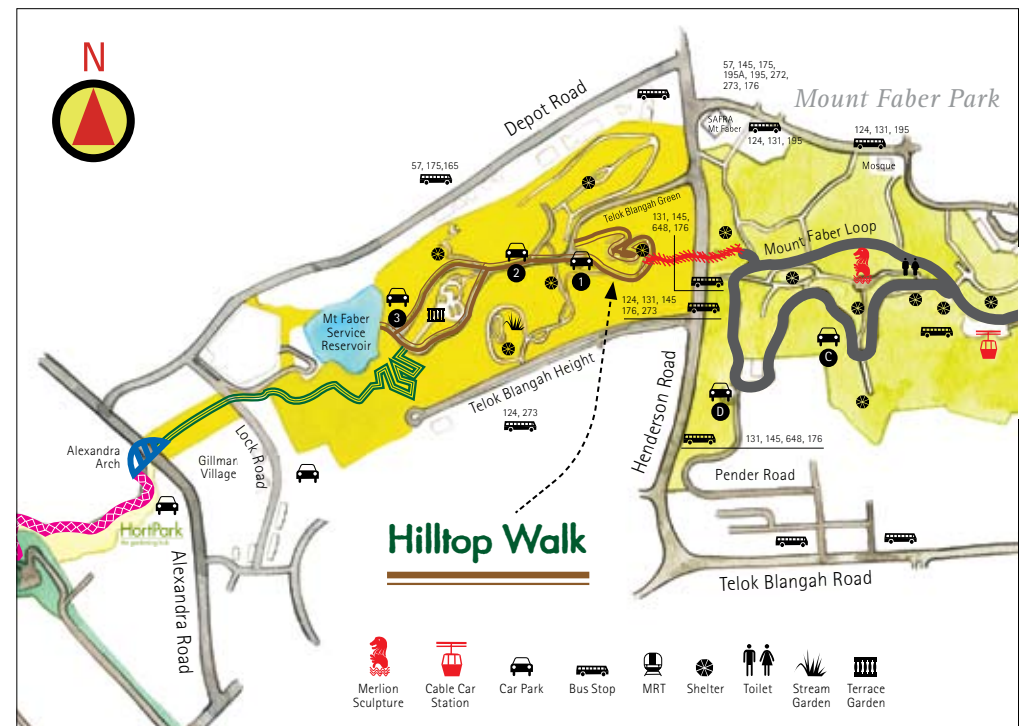
### Highlight

Terrace Garden – highest point in Telok Blangah Hilltop Park



**Difficulty level** : Hilltop Walk in Telok Blangah Hill Park (easy)  
Terrace Garden (Moderate, long flights of stairs)

**Distance** : 1km  
**Walking time** : 15min





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## Forest Walk

From Hilltop Walk, you can proceed to Forest Walk either by walking along the main road or through the Terrace Garden at Hilltop Walk. If you wish to begin your Southern Ridges Walk at Forest Walk, you can park at Carpark 3 on Telok Blangah Hill Park. There are two trails on the Forest Walk (just cross over from Carpark 3 to get on either trail) – the Elevated Walkway and the Earth trail.

The Elevated Walkway, accessed by the metal bridge, offers you the experience of walking through the secondary forest of Telok Blangah Hill at eye-level with the forest canopy.

On the right of Carpark 3, steps going down lead you to the Earth trail. If you prefer a more rugged experience, this is the trail for you. Steps have been built at some parts of the trail in view of the steep terrain.

The dense secondary forest found here, the adinandra belukar, is home to Singapore's rich biodiversity. The Dillenia, also referred to as the "rojak" tree, is one of several native trees that are prominent here.

### Highlights

- Elevated Walkway
- High biodiversity of flora and fauna



The triangular metal gratings on the floor of the elevated walkway were an inspiration from the triangular-shaped leaves of the fast-growing "Mile-a-Minute" plant that grows freely in the forest. These gratings have closer gaps to prevent wheels of baby prams and wheelchairs from getting stuck.

The Elevated Walkway is an excellent platform for spotting birds, dragonflies and butterflies.

Look out for the pink-necked green pigeon, yellow-vented bulbul, common iora, brown-throated sunbird, black-naped oriole, spotted dove and straw-headed bulbul.

**Difficulty level** : Easy (Elevated walkway), moderate (Earth trail)

**Distance** : 0.8km

**Walking time** : 15min



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## Alexandra Arch

Conceptualised as a "Gateway to Nature", Alexandra Arch links Forest Walk and Floral Walk.

Walk on this 80m long bridge and admire its unique architecture - it looks like an opened leaf across Alexandra Road, with its curved deck intersecting an arch that is tilted at a 70-degree angle.

Like Henderson Waves, Alexandra Arch is lit up by LED lights at night. The lights change colour at intervals from 7pm to 12am daily, displaying varying shades from the colour spectrum of dusk to complement the nature settings of the forested hill parks nearby.

### Highlights

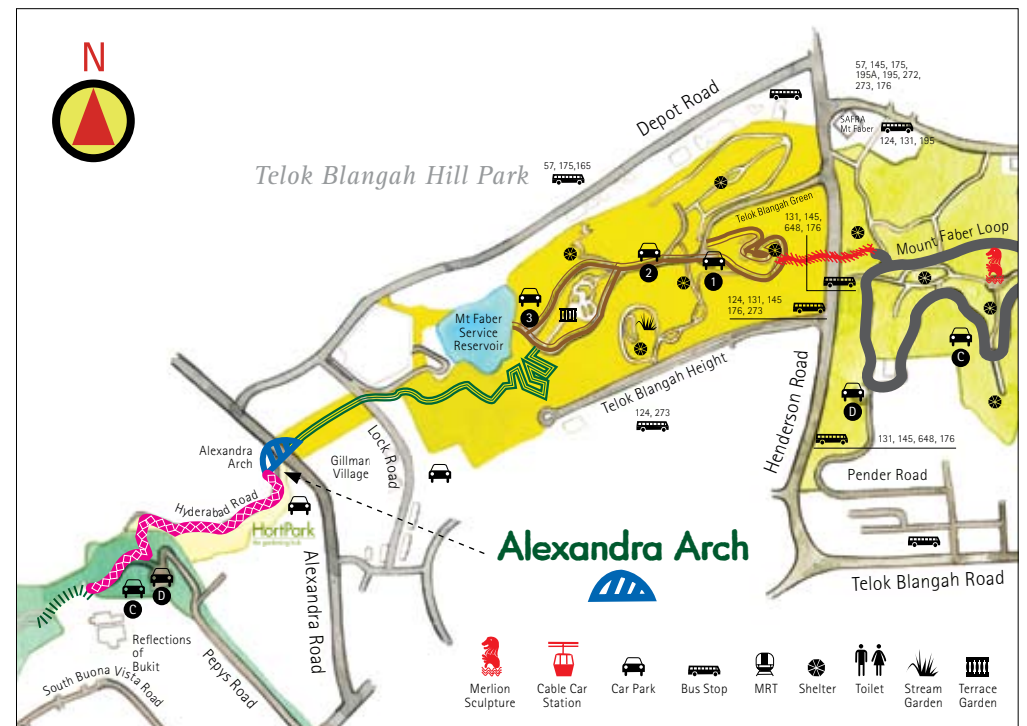
- Open leaf structure of bridge
- Changing LED lights at night



On the Hyderabad Road side of the bridge lies HortPark - The Gardening hub, via the Floral Walk.

Near the bridge is Gillman Village, a former British military camp in the early 20th century. Grab a bite or drink at any one of the restaurants and pubs there.

Difficulty level : Easy  
Distance : 0.08km  
Walking time : 15min





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## Floral Walk and HortPark

At the base of the bridge at Alexandra Arch lies Floral Walk, a hot spot for floral diversity with more than 100 species of flowering shrubs and trees.

Beautiful scented flowers, trumpet-shaped flowers with crimson petals, stunning pink flowering clusters – these are some of the interesting blooms you can see here at Floral Walk.

This short trail forms the gateway to HortPark – The Gardening Hub, South East Asia's first one-stop centre for gardening related recreational, educational, research and retail activities in a park setting. Floral Walk offers a delightful stroll along a path lined with flowering plants. Stop here to take a few picturesque shots of Floral Walk.

Floral Walk, together with HortPark, is the experimenting ground for different types of plants. This differentiates Floral Walk and HortPark from the rest of the Southern Ridges, which focus on the heritage and conservation of native trees.

### Highlights

More than 100 species of flowering shrubs and trees

### About HortPark

HortPark is a gardening showcase centre made possible by 80 key industry partners from the local horticulture and landscape industry coming together to create a beautiful public community space.

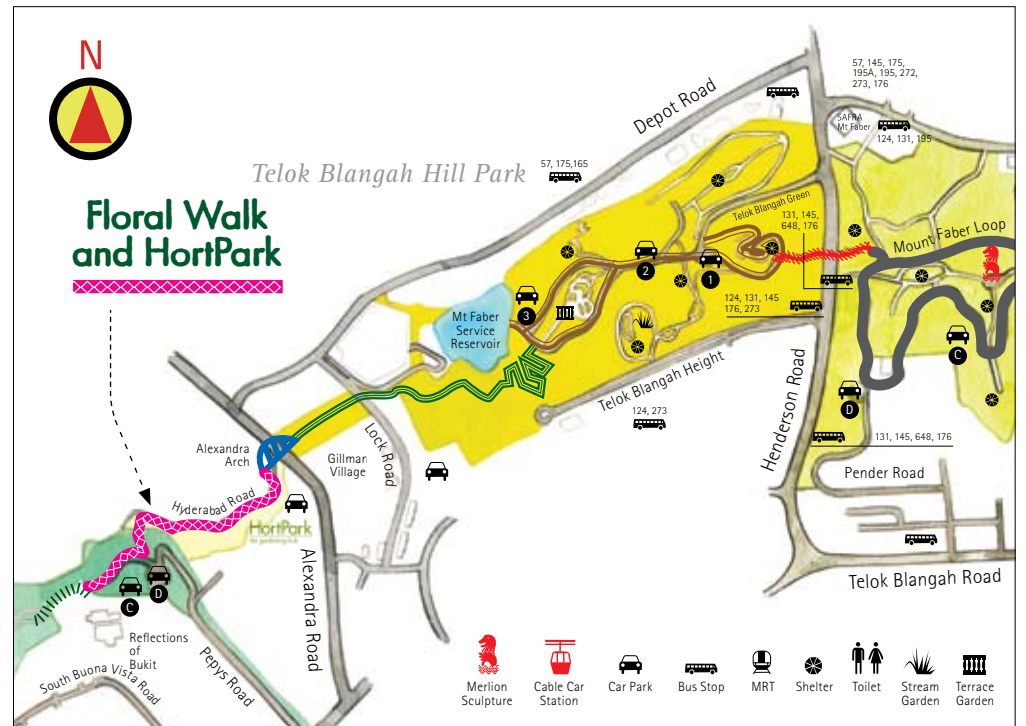
It comprises 40 showcase gardens created by several individuals and companies, and offers a myriad of exciting ideas and suppliers' contacts for gardening enthusiasts.

The gardening hub has garnered several distinguished architectural awards to date, most notably the International Architectural Award 2008 awarded by the Chicago Athenaeum Museum of Architecture and Design.

HortPark aims to energise the local community to be passionate about horticulture and community gardening.

You can participate in gardening-oriented activities such as guided tours, workshops, talks and fitness activities at HortPark. There is also a Thai restaurant and children's playground.

Difficulty level : Easy  
Distance : 0.3km  
Walking time : 5min





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## Canopy Walk

At the back of HortPark is a gate that leads to a park connector linking HortPark and Kent Ridge Park. You can reach Canopy Walk via this park connector. Alternatively, if you wish to start your walk at Canopy Walk, you can head straight for Kent Ridge Park by alighting at any of the three spots - by bus at South Buona Vista Road (after which you proceed by foot via Vigilante Drive); at the end of Science Park; at Pasir Panjang Road (after which you proceed by foot via Pepys Road).

Kent Ridge Park stands out from other parks in that its design takes full advantage of the site's surrounding natural vegetation and topography. Breathe in the fresh air and enjoy panoramic views from the ridge.

The Canopy Walk is the other trail on the Southern Ridges that offers you the experience of walking through a secondary forest at eye-level with the forest canopy. This is a 280-metre long boardwalk that links Kent Ridge Park to the museum "Reflections of Bukit Chandu".

Listen out for the sounds of birds and insects breaking the silence and serenity of the park on the Canopy Walk. Sunbirds, doves, squirrels, lizards and white-crested laughing thrushes are also part of the rich biodiversity thriving here. Incidentally, Kent Ridge Park has the highest number and species of dragonflies recorded compared to other parks.

### Highlights

- *adinandra belukar* (secondary forest)
- Boards depicting important WWII-related events
- High biodiversity of birds



### About Kent Ridge Park

Kent Ridge Park is rich in historical value - one of the last battles for Singapore was fought on this hill, which oversaw the harbor and the British military depots in the Ayer Rajah area.

To commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the end of WWII, a plague is installed at Carpark B. Visitors can also view two decommissioned M114 Artillery Guns and an AMX-13 Light Tank which are displayed in the park.

### Reflections of Bukit Chandu

The museum houses the history of the Opium Hill and the battalion of the Malay Regiment in the Pasir Panjang Area during WWII.

### Flora at Canopy Walk

The Canopy Walk cuts through dense secondary forest filled with groves of Tembusu, Acacia and Dillenia. The Tembusu, easily recognized by its heavily fissured bark and low branching points, flowers in May and November. Other flora such as pitcher plants and wild orchids are found along this trail.

The boardwalk is disabled-friendly - it allows access to people in wheelchairs as well as parents with baby strollers.



Difficulty level : Easy  
Distance : 0.3km  
Walking time : 5min

