



Factsheet : TreeTop Walk

The TreeTop Walk (TTW) is the highlight of several long hiking routes in the Central Catchment Nature Reserve that brings visitors through different stages of mature secondary forest. Visitors can observe the different layers of the forest – emergent, canopy, tree, shrub and ground layers. The emergent layer of the forest contains some of the tallest trees rising above the canopy like the Medang (*Litsea elliptica*).

The first of its kind in Singapore and the region, this free-standing steel suspension bridge connects the two highest points (Bukit Peirce and Bukit Kalang) in MacRitchie, offering a bird's eye view of the community of plants and animals that live in the forest canopy. The total length of the walkway is about 250 metres and its height from the forest floor varies, with the highest point at 25 metres.

Besides providing another avenue for nature recreation for Singaporeans, the TTW also plays an important role in forest canopy research, facilitating surveys, plant identification work and furthering our understanding of how forest ecosystems work.

Officially launched on 5th November 2004, TTW has served well as an outdoor classroom to promote interest in our biodiversity, natural heritage and also the natural sciences.

A Nature Haven

Flora

Rusty Oil Fruit (*Elaeocarpus ferrugineus*)

- has ruby red emergent leaves which turn rusty orange then green
- Fruit are sought after by birds like Pink-necked Pigeon

Cheng Tng Tree (*Scaphium macropodum*)

- Seeds contain brown spongy fibres which expand in water and used in local dessert, Cheng Tng

Pulai (*Alstonia angustiloba*)

- Has tall, straight trunk with dark brown bark
- leaves arranged in a whorl, resembles baseball glove
- seed pod long & thin, with fluffy seeds that blow in the wind

Terentang (*Campospermum auriculatum*)

- fast-growing tree which colonises secondary forest
- small, round fruits eaten by monkeys, squirrels, birds (e.g. Red-crowned Barbet)

Birds

More than 100 species of birds have been observed. The best time to experience birdlife is early in the morning.

Native forest birds can be spotted like the Crimson Sunbird, Olive-winged Bulbul and the Greater Racket-tailed Drongo. The Drongo is a good mimicker of the calls of many birds.

Routes

Distance to the entrance of the TreeTop Walk is approximately 4.5 km (1.5 - 2 hour walk) from the MacRitchie Reservoir Park and 2.5 km (45 mins - 1 hr walk) from the carpark at Venus Drive.

A round trip including the TreeTop Walk is about 7 to 10 km (3-5 hours depending on your walking pace).

Opening Hours

Tue to Fri: 9am-5pm, Sat, Sun and Public Holidays: 8.30am-5pm.

Gate will be closed at 5pm. Visitors are advised to start hiking towards the bridge by 4.45pm from Ranger Station to avoid disappointment.

TTW is closed on Mondays except public holidays for maintenance and research.

National Archives of Singapore