

Click to prove  
you're human





























[illegible]



no bigger than my thumb – on the way to Lizard’s Lounge, a type of orb spider. This is just one of the many cool critters you might encounter along the boardwalk, with the added benefit of being up-close, without a glass wall between you and nature. One part of this station’s name is right – it’s definitely ideal for lounging. This clearing will treat you to a completely different view of the reservoir, parking you right in the middle. You might even spot a Malayan Water Monitor swimming or basking in the cool water. The rest stops are not sheltered, so remember to bring an umbrella that’s suitable for both rain and sun. On your way to the next rest stop, look out for this gigantic leaf that looks like something out of Jurassic Park and take a cute photo beside it before continuing on your journey. And if that short break at Lizard’s Lounge wasn’t enough, seek respite at this sheltered dock that’s giving serious Pinterest vibes. It’s perfect for photo ops and a break from the unforgiving sun. Plus, photos taken from this angle don’t look like you’re in Singapore at all, so you can pretend you’re overseas to make your friends jealous. This dock marks the halfway point of the boardwalk, as there are 2 rest stops – Eagle’s Perch and Damselfly’s Wing – left to go. Eagle’s Perch Spot wildlife & birdwatch at this rest stop The path towards Eagle’s Perch appears to be where a family of monkeys live. Keep a lookout for these cheeky primates as they hang out on the boardwalk railings, swinging from tree to tree or even sitting casually right in the middle of the path. The monkeys we saw were calm and docile, but it’s still best to observe them from a distance and refrain from petting them. Monkeys are also known to be scavengers, so keep plastic and food away from their sight. Feeding them is a big no-no as well. Don’t fret if you happen to only see 1 or 2 monkeys on your walk; stay a little longer and you might just be rewarded for your patience. We did just that and managed to spot a whole family of them. Spend some time taking pictures and observing their behaviour. There are even baby monkeys playfully pulling branches down to the boardwalk and adult monkeys munching on berries. As you venture further down the boardwalk, you’ll notice that the path is lined with metal overhead railings that allow plants to grow into a shaded shelter. It’s a true representation of Singapore – how nature and urban life interact and co-exist. Eagle’s Perch is probably our favourite rest stop of the bunch. Designed with optimal birdwatching angles in mind, you could spend hours here just waiting to catch a glimpse of the Grey-headed Fish Eagle. Logs are strategically scattered across the area to encourage wildlife perching and double up as a closer viewing point by the reservoir for you to bird watch. If that is your intention, don’t forget to pack a pair of binoculars. And even if you don’t see any eagles, the view is spectacular enough to make the trek worth it. If you reach Eagle’s Perch around 4.30pm as we did, you’ll be glad to know that the weather’s cooler at this time, and you’ll feel a constant breeze picking up at the boardwalk. Damselfly’s Wing The final rest station inspired by damselflies & dragonflies Image credit: Khalisah Zulkarnain While taking in the scenic views and spotting wildlife is great, your safety is equally important. That’s why this lightning alert pillar lights up during storms, alerting you to leave the boardwalk ASAP. But don’t panic if you’re caught in the middle – there are shelters along the way for you to wait it out until it’s safe to continue. Before you arrive at the Damselfly’s Wing rest station, you’ll walk through this arch formed completely out of leaves. The branches bend delicately over the path and you’ll be able to take cool sunlight shots through the leaves. The flora planted around this area are specifically chosen to attract damselflies and dragonflies, so if you’re interested in these winged insects, this stop’s for you. Take a much-needed break at this rest station – it’s about a 30-minute stroll from Eagle’s Perch to Damselfly’s Wing. This hut by the reservoir marks the end of the trail if you start your journey from the Tree Frog’s Hangout. Kingfisher’s Cave An entrance & exit with cool architecture There’s still 1 final sight to see as you bid the boardwalk goodbye. The Kingfisher’s Cave is an entry and exit point that features wooden arches mimicking the nesting habits of the Kingfisher. Is it worth visiting the Mandai Boardwalk? Mandai Boardwalk is an accessible destination thanks to the gentle slopes and largely flat terrain. This means that anyone from families with young kids to those who don’t do cardio, can all enjoy walking through the space. Plus, admission to the trail is completely free. For those curious about the rest stops, they are littered throughout the trail and within a manageable distance from each other, so you’ll be able to rest your feet before they start aching. While we breezed through the trail, feel free to take your time and keep a lookout for critters along your hike. After all, the boardwalk was built to attract biodiversity to the area by enhancing the water-edge vegetation over which it was constructed. With Mandai Boardwalk’s proximity to Singapore Zoo and River Wonders, you could easily spend a whole day here with an itinerary chock-full of nature, animals, and trekking. You could head to the boardwalk first, or wind down at the trail after a day at the zoo. Enjoy a stroll along Mandai Boardwalk With a scenic lookout point and convenient rest stops along the way, the new Mandai Boardwalk is the perfect way to get your steps in, whether you’re a frequent hiker or a nature lover. A full hike around the trail is estimated to take 70 to 85 minutes – be sure to head down early if you’re looking to scale the entire boardwalk as the last entry is at 6pm. More trails in Singapore to explore: Photography by Brad Lee. This guide is for members interested in becoming part of our community. Advertisers please go here instead. TheSmartLocal gives Singaporeans the best information on what to do inside and outside of Singapore. Our aim was to create a one stop hyperlocal portal for Singaporeans through user reviews so you could easily find information that was never possible to find before. This would allow you to make the best decisions in your life about anything in Singapore. For example – Which shop at Sim Lim won’t scam me? What is a good food delivery other than Mcdonalds? Who is a good and cheap photographer to hire? Where can I eat a nice romantic dinner? Who shall I hire for my renovation? Which daycare should I send my child to? We give you all these answers through our aggregated rating system through honest and carefully screened reviews. Outside of Singapore, we share the best holiday ideas for Singaporeans for much needed vacations. In summary, we are a Travel and Lifestyle portal in Singapore and in November-December 2013 have become the biggest such portal in Singapore – we hit over 500,000 unique visitors that month alone. We are made up of a friendly community of writers who love sharing their experiences to help others make better choices. e.g A rating of some of Singapore’s enclaves by our members joining TheSmartLocal If you enjoy reading our site and believe in our goal we would be glad to have you in our community. To create an account, just register here. It will take less than 1 minute! Alternatively you can click login with facebook at the top left of the site. If you think writing reviews is too much effort, you are still welcome to participate in our casual forums, or leave review or article comments! Your participation will be much appreciated! If you love everything about our portal and are interested in becoming more involved through writing articles and joining our editorial team, please refer to our write for us page. After writing reviews and passing the moderation period, you can start writing articles. We are fortunate to have had many talented writers join us through this system and we look forward to welcoming you. Our articles get syndicated over sites like Yahoo and Apps like NewsLoop so your writing will get an amazing amount of exposure. We also select the top writers who are knowledgeable in certain areas to attend our media invitations. So it’s important to have a speciality. Moderation Period For those who wish to write, there is a short moderation period. This is not to discourage participation, but to ensure the integrity of our reviews. We only want reviews that are worth reading to provide a high quality reading experience for our visitors. As such, we have a high emphasis of quality and legitimacy and new reviewers must prove themselves first. During the moderation period, you will be given personal feedback by our editors. After passing the moderation period, new writers will be allowed to submit reviews and pictures automatically without moderation. They will also be given permission to write articles that get displayed on the front page of TheSmartLocal, get shared on our social media channels. It is at that point you have truly become part of our community and team. Monthly Cash Prizes and Point System Every month we give writers cash prizes as a small way of saying thanks. This should be just thought of as a bonus and not your main motivation for writing. We have paid out thousands of dollars to our contributors in bonus prizes. Check out this post for more information on our points race. Close to everything you do on the site gives you points, from posting on forums to writing reviews. The full breakdown can be seen here. Should I be a contributor? Contributing is not for everyone, in fact most of our readers just like to read anonymously and lurk. A very Singapore thing to do la! You should only write on TheSmartLocal if you have a natural love for writing or wish to help others by sharing your reviews and experiences of places you have been. Our core writers have either of these characteristics. That will give you the greatest satisfaction, knowing that the knowledge you have shared has helped many out there in Singapore. Why not just have my own Blog? It is extremely hard to compete or to be visible in google since there are so many established blogs and portals already in Singapore. You could spend years writing on your blog and still end up nowhere. Apart from an insane commitment day in and day out, you also need a lot of technical knowledge if you hope to compete and get readers. TheSmartLocal gives you a guaranteed shortcut to success, by instantly giving you wide exposure for your writing and yourself, a platform to hone your writing and lastly opportunities to attend events and pick up journalism experience. In fact we get more requests than we have writers who are able to attend them. All our writers started as normal contributors and look where they are today! Our top writers have been groomed into familiar faces you see on the site with great writing ability. If you have dedication and write well you can very well be our next writer featured on our site. Get Started Today! To create an account, just register here and then start contributing by sharing reviews, posting in our forums and leaving comments! If you wish to join our editorial team refer to our write for us page.