

# Your Guide to Coney Island Park

Discover the rustic charms of Coney Island Park, home to a wide variety of habitats and a diverse range of fauna and flora, including several nationally threatened species. Accessible from Punggol Promenade Punggol Point Walk, this 50-hectare ecologically sustainable park is favoured by more than 80 species of birds, offering visitors an ideal location for birdwatching.

Explore the forest and mangrove habitats on foot or by bicycle. Be charmed by five differently themed beach areas and a variety of habitats which support beautiful free-flowering plants and critically endangered species.

The Casuarina Exploration will appeal to families with children. This adventure area, constructed from natural and recycled materials, provides an enriching experience for all.

## Tips for a safe and enjoyable trip

- Dress comfortably and wear suitable footwear.
- Wear long pants and covered shoes to protect yourself from insects such as sandflies when visiting the beach areas.
- Wear a hat, put on sunglasses and apply sunscreen to shield yourself from the sun.
- Apply insect repellent if you are prone to insect bites.
- Drink ample fluids to stay hydrated.
- Walk along the designed paths to protect the natural environment of the park.
- Dispose of rubbish at the nearest bin.
- Activities such as poaching, releasing and feeding of animals, damaging and removing of plants and those that cause pollution are strictly prohibited.
- Clean up after your pets and keep them leashed.
- Camping is not allowed.
- If you encounter any animals, do avoid approaching or otherwise disturbing them. Do not use flash photography.



Difficulty level: Easy



Distance: 3.6km



Walking time: 2hr



Beach Area E

Coney  
Island



**START POINT**

**Legend**

- E** Entrance/Exit
- P** Bicycle Parking
- Wooden Benches
- Toilet
- Shelter
- Bird Hide
- Recommended Route
- Exit Route

**HOW TO GET TO THE START POINT**

**By Car**  
 Drive to Punggol Settlement and park at the outdoor public carpark. Walk 500 m east (past the restaurants) along Punggol Promenade Punggol Point Walk to reach the starting point at the West Entrance of Coney Island Park.

**By Public Transport**  
 Take the train to Punggol MRT station and walk towards the bus interchange through exit C. Take bus 84 from the Punggol interchange and alight at Punggol Road End (Punggol Point Park). Walk about 500 m east (past the restaurants) along the Punggol Promenade Punggol Point Walk to reach the starting point at the West Entrance of Coney Island Park.



**END POINT**  
 Suggested exit is via the West Entrance.



1 Casuarina Exploration



2 West Promenade



3 Bird Hide



4 Beach Area A



5 Beach Area B



6 Mangroves



7 Cycads



8 Estuary



9 Beach Area C



10 Beach Area D



11 Old Coney Island Park Signage



12 *Aganope heptaphylla*



13 Beach Area E



14 *Barringtonia* Collection



15 Eco-toilet



16 Coastal Meadows

Your Guide to **Coney Island Park**







1. Casuarina Exploration



3. Bird Hide



2. West Promenade



Baya Weaver



White-bellied Sea Eagle



4. Beach Area A



Scaly-breasted Munia

Common Flameback

Dungun tree

## START POINT

### ▶ 1 Casuarina Exploration

This adventure area provides great fun for all ages with its rustic charm. Its ground is covered in sand recycled from the nearby beach and the wooden structures and seats are constructed using fallen Casuarina trees, making it an environmentally-friendly adventure area.

The coastal meadow here contains a collection of free-flowering plants found commonly along the sandy, coastal beaches of Singapore. To counter the harsh conditions of coastal areas, such as strong light exposure, salt sprays, and very windy conditions, most of the plants found in these areas have developed special adaptations, such as storing water in their leaves, to prevent dehydration.

### ▶ 2 West Promenade

The West Promenade offers the best view of Pulau Ubin and Pasir Gudang in Malaysia. Before reclamation, steps were built to protect the shore from erosion. The seats here are also made from uprooted Casuarina trees.

### ▶ 3 Bird Hide

Stop by one of the island's three bird-watching hides for the opportunity to observe wildlife, especially birds, from a closer distance without alarming them. More than 80 species of resident and migratory birds can be spotted at Coney Island Park and the surrounding forested area.

Some common residents are the **Collared Kingfisher (*Todiramphus chloris*)**, the most common kingfisher in Singapore, and the **Common Tailorbird (*Orthotomus sutorius*)**. The former is a carnivore which consumes a variety of prey including fish, reptiles and crabs. The latter is named after its unique ability to stitch leaves together using just its beak to form the foundation of its nest. The female will pierce her beak through the edges of leaves, and sew them together using spider web or plant fibre.

Other common residents are the **Baya Weaver (*Ploceus philippinus*)**, which is able to create intricate nests using strips of interlaced grass knotted together with its strong beak, and the **Long-tailed Parakeet (*Psittacula longicauda*)**, the only native parakeet in Singapore. This species is highly gregarious and roosts in large flocks which can number up to several hundred birds.

Easily identifiable by the golden yellow feathers on its back and black and white face pattern, the **Common Flameback (*Dinopium javanense*)** has stiff tail feathers which help it to balance as it climbs the trunks and branches of trees in search of prey.

The **Scaly-breasted Munia (*Lonchura punctulata*)** feeds on the seeds of long grasses found in the park. The back of the bird is a light brown and its white breast feathers are edged with a deep mahogany, giving the bird a beautiful scalloped appearance.

Native to Southeast Asia, the **Zebra Dove (*Geopelia striata*)** is a small and slender bird with a long, narrow tail and is most commonly seen in parks and gardens, foraging either alone or in pairs.

Try to spot the **Changeable Hawk Eagle (*Spizaetus cirrhatus*)** in the canopy as it lies in wait for prey such as mammals, reptiles and other birds.

If you see a brightly coloured bird with blue and green feathers, chances are that it is the **Blue-throated Bee-eater (*Merops viridis*)**. It is named for the bees, wasps and hornets it consumes as part of its diet.

The **White-bellied Sea Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*)**, which is the largest raptor in Singapore, is also known as Lang Laut in Malay. It has a wingspan of about 50 cm while its body is about 70 cm long. It is commonly seen flying along the coast with its wings in a V-shape, unlike other raptors which hold their wings horizontally.

### ▶ 4 Beach Area A

Each of the five beach areas in the park is home to plants of a particular habitat or theme. **Back Mangrove Trees** are featured at Beach Area A. The main species planted in this area, **Calophyllum inophyllum**, is critically endangered. The **Dungun tree (*Heritiera littoralis*)**, another critically endangered species, produces woody, ellipsoid shaped fruits that have a pronounced keel. This makes the buoyant fruit resemble the head of "Ultraman". You will also see the **Mangrove Fan Palm (*Licuala spinosa*)**, a species which grows in moist areas and in clumps.





Cerbera odollam



6. Mangroves



7. Cycads



9. Beach Area C



Twin-apple



Fan Palm



8. Estuary



10. Beach Area D

### ► 5 Beach Area B

**Beach Front Shrubs** and **Coastal Climbers** are showcased at Beach Area B. With its red to pink-centred flowers, *Cerbera manghas* is a rare species locally and can be readily identified from another related species that can be found on the island — *Cerbera odollam* — which has yellow-centred flowers.

Look out for the **Twin-apple (*Ochrosia oppositifolia*)**, a plant resembling a more neatly branching frangipani (*Plumeria* species or hybrid). This species has become locally extinct in Singapore, and Coney Island Park is the first location where it is being introduced back into the natural environment.

### ► 6 Mangroves

Mangroves are highly adaptive plants that can tolerate being partially submerged in seawater during high tide, and are able to grow in soft and oxygen-poor (anaerobic) mud. These plants can also tolerate silt washed down rivers and violent storms that hit the coast during the wet season.

Take in the scenic view as you stroll on the Boardwalk, made with timber from **Casuarina (*Casuarina equisetifolia*)** trees. The Casuarina is native to Singapore and is hardy, fast-growing, sun-loving and tolerant of salt and poor soil conditions. Its

wood is extremely hard and dense, so it is frequently planted as a wind break and used to stabilise coastal dunes. Though similar in appearance to a pine tree, it is in fact a flowering plant (angiosperm) rather than a conifer (gymnosperm).

There are four demonstration plots here which showcase a variety of plants that can be found in coastal forest, back mangrove and mangrove habitats.

### ► 7 Cycads

Locally rare in the wild, cycads typically grow very slowly and can live for as long as 1,000 years. The park is home to two **Paku Raja** cycads (*Cycas edentata*), one of which is a single-trunked individual about 3.5 m tall and the other is a multi-stemmed plant with a diameter of less than 2 m.

### ► 8 Estuary

Stop by the estuary for the opportunity to observe a variety of interesting mangrove wildlife. Commonly seen in mangroves, the **Giant Mudskipper (*Periophthalmodon schlosseri*)** is a fish which is able to breathe out of water by retaining water in an enlarged gill chamber. Its primary diet comprises female **Fiddler Crabs** and sometimes its own young.

There is also the elusive **Mud Lobster (*Thalassina anomala*)**, which burrows using its powerful claws while feeding on organic matter at the same time. It plays an important role in the health of the mangrove by bringing organic matter up from deep underground which would otherwise be out of reach for many plants and animals.

Try to spot some of the **Tree-climbing Crabs (*Episesarma* spp.)** which inhabit Coney Island Park. These burrowing crabs can be commonly seen in dry sites or near Mud Lobster mounds. They tend to remain motionless when they are out of water in order to avoid predators.

### ► 9 Beach Area C

Soak in the sights in this themed beach area which features **Rare** and **Extinct Coastal Trees**. Here, you will be able to find **Buah Keras Laut (*Hernandia nymphaeifolia*)**, a tree which has leaves resembling those of a water lily. This species has become locally

extinct in Singapore, and Coney Island Park is the first location where it is being introduced back into the natural environment. You can also view ***Serianthes grandiflora***, a plant which typically grows along seashores, behind mangrove forests, and near river mouths.

### ► 10 Beach Area D

**Coastal Hill Forest Trees** are showcased at this beach area and the critically endangered **Jeliti (*Planchonella chartacea*)** can be found here. First spotted in Singapore in 1997 on Lazarus Island, it can now also be found at Chek Jawa Wetlands. It is commonly used for carvings, cabinets and furniture, as well as making house posts and saltwater pilings.

The extract from various parts of Pasak Lingga (***Aphanamixis polystachya***), which is also found here, can be used to protect crops against insect herbivory. Oil can also be extracted from its seeds.





11. Old Coney Island Park Signage



12. *Aganope heptaphylla*



13. Beach Area E



*Terminalia copelandii*



14. *Barringtonia* Collection



15. Eco-toilet



16. Coastal Meadows

► **11 Old Coney Island Park Signage**

This was once a frontage point for boats to sail in. Items such as the Old Coney Island Park signage and table are now being conserved to preserve its authentic look.

► **12 *Aganope heptaphylla***

Found mainly in coastal forests and along tidal rivers and sandy beaches, the foliage of *Aganope heptaphylla* is spirally arranged and has stalked, leathery leaflets with hairless and egg-shaped blades.

► **13 Beach Area E**

Located at this **Coastal Hill Forest Trees**-themed beach area, the **Jelawi (*Terminalia subspathulata*)** has an open and tiered crown which large birds use as a nesting site.

The **Sea Almond (*Terminalia catappa*)** is a pagoda-shaped tree that can grow up to 35 m tall and has leaves that are clustered at the end of the twigs. Native to Malaysia, the **Badam (*Terminalia copelandii*)** looks similar to the Sea Almond, only with much larger leaves, and is usually found in inland forests.

There is also the **Pong Pong (*Cerbera manghas*)** that is tolerant of salt spray and saline soils, making it a good coastal foliage choice.

► **14 *Barringtonia* Collection**

Discover the collection of riverine and coastal *Barringtonia* plants, where you can see species which are critically endangered or locally extinct in the wild such as *Barringtonia reticulata*. Also known as the **Sumatran Putat** and **Gulungan Hadik**, it grows in sandy forests near the sea and is easily identified by its leathery leaves and pink flowers.

Usually found in tidal mud by rivers and mangrove swamps, *Barringtonia reticulata* can grow up to a height of 4.5 m. You will be able to differentiate it by its thick membranous leaves and white flowers.

Look up into the canopy and you may spot three small wooden bird houses, which were installed to encourage birds like woodpeckers and kingfishers to nest in the park.

If you search carefully around the small mounds near the Eco Pond, you may be able to spot the nest entrances of the **Blue-throated Bee-eaters**.

► **15 Eco-toilet**

Do remember that this is a rustic park, and there is only one public toilet. This Eco-toilet has been designed to conserve energy and water. The electricity used to power the pumps is generated from solar power, and the water used for flushing and hand washing is harvested from rainwater.

The Eco-toilet has a green roof, which reduces the amount of storm water runoff and the speed at which it occurs, minimising the stress on drainage systems during storms and high tides. Through the daily dew and evaporation cycle, the plants help to reduce ambient temperatures. Lamp posts are attached with solar panels which harvest solar power for lighting at night.

► **16 Coastal Meadows**

Walk around and you will be welcomed by the **Coastal Meadows**, which contain free-flowering plants such as the **Rose Myrtle (*Rhodomyrtus tomentosa*)**, an attractive woody shrub with silvery-grey leaves. It bears magenta-pink flowers which resemble cherry blossoms and purple velvety berries enjoyed by birds.

If you come across a bushy shrub with silvery leaves and clusters of tiny pink flowers, chances are that it is the **Indian Camphorweed (*Pluchea indica*)**. Pollinated by butterflies and other insects, this free-flowering plant can be found across Southeast Asia, India, South China as well as Australia and the Pacific Islands.

With alternate, trifoliolate stalked leaves, the **Beach Bean (*Canavalia rosea*)** is a trailing, non-woody plant. This legume creeper is found mainly along seashores and forms dense mats along the shoreline which helps to stabilise the sand.

Try your luck in spotting the **Seashore Purslane (*Portulaca pilosa*)**, a creeping herb with fleshy leaf blades that are spirally arranged. Its pink flowers are surrounded by bracteoles and covered with hair. Each flower has four to six petals that are pink and two to six sepals.

**END POINT**

From the end point, the quickest return to public transport and the public carpark at Punggol Settlement is along the Cycling Track back to the West Entrance.

We hope you have enjoyed exploring Coney Island Park. For another park experience, embark on the trail at Punggol Waterway Park.

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