

# Pasir Ris:

PAST TO

PRESENT

**ONCE A VACATION HOTSPOT, THIS EASTERN TOWN CONTINUES TO DELIGHT RESIDENTS AND VISITORS WITH ITS MULTIFACETED CHARMS TODAY.**

Its name believed to be derived from the Malay words *pasir* ('long sand') and *hiris* ('to shred or slice'), Pasir Ris is steeped in history as a coastal town. Until the 1950s, it was populated with holiday bungalows and beachfront accommodations. While Pasir Ris is now known for its various recreational spaces, you can still find traces of its colourful past all over the estate.

## Pasir Ris Park

**Accessible via Elias Road and Pasir Ris Green**

Although Singapore has more than 350 nature parks, Easties can take pride in the serene sanctuary that is Pasir Ris Park. Usually less crowded than East Coast Park, the

70-hectare seaside park has multiple walking and cycling trails to meet different needs.



For the best view of the sunrise or sunset, pick a spot along the beach that spans the park's entire length. But don't

be too intimidated by the many photographers

and birdwatchers wandering around — they come to the park to see species like the Little Egret, White-collared Kingfisher and Oriental Pied Hornbill. You can also climb the park's three-storey lookout tower to observe birds in their natural habitat.

The sizeable play area comprises climbing nets, swings and slides that guarantee hours of fun for the little ones. At the same time, these play structures also encourage imaginative play and self-expression.

Adrenaline junkies can check out PAssion WaVe @ Pasir Ris for activities like sports climbing, and water sports such as dinghy sailing and kayaking. Also housed within Pasir Ris Park is Gallop Stable, a horse riding centre that

offers myriad horse-related activities for both young and old. These include riding lessons and camps, pony rides and feeding, and trail rides.

Feeling peckish after having a blast? There are F&B outlets in the park, where you can dig into a hearty meal while enjoying the sea breeze.

**FUN FACT:** A one-eyed Buffy Fish Owl and a family of Spotted Wood Owls are said to frequent the car park and mangrove area. If you are hoping to catch a glimpse of them, keep your eyes peeled and your camera ready.



## **Mangrove forest within Pasir Ris Park** **Pasir Ris Park Area 2, Singapore 519144**

A highlight of Pasir Ris Park is none other than its six-hectare mangrove forest. One of Singapore's two protected mangrove forests, it boasts luxuriant greenery and hordes of wildlife.

Strolling along the Pasir Ris Park Mangrove Boardwalk is not only a fascinating experience, but also an educational one. The trails, which add up to about 1.5 kilometres, give visitors the opportunity to get closer to mangrove breathing roots, wild cinnamon trees, herons, monitor lizards, mudskippers, crabs, snakes, otters and even saltwater crocodiles.

**FUN FACT:** Look out for unique plants such as the Nipah Palm, which bears the Attap fruit. This is the source of *attap chee*, which you may have encountered in the shaved ice dessert, *ice kacang*.

## **HDB blocks with nautical features** **Blocks 138-146, Pasir Ris Street 11,** **Singapore 510138-510146**

As a tribute to its history as a seaside resort, several HDB blocks along Pasir Ris Street 11 boast maritime-themed

architectural details, such as lighthouse-shaped turrets formed by columns of balconies and grille patterns inspired by traditional basket-weaving designs.

The facades of other blocks in this neighbourhood also showcase nautical elements. For example, void decks and precinct boundary walls feature porthole-shaped openings, while the windows and balconies of some flats are framed in openings that resemble clams.





**FUN FACT:** Unlike the uniform designs of earlier decades when the focus was to ease the housing crunch, these blocks in Pasir Ris were designed by HDB architects who were given rein to create distinctive visual identities for each precinct. This brought about refreshing architectural expressions through the use of varied building materials and designs, while recognising the town's heritage.



## Bumboat Playground

**Next to Block 623, Elias Road, Singapore 510623**

Sitting atop a sandpit, the Pasir Ris Bumboat Playground, located next to Elias Mall, has been around since the 1980s. It is one of HDB's series of mosaic playgrounds that are known for their terrazzo tiles and designs based on Asian cultures.

Shaped like a bumboat, the playground pays homage to the vehicles that used to transport cargo from larger ships to the shore in the past. Real bumboats can still be found along Singapore River today, albeit as a tourist attraction.

Mimicking the boat's traditional design, the 'bow' of the playground features the classic colours of red, green and white; a terrazzo slide is situated at the aft. There are also climbing structures made from tyres, a key element that makes the playground bear a striking resemblance to the actual vessel.

**FUN FACT:** A distinctive feature of the bumboat is the eyes painted on both sides of the bow. According to ancient Chinese beliefs, these 'eyes' help the boat navigate and avoid danger.





## Riverfront views of Sungei Api Api

### Between Pasir Ris Park Area 2 and 3; between Pasir Ris Neighbourhood 5 and 6

Before the redevelopment of Pasir Ris in the late 1980s, Sungei Api Api and Sungei Tampines — two rivers that flow through Pasir Ris town and into the Strait of Johor — were the largest of more than 10 rivers in this area.

Although the two rivers were later converted into canals, sections were preserved within the public housing estate at Sungei Api Api and Pasir Ris Park for research, education and public enjoyment.

Residents staying along the waterway get to wake up to views of the soothing waters and lush greenery, while visitors can take in the sights from a bridge at Pasir Ris Park Area 2. The calming vista offers a moment of respite from the stresses of everyday life.

**FUN FACT:** Sungei Api Api and Sungei Tampines were named after the Api-api mangrove tree and the Tempinis tree (*Streblus elongatus*) respectively, both of which used to be abundant in the vicinity.