



AN UNEXPECTED

Green Paradise

BUKIT PANJANG MAY BE A RELATIVELY YOUNG ESTATE, BUT IT HAS NO LACK OF GREEN SPACES AND HISTORICAL AREAS TO VISIT.

Did you know that Bukit Panjang means “long hill” in Malay? Like many other housing estates, it used to consist of rural settlements and farmland, which made way for public housing in the 1980s.

Located in the west of Singapore, Bukit Panjang is very much a heartland estate, but one that is bordered by verdant areas such as Zhenghua Nature Park and Chestnut Nature Park.

Nature lovers may be pleasantly surprised to find that they can easily spend the whole day in Bukit Panjang. Here are some places to check out.

Chestnut Nature Park

Next to Dairy Farm Road

The largest nature park in Singapore at 81 hectares (which is the size of about 113 football fields), Chestnut Nature Park is situated between Bukit Panjang Road and Dairy Farm Road, beside the Central Catchment Nature Reserve.

The park is divided into two areas: Chestnut Nature Park (South) and Chestnut Nature Park (North). Fans of the great outdoors will appreciate the hiking trails with varying levels of difficulty, from steeper and rockier terrain for the experienced hiker, to novice-friendly ones with gentler slopes.

There is also a mountain bike trail at Chestnut Nature Park. If you do not own a bicycle, you can rent one from the bicycle rental shop located near the car park.

“I really enjoy hiking here even though Bukit Timah Nature Reserve is nearby because the route is very well-thought-out.

– MR DAN SIRRS, 35, TEACHER



Bukit Panjang Butterfly Garden **Next to Block 213 Petir Road**

Set up in 2013 and run by volunteers, the Bukit Panjang Butterfly Garden was created to encourage residents to head outdoors and experience nature. Although small, the garden is filled with nectaring and butterfly host plants, and arranged so that it mimics a natural habitat, with pockets of undisturbed space for wildlife to seek shelter in.

More than 60 species of butterflies and moths have been spotted in the garden, including the rare Blue Pansy butterfly.





Pang Sua Pond **Near Senja LRT station**

Singapore's second-largest man-made floating wetlands system after the Sengkang Floating Wetland, Pang Sua Pond was a stormwater collection pond when it was first built in the 1990s. After undergoing a makeover, it was officially unveiled in 2017 by PUB as part of its Active, Beautiful, Clean Waters (ABC Waters) Programme, and the pride and joy of Bukit Panjang residents.

The main highlight of Pang Sua Pond is a 480-metre timber boardwalk that is suspended at a height of up to seven metres, allowing panoramic views from above the water. There are also viewing decks dotting the pond, which are great for selfies!

“ I have lived in Bukit Panjang for several years and Pang Sua Pond has always been the part of the estate that I love the most.

– MS JASMINE WANG, 34, MARKETING EXECUTIVE



Fuyong Estate

Near Hillview MRT station

An almost-forgotten enclave overshadowed by the hustle and bustle of the Rail Mall nearby, Fuyong Estate

has a storied history. Developed by entrepreneur and philanthropist Lee Kong Chian in the 1950s as a low-cost public housing estate, it was named after his home town of Furong in Fujian, China. It counts several prominent Singaporeans as residents or former residents, including the late S. R. Nathan, the sixth president of Singapore.

While it is not a real *kampung* like Kampong Lorong Buangkok, you can still experience some of that old-school ambience at Fuyong Estate. Located just a short walk from the photogenic truss bridge that is part of the Rail Corridor, the neighbourhood is home to retro-looking single-storey houses and pavements overrun by potted plants — offering a semblance of the past!

Bukit Panjang LRT

The first Light Rapid Transit (LRT) line to be built in Singapore, the Bukit Panjang LRT line commenced operations in 1999, and serves residents in Bukit Panjang and Choa Chu Kang.



The LRT may be a convenient way of getting around, but unbeknownst to non-residents, there is a surprise photo opportunity at Bukit Panjang station if you take the train. As it departs the platform, the scene from the train windows opens up to unobstructed views of Bukit Panjang estate. It almost looks like a scene from a sci-fi film, with towering residential buildings and train tracks meandering between them. Time your visit for sunset — the scenery takes on a dusty orange hue, looking like a scene out of *Mad Max*!

