

# A BROWSE THROUGH *Bishan*

**BISHAN MAY BE A RELATIVELY SMALL TOWN, BUT WHAT IT LACKS IN SIZE, IT MAKES UP FOR WITH PLENTY OF INTERESTING PLACES TO EXPLORE.**



Home to numerous educational institutions and coveted for its accessibility to central Singapore, Bishan showcases an eclectic mix of natural wonders and architectural marvels. From a sprawling park to a beautifully designed public library, here are some landmarks to check out in this north-eastern town.

## **Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park**

**1384 Ang Mo Kio Avenue 1, Singapore 569932**

A popular spot among the community, the 62-hectare park offers residents a tranquil space to enjoy myriad outdoor activities. While you should stay at home whenever possible amid the COVID-19 situation, you can enjoy a breath of fresh air on your own — remember to maintain a safe distance from fellow park users!

Nature lovers will appreciate the array of fauna and flora in the park, which hosts at least 66 species of wildflowers, 59 species of birds, and 22 species of dragonflies. There is also the resident family of otters, which was first spotted in 2014 and continues to delight the public with their frolics.

When it is safe to be out and about again, pay a visit to the three playgrounds (one featuring water play, one with an adventure-themed concept, and one that is designed for children with special needs), a dog run, and various cafes located within the park.

As part of the Public Utilities Board's Active, Beautiful, Clean Waters (ABC Waters) Programme, a 410-metre stretch of a former canal was converted into a picturesque stream that meanders through the park, before it widens out further downstream. It is also the country's first naturally integrated river, known as ABC Waters @ Kallang River.

“Before it became ABC Waters @ Kallang River, it was just a canal with a cycling and jogging path.

I used to jog thrice a week on this same road that connects to Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park. Although I can't jog now due to knee problems, sometimes I'll take short strolls around the area and look at the many fishes swimming in the river!



– MR LIM ENG CHONG, 65, RETIREE



## Clock Playground

**Blk 514A, Bishan Street 13, Singapore 571514**

While Toa Payoh houses the iconic Dragon Playground of the 1980s, Bishan boasts its very own throwback. Also built during that era, the Instagram-worthy Clock Playground features two clock faces, one on a house on stilts and another concealing a short flight of stairs and a slide. It still has a sandpit, which offers a tactile playtime experience for kids and a hearty dose of nostalgia for parents.

## **Bishan Public Library**

**5 Bishan Place, #01-01, Singapore 579841**

Designed by local architectural firm LOOK Architects, Bishan Public Library opened its doors in September 2006 when it wowed not just the public, but also won accolades from the international architectural community due to its singular and iconic appearance.

Bishan Public Library has a roof terrace and is lit naturally from within by coloured glass panels. The façade's prominent protruding rectangular alcoves are designed to evoke the experience of being in a treehouse, and are one of the library's more unique spaces for the community to embrace reading.



## Merlion Statues

**Car park entrance near Blk 220, Ang Mo Kio Avenue 1, Singapore 560220**

While not strictly located in Bishan, this pair of Merlion statues is situated just opposite Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park and has been a cherished fixture since 1998. At 8.6 metres tall, the duo is two of the seven Merlion sculptures in Singapore and was commissioned by the Ang Mo Kio Residents' Committee.

