

# Media Release

# Discover Sentosa's Lesser Known Sights with New Network of Walking Trails and Cycling Tracks

**SINGAPORE, 12 December 2016** – Discover a different side of Sentosa this holiday season and beyond, with a new network of walking trails and cycling tracks that will bring you up close to the rich biodiversity on Sentosa, *The State of Fun* and its lesser-known nooks and corners!

The walking and cycling network strengthens connectivity in Sentosa, linking the island's popular array of attractions, hotels, beaches and dining outlets with various gems such as lush rainforests, natural coastlines, historic military bunkers and even a natural spring. The network complements existing on-island transportation such as the Sentosa Express monorail, Sentosa buses, beach trams and Sentosa Line of the Singapore Cable Car Sky Network.

"With the seamless link to the Singapore mainland via the Sentosa Gateway and enhanced connectivity on the island provided by our network of cycling tracks and walking trails, guests now enjoy easy access to the island's pristine and quiet natural environment. Just stroll into Sentosa via the Boardwalk or cycle in via the cycling track to get up close to gems such as native greenery, wildlife, marine ecosystem and heritage buildings, which will make for a delightful and fun-filled learning journey as guests bond with their families and friends. We look forward to welcoming more guests as they explore the different side of Sentosa," said Jacqueline Tan, Assistant Chief Executive, Sentosa Development Corporation (SDC).

# **Sentosa Walking Trails**

Despite the resort island's transformation over the years, many parts of Sentosa still retain the original tranquil and green environment that has existed since its early days, with broad swathes of greenery, age-old heritage trees and native wildlife.

Today, with the completion of Sentosa's Walking Trails, guests can now stroll into the island to explore its rustic side, connecting from the Southern Ridges on mainland Singapore. This follows close collaborations between SDC, the National Parks Board and Mapletree Investments to provide guests with enhanced connectivity through the *Marang* Trail (off Telok Blangah Road), HarbourFront Centre and VivoCity. What's more, with island admission fees at the Sentosa Boardwalk waived until 31 December 2017, guests can walk in for free!

There are six walking trails in Sentosa totalling about 7.5km. (Please refer to the enclosed map and factsheet for more information on the trails):

1) Sentosa Boardwalk Trail

4) Imbiah Trail

2) Resorts World Sentosa Trail

5) Coastal Trail

3) Merlion Trail

6) Palawan Trail

Among the various highlights guests can look forward to seeing are a natural spring, a bridge converted from the island's old monorail track, and rare heritage trees such as the Sea Apple (Syzyqium Grande). That's not all, guests can also check out natural shores where thriving marine life appear at low tide, and a natural hill where historical army fortifications and structures have been preserved, providing a window to Singapore's past.

Check out more information on the Nature@Sentosa app, which has been launched in conjunction with the completion of Sentosa's Walking Trails. Guests can also refer to the app and signages along the trails to walk their way to a healthier lifestyle. As one of the official venue partners for the Health Promotion Board's National Steps Challenge 2016, Sentosa is providing a fun way for guests to clock more steps, with signages along the trail to guide guests on the number of steps they have taken and provide more information on the various sights.

# **Sentosa Cycling Tracks**

Measuring a total of 12km across The State of Fun, the Sentosa Cycling Tracks complement the walking trails by providing another fun and healthy activity for our guests, as well as a better experience for cyclists by conveniently linking various parts of the island through shared paths and on-road lanes.

Have fun discovering nooks and corners that you may never have known existed through three interconnected cycling tracks linked to the walking trails, and stop by the various lookout points to soak in sights such as the Dragon's Teeth Gate while learning about the island's historical and natural heritage:

#### Route 1 - Family Bonding

Running mainly along the beach, the terrain is flat, making it suitable for families, children and amateur cyclists.

# Route 2 - Fun & Nature

This is a route with hills and bends, providing cyclists with a moderate workout that brings them to the Mount Imbiah and nature trails. As there are slopes, this route is recommended for cyclists who are more experienced.

# Route 3 - Nature & Lifestyle

This route features steep slopes and dedicated on-road cycling lanes, leading to Sentosa Cove Village and Tanjong Beach. Offering a good workout, this route is recommended for cyclists who are more experienced.

For more information on Sentosa's cycling tracks, please refer to the enclosed map or visit www.sentosa.com.sg/Plan-Your-Visit/getting-around.

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#### **About Sentosa**

Sentosa is Asia's leading leisure destination and Singapore's premier island resort getaway, located within 15 minutes from the central business and shopping districts. The island resort is managed by Sentosa Development Corporation, which works with various stakeholders in overseeing property investments, attractions development, and operation of the various leisure offerings and management of the residential precinct on the island. The Corporation also manages the Southern Islands, and owns Mount Faber Leisure Group which runs Singapore's only cable car service.

The 500-hectare island resort is home to an exciting array of themed attractions, award-winning spa retreats, lush rainforests, golden sandy beaches, resort accommodations, world-renowned golf courses, a deep-water yachting marina and luxurious residences – making Sentosa a vibrant island resort for business and leisure. Making Sentosa its home, too, is Singapore's first integrated resort, Resorts World Sentosa, which operates South East Asia's first Universal Studios theme park.

Situated on the eastern end of Sentosa Island is Sentosa Cove, an exclusive oceanfront and residential enclave bustling with some 2,000 homes, romantic quayside restaurants, retail and specialty shops.

The Island is also proud to be home to Sentosa Golf Club and its two acclaimed golf courses, The Serapong and The Tanjong. Sentosa Golf Club hosts the SMBC Singapore Open and the HSBC Women's Champions, featuring some of the world's best golf professionals.

Welcoming a growing number of local and international guests every year, Sentosa is an integral part of Singapore's goal to be a global destination to work, live and play. For more information, please visit: www.sentosa.com.sg.





#thestateoffun





Think of Sentosa, *The State of Fun*, and the exciting array of attractions, activities and dining options on the resort island often come to mind. But what is less well known is that Sentosa boasts extensive natural assets and rich biodiversity.

Despite the resort island's transformation over the years, many parts of Sentosa still retain the original tranquil and green environment that has existed since its early days, with broad swathes of secondary forest and age-old heritage trees.

With the Sentosa Walking Trails, guests can now stroll into the island and explore its lesser known sights through six rejuvenated walking trails connected seamlessly with mainland Singapore – Sentosa Boardwalk, Resorts World Sentosa, Merlion Trail, Imbiah Trail, Jungle/Coastal Trail and Palawan Trail.

These trails are accessible via various routes, including bridges that have been converted from the island's old monorail track. There are also natural shores where marine life thrives, and a natural hill where historical army fortifications and structures have been preserved, providing visitors with a window to Singapore's past.

More information on the trails can also be found on the new mobile app Nature@Sentosa.

#### SENTOSA BOARDWALK



The Sentosa Boardwalk is the only garden-themed boardwalk in Southeast Asia. This is where guests will have a preview of five natural habitats native to the island – mangrove, rock garden, terrain and hill, coastal flora, and secondary rainforest - as they begin their stroll into the island from the mainland. The Jelutong Tree (*Dyera costulata*), which produces latex for making chewing gum and furniture, are among the plants found along this trail. At 620m-long, the Sentosa Boardwalk provides a seamless and all-

weather access into The State of Fun, and also boasts excellent vantage points for guests to enjoy the sunset and arrival of cruise liners.

# **RESORTS WORLD SENTOSA**

From the Sentosa Boardwalk, the trail connects to *Resorts World Sentosa* (RWS), Singapore's first integrated resort that spans 49 hectares. At RWS, guests can enjoy the region's first-and-only Universal Studios theme park, hotels and many other offerings. One of the greenest and most sustainable developments with vegetated green roofs totalling an area of 376,737 sq. ft., RWS also houses many interesting species of flora and fauna, including *Cratoxylem, Milletia, Lagerstroemia, Ficus lyrata*, Sea Hibiscus, as well as parrots.



# **MERLION TRAIL**



After Resorts World Sentosa, guests can take the Merlion Trail to Sentosa's other iconic attractions, starting with the **Merlion Tower**. Come face-to-face with the legendary Merlion, a mythical creature with a lion's head and a fish's body. A guardian of prosperity, the Merlion personifies Singapore's history as an important seaport. There are a total of three Merlion sculptures in Singapore, with the 37m-tall Sentosa Merlion being the only Merlion which allows visitors to enter its body and uncover treasures within its trails.

The majestic Merlion can also be admired while strolling along the Merlion Walk. Some of the interesting plants found nearby includes the Khaya Tree, also known as the African Mahogany. It is used to manufacture furniture and construction materials for houses and buildings in Thailand. Another plant that thrives here is the *Garcinia subelliptica*, which bears green fruits known as the Taiwanese variant of mangosteens. For a scenic experience, guests can also choose to continue the trail by hopping onboard the **Sentosa Line** of the Singapore Cable Car Sky Network, which offers priceless views of the island and its jungles, sand and sea, and brings guests to various attractions within Sentosa. The Merlion, Imbiah Lookout and Siloso Point cable car stations provides access to Sentosa's sandy beaches and various exciting attractions such as Madame Tussauds, Skyline Luge Sentosa, Sky Tower and Mega Adventure Park, to name a few.

Another must-see attraction is the **Orchid Connection**, situated along the Merlion Walk. As the name suggests, the little garden brings together orchids of different eras, allowing guests from various parts of the world to discover the unique flora of Singapore and the Southeast Asian region. Some of the orchid species found here include Singapore's national flower, the Vanda Miss Joaqium, the delicate and white Pigeon Orchids, as well as the Vanda Pachara Delight, which is the same flower that is featured on our \$50 notes.

#### **IMBIAH TRAIL**

The Imbiah Trail allows visitors to discover Sentosa's forests, which are made up of much more than just trees. The exploration begins at the **Sentosa Nature Discovery** centre, a building converted from a **former monorail station**, where guests can quickly brush up on their Science Process Skills—Observe, Classify, Compare and Infer—before stepping into the forest and explore a wilderness teeming with birds, insects, wildlife and plants.



Connecting the Sentosa Nature Discovery to the heart of the 15ha Mount Imbiah forest is the 225m-long Imbiah Bridge, which has also been uniquely converted from an old monorail track. Away from the hustle and bustle of the city, the Bridge brings visitors on the Imbiah Nature Walk, which has been around since the day Sentosa opened its doors to the public in the 1970s. This 1.85km-long trail meanders through the Imbiah forest on Mount Imbiah and brings one up close and personal with a wide variety of plants and wildlife. Today, the Imbiah Trail has three waterfalls. Surrounded by towering trees, the Imbiah Falls is the highest among the 3 waterfalls within the Imbiah Trail, making it a great photo point. This waterfall provides water to sustain a diverse variety of wild animals in the forest.

The completion of this trail will lead one to the **Summit of Mount Imbiah**. At 60 metres above sea level, it is a scenic lookout and commands fabulous views of Singapore's Western Anchorage and

Southern Islands. The hilltop also houses the remnants of British army fortifications, abandoned in the 1930s, and a 10m-high bird watching tower, a must-see for history buffs and nature lovers.

The army fortifications form the remains of the Imbiah Battery, which used to be mounted with one of most powerful coastal defence guns. Today, the underground passages have become homes to the Edible-nest and Black-nest swiftlets. There used to be two swiftlet colonies in Singapore – one downtown at the Fullerton Building, and another in the Imbiah Battery on Sentosa. As the downtown colony no longer exists, Sentosa is now the only place where a colony of about 100 swiftlets can be found. A distinguishing feature of these birds is their ability to echolocate, allowing them to navigate in total darkness. Another interesting fact is that their nests, made from threads of their saliva, are considered an expensive delicacy for the Chinese. To protect the vulnerable swiflet population, the bunker is now securely locked.

# JUNGLE/COASTAL TRAIL



From the Sentosa Boardwalk, guests can take the Coastal Trail for a fun and nostalgic journey featuring coastal forests and historical landmarks. Only a few **coastal forests** are left in Singapore, two of which are located at Siloso Headland and the Northern Coast of Sentosa. The forests are home to endangered plants like the Seashore Mangosteen and the *Dracena minyagi*, which is the oldest tree species on Sentosa at 200 years old. A rare plant that is unique to the island, its blood red seeds, said to have medicinal

value, have also led to it being known as the "dragon blood tree". The forests also support a variety of local wildlife, including bats, squirrels, snakes, birds and macaques.

Apart from coastal forests, guests can also enjoy the island's **natural beaches with both sandy and rocky shores** while on this trail. During low tide, a wide variety of marine life including hard and soft corals, sea grasses, seaweeds, crabs, anemones, molluscs and fishes can be observed on the beaches. Sentosa's coastal shores are also popular layovers for birds on their way to and from their homes, some of which are as far away as Siberia. The migratory season for birds typically begins in October and ends by the start of the following May. As guests explore this trail, they can keep an eye out for migratory visitors such as the Arctic Warbler and Common Sandpiper. Situated along the shores are totem poles, which were salvaged from the now defunct Sentosa Ferry Terminal.

Along the Coastal Trail also resides **Fort Siloso**, one of the three forts that were built on Sentosa in the 19th century to prevent a sea invasion as Singapore was an important sea trading port for the British. During World War II when Japanese troops invaded Singapore, the guns at Fort Siloso fired into the harbour destroying a number of Japanese ships. They were also directed at the oil refineries at Pulau Bukom and Pulau Sebarok and Pulau Ayer Chawan to destroy the installations so that they do not fall into the hands of the Japanese. Today, Fort Siloso is the only preserved coastal fort in Singapore and is a historical attraction with rich memorabilia and remains of fortified military structures and tunnels. Guests can also take a walk on the 11-storey high **Fort Siloso Skywalk** to enjoy panoramic views of the Sentosa coastline and a scenic trek among the treetops en route to Fort Siloso. A guided tour of the Fort for a more detailed historical account of the area is also available onsite.

#### **PALAWAN TRAIL**

The Palawan Trail links Orchid Connection to **Palawan Beach**, one of the three beaches in Sentosa. A family-friendly beach where many exciting activities are held throughout the year, Palawan Beach lies in the centre of the southern coast of the island. A famous suspension bridge located at the beach leads to a small islet off the coast, popularly known as the Southernmost Point of Continental Asia. Just a stone's throw away from the beach is the



Palawan Kidz City, which houses kid-centric attractions such as KidZania Singapore and MOSH!

Near Palawan Kidz City resides a heritage tree called the *Ficous religiousa*, which is between 60 to 70 years old. It is said that Buddha sat under a similar tree to achieve enlightenment.

Guests can take respite at the green features in the vicinity, such as the newly completed recreational node, **Palawan Green**, as well as a roof garden at Palawan Kidz City. They can also come face to face with our resident animals at **Animal & Bird Encounters** at Palawan Amphitheatre, which offers a variety of shows daily.

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