



# HOW CAN WE PROTECT MANGROVES?



Mangroves are so important to the future of people and the planet that we must protect them. But how can we protect what we are not familiar with?

Spreading awareness about mangroves is one way to encourage everyone to protect mangroves too. A great way to learn about mangroves is to see them firsthand by going on a nature walk. This will then help you tell your friends and family about mangroves

## ACTIVITY 1

Plan a ramble in the mangroves, spot cool wildlife, and share your stories about what you see. Here's how!

### Step 1: Pick a mangrove site

Here's a map of some publicly accessible parks and reserves where mangroves can easily be seen. You may want to pick a site near home or school — or go far for an adventure! Be sure you know how to get there and back. Do some research to locate the trails on your site.





## Step 2: Map your route

As a nature guide, people will rely on you to lead the way. So, it's important for you to visit the site in advance before selecting your route. Some parks and reserves can be quite large and have many trails, some more exciting than others — which ones are more suitable for your audience?

Where will you start and end your guided walk? What is the duration of your walk?



Draw a map of the mangrove site you have chosen. Trace the path you will take and mark out the “start” and “end” of your guided walk.

### *Tips:*

- *Mark out huts or rest stops along the way so you know where to seek shelter when it rains. You may want to make changes to the map after you have visited the site.*
- *Plot out parts of the trail where you know you will come across interesting trees and plants! Find out about them before your next visit.*
- *Jazz up your map by adding some colour and drawing some of your favourite mangrove plants and animals!*



### Step 3: Conduct research on stories to share

What fun facts can you share about mangroves at the site you have picked? Do you want to share stories about how the site became a park or reserve? Or the kinds of plants and animals that can be found there? How did the place get its name? What would your friends and family want to know?

Try to find out as much as you can about the site you have selected. Write down your top 10 favourite facts to share on your guided mangrove walk.








***Here are some resources to get you started:***

- *iNaturalist, a citizen-science website mapping animals and plants around the world.*
- *Flora & Fauna Web, a repository about plants and animals in Singapore, by the National Parks Board.*
- *Infopedia, a resource by the National Library Board.*
- *Facebook groups (e.g. Singapore Wildlife Sightings, Nature Society of Singapore).*



#### Step 4: Finalise details of your walk

There are lots of activities happening in the mangroves at any one time — but what you actually see during your guided walk depends on factors such as tide levels, time of day, time of year, and weather. Write down these important details about your walk, which you can also use to brief your participants in advance to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone!

	<b>Date:</b>		<b>Audience:</b>
	<b>Start time:</b>		<b>What to wear:</b>
	<b>End time:</b>		<b>What to bring:</b>
	<b>Tide: high / low (circle one)</b>		

#### Step 5: Trail etiquette

Mangroves are sensitive places, so how can we make sure we enjoy them without harming them? Write or draw some best practices and behaviours to have when visiting nature parks and reserves. These will make good reminders for your friends and family before setting off.

### ACTIVITY 2

Now you're ready! Using the information above, design an invitation to your guided walk. A better world for mangroves starts off with you — so try out your mangrove guided tour and be an advocate for these precious ecosystems.



**Dive Deeper:** It's monsoon season! Unfortunately, it rains on the day that you had wanted to conduct a guided nature walk. How else can you show your friends and family the mangroves? How else can you share some mangrove magic with them?