

BIRDS, BUGS & THE BEUATY OF PASIR RIS

Singapore's Pasir Ris Park is an amazing place to see nature at its most striking. Michael Smith's photography captures the beauty of the bugs, the birds and the beasts.



Spotted wood owl



Brown capped woodpecker

I first started going to Pasir Ris Park with its narrow, sandy beach in the mid-eighties when my daughter was small; as she grew older we would rent bikes and explore. There is a great playground, pony rides, skating, a maze and a camping and barbecue area, but these days I go to see some amazing nature. On a busy weekend there are scores of super keen bird watchers with some very expensive gear!



Kingfisher



Cotton stainer bug

The Birds

I like the challenge of photographing birds. In Pasir Ris there are many lovely species including the little bronze cuckoo, laced woodpeckers and pied trillers. The cute brown capped woodpecker can often be seen and recently a family of four spotted wood owls have been posing throughout the day.

Butterfly Garden

One area to look out for is the butterfly garden, which is located next to the vegetable plantation, where many species, including the common tiger, blue glassy tiger and peacock pansy flutter about. Be patient and you are almost guaranteed great shots.

Under the Boardwalk

My favourite part of the park is the boardwalk over the mangrove swamps where typical mangrove life such as tree climbing crabs, mud skippers, snails and sea holly can be found.

At certain times of the year the atlas moth, which is one of the world's largest, is very abundant. It's "ugly duckling", alien looking caterpillar transforms into a magnificent beauty.

The end of the boardwalks has covered shade with great views over the heronry.

My First Singapore Crocodile

It was here that I saw my first Singapore crocodile - it got a lot of attention in the press because it was only about a meter long, but I did wonder where mum and dad were!

If you are very lucky you will see smooth otters, but you don't need luck to see small lizards. They are everywhere, as are dragonflies, spiders and assorted bugs.

Do keep a look out for the red jungle fowl - they are not simple kampong chickens or tasty makan! They are much bigger than domestic chickens and can be identified by a white spot on the head of the male. It is endangered in Singapore, but common at Pasir Ris Park.

As you can no doubt guess I'm a big fan of Pasir Ris Park, so next time someone tells you there isn't enough to do in Singapore - tell them to go to Pasir Ris Park! For more information there is a National Parks Guide to the park. 

<https://www.nparks.gov.sg/gardens-parks-and-nature/parks-and-nature-reserves/pasir-ris-park>



Young estuarine crocodile



Traditional fishing



Common tiger butterfly



Changeable lizard



Carpenter beetle



Yellow dragonfly