



## SBG Herbarium Digitalisation Gallery: Inside Singapore's 750,000-Specimen Plant Archive

### Description

The **SBG Herbarium Digitalisation Gallery** opens the Singapore Botanic Gardens' Herbarium to the public — turning what was once a researchers-only archive into something the rest of us can see and learn from. The SBG Herbarium holds over 750,000 plant specimens and is one of Southeast Asia's most important botanical archives.

This is a free, indoor stop that pairs cleanly with the rest of an SBG morning.



Source: NParks / Singapore Botanic Gardens

## The Digitalisation Gallery at a glance

- **Venue:** Within the SBG heritage precinct (check the SBG calendar for the exact gallery location and hours).
- **Collection:** Over 750,000 plant specimens, some dating back to the 1800s.
- **Focus:** How SBG is digitising the archive for global researchers.
- **Cost:** Free entry.
- **Best for:** Science enthusiasts, students, anyone who likes the 'behind the scenes' of how knowledge is preserved.

## Why digitalisation matters for botany

Herbarium specimens are physical reference points but only the few who can travel to the archive get to consult them. Digitisation means high-resolution scans of every specimen become available online, opening the collection to researchers worldwide.

It also future-proofs the archive against physical damage and supports machine-learning classification work the same way digitised libraries enabled modern AI to read centuries of texts.

## What you'll see

- **Scanning workflow** how a specimen sheet becomes a digital record.
- **Featured specimens** historically significant sheets selected from the archive.
- **Behind-the-scenes context** the SBG Herbarium's role in regional botany.
- **Use cases** climate-change research, biodiversity surveys, crop science.

## Plan your visit

- **MRT:** Botanic Gardens (CC19/DT9) Tanglin Gate.
- **Pair with:** Pressing Plants Matters at the Botanical Art Gallery a natural follow-on.
- **Time needed:** 30 minutes.
- **Best day:** Weekday mornings.

Quiet, free, brain-feeding the Herbarium Digitalisation Gallery is one of SBG's most quietly satisfying stops.

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