



Singapore Heritage Trees: Build a Route From the Dataset

Description

Singapore's Heritage Trees register listed 251 trees as at 30 January 2026, but the coordinates alone do not make a responsible walking route. The NParks Heritage Trees dataset provides coordinates, species, descriptions, reference IDs and official record links. The register listed 251 trees as at 30 January 2026. A useful route groups nearby points, then checks the linked record and access note because some trees sit inside restricted or guest-only premises.

For a resident, educator or visitor planning a self-guided heritage-tree outing, the immediate job is to turn the official point dataset into a realistic route without assuming every listed tree is publicly accessible.

Filter the route before mapping it

- **You want a simple public outing**
Start with official DIY trails or clearly public park locations.
- **A record says guest-only or private premises**
Do not enter without permission; replace it or obtain access.
- **Points are geographically close**
Still verify roads, entrances, terrain and opening hours.
- **You want to nominate a tree**
Use NParks's nomination criteria and current review cycle, not the dataset route.

The dataset should be downloaded as a complete GeoJSON and saved with the data date, retrieval time and file hash. The web preview is useful for exploration but not for a reproducible count. The register listed 251 Heritage Trees as at 30 January 2026.

Use the HT reference ID as the join key because common and scientific names can repeat. Each proposed stop should retain coordinates, species, official record link and access note. This makes it possible to revisit the route when a point or description changes.

Download the complete GeoJSON

The web preview can be truncated and is not a stable basis for counting. The controlling details used here are on [data.gov.sg NParks Heritage Trees dataset](#).

Save the dataset date, download timestamp and file hash.

Use reference IDs as keys

Scientific names can repeat and common names can be missing.

Join route notes to the HT reference ID and official hyperlink.

Group by realistic access

Straight-line distance ignores fences, expressways, slopes and opening gates.

Cluster by walking or transit route after checking entrances.

Read every access note

The register explicitly marks some locations as accessible only to guests.

Exclude private points unless permission is obtained.

Balance species and place

A route with ten adjacent trees of one species may add less learning than a smaller diverse set. The related condition is explained in [NParks Heritage Tree Register](#).

Choose stops by species, story, age and landscape context.

Prepare observation, not claims

Visitors can note bark, canopy, surroundings and signage without estimating age or health.

Label observations and defer botanical or structural conclusions to experts.

Leave a light footprint

Heritage status does not make climbing, collecting or root-zone trampling acceptable.

Stay on paths, do not remove material and follow site rules.

Why nearest is not always accessible

A Changi route built only by nearest coordinates could include a tree inside chalet grounds marked for guests. The correct planner flags access first, then swaps in a publicly reachable tree even if it adds travel time.

Two dataset methods behind a usable route

- a fresh GeoJSON analysis keyed by HT reference ID and access status
- a route-scoring method combining distance, public access, species diversity and story value

A realistic case file

After downloading the GeoJSON, count features and inspect missing values before mapping. Keep the dataset's stated date separate from the download date. A route notebook can show HT reference ID, common and scientific names, coordinates, official URL, region and access note. Hashing the file makes later comparisons reproducible without publishing a new dataset as if it were authoritative.

A simple route score can give public access a mandatory pass, then award points for short walking distance, species variety, a substantial official story and nearby transit. A guest-only point fails before the other scores are considered. This prevents an apparently optimal route from directing readers into a club, school, chalet or other controlled property.

Before visiting, open every linked NParks record and current site page. Note entrances, opening hours, path surface, shade, toilets and a wet-weather fallback. On site, stay outside root protection or fenced areas and avoid touching labels or collecting material. A visitor's observations can enrich a learning log, but the official register remains the source for identity and heritage status.

If conditions make the route unsafe, postpone it rather than substituting an unverified shortcut. Record closures for the next route revision.

Nearest-neighbour distance alone makes poor walking routes. Roads, fences, entrances, slopes, opening hours and transit links can turn adjacent coordinates into a long detour. Score every stop for public access first, then distance, species diversity and story value.

Some registered trees are inside guest-only or private premises. The planner should exclude them unless permission is obtained, even if they improve the route on a map. Visitors can record bark, canopy, signs and surroundings, but should not infer age, health or structural safety without expertise.

What to have ready

- Download and date the GeoJSON
- Use HT reference IDs
- Open each official record
- Check public access and opening conditions

- Build a realistic walking or transit route
- Record observations without expert claims
- Follow paths and site rules

Dataset points and access notes can change. Live site rules, closures and safety conditions prevail.

Continue the task on LBRD

For an adjacent decision, [add a Botanic Gardens forest-learning stop](#). You can also [compare a Changi heritage route](#).

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