



Tropical Treats At SBG Centre For Ethnobotany: Free Singapore Botanic Gardens Exhibition Guide

Description

Tropical Treats at SBG at the Centre for Ethnobotany's exhibition is the kind of free SBG outing that explains a lot about why Singaporean kitchens taste the way they do. Coconut, pandan, banana, chillies, tamarind – this exhibition walks through the tropical plants that feed Southeast Asia.

If you have ever wondered why your nasi lemak tastes the way it tastes, this is the science-y backstory.



Source: NParks / Singapore Botanic Gardens

Tropical Treats at a glance

- **Venue:** Centre for Ethnobotany, Singapore Botanic Gardens.

- **Subject:** Plants that feed Southeast Asia â?? the everyday ingredients you grew up with.
- **Format:** Permanent gallery space with rotating displays.
- **Cost:** Free entry.
- **Best for:** Curious foodies, families with school-going kids, anyone who watches CNA Lifestyle food docs.

What youâ??ll see at Tropical Treats

- **Coconut** â?? from kueh kosui to nasi lemak, the trees that shape regional palates.
- **Pandan** â?? the unsung hero of Southeast Asian desserts.
- **Banana** â?? leaves, fruit, flowers â?? the whole plant earns its keep.
- **Chillies and herbs** â?? Birdâ??s-eye chilli, daun kesum, kaffir lime, curry leaves.
- **Heritage cooking traditions** â?? how the plants enter Peranakan, Malay, Chinese and Indian cuisines.

Why this exhibition lands well with families

It reframes the everyday â?? your kidâ??s nasi padang and ondeh-ondeh suddenly have a backstory. The Centre for Ethnobotany is one of SBGâ??s most underrated stops, and the tropical-treats theme makes the content accessible even for primary-school-aged children.

How to get there

- **MRT:** Botanic Gardens (CC19/DT9) â?? Tanglin Gate.
- **Walking time:** About 10-15 minutes from Tanglin Gate to the Centre for Ethnobotany.
- **Combine with:** National Orchid Garden, Healing Garden, Foliage Garden, or a meal at Park Side.
- **Best day:** Weekday morning â?? quieter, cooler, easier to absorb.

Free, indoor, educational and quietly delicious â?? Tropical Treats is the kind of stop that earns a place on every June holiday plan.

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Author

nuraisyah