

Almost everything about forest & biotechnology in Malaysia

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About Me



Melissa Wong

Melissa is a PhD student in UKM with main interests in forest genetics and breeding, plant genomics and bioinformatics.

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Tuesday, July 14, 2009



"Bangi forest reserve (Hutan Simpan Bangi, adjacent to Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) Bangi campus, is a lowland secondary dipterocarp forest with a size of 100 hectares, which provides lush greenery freshness to UKM Bangi campus. Small forest reserve, ponds, swamps and hill slopes can be found in the forest reserve. The forest reserve is accessed via a 2 KM jungle trail for visitors to enjoy the beauty of flora and fauna of the forest reserve. Bukit Rupa is the highest peak of the forest reserve with an altitude of 105 m from sea level. The Fernarium located within the forest reserve is a site for collection of many fern species collected by researchers and scientist at UKM. Also situated in the forest reserve is Hutan Pendidikan Alam UKM, which is a centre for cocurriculum activities of various UKM organizations. The co-curriculum centre is equipped with halls, bathroom, camp site and other amenities for training. Bangi Forest reserve houses more than 600 plant species and more than 800 faunal species including small mammals, reptiles, amphibians, fishes, insects etc. The richness of flora and fauna, and the various ecosystems have made Bangi Forest reserve an excellent site for teaching, research and recreation in UKM. "

The above description of Hutan Simpan Bangi came from the brochure given at the exhibition booth. In conjunction with FST Open Day, two jungle trekking sessions (10am and 2pm) are offered to visitors for FREE each day. A UKM bus will drop visitors at the Bangi Lama entrance. Then, they will take 1-1.5 hour journey across Hutan Bangi to reach another entrance point near UKM Law Faculty. This short jungle trekking trail is suitable to people of all walk of age. However, you must seek permission before entering this forest reserve.

Visitor map



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Wordle



[Route to Bukit Rupa](#)

My labmates and I signed up for the morning session. We were joined by two big groups of secondary school students and teachers. After a brief explanation by the guide, we head into the jungle. The guide stopped us at a number of trees to educate us about its uses. Several valuable species such as [Jelutong](#), [Gaharu](#) and [Tongkat Ali](#) can be found here. The guide demonstrated burning a piece of Gaharu bark tissue to give off a nice fragrance. He also cut down some young Palas leaves to show us that how to harvest Palas leaves used in wrapping [ketupat](#).



[Palas or Licuala spinosa](#)

As we trek down the path, I realized the surrounding plants are mainly palm species such as Palas, Bertam, Salak and Rattan. Low species diversity, high density and wide distribution suggested that the forest has been badly damaged in the past. During Japanese occupation (1942-1945), 90% of the forest was cleared. Although reforestation was done, the forest never recover its valuable timbers. Some common indications of reforested areas are presence of lowland ferns and [Senduduk](#) (*Melastoma malabathricum*).

All the information about Hutan Bangi can be found [here](#).

Labels: [forest](#), [jungle trekking](#), [review](#)

2 comments:

wengchun August 20, 2009 at 1:44 PM

Hi. I'm interested to find out who should I approach to get permission to enter this bangi forest reserve.

Melissa Wong August 20, 2009 at 10:47 PM

I have posted the link <http://pkukmweb.ukm.my/~hutan/>. Please contact Dr. Choong (cychoong@ukm.my)

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