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# Green pockets, blue lakes

WE PAIK LEONG

Lake gardens and parks can be found in many parts of Kuala Lumpur and nearby areas, with the oldest lake garden, Taman Tasik Perdana, in Jalan Parlimen. There are also other parks that make ideal getaways from the concrete jungle

**1 Forest Research Institute Malaysia, Kepong**  
Forest Research Institute of Malaysia (FRIM) is spread over 600 hectares in Kepong district. Opened in 1929, FRIM was rehabilitated from disused mining pools. Attractions include a forestry museum, arboreta and herbarium, a 300m-high canopy walkway, replicas of traditional Terengganu and Malacca houses, and a campsite. Travel out of the city along Jalan Kuching, then turn to Kepong at the Selayang roundabout.

**2 Datuk Keramat Lake Garden, Datuk Keramat**  
This lake garden is compact but offers interesting activities, with spanking new exercise equipment. While a man-made waterfall soothes visitors sitting on the benches, the more active can play futsal or stretch their limbs at the exercise stations. A children's playground completes the picture. Drive along Jalan Ampang and turn left to Jalan Jelatek.

**3 Bukit Nanas Forest Reserve, Jalan Raja Chulan**  
Located smack in the city centre, this 11-hectare green paradise was formerly known as Bucket Weld Forest Reserve. Visitors may see macaques, squirrels, butterflies and colourful birds. Guided tours are available. Take the LRT and stop at the Bukit Nenas station.



**4 Sentul Park, Jalan Ipoh**  
Sprawled over 12 hectares, this incorporates a koi centre, benches and lakes. The garden is based on 18th Century-style English gardens. Indigenous trees provide shade along the walkways and ducks swimming in the lakes are an added attraction. From Jalan Kuching, take Jalan Ipoh and after passing Taman Billion, turn left to Jalan Strathcan.



**5 Taman Metropolitan, Kepong**  
Here, you can catch the thrills of kite flying and perhaps take part in the sports or go fishing. There is a children's playground, rubberised jogging tracks, fountains and two watch-towers. The best time to come is during the weekends when trams are in service. There are also kite vendors and stalls selling a variety of snacks. Drive along Jalan Kuching and at the Batu Caves flyover turn right to the MRR2.

**6 Taman Tasik Titiwangsa, Jalan Tun Razak**  
The most easily accessible park, it offers a captivating reflection of the Petronas Twin Towers. On weekends, families come for pony rides, pedal boats and row boats. Roller-skaters and remote-control toy enthusiasts frequently come here too. Take Jalan Tun Razak and turn in at the same lane next to the Istana Budaya.

**7 Tasik Taman Bandar Permaisuri, Cheras**  
This park boasts of a massive lake with man-made islands and fountains. Exercise stations and a reflexology path keep visitors fit. When all the fountains are spurting, the lake looks its best. Travel along Jalan Cheras to Bandar Tun Razak and Taman Bandar Permaisuri and turn in to Jalan Tasik Permaisuri 1.

**9 Taman Pudu Ulu, Jalan Pudu Ulu**  
Taman Pudu Ulu may not have water features but there are several captivating sculptures to stir the imagination. Children will be occupied with the playground. However, there are plans to build an artificial waterfall soon. Travel along Jalan Cheras to Jalan Pudu Ulu. The garden is located behind the Menara PGRM.

**8 Taman Tasik Taman Metropolitan Batu, Jalan Ipoh**  
Water-lilies on the lake is the main lure here. Skateboarders can also practise their moves at a curved wall and of course, there are jogging trails and a children's playground. From Jalan Kuching, take Jalan Ipoh and turn left at the first traffic light at the Masjid Abu Hurairah Abud.

**10 Templer's Park, Rawang**  
Located on the fringe of the city a trip here is worth for the quintessentially natural ambience. Hike up to the source of the Templer River to see a waterfall, swim in a natural pool, watch exotic birds or climb the Bukit Takun. Drive along Jalan Kuching, passing through Bandar Baru Selayang. Further ahead, the park is sign-posted on your right so you have to make a U-turn.

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