A

LTHOUGH there have been many
article describing the sights
and sounds of the Forest
Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) in
Kepong, there is still much left unsaid
about the people you are bound to
meet on a visit there.

There is something about being
around such a large swath of greenery
that changes typically jaded urbanites
into friendly and chatty people.

FRIM is the country’s largest second­
ary forest and has remained largely
untouched for the past 80 years. It is
located in Kepong on the northern
border of the Federal Territory of Kuala
Lumpur and Selangor.

Since its establishment in 1929 by the
British, its primary purpose has been to
conduct research into forestry.

This 544.76ha of land is home to a
large variety of plants and animals and
is extremely popular among city folk.

FRIM charges a nominal fee for entry:
Malaysians pay RM1 while non-Malaysians
pay RM5. There is also a charge
for cars, vans and buses driving
into the area.

During a recent trip there, it was a
pleasant sight to witness strangers talk­
ing to each other on the trails.

It was surprisingly easy to strike
up a conversation with anyone there.
Regular park-goers will also be able to
point out interesting sights or tell you
the best spots to take pictures.
One such visitor, Mohd Imran
Hanafi, 73, said he made it a point to
hike at FRIM’s numerous trails at least
twice a week.

“I like coming here because it is such
a beautiful place and the trails are fairly
challenging. But the part I enjoy most
is getting to talk to other people. It is
especially interesting to talk to young
people because they have fascinating
stories to tell, of places they have been
to or things they have done.

“They, in turn, are usually shocked
when I tell them I am an avid hiker
and have hiked Mount Kinabalu at my
age,” he laughed.

A typical weekend scene at FRIM is
seeing different groups of people visit­ing
the place and enjoying their day there.

The majority of visitors are family
groups either taking a leisurely stroll,
having a picnic or attempting the many
nature trails.

These trails encompass plantations,
waterways, and hills among others, and
most of these paths and the nature that
surround them date back to the 1930s.

To decide on the best trails to try
out, grab a map at the One­Stop Service
Centre (OSC) or alternatively, you can
refer to the several layout maps of FRIM
placed all over the park.

Also, be sure to check out the Razak
Walk, located in the Kepong Botanic
Gardens.

Launched in 2008, the 400m trail
is named after FRIM’s former direc­
tor­general Datuk Dr Abdul Razak Mohd
Ali and is the first disabled­friendly trail
in Malaysia.

First­time visitors to FRIM should
include the Canopy Walkway - a
150m-long walkway suspended from
trees, 30m above ground level.

Originally built for researchers and
scientists to study above­ground flora
and fauna more effectively, this walk­
way is open to the public.

The Canopy Walk is open to the pub­
lic from 9.30am to 2.30pm, with the last
registration at 1.30pm. It is closed on
Mondays and Fridays. Advance booking
and purchase of tickets should be made
at the OSC. Tickets are priced at RM5
for Malaysians and RM10 for non-Ma­
lyasians.

For those looking for a more relax­ing
activity, FRIM also has a number of
picnic spots where you can while away
the day. There is even a waterfall for
children to splash around in.

“Unlike other places, the trails here
are kept clean and any uprooted trees
are usually removed once we report it,”
he said, adding he usually biked there
on weekends.

Connecting in the forest
Being surrounded by nature brings
out the friendly side of city folk

By SHALINI RAVINDRAN
shaliniravindran@thestar.com.my

PHOTO: Ali

Unlike other places, the trails here
are kept clean and any uprooted trees
are usually removed once we report it,”
he said, adding he usually biked there
on weekends.

Also, be sure to check out the Razak
Walk, located in the Kepong Botanic
Gardens.

Launched in 2008, the 400m trail
is named after FRIM’s former direc­
tor-general Datuk Dr Abdul Razak Mohd
Ali and is the first disabled-friendly trail
in Malaysia.

First-time visitors to FRIM should
include the Canopy Walkway - a
150m-long walkway suspended from
trees, 30m above ground level.

Originally built for researchers and
scientists to study above-ground flora
and fauna more effectively, this walk­
way is open to the public.

The Canopy Walk is open to the pub­
lic from 9.30am to 2.30pm, with the last
registration at 1.30pm. It is closed on
Mondays and Fridays. Advance booking
and purchase of tickets should be made
at the OSC. Tickets are priced at RM5
for Malaysians and RM10 for non-Ma­
lyasians.

For those looking for a more relax­ing
activity, FRIM also has a number of
picnic spots where you can while away
the day. There is even a waterfall for
children to splash around in.
Connecting in the forest

The Star

29 Dec 2014

Metro

Full Color

288,916

10,11

866,748

English

1753 cm²

SHALINI RAVINDRAN

RM 88,561

Daily

RM 265,683
Connecting in the forest

SHALINI RAVINDRAN

Daily

29 Dec 2014

Metro

10,11

English

Full Color

288,916

866,748

1753 cm²

RM 88,561

RM 265,683
Connecting in the forest
The various nature trails in FRIM encompass plantations, wetlands, and hills, among others, and most of these paths and the nature that surrounds them date back to the 1930s.

A good way to explore FRIM is by bicycle. Visitors can either choose to bring their own bikes or rent them at FRIM during weekends.

For those looking for a more relaxing activity, FRIM has a waterfall for visitors to splash around in.

The trails in FRIM are kept clean and any uprooted trees are usually removed once it is reported.

The Rover Track is popular among visitors using the trail to go up the Canopy Walkway.

Another attraction of FRIM is ‘crown shyness’ where the tree crowns have a tendency to ‘shy away’ from each other, leaving gaps of a few inches to a few feet.

FRIM has a number of amazing spots to stop and snap a picture.

FRIM’s canopy walkway is a popular attraction as it offers visitors a panoramic view of the forest and Kuala Lumpur from a distance.

– Photos by FAIHAN GHANI