Connecting in the forest

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

By SHAUNI RAVINDRAN

ALT...
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 to hear 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, wetlands, 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 One-Stop Service Centre (OSC) or alternatively, you can refer to the several layout maps of FRIM placed all over the park. For more rugged activities, FRIM has a number of hiking and mountain biking trails that are clearly marked out.

Since September last year, FRIM has prohibited bikers on the popular Rover Track given the high number of regular trekkers, joggers and visitors using the trail to go up the Canopy Walkway. Instead, other trails have been identified ranging from light, medium and hard mountain bike trails. For the more adventurous, try out the Bidara, Sentang and Pinus Peak trails. Mountain biker Joey Ong, 28, said the bike trails were well maintained.

“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 director-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 walkway is open to the public.

The Canopy Walk is open to the public 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-Malaysians.

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.
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<td>Date</td>
<td>30 Dec 2014</td>
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<td>SHALINI RAVINDRAN</td>
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<td>Frequency</td>
<td>Daily (EM)</td>
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The Star (Kuching)

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NEWS

5

English

SHALINI RAVINDRAN

Daily (EM)

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

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.

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

— Photos by FAIHAN GHÂNI