

# NATURE NEWS

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## ACTIVITY CALENDAR

Activity	Date
Coastal Clean-up at Kranji Mudflats	7 Mar
Horseshoe Crab Rescue & Research Programme	8 Mar
Composing Music Inspired by Nature Workshop	20 Mar
35 <sup>th</sup> Annual Bird Census	29 Mar
Horseshoe Crab Rescue & Research Programme	5 Apr
Ramble at Singapore Botanic Gardens	11 Apr
Kayak the Punggol-Ubin Trail	12 Apr
Coastal Clean-up at Kranji Mudflats	19 Apr
NSS Kids' Fun With Primates at Thomson Nature Park	26 Apr

## TRIPS LED BY NSS MEMBERS

Activity	Date
7D/6N Lombok Shark Conservation and Mount Rinjani Trip	25 – 31 Aug



29 Mar '20, Friday

### **35<sup>th</sup> Annual Bird Census**

At the first Annual Bird Census (ABC) in 1986, we recorded nearly 6,000 birds from 129 species. However, trends for abundance and diversity have shown declines. Such data have helped NSS in our conservation proposals, in assessing the state of our natural habitats and in mapping out population trends. Building on this legacy, the 35th ABC will take place at many important bird areas in Singapore. We invite volunteers with birdwatching experience to join us in counting birds. Help a site leader near your home or anywhere else. Time: 7.30am to 10.30am. Please register your participation at [www.tinyurl.com/annualbirdcensus](http://www.tinyurl.com/annualbirdcensus). For enquiries, please email Lee Ee Ling at [ellee1548@gmail.com](mailto:ellee1548@gmail.com). Closing Date: 21 March, Saturday. Late registrants will not be assigned to a site. Open to the public.

## **APRIL**

5 Apr '20, Sunday

### **Horseshoe Crab Rescue & Research Programme**

Horseshoe Crabs (HSC) are in decline globally due to habitat loss, poaching and overfishing. NSS aims to continually monitor our local HSC population to ensure that they stay around for generations to come. If you want to be a part of this important mission to rescue and study the HSC at Mandai Mudflats, please register individually at <https://tinyurl.com/nsshorseshoecrab>. For enquiries, please contact Lester at [hscrr.nss@gmail.com](mailto:hscrr.nss@gmail.com). Do bring along your cap, boots/booties, sunblock, repellent, and plentiful drinking water. Washing facilities are not available. Details will be emailed 5 days before the programme date. Time: 2.00pm to 5.00pm. Open to the public.

11 Apr '20, Saturday

### **Ramble at Singapore Botanic Gardens**

Join in this afternoon ramble with Pandian at Singapore's only UNESCO Heritage Site, the Singapore Botanic Gardens. Time: 3pm to 8pm. Meet at 3pm at Tanglin Gate, Botanic Gardens. Ramble Terrain: Easy. Participants must be medically fit and healthy. The walk is not suitable for children below 14 years old. Please bring along a filled 1.5 litres water bottle, poncho, walking stick, and proper walking/trekking shoes, a hat and a pair of binoculars for spotting wildlife. To attend, please register at [www.tinyurl.com/nssramble](http://www.tinyurl.com/nssramble). Closing Date: 8 April, Wednesday. Max.: 25pax. Members only.

12 Apr '20, Saturday

### **Kayak the Punggol-Ubin Trail**

This is a special trail that links Punggol, Pulau Serangoon (Coney Island) and Pulau Ubin. It could also be called the trail of mystery as we attempt to locate a crumbling villa, the German Girl Shrine, and one of the best look-out points on Pulau Ubin over a quarry lake. This easy 10-km route will take us through the mangroves of lesser known Sungai Teris. Suitable for families and beginners. Meet at Punggol Jetty (end of Punggol Road). Cost: NSS member: \$95 per person | Non-member: \$120 per person | Child (minimum 8 to 12 years old): \$60 per person. Please register at [www.tinyurl.com/kayakput](http://www.tinyurl.com/kayakput). Payment details will be sent after registration. For enquiries, email Say Chong at [nsskayaking@gmail.com](mailto:nsskayaking@gmail.com). Details will be emailed upon registration and payment. Min./Max.: 18/28 persons. Closing Date: 3 April, Friday. Members priority. Open to the public.

19 Apr '20, Saturday

### **Coastal Clean-up at Kranji Mudflats**

Join us to clean up Kranji Mudflats to benefit the wildlife that thrives there. Designated as a Key Biodiversity Area, this coastline is a key habitat for horseshoe crabs and an important feeding site for wading birds. Please register at <http://tinyurl.com/nsscoastalcleanup>. Closing Date: 5 Apr '20, Sunday. Details will be emailed upon successful registration. For enquiries, contact Bryan at [nssccu@gmail.com](mailto:nssccu@gmail.com). Time: 3pm to 5pm. The activity is organised in collaboration with Tanglin Mall. Open to the public.

26 Apr '20, Sunday

### **NSS Kids' Fun With Primates at Thomson Nature Park**

Thomson Nature Park and its environs are home to the rare Raffles Banded Langur and the common Long-tailed Macaque. Join James Chua to learn about these primates: their lifestyle, diet, behaviour and how humans can peacefully co-exist with them. We hope to spot the langurs as they leap from tree to tree in search of succulent leaves, and observe families of macaques as they go about their monkey business. Cost per child: \$2 (NSS Member)/\$10 (Non-member). Please register your children (4 to 12 years old) at

<http://tinyurl.com/nsskidsevent>. The trip is limited to 25 pax only, so please register early. Confirmation details will be emailed only after the closing date. Fees will be collected on the spot. Parents, caregivers and older siblings are encouraged to join in at no charge. For enquiries, contact Gloria at [gloria\\_seow@yahoo.com](mailto:gloria_seow@yahoo.com). Closing Date: 18 April, Saturday. Time: 8am to 10am. Open to the public.

## **Trips Led by Members**

*The private trips here are the initiative of members who wish to travel to nature locations with other members or like-minded people. Arrangements will be made through a travel agency.*

### **7D/6N Lombok Shark Conservation and Mount Rinjani Trip**

**Dates:** 25 Aug to 31 Aug'20

**Closing Date:** 10 Aug '20

**Cost:**

1 – 2 pax: \$1,050/\$1,100 per member/non-member

3 – 5 pax: \$850/\$900 per member/non-member

6 – 8 pax: \$750/\$800 per member/non-member

**Maximum:** 8 pax

Join Kathy Xu on a marine conservation responsible holiday. Activities include snorkelling in pristine waters and beach hopping, as well as a 3 day-2 night Mount Rinjani crater lake and rim hike. Your participation will aid in shark conservation by providing an alternative income to shark fishermen. Cost includes accommodation with WiFi and breakfast, land transfers, full-day beach hopping and snorkelling boat trip with a visit to Pink Beach's pink sand and dramatic cliffs, snacks, drinks, packed lunch and snorkelling gear. Also includes trekking equipment, guide, porter, meal, transport and all trekking document needed for the Mount Rinjani hiking component. Cost excludes flights, insurance and dinners. Please ensure that flights are still available before signing up for the trip. For registration or enquiries, email Kathy at [kathyxtt@gmail.com](mailto:kathyxtt@gmail.com). Read Kathy's article 'Reality Bites – A View to Lessen the Kill' in Nature Watch Jan-Mar 2014 for more information. Open to the public.