

## About the nature trail

This nature trail is short (20-30minutes) and easily accessible from the road between Victoria and Port Glaud. The path starts just above the Tea Factory and is not far from the Morne Blanc Nature Trail and the Mission heritage site.

The trail presents a wonderful opportunity to view natural vegetation growing with little competition from introduced species, as it is part of a habitat restoration site in the Morne Seychellois National Park. There are also magnificent views to the west and south of Mahe Island.



## Walking the trail

Enjoy the plant and animal life. Admire the pitcher plants. Take photos. Climb on the rock to see the view. But please **keep to the path** and within the boundaries of the flat ridge area where the circular path returns to the start.



*Trachylepis seychellensis*

## Why is glacis habitat special?

The exposed conditions of the glacis are harsh: fierce sun, strong winds, battering rain. Soil is held in pockets between boulders, with poor fertility and water-holding capacity. Therefore glacis plants often have special adaptations, such as thick waxy leaves, no leaves at all, or special water-catching structures and very slow growth. The remarkable pitcher plant has adaptations that enable it to trap insects to gain extra nutrients.



## Why keep to the path?

Because:

- Tiny seedlings of native plants grow slowly and are easily trampled by human feet.
- Plants and small animals may be damaged by people brushing past them while trying to explore.
- Away from the path there are holes and steep slopes, with cliffs at the edge.
- Walking on degraded slopes causes erosion and you may slip and hurt yourself.



*Nepenthes pervillei*



*Dillenia ferruginea*



*Hypsipetes crassirostris*



*Dillenia ferruginea*



*Archaius tigris*



*Phelsuma on Paragenipa*

## Animal life on the glacis trail

Endemic birds such as the Seychelles Bulbul, Blue pigeon, Sunbird, Kestrel and Swiftlet may be seen, as well as the cryptic chameleon if you are lucky. Tiny frogs can be heard calling, especially on wet days.

Interactions between plants and animals play an important role in maintaining a healthy ecosystem. Animal pollinators (mainly insects but also geckos and sun-birds) are abundant. Also seed dispersers such as birds and lizards.

## Habitat restoration

The aim of restoration is to return a degraded habitat into a healthy ecosystem that resembles as closely as possible its pre-disturbed state. Invasive alien plant species have been removed, native plants are regenerating, more native plant species have been planted, and consequently native animals are slowly returning to the area.



*Patience is a virtue! Restoration is a slow process. It will be many years before the habitat structure is fully re-established*

## Local community involvement

While SNPA and PCA are active in the main restoration work, a local community group is ensuring that the restoration site and nature trail are being well used. The site is also a research area.



## What is a 'glacis'?

Another term for 'glacis' is Inselberg' a steep-sided boulder area or rocky outcrop. Glacis habitats hold some of the last endemic plant communities in the Seychelles.



*Aphloia theiformis*



*Falco araeus*



*Paragenipa wrightii*



*Curculigo seychellensis*

## Contacts



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## Tea Tavern Glacis Nature Trail

