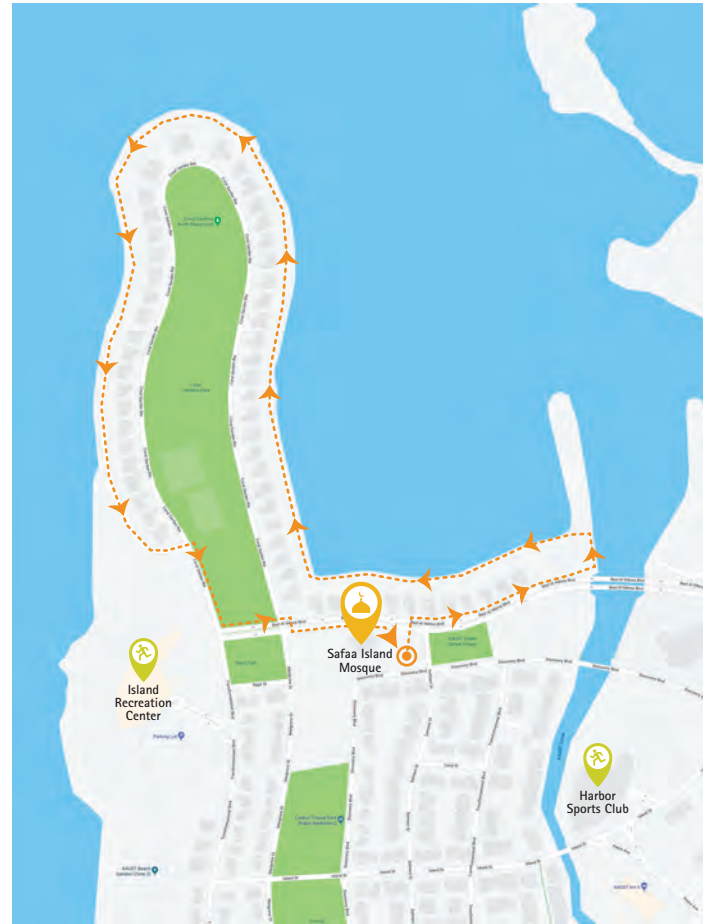


## Birds list for Island Mangroves

Common Name	status	Common Name	status
Northern Pintail	P U	Common Redshank	P/W C
Garganey	P U	Common Greenshank	P/W C
Eurasian Spoonbill	P U	Terek Sandpiper	P/W C
Little Bittern	R U	Common Sandpiper	P/W C
Striated Heron	R C	Curlew Sandpiper	P/W C
Squacco Heron	M U	Dunlin	P/W U
Cattle Egret	R C	Ruff	P/W C
Grey Heron	R C	Slender-billed Gull	P/W C
Goliath Heron	V U	Sooty Gull	R C
Purple Heron	P FC	Gull-billed Tern	R FC
Little Egret	P FC	Caspian Tern	R C
Western Reef Heron	R C	Lesser-Crested Tern	S FC
Great Cormorant	P/W FC	Saunders' Tern	S U
Western Osprey	R FC	Rock Dove	R C
Western Marsh Harrier	P U	Laughing Dove	R C
Pallid Harrier	P U	Eurasian Collared Dove	R FC
Corncrake	P U	Namaqua Dove	R UC
Spotted Crake	P U	Common Cuckoo	P U
Demoiselle Crane	P U	Common Swift	P U
Crab Plover	R C	Common Kingfisher	P(R?) C
Black-winged Stilt	R C	Green Bee-eater	R FC
Spur-Wing Lapwing	R C	Blue-cheeked Bee-eater	R FC
Grey Plover	P/W C	European Bee-eater	PW C
Ringed Plover	P/W C	Daurian Shrike	R C
Kentish Plover	R C	Red-backed Shrike	PW C
Greater Sand Plover	R C	Southern Grey Shrike	P U
Common Snipe	P FC	Woodchat Shrike	PW U
Bar-tailed Godwit	P FC	Masked Shrike	PW U
Whimbrel	P C	House Crow	PW C
Eurasian Curlew	P/W C	Northern Wheatear	P C
Crested Lark	R U	Black-eared Wheatear	P FC
White-spectacled Bulbul	R C	Desert Wheatear	P U
Barn Swallow	P C	Spotted Flycatcher	P C
Sand Martin	P C	House Sparrow	R C
Willow Warbler	P C	Ruppell's Weaver	R C
Clamorous Reed Warbler	R C	African Silverbill	R FC
Mangrove Reed Warbler	R C	White Wagtail	P C
Common Whitethroat	P FC	Yellow Wagtail	P C
Lesser Whitethroat	P FC	Red-throated Pipit	P C
Eastern Olivaceous Warbler	P FC	Tawny Pipit	P FC
Menetries's Warbler	P U	Common Myna	R C
Blackcap	P U	Siberian Stonechat	P C
Graceful Prinia	R FC		

C-common within status, FC-Fairly common within status, U-uncommon within status, R-Rare within status  
Status: R-resident, P-passage, PW-passage and winter, V-vagrant, S-summer

## Map of Walk



Start from the Safaa Island Mosque car park  
Parking - at the Island Mosque car park



### Other guides in this series

- King Abdullah Monument & Nature Conservation Area
- South Beach
- The Safaa Golf Club

## HSE Self Guided Bird Walk Series

# Island Mangrove Walk



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# Island Mangrove Walk

This circular walk passes along a well marked track overlooking mangroves, mudflats and the sea. The walk is about 3.5 km and takes about 90 minutes to complete, allowing some time to walking along the first part of the pier.

Best time – Early morning – especially in the summer months it is cooler, the birds are more active and the water calmer, enabling more marine species to be seen. If the tide is high, the wader roost along the pier is flooded and there are few birds but there is more opportunity to observe marine life.

At the start the walk passes alongside the cricket pitch which often holds some investing birds. Several species of wader are often found, with large numbers of Ringed Plover often evident. Pipits and wagtails also like the short grass with Red-Throated and Tawny Pipits and Yellow or White Wagtails often present in large numbers.

The next part of the walk follows the path around the back of the houses on Transformation Boulevard. The open areas often hold mixed groups of waders but the numbers depend on whether the sea has reached this area recently. When the pools are filled, many birds are present, but when the area is dry it is far less productive. The trees and mangroves often hold different species of warblers. At passage time Harriers, Montagu's Pallid or Marsh may be seen. Listen out for bee-eaters as both European and Blue-cheeked, are often seen in this area.

As the path nears the pier the raucous call of the Clamorous Reed Warbler is usually heard. Three other mangrove specialists, Mangrove Reed Warbler, Striated Bittern and Little Bittern) are present but often hard to locate. Walking slowly and looking for movement in the mangroves may provide a glimpse of one of these species.

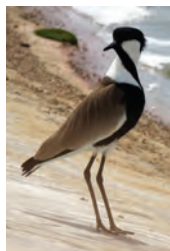
The pier offers excellent views of the mangroves and species of fish, crabs and other marine life may be observed. Usually the mud flats are very productive for water birds with herons, waders and terns often evident. There are often over 20 species of bird present in this area. When the tide is high there will be fewer birds but more marine life can be found. Sharks, rays and pufferfish can all be found at these times.

The next part of the walk is along the seaward side. Common Kingfishers sometimes shoot past as a blue flash. Black-winged Stilts, Crab Plovers and Western Reef Egrets are often wading in the water fishing and the small Mangrove Reed Warbler is occasionally observed in this section. Also look out for Western Ospreys which often glide overhead in the afternoon.

The last section goes back across the gardens to towards the Island Mosque. Species of shrike are often found perched on the trees. The emblematic Hoopoe is often foraging on the lawns of the park and groups of Ruff are usually present too.



## Key Birds in the Area



### Spur-winged Lapwing

*Vanillas spinosus* 26 cm

This is a very common bird of the open areas on this walk. In non-breeding times they form large groups that are often noisy. In breeding periods they form pairs and will defend their territories or young fearlessly, even dive bombing intruders aggressively.



### Mangrove Reed Warbler

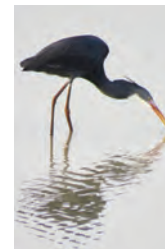
*Acrocephalus avicenniae* 13 cm

This is similar to a smaller version of the Clamorous. It is only known from the mangroves of the western coast of Arabia and considered by some a race of the Reed Warbler. It though has a different call and sounds like a quieter version of the Clamorous but is much smaller.

### Western Reef Heron (Egret)

*Egret garularis* 60 cm

This bird is often seen hunting for food in shallow areas along the walk. At times it chases fish in the pools, or uses its wings to shield the glare and help it spot prey more easily. It is usually a dark slaty grey but also has a white phase, also found at KAUST.



### Clamorous Reed Warbler

*Acrocephalus stentoreus* 18 cm

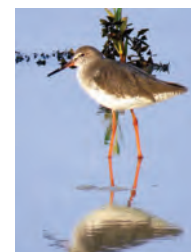
This large warbler is more often heard than seen. It is a warm brown colour and is seldom seen outside the mangroves. As its name implies it calls loudly and frequently. In the early morning it is often found sitting on the large mangroves but then moves into deeper cover as the days awakens.



### Eurasian Curlew

*Numinous arquata* 55 cm

This large wade has a long, decurved bill which it uses to probe into the mudflats searching for food, mainly invertebrates. In flight it makes a long drawn out call, 'cur-lee'.



### Common Redshank

*Tinga totanus* 28 cm

This is a common wader that is both a migrant and winter visitors KAUST. It is often found in the shallow mangroves near the jetty. It often calls in flight, has bright red legs and large white patches in the wing that are clearly visible in flight.

### Whimbrel

*Numenius phaeopus* 41 cm

This is a small version of the curlew with a shorter, but still long, decurved bill. When seen well the dark head has a central stripe and it also has an eye stripe. Its flight call is a series of whistles unlike the slower call of the Curlew.



### Little Bittern

*Ixobrychus minutas* 33-38 cm

This is a small heron like bird that breeds in the mangroves. It is very secretive, although in early Autumn young birds may be seen relatively easy. Adult birds are usually seen in flight where the contrasting dark wing with a large buff white patch is diagnostic. Young birds are streaky and similar to the larger Striated Heron.

## Marine Life



Blue-spotted Stingrays are frequently seen from the pier or on the seaward stage of the walk. Several species crab may be seen in the mangroves, particularly from the first part of the boardwalk. Many fish use the mangrove waters

as nurseries but distinguishing the species is very difficult in their juvenile forms. When the tides are high both Lemon and Blacktop Sharks may be seen from the bend.

