

Hong Kong Natural History Society

Report on February 2013 outing to Sai Kung West Country Park – Hoi Ha

13 members set off at Hau Tong Kai – Tai Tan Country Trail after the leader addressed her briefing on this mild cool day. We walked down a valley along the stream and after 30 minutes, we arrived at a village just before turning to the path on the coastline. We spotted gigantic bamboo plants among lushes of bamboo bushes. We also saw a lot of mangroves at the seaside overlooking Wong Shek Pier on the other side.

We then carried on with the hike and took our first coffee break at a sandy beach near Lan Lo Au. I was quite disappointed to find that the beach was so much more polluted with plastic and rubbish than last time I saw it. We all sat on rocks facing the sea and took a genuine break.



Then the group continued with a gentle ascent for some time and arrived at the west campsite in Wan Chai Peninsula at about 1:30. To our surprise, the site was jam packed with tents set up by campers. We quickly grabbed a barbecue pit area with some picnic benches around it. We took a half-hour lunch break and walked around the loop of the Wan Chai Nature Trail where along we could stop to read the signs with descriptions about the vegetation and deforestation of the area. After the loop, we made our way out to Hoi Ha village where on the way members could explore on the lime-kiln, coral-viewing near the jetty pier and drumming rock.

After we arrived the village cafe, we couldn't wait to enjoy our beer, snacks and ice-lollies (with a bit more time, we may even try the famous speciality – sea urchin fried rice!) The coach picked us up at 4:15 and the group dismissed in Central at about 5:30 pm.

It was a fine hike enjoyed by everyone!!

*Mak Wei Ming
with photos contributed by Ms Sandy Szeto*