

Hong Kong Natural History Society
Report on September 2013 Boat Outing to Bluff Island and Sha Kiu Tau

It was a fine day with 24 members and guests setting off from Pier 9, Central. After we got on board, the boatman soon informed us that it was not advisable to go to Pak Lap Wan - our original destination. There was an incident (it was not clearly stated what) and the marine police were in the neighbourhood, checking on every small boat who tried to land on shore in the bay. So, taking his advice, we switched to our Plan B destination, Bluff Island, about 15 minutes due south of Sha Kiu Tau. We stopped at Sha Kiu Tau first to let a few members off at the pier for their hikes near Tung A and along the coast.



At about 11:30, all the swimmers moved on to Ung Kong Wan on the north side of Bluff Island. We thought it may be quieter there because anchored in the various bays around Sha Kiu Tau were about 20 boats! Our launch boat anchored way out in the bay and it took a few rounds for the small motor boat to take people on shore. The water was clear, there was bright sunshine and silky soft sand, and we could see lots of urchins on the seabed. Just as we were enjoying ourselves, many more boats arrived and after about an hour, the area was just slightly less crowded than Causeway Bay on a Sunday! Most members enjoyed their swim except all got stung quite a bit by "Sea Lice" (the lavi of jelly fish).



At about 1:45, we reboarded the launch boat and set off for the restaurant at Sha Kiu Tau, where we met up with the small hiking group and enjoyed our lunch meal with beer and wine. We returned to Central at about 4:00pm, arriving at the pier at 5:30 pm, just in time to observe a dramatic thunderstorm from land – far preferable than still being on the boat. Despite having to share our beach with more people than at many of our destinations, it was still a fine day enjoyed by all!

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Photos taken by Frank Bradley