

**Hong Kong Natural History Society**  
**June 2014 Boat Outing to Ma Tau Wan (Nam Fung Wan)**

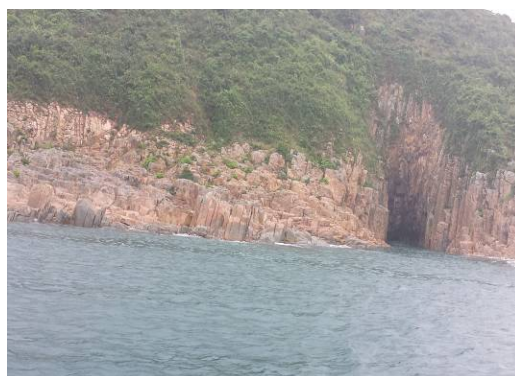
34 members met at Sai Kung Public Pier and were ready to set off to Long Ke with typhoon signal No. 1 hoisted. In response to our enquiry whether we could get to our destination, Mr. Ho informed us that we should be able to decide before we turned north towards Pak Lap and the eastern bays. The sea was rough with an unstable weather condition. At this point, Mr. Ho confirmed with us that it was possible to take us to Long Ke in the launch boat, but we wouldn't be able to get on shore in the small motor boat. There was a danger of capsizing with the increasing strong waves that morning. There were undercurrents below the waves in the sea too, therefore it would be unwise to swim in the area either. Our quick decision was to return to Ma Tau Wan near Nam Fung Chau facing south-west, where members could choose to land on a small beach, take a short walk or swim around the boat.



We arrived at Ma Tau Wan at about 11:30. There were already a few boats there. Most members chose to swim. By about 1:00, the bay has turned into Mongkok and Causeway Bay – with more than 20 boats anchored (perhaps most of them decided not to go to their destinations due to the unstable weather condition, but turned to this safer place). Some members explored and swam to a smaller, quieter beach. Later, from an old rusty broken signboard, we found that this area was within the firing range of shooting training. Not sure if it was still in military use, no wonder why it was so quiet and peaceful – no one landed!



We caught a glimpse of the sun just after noon time and enjoyed our swim. Most of us took our lunch on board the boat. Two members went hiking – the path was overgrown, a little difficult in the beginning but possible to push through. It was a 3-hour return trip and the small boat took the hikers and the rest of the swimmers back from the beach at about 3:30.



Although a little disappointed for being unable to get to our planned destination, all of us had a good day! With no complaint, we could swim in some good clear water. We returned to the pier at about 5:00 pm. According to Mr. Ho, June, July and August are always the best months to go boating in Sai Kung East. We were just unfortunate to have met a typhoon approaching the day before. Perhaps we just need to try our luck again next year!



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