

Hong Kong Natural History Society Report on October 2015 Boat Outing to Sai Kung East

20 members met at Sai Kung New Public Pier and our boat set off with our destination, Long Ke Wan in mind. It was a mild day, but we had north-easterly wind. And just when the boat was about 20 minutes away from Long Ke, we were hit by strong waves. The boatman told us that even if we continue to arrive Long Ke Wan, the sampan which came to join us near Tung Ah, would refuse to take us to the beach because it was too dangerous with the big waves. So, we had to choose the alternative of going to Ma Tau Wan. When we arrived, it was a quiet beach. Our sampan took a small group to the shore. But it was quite difficult for the group to get off as the small boat kept pushed to and fro by the waves. It was hard for the group to jump into the sea close to the shore as the waves kept pushing. Our boatman got all wet and the sampan lady fell into the water while they were helping everyone to get off the small boat. It would be safer for us to swim over and no more small boat trips would be made until the sea turns calmer.



About ten of us at the beach found some beach umbrellas and rattan chairs. So, we just enjoyed swimming, sitting on sofas chatting, sun-bathing or getting into the shade to enjoy the cool breeze. While some of us were enjoying at this 'furnished' beach, a few members were taken to Tung Ah to take a short hike and enjoy a meal at the seafood restaurant.



Later on the day, the sea did turn calmer and we were able to return to the launch boat at 1:00. After lunch, the sampan took us back to the beach, but by this time, many launch boats came to this bay because of the weather condition at the other eastern beaches. We left Ma Tau Wan at about 3:45 to pick up the other hikers at Tung Ah and arrived Sai Kung Pier at about 5:00 pm.



Although none of the activities on the day appeared on my plan organised in the newsletter, everyone enjoyed a good safe boat trip and had a great day out at sea.



Members are investigating on this specie of fig-like fruit tree in Tung Ah

*Report by Mak Wei Ming
Photos by Judy Roe and Pat Mak*