

Tap Mun Boat Trip Report – October, 2010.

The last boat trip for the season took us to Tap Mun. Fifteen members and four guests arrived at the pier in good time; well almost, with a couple of stragglers who just made it in time! We arrived at our destination much sooner than expected, taking some of us by surprise, a coffee not drunk and some biscuits not eaten.

Tap Mun is a small island with a few local inhabitants. Our first visit was to the temple but as there was a party of Chinese tourists with a megaphone to inform them of the local sites, we soon moved on, although there was time for the customary photo.



Most of us took the shorter route around the southern part of the island while two of our members tried the northern side, only to discover that the tracks were overgrown and they had to push their way through. It was very rough and they sometimes had to walk on cattle tracks. They eventually reached a survey marker at a high point where they had a 360-degree view of the landscape around them. They then walked down through some old paddy terraces but managed to get lost. Eventually they found the main track and managed to rejoin the rest of us.

It seems that several of us managed to get lost very briefly. But that was not a problem especially on the southern side, which is not very expansive, and one was either soon found by someone else looking out for him or her or else managed to find the main track again.



However, many of our group found that the crowded grassy area was not the peaceful open space that one had hoped for, so they moved on and found a 'watering hole'. Some of us took a path up to a peak only to find it a little overgrown, so we had to return. We then sat on the grassy area,

chatted and enjoyed the lovely scenery of a beautiful rocky beach and part of the Chinese coast beyond. In good time, we joined the rest of the group.

Thanks to Peggy, the owner of the restaurant, we had a delicious meal with the added pleasure of the good company of each other. It was a little rushed because we had arranged to be at the pier at 3pm so that we could finish the trip with a swim. Because there are no beaches suitable for swimming on Tap Mun, Mr. Lee kindly agreed to allow us to have a swim from the boat. He took us to a nearby cove, where many of us enjoyed a swim around the boat. For many of us, this became the highlight of our trip.



We arrived back at University Station just before six o'clock, taking a little longer to return. It was a most enjoyable day; a good ending to our boat trip season.