

Hong Kong Natural History Society
December 2011 Outing to Lantau Country Park – Fan Lau

Our December outing to Fan Lau went on a fine day with mild breezes. 16 members gathered at the meeting point at Tung Chung with 4 others joining the group at Shek Pik. We started off walking along the water-catchment area for one and a half hour. Then we turned off to a view compass point and took our coffee break at the pavilion. On top of this hill, we could see a panoramic view of the whole Fan Lau peninsula and Soko Islands.



After break, we turned to the path leading to Fan Lau. The view on this day along the coast was spectacular. On the way near the Fort, the hillside was full of small trees of Chinese Holly (*ilex rotunda*) with burgundy-red berries. Every member looked around this historical site which can be traced back to Ming Dynasty. Then we had our lunch in picnic areas around the fort. After lunch, we carried on



along the Lantau Trail where some members decided to turn off to visit the Stone Circle – one of Hong Kong's remaining sites of the New Stone Age. Other members stayed at the hilltop junction to admire the golden dividing line of the Pearl River estuary; also in search of the traces of the

Chinese White Dolphins, but in vain.

We then headed on to Tsing Yue Wan and Yi O. The section from Yi O to Tai O was on a very well-paved path along the coast. We were just in time to see the sunset in Tai O and caught the 5:20 bus to Mui Wo. The group enjoyed an early Christmas meal at a Turkish restaurant – good kebabs, good wine – what else was needed apart from our traditional Santa hats (a must and not to be forgotten for next year)!



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Photos taken by Christine Mills and John Morgan