



Hong Kong Natural History Society
Report on 15th January, 2012 Ma On Shan Hiking Trip

Twenty-three people eagerly made their way by bus to Sha Tin Pass to enjoy another excursion in the rural areas of Hong Kong. We can indeed be grateful that our bus driver did not know exactly where he was going. If he had, we would have been dropped off earlier so we would have had to walk up the one way Sha Tin Pass Road. Instead, he kindly took us up to the pass and dropped us off. We then made our way up to where the MacLehose Trail left the road. After a false start, we were finally on our way.

Although we started off in relatively dry conditions, it soon became damp and dismal and we could scarcely see beyond our nose. But the day was relatively warm until the rain became heavier later in the day.



After leaving the road, we walked along a forest path. The trail starts off with a relatively easy incline. We walked for about an hour and a half through bush. As the drizzle set in, the path became more slippery so care was needed as we walked along the path which was quite rocky in places. Some of us were grateful for our hiking sticks.

Eventually, we met a road which leads to the Gilwell Campsite and wonders of wonders, there was a taxi sitting in the middle of the road. The taxi driver had lost his way but he kindly took two of our members with him on his way to find civilisation.



We continued on, making our way through bush along the path alongside Ngong Ping towards the grassy slopes of Buffalo Hill, which is fairly exposed in places. Consequently, some of those leading the group became quite cold as by this time it was raining steadily. An attempt to take a photograph

of the view at some stage of the trail was a waste of time as it came out grey. 'What view?' our hikers might say. Yes, indeed, this trail normally offers lovely views over Sha Tin and Ma On Shan. But today it was not to be.

A late lunch was much appreciated. As it was now raining steadily, we did not stop until there was a place that offered a little bit of shelter. But our group was too big for us all to benefit from it. When we arrived at a junction, two of our members who knew the track, decided to turn off and make their way toward

Sai Kung. Four other members followed them. I was told later, that once again, luck was on their side and two taxis were there waiting, so they could make their way to their different directions. The rest of us continued on, joining the Ma On Shan Country Trail which lead us to the Ma On Shan Country Park Management Centre. We were all grateful to see the buildings and take refuge under a shelter there until the bus arrived.



In spite of the weather it was wonderful to experience the outdoor life of Hong Kong once again and a number expressed that they would like to return on a fine day when they can see the view.