

Hong Kong Natural History Society

Report on 18th March 2012 Chi Ma Wan Peninsular Hiking Trip



Thirteen people met at Pui O Village to start our March hike on a day that proved to be very sunny with clear blue skies. What more could we ask for? We made our way across the mangrove swamp where we did see a buffalo but not the egrets that Jan had hoped we would see. We also watched some fish jumping out of the water, which engrossed us for a time. The tide was out when we arrived at Pui O Beach. Nearby, some of us stopped to look at a small temple next to the path. From there, we walked along the coastal path enjoying the sea view. We made two short stops, firstly at a pavilion and then at a beach where some of us had our morning snack. We then made our way on a higher path taking us further around

on the coast where we had some lovely views of the sea and islands beyond. On this path, which involved some climbing, I saw some small pinecones, which I was fascinated to see as it is very much a New Zealand sight. We were very relieved when finally we arrived at the large rock above the Yi Long Archaeological Site where we stopped for lunch.

By this time, the midday sun was beating down on us. As there was no shade, some of us pulled out our umbrellas and created our own shade while we ate lunch, enjoying the view of Cheung Chau Island and the chimneystack on Lamma Island further to the east. As soon as we had eaten lunch, there was no stopping us. We were off, out of the blaring sun as we made our way through the tree area for about an hour until we came across some of our members who had stopped and sat on a small rock, enjoying the breeze. Just around the corner was the junction



where we again had a short break. Two of our members decided that they would continue on the coastal path and not make their way up to the peak. It turned out that they were back in Pui O Village long before the rest of us. However, those remaining braved the contour of the land and made our way along the track, which took us over the inner part of the peninsula. This track led us through bamboo, which provided us with a contrast to the bush that we had just walked through. We noticed during the walk numerous butterflies but they did not stay still long enough for any

of us to catch them on camera. We also, enjoyed some beautiful, brightly coloured flowering plants, including orangey red azaleas.

After some discussion about how many peaks we had to climb up on the rest of the journey, we soon discovered that there were actually four, the last two being the highest. It was quite a slog for some of us, and with the heat of the day, it proved quite exhausting. It was decided to split once again as one of our members had a bus to catch. The faster walkers made their way back to Pui O where they met up with one of the two members who had taken the lower path. We rested on the top of the third peak and enjoyed

the view facing east, where we could see Hei Ling Chau Island where there are two medium security prisons and a drug addiction treatment centre. It was proposed to build a super prison there but this has been shelved. Beyond, we could see Hong Kong Island.

We then made our way down again and climbed the fourth peak, at the top of which we sat on a rock overlooking Pui O Beach to the northwest. There, we had a beautiful view of the beach and of Sunset Peak to the north. While sitting on the rock, gazing down, I noticed some people wading across the estuary so with the help of modern technology, we discovered that it was our second group who had successfully reached the end of the hike. They were off to find a beer at the restaurant on the beach. We later discovered that in fact this is not a restaurant but a camp, so no beer was to be bought there but they found a place on the road back to Pui O.



Meanwhile the remaining six, made our way down the slopes towards the road. This descent is quite steep so it proved to be a strain on the muscles for some of us and we had to take care. Eventually, we were reunited with the other two groups and some of us chose to finish the day with refreshments before making our way home.

Christine Mills
18th March 2012