

Hong Kong Natural History Society
March 2014 Special Outing to Cheung Chau

16 members (with one joining us later in Cheung Chau) gathered at Pier No. 5 Central and caught the 10:30 ferry to our destination. The pier was packed with participants who had come to join an activity organized by Medicin Sans Frontier. Luckily, we all could get a seat on the ferry.

We arrived at Cheung Chau at about 11:30. Before we started our walk, I took pleasure to introduce to members some of the best fish ball and red bean cake places to try these local specialities. We then walked along the seaside and found the beach being exceptionally quiet at this time of the year. At about 12:00 noon, we visited a small Kwan Yin Temple facing the bay, in which the local villagers worship the Goddess of Mercy. After a brief stay, we headed on to the Mini Great Wall. We saw the different rocks named after animals with their peculiar features, and in time I took the liberty to translate to our members some of the descriptions and poems listed alongside. On the way, we saw 'Wheel Plums' in bloom, with petals carrying a much lighter colour than the ones we usually see in other areas of Hong Kong.



We then walked along Peak Road West to go to Cheung Po Tsai Cave. We took a break at a small pavilion in the bay. We went past the Reclining Rocks and had a little adventure of climbing over another "Great Wall". This time, not quite mini, and we had to hold on to fences to prevent ourselves from slipping into the water. Before arriving at Cheung Po Tsai Cave, we went through narrow gaps between rocks and experienced how this pirate in the Ching Dynasty went through these ragged rocks to bury his treasures. None of us entered the cave as there was a long queue of people waiting. We then made our way to the Cheung Po Tsai Restaurant near the pier. With 2 tables we booked near the entrance at 2:30, some of us sat on 'rocks' again, drinking wine, having pizzas, enjoying our late light lunch. Most of us caught the 4:30 ferry back to Central and agreed that it was a great day we enjoyed.

Reported by Mak Wei Ming
Photos taken by Malcolm Godfrey and Pamela Ball