

Hong Kong Natural History Society
Report on May 2019 Boat Trip to Lai Chi Wo

13 members boarded Mr. Li Jr.'s launch boat on time though forecast on the day was rainy. In the morning, it all seemed good enough for us to head on Sam Ah Chuen. After the briefing of our time schedule and programme of the day at the lower deck of our boat, some members were very interested to discuss and find out more about the route that we were taking. It was greyish and cloudy throughout the boat journey. We stopped by briefly observing the geographical features at Wong Chuk Kok before we went through Hung Shek Mun Channel. Just when Mr. Li took us to this jetty pier at Sam Ah Chuen with the small motor boat, it started to rain. We all went to shelter at a pavilion for 10 minutes near the pier. It was thundering and looked as if the rain would not stop for some time, we decided to push on.



The 30-minute journey at Lai Chi Wo Country Trail gave us little chance to observe nature and wildlife. We were trying to keep our cellphones and cameras dry and busily hanging on to our umbrellas. After we arrived at Lai Chi Wo Village, members got into small groups to visit the Geoheritage Centre, the Nature Trail board walk and the traditionally well-preserved Hakka Village. A local villager who was guarding the Centre informed us that about 20 units in the village have been agreed to carry through development to be renovated and converted into guesthouses. However, agreement on the terms had been difficult and work progress is running extremely slow. The project is supported by public fundings on renovation for upkeeping the village houses which will still be privately owned by the villagers for a period of 20 years. So in a couple of years' time, we can may be, see Lai Chi Wo Hakka Village Airbnb !!





*Many-Petaled Mangrove
(Bruguiera gymnorhiza)
The plant gathering salt on one leave
for survival. It contains a large amount
of Tannin Acid which can be extracted
for red dye.*



*A frog / toad ??
worshipping in the temple ?
- yet waiting to be identified*

Soon rain eased off. After some members enjoyed a coffee and bought some locally grown organic maize, we returned on board the boat which came to pick us up at 2:00. Mr. Li advised us to go to Crescent Island for swim instead of the originally planned Tung Wan at Double Island because it would be much calmer there. When we arrived, it was peaceful and scenic feeling like a semi-private beach with only a small fishing boat appeared in a distance. The half hour swim came essential for refreshing to most of us.

Just as we set off to return to Ma Liu Shui Pier, the sun came out – offering an enjoyable return journey on the upper deck in mild sunshine and gentle sea breeze!



Text Mak Wei Ming

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