



漁農自然護理署
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

自然導賞

約章

HINTS

for Nature Appreciation



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English Version

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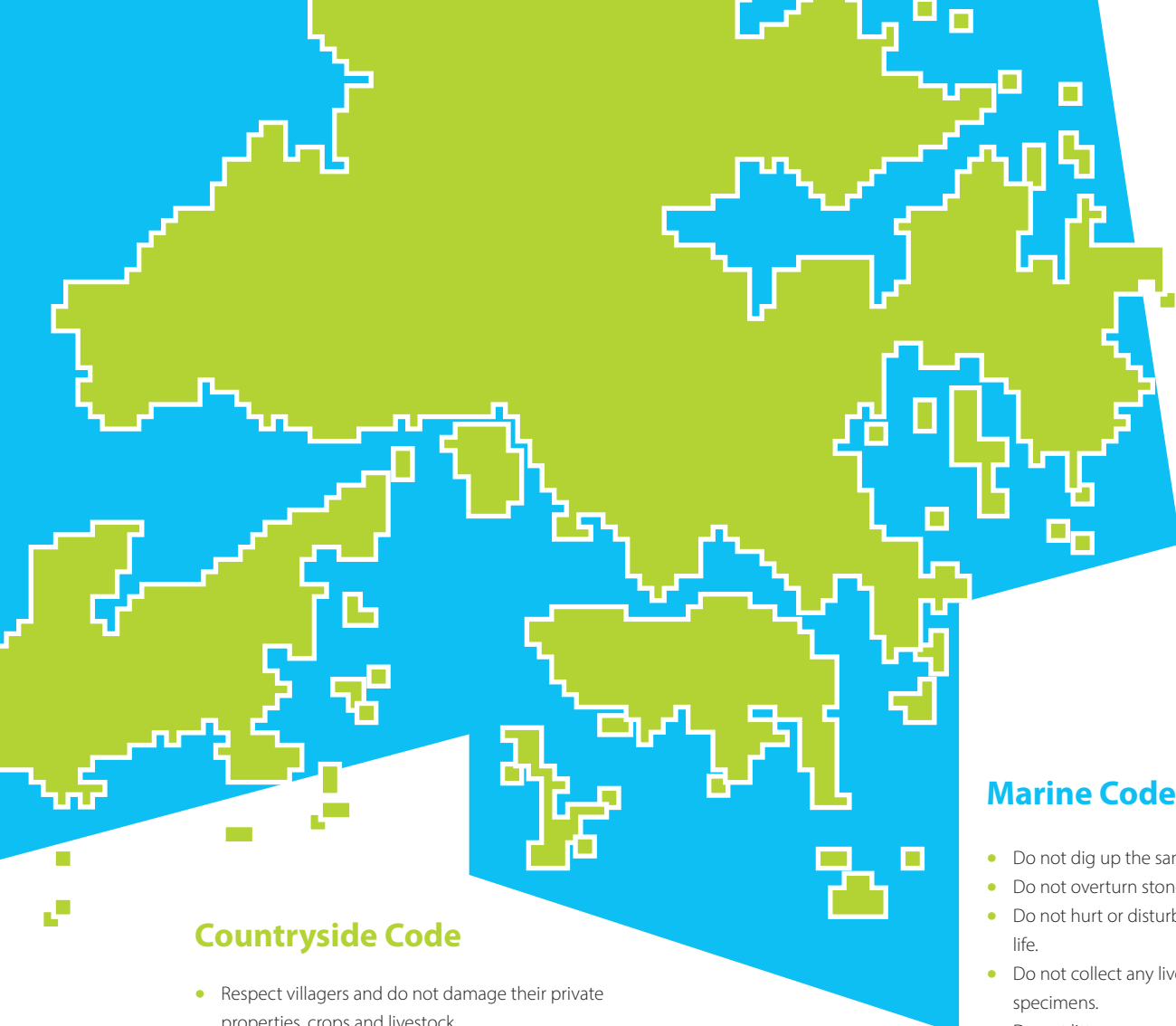
Dos & Don'ts for Dolphin Watching

Introduction

Nature appreciation is a pleasant experience but some adequate preparatory work will ensure you an enjoyable and safe trip.

- Wear appropriate clothes, shoes and hats. Long-sleeve shirts and trousers could prevent scratches by plants.
- It is always advisable to bring along field study guides, checklists and notebooks for identification and record purposes.
- Read related books before each trip. "Eyes On Nature" field study guides published by the Friends of the Country Parks provide lots of interesting and useful information.
- You should plan your route carefully. For the sake of safety, you should choose well-maintained and waymarked paths. Leave details of your route and return time with someone, to raise alarm if you do not come back.
- You should make preparations for your nature appreciation, and often pay attention to the surrounding environment to ensure the safety of you and your fellow travellers.
- Always take a Countryside Series map, compass, ample water, food, a torch, and a mobile phone. Carry a basic medical kit with pain-killers and bandages.
- If you venture off a trail, into forest or along streams, leave a marker. If you get lost or are injured, the trail marker will indicate your whereabouts. Overgrown paths are slow and can be dangerous. If you meet one, it is often quicker and safer to go back and find another route.
- If in trouble – always stop. Slowly assess your situation, and then make a reasoned decision. If you must telephone – or hike out – for help, always record the nearest Distance Post. Spaced about 500 meters apart, with number like "H056", these marker posts allow rescuers to reach exact positions effectively and quickly.



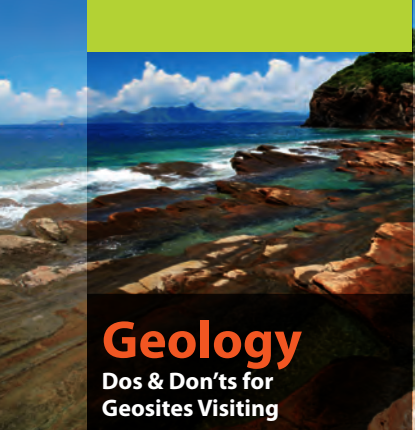


Countryside Code

- Respect villagers and do not damage their private properties, crops and livestock.
- Do not vandal natural features.
- Do not make light fire except in designated barbecue areas and camp sites.
- Do not pollute water.
- Do not leave litter.
- Do not destroy vegetation, wildlife and their living environment.
- Protect countryside and preserve the natural landscapes.
- Respect other visitors and keep the noise down.

Marine Code

- Do not dig up the sand and rubbles.
- Do not overturn stones and boulders.
- Do not hurt or disturb any marine wild life.
- Do not collect any live or dead specimens.
- Do not litter.
- Do not deploy gillnets and fish traps within coral areas.
- Do not pollute water bodies.
- Do not anchor in coral areas.
- Do not stand on the corals.
- For novice divers, master proper buoyancy before visiting coral areas.
- Respect our marine environment.



Geology

Dos & Don'ts for Geosites Visiting



Birds

Dos & Don'ts for Bird Watching

“Never go on a rock or landform appreciation trip alone.”

- Never go on a rock or landform appreciation trip alone.
- Never go on a rock or landform appreciation trip in adverse weather.
- Plan a safe trip with reference to the tidal information posted on the Hong Kong Observatory's website. Be aware that some coastal areas may not be accessible at all times.
- Plan a route with a proper trail that all members of your group may reasonably handle.
- Some islands and coastal areas may be difficult to access and are only suitable for boat trips. Avoid visiting them when strong easterly winds prevail.
- Remain alert to changes in the surrounding environment and any potential hazards, such as rapids, cliffs and steep slopes. Exercise extra caution when rock surfaces are wet.
- Do not climb the rock columns or trample on severely weathered or eroded surfaces. Watch out for visiting shifting or slippery rocks.
- Wear suitable hiking shoes, hats and clothes. Also take gloves, first-aid kits and weather-proof clothes with you.
- Mobile phone coverage may vary from place to place. Leave details of your route and expected return time with someone, for raising the alarm if necessary.
- Use only tour guides who have outdoor training and first-aid skills.
- Use only boat operators who comply with all the safety requirements and have life jackets for all passengers.
- Do not take away any rock, fossil, mineral or silt. It is an offence to dig up, damage or deface any rocks.

- Wear clothes with subdued colours, green and brown are good choices.
- Walk lightly and talk softly while moving around in the forest so as not to disturb the birds.
- Don't chase birds around simply because you want to see them. Birds do deserve a peaceful life.
- Don't throw stones or take other improper actions to force birds to move and show themselves.
- Don't get too close if you find bird nests. Frightened birds will abandon their nests even if there are eggs.
- Don't hurt birds nor pick up eggs or nests. Both are illegal and you would be liable to prosecution.
- Don't worry if you don't record many species. Just enjoy bird watching.

*“Don't worry if you don't record many species.
Just enjoy bird watching.”*





Insects

Dos & Don'ts for
Insect Watching



Butterflies

Dos & Don'ts for
Butterfly Watching

“Don't interfere with structures made by wildlife”

- Keep watching out for bees and wasps nests. Many insects give off irritating chemicals (e.g. bugs) or stinging reactions (e.g. bees and wasps) when touched. Avoid handling insects and their nests as they are protected by adults that may bite or sting you.
- Wear long-sleeved clothes and trousers or put on insect repellent to avoid insect bites.
- Don't take away any insect from the natural environment, no matter it is alive (it has the right to survive) or dead (it is nutrient source of other plants and animals).
- Don't disturb wildlife – all creatures, no matter small or ugly, have a role in ecosystem and should be respected. Don't hurt any wildlife (including insect and snake!) just because of their unpleasing appearances or mild disturbances to us.
- Don't interfere with structures made by wildlife – spider webs, termite nests etc. are natural structures essential to their survival. They deserve preservation in the natural settings.

- Don't collect or disturb butterflies including their eggs, larvae and pupae.
- Avoid causing damages to their habitats.

“Avoid causing damages to their habitats.”





Mammals

Dos & Don'ts for Mammal Watching

“Occasionally spend a moment in silence listening for the tell-tale sounds of nearby animals.”

- Don't purposely disturb animals when searching for them as they may never return to the same area. It is easier to look for signs such as their scats or footprints.
- Look for the correct species at the correct time, many are nocturnal and are best seen at dawn or dusk.
- Occasionally spend a moment in silence listening for the tell-tale sounds of nearby animals.
- Only move quietly and slowly when searching for, or watching wildlife or you will frighten animals into flight or hiding.
- Move around in small groups if you want to find wildlife; a group of 3-4 people makes much less noise than a large group.
- Don't enter bat caves as bats are sensitive and vulnerable to human disturbance.



Monkeys

Dos & Don'ts for Monkey Watching

- Don't feed monkeys. They can obtain food from the forest.
- Don't throw food or objects at monkeys.
- Don't disturb or tease monkeys. Don't stare at the monkeys as staring would provoke them.
- Don't approach monkeys. Stay at some distance from them especially baby monkeys.
- Don't make loud noises. Noise would make the monkeys nervous.

“Don't disturb or tease monkeys. Don't stare at the monkeys as staring would provoke them.”





War Relics

Dos & Don'ts for War Relic Visiting

- Respect the relics you come across. These may be the spots where some people met their death.
- Don't deface or destroy any object you encounter.
- Don't force open the doors of the pillboxes, shelters or bunkers if they are locked. This will only further damage the structures.
- Don't take away anything from the sites.
- Don't venture into unstable tunnels and ruins – especially after rain. Some of the sites may have been abandoned for more than half a century.
- Avoid unnecessary dangerous situation.

“Respect the relics you come across. These may be the spots where some people met their death.”



Dolphins

Dos & Don'ts for Dolphin Watching

- Always look from a distance, don't seek to touch, feed or harm dolphins in the wild.
- When dolphins are sighted, maintain forward progress at a slow and steady speed or stop within no sudden course change. Boat speed should not exceed 10 knots.
- When observing dolphins, always parallel the dolphin's course at slow speed.
- Never approach dolphins head on; approach at an angle. Never change the course (e.g. reverse the course) all of a sudden.
- Only one dolphin watching vessel should be within 500 meters of a group of dolphins at any one time.
- Never chase or cut across the course of dolphins, separate mothers and calves, split up groups or 'corner' dolphins between boats, nets, or shore.
- Respect the dolphins and let them make the choice to approach or flee.
- If a group of dolphins is difficult to observe and elusive, leave them alone and try to find a more cooperative group.

“Respect the dolphins and let them make the choice to approach or flee.”

