



New Territories

Tsuen Wan p169

Has some of Hong Kong's most important Buddhist and Taoist monasteries.

Tuen Mun p171

Visit at leisure the temples and monasteries that dot the landscape.

Yuen Long p173

Hong Kong Wetland Park, laid-back Pak Nai and old walled villages.

Fanling & Sheung Shui p176

A heaven for history buffs, with fortified villages and historic ruins.

Tai Po p177

Lively markets and temples, plus an encyclopaedia of flora and fauna.

Plover Cove p181

Plover Cove is where you go to hike, hike, hike or bike, bike, bike!

Sha Tin p184

A New Town with a historical feel, temples and a heritage museum.

Sai Kung Peninsula p187

Pristine beaches and deserted coves grace this dramatic coastline.

Clearwater Bay Peninsula p192

The name says it all – beaches with crystal-clear water.



TOP SIGHT MAI PO MARSHES

MARTIN HANLEY / GETTY IMAGES ©

Witness the magic of migration in Mai Po Marshes, one of the world's most significant wetlands and a major pit stop for the tens of thousands of migratory waterfowl travelling from Siberia to Australasia every winter. These months are the best time to visit this Hong Kong treasure as you're likely to spot a number of rare birds; in other months, nature lovers and urbanites alike come here for the sheer beauty and biodiversity of Mother Nature.

Mai Po Marshes comprise some 1500 hectares of wetlands at the centre of which is a nature reserve. Here, the fragile ecosystem abutting Deep Bay simply teems with life. It is a protected network of mudflats, gei wai (shallow shrimp ponds), reed beds and dwarf mangroves, offering a rich habitat of up to 380 species of migratory and resident birds, more than a third of them rarely seen elsewhere in the territory. The area attracts birds in every season but especially winter, when an average of 54,000 migratory birds – including such endangered species as the Dalmatian pelican, black-faced spoonbill, spotted and imperial eagle and black vulture – pass through the marshes.

The **World Wide Fund for Nature Hong Kong** (世界自然基金會香港辦事處, WWFHK; ☎24hr hotline 2526 1011; www.wwf.org.hk; 1 Tramway Path, Central) does guided visits to the marsh. Three-hour tours leave the **Visitor Centre** (☎2471 8272) on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays. The tours can be booked online, but reserve well in advance, especially during winter.

Bus 76K or red minibus 17 will drop you off at Mai Po Lo Wai, a village along the main road just east of the marsh. The WWFHK car park is about a 20-minute walk from there. Alternatively, a taxi from Sheung Shui will cost HK\$70.

DON'T MISS

- ◆ Guided tours to the Reserve
- ◆ Floating boardwalks

PRACTICALITIES

- ◆ 米埔自然保護區
- ◆ ☎2471 3480
- ◆ www.wwf.org.hk
- ◆ Mai Po, Sin Tin, Yuen Long
- ◆ admission HK\$120
- ◆ ⌚9am-5pm
- ◆ 🚉76K from Sheung Shui East Rail or Yuen Long West Rail stations