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discover

Day out: the Nature Discovery Park

Before you read: A new garden in Kowloon is a slice of nature in the heart of the city.

Among the noise and traffic of busy Tsim Sha Tsui, there is a hidden oasis. Go up to the eighth floor of the new K11 Musea shopping centre, and you'll find Nature Discovery Park. It is the city's first urban nature museum.

With an aquarium, city farm and butterfly garden, the park helps us get close to nature without leaving the city.

We took a tour of the park and joined one of its workshops. We found out how new ideas are helping to bring city and country life together.

Sea, land and sky

The park is split into three sections: sea, land and sky. Our tour began in the sea section, which has Hong Kong's largest outdoor aquarium. Here, you can learn about the fish that live in Hong Kong waters. You'll see some species from far away, too.

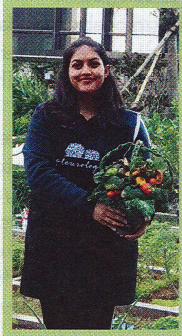
If you are brave, you can take part in a workshop where you get the chance to touch a jellyfish!

In the land section is the urban farm, which also has a stunning view of the city.

The final section - sky - has an open-air butterfly garden, filled with sweet-smelling plants. They are carefully chosen to attract local species of butterflies.

This garden has no nets, so wild butterflies are free to come and go as they please.

There is a sculpture called Giant Triple Mushroom. It shows three types of mushrooms together. It is a reminder to humans that we need to live in harmony with the planet.



Make a bouquet

After looking around, it was time to join some activities. Grabbing an apron and some shears, we went to the urban farm to pick some plants for our very own edible bouquets.

Cutting pieces of plants is very easy. The only thing you need to remember is to be gentle. As you work, the smell of rosemary, basil and other herbs fills the air.

We carried our baskets of fruits and vegetables to the work station, where we began to arrange our bouquets in pots, using strings of long beans to make a handle. Each pot was a sea of colour, filled with peppers, broccoli, baby aubergines, baby corn and carrots. We decorated them with cinnamon sticks, pine cones and oranges.

Everything is grown without the use of chemicals, which makes it even better.

Nature Discovery Park allows us to touch a part of our world that usually feels out of reach in the city.

Written by junior reporter Anushka Purohit

Quick questions:

1. Which insects are attracted to the park?
2. What kind of plants are rosemary and basil?
3. Can you find farms anywhere else in Hong Kong?

FUN FACTS!

"Organic" farming is when we grow food naturally, without using chemicals. It is usually better for our health and better for the soil.



say it

Phrases from this story

traffic
交通

oasis
(沙漠中的) 綠洲

urban
城市的

aquarium
水族館

harmony
和聲

edible
適宜食用的