



One of the best places to see dragonflies in Hong Kong is at the Hong Kong Wetland Park (right) in Tin Shui Wai, in the New Territories. 位於天水圍的香港濕地公園，是觀賞蜻蜓的理想景點。



Razzle-dazzle

The dragonfly is a flying jewel of a creature. It is also brilliant – dazzling to behold and stunning in its capabilities

Dragonflies and their near cousin damselflies are famously known as “flying jewels” because of their eye-catching colours. They are among the most beautiful and spectacular insects on the planet, and also among the oldest, having been around for about 300 million years.

Hong Kong is blessed with one of the world’s most vivid dragonfly populations. You just need to know where to look.

Dragonflies are born under water, in ponds or wetlands, and can spend anywhere up to five years in the larval stage. Although small, the dragonfly is exceptionally strong and fast. When it finally emerges, wearing a coat of many colours, it can move like a helicopter – in all directions, forward, backward, up and down, and fly at speeds of up to 100kmh. The dragonfly can also hover.

The flight of the dragonfly is extremely efficient. Having two sets of wings means the dragonfly does not have to work extra hard flapping its wings. The dragonfly uses one-tenth the energy a bee needs to stay in the air. And dragonfly eyes contain up to 30,000 individual lenses. Human eyes have only one set of lenses.

Do not be afraid of these beautiful creatures: they will not hurt you any more than a butterfly would. The tail piece that is often mistaken for a stinger is in fact a clasper, used

by the male to hold on to its female partner during courtship. Two dragonflies in mid-air forming a heart shape with their claspers are courting. They may dip into the water to lay eggs.

A close look will reveal different feeding and resting modes among different dragonfly species.

Dragonflies are curious creatures: if one flies up to you, out in the wild, it is most likely just to say hello.

The special interest in dragonflies among nature lovers is a fairly recent phenomenon, and the hobby of observing these fascinating insects has been dubbed “dragonflying”.

Dragonflies thrive in healthy, breathable water. One of the best places to see them in Hong Kong is at the Hong Kong Wetland Park, a 60-hectare nature reserve at Tin Shui Wai, in the northern New Territories. More than 40 dragonfly species are found here.

The Hong Kong Wetland Park, situated next to the famous Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site, is a world-class conservation, education and tourism facility. Winner of numerous international awards for architecture, environmental design and land use, the wetland park provides a rich habitat for a breathtaking array of wildlife, from birds and insects to amphibians, mammals, reptiles and fish.

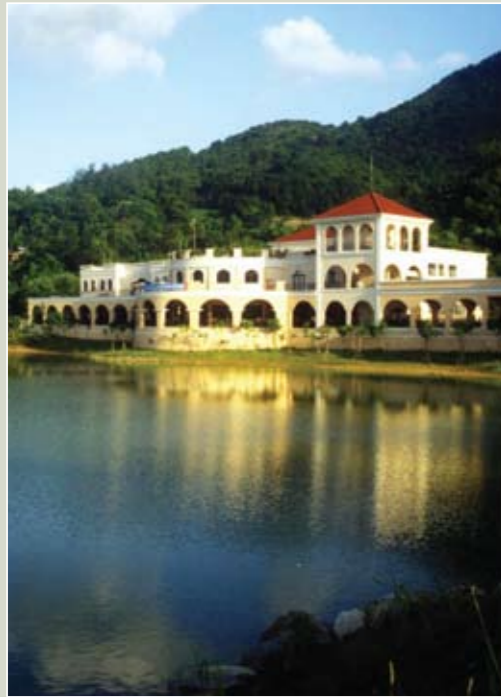
Egret haven

The warm months are the perfect time to be out and about in Hong Kong's country parks and conservation areas.

Kerry Lake Egret Nature Park, in Tai Po (below), is a new concept in leisure and education, providing healthy and fun activities for people of all ages, from toddlers to senior citizens. Within the protected environs of the park's peaceful 23 acres you will find an abundance of wild life – much of it just as nature intended. Have fun spotting and identifying species, while exploring the mangrove swamp, the lagoon, the streams, the freshwater pond and the woodland.

Activities include a Discovery Tour, an Interactive Nature Tour, Young Naturalist and When You Meet the Fireflies. Other park attractions include the interactive Museum of Ethnology, a boating lake, a kiddies' playground and a barbecue area. A meal at the multicultural Little Egret Restaurant will complete a day filled with natural delights.

The creation of the Kerry Lake Egret Nature Park for community education and enjoyment is yet another demonstration of Kerry Properties' care and concern for our natural environment.



白鷺湖互動中心

春暖花開，最好郊遊。到香港的郊野公園和自然保護區看一看吧。

位於大埔的嘉里白鷺湖互動中心，是一個寓教育於遊樂的新概念公園。這個面積23英畝的世外桃源，到處可見大自然的奇妙生態，定必令你在紅樹林、沼澤、淡水湖、小溪澗、清水池和林地中流連忘返。

園內活動豐富，有「人類發現之旅」、「大自然互動之旅」、「小小自然學家」、「當您遇見螢火蟲」等，還有互動的人類民俗館、划船湖、兒童遊樂場和燒烤區。具有多重文化設計風情的小白鷺餐廳，讓你遊玩一天後在自然景觀中回味無窮。

嘉里白鷺湖互動中心為男女老幼提供了一個健康有趣的活動場地，體現了嘉里建設對自然環境的重視和保護。



Different seasons yield different life forms at the wetlands. In winter, rare and exotic migratory birds turn up for their annual stop-over – part of the 230 species of bird life found at the park.

As summer approaches, the dragonflies return, having waited for the sun's warming rays to draw them out of the water. Dragonflies are solar-powered: they need sunlight to reach a certain temperature before they can fly.

Summer is dragonfly season at the Hong Kong Wetland Park. Dazzling the eye with hues of blue, green, orange, red or yellow, the insects are found among the mangroves and water lilies – hovering high among trees and down low among aquatic plants.

See how many species you can identify around the park. You may spot a Variegated Flutterer flying along the Stream Walk and Wildside Walk, or a Common Bluetail zipping across the Succession Walk or Wetlands at Work, or the Life Zone. If you are lucky, you may see the endangered Four-spot Midget; the Hong Kong Wetland Park is one of the few breeding sites in the world for this rarity.

Stop at the park's interactive Visitors' Centre to learn more about nature, ecology and conservation. And don't forget your camera to capture these priceless "flying jewels".

Every Wednesday and Friday, between June 17 and September 30, the Hong Kong Wetland Park offers guided tours, called "Meeting the Odonates (Dragonflies)". The tour begins at 11am and visitors are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. The visitor is shown dragonflies commonly found in the Park, and learns about their habitats and life cycles.

炫舞長空

優雅亮麗的蜻蜓，在空中振動著絢爛的身體和翅膀，閃耀得像一塊能飛翔的珠寶

蜻蜓和蜻蛉（俗稱豆娘），是世上最原始、美麗的昆蟲一族。三億年來，牠們在空中炫舞，展現著鮮艷的色彩、輕盈的舞姿，被讚嘆為「能飛翔的珠寶」，令昆蟲愛好者觀賞得如癡如醉。

在香港活躍的蜻蜓種類繁多，識途老馬都懂得前往香港濕地公園尋找牠們的芳蹤。香港濕地公園位於香港新界北部天水圍，與著名的米埔內后海灣拉姆薩爾濕地相鄰，擁有60公頃的自然保護區，有230多種鳥類棲息，是世界級的生態旅遊教育景點。濕地公園不單是觀賞蜻蜓和鳥類的寶地，也曾獲得無數環境設計、土地使用和建築的國際獎項，為野生動物提供了富足的生存環境，也為四十多種蜻蜓創造了得天獨厚的生長環境。

在香港濕地公園內，鳥兒、昆蟲、兩棲動物、哺乳動物、爬行動物、魚類等不同的生態變化在各個季節交替上演，生生不息。冬天，稀有的候鳥群聚集於此；夏天，一直在等待溫暖陽光的蜻蜓撲的飛出了水面。原來，蜻蜓需要吸收陽光，把體溫提升到合適的溫度才能起飛。

於是，夏天的香港濕地公園成了蜻蜓的天堂。牠們在婆婆樹枝之間盤旋，在低叢中飛竄，紅的、橙的、黃的、綠的、藍的、黑的，在人們眼前翩翩起舞。你能在濕地公園裡找到多少品種呢？有沒有在溪畔漫遊徑或原野漫遊徑上遇到斑麗翅蜻？有沒有在演替之路或濕地工作間碰上褐斑異痣蟴？你看到了瀕臨絕種的廣瀨妹蟴嗎？那你的運氣真好，這稀有品種在全球的繁殖地少之又少，香港濕地公園有幸是其中之一。

不同種類的蜻蜓有不同的起居和棲息習慣，大自然愛好者近年來越喜歡觀賞蜻蜓，這也難怪，牠們的一舉一動的確非常引人入勝。比如，蜻蜓交配時，雄性蜻蜓用經常被誤為是螫針的尾部，扣住雌性蜻蜓的頸，在半空中結合成一個獨特的心形，無比浪漫。交配後，蜻蜓便「點水」，在水中產卵。

健康、透氣的水流，是蜻蜓繁衍生長的必要條件之一。蜻蜓卵在池塘或濕地的水中孵化成幼蟲，從幼蟲至成蟲這個成長階段可長達五年。變成成蟲後，牠們披著色彩艷麗的外衣，以輕盈的體態，忽而以高達100公里的時速在空中疾馳，忽而像直升機一樣在空中升降、徘徊，動作矯健自如。

蜻蜓的飛翔伎倆如此了得，全靠兩對翅膀以及敏銳的視覺。有著雙翅，牠們只消用蜜蜂十分之一的體力便能停留於空中；有著三萬多對小眼睛組成的複眼，牠們看得很闊很遠。

靈活美麗的蜻蜓，一如蝴蝶一樣不會對人類造成任何威脅。牠們是很好奇的昆蟲，如果牠們在你的頭頂盤旋，不用害怕，牠們可能只是要跟你打個招呼！

欲加入觀賞蜻蜓的行列，深入了解蜻蜓的生活習性和生命週期，請於6月17日至9月30日，到香港濕地公園參加「與蜻蜓相遇」導覽團。導覽團每逢周三上午11時出發，名額有限，先到先得。參觀者也可到訪客中心——濕地互動世界，進一步認識自然生態環境。

馬上拿起你的照相機，起程去捕捉「能飛翔的珠寶」的風姿吧！

The summer months in Hong Kong is dragonfly season and they can be spotted with their dazzling hues of blue, green, orange, red or yellow at the Hong Kong Wetland Park. 夏天的香港濕地公園成了蜻蜓的天堂，藍的、綠的、橙的、紅的、黃的，在人們眼前翩翩起舞。

