

Hiking at Endau Rompin



Ir. Ong Sheng How

Ir. Ong Sheng How is currently a committee member in Highway and Transportation Engineering Technical Division (HTETD).



Our destination: Buaya Sangkut Waterfall

The Highway & Transportation Engineering Technical Division organised a hiking/camping trip to Endau Rompin National Park on 8-10 September, 2018, for 14 people comprising IEM members and non-members.

One of the oldest lowland tropical rainforests in the world and featuring some of the oldest rock formations, Endau Rompin is situated south of the Lesong Forest Reserve (Pahang) and to the northeast of Labis and Endau Mas Forest Reserves (Johor). It covers approximately 870 sq. km., making it the second largest national park in Peninsular Malaysia.

At noon on 8 September, four 4WD vehicles convened at Perbadanan Taman Negara Johor office in Kahang town and we drove through oil palm plantations to Kampung Peta, the base camp.

From Kampung Peta, it was a one-hour boat ride to Kuala Jasin and then

an hour's gentle trek to Kuala Marong, where we set up tents for the 3D/2N camp.

Helping us was a team of local Orang Asli, which included National Park hiking guides and chefs who prepared our meals. After dinner and some relaxing time together, we went to bed.

The next day, after an energising breakfast, we began our journey at 8.30 a.m. to hike up a mountain jungle trail. We aimed to reach Buaya Sangkut Waterfall by 12.30 p.m. The hike through the Endau Rompin National Park jungle trail was both challenging and tiring. It demanded that we had a certain level of stamina, yet it was fun and refreshing as we were escaping from the hustle and bustle of city life.

We reached Buaya Sangkut waterfall according to schedule and ate a packed lunch there. After spending some time to enjoy the beauty of Nature, we made our



Crossing a stream at Endau Rompin National Park

descent the same way we came, hoping to reach camp before sunlight faded away. After more hours of difficulty – the seemingly unending climb downhill proved particularly agonising for our knees – we heaved a sigh of relief when we saw the familiar sight of our camp and gladly stepped into our tents.

Although the distance from the campsite to Buaya Sangkut was only 5.5km, the round trip took us approximately eight hours because of the complexities of the trail. According to records in our smartphones, we had walked more than 20,000 steps! After the tiring hike, we relaxed with a good dinner and got to know each other better.

On the third day, we broke camp after breakfast and left at around 9 a.m. We went back the same way we came and finally left Endau Rompin National Park after lunch.

One unforgettable experience during the whole trip was being bitten by leeches. These were everywhere and even penetrated our so-called "leech-proof" socks.

The trip was a good opportunity to make new friends and to enjoy the natural beauty of our National Park. Hope to see you again, Endau Rompin. ■