

KEY RESOURCES AND ATTRACTIONS



FOREST HABITAT

While Lampi is mainly covered by tropical lowland evergreen forest, it is also ecologically rich in mangrove forest. 63 mangrove species thrive along the Park's rivers and freshwater sources, which are also home to many species of mollusks, crustaceans and fish.

Canoeing in the mangroves

Lampi Island has two perennial rivers, both located on its western side where the best-conserved mangrove forests are found. These sites are home to a rich variety of birds, reptiles and marine life. Tourists can explore the mangrove creeks with canoes, quietly observing wildlife and beautiful landscapes.

Hiking in the jungle

While there are no jungle trails on the main island, you can follow Park rangers or locals into the lush vegetation of Bo Cho Island and climb hills to enjoy beautiful rainforest vistas and walk along pristine white beaches. Wildlife including birds, small mammals and reptiles can be spotted along these trails, if you are lucky.



MARINE HABITAT

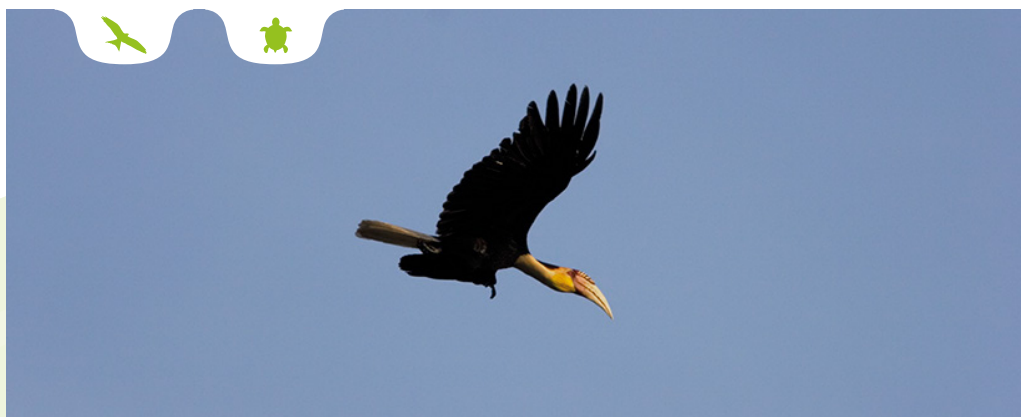
The Myeik Archipelago is rich in coral reefs, seaweeds and sea grass beds, which are important habitats for mollusks, crustaceans, echinoderms (stars and urchins) and fish. Sea grass meadows that surround Lampi are important sources of food for threatened species such as the green sea turtle and the dugong, as well as for a variety of birds.

Snorkeling

There are several areas within the Park to enjoy snorkeling and admire hard corals, a variety of coral fish, and, if you are lucky, spot sea turtles and rays. Diving mainly occurs outside the Park, with licensed agents offering live-aboard cruises.

Understanding the Moken

Lampi is a place to learn about the changing lives of the sea gypsies, considered to be hunter-gatherers rather than fishermen as they don't use nets. While few men still use spears to hunt big fish spotted from the bow of their boats, and women continue to dive for sea urchins with their bare hands, they no longer roam the archipelago in traditional Kabangs. Lampi is home to around 40 Moken families, often seen hunting squid from their dug-out canoes. The Lampi project is promoting a number of initiatives to support the Moken.



FAUNA

The Park is rich in biodiversity, with:

- ✓ 247 bird species, 19 of which are listed as threatened in IUCN's Red List of Threatened Species – including the Plain-pouched hornbill and the Wallace hawk eagle
- ✓ 10 amphibians and 19 reptile species
- ✓ 19 species of small, medium and large mammals, 7 of which are endangered, including the sunda pangolin and the dugong
- ✓ 3 species of sea turtles, namely the green sea, loggerhead and olive ridley species

Birdwatching

Lampi is a birdwatcher's paradise. Colonies of plain-pouched hornbills roost on Ko Phawt island, hundreds of them can be seen at sunset and sunrise. A colony of about 2,000 Flying Foxes can also be seen emerging at sunset in Than Dar Net Island.

Observation of sea-turtles

There are several sea turtle nesting sites around the Park. From January to March it is possible to observe the tracks of egg-laying sea turtles, while during the night you can spot baby turtles hatching from eggs escaping to the sea.



THE LOCAL POPULATION

Nearly 3,000 people reside in 5 settlements around the Park, including a few hundred Moken. The main village, Makyone Galet, a busy fishing village, is located on Bo Cho Island along a beautiful bay overlooking the southern tip of Lampi Island. Makyone Galet has many teashops and restaurants, and a pagoda offering panoramic village views. Houses on stilts along the beach are inhabited by the Moken – sea gypsies that have roamed the islands of the Archipelago for over century, collecting and trading items gathered from the sea.

Makyone Galet Village Tour

The tour embraces a walk along the sandy beach past Moken houses through the village to the monastery. There are opportunities to support conservation programs by purchasing local souvenirs and handicrafts, eating local food and enjoying fresh coconut water or traditional tea, while chatting with locals to gain glimpses of life in Lampi.

THE LAMPI PARK CONSERVATION PROJECT

Istituto Oikos Onlus, an Italian non-profit organisation, is working with the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry to promote the conservation and sustainable use of the Park's resources. Oikos supported the design of the Park's first **General Management** and **Ecotourism** Plans, and is assisting with their implementation by training Park staff and engaging the community in conservation education, while improving access to water, sanitation and waste management. Oikos also supports community-based tourism that delivers benefits to the community and the Park's conservation objectives. A Visitor Center under construction will be completed by March 2016.

For more information visit www.lampipark.org

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