Boeri Lake Trail
Morne Trois Pitons National Park
DOMINICA

Boeri Lake is one of two fresh water lakes in the Morne Trois Pitons National Park, and can be reached via a 1¼ mile trail of moderate difficulty leading from the end of the Freshwater Lake Road. A concrete, 2½ mile road leads from the village of Laudat to the trail-head to Boeri Lake.

“Boeri” is Dominica’s second largest lake and is located at about 2,800 ft elevation, between Morne Micotrin (Macaque) and Morne Trois Pitons. The lake is located in the crater of an old volcano in which Micotrin was formed, separating it from Freshwater Lake.

Boeri is about 135 ft deep when full, is almost circular in shape, and has a maximum surface area of about 4 acres. The lake’s level fluctuates seasonally, and in a severe Dry Season the water level may drop as much as 40ft below the high-water mark. The lake has a single outlet but also drains underground.

During the Dry Season the large, slippery boulders on the widened lake shore may be exposed. Adventurous hikers may be tempted to walk on these boulders, but this practice is hazardous due to the risk of twisting an ankle or worse.

The 45-minute trek to Boeri takes hikers past crystal-clear streams, warm and cold springs gushing from the side of Micotrin, and through abandoned gardens, montane forest and elfin woodlands. The gardens provide a source of food for birds, mammals and insects of the area.

The montane forest in the area is dominated by trees of Maho Kochon, Ti Siton, Palmist Wouj and Gombo Moutany (a relative of the Hibiscus). The ferns, including an epiphytic species with pink (young) fronds, tree ferns and several other terrestrial species, should catch your attention. The Heliconia (Balizyé) and Apoplexi, with their red-and-yellow flowers, add splashes of colour to the surroundings. The trees also support numerous epiphytes such as mosses, wild anthuriums, bromeliads and orchids.

Many of the plants in the montane forest can also be seen in the elfin woodland. However, the trees in the elfin forest are much shorter, the canopy is more open, and the stems and branches are always covered with dripping mats of mosses and filmy ferns. Kaklen (Clusia), Zél Mouch and Kwé-kwé are common plants in the elfin woodland.
The walk up the ridge en route to Boeri Lake offers visitors some panoramic views of Dominica’s landscape. To the east one may see the Atlantic Ocean, the villages of Grand Fond and Morne Jaune, and Chimen L’etang (“Lake Road”) that villagers from the eastern district used before the building of the Trans-Insular Road. Electricity poles and lines may also be seen, as these bring power to the east coast villages. Looking south you can view Freshwater Lake and part of the island’s chain of mountains, including Mornes Nicholls, Watt and Anglais.

Eco-tourism site passes can be purchased in the village of Laudat.

Do not pick any plant or flower, and please stay on the trail. To protect the environment, leave only footprints.

The most conspicuous wildlife in the Boeri Lake region are birds and tree lizards (Zandoli); here the lizards have a different colour pattern from those close to the coast. Listen for the beautiful song of the small, shy Siflé Moutany (a.k.a. “mountain whistler”); occasionally a solitary migratory waterfowl may be seen swimming on the lake. Other birds in the area include the blue-headed and purple-throated hummingbirds and the Trembler, among others. Butterflies are sometimes seen fluttering on the breeze above the lake, while the brown-and-yellow Siwik or River Crab often makes its home between the boulders on the lake shore.

For further information, contact:
Forestry, Wildlife & Parks Division
Roseau, DOMINICA
Tel: (767) 266-5852/5856
Email: forestry@dominica.gov.dm
Website: agriculture.gov.dm