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Hong Kong Heritage Tourism Expo

ACCESS
HERITAGE

Notes of a Heritage Visitor





Don't forget: What are Declared Monument and Grades 1 to 3 Historic Buildings?



Declared Monument

In accordance with the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance, the Antiquities Authority may, after consultation with the Antiquities Advisory Board and with the approval of the Chief Executive, by notice in the Gazette, declare a place, building, site or structure as a monument. The Antiquities Authority is then empowered to prevent alterations, or to impose conditions upon any proposed alterations as she/he thinks fit, in order to protect the monument.



Grade 1 Historic Building

Buildings of outstanding merit, which every effort should be made to preserve if possible.



Grade 2 Historic Building

Buildings of special merit; efforts should be made to selectively preserve.



Grade 3 Historic Building

Buildings of some merit; preservation in some form would be desirable and alternative means could be considered if preservation is not practicable.

I Have Things to Say —

Chocolate Rain (Prudence Mak), Illustrator

Encouraged by her mother, Prudence began to take a keen interest in handicraft during her childhood years when she lived in a squatter area. In 2000, Prudence founded Chocolate Rain, and the following year saw her designing the Fatina (the "soul" of Chocolate Rain) series of dolls. Made of rag and buttons, these dolls not only epitomise the childhood memories of girls but also pay tribute to Prudence's persevering mother and to the hardworking female garment workers in the 1960s. In 2005, with the support of a scholarship from the DesignSmart Young Design Talent Awards, Prudence went to London where she studied for a master's degree at the Central Saint Martins College of Arts & Design.

Nowadays, the products of Chocolate Rain are designed around two major concepts, namely "environmental protection" and "memories" – the very values which we most treasure. We inject vitality into objects that may otherwise look lifeless – worn-out toys, unused drawers, cloths from a bygone era – by using them to handcraft products which aim to attract public attention to the importance of protecting the environment and the need to cherish what we have.

On behalf of Chocolate Rain, I am honoured to have the opportunity to collaborate with the Commissioner for Heritage's Office under the Development Bureau in creating illustrations for the roving exhibition "Hong Kong Heritage Tourism Expo – Access Heritage", and also to share my enjoyment of the creative process which I had never experienced before. It was by no means easy to manually produce drawings of as many as 40 historic buildings and "tailor-design" various Fatina characters for the occasion! Over the past few months, I ceaselessly refined my draft illustrations and improved upon my designs, and I felt very excited indeed when I first saw my creations on the exhibition panels. I was doubly exhilarated whenever I reminded myself that my creations would be displayed at the Hong Kong Heritage Discovery Centre!

In keeping with the theme of the roving exhibition, the historic buildings in Hong Kong form the bases of my illustrations, and Fatina will guide visitors through the various old districts, explaining traditional Hong Kong lifestyle and culture along the way. Through the use of handmade illustrations, an imaginative range of colours and a vivid method of presentation, I hope to introduce to tourists and youngsters the many "hot spots" in and fascinating features of Hong Kong as well as romantic remembrances of old Hong Kong, so that they can have a feel for the fertile culture which is an integral part of the city.



The cultural tradition of a city often speaks volumes for the city itself. Enlightened and influenced by both Chinese and Western cultures, the city of Hong Kong has acquired a unique and highly distinctive character. As Hong Kong citizens, we are acutely aware of the importance of conserving the monuments and historic buildings of the city, particularly in the face of rapid urban growth and development. In doing so, we seek to preserve not only the physical structures themselves, but also the vitality and integrity that makes Hong Kong.

In recent years, we have seen an increase in interest among tourists from around the world in the history, culture and historic structures of the countries and cities they visit. We believe that, when done hand in hand, heritage conservation and the promotion of tourism will bring greater benefits to both our cultural legacy and the tourism industry. More significantly, promoting heritage tourism not only helps enrich the industry's resources in Hong Kong, but also shows visitors that, in addition to being a renowned international financial hub and dining and shopping paradise, Hong Kong is also a place with an impressively rich cultural history.

This year, with the support of the Hong Kong Tourism Board, the Commissioner for Heritage's Office under the Development Bureau is extensively promoting heritage tourism in Hong Kong. In line with this goal, we are organising a large-scale roving exhibition entitled "Hong Kong Heritage Tourism Expo – Access Heritage" under which six specially designed heritage tour routes are planned and recommended to Hong Kong people as well as our friends from around the world. We have also produced a booklet "Notes of a Heritage Visitor", copies of which are distributed free-of-charge at the various exhibition venues. We hope that the booklet will help strengthen readers' understanding of the distinctive cultural history of Hong Kong and enhance their enjoyment in visiting and exploring the many antiquities and monuments that testify to our history.

I would like to express my gratitude to the four celebrities who shared their passion for historic buildings in this booklet. I am sure that, with their insightful comments and heartfelt nostalgia for many of our historic buildings, readers too will come to appreciate the vitality behind and the special significance of these cultural gems.

Mrs Carrie Lam
Secretary for Development
December 2010

Tour Routes

Hong Kong Island

Route 1 A Journey to the Centre of Law and Order Central

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No. 8 Jackson Road (Old Supreme Court) – Court of Final Appeal (Former French Mission Building) – Museum of Tea Ware (Flagstaff House) – Old Victoria Barracks [Cotton Tree Drive Marriage Registry (Rawlinson House), Education Centre (Wavell Block) & Hong Kong Visual Arts Centre (Cassels Block)] – Central Police Station Compound (Central Police Station Compound, Former Central Magistracy & Victoria Prison Compound)

Route 2 A Glimpse into the Lives of Early Chinese Wan Chai

p18-25

Wan Chai Market – The Blue House Cluster (Blue House, Yellow House & Orange House) – Hung Shing Temple – Nam Koo Terrace – Wo Cheong Ngat (60A, 62, 64 & 66 Johnston Road)

Route 3 Into a Big Cultural Melting Pot Tsim Sha Tsui

p26-33

Former Kowloon-Canton Railway Clock Tower – 1881 Heritage (Former Marine Police Headquarters Compound) – Hong Kong Heritage Discovery Centre (Former Whitfield Barracks, Blocks S61 and S62) – Antiquities and Monuments Office (Former Kowloon British School) – St. Andrew's Church Compound – St. Mary's Canossian College – Rosary Church

Route 4 A Journey Beyond the Ordinary Yau Ma Tei

p34-41

Tin Hau Temple – Yau Ma Tei Police Station – Yau Ma Tei Wholesale Fruit Market – Yau Ma Tei Theatre – Tung Wah Museum



Route 5 A Scary

Stanley Military Cemetery (South
University of Hong Kong (Southern
& Western District); Sai Ying Pu
Hospital) (Central & Western D
(Central & Western District); Nam

Route 6 Memorabil the Movie

The Bethanie (Southern District
Hong Kong (Southern District); F
on Hollywood Road (Central & Wes
District); Yau Ma Tei Police Statio
Fanling Magistracy (Northern Dis

Useful Information



Route **1** A Journey to the Centre
of Law and Order
Central

p6-17

Route **2** A Glimpse into the
Lives of Early Chinese
Wan Chai

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Route **3** Into a Big Cultural
Melting Pot
Tsim Sha Tsui

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Route **4** A Journey Beyond
the Ordinary
Yau Ma Tei

p34-41



Central has all along been the “heart” of Hong Kong. Back in 1841, the British government planned to develop the district into the administrative centre of Hong Kong. The hillslope between Albany Road and Garden Road (i.e. the land to the west of Garden Road and bounded by Upper Albert Road, Ice House Street and Battery Path) was designated for use by the government. The centre of the area today houses the former Central Government Offices, although the site was formerly used by the predecessor of the Legislative Council and then by the Government Secretariat. In the area to the east, now called Admiralty, defence facilities such as batteries and barracks (including Murray Barracks, Victoria Barracks and Wellington Barracks) were built. The area to the west housed legal, judicial and correctional institutions, namely the buildings which comprised the Central Police Station Compound.

This tour aims to introduce a number of political and military structures in the district, through which the visitor will gain a deeper understanding of the early administration of the colonial government. Apart from the suggested itinerary, you may also like to visit the many valuable historic structures along the way.



A Journey to the Centre of Law and Order Central

No. 8 Jackson Road (Old Supreme Court) – Court of Final Appeal (Former French Mission Building) – Museum of Tea Ware (Flagstaff House) – Old Victoria Barracks [Cotton Tree Drive Marriage Registry (Rawlinson House), Education Centre (Wavell Block) & Central Magistracy & Victoria Prison Compound], Former Central Police Station Compound (Cassels Block) – Central Police Station Compound

Directions: Exit MTR Central Station at Exit K or J1, walk past Statue Square to get to No. 8 Jackson Road

Estimated tour time: 3 hours

Other recommendation on the map:

Central Government Offices Complex

This complex of buildings, built in the post-war period from 1954 to 1959, is where the core of the government power lay. It is one of eight major items in “Conserving Central” project. The Main Wing and East Wing will be revitalised and re-used after the relocation of the offices to the new Central Government Complex at Tamar in 2011.



Interview with celebrities

Rita Fan, former President of the Legislative Council

As Legislative Councillor and, following the reunification of Hong Kong with China, the former President of the Legislative Council, Rita Fan worked at No. 8 Jackson Road (commonly known as the former Legislative Council Building) for close to two decades. For her, the building conjures up lots of memories. Which section of the building does Rita find most unforgettable? “Of course I stayed in the President’s Office most of the time, but the Chamber must be the most representative area of the building”, she says. It would, however, be wrong to consider it relaxing or pleasurable to be seated in the President’s Chair. On the contrary, the President works under a lot of pressure, not least because the President’s Chair is a great distance from where the Secretary is and if something unexpected happens, well, the President can only handle the matter by himself or herself.

During meetings, Legislative Councillors often engage in heated debates; but outside the Chamber they get along harmoniously. Rita jovially recalls that during every Lunar New Year the Councillors and government officials had a celebration meal in the banquet hall on the 1st floor of the building, following which all attendees participated in fun filled games such as a character imitation competition.

Equipped as it is with modern facilities, the building is not free from problems. Rita candidly points out that the air conditioning system of the building has been in use for years and because of the inadequate air conditioning and lack of fresh air, many Councillors choose to dress down to work inside the building. This small price notwithstanding, Rita considers it a pleasure to work inside this magnificent historic building. Illuminated by soft spotlights on all sides, the building becomes immeasurably beautiful at night, making it an understandably popular venue for the filming of popular TV dramas and wedding photo shoots.

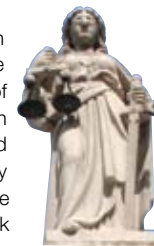


No. 8 Jackson Road

(Old Supreme Court)



With the Crown symbol on the arch roof and the British Royal insignia carved in relief on the external wall, the Legislative Council Building is a powerful emblem of the power of the colonial government. Built with an Edwardian Baroque architectural style, this imposing structure was designed by Sir Aston Webb and Ingress Bell, two well-known contemporary English architects. The pediment in the centre portion of the Building is surmounted by a blindfolded statue of the Greek goddess Themis, representing the principle “Justice is blind”. Due to shortage of building materials and labour, the building took as long as 12 years to complete and was opened on 15 January 1912 by Sir Frederick Lugard, the then Governor of Hong Kong.



During the Japanese Occupation of Hong Kong, part of the building was damaged, and it was taken over by the Japanese troops and became “the headquarters of the Hong Kong Military Police”, and the basement is believed to have been used by the Japanese troops as a site for torturing prisoners. The story goes that the military police hanged the bodies of executed prisoners along the gallery of the building as a warning to others. In its early years, the building comprised only three courtrooms. Seven more courtrooms were set up in the 1970s but even then they were unable to cope with the ever-increasing demand. It was therefore decided in 1975 to relocate the Supreme Court.

The building was re-named “Legislative Council Building” in 1985 (and its Chinese name was further changed following the reunification of Hong Kong with China in 1997) and, as the name suggests, has been serving as the office and meeting place of the Council. The Legislative Council has relocated to the Legislative Council Complex at 1 Legislative Council Road in September 2011, following which the Legislative Council Building will be taken over by the Court of Final Appeal.


📍 8 Jackson Road, Central, Hong Kong








Court of Final Appeal ^E

(Former French Mission Building)

 Walking past the HSBC Building and then looking up, one can see the PRC flag and the Hong Kong SAR flag flying proudly above the white cupola of a building constructed in red brick. This building housed the former French Mission.

Built in 1842 to 1843, it originally served as the residence of A. R. Johnston, Deputy Director of Trade appointed by Sir Henry Pottinger, the first Governor of Hong Kong, and was named “Johnston House” accordingly. Thereafter, the building underwent a series of reconstructions and changes of ownership: from 1843 to 1846 it served as temporary residence of the Governor; in 1879 Bellios acquired the building which, re-named as “Beaconsfield”, provided accommodation for the staff members of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank between 1879 and 1890. In 1915, the Missions Étrangères de Paris purchased the building and re-named it “French Mission Building”. In 1953, the government acquired the building and it was then used successively by the Education Department, the Victoria District Court, the Supreme Court, and the Information Services Department.


The building now serves as the Court of Final Appeal Building and is equipped with a court, offices and a new elevator. The insignia of the Missions Étrangères de Paris on the exterior of the building has been preserved, as has the fireplace in the interior. The building is now one of eight major items in the “Conserving Central” project. The Court of Final Appeal will relocate to the Old Supreme Court Building and the revitalisation plan for the Former French Mission Building is yet to be confirmed.

 1 Battery Path, Central, Hong Kong
 2123 0123
 www.judiciary.gov.hk/en/crt_services/pphlt/html/cfa.htm







Museum of Tea Ware ^O

(Flagstaff House)

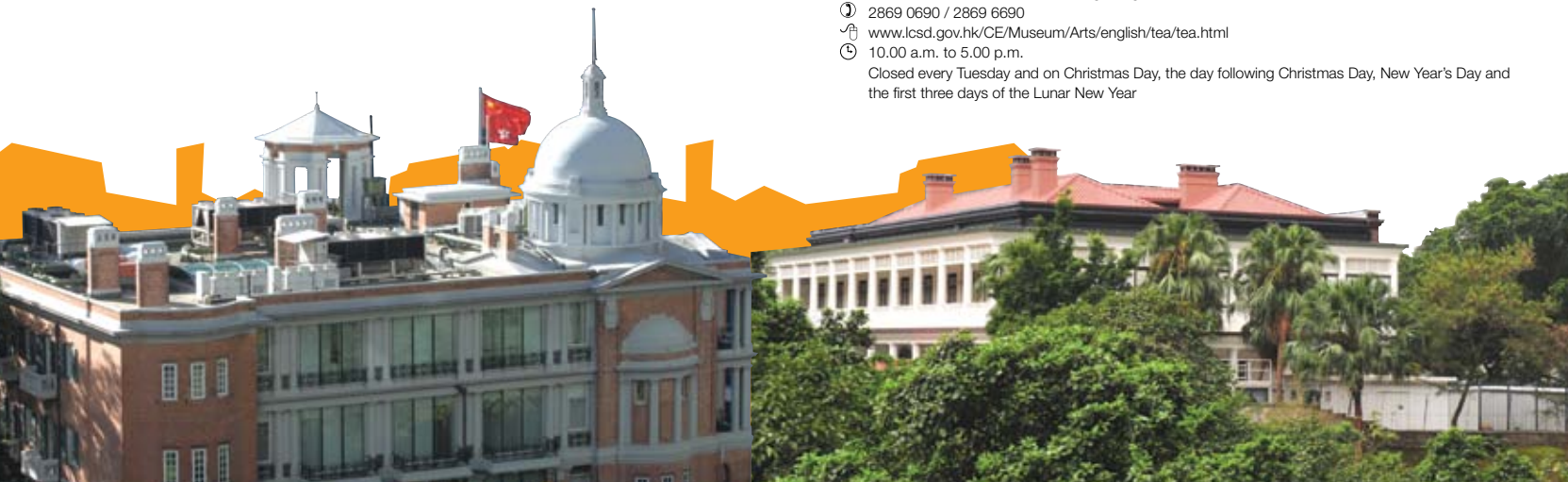
 In addition to providing a beautiful natural landscape, the Hong Kong Park is home to many of the historic structures of the Victoria Barracks, the former occupier of the site. One of these structures is the “former residence of the Commander of British Forces”, one of the oldest existing Western buildings in Hong Kong. This structure is believed to have been designed by the Corps of Royal Engineers, commonly known as the Sappers – its exterior follows the Queen’s House in Greenwich, England, which was designed by Inigo Jones, a famous architect in England in the 16th century.

Back in 1841, the firm of Jardine, Matheson & Co. (the predecessor of the Jardine Group) built a substantial residential house at the site, but the site was subsequently designated for military use, and the house became the residence of the Commander of British Forces. Due to shortage of space, the house was replaced in 1846 by a “Headquarters House” constructed as residence for Major General George Charles D’Aguilar. As the British flag was always hoisted there, the house was re-named “Flagstaff House” in 1932. The rooftop of the house was damaged during World War II, and following repair works the house became the residence of four Japanese Admirals. After the War, the house was re-occupied by the British army.

The government repossessed the building in 1978, had it repaired, and then entrusted its management to the former Urban Council. In 1984, the house was converted into the Museum of Tea Ware, which displays Chinese teaware and related material. In 1995, a two-storey new wing named “K. S. Lo Gallery” was added to the southern part of the Museum. With its rich colonial heritage and picturesque surroundings, the house is a hugely popular venue for shooting wedding photos.

 10 Cotton Tree Drive, Central, Hong Kong
 2869 0690 / 2869 6690
 www.lcsd.gov.hk/CE/Museum/Arts/english/tea/tea.html
 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.

Closed every Tuesday and on Christmas Day, the day following Christmas Day, New Year’s Day and the first three days of the Lunar New Year





Old Victoria Barracks



[Cotton Tree Drive Marriage Registry (Rawlinson House), Education Centre (Wavell Block) & Hong Kong Visual Arts Centre (Cassels Block)]

The Old Victoria Barracks comprised 20 buildings constructed between the 1840s and 1874. Today seven of those buildings remain, including Rawlinson House, Wavell Block and Cassels Block. The barracks was handed back to the government in 1979, after which the former Urban Council converted part of the site into the Hong Kong Park which was opened in 1991.

Cotton Tree Drive Marriage Registry

(Rawlinson House)

Rawlinson House was built in the early 20th century and served as married army quarters. It was originally known as "Warrant Officers' Quarters 1 & 2" and was re-named "Rawlinson House" after World War II. In 1961, the two quarters were merged into one and became the residence of Deputy Commander of British Forces. With the conversion of the Barracks into a park, the house received a facelift and was painted in pink and grey colours. The use of the house also changed in the 1980s, with the ground floor converted into the Cotton Tree Drive Marriage Registry and the first floor the Park Management Office.

- 📍 19 Cotton Tree Drive, Central, Hong Kong
- ☎ 2869 0500
- 🌐 www.gov.hk/en/residents/immigration/bdmreg/marriage/address
- 🕒 Monday to Friday: 8.45 a.m. to 12.45 p.m., 2.00 p.m. to 4.45 p.m.
Saturdays: 9.00 a.m. to 11.30 a.m.
Sundays: 9.00 a.m. to 12.45 p.m., 2.00 p.m. to 4.45 p.m. (for marriage ceremonies only)
Closed on General Holidays



Education Centre

(Wavell Block)

The two barracks including the Wellington Barracks were surrendered to the British Navy in the early 20th century. In response to the serious shortage of officers' quarters, a number of extra quarters were constructed at the Victoria Barracks, including "Warrant Officers' Quarters 3 & 4" which also served as married army quarters. After World War II, the two-storey building was named "Wavell Block" after Field Marshall Archibald Percival Wavell, who was Commander of British forces in Egypt and the Middle East in 1941.

With the conversion of the barracks into a park, the block was also painted in the colours pink and grey. It was converted into an education centre in 1991, serving mainly as the Park Management Office. Two of the rooms in the building, which are adjacent to the Hong Kong Park Aviary, function as classrooms for the Aviary Guided Tours, providing non-profit organisations and primary students with an excellent outdoor learning opportunity.

- 📍 The Hong Kong Park, Cotton Tree Drive, Central, Hong Kong
- ☎ 2521 5068 / 2521 5057 (Hong Kong Park Aviary Guided Tour service)

Hong Kong Visual Arts Centre

(Cassels Block)

Like Wavell Block, Cassels Block was built as married army quarters with a view to solving the quartering problem. This three-storey military building was built in the early 20th century. It was originally known as "Block C" and subsequently re-named "Cassels Block". It was seriously damaged during the Japanese Occupation and was restored after the war.

In 1992, the building was converted into the Hong Kong Visual Arts Centre, with modernised metal supporting frames and a glass canopy added. The Centre provides well-equipped studios for those practising in the fields of ceramics, sculpture and printmaking, as well as workshops, lecture halls, exhibition halls and multi-purpose rooms for artists.

- 📍 7A Kennedy Road, Central, Hong Kong
- ☎ 2521 3008
- 🌐 www.lcsd.gov.hk/CE/Museum/Apo/en/vac.html
- 🕒 10.00 a.m. to 9.00 p.m., closed every Tuesday
Closed on New Year's Day (1 January), the first three days of the Chinese New Year, Christmas Day and Boxing Day (25 & 26 December)
Closed at 5:00pm on Chinese New Year's Eve, Mid-autumn Festival, Winter Solstice Festival, Christmas Eve and New Year Eve (24 & 31 December)

Interview with celebrities

Dick Lee, former Commissioner of Police

In 1974 and 1975, Dick Lee was in charge of the Hong Kong Police Force's criminal investigation team, with an office located in the Headquarters Block of the Central Police Station, commonly known as the Big Station. Despite the brief period of his tenure as head of the team, Lee has never forgotten the building and standing on the balcony at the Headquarters Block, he still feels as if he were reliving the past. In the old days, Lee remembers whenever a suspected criminal in a high profile case was brought to the Central Magistracy, his colleagues would gather at the balcony to get a look at the suspect.

Lee recalls an amusing anecdote: We often said that the hairdresser [the Chinese for which shares the same pronunciation with the Chinese for judge] is carrying out hairdressing [the Chinese for which shares the same pronunciation as the Chinese for illegal] activity! He notes that hairdressing services in the early years were not expensive, although only one hairstyle was available!

What, then, are the red number marks that can be seen here and there inside the Big Station? Like other police stations, the Big Station designated a number of guardpoints for defence purposes. Dick explains that between World War II and the 1980s, the relationship between the police and civilians was less than satisfactory and it was not unusual for individuals to try and forcibly enter police stations. For this reason, regular defence drills were conducted at the Big Station until the 1990s. Whenever the officer in charge sounded the gong, everyone working at the Station would immediately pick up his number card, go to the armoury to collect the appropriate equipment and then proceed as quickly as possible to his designated guardpoint to await inspection by the chief officer.



Central Police[©] Station Compound

(Central Police Station
Compound, Former Central
Magistracy & Victoria Prison
Compound)

 Having been officially decommissioned in 2006, the Central Police Station Compound is one of eight major items in the "Conserving Central" project, a large-scale conservation and revitalisation project carried out by the Hong Kong Jockey Club in partnership with the government.

The compound will be revitalized into a contemporary arts centre equipped with exhibition galleries, multi-purpose venues and a central plant as a way to assist small-scale art and cultural groups in their growth and development. Works commenced in January 2012 and are expected to complete by end of 2014.

Central Police Station Compound

Speaking of the preservation of law and order, one cannot possibly omit the first police headquarters in Hong Kong – the Central Police Station, also known as the "Big Station". The Police Station consists of a "Barrack Block", a "Headquarters Block", an armoury and several police quarters. The "Barrack Block" is the oldest of the lot. This two-storey building (which became three-storey after 1905) was erected in 1864 and its floors and staircases were constructed of granite. Equipped with a restaurant, rest rooms, changing rooms, an arms room and offices, the building was built with the unpretentious style of early British colonial barracks.

The four-storey "Headquarters Block" facing Hollywood Road was built in 1919 and, equipped with offices and a senior officers' mess, served as the police headquarters on Hong Kong Island. As the block was built on a hillside, the side facing Hollywood Road could and did accommodate four storeys whereas the opposite side had only two storeys. The letters "G" and "R", which represented King George V, can be seen on the external wall of the block facing Hollywood Road.

Quarters A to D date between pre-1880 and 1913. The two-storey armoury was built in 1925 and subsequently became the office of Hong Kong Island Traffic Accident Investigation Unit. After World War II, the Hong Kong Island police headquarters were relocated to Arsenal Street in Wan Chai.

 10 Hollywood Road, Central, Hong Kong





Former Central Magistracy

The Central Police Station Compound was unique in that it performed legal, judicial and correctional functions at the same time. The Former Central Magistracy was constructed in 1914 and began to operate on 26 April 1915. The magistracy housed two courts, whose two magistrates tried and determined all cases in Hong Kong. As a security measure, the building had separate corridors and an underground tunnel to transfer prisoners to and from the magistracy. The magistracy was used as a civil court during the Japanese Occupation, and in the early post-war years was requisitioned by the British as a military court.

The magistracy moved out in 1979, and since then the building has been subsequently used as the offices of the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre, the Immigration Department and the Police Club.

📍 1 Arbutnot Road, Central, Hong Kong



Victoria Prison Compound

Built in 1841, the Victoria Prison Compound was the first prison in Hong Kong. In the early years, the prison cells, which were for use by inmates of both sexes, were narrow and ill-equipped and the water closets did not have automatic discharging apparatus. As the cells became overcrowded, the prison was redesigned in 1865 to increase its capacity. In the early years, the punishments of caning and even garrotting were carried out at the prison. In 1932, all female inmates were transferred to the newly established Lai Chi Kok Prison for Women. The Victoria Prison Compound was closed following the opening of the Stanley Prison, but was re-opened after two years to help solve the overcrowding problem.

Most of the prison building was destroyed by bombing during World War II, and after the war the prison was restored and re-opened. Around 1942, during the Japanese Occupation, the Japanese troop arrested famous Chinese poet Dai Wang-shu and put him in the Victoria Prison Compound where he was tortured into making confessions. This experience inspired him to write many well-known poems such as "Writings on the Prison Wall" and "I Use My Injured Palm".

In the 1950s, the prison underwent further reconstruction and the environment vastly improved. In the 1970s, the prison was converted into a reception centre and used for imprisoning those who received short-term sentences. In the 1980s, which saw a large influx of Vietnamese refugees, the building served to receive refugees who awaited repatriation. Subsequently, it was used for detaining illegal immigrants.

Over the years, the Victoria Prison Compound has come to be associated with ghostly stories and eerie rumours – please refer to "A Scary Journey" for details.

📍 Old Bailey Street, Central, Hong Kong





Before 1841, the local Chinese population tended to reside in areas that were scattered around Hung Shing Temple. Subsequently, wealthy foreign merchants increasingly began to cluster their own residences around Spring Garden Lane. By about 1847, the demand for housing by the Chinese population within the district resulted in the growing construction of Chinese-style residential buildings along Wan Chai Road and Stone Nullah Lane. By 1860, the district had become predominantly Chinese with a growing network of services and supporting facilities emerging to meet the needs of a growing population. This in turn attracted an increasing number of merchants and new families to the district and further helped shape the mixed commercial-residential character of the district. Today, visitors can still find a number of pre-war and post-war tenement buildings that offer a glimpse into the lives of the district's Chinese residents in Hong Kong's early years.

Suggested itinerary: start the tour at noon, visit the district's historical buildings, then walk along Wan Chai Road, Tai Yuen Street and Cross Street for an insight into the unique Chinese lifestyle.

A Glimpse into the Lives of Early Chinese Wan Chai

Wan Chai Market – The Blue House Cluster (Blue House, Yellow House & Orange House) – Hung Shing Temple – Nam Koo Terrace
 – Wo Cheong Ngat (60A, 62, 64 & 66 Johnston Road)
 Directions: Exit MTR Wan Chai Station at Exit A3, walk along Johnston Road, turn into Wan Chai Road to get to Wan Chai Market
 Estimated tour time: 3 hours

Other recommendations on the map:

Tai Yuen Street and Cross Street

The outdoor markets offer a dazzling array of goods ranging from cheap clothing and toys, delicious snacks and candies, to antiques, arts and crafts, goldfish and flowers. It is little wonder that these markets have become a major attraction for both locals and tourists.

At the east and west sections of Cross Street, one can find “wet” goods and “dry” goods respectively. Of particular interests are the “egg stalls” and “salted fish stalls” located in the east section, while Tai Yuen Street has since the 1990s become known as well-known “toys street”.

Wan Chai Road

The section of Wan Chai Road between Cross Street and Johnston Road has a “wet” goods market crowded with fish, fruit and vegetable stalls while dried seafood shops and Chinese-style restaurants have been serving residents in the district for years. Turn to one of the side alleys and look for the old fenced wall and the entrance to Ruttonjee Hospital. Return to the main street to spot the pre-war tenement buildings and traditional pawnshops. In addition to the many shops you will find at street-level, there are also a number of eateries and shops to be found on the floors above street level, offering yet another illustration of the mixed commercial-residential character of the district.





Wan Chai Market ㉔

Historic Building
3

In addition to the outdoor market produce stalls, the indoor Wan Chai Market provides another option for residents in search of the various ingredients needed for their lunch and dinner dishes. The market was first built in 1858 but moved to its current location on Queen's Road East in 1937. Reflecting what was at that time the most advanced building design in Asia, the two-storey market building was home to more than 80 stalls selling a complete range of goods and featured a rooftop playground, an administrative office on the mezzanine floor, a cellar and staff quarters in the basement, and a public toilet by the side of the main entrance.

Many of the stalls at the Wan Chai Market have been in operation for generations while some only moved to the market from Wan Chai Road in 2000. A significant number are family owned and run. Over the years, the stall families have developed strong ties to each other and a deep fondness for the market itself. The year 2008 represented the end of an era when the old market was replaced by the newly built Wan Chai Market Complex located on the other opposite side of the road. Under an ongoing redevelopment scheme, the old market building will be converted into a shopping mall with a residential building added on top, while the external wall and other integral parts of the foundation such as the frontage structure of the market building will be preserved. The redevelopment works commenced and are expected to be completed by early 2013.

264 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai, Hong Kong

The Blue House Cluster ㉔

(Blue House, Yellow House & Orange House)

In August 2009, the Development Bureau rolled out Batch II of the "Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme". The Blue House Cluster came under the scheme and, in accordance with the selected revitalisation proposal, the Blue House Cluster will be preserved and their existing tenants permitted to remain. At the same time, the houses will be revitalised as multi-service buildings providing accommodation and cultural and educational programmes.

The revitalisation project is expected to complete, and the revamped buildings to begin operation, in September 2014.



Artist's impression

Blue House

Historic Building
1

The history of the Blue House site can be traced back to 1872 when it was occupied by Wah To Hospital (also known as Wan Chai Kaifong Hospital), believed to be the first Chinese hospital in the district. In 1886, the hospital was demolished and a temple dedicated to "Wah To" was built in its place. In the early 1920s, four tenement buildings, each four stories high with spacious balconies, were erected on the site.

At present, the ground floor of No.72 is occupied by a martial arts school and osteopathy clinic owned by Lam Chun-hin, the nephew of Lam Sai-wing, one of the followers of the famous kung fu master Wong Fei-hung. The ground floor of Nos.72A and 74 were once occupied by the goods shops "Kwong Wo Ho" and "Luen Hing Wine Shop". "Wanchai Livelihood Place", established by the St. James' Settlement, can now be found at the old Luen Hing site.

Quite apart from its importance as a symbol of the district's history, the Blue House itself is noteworthy for its unique blue colour. As blue is considered a taboo by the Cantonese, buildings are rarely painted in this colour. Towards the end of the 1990s, with government buildings being decorated in preparation for Hong Kong's reunification with China, it was decided the blue paint originally for use by the Water Supplies Department and languishing in the government warehouse would be used to decorate the Blue House. Consequently, not only was the colour of the buildings changed from grey to blue, but their history was also rewritten in the process.

72, 72A, 74 & 74A Stone Nullah Lane, Wan Chai, Hong Kong



Yellow House

Historic Building
3

Although, like the Blue House, the Yellow House is a pre-war tenement building, the two are very different in terms of their appearance. While both buildings are still used as “residences above and shops below”, and neither have water closet facilities, the four buildings of the Yellow House are divided into two groups of two buildings, each having a consistent frontal design and shared wooden staircases and balconies.

The buildings at Nos.2 and 4 are believed to have been built before 1903, whereas those at Nos.6 and 8 were built in the mid 1920s. Subsequently, the Yellow House underwent a series of changes in ownership and was painted in yellow.

📍 2, 4, 6 & 8 Hing Wan Street, Wan Chai, Hong Kong



Orange House (Nil grade)

Unlike the Blue House and Yellow House, the Orange House is a post-war four-storey tenement building constructed of steel and concrete. The Orange House was built in the 1950s, with much emphasis placed on its practical use and functionality, namely “residences above and shops below”, and was constructed in accordance with the surrounding terrain.

The site of the Orange House was once used as a log yard. Chinese-style residences were subsequently built on the site and they were replaced by the present building in the 1950s. Similar to the Blue House, the Orange House, which used to be rather run-down, has now been coated in a bright orange colour.

📍 8 King Sing Street, Wan Chai, Hong Kong



Hung Shing Temple

Historic Building
1

Temples are fundamental to the lives of Chinese people. Compared to many of the temples that can be found in Hong Kong, Hung Shing Temple in Wan Chai is rather modest in size but is remarkable in its own way.

As one of the earliest temples on Hong Kong Island, Hung Shing Temple was likely built in 1847, whereas the adjacent sea-facing Kwun Yum Temple was built in 1867. The temple is dedicated to the deity Hung Shing who watches over the weather and blesses and protects fishermen and sea-faring traders. Like the many other temples dedicated to the deity, Hung Shing Temple was originally built along the coast, but after numerous reclamations of the Wan Chai harbourfront, the temple is now situated inland.

The most striking feature of Hung Shing Temple is that the temple and the altar itself were constructed on rocks and boulders. This is why it is also known as the “Temple on the Rock”. The temple is also frequented by worshippers in search of blessings from deities other than Hung Shing, including Madame Kam Fa, Pau Kung, Tai Sui, Kwun Yum and Shing Wong.

It should also be mentioned that two of the streets in Wan Chai, namely Tai Wong Street West and Tai Wong Street East, are actually named after “Hung Shing Tai Wong” (the Chinese for “tai wong” meaning “king”), a further illustration of the strong cultural and historical ties that together represent Wan Chai.

📍 129 & 131 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai, Hong Kong

☎ 2527 0804

🕒 8.30 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.





Nam Koo Terrace ^E

Historic Building

1

Densely surrounded by trees, Nam Koo Terrace has been vacant for a number of years. The house itself is dilapidated and the access staircase to the house is officially blocked off. The surrounding buildings and structures, many of which are also vacant, add to the feelings of desertion and desolation that may be sensed by the visitor.

Nam Koo Terrace was a spacious two-storey residential house, built between 1915 and 1921, and owned by a wealthy Shanghai merchant named To Chung-man. As the house was constructed with red bricks, it came to be known as the “Red House”. From an architectural point of view, the house was designed in the Western style but also featured quasi-Chinese decorative elements (such as a Chinese-style pavilion on the rooftop). The result was a rather uneasy amalgam of Chinese and Western architectural characteristics.

But Nam Koo Terrace is more famous for what allegedly took place during the Japanese Occupation. At the end of the Japanese Occupation, Nam Koo Terrace was sold by the To Family. The property was eventually acquired by Hopewell Holdings Limited in 1993 and awaits development.

Over the years, Nam Koo Terrace has come to be associated with ghostly stories and eerie rumours – please refer to “A Scary Journey” for details.

📍 55 Ship Street, Wan Chai, Hong Kong



Wo Cheong Ngat [©]

(60A, 62, 64 & 66 Johnston Road)



Historic Building

2

In the early days of Hong Kong, much of the Chinese population lived in poverty. It was not unusual for people to pawn their belongings out of necessity and the old phrase “Uncle, please give me as much money as you can for the pawn!” still conjures up mixed feelings among many of the older generation.

With the old pawnshops now becoming a rarity, “Wo Cheong Ngat”, the pawnshop located on Johnston Road, is now a valuable part of Hong Kong’s historical heritage. The buildings were acquired by the Urban Renewal Authority in 2002 and following a redevelopment plan carried out hand in hand with private property developer, the “Wo Cheong Ngat” has now become the home of two trendy, high-end restaurants. On the ground floor of No.66, the stone slab carved with Chinese characters for “Wo Cheong Ngat” can still be found, as can the original external wall of the building. Both features have become an important landmark for the restaurant now located there.

The four tenement buildings that can be found at the site were built between 1888 and 1900. They are each four stories high, with connecting verandahs and elongated frontages and balconies. In the past, these buildings were mainly used by businesses on the ground level with residences located on the upper levels. They had a number of owners, including the Lo family (the so-called “king of the pawnshops”) who operated “Wo Cheong Ngat” at No.66 and the Yue Clan who purchased the building at No. 64 in 1966 from where they ran the Hong Kong Yue Clansmen Association.

Prior to their acquisition by the Urban Renewal Authority, this group of buildings accommodated a wide variety of shops including fashion stores, bird shops, photo galleries and beauty salons.

📍 60A, 62, 64 & 66 Johnston Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong





Tsim Sha Tsui is named after the topography of the district itself. The name appeared as early as the Wanli reign of the Ming Dynasty (i.e. from 1573 to 1619), and there are records of villages bearing names such as "Tsim Sha Tau", "Tsim Sha Mei" and "Kwun Chung Village" from the Qing Dynasty. With the cession of the Kowloon Peninsula to Britain, the British government was determined to develop Tsim Sha Tsui into a military area and as a consequence Chinese villages were forcibly moved to Yau Ma Tei. The first site of cantonment of the British army in Kowloon housed the Whitfield Barracks in the very area where the Kowloon Park is now situated. As Kowloon developed into an urban area, people of various nationalities, be they British, Portuguese, Spanish or Indian (to name a few), settled in the district, and schools, churches and other facilities to support the population were established. Even today, Tsim Sha Tsui is a cultural melting pot in which people of diverse colours, languages, cultures and nationalities live and work side by side. Suggested itinerary: starting in the morning, visit the historic buildings and take a break in between at a shopping mall or in the Kowloon Park.

Into a Big Cultural Melting Pot Tsim Sha Tsui

Former Kowloon-Canton Railway Clock Tower - 1881 Heritage
 (Former Marine Police Headquarters Compound) - Hong Kong
 Heritage Discovery Centre (Former Whitfield Barracks, Blocks
 S61 and S62) - Antiquities and Monuments Office (Former
 Kowloon British School) - St. Andrew's Church
 Mary's Canossian College - Rosary Church

Directions: The Former Kowloon-Canton Railway Clock Tower is right outside the
 exit of Star Ferry Pier. Alternatively, exit MTR East Tsim Sha Tsui Station
 at Exit L6, walk past Cultural Centre to get to the Clock Tower.

Estimated tour time: 6 hours

Other recommendations on the map:

Chungking Mansions

In its annual feature "The Best of Asia", TIME Magazine selected Chungking Mansions as the "Best Example of Globalisation in Action". This is hardly surprising because the 5,000 people who live and work in this mixed commercial-residential building come from as many as 120 countries. The building is well-known, both in Hong Kong and beyond, for its cheap guesthouses and restaurants serving delectable curry dishes. The building is also home to more than 200 shops providing currency exchange services and selling goods ranging from mobile phones and watches and clocks to video games.

The Peninsula Hong Kong

Built in 1927, the hotel is not only a famous local landmark, but also a popular venue for the rich and famous and the social elite. It is also important in Hong Kong's history where the then Governor Sir Mark Young signed the Instrument of Surrender when Hong Kong fell into Japanese hands. The hotel was also temporarily used by the Japanese army as a headquarters for the administration thereafter.



Former Kowloon-^E Canton Railway Clock Tower



As part of the Kowloon-Canton Railway (KCR) Terminus at Tsim Sha Tsui and with a history spanning almost a century, the Clock Tower is not only a Tsim Sha Tsui landmark but also a reminder of the important role of the KCR in the public transport history of Hong Kong. The terminus began operations in 1916, while the 45-metre tall clock tower itself was constructed in 1915. The clock tower consisted of an electric clock and a big bronze bell weighing one tonne. The clock began to serve as a “timekeeper” in March 1921 with a sonorous bell every 15 minutes that quickly became its most memorable feature.

The clock tower was not in use during the Japanese Occupation of Hong Kong but resumed operating in 1945. However, the four clocks, one on each side of the tower, were not synchronised, thus hindering the timekeeping function of the bell. As a result, the clocks ceased to operate as official timekeepers in 1950. To ensure as far as possible that the four clocks were “in sync”, adjustments to the clocks were made manually by KCR mechanics on a weekly basis.

With the relocation of the KCR headquarters to Hung Hom in 1975, the Tsim Sha Tsui terminus was demolished in 1978 and the clock tower ceased to function altogether. The bronze bell was exhibited at different locations and returned to the clock tower in 2010, thanks to a donation by the Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation and the MTR Corporation.

📍 Hong Kong Cultural Centre, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon

1881 Heritage^C

(Former Marine Police Headquarters Compound)



The Former Marine Police Headquarters Compound has been refurbished and transformed into a complex consisting of a “heritage” hotel, high-end restaurants and luxury shops, forming a new landmark for heritage tourism and shopping. In addition to the Heritage Hall, free guided tours are conducted every day. Many of the remnants of the original buildings – including cells, fireplaces, the wooden lintel engraved with the words “Indian Constables”, and pigeon houses – have been preserved. The bomb shelter has been preserved as the passageway leading to the Heritage Hall, and the Time Ball Tower has been fully restored.

In its early years, the Marine Police Station was actually located on a wooden hulk. Following serious fire damage to the hulk, the decision was made to construct a station on land. Built in 1884, the Former Marine Police Headquarters Compound comprises a two-storey Main Building (with another storey added in the 1920s), a Stable Block and a Signal Tower. After the war, and until 1948, the compound was jointly used as the Marine Police Headquarters and Tsim Sha Tsui Police Station. The Main Building was chiefly used as barracks and duty rooms, and the three-storey towers at the south-east and south-west corners served as quarters for married officers.

During the Japanese Occupation of Hong Kong, the headquarters were used as a naval base, with a tunnel and a bomb shelter built underground, but upon restoration of peace these structures were filled and levelled off for security reasons.

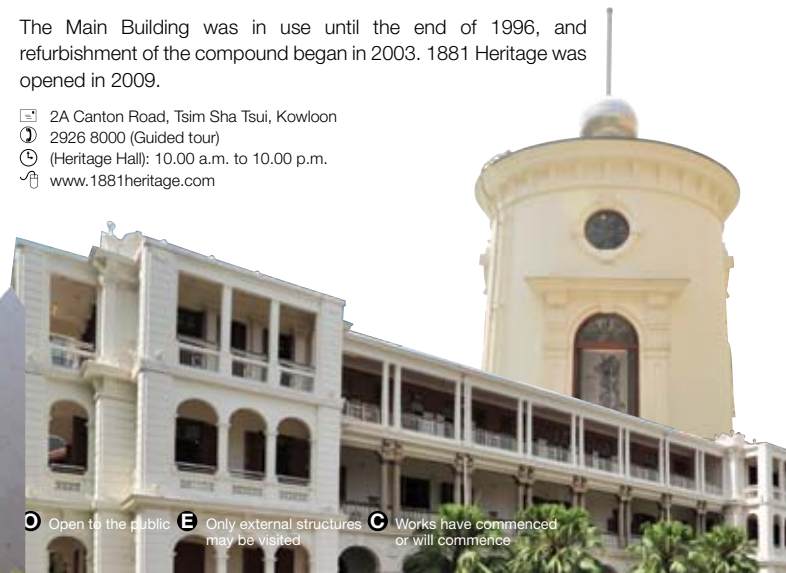
The Main Building was in use until the end of 1996, and refurbishment of the compound began in 2003. 1881 Heritage was opened in 2009.

📍 2A Canton Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon

📞 2926 8000 (Guided tour)

🕒 (Heritage Hall): 10.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m.

🌐 www.1881heritage.com



^D Open to the public ^E Only external structures may be visited ^C Works have commenced or will commence



Hong Kong Heritage Discovery Centre [Ⓞ]

(Former Whitfield Barracks Blocks S61 and S62)

Historic Building
1 Looking for a way to spend a relaxing, leisurely afternoon? Try the Hong Kong Heritage Discovery Centre, which has been opened to the public since October 2005 and where you can visit exhibitions, read in the Reference Library, or simply sit back and enjoy the scenery in the courtyard. With their rich cultural atmosphere, who would have thought that these two buildings were once used for military purposes? They were formerly known as Whitfield Barracks Blocks S61 and S62 and were built circa 1910. From 1983, they were the temporary premises of the Hong Kong Museum of History until the new museum complex was built and opened in Tsim Sha Tsui East in 1998.

The Kowloon Park site itself was originally occupied by barracks for British soldiers of Indian descent. The barracks were built in the 1890s and named after Henry Wase Whitfield, Commander of the British Troops in China, Hong Kong and the Straits Settlements from 1869 to 1874.

By 1910, as many as 85 buildings made up the barracks, and it is believed that they were used as concentration camps during the Japanese Occupation of Hong Kong. The buildings were handed over to the government in 1967, and three years later the former Urban Council took over the site and redeveloped it into the Kowloon Park.

📍 Kowloon Park, Haiphong Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon
☎ 2208 4400
🌐 www.amo.gov.hk/en/discovery_center.php
🕒 Mondays to Saturdays (except Thursdays): 10.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.
Sundays and public holidays: 10.00 a.m. to 7.00 p.m.
Christmas Eve and Chinese New Year Eve: closed at 5.00 p.m.
Thursdays (except public holidays) and the first two days of the Chinese New Year: closed

Antiquities and Monuments Office [Ⓔ]

(Former Kowloon British School)

Historic Building
D As Hong Kong was a British colony, there was a pressing need to provide for the education of British children in Hong Kong. A donation was made by Mr. Ho Tung (later Sir Robert) to construct a school in Kowloon; however, contrary to Mr. Ho's intention of providing education to children of all nationalities, the school decided after discussions to enrol British children only.

Construction works started in 1900 and the school was officially opened in April 1902. Built in the typical Victorian style, the school aimed to provide education to 60 British children aged between 5 and 15. Subsequently, the school was upgraded to a secondary school for about 300 students, and the primary section was relocated to the Kowloon Junior School.

Due to shortage of space, the school decided to build a new campus in Ho Man Tin. The new campus was opened on 14 September 1936, and the school was re-named Central British School (In 1948 the school was further re-named King George V School). It is not known whether the former Kowloon British School site was then left vacant. It is only known that after the end of World War II the site was taken by the Hong Kong Family Welfare Society until 1957, when it became the premises of the Tsim Sha Tsui District Kaifong Welfare Association.

After the Kaifong Welfare Association moved out in 1991, the former school building was officially declared a monument. Following extensive restoration works in 1992, the building now serves as the office of the Antiquities and Monuments Office.

📍 136 Nathan Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon
☎ 2208 4400
🌐 www.amo.gov.hk





St. Andrew's Church Compound



Back in 1897, the Anglican Church intended to extend its services to Kowloon. In view of the increasing British population in Kowloon, the Anglican Church decided to build a new church with the support of a donation from Sir C. P. Chater and a land grant from the government. Built in the Gothic Revival style, St. Andrew's Church was completed and opened in 1906 and conducted services in English.

As the oldest Christian church in Kowloon, St. Andrew's Church Compound has undergone a number of structural expansions, including the addition of a Vicarage in 1909 and the successive construction of the Amah's Quarters and the Caretaker's Quarters in the 1920s.

During the Japanese Occupation, the vicar was interned and the Vicarage was used by Japanese troops. In fact the church was turned into a Shinto shrine in early 1945 and normal church services were not resumed until after the war. In 1978 the newly built St. Andrew's Christian Centre was opened. In 2006, the church won the Award of Merit of the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation.

Located in the Diocese of Western Kowloon, St. Andrew's Church provides services to local Chinese, expatriates, tourists and Filipino residents in Hong Kong, and also conducts Sunday services in English and Putonghua.

- 📍 138 Nathan Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon
- 📞 2367 1478
- 🌐 www.standrews.org.hk
- 🕒 7.30 a.m. to 10.30 p.m.



St. Mary's Canossian College



Having solved the housing problem, foreigners who settled in Hong Kong turned to planning for their children's education. Back in the mid to late 19th century, the education of the children of expatriates in Hong Kong was already on the agenda of the Canossian Daughters of Charity, who began in 1900 to provide education to 30 students – most of whom were Portuguese – in the Chinese-style hut at the address listed above. As more and more Portuguese families moved from Wan Chai to Tsim Sha Tsui, the demand for education drastically increased and the hut was unable to cope with the number of students. Two school buildings were constructed in 1903 on the strength of donations, but the problem of shortage of space still proved vexing.

The college was able to expand only in 1925 when a building was constructed facing Chatham Road (with one storey to be added in 1938) as a primary section and a main building facing Austin Road was constructed on the site originally occupied by the two school buildings. The college subsequently began to accept Chinese students. The college was robbed during the tumultuous period of the Japanese Occupation, but resumed lessons in 1946 and enrolled male students for a short period of time until the opening of Tak Shun Boys' School. A church was built on the school campus in 1953. As one of the well-known schools using English as the medium of instruction, the college has a population of around 1,400 students.

- 📍 162 Austin Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon
- 📞 2724 2771
- 🌐 www.smcc-canossian.org

Rosary Church



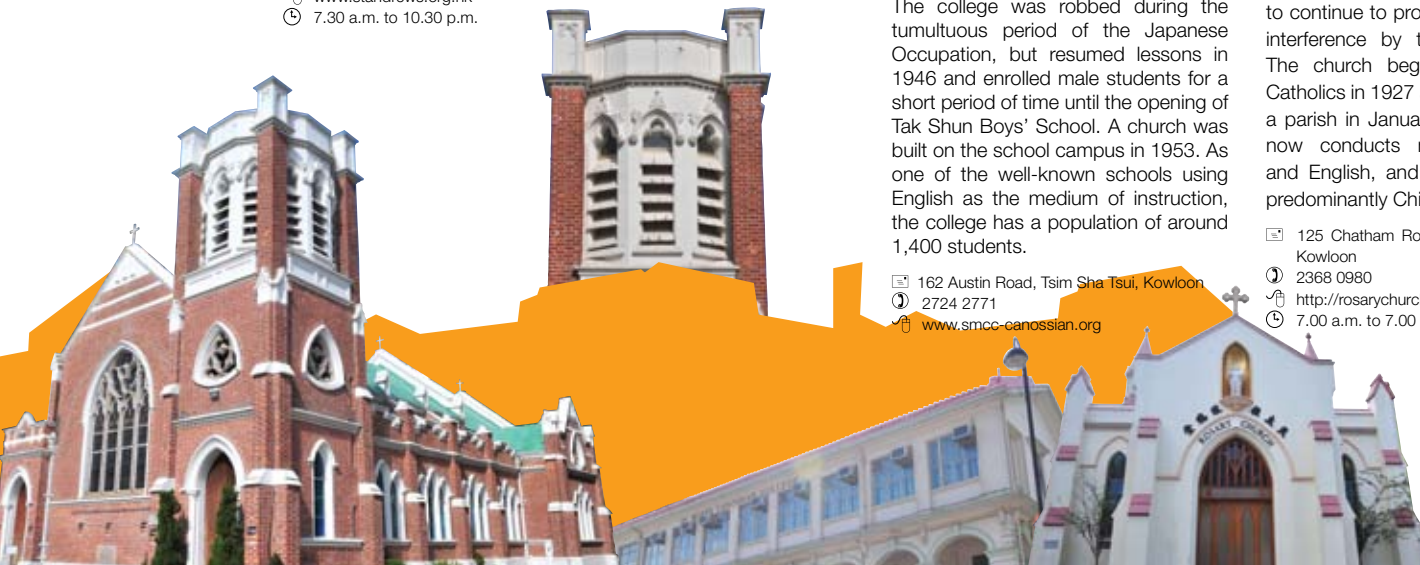
Adjacent to St. Mary's Canossian College is Rosary Church, the oldest Roman Catholic church in Kowloon. Like St. Andrew's Church,

Rosary Church was built with a view to serving the increasing number of foreign Catholics (including English, Portuguese from Macau and Goa, Spaniards from Manila and India, as well as soldiers who were stationed in Hong Kong after the riot on the day following Christmas Day in 1901), and masses were conducted in English and Portuguese.

Although Rosary Church was built in 1905, masses were actually held as far back as 1900 by Rev. Fr. J. M. Spada at a place provided by the Canossian Daughters of Charity, where a small chapel was built in 1901. The construction of Rosary Church was made possible by a donation from a Portuguese Catholic couple, Dr. Anthony Simplicio Gomes and his wife, and a land grant from the Canossian Daughters of Charity. The consecration and opening ceremony for the church took place on 8 May 1905. During the Japanese Occupation of Hong Kong, the church was led by an Italian parish priest, and was therefore able to continue to provide services without interference by the Japanese army. The church began serving Chinese Catholics in 1927 and was upgraded to a parish in January 1949. The church now conducts masses in Chinese and English, and the congregation is predominantly Chinese.



- 📍 125 Chatham Road South, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon
- 📞 2368 0980
- 🌐 <http://rosarychurch.catholic.org.hk>
- 🕒 7.00 a.m. to 7.00 p.m.





A Journey Beyond the Ordinary Yau Ma Tei

Tin Hau Temple – Yau Ma Tei Police Station – Yau Ma Tei Wholesale Fruit Market – Yau Ma Tei Theatre – Tung Wah Museum
 Directions: Exit MTR Yau Ma Tei Station at Exit C, turn right for Nathan Road, walk along Nathan Road in the direction of Tsim Sha Tsui, turn right upon reaching the junction with Public Square Street to get to Tin Hau Temple
 Estimated tour time: 6 hours

Prior to 1860, Yau Ma Tei was mainly uninhabited with only a few boat people who lived along the coast. At that time the district was known as “Ma Tei” – a name that is said to come from the jute ropes that were used for fishing boats (the Chinese for “ma” means “jute”). It is also widely believed that, as ship-building and ship-repairing were the chief commercial activities in the district, and as Tung oil and jute ropes for repairing ships were commonly seen in the district, the district was already re-named as “Yau Ma Tei” in 1875 (the Chinese for “yau” means “oil”). Yau Ma Tei was the earliest Chinese community on the Kowloon Peninsula. In the late 19th century and early 20th century, it underwent numerous reclamations in order to accommodate the rapid growth of the community. Today, with its ancient streets, shops and a strong sense of community, this grassroots district offers a laid back and leisurely lifestyle during the day – a sharp contrast with the kaleidoscopic hustle and bustle of its nights. Of particular note is Temple Street, dubbed the “the soul of Yau Ma Tei”, where bright lights illuminate shops and stalls every day after dusk and where the night market and performances bring their own unique delights.

Suggested itinerary: visit the time-honoured shops in Shanghai Street in the afternoon, then tour the historical buildings and get a feel for the special down-to-earth atmosphere Temple Street offers in the evening.

Other recommendations on the map:

Temple Street

This night market, which in fact covers a vast area between Man Ming Lane and Public Square Street and between Kansu Street and Nanking Street, is one of the scenic spots for which Hong Kong is famous.

Every day after dusk, hawkers in the area display and sell a whole range of low-priced items from clothing to arts and crafts. There are also booths offering snacks and cooked food, as well as fortune-telling stalls. Complete with “live” performances including singing, dancing and juggling, this dazzling night market offers every visitor an unforgettable experience.

Shanghai Street

Since its birth in 1887, this historic street has long been the home of many major shops in Kowloon. Today the shops along Shanghai Street mainly sell steelware and kitchenware, but the street is also interspersed with many stylish tenement buildings and longstanding shops – “Keng Ming Frames”, “Fung Moon Kee”, “Woo Wor Shing Goldsmith”, “Lee Wor Scales”, “Hing Wah Stationery Supplies”, “Cheung Shing Sandalwood and “Man Wah Tailor”, to name but a few. Happy shopping!



Interview with celebrities

Johnnie To, film director and producer

The historic scenes and buildings bring up feelings of nostalgia for old Hong Kong, an aspiration often reflected in the films made by Johnnie To, or To Sir as he is commonly called.

To Sir tries to capture old memories of the city with his movie camera, and the district of Yau Ma Tei has often been used as the setting for his films. The district he feels retains that sense of old Hong Kong character – the Yau Ma Tei Wholesale Fruit Market and Temple Street are certainly wonderful, and the Yau Ma Tei Police Station, with its distinct colonial style architecture, is a place that he feels especially tied to from those days in his youth.

Why does To Sir have a special feeling for the Yau Ma Tei Police Station? He says the police station looks the same as it did when he was young and its exterior has changed very little over the years. Although he rarely has an opportunity to go inside the police station, he nevertheless feels close to the place. And for him only a camera shot of the building is taken, without any need for an explanation, a scene that captures a significant piece of Hong Kong's history would be instantly represented.

Taking a close look at the long corridors, wooden floor, metal window frames, stone staircase and fireplaces, To Sir marvels at the unique architectural design, all exemplified in the details, which today's architecture cannot begin to match. I hope the police station with all its details will be preserved. It bears witness to the social environment and context in which we grew up and will help our younger generations understand the history and development of their home city, he says.



Tin Hau Temple



Tin Hau Temple, built in 1865 and moved to its current address in 1876, is the principal structure of the largest compound of temples in Kowloon. The group of temples, comprising Kwun Yam Temple, Shing Wong Temple, Tin Hau Temple, Shea Tan and Hsu Yuen, are dedicated to the worship of such deities as Tin Hau, Kwun Yum and Shing Wong.

The temples are often crowded with devotees, particularly during the Tin Hau Festival (on the 23rd day of the third lunar month) and the "Opening of Kwun Yum's Treasury" (on the 25th and 26th days of the first lunar month). Individual temples also offer ancestor worship services and make available major worship items including "gold mountains", "silver mountains", large houses and large cars.

Under sponsorship of the temple, Hsu Yuen provided free education for children in the district until 1955. The gardens both in front of and behind the temple are meeting points for the elderly in the district.



The temple is a treasure trove of cultural heritage, housing numerous valuable items from over a century ago. These include, for example, the stone lions from the 4th year of Tongzhi (1865) and the bronze bells manufactured in the 14th year of Guangxu (1888) and the 23rd year of Guangxu (1897). This fine collection should not be missed! Please note, however, that no photos are permitted inside the Temple.

📍 Temple Street, Yau Ma Tei, Kowloon

📞 2385 0759

🕒 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.



🕒 Open to the public **E** Only external structures may be visited **C** Works have commenced or will commence



Yau Ma Tei Police Station ^E

Historic Building ² Upon cession of the Kowloon Peninsula to Britain, the British government established a police station with a view to maintaining peace and order on the peninsula. Yau Ma Tei Police Station was built in 1873 and was moved to its present site in 1922.

The most notable characteristic of the police station must be its Edwardian architecture, with its two long and narrow wings, which form a “V” shape. The high-ceilinged old wing, built in 1922, is used primarily as offices while the new wing, built in 1957, are barracks equipped with changing rooms, a restaurant and a video game room offering “vintage” games.

The police station possesses a number of remarkable features, for example, in the early years the two top floors of the old wing served as inspectors’ quarters and the words “Flat 2” were inscribed on the wooden door on the second floor. It is said that only two inspectors resided on each floor and that, apart from its large floor area, each flat had its own balcony and even its own staircase for direct access to and from the police station. The original fireplaces, wooden doors, wooden floor and iron staircases in the old wing have been preserved.

In 1988, there were proposals to demolish the police station in order to accommodate the development of the Central Kowloon Route but fortunately, the proposals were rejected in favour of preserving the historical site.

📍 627 Canton Road, Yau Ma Tei, Kowloon



Yau Ma Tei Wholesale Fruit Market [©]

Historic Building ² Behind the mouth-watering fruits that are traded at the Yau Ma Tei Wholesale Fruit Market is something of a mystery. Daytime may not be the best time to visit the market, as only a few stalls on the outskirts do business. The market is at its liveliest between 4 a.m. to 5 a.m., although some stall owners do start work as early as 1 a.m.. Still, it is not a bad idea to visit the market in broad daylight – apart from appreciating the unique architecture of the tenement buildings, visitors can choose and buy their favourite seasonal fruits and savour them on the spot.

The market was originally known as the Government Vegetable Market (GVM). Built in 1913, it dealt exclusively with the wholesale of fruit and vegetables until the 1930s when it started to wholesale fish as well. With the Cheung Sha Wan Wholesale Market beginning operations in 1965, vegetable and fish stalls at the GVM moved out one after another and the GVM was therefore re-named Yau Ma Tei Wholesale Fruit Market.

In the early years, fruits were items of luxury which the Chinese population could hardly afford and when the market was first established, there were only 40-odd fruit stalls, wholesaling seasonal fruits from China. Following rapid economic growth after World War II, the market continued to expand, with fruits available and sold from around the world. At its peak, the market housed more than 300 fruit stalls.

📍 Shek Lung Street, Yau Ma Tei, Kowloon



Before revitalisation

Yau Ma Tei Theatre



At the very mention of Yau Ma Tei Theatre, some fans cannot help but go off into wild flights of fancy. This is because the theatre, which is the only pre-war theatre building left in Kowloon, had since 1985 become a well-known “theatre for pornographic films”, and its offer to “get one ticket, watch all day” had caused many a fan to linger.

It is believed that information on the history of the theatre was lost during World War II, so it is not known for sure exactly when it was built but it is believed to have been constructed in the late 1920s. With a seating capacity of 500, the theatre was one of the so-called “Big Five” theatres in Hong Kong. It was initially used as a venue for Cantonese opera performances and silent film screenings. From around 1935, the theatre began to screen films with sound. Between the end of World War II and the 1960s, it showed Cantonese movies and in the 1960s, it became a member of Shaw Cinemas, focusing on Mandarin-speaking movies. At its peak, the theatre employed a team of 20-odd staff.

Over the years, it had been a major source of entertainment for the working class in the district. Regrettably, and despite having survived the Japanese occupation of Hong Kong, it could not withstand the passage of time and finally closed down in 1998.

With its ongoing support for the continued development of Cantonese opera, the government decided in 2009 to convert the Yau Ma Tei Theatre site (which had been vacant for years) and an old Water Supplies Department pumping station into a Chinese opera centre, offering a venue for Cantonese opera performances and rehearsals. Conservation works completed and the centre is expected to open officially in mid of July 2012.

- 6 Waterloo Road, Yau Ma Tei, Kowloon
- 2264 8108
- www.lcsd.gov.hk/ymtt
- 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.



Artist's impression



Tung Wah Museum



A museum inside a hospital? That would be the Tung Wah Museum, located in what was originally the Main Hall Building of Kwong Wah Hospital. Founded in 1911, the building was preserved notwithstanding reconstruction works in 1958. It was named “Tung Wah Museum” in 1970 to commemorate the centenary of the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals.

The museum, which has been open to public since 1993, houses and exhibits archive files, relics and photographs of the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals, chronicling the many years of medical service that the Group provided to the Chinese community. Feel free to walk around the museum, noticing the layout that resembles a Chinese ancestral hall. Take a look at the valuable couplets and plaques and get a feel for traditional Chinese culture.

It is worth mentioning that the museum also houses an altar with a statue of the God of Shennong (God of Medicine and Agriculture). A ceremony is held every year as part of the Shennong Festival on the 28th day of the fourth lunar month.

As for the Kwong Wah Hospital, the Chinese words “Kwong Wah” implies “extensive help” to the Chinese, in line with the Hospital’s objective of providing the Chinese community with both Western and traditional Chinese medical services. The first hospital to be built in Kowloon and the New Territories, Kwong Wah Hospital is located in Yau Ma Tei, what was then the most developed and densely populated district in Kowloon – an indication of the careful consideration behind the choice of the hospital’s location.

- Kwong Wah Hospital, 25 Waterloo Road, Yau Ma Tei, Kowloon
- 2770 0867
- www.tungwah.org.hk
- Mon to Sat 10.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m
- Closed on Sundays and public holidays





5

A Scary Journey

p44-51



Route

6

Memorabilia for
the Movie Buff

p52-60



It is not always clear or easy to ascertain whether a story is true or just mythical. At the same time, for a building with a history spanning decades – or even a century – it is perhaps not surprising that it becomes associated with stories about ghosts and spirits. This journey is not meant to promote or encourage superstitions, still less to test your audacity; rather, it aims to provide you with a storyline that might quench your thirst for excitement and help you gain a deeper understanding of historic buildings and architecture. In the end, these eerie stories or urban myths must in one way or another have something to do with history, and it is for you to decide on your own whether they are tragic or horrible, true or false.

As the old saying goes, “Believe it or not? It’s up to you!” If you have the guts, why not get ready for a thrilling night-time exploration?



Stanley Military Cemetery (Southern District); University Hall, The University of Hong Kong (Southern District); Kwong Fuk Tsz (Central & Western District); Sai Ying Pun Community Complex (Old Mental Hospital) (Central & Western District); Victoria Prison Compound (Central & Western District); Nam Koo Terrace (Wan Chai District)



A Scary Journey





Stanley Military Cemetery

(Southern District)

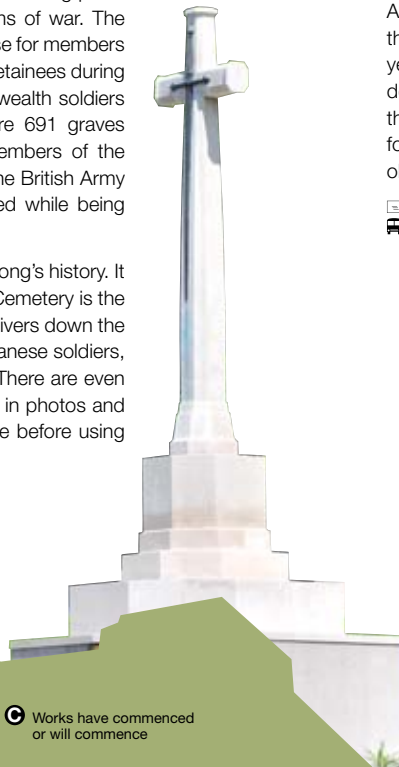


In 1933, the government decided to build a New Stanley Cemetery and relocate the graves at the former Stanley Cemetery and the Christian Chinese Cemetery to the new location. With its stretches of green grass and its serene, peaceful environment, the Stanley Military Cemetery seems to have completely erased its past. Indeed, since time immemorial this place has been frequented by weekend visitors and has even become a popular venue for staging wedding photos.

Unlike other cemeteries in Hong Kong, the Stanley Military Cemetery, as its name suggests, had served mainly as the final resting place for soldiers and for those civilians who were victims of war. The graves at the cemetery fall into three categories: those for members of the garrison between 1841 and 1870; those for detainees during the Japanese Occupation; and those for Commonwealth soldiers and civilians who died during the war. There were 691 graves representing victims of World War II, including members of the Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Corp, members of the British Army Aid Group, prisoners of war, and civilians who died while being detained.

The horrors of war remain a palpable part of Hong Kong's history. It comes as no surprise then that the Stanley Military Cemetery is the subject of many eerie ghost stories that can send shivers down the spine – there are those who claim to have seen Japanese soldiers, their hair long and flowing, haunting the cemetery. There are even those who claim to have captured images of spirits in photos and brought them home. So be warned and think twice before using your camera when visiting the cemetery!

Wong Ma Kok Road, Stanley, Hong Kong
Bus (6A, 14)



University Hall, The University of Hong Kong

(Southern District)



This “Douglas Castle” was built between 1861 and 1867. The French Mission bought the building in 1894 and re-named it “Nazareth House”. It was then sold to The University of Hong Kong in 1954. Re-named “University Hall”, the building has, since 1956, been used as a hall of residence for male students, who have their own stories of horror to tell – about the Hall, that is.

Perhaps the most famous example is the strange statue at the main entrance – its head and nose look like an elephant, its body and tail a kirin, its claws a lion, but no one can say for sure what the “animal” really is. But what makes the statue all the more frightening is the claim that those students who touch it become, for whatever unknown reason, unable to graduate – they fail their exams, withdraw from school, some may even die! Heeding the warnings, there is not a student today who dares touch the statue.



An old horror story also features the space behind the carved steel staircase inside of the Hall. It is said that during the Japanese Occupation the staircase was moved to the captain's residence, and later a woman fell down the staircase and died. From then on, the sound of heavy objects rolling down the staircase can occasionally be heard, and some people even claim to have seen images of young women lying dead at the bottom of the staircase.

Also attracting attention is the red carpet on one of the floors of the Hall – although the carpet here highlights a murder, not a movie festival! The story goes that many years ago a medical student who became possessed with his studies (or with the devil, as some might say) “borrowed the brain” of his roommate by cutting his throat and then dragging his dead body to the far end of the corridor for dissection, forming a long trail of blood on the floor. As the bloodstain could not be completely obliterated, the floor was covered with a red carpet.

144 Pok Fu Lam Road, Hong Kong
Bus (4, 7, 4X, 37B, 37X, 40, 40M, 40P, 43X, 46X, 71, 90B, 91, 93, 93A, 93C, 94, 94X, 970P, 970X, 973P, 973, A10)





Kwong Fuk Tsz ㊦

(Central & Western District)

Historic Building

2

Why is Kwong Fuk Tsz also called the Bak Sing Temple? Built in 1856, the temple provided a “home” for the spirits of all Chinese from overseas who died in Hong Kong. Hence the name Bak Sing Temple. (The Chinese for “bak sing” means the general public.) The temple was dedicated to the Kshitigarbha Buddha who bestows blessings on the deceased so that their spirits may rest in peace. The penetralia houses over a thousand ancestral tablets of various sizes, some with photos of the deceased attached, and the dim lights add to the spookiness of this special “meeting place for the spirits”.

In its early years, the temple served as an ancestral hall, a clinic, a shelter and a storehouse for coffins. Many sick, elderly and homeless people resided at the temple which also housed dead bodies, but since it was sometimes not possible to dispose of dead bodies immediately, the hygienic conditions in the temple were more than suspect – so much that in 1869 the temple was described in newspaper reports as a “living hell”. The widespread public criticisms resulted in the establishment of the first Chinese hospital in Hong Kong – Tung Wah Hospital.

📍 40 Tai Ping Shan Street, Sheung Wan, Hong Kong

🕒 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.

🚌 Bus (26)

Sai Ying Pun Community Complex ㊦

(Old Mental Hospital) (Central & Western District)

Historic Building

1

Widely known as the “Haunted House on High Street”, the Old Mental Hospital is one of the places in Hong Kong where ghosts are most often said to have been sighted. The old hospital is frequently visited by adventurous people and has even been the subject of one of Hong Kong’s best-known supernatural movies, *The Supernormal*.

Built in 1892, the hospital was originally quarters for foreign nursing staff. In 1940 it was converted into a mental hospital for women, and in the 1960s it became an out-patient clinic for mental patients following the opening of Castle Peak Hospital. The building was abandoned in the 1970s and remained so until 2001 when the site was redeveloped into the Sai Ying Pun Community Complex, although the granite façade of the Old Mental Hospital has been preserved.

Quite understandably, many stories featuring the existence of strange phenomena have been weaved around the “Haunted House in High Street”. It is said that a mental patient once hit his own head and died in the basement, and ever since then shrieks, cries and sounds of collisions can be heard coming from the building.

It is also said that the place was used as an execution ground and confession room during the Japanese Occupation, and that those who died there would never be able to rest in peace. There are even rumours that during the Occupation period prisoners were hanged in the attic of the building, and although the attic has since then been demolished, there are those who claim to have mistakenly entered that area and witnessed a hanging scene!

📍 2 High Street, Sai Ying Pun, Hong Kong

🚌 Bus (3B, 12M, 13, 23, 23B, 40, 40M, 40P, 93C, 103)

Public light bus (8)



Victoria Prison Compound

(Central & Western District)

D Prisons too are not free from stories of the supernatural. It is said that in the past, correctional staff members at the Victoria Prison Compound had to put on caps whenever they were in the open spaces of the prison, to protect themselves from evil spirits. It has been claimed that evil spirits could be felt most strongly in Dungeon B, which was completely enclosed and never received light from the outside. The dungeon is said to have been used as a storage room for dead bodies and as a room where confessions were forcibly coerced during the Japanese Occupation. And for some unknown reason, it was impossible to open the metal door on that floor unless the person trying lit three cigarettes and bowed in the direction of the door.¹

The dungeon area, it is claimed, also made all who entered immediately drowsy; but the correctional staff member on duty found themselves at least able to wake up when it was time to make a routine report and whenever the supervisor on patrol was about to arrive. But some were awoken by a voice at their sides saying "It's time to get up!"²

In times past, staff members were required to dispose of the bodies of prisoners who were executed, and of course every now and then prisoners died of natural causes. For this reason, there was a mortuary right above the room at the far end of Dungeon B. Inside the mortuary was a stone bed, with pits on all sides and holes on two sides for draining the dead person's blood. Staff members claimed the mortuary was haunted and, for fear of being disturbed by ghosts and spirits, would try to avoid the area completely, including even the floors right above Dungeon B.

Please refer to *"A Journey to the Centre of Law and Order"* for the history of the Victoria Prison Compound.

📍 Old Bailey Street, Central, Hong Kong
🚌 Bus (12M, 13, 23A, 26, 40M)



1+2 Leung, Ping-wa. (2005) *Legends of the Central & Western District Hong Kong*. Hong Kong: Central & Western District Council, p.344-345.



Nam Koo Terrace

(Wan Chai District)

I It is said that, during the Japanese Occupation, Nam Koo Terrace was used as both a "comfort house" and "geisha house" where many women were forced to provide "comfort" services. They were sexually assaulted, abused and even killed. Since then the building has been rife with stories of the supernatural.

One incident, in particular, created a huge stir in Hong Kong. In 2003, eight people decided to visit Nam Koo Terrace one night. Something scared them and they fled, but three of the girls, seemingly "possessed by ghosts", suddenly asked the group to return to the building, and one of the girls even assumed a male voice. The group tried to stop the three girls but failed because they had all of a sudden become unnaturally strong. In the end, they were subdued by the police and sent to hospital.

Rumour also has it that green fireballs are often seen floating both inside and outside of the building late at night, and that shrieks of various women can be heard coming from inside of the building. There have been teenaged night-visitors who claim to have seen a dark shadow waving at them from the stone staircase adjoining the building, and people who have boldly tried to stay overnight on the site but were scared away by ghostly shadows and weird noises. It is claimed too that a female cleaning worker near the site once peeped into the building and was shocked to see the homeowners relaxing in what looked to be the setting for a brand new home. Although the stone staircase leading to Nam Koo Terrace has now been blocked off, getting near the "Red House" is in itself a thrilling experience.

Please refer to *"A Glimpse into the Lives of Early Chinese"* for the history of Nam Koo Terrace.

📍 55 Ship Street, Wan Chai, Hong Kong
🚌 Bus (10, 15, 5S, 6, 6A, 6X, 61, 66, 90C, 109, 113)



Hong Kong is a unique and kaleidoscopic city, offering much by way of fine food, shopping and entertainment, and a place where Oriental and Western cultures meet and people of all races and cultural backgrounds come together. While it can look at first blush to be a rapidly developing "concrete forest", Hong Kong has not forgotten to preserve its historic buildings and traditional industries and trades.

As a "mussel little yet full of life", Hong Kong has been an ideal filming location for many local and foreign movies; those that help promote Hong Kong's most valuable cultural heritage around the world. While some of these historic buildings are geographically remote, many are located right in the city proper and are readily accessible to the visitor. Movie buffs, take note!

The Bethanie (Southern District) - Main Building,
The University of Hong Kong (Southern District)
- Former Police Married Quarters on Hollywood
Road (Central & Western District) - King Yin Lei
(Yau Tsim Mong District) - Yau Ma Tei Police Station
Magistracy (Northern District)



Memorabilia for the Movie Buff



Former Fanling
Magistracy

Fanling

Former Police
Married Quarters
on Hollywood Road

Yau Ma Tei

Yau Ma Tei
Police Station

Main Building,
The University
of Hong Kong

Sheung Wan

Central

Pok Fu Lam

Wan Chai

King Yin Lei

The Bethanie





The Bethanie

(Southern District)

I Tucked within the serene, sparsely populated area of Pok Fu Lam, The Bethanie is relatively little known. Yet the beautiful Gothic-style former sanatorium has provided, as movie buffs will recall, the hospital setting for an unforgettable love story between Autumn (Cecilia Cheung) and Onion (Richie Ren) in the movie *Fly Me to Polaris* (2000). The two characters together watch a meteor shower while sitting on the roof, adding to the romance and poignancy of the story.

The Bethanie was built in 1875 by the Société des Missions Etrangères de Paris as a sanatorium, providing an ideal environment for elderly and sick missionaries seeking a place to convalesce from illnesses. It also provided support for missionaries who visited China. Part of the building was occupied by Japanese troops during their occupation of Hong Kong. In 1949, the building provided accommodation for a large number of missionaries fleeing China. The building was closed in 1975 and was subsequently converted for use by the Hong Kong University Press and a number of faculties from the University.

Since the completion of restoration works in 2006, The Bethanie has become the heritage campus of The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts. Facilities on the campus include a museum, which showcases the history of The Bethanie and surrounding villages; the Bethanie Chapel, a popular venue for religious ceremonies and weddings; and a theatre converted from Dairy Farm cowsheds in the vicinity. The restoration project received a UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Awards for Culture Heritage Conservation in 2008.

📍 139 Pok Fu Lam Road, Hong Kong

📞 2584 8500

🚌 Bus (4, 4X, 7, 37A, 40, 40M, 43X, 46X, 71, 90B, 91, 94, 970, 970X, 973, A10)



Main Building, The University of Hong Kong

(Southern District)

D The University of Hong Kong is a treasure trove – not only of promising young talents, but also of buildings with great architectural and historical significance. The most prominent of these buildings are the Main Building and the University Hall, both of which have become popular locations for the filming of romance movies.

Avid moviegoers may recall *Starry Is The Night* (1988), in which university professor Cheung Ying-chuen (George Lam) and student To Choi-mei (Brigitte Lin) meet at the Main Building and start what will become a heartrending love relationship. Equally unforgettable is the scene in *City of Glass* (1999) in which “troubled” university student Raphael Hui (Leon Lai) kisses classmate Vivian (Shu Qi) in a courtyard of the Main Building. More recently, there is a stirring scene in *Lust, Caution* (2007) in which university students Kuang Yu-min (Leehom Wang) and Wong Chia-chi (Tang Wei) stage a patriotic play in Loke Yew Hall in order to raise money for the nation’s war of resistance and in which the high-spirited audience shouted, “China cannot perish!”

Little more needs to be said about the history of The University of Hong Kong. The Main Building, the oldest of the University’s historical structures, was built in 1912 by a donation from Sir H. N. Mody. The Building was initially used by the Faculties of Medicine and Engineering and now houses the Faculty of Arts. Constructed of red brick and granite, the Building is an imposing structure reflecting a post-Renaissance architectural style. The clock tower, which rises prominently above the centre of the Building, is truly spectacular and attracts enthusiastic photographers and those looking to take wedding photos in a special, stylish setting.

📍 The University of Hong Kong, Pok Fu Lam Road, Hong Kong

🚌 Bus (3B, 23, 40, 40M, 103)

Public light bus (8, 10, 11, 22, 22S, 28, 31)



Interview with celebrities

Mabel Cheung, film director

Like all great literary works, Mabel Cheung's films are informed with a subtle yet compelling sense of artistry. And, as the observant moviegoer may notice, many of her movies were filmed at the campus of The University of Hong Kong, from which Mabel graduated and for which she has developed a deep fondness. She is particularly impressed by the Renaissance styled architecture of the Main Building on the campus, frankly pointing out that she had not truly appreciated its immense beauty and indeed of the campus as a whole until she re-visited the campus after graduation. She is glad that the Main Building has become a declared monument and is therefore protected from demolition.

Walking around the Main Building, Mabel pauses every now and then in admiration for almost every part of it – the floor, the corridor, the clock tower – which in her eyes are nothing less than works of art. She is particularly enthusiastic in her praise of the courtyard on the first floor: This angle of the courtyard is very romantic and beautiful indeed. That is why there is a scene in my movie *City of Glass* in which Leon Lai and Shu Qi confront each other romantically here. Back in her student years, Mabel often leaned against the verandah at the Main Building, holding a book and engaged in deep thought – a picturesque scene in itself.

One of the slogans at The University of Hong Kong is *Work Hard, Play Hard*. Mabel gleefully reminisces about her colourful university life, which she thoroughly enjoyed. As sports captain at Lady Ho Tung Hall, she actively participated in various kinds of sports and she also frequently took part in rehearsals of the English drama lab. Walking into the Loke Yew Hall at the Main Building is just like entering a time tunnel. In her student years, Mabel both loved and hated Loke Yew Hall – final examinations took place there, but barn dance parties were also held. Mabel recalls, with much excitement, what happened at those parties: The hall was decorated as a barn, while the boys and girls stood separately on either side of the hall. Once the live band on the stage started playing music, the boys approached the girls and invited them to a dance. In the most fashionable outfit at that time – flares for boys and mini skirts for girls – the youngsters whirled themselves away in a go-go, the most popular dance at the time.

In *City of Glass*, there is a scene in which Leon Lai rides a bicycle along the beautiful verandah of the Main Building. It was something Mabel herself had always wished she could do, so the scene in the movie is something of a dream come true. In another scene from the movie, Leon Lai and Shu Qi run hand in hand along the corridor on the second floor of the Main Building – perhaps hoping, as Mabel has, to preserve the happy times forever.



Former Police Married Quarters on Hollywood Road


(Central & Western District)



These two quarter blocks may look pedestrian, but they have recently attracted a lot of public attention as the government aims to transform them into a creative industries landmark. The site has been featured in the movies *Fulltime Killer* (2001) and *Three* (2002). Likewise, almost the whole of the horror movie *Three: Going Home*, directed by Peter Chan Ho-sun, was filmed inside the blocks. In what is by far the creepiest scene in the movie, Yu Fai (Leon Lai) is cleaning what appears to be the body of his paralyzed wife (Eugenia Yuan), but it turns out she has been dead for years. The director has skillfully, and successfully, created an aura of eeriness out of the simple, practical modernist architectural space of the blocks.

The Hollywood Road quarters were the first in Hong Kong to provide accommodation for married junior police officers of all ethnic groups, and as such, put an end to what had been a long-standing practice within the police force of providing quarters only to officers of Western or Indian descent. The quarter blocks were put in use in 1951 and officially decommissioned in 2000. Two very public figures with a connection to these quarters are Mr. Donald Tsang, Chief Executive of the Hong Kong SAR and Mr. Leung Chun-ying, Fourth Term Chief Executive of the Hong Kong SAR. Both resided here when they were young as both of their fathers were police officers.

The original occupant of the site was the Central School, built in 1889, whose alumni actively participated in politics and commerce and played an important role in the history of Hong Kong. Among the students were Dr. Sun Yat-sen, the Founding Father of the People's Republic of China, and many members of the early Legislative Council of Hong Kong, including Mr. Ho Fook, Dr. Ho Kai, Mr. Ho Tung and Mr. Lau Chu-pak. The Central School building was seriously damaged during the Japanese Occupation and as a result was demolished in 1948, with the police quarters built in its place. This notwithstanding, remnants of the Central School within and around the site have been preserved. Revitalisation works were commenced in January 2012 and are expected to be completed by end of 2013.

 Hollywood Road, Central, Hong Kong
 Bus (26)
Exit MTR Sheung Wan Station at Exit E2,
walk for 10 minutes





King Yin Lei ©

(Wan Chai District)



With its picturesque environment and unique architectural style, King Yin Lei brings up memories for many Hong Kongers of the classic local TV drama *Yesterday's Glitter* (1980) and the Hollywood movie *Soldier of Fortune* (1955). Even if some are too young to be aware of these productions, no one will forget the government took the unprecedented administrative measure of declaring the building to be a monument in September 2007 so that it would be permanently preserved, and at the same time entered into a non-in-situ land exchange with the owner.

Originally named "Hei Lo", King Yin Lei was built by Mr. Shum Yat-chor and Ms. Shum Li Po-lun in 1937. The building was sold in 1978 to Mr. Yow Qhei-man and his son Mr. Yow Mok-shing, who re-named it "King Yin Lei". The building was designed and constructed in the Chinese Renaissance style, a perfect example of the blending of Chinese and Western architectural designs and an example of the architectural skills and art in the early years of colonial Hong Kong. It also reflected the rising status and growing wealth of the Chinese community in Hong Kong prior to World War II. The restoration works of the building have been completed. It is under Batch III of the "Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme" and now awaiting revitalisation.

📍 45 Stubbs Road, Hong Kong

🚌 Bus (15, 15B)



Yau Ma Tei Police Station ©

(Yau Tsim Mong District)



Built in the Edwardian style, the Yau Ma Tei Police Station features two long and narrow wings which form a "V" shape. With its unique appearance and its typical colonial architectural style, the police station has been a location for the filming of many local and foreign movies, especially crime and detective epics.

Well-known examples include the Hollywood movie *Rush Hour 2* (2001), starring Jackie Chan and African-American actor Chris Tucker, and local movies *Lee Rock* (1991) and *Election* (2005). In *Lee Rock*, the Yau Ma Tei Police Station not only provides a setting in which leading actor Andy Lau "relives" the experiences of the legendary Inspector General of Hong Kong, but also helps recreated on screen the social conditions that existed in colonial Hong Kong.

Please refer to "*A Journey Beyond the Ordinary*" for the history of the Yau Ma Tei Police Station.

📍 627 Canton Road, Yau Ma Tei, Kowloon

🚇 Exit MTR Yau Ma Tei Station at Exit C, turn right for Nathan Road, then turn into Public Square Street to get to Yau Ma Tei Police Station





Former Fanling Magistracy



(Northern District)



Built for practical purposes, the Former Fanling Magistracy Building is square in shape with a height of two-stories and built in a “minimal neo-classical” style which was in vogue in the 1930s. The building has been vacant since 2002, although it is frequently made available for short-term tenancies to the film industry.

Among the movies shot at this location are *Internal Affairs II* (2003) starring Edison Chen, *SPL: Sha Po Lang* (2005) starring Donnie Yen, and *Written By* (2009) starring Sean Lau. In *Internal Affairs II*, the building is converted into the West Kowloon Police Station; in *SPL: Sha Po Lang*, a film particularly noted for its exquisite martial arts scenes, the building is transformed into the Western District Police Station where the police wrestle with notorious triads. Most interestingly, in *Written By*, the building is turned into a private residence – and seems to fit the part perfectly.

As the Magistracy was at the lowest tier of the local court system, the building itself was small in scale with only two courtrooms and no support facilities such as public witness rooms, public consultation rooms or facilities for the disabled. In the early 20th century, District Officers were empowered to handle minor cases in the New Territories and village disputes were mostly settled by elders of the community. This was the case until the late 1950s when the government decided to transfer the District Officers’ power to the legal department, leading to the setting up of the Fanling Magistracy – the first magistracy in the New Territories – which began to operate in 1961. With the completion of the new Fanling Law Courts Building, the building was closed in 2002. It is under Batch III of the “Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme” and now awaiting revitalisation.

-  302 Jockey Club Road, Fanling, New Territories
-  Bus (70K, 73, 73A, 77K, 78K, 79K, 277X, 278K, 278P, 279K, 373, A43, N42A)
- Public light bus (54A, 55K)



Useful Information

Government Departments and Public Bodies

The Commissioner for Heritage's Office

The Commissioner for Heritage's Office is responsible for implementing various policies and initiatives on heritage conservation. The Office regularly organises activities, including guided tours and exhibitions, to promote heritage conservation. For details, please visit the office's website.

-  19/F, West Wing, Central Government Offices, 2 Tim Mei Avenue, Tamar
-  (852) 2848 6230 / 2848 6234
-  (852) 2189 7264
-  www.heritage.gov.hk

Antiquities and Monuments Office under the Leisure and Cultural Services Department

The Antiquities and Monuments Office is responsible for researching on, identifying, appraising, protecting and recording buildings, objects and items of historical interest. Its work consists of organising archaeological work; organising the protection, restoration and maintenance of monuments; and assisting in the research and grading of historic buildings. The Office also organises a wide range of programmes and activities to promote heritage conservation. For details, please visit the Office's website.

-  136 Nathan Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon
-  (852) 2208 4400
-  (852) 2721 6216
-  amo@lcsd.gov.hk
-  www.amo.gov.hk

Hong Kong Tourism Board

The Hong Kong Tourism Board is responsible for promoting Hong Kong as a desired destination among tourists around the world. The Board provides a whole range of travel and related information for tourists and also recommends featured tour packages and routes, in order to enhance the experiences of visitors in Hong Kong.

-  www.discoverhongkong.com

Related Museums

Hong Kong Heritage Discovery Centre

Equipped with facilities including an exhibition gallery, a lecture hall, an educational activity room and a reference library, the Hong Kong Heritage Discovery Centre under the Antiquities and Monuments Office presents and explains heritage conservation work to the wider public to enhance their understanding of cultural heritage.

-  Kowloon Park, Haiphong Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon
-  (852) 2208 4400
-  (852) 2377 9792
-  amo@lcsd.gov.hk
-  www.amo.gov.hk/en/discovery_center.php
-  Mondays to Saturdays (except Thursdays): 10.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.
- Sundays and public holidays: 10.00 a.m. to 7.00 p.m.
- Thursdays (except public holidays): closed

Hong Kong Museum of History

Apart from the main museum at Chatham Road South, the Hong Kong Museum of History runs five branch museums, namely: the Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence in Shau Kei Wan, the Lei Cheng Uk Han Tomb Museum in Sham Shui Po, the Law Uk Folk Museum in Chai Wan, Fireboat Alexander Grantham Exhibition Gallery inside the Quarry Park, and Dr. Sun Yat-sen Museum at Mid-levels in Central. These museums display cultural objects related to the archaeology, history, ethnography and natural history of Hong Kong and its hinterland.

-  100 Chatham Road South, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon
-  (852) 2724 9042
-  <http://hk.history.museum>
-  Mondays & Wednesdays to Saturdays: 10.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.
- Sundays and public holidays: 10.00 a.m. to 7.00 p.m.
- Tuesdays (except public holidays): closed
-  Standard: \$10; Concession: \$5; Museum Pass and Museum Weekly Pass holders: free; free admission on Wednesdays (except for some special exhibitions)

Transportation

MTR

MTR Tourist Day Pass and Child Tourist Day Pass are available at \$55 and \$25 respectively. A Day Pass holder can enjoy unlimited travel on MTR for any one day within one month from the date of issue of the Day Pass. Airport Express Travel Passes are also available to tourists, who can purchase either a \$220 or \$300 Travel Pass with one or two single journey(s) on the Airport Express. A Travel Pass holder can enjoy 3 days of unlimited travel on MTR. For details of the tourist products, please visit MTR's website (www.mtr.com.hk).

Visitors can also purchase the Octopus Card, a stored value smart card, at any MTR station upon payment of a deposit of \$50. Octopus Cards can be reloaded at any MTR station or convenience store. Octopus Cards are widely used in Hong Kong and are accepted on most public transport vehicles and in most supermarkets, convenience stores, fast food shops, cake shops, department stores and self-service vending machines.

Tram

A popular mode of transport on Hong Kong Island, trams serve on a number of routes between Chai Wan and the Western District. The fare for each tram ride is \$2. The tram is an ideal way to enjoy a panoramic view of various districts of Hong Kong Island during the day and at night.

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