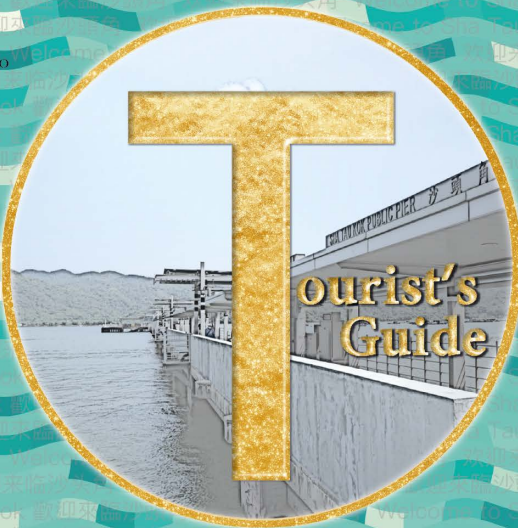


沙頭角指定區域

Sha Tau Kok Designated Area

吉澳 鴨洲 荔枝窩
Kat O Ap Chau Lai Chi Wo



探尋北部精彩 由沙頭角出發

Discover the North District

Embark on Your Journey from Sha Tau Kok

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Preface

Getting off the beaten path into Sha Tau Kok, you will be greeted with tranquillity and serenity. Setting off from the longest pier in Hong Kong, you can wander through the nearby islands and bays of Ap Chau, Kat O, and Lai Chi Wo to discover rare geological features and natural wonders, learn about the Hakka and water community culture, and visit the largest, oldest, and best-preserved walled village in the northeastern New Territories. After a feast of local authentic cuisines, your day of adventure will conclude in delight and enchantment.

Route suggestion ^:



* Don't forget to collect the stamps at these spots!



^ Suggested route only. Actual itinerary may vary for docent experiences.



A Century-old Railway Station

The Fanling-Sha Tau Kok Branch Line opened in 1912 with steam trains running. With the opening of the Sha Tau Kok Highway in 1927, the line ceased to operate in 1928.

The Hung Leng Station, located on Sha Tau Kok Highway near Ping Che Road, is the only remaining building structure of the Branch Line. Displaying the architectural concept of functionalism, the station building has been listed as a Grade III historic building by the Antiquities and Monuments Office.

The Branch Line also ran through Fanling, Wo Hang, Shek Chung Au and the Sha Tau Kok stations.

Standing Station from the Past

On the way to Sha Tau Kok, you may catch a glimpse of what used to be a busy railway station of the district.

Chung Ying Street — the Forbidden Frontier Zone in the Frontier Closed Area

A Tiny Street of Great Significance

In 1898, Hong Kong's New Territories, bounded by the Shenzhen River and Sha Tau Kok River, were leased to the UK for 99 years. After the negotiation of both sides, Sha Tau Kok was split into two parts (British Hong Kong side and the Chinese Mainland side) connected by Chung Ying Street. The street is now co-administered by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and Shenzhen municipality. There are eight boundary monuments along Chung Ying Street which have demarcated the boundary of Hong Kong and Shenzhen and have long witnessed the history of the street.



Looking through the windows during your ride, a view appears of the strictly controlled street with Police checkpoints to keep the boundary safe. The street offers a glimpse of what life was like in the Closed Area and the history of Sha Tau Kok.

Boundary monument no. 3&5
on Chung Ying Street



'The Cape of Sha Tau Kok' – One Location, Two Administrations, and Three Views



After a walk along the waterfront from the Designated Area to the chain of blue barrels bobbing on the sea, you will come across a new signpost, the newest addition to the landmark.

The new signpost is a renewed version of the traditional street sign of 'The Cape of Sha Tau Kok', next to its counterpart which lists the coordinates of this eastmost point. In front of the signs you can find a life-sized model of the Chung Ying Street boundary milestone. Start your virtual historical journey of Sha Tau Kok here. This is also where you can capture the amazing views of Sha Tau Kok Pier, Sha Tau Kok Hoi (also known as Starling Inlet), and Shenzhen city – 'One location, two administrations and three views'!

Glimmering in the Tranquil Ocean

Yantian Port is located at the far shore of Sha Tau Kok, distinguishable by its unparalleled mega-vessel processing capacity. The chain of blue barrels defines a cerulean shoreline between the vast natural ocean and the pleasant sea of Sha Tau Kok.

Hong Kong's Longest Pier is Picturesque

Showcasing the local culture and everyday life of the area is a mural at Sha Tau Kok Pier. It makes a romantic atmosphere to immerse yourselves in when the breeze blows up.



The Longest Cargo Pier in Hong Kong

How did such a long pier come to be? As the waters around Sha Tau Kok are shallow, the pier needed to be extended comprehensively to reach deeper waters to moor the vessels to park, and there came the longest pier in Hong Kong. Sha Tau Kok Public Pier is located at the eastmost point along the Hong Kong-Shenzhen boundary. With the old pier originally built in the 1960s, its reconstruction commenced in 2004 and the 280m-long pier is now the longest cargo pier in Hong Kong.



Mural arts that reflect the local lives



The colourful public housing estate

The World Beyond the Designated Area

Although the restricted area is not open to the public, visitors may still weave their imagination around the history of the mysterious area.



A post office preserving traditional public postboxes



A public toilet and bathhouse built in the 1960s



San Lau Street



Fish Lantern Dance – A Blessing for a Better Life

Sha Tau Kok's Fish Lantern Dance is a traditional folk dance with a history of more than 300 years, organising from the ancestors of the Wu's in the local Shalanxiao Village. Worshipping the sea goddess Mazu for a good harvest from the sea and to give thanks, they invented the Fish Lantern Dance with lanterns that resemble more than 20 different kinds of fish. The dance is performed in front of Mazu in every celebration. In 2008, the Fish Lantern Dance was inscribed into the National List of Intangible Cultural Heritage.



Local Culture and Customs Passed Down Through Generations



Dragon Boat on the Land

Dragon Boat on the Land is also known as 'Dry Dragon Boat', this folk dance imitates rowing a dragon boat on land. In the past five decades, with more and more fishermen having moved onshore from their floating abode, many customs and practices have become harder for the Hoklo people to practise, such as the traditional Hoklo water weddings. Today the weddings of the Hoklo people have been changed to onshore ceremonies. The custom of welcoming the bride on dragon boats is now preserved in the form of the Dry Dragon Boat folk dance, which is performed only in major festivals and weddings.

A Duck-shaped Rock Moulded by Nature

Ap Chau

Discovering Mysterious Islands

Crossing the Sha Tau Kok Hoi by ferry to discover the beautiful mysterious islands.



This duck is really something!

Ap Chau ('Duck Island'), is a small outlying island located to the east of Sha Tau Kok. The island is named after its resemblance of a duck. Ap Chau has been included as part of the Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark. Within a distance of fewer than 2km south from the Shenzhen Yantian Harbour, Ap Chau is rich in numerous geological attractions formed by weathered maroon-red granite. The arch of the Duck's Eye is the island's most famous, not-to-be-missed and Instagram-worthy geo-attraction!

Bay of Auspiciousness

Kat O



The Northmost Island in Hong Kong

East of Sha Tau Kok, Kat O is one of the larger islands in the northeastern waters of the New Territories, with an area of 2.35 km².

Hakka people are fishermen and farmers by tradition. Many of them worshipping Tin Hau, the goddess of the sea. The Tin Hau Temple is known as the landmark of the island. After a century of natural aging, the outer wall furnished with Shiwan ceramics and sculptures are as bright and shiny as they were when it was built.



The Land of Fortune

Lai Chi Wo

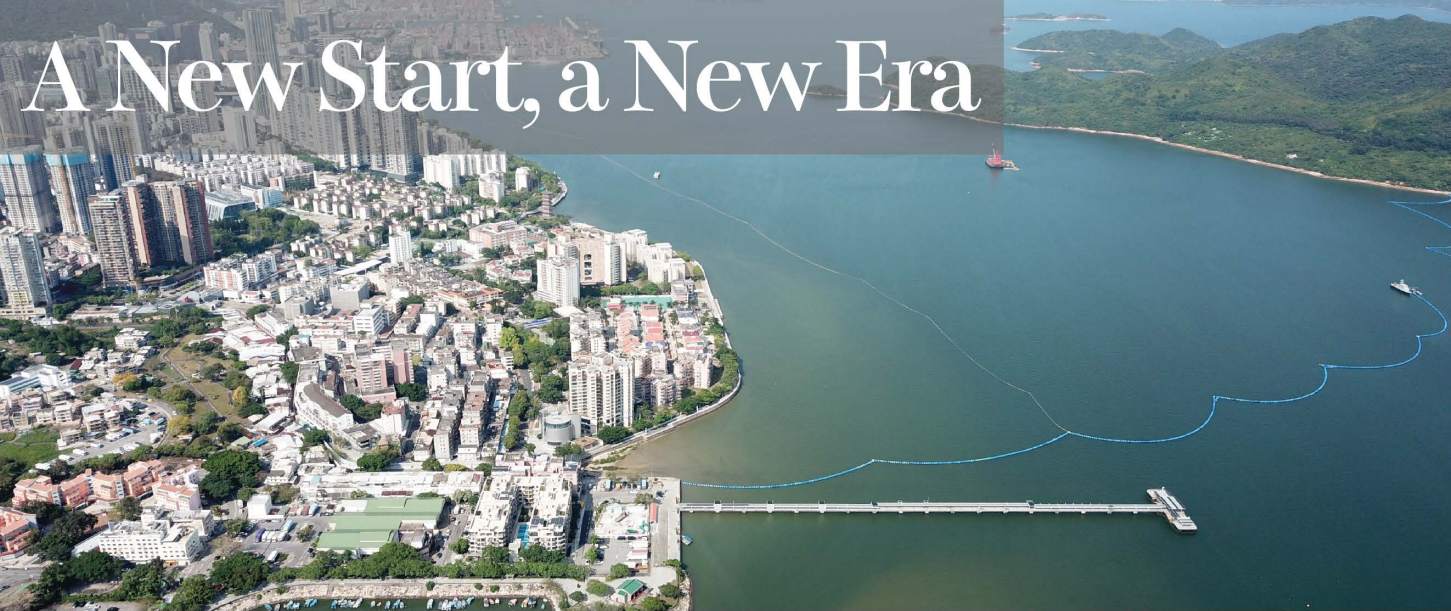
Lai Chi Wo is a traditional Hakka village established by the Tsang and Wong clans more than 300 years ago, it is named after the abundance of lychees in the area. As the villagers believed in feng shui, religious motifs can be easily found around this historical rural settlement, and the entrance is protected by a modest feng shui wall. In front of the Lai Chi Wo village square are Hip Tin Kung & Hok Shan Che.



Revitalising the Hakka Village

Most of the villagers were farmers, who grew a variety of crops, mainly rice. The rice fields have been abandoned after most local villagers moved out.

'Sustainable Lai Chi Wo: Living Water & Community Revitalization – An Agricultural-led Action, Engagement and Incubation Programme at Lai Chi Wo' is a cross-sectoral collaborative project launched in 2013. The programme aims to replenish and revitalise the disappearing social and natural assets of the desolate, remote traditional farming Hakka culture.



A New Start, a New Era



With the gradual implementation of the Government's Northern Metropolis Development Strategy, enormous opportunities would come with this groundbreaking and visionary metropolitan area. The opening of Sha Tau Kok pier for tourism in the first stage creates opportunities for the Mirs Bay/Yan Chau Tong Eco-recreation/tourism Circle, which is expected to provide a rich array of leisure options for visitors to explore Hong Kong from a new perspective.

A Memorable Page of Your Journey

Don't forget to collect souvenir stamps at the iconic sites while exploring the intriguing, picturesque side of Hong Kong.



Sha Tau Kok

沙頭角

中英街

1898



Security Bureau

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
of the People's Republic of China