

Cultural Heritage of a Community in Hong Kong Geopark – Free Public Guided Tour of the Hung Shing Festival on Kau Sai Chau, Sai Kung

Introduction:

The annual Hung Shing Festival of Kau Sai is approaching!

Kau Sai Chau is an island in Hong Kong Geopark on the east coast of Sai Kung. On the island is an ancient Hung Shing Temple, which according to local legend and inscriptions on the temple, is more than 140 years old. It is now a declared monument in Hong Kong. Every year on the tenth night of the second month of the lunar calendar (this year it is 9 March in the Gregorian calendar), the celebration of Hung Shing's birthday begins. A temporary bamboo theatre is built for Cantonese opera performances to appease the gods. On the "Birthday" of Hung Shing, celebration activities such as a lion dance and unicorn dance are held, and a fa pao raffle is held on the opera stage.

In March, Hong Kong Geopark will host free public guided tours on Kau Sai Chau. The tours will offer a unique opportunity to delve into the historical and cultural significance of this community, gain insights into the distinctive aspects of the Hung Shing Temple and Hung Shing Festival, and learn about the art of constructing a traditional bamboo theatre. You are welcome to sign up and join us for this enriching experience to fully immerse yourselves in this fascinating part of our local culture and heritage.

Guided tour content #:

1. The ceremony and significance of the Hung Shing Festival on Kau Sai Chau.
2. The architectural features of the Hung Shing Temple on Kau Sai Chau.
3. The shape and construction techniques of a traditional bamboo theatre.
4. The features of the fa pao tradition (paper floral tribute).
3. The culture, history and stories of Kau Sai Chau. ◦

The guided tour route and content are subject to adjustment based on daily circumstances.

Language: Cantonese.

Date of guided tours:

1 March 2025 (Saturday), 2 March 2025 (Sunday),
8 March 2025 (Saturday) and 9 March 2025 (Sunday)

Places to visit: The Hung Shing Temple on Kau Sai Chau, the bamboo theatre near the temple and the Kau Sai Village Story Room

Time and quota of the guided tour:

Session 1: 10:15am ; Session 2: 12:15pm and Session 3: 3:15pm

(One hour per session; maximum 20 participants per group, until the quota is full)

The event meeting point and Time: the Kau Sai Village Story Room in Sai Kung.
Assembly time: Assembly starts 15 minutes before each activity. °

Participants are required to take a kaito ferry to and from Kau Sai Village at the Sai Kung Pier, Berth No. 3, on their own. For the kaito schedule details, please visit the [Tsui Wah Ferry website](#). °

Registration method:

1. Register at the Volcano Discovery Centre in person or by phone starting at 10am on 18 February (Gregorian calendar).
2. Or you can also register on the spot at the event meeting point at the Kau Sai Village Story Room. Registration will be closed 5 minutes before the start of the guided tour.
3. Applicants need to select the date and time of their preferred guided tour and provide their name, the number of people in their group, and their contact phone number.
4. Each applicant can take up to 3 companions.
5. The quota is limited, so places are available on a first-come, first-served basis, until the quota is full.

Enquiry and registration:

Volcano Discovery Centre Tel: 2394 1538

Address: Sai Kung Waterfront Park

Point to Note:

1. This tour is free, but you need to take the ferry to the meeting point of the Kau Sai Village Story Room at your own expense.
2. Assembly time: Assembly starts 15 minutes before each activity.
3. Activity Cancellation:
All programmes will be cancelled without prior notice if:
 - Typhoon Signal no. 3 or above is issued by the Hong Kong Observatory (HKO), or
 - An amber, red or black rainstorm warning is issued by the HKO, or
 - A thunderstorm warning is issued by the HKO.All outdoor activities will be cancelled or suspended without prior notice if:
 - A tropical cyclone warning signal is issued by the HKO, or
 - An amber, red or black rainstorm warning is issued by the HKO, or
 - A thunderstorm forecast or warning is issued by the HKO.
4. When visiting the temple and the opera stage, it is important to maintain a respectful and quiet demeanour to honour the traditional culture of the local community. It is crucial

to refrain from touching or causing damage to any cultural relics or facilities during your visit.

5. Ensure your personal safety and that of your companions by heeding the safety precautions. Be vigilant of safety warning signs at scenic locations, and do not climb on rocks or approach hillsides and coastlines to prevent accidents.

6. During the guided tour, do not deviate from the tour route, and pay attention to your physical health. Seek assistance as soon as possible if you feel unwell. If you need to leave the guided tour along the way, please inform the tour guide.

