Hong Kong Museum of History

Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence
Lei Cheng Uk Han Tomb Museum
Law Uk Folk Museum
THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
LIBRARIES

Hong Kong Collection
gift from
Hong Kong (China). Leisure and
Cultural Services Dept.
Introduction
The Hong Kong Museum of History was established in July 1975 when the former Urban Council decided to split the City Museum and Art Gallery at the City Hall into the Hong Kong Museum of Art and Hong Kong Museum of History. The Hong Kong Museum of History was sited at Star House at that time. In 1983, it was moved to an accommodation at Kowloon Park until completion of its permanent premises at Chatham Road South, Tsim Sha Tsui in 1998.

Branch Museums
Apart from the main museum at Chatham Road South, the Hong Kong Museum of History has three branch museums, namely, Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence, Lei Cheng Uk Han Tomb Museum and Law Uk Folk Museum.

Vision
To provide quality museum services commensurate with Hong Kong's development as a world-class city and events capital.

Mission
1. To preserve and promote Hong Kong's historical and cultural heritage through collecting, conserving, processing, studying and displaying cultural objects related to the archaeology, history, ethnography and natural history of Hong Kong and its hinterland.

2. To enhance public awareness and understanding of the history and culture of Hong Kong with a view to enriching our cultural lives and strengthening social cohesion.

3. To promote public awareness and understanding of world history and culture with a view to expanding our global cultural vision, which draws on the essence of other cultures to develop Hong Kong into an international cultural metropolis.

4. To foster better awareness of and greater interest in museum activities through a varied and balanced programme of exhibitions, educational activities and publications so as to encourage community support and involvement through sponsorship, joint presentations, local and overseas museum co-operation and docent activities, and to take appropriate measures to popularize museum activities and more importantly, to create value for today's society.

5. To be a learning platform to support the notion of "life-long learning" through close co-operation and interaction with the community at large, the education and cultural sectors in particular.

6. To promote cultural tourism among visitors from the mainland and overseas alike by introducing to them Hong Kong's historical and cultural heritage.

7. To enhance interactive and participatory learning by putting digital technology into the hands of museum users, which is just a first step to interpreting the role of digital artefacts in the museums of the 21st century.

Values
- Professionalism
- Creativity
- Serving the community
- Impartiality
- Customer-oriented
- Quality programming
- Continuous improvement
Historical Development

1962 The City Museum and Art Gallery at the City Hall was opened to the public.

1975 The City Museum and Art Gallery was split into the Hong Kong Museum of History and Hong Kong Museum of Art, and placed the Lei Cheng Uk Han Tomb under the auspices of the Museum of History.

1983 The Hong Kong Museum of History was moved from the rented space at Star House to the accommodation in Kowloon Park, occupying two converted old buildings, blocks 61 and 62, of the former Whitfield Barracks.

1985 The "Dinosaurs in China" Exhibition attracted widespread attention to the Museum.

1986 The Museum started the weekend lecture series with scholars and experts invited to share their views and experiences with the audience. The lecture series are still very popular to the public today.

1987 The Museum began issuing quarterly newsletters to keep the public informed of its current and on-coming activities.

1989 Construction of the Museum's extension building in between blocks 61 and 62 began in 1988 and completed and opened to the public in July 1989, increasing the exhibition space to 1,520 m².

1990 The Law Uk Folk Museum at Chai Wan was opened to the public in January.

1991 The "Story of Hong Kong" Exhibition was opened to the public and proved to be very popular.

1995 Approval was granted from the Government for building a new Museum of History at Chatham Road South, Tsim Sha Tsui, next to the Hong Kong Science Museum.

1998 The permanent premises of the Hong Kong Museum of History at Chatham Road South were completed in July. The new Museum was partially opened to the public on 28 September featuring a thematic exhibition entitled "Heavenly Creation: Gems of Ancient Chinese Inventions". The premises at Kowloon Park were closed from 1 September.

The official name of the "Lei Cheng Uk Branch Museum" was changed to "Lei Cheng Uk Han Tomb Museum" with effect from 1 July.

2000 With effect from 1 January, the Museum of History and its branch museums were put under the management of the new Leisure and Cultural Services Department after disbandment of the former Urban Council.

The Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence at Shau Kei Wan was opened for public viewing from 25 July with its official opening ceremony held on 31 August.

2001 A new and comprehensive permanent exhibition "The Hong Kong Story" was opened at the new Museum of History on 29 August. Occupying an area of 7,000 m², it is about six times larger than the "Story of Hong Kong" at Kowloon Park. A Resource Centre was also opened on 17 September.

2002 The attendance of "The Hong Kong Story" reached 1 million on 25 December, 16 months after its opening. The attendance of the Museum of History ranked top among the other museums that year.
List of Major Public Facilities

The permanent home of the Hong Kong Museum of History, with a gross floor area of 17,500 m², is housed in a new building at Chatham Road South constructed and funded by the Hong Kong SAR Government. It is a comprehensive state-of-the-art museum designed by the P&T Architects and Engineers Ltd., based on the architectural concept of Mr. E. Verner Johnson of USA. The new Museum and the neighbouring Hong Kong Science Museum together form a museum complex of a harmonious appearance and colour scheme.

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Upper Galleries (Gallery 5-8, 2/F & M/F)

Gallery 6
Birth & Early Growth of the City

Gallery 7
The Japanese Occupation

Gallery 8
Modern Metropolis & The Return to China

The Opium War & The Creation of Hong Kong

The Opium War & The Creation of Hong Kong

Modern Metropolis & The Return to China

Return to 1/F Lobby & Museum Exit

HONG KONG MUSEUM OF HISTORY
Introduction to “The Hong Kong Story” Permanent Exhibition

“The Hong Kong Story” Permanent Exhibition occupies an area of 7,000 m² and comprises 8 galleries. The exhibition layout was designed by André and Knowlton Associates Ltd. of Canada. Through the display of over 4,000 exhibits with the use of 750 graphic panels, many dioramas and 53 multimedia programmes, including 10 film/video shows, 1 TV show, 14 interactive booths, 28 groups of audio effects, and special lighting and visual effects, “The Hong Kong Story” outlines the natural environment, folk culture and historical development of Hong Kong in a life-like manner.

Plan Your Visit to “The Hong Kong Story” Galleries

Please allow at least two hours for your visit (around 45 minutes for Galleries 1 - 4 on G/F and 1 hour 15 minutes for Galleries 5 - 8 on 2/F and M/F).

Gallery 1 (G/F) : The Natural Environment

Gallery 1 comprises two areas: “Landform and Climate” and “Flora and Fauna”. At the gallery entrance is a globe, which enables visitors to locate China and Hong Kong. Beyond the globe is a tunnel of time paved with pseudo stone slabs; the walls, made from glass fibre re-enforced casts taken from rocks in nature, look deceptively real. In this area, rocks and fossils are used to demonstrate the topography of Hong Kong through the succession of geological periods in the last 400 million years. Emerging from the narrow tunnel, visitors are plunged in an instant into a forest of towering trees as high as 18 metres, with many specimens of birds, reptiles and mammals. This ecosystem in microcosm introduces Hong Kong’s flora and fauna of 6,000 years ago and their relationship with the natural environment.

Highlights

Film Show

“The Origins of Hong Kong” (Duration : 8 mins.; Capacity per show : 36) - The film wraps up the immense geological changes of Hong Kong with special lava effects creating the illusion of a primeval universe. Narrated in Cantonese, Putonghua and English by rotation.

Important Exhibits

1. Placoderm
   Placoderm is a primitive fish whose head and thorax are covered with armoured plates. Some fossilized Placoderm plates are prominent in this specimen. The discovery of Placoderm fossil testifies that primitive life started to emerge in Hong Kong from the Devonian period, about 400 million years ago.

2. Oval-shaped dinosaur egg
   This fossil from Nanxiong of Guangdong province dates back to 68 million years ago. It has a sturdy shell and is easily preserved as fossil. Although no dinosaur skeletons or dinosaur eggs have ever been found in Hong Kong, paleontologists believe that dinosaurs used to roam around Hong Kong during the Cretaceous period, about 100 million years ago.

3. South China Tiger (model)
   Tiger is the largest of the living felines. In the early 20th century, South China tigers were occasional visitors to the New Territories. The last tiger in Hong Kong was shot in Stanley in 1942.
Gallery 2 (G/F) : Prehistoric Hong Kong

Early inhabitants began living in Hong Kong in the middle Neolithic period. We rebuild their life with a diorama setting - a 42-metre-long beach with nine early inhabitants. They are either cooking, making stone tools and ornaments, building houses or collecting fruits. Their faces are restored from the human remains unearthed in Tung Wan Tsai north on Ma Wan Island in 1997. Physical anthropologists have identified that these Neolithic inhabitants were Asian Mongoloids, same as those living in the Pearl River Delta area.

Highlights

**Important Exhibits**

1. Painted pottery basin with incised design and perforated foot-ring, Middle Neolithic period (c.4,000 - 2,500BC), excavated from Chung Hom Wan, Hong Kong Island.

   The earliest painted pottery in China originated from the Yangshao Culture around 7,000 years ago while that of South China appeared 1,000 years later. Painted pottery was rare in Hong Kong; only a few complete vessels and sherds have been found. Since special techniques were required to make painted pottery and they were limited in variety and quantity, it seems probable that they were mainly used in ceremonies.

2. Stone yazhang blade, Shang dynasty (c.16 - 11th century BC), excavated from Tai Wan, Lamma Island.

   This yazhang blade together with a stringed stone ornament set was unearthed from grave no.6 of Tai Wan, Lamma Island. Archaeologists suggested that yazhang blade could have been used as a multi-functional ritual object in religious ceremonies to offer sacrifices to the mountains, heaven or other objects of worship. The discovery of yazhang blade in Hong Kong infers that the ritual objects used in the North China ceremonies had been adopted by the early inhabitants of Hong Kong, and contributes substantially to the study of the ties between Hong Kong and that of North China in ancient times.

3. Bronze dagger with human mask design and bow-shaped guard, Bronze period (c.1,500 - 221BC), collected from Shek Pik, Lantau Island.

   According to a local archaeologist, this dagger was very similar to those found in Dong-son, Vietnam, and was probably manufactured by the same group of craftspeople. This type of bronze dagger was discovered on islands like Lantau, Lamma and Chek Lap Kok, suggesting that the owners of these daggers might have been involved in maritime activities.

4. Pottery urn with double-F and string-on-net design, Bronze period (c. 1,500 - 221 BC), excavated from Hai Dei Wan, Lantau Island.

   Large pottery urn was used for storing food or water. Hard pottery wares with double-F design are typical objects in Lingnan region during the Bronze period, dated to around 1,000 BC. They were fired and made at a temperature as high as 1,200°C, suggesting that the technology of pottery-making was already advanced at that time.
Gallery 3 (G/F) : The Dynasties: From the Han to the Qing

The people who inhabited South China from prehistoric times were the Nanyue people. From the Qin and Han dynasties, however, the Han people of Central China migrated south, bringing with them advanced culture and technology. With Dayuling Pass being opened up in the Tang dynasty and the Pearl River Delta being developed in the Song dynasty, migrants multiplied in numbers. These periods saw significant development in the South China region, with Hong Kong keeping the same pace as the Pearl River Delta. It was in the Song dynasty that the Tang clan settled in the New Territories, followed by more clans in the Ming and Qing dynasties. Immigration gave Hong Kong's economy a significant boost. This gallery outlines the development of Hong Kong from the Qin to Qing dynasties through relics preserved in Hong Kong and on loan from Shenzhen.

Highlights

Video Show

"Lei Cheng Uk Han Tomb" (Duration : 4 mins.; Standing audience) - Narrated in Cantonese, Putonghua and English by rotation.

Important Exhibits

1. Pottery model of a house, Eastern Han dynasty (AD 22 - 220), excavated from the Lei Cheng Uk Han Tomb.
   This house model is L-shaped, with two entrances at the front and on the left side. A small round opening at the back leads to a banistered yard. Inside the house are two pottery figures: one is pounding rice and the other winnowing the husked rice. The model and the figures provide a glimpse into the life of peasantry, along with proof that rice has been the staple food of South China since the Han dynasty.

2. Shiyi shuishan boundary stone of the Li family
   This boundary stone was discovered at Man Kok Tsui on Lantau Island. The inscriptions on the stone read Shiyi shuishan (fief and revenue) and Lifu (Li family). Li refers to the celebrated Song official Li Maoying, a native of Panyu County. Lantau became his fief in 1254. Until the New Territories came under British rule in 1898, Lantau remained the estate of the Li family.

3. Blue-and-white bowl decorated with figure of a civil official, Ming dynasty (AD 1368 - 1644), excavated from Wun Yiu Pottery Kiln, Tai Po.
   This blue-and-white bowl was decorated with a figure of an official holding a tablet. Similar figures were found on bowls from the provinces of Jiangxi and Fujian, dating to the middle to late Ming dynasty.

4. Stone tablet of Fat Tau Chau Customs Station, Qing dynasty (AD 1644-1911)
   To collect customs and suppress the smuggling of opium and foreign goods in the waters of Hong Kong, customs stations were set up at Fat Tau Chau, Cheung Chau, Ma Wan Island and Kowloon Walled City during the Qing dynasty. This stone tablet is the last surviving relic of these customs stations. The inscriptions of it translate as “Foster benevolence over Indo-China; tributes and taxes circulate from afar.”
Gallery 4 (G/F) : Folk Culture in Hong Kong

This gallery introduces the colourful customs of the four ethnic groups in Hong Kong and the South China Region, namely, the Boat Dwellers, the Punti, the Hoklo and the Hakka. Stepping onto a life-size replica of a fishing junk, visitors can experience how Boat Dwellers used to live and work on board. Next to it is a reconstructed salt field showing how salt was made by the Hoklo people in the old days. Standing in the midst of the gallery are the ancestral hall, a village residence and a temple to highlight the birth ritual, marriage customs and folk religions practiced among local villages. Around the corner there is a peasant dwelling and a rice field to feature the spartan lifestyle of the Hakka people and the traditional routine of rice farming. The tour ends with the spectacular display of the Cheung Chau Taiping Qingjiao festival with the bun mountains, the opera stage, the parade, the lion dance, the Taoist ritual and the folk toys stall to capture the glamour and the euphoria of the festive occasion.

Highlights

Film Show
“Between Heaven and Earth” (Duration : 6 mins.; Capacity per show : 45) - Presenting Hong Kong’s folk culture and traditions in a video show and coupled with special lighting effects. Narrated in Cantonese, Putonghua and English by rotation.

Important Exhibits

1. Hoklo Child’s Hat
As one of the major ethnic groups in Hong Kong, the Hoklo people are distinctive in the way they dress, as best illustrated by this child’s hat. This kind of hats used to be worn by baby boys on festive occasions. It is made of stiffened card covered with fabric and richly decorated with colourful embroidery and loads of accessories such as beads, sequins, bells, mirrors, balls and tassels which are meant to shimmer, ring and dance along as the child moves; they are also charms to scare off evil spirits.

2. Bridal Sedan Chair
Traditional Chinese marriage used to be arranged by a matchmaker and the bride was carried to the groom’s family in a bridal sedan chair on the wedding day. This bridal chair was made in the early 20th century and kept by “Tin Cheong Ho” shop on Cheung Chau for hire. It is heavily curtained to shield the bride from seeing persons and objects en route that would cause her bad luck. Legend has it that just by encountering another pregnant woman, the chance for the bride to bear children would be lessened.

3. Bun Mountains
The bun mountains featured in the Taiping Qingjiao festival stand at a monumental height of 10 metres. Decorated with colourful floral boards, flags and couplets, the mountains are covered with over 6,000 buns sewn together with hemp strings. The bun mountains are erected as offerings to gods, buns are stamped with the auspicious word shou in red ink meaning longevity. There used to be an exciting scramble for buns at midnight on the last day of the festival, those who could grab a share of buns would be blessed. The tradition was sadly abrogated after the collapse of bun mountains in 1978. Nowadays, buns are distributed peacefully the next morning.
After the defeat in the First Opium War, China ceded Hong Kong to Britain, an event which proved to be a watershed in the history of Hong Kong. This gallery outlines the Opium Wars, their causes, the way they unfolded and the consequences. Going back to events before the Wars, visitors can trace the discovery of the new sea route from Europe to Asia, the arrival of the Portuguese in Macau and their mercantile activities there, the institution of the 13 hongs of Guangzhou, and early Sino-British relations. To complete the events relating to the territory, the ceding of Kowloon and the lease of the New Territories to Britain are recorded. To create a semblance of the actuality of war, the Bogue Forts, used by the Qing soldiers to repulse the British in the First Opium War, has been reconstructed.

**Highlights**

**Film Show**

"From Trade To War" (Duration : 10 mins.; Capacity per show : 90) - The film displays the events leading up to the First Opium War, the War itself and its aftermath. Narrated in Cantonese, Putonghua and English by rotation.

**Important Exhibits**

1. Treaty of Nanking (replica)
   On 29 August 1842, the Chinese and British representatives signed the "Treaty of Nanking" on H.M.S. Cornwallis. Being the first unequal treaty in modern China, the "Treaty of Nanking" comprises 13 articles. The third article stipulates the cession of Hong Kong Island to Britain as a Far East base for the British to store their goods and repair their ships.

2. The Napier Column
   This marble monument was produced with funds collected from the British community in Guangzhou and Macau shortly after the death of William John Lord Napier (1763-1834). Following the abolition in 1833 of the British East India Company's monopoly on the China trade, Lord Napier was sent to China in 1834 as Britain's first Chief Superintendent of Trade to negotiate new arrangements with the Chinese. However, he failed and died in Macau in October of the same year.

3. The Arch of Fountain
   This four-sided arch originally had a fountain in the middle, but only two sides of the arch remain at present. It formerly stood at Possession Point (now Hollywood Road Park) where British troops first landed on 26 January 1841 and claimed possession of Hong Kong Island. The local Chinese name of this place is "Shui Hang Hau" (mouth of puddle).

4. Public Notice of early Hong Kong
   When the British occupied Hong Kong Island in 1841, they chose the northern part of the island for development and the City of Victoria was built accordingly. The Hong Kong Government used to purchase farmland in Wong Nei Chung and So Kun Po at $30 per acre from local farmers. This was the public notice issued in the name of Sir Francis Davis, the second governor of Hong Kong, in 1844.
Gallery 6 (2/F and M/F) : Birth and Early Growth of the City

Behind the three-storey colonial building stretches an old street scene lined with a variety of shops: bank, trading company, club house, post office, Cantonese teahouse, grocery stores, tailor shop, teashop, pawnshop, photographic studio and the delightfully quaint Shing Chai Tong selling herbal medicine. There is even an old double-decker tram at the street end. Each of these is animated by sounds peculiar to it - vendors calling out their wares, the sound of tramcar, cart, and so on. The whole area is lit with dim yellow light, imbuing the scene with an ambiance of the days of Hong Kong before 1941. Developments in Hong Kong's political structures, law and order, people's livelihood, industry and education are highlighted in the displays in the mezzanine. A further topic is Dr. Sun Yat-sen's revolutionary activities in Hong Kong and the role the territory played in the modern history of China.

Highlights

Video Show / Slide Show
1. “Transportation of Hong Kong” video show at the 2/F Gallery
   (Duration : 10 mins.; Capacity per show : 10)

2. “Bits of Old Hong Kong” slide show at the Mezzanine Gallery
   (Duration : 6 mins.; Standing audience)

Important Exhibits
1. Shing Chai Tong Herbal Medicine Shop (2/F Gallery)
   In 1885, Mr. Tang Shi-kun set up Shing Chai Tong in Hong Kong. It was formerly located at 180 Queen’s Road Central. In 1980, it was closed down to make way for urban development. Its 100-year-old furniture and fittings were collected by the Museum and restored in the exhibition gallery.

2. Chan Chun Lan Tea Shop (2/F Gallery)
   Chan Chun Lan Tea Shop was formerly known as Chan Chun Lan Tea and Tobacco Shop. It was founded in Hong Kong in the 5th year of the Xianfeng period (1855), of the Qing dynasty by Chan Family coming from Enping in Guangdong province. At first the shop was located on the ground floor of a residential building in Third Street close to Centre Street in Sai Ying Pun, selling mainly cut tobacco from China and carrying tea as a sideline. In 1898, the shop expanded its business and moved to 103 Queen’s Road Central. In 1910, the Chan Family sold the business to the Ng Family and migrated to the United States. Tea was then sold as the chief merchandise and the shop rose as one of the reputable teashops in Hong Kong. The owner Mr. Ng donated everything inside the shop to the Museum in 1996 which end up in the present display in the Museum exhibition gallery.

3. Handwritten letter of Dr. Sun Yat-sen, dated 11 February 1910 (Mezzanine Gallery)
   This letter was written by Sun Yat-sen at San Francisco to his nephew, Sun Chang. Sun Chang was the son of Sun Mei, Sun Yat-sen's elder brother. Sun Yat-sen arrived in San Francisco one day before he wrote the letter (i.e. 10 February). He persuaded the overseas Chinese to donate to the revolutionary cause. On 16 February, he set up a branch of Tongmenghui (United League) there.
Gallery 7 (2/F): The Japanese Occupation

This gallery has been designed as a dark air-raid shelter in order to conjure up the atmosphere of war. After 18 days of fierce fighting, the Governor of Hong Kong, Sir Mark Young, surrendered to Japan on 25 December 1941. Hong Kong thus entered a dark age which was to last for three years and eight months. Through the display of relics, historic photographs and videos, visitors can witness the horrific battles during those 18 days, learn about the harsh conditions of life in Hong Kong under Japanese occupation, empathize with people's feelings of insecurity and fear, and marvel at the bravery of the guerrillas of the East River Column.

Highlights

Video Show

"Three Years and Eight Months" (Duration: 6 mins.; Capacity per show: 20) - A video show depicting the life of Hong Kong under the Japanese occupation. Narrated in Cantonese, Putonghua and English by rotation.

Important Exhibits

1. Wooden plaque of the "Governor's Office of the Captured Territory of Hong Kong"
   A valuable relic exhibited for the first time. During the Japanese occupation, the Headquarters of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation in Central was requisitioned as the "Governor's Office of the Captured Territory of Hong Kong". The plaque was originally placed at the entrance of the Bank and was dismantled by Chew Lee Building Contractors in early September 1945, under commission of the Bank engineer. It was then kept by the late Mr. Leung Hon Cheung, owner of the Chew Lee Building Contractors.

2. Table used in the ceremony of Japanese surrender in Hong Kong
   On 16 September 1945, the Chinese and British representatives attended a ceremony in the Hong Kong Government House, where the Japanese signed the Instrument of Surrender. The Chinese delegates, led by Admiral Pang Guohua, and their British counterparts under Admiral Harcourt represented their respective governments in accepting the Japanese surrender. This table was used by the Chinese and British representatives during the ceremony.

3. Military notes savings book issued by the Yokohama Specie Bank, Hong Kong branch
   Following the liquidation of all "enemy banks" such as the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China, as well as the Mercantile Bank of India Limited in the Japanese occupation period, only Chinese banks were allowed to provide limited service. The Yokohama Specie Bank and the Bank of Taiwan were given the prerogative of issuing and exchanging military yen, the then legal currency. This booklet is a military notes savings book issued by the Yokohama Specie Bank, Hong Kong branch in 1942.

4. Hand-drawn cartoons by a prisoner-of-war
   After the fall of Hong Kong, some 9,000 captured soldiers were interned in prisoner-of-war (POW) camps in North Point, Sham Shui Po, Argyle Street and Ma Tau Chung. The POWs did all the work in the camps and were afflicted with diseases and hunger. At the end of the war, one-third of the POWs who survived were suffering from infectious diseases, and most were pitifully underweight. However, they never forgot to enjoy life in adversity and drew cartoons in the camp to kill time.
Gallery 8 (2/F) : Modern Metropolis and the Return to China

Passing through the arched passage modeled on the old Lo Wu train station, the last gallery traces the story of Hong Kong's postwar development to a modern metropolis. The first part illustrates the general living condition of people and the consequences of the natural disasters in the first three decades after the war by using exhibits and multimedia programmes. In this area are also the reconstruction of a herbal teashop, a grocery shop, a barber stall, a cinema and trade fair booths, all dating to the 1960s and 1970s. These give a vivid impression of Hong Kong's postwar economic and social climate and the emergence of a commonality shared by the population as a whole. The second part of the gallery deals with the social, economic and political development of Hong Kong in the postwar years, such as housing, industry, politics, finance and trade by using five interactive programmes. A multimedia presentation on the theme of the relations between China and Hong Kong after the war brings "The Hong Kong Story" to a close.

Highlights

**Film Shows / Video Shows**

1. "The Natural Disasters" (Duration : 6 mins.; Capacity per show : 10)
   Narrated in Cantonese, Putonghua and English by rotation

2. "Hong Kong Cinemas and TV in the 1960s and 1970s"  
   (Duration : 10 mins.; Capacity per show : 40)
   Narrated in Cantonese, Putonghua and English by rotation

3. "Sino-Hong Kong Relations from 1841 to 1997"  
   (Duration : 10 mins.; Capacity per show : 40)
   With Chinese and English sub-titles

**Important Exhibits**

1. HK$100 note issued by Mercantile Bank Limited in 1958
   The banknote shown here features a landscape scene on its front and a Western mythical figure on its back. This was a popular design of paper money in the mid 20th century. The Mercantile Bank Limited, originally known as Chartered Mercantile Bank of India, London and China, began its operation in Hong Kong in 1857. After obtaining the "Royal Charter" at the same year, it started issuing paper money in Hong Kong in 1860. From 1964 onward, the Bank only issued $100 notes but it ceased issuing banknotes in 1974.

2. Food container manufactured by Hong Kong I-Fung Enamelling Co. (HK) Ltd. in the 1930s
   This tier food container combines traditional shape with novel design and material. It was produced in the late 1930s to meet the changing demand of the market. I-Fung was one of the oldest and largest enamelware manufacturers in Hong Kong. Its products varied greatly in type and style, and enjoyed great popularity in Hong Kong and abroad.

3. Rostrums for guests officiating at the Handover Ceremony
   After 156 years of British colonial rule, Hong Kong eventually returned to its motherland on 1 July 1997, turning a new page in its history. The Handover Ceremony was held on the night of 30 June 1997 at the New Wing of the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre in Wan Chai. President Jiang Zemin and Prince of Wales, respectively representing China and Britain, officiated at the ceremony. These two rostrums were used by them during that night.
Since its establishment in 1975, the Hong Kong Museum of History has made strenuous effort in collecting and preserving cultural objects which are closely related to the history of Hong Kong and the South China area. Up to 2002, the Museum has built up a significant collection of historical objects and materials amounting to over 80,000 items through active field work, purchases and donations. The collection can be classified into four major categories, namely, archaeology, natural history, ethnography and local history.

Archaeological Collection
There are four major archaeological collections in the Museum, which include the Maglioni Collection with a considerable amount of artefacts from the Haifeng district in Guangdong Province; the Fr. Finn Collection with finds unearthed in Lamma Island; the 58 burial objects of the Eastern Han dynasty excavated from the Lei Cheng Uk Han Tomb; and the collection of artefacts excavated by the Hong Kong Archaeological Society from various sites in the territory before 1976. Added together, these collections form an inventory of archaeological materials found in Hong Kong, representing a history of local human activity of about 6,000 years.

Natural History Collection
The Museum's natural history collection can be classified into categories of rocks and minerals, shells, as well as animal specimens. All help to illustrate the history and development of geology of Hong Kong. The Museum has collected mineral specimens from the territory, specimens of shells from local beaches. The Museum has also acquired over 1,500 animal mammals, birds and butterflies.

Ethnographical Collection
The Museum has built up a sizable collection of materials on the local ethnic cultures. It includes farming implements, rural household wares and furniture, fishing gears and junk models, all of which illustrate the traditional life of local villagers and boat-dwellers, as well as their farming and fishing industries in Hong Kong. A unique collection of traditional local costumes has also been built up, which includes over 4,800 items of rural and urban clothing and accessories worn by people of different ethnic origins, age and social classes from the late 19th century to the 1970s. From this magnificent collection, one can learn the life styles of different ethnic groups, such as their living
environment, historical development, moral values, customs and beliefs. These historical objects provide a comprehensive source for studying Hong Kong people's social life and history.

Over the years, the Museum has also been collecting historical objects reflecting the disappearing Chinese traditional art forms and occupations. There are more than 700 puppet accessories and musical instruments, as well as over 1,300 items related to wedding customs, religious practices and traditional trades. These artefacts provide valuable information for us to understand the development of traditional entertainment, customs and beliefs, as well as the early trades of Hong Kong.

Local History Collection

The Museum has built up a collection of over 60,000 items on local history, which illustrates the development of Hong Kong from its early days. Various facets of life in Hong Kong are depicted in the extensive archives of over 13,000 historical photographs and postcards dating from the 1860s. A majority of the photographs shows the streets and everyday life of Hong Kong before the Japanese occupation. Furthermore, the Museum has acquired over 16,000 historical documents and books, including accounts, certificates, business and government letters, textbooks and other items, which shed light on the social, economic and educational development of Hong Kong.

The Museum has a comprehensive collection of Hong Kong stamps, reaching around 4,000 items. These philatelic items illustrate the development of Hong Kong's postal history. The Museum also possesses a currency collection of around 4,700 items. It comprises not only local banknotes and coins, but also those of Macau and Guangdong, giving a more rounded picture of the Hong Kong economy over the years. Other items of local historical interest include industrial products, furniture, commercial items, Dr. Sun Yat-sen and his family's collection, the items collected from various government departments prior to the 1997 Handover and those relating to the Handover Ceremony, etc.
Thematic Exhibitions

Since its establishment in 1975, the Hong Kong Museum of History has staged nearly 80 thematic exhibitions up to 2002 which represent years of painstaking efforts by its curatorial team. The exhibition programmes cover a wide range of topics, such as “Fifty Years of Hong Kong Archaeology”, “History Around Us - Preserving Our Historic Buildings”, “Hong Kong & Macau Currencies”, “Local Traditional Chinese Wedding”, “Made in Hong Kong - A History of Export Design in Hong Kong”, “150 Years of Postal Service in Hong Kong”, “Education in Hong Kong - Past and Present”, “Of Hearts and Hands - Hong Kong’s Traditional Trades and Crafts” and “The Battle for Hong Kong - Hong Kong under the Camera of the Japanese Army”. These exhibitions help to shed light on different facets of Hong Kong’s history. Apart from exhibitions on local history and culture, the Museum has also from time to time joined hand with both the Mainland and overseas institutions in organizing exhibitions of an international scope. Among them, “Evolution and Extinction - History of Life Evidenced by Chinese Fossils”, “Heavenly Creations : Gems of Ancient Chinese Inventions”, “Rise of Modern China - A Century of Self-determination”, “The Great Wall - Gems of Cultural Relics of the Nomadic Tribes” and “War and Peace - Treasures of the Qin and Han Dynasties” are typical examples of our joint co-operation with the Mainland counterparts, and in return, exhibitions like “Hong Kong during the Japanese Invasion” and “Achievements in the Past and Plans for the Future” were held in Beijing. “Human Story”, “Johann Strauss - Thunder & Lightning” and “Napoleon Bonaparte - Emperor and Man” exhibitions even came a long way from afar. In the foreseeable future, the Museum will continue to present exhibitions of diversified themes so as to help widening our cultural horizon.

Research Projects

Apart from staging exhibitions, the Hong Kong Museum of History is also a research centre on the history of Hong Kong and the South China region. More than 20 research projects have been conducted from 1983 to 2002 covering a wide range of topics, such as local education, Hong Kong’s industry, foreign traders in early Hong Kong, oral history on Japanese occupation of Hong Kong, history of the Lei Yue Mun Barracks, forts and batteries in Hong Kong, Hong Kong-Kowloon Brigade of the East River Column, as well as a survey on the 18 districts of Hong Kong. As a result of the in-depth fieldwork and interviews conducted under these research projects, the Museum has built up a rich archive of historical materials, among which some were already compiled and published. The unpublished information, both in textual and audio-visual formats, are kept at the Museum’s Resource Centre and are open to the public for reference.
Guided Tour Service
The Museum offers free Gallery Highlight Tours for the general visitors. Our docents will guide you through the galleries to grasp the highlights of the exhibitions. Pre-booked visiting groups may also apply for tailor-made guided tours. For enquiries and booking, please contact our Education Activities Unit during office hours at 2724 9080.

Audio Guide Service
Audio Guide Service is available for major exhibitions with a choice of languages. With the use of an audio guide set, visitors can listen to pre-recorded narrations on selected exhibits by their own preference. A rental will be charged for this service.

Supporting Services for Exhibitions
To arouse the students' interest in our exhibitions, learning resources such as learning kits and worksheets are produced. Moreover, the Museum co-operated with the Hong Kong Institute of Education in 2001 to produce a learning kit for "The Hong Kong Story" exhibition. More than 40 in-service teachers from kindergartens, primary and secondary schools were invited to design worksheets and learning activities for this Permanent Exhibition.

Museum of History Newsletter
Quarterly Newsletters are published for free distribution to keep the public informed of our latest news, exhibitions, and details of activities.

Museum Website
The Museum website, http://hk.history.museum, provides the latest information on exhibitions, glimpses of collections, activities and services provided by the Museum, and list of publications, etc. Download area is also available for getting various application forms, articles, and audio-visual materials.

Loan-out Service
To extend our services to schools and the community, the Museum produces travelling exhibitions, slide packs and VCDs on the subject of Chinese and local history and culture for free loan to schools and non-profit-making organizations. Please call our Extension Services Unit at 2724 9026 during office hours for enquiries.
As a cultural institute, education is one of the missions and goals of the Hong Kong Museum of History. To achieve this goal, the Museum has made strenuous effort in organizing and providing diversified activities and services.

**Weekend Lectures**

Weekend Lectures are held at the Museum's Lecture Hall on Saturdays at 3 p.m. Topics focus on the archaeology, history, ethnography and natural history of Hong Kong and South China. Scholars and experts are invited to share their views and experience with the audience.

**Demonstrations and Workshops**

Demonstrations and special workshops are organized for students and general public to gain hands-on experience with the Museum collections and traditional Chinese handicrafts.

**Visits**

Fieldtrips visits to historic and nature sites are organized to enhance the public's appreciation of the natural beauty and heritage of Hong Kong. Scholars and experts on related fields are invited to lead the tours.

**Complementary Activities for Exhibitions**

Complementary activities such as briefing sessions, workshops, lectures and competitions are organized to enhance the public's understanding of the exhibitions.

**Docent Programme**

The Museum's Docent Programme has been launched since 1998 with an aim of developing a group of volunteers to provide quality guided tour service and other related activities to our visitors.

**School Programmes**

To promote understanding of and interest in local history and cultural heritage among teachers and students, various activities such as briefing sessions, lectures, fieldtrips and video shows are organized. To better equip teachers for the teaching of local history in secondary schools, the Museum organized, with the assistance of the Education and Manpower Bureau, a series of training courses on various topics on local history for teachers from 1998 to 2000.
Inter-school Competition of Study Projects on Local History

This is a major educational programme of the Museum. Response from schools has always been enthusiastic and a total of 449 teams had participated in the competitions since it was launched in 1992. The competition aims at fostering the secondary school students' awareness of history and cultural heritage of Hong Kong by conducting research and field study. To further promote "project learning", the Museum jointly organized the Inter-school Competition of Study Projects on Hong Kong's History and Culture with the Hong Kong Institute for Promotion of Chinese Culture from 2002 onwards.

School Culture Day

To encourage implementation of "life-wide learning" in schools, the Museum takes part in the "School Culture Day" programme since the 2001/2002 school year. The programme aims at enriching students' learning experience during their visits to the museums. The 2002-03 programme included workshops such as "What is historical relic?", "Prehistoric Hong Kong" and "Who is the Punti?". These workshops comprised gallery visits, role play, model making, group discussion and presentation, etc.

International Museum Day

To deepen the understanding of museums among the general public, the Hong Kong Museum of History participates in the International Museum Day Panorama, which is presented in mid May each year. Displays, performances and other activities are organized to introduce our missions, exhibitions and services to the public.

Symposiums

To encourage academic and cultural exchange, the Museum jointly presents symposiums with cultural institutions. In 1998, the Museum jointly organized the "Lin Zexu, Opium War and Hong Kong" International Symposium with the Lin Zexu Foundation and the Association of Chinese Historians. In 2001, the Museum jointly organized "The Great Wall" Symposium with the Great Wall Society of China and the Department of Chinese, University of Hong Kong. In 2002, the Museum jointly organized "The Second International Symposium on Maritime Defence of China" with the Modern Chinese History Society of Hong Kong. About 150 scholars and experts from all over the world took part in these symposiums to discuss and share their latest findings on the subjects.
Resource Centre of the Hong Kong Museum of History

The Resource Centre of the Hong Kong Museum of History is located at Room 201 of the Museum premises with about 20 seats for readers. It provides reference books, periodicals and audio-visual materials on Chinese and Hong Kong history, archaeology, ethnography, natural history and museology.

Reference Materials
* Publications
* Periodicals
* Historical photos depicting early Hong Kong views
* Audio-visual materials including oral history interviews, traditional folk songs, performances of puppets and Cantonese operas, Museum weekend lectures, etc.
* The winning entries of the Inter-school Competition of Study Project on Local History

Retrieval System
The library management system VLIB is used to index all reference materials. Readers can get access to the database and search for catalogues of the reference materials in the Centre.

Services provided
All materials are not available for loan and should only be used inside the Resource Centre. Subject to copyright conditions, the Centre provides photocopying and reproduction services of historical photos for research purpose. Please make appointment in advance by calling 27249009 or 27249033.

Opening Hours
Monday to Friday 9:30 am - 12:30 pm
2:30 pm - 5:00 pm
Saturday 9:30 am - 12:00 noon
Closed on Saturday afternoons, Sundays and public holidays

Resource Centre of the Central Conservation Section

The Resource Centre of the Central Conservation Section is located at Room 202 of the Hong Kong Museum of History. It offers a range of reference materials such as conservation texts, scientific literature, periodicals, journals, audio-visual materials and internet access to conservation network for those who are interested in the subject of conservation. Please make appointment in advance to the Central Conservation Section by telephone: 2734 2106 or fax: 23162407.
Special Exhibition Gallery
The Special Exhibition Gallery occupies a floor area of 980m² and is situated at the 1/F Main Lobby. It is installed with movable panels to fit the needs of different thematic exhibitions. Through the good use of space and settings, special audio-visual and lighting effects as well as computer and interactive technology, the theme and atmosphere of individual thematic exhibitions can be presented vividly to the visitors.

Lecture Hall
To commensurate with the education function of the Museum, the availability of well-equipped educational facilities is indispensable. Located on the G/F foyer, the Lecture Hall has 139 seats, a stage of 30m² and is equipped with and simultaneous interpretation facilities. It is used by the Museum to organize a wide range of education and extension activities such as seminars, performances, conferences and video shows.

Activity Rooms
The two Activity Rooms next to the Lecture Hall are around 40m² each and are also equipped with basic audio-visual equipment. They are ideal for organizing smaller scale education and extension activities such as workshops and demonstrations for participation by the general public.

Refreshment Corner ("Yinbinshi")
Located at the right corner of the 1/F Main Lobby is the Refreshment Corner named as "Yinbinshi". "Yinbinshi" was originally used by Mr. Liang Qichao, a well-known Chinese reformer in the early 20th century, to name his study. According to the Taoist classic Zhuang Zi, yinbin literally means "drinking ice". It describes senior officials with heavy responsibilities who drink ice in order to release their inner anxiety and fears of failing in accomplishing their duties.

The "Yinbinshi" can comfortably accommodate about 100 patrons. In the dining area, you can overlook part of the architecture and display of "The Hong Kong Story" Permanent Exhibition as well as the courtyard of the Museum. After touring our galleries, this is an ideal place for you to relax with your friends and family.

Museum Shop
The Museum Shop is located at the left corner of the 1/F Main Lobby. Here, you can find a variety of historical and art books, paintings, CDs, stationery and gift items. The Museum's own publications and souvenirs are also available for sale at the shop. Museum Pass holders can enjoy a 10% discount on cash purchase of selected items at the shop.
The Museum has published publications on topics related to history and heritage as well as exhibition catalogues. A series of attractive souvenir items are also produced for the Hong Kong Museum of History and Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence. Discounts are available for commercial purchase by bookshops and books-dealers, please call 2724 9076 or fax to 2724 9090 for details. Please visit our website http://hk.history.museum for more information and our latest lists of publications and souvenirs. The publications listed below are those published by the Museum up to April 2003. They are written in both Chinese and English unless otherwise stated.

### Title of Publications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title of Publications</th>
<th>Price (HK$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Musical Instruments of India</td>
<td>$14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stone Adzes of Hong Kong</td>
<td>$14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Australian Aboriginal Heritage</td>
<td>$18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysian Traditional Crafts</td>
<td>$25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History Through Maps - An Exhibition of Old Maps of China (Book)</td>
<td>$92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nature Conservation in China (Hard Cover)</td>
<td>$60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Maritime Silk Route - 2000 Years of Trade on the South China Sea</td>
<td>$130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historical Inscriptions of Hong Kong (Set of 3) (in Chinese with an English Preface)</td>
<td>$135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Puppet Theatres in Hong Kong &amp; Their Origins</td>
<td>$51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law Uk Folk Museum</td>
<td>$14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forts and Batteries - Coastal Defence in Guangdong During the Ming &amp; Qing Dynasties</td>
<td>$110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Toys</td>
<td>$28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Towards a Sustainable World</td>
<td>$40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gems of Liangzhu Culture (Soft Cover)</td>
<td>$111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Of Hearts and Hands: Hong Kong’s Traditional Trades &amp; Crafts</td>
<td>$130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collected Essays on the Culture of the Ancient Yue People in South China</td>
<td>$110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heavenly Creations - Gems of Ancient Chinese Inventions</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Darkness - Life in Kowloon Walled City (Hard Cover) (in English only)</td>
<td>$295</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Victoria</td>
<td>$50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Victoria (CD-Rom) (in Chinese or English)</td>
<td>$80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coastal Defense &amp; Maritime Economy of Modern China (contains 21 articles in Chinese and 3 in English)</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johann Strauss: Thunder and Lightning</td>
<td>$135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A History of the Municipal Councils of Hong Kong (1883-1999) (in Chinese or English)</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History and Relics of the Great Wall</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>War and Peace - Treasures of the Qin and Han Dynasties</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historical Photographs of H.K. (Part 1) (Set of 6)</td>
<td>$37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historical Photographs of H.K. (Part 2) (Set of 6)</td>
<td>$28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historical Photographs of H.K. (Part 3) (Set of 6)</td>
<td>$38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History Through Maps - An Exhibition of Old Maps of China (Map)</td>
<td>$53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“The Hong Kong Story” Information CD-Rom</td>
<td>$40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Napoleon Bonaparte - Emperor and Man</td>
<td>$130</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Heavenly Creations - Gems of Ancient Chinese Inventions
City of Victoria
War and Peace - Treasures of the Qin and Han Dynasties
City of Victoria (CD-Rom)
History and Relics of the Great Wall
"The Hong Kong Story" Information CD-Rom
Pencil case
24K bookmark
Souvenir covers
Stationery folders
- **Address/Correspondence**: 100 Chatham Road South, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon, Hong Kong
  - Tel.: (852) 2724 9042
  - Fax: (852) 2724 9090
  - Email: hkmh@lcsd.gov.hk

- **Main Lobby's entrance and box office**: Located on the Upper Piazza adjoining the Hong Kong Museum of History and the Hong Kong Science Museum. The box office is next to the entrance of the main lobby (the box office will stop service 30 minutes before the Museum’s closing time).

- **Opening hours**
  - Monday & Wednesday to Saturday (Closed on Tuesday, except public holiday): 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
  - Sunday & Public Holiday: 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
  - Closed at 5:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve and Chinese New Year’s Eve
  - Other closing days: Closed on the first two days of the Chinese New Year.

- **Admission fees and Museum Passes**: Please browse the Museum website [http://hk.history.museum](http://hk.history.museum) or call 2724 9042 for details.
  - Admission to “The Hong Kong Story” Permanent Exhibition is free on Wednesday (the galleries will stop admission 30 minutes before the Museum’s closing time).

- **Advance booking of tickets**: Please call 2724 9097 for details.

- **Visit by schools and registered charitable organizations / non-profit-making organizations**: Free (advance booking required), please contact the Education Activities Unit at 2724 9080 during office hours.

- **Visit by people with disabilities**: 1. For schools and registered charitable/non-profit-making organizations, please call 2724 9080 during office hours. 2. For other groups and individuals, please call 2724 8137 or 2724 9097 for making advance arrangement.

- **Resource Centre**: Advance booking required, please call 2724 9009 or 2724 9033 during office hours.

- **Public transport**: 1. Walk 18 minutes along Cameron Road and then Chatham Road South from Exit B2 of the MTR Tsim Sha Tsui Station. 2. Walk 15 minutes along the footbridge from the KCR Hung Hom Station towards the direction of Tsim Sha Tsui East. 3. Please refer to the location map for buses and minibuses that pass by the Museum. 4. Charged public carparks available in the vicinity.

- **Website**: [http://hk.history.museum](http://hk.history.museum)
Main lobby's entrance and box office (at the Upper Piazza)

UP Upper Piazza

LP Lower Piazza

MTR Tsim Sha Tsui Station Exit B2

KCR Hung Hom Station

Mini-bus terminus

Public carpark

Bus-stop


CB: A21

Tsim Sha Tsui (East) Bus Terminus

KMB: 26, 35A, 41A, 98D, 208, 13X

CB: 973

(The route information is for reference only, and is subject to change with the transport companies' announcement as final.)
Lei Cheng Uk Han Tomb Museum

The Lei Cheng Uk Han Tomb Museum is composed of an Eastern Han dynasty brick tomb and an exhibition gallery, occupying an area of about 183 m². The tomb was discovered in 1955 when the Hong Kong Government was leveling a hill slope at the Lei Cheng Uk Village for the construction of resettlement buildings. Subsequently, the tomb was excavated by members of the University of Hong Kong and workers of the Public Works Department under the supervision of Professor F.S. Drake, Head of the Chinese Department of the University of Hong Kong. Fifty pottery wares including storage vessels, cooking vessels, food vessels and models, together with eight bronze wares were unearthed from the tomb. According to its structure, calligraphy and content of the inscriptions on tomb bricks and tomb finds, it is believed that the tomb was built in the Eastern Han dynasty (AD 25-220).

The tomb was declared a gazetted monument in 1988 and is preserved permanently under the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance. Though visitors are not allowed entry into the tomb, they can have a glimpse of the interior through a glass panel at the entrance passage.

The exhibition gallery was built adjacent to the tomb. In addition to the display of pottery and bronze wares excavated from the tomb, texts, graphics, photos, maps, models and a video programme are used to introduce the geographical setting, discovery and structure of the tomb. The exhibition also explains how to date the tomb according to its structure, inscriptions and tomb finds. Visitors can also learn the culture and customs of the Han dynasty.

Structure of the Han Tomb
### Service Information

| Address / Correspondence | 41 Tonkin Street, Sham Shui Po, Kowloon, Hong Kong  
Tel.: (852) 2386 2863  
Fax: (852) 2361 2105 |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Admission fee</td>
<td>Free admission</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Opening hours            | Monday to Wednesday, Friday and Saturday  
(Closed on Thursday):  
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. & 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
Sunday & Public Holiday (except Thursday):  
1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
(Closed at 5:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve and Chinese New Year’s Eve) |
| Other closing days       | Closed on Christmas Day (25/12), Boxing Day (26/12), New Year’s Day (1/1) and the first 3 days of the Chinese New Year. |
| Public transport         | 1. Walk 10 minutes along Tonkin Street from the A3 Exit of the MTR Cheung Sha Wan Station.  
2. Take the Kowloon Motor Bus No. 2A, alight at the entrance of the Museum.  
3. Take the Kowloon Motor Bus No. 2 or Tunnel Bus No. 112, alight at Po On Road, then walk 2 minutes along Tonkin Street. |
| Website                  | http://hk.history.museum                         |
Law Uk Folk Museum

The Law Uk Folk Museum was converted from an old village house known as Law Uk, which is a declared historical monument. Law Uk (the Law House) is a 200-year old Hakka village house of about 120m² in area. It is named after the original owner, whose surname is transliterated as Law. The house has a central main hall that opens to a light well and is flanked by lofted bedrooms, work area, storeroom, and kitchen. This rather modest village house is typical of traditional Hakka domestic architecture and is the sole remaining example of its kind in Chai Wan. It stands as a reminder of sweeping changes in Chai Wan over the decades.
Service Information

Address / Correspondence: 14 Kut Shing Street, Chai Wan, Hong Kong.
Tel.: (852) 2896 7006
Fax: (852) 2724 9090

Admission fee: Free admission

Opening hours: Monday to Wednesday, Friday and Saturday (Closed on Thursday):
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. & 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Sunday & Public Holiday (except Thursday): 1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
(Closed at 5:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve and Chinese New Year's Eve)

Other closing days: Closed on Christmas Day (25/12), Boxing Day (26/12), New Year's Day (1/1) and the first 3 days of the Chinese New Year.

Public transport:
1. Walk 5 minutes from the B2 Exit of the MTR Chai Wan Station.
2. Take First Bus No. 8, alight at Cheung Lee Street or Hong Man Street and walk for about 5 minutes.
3. Take First Bus No. 84M, alight at MTR Chai Wan Station and walk for about 5 minutes.

Website: http://hk.history.museum
Introduction

The Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence was converted from the old Lei Yue Mun Fort, which was built in 1887 by the British forces to defend the eastern approach to the Victoria Harbour. The Fort was the most sophisticated coastal fortification at that time. During the Japanese invasion in 1941, it was an important battlefield. The defending units there suffered heavy casualties. After the war, the Fort was no longer significant in the defence of Hong Kong and the area was used as a training ground by the British army until 1987 when the site was vacated.

In 1987, part of the Lei Yue Mun complex, the Lei Yue Mun Barracks, was converted into a holiday camp and named the Lei Yue Mun Park. In 1993, the Hong Kong Government decided to conserve and develop another part of the complex, the Lei Yue Mun fortifications, into a museum with new facilities. Construction commenced in October 1997 and was completed in July 1999. After installation of exhibits, the Museum was opened to the public on 25 July 2000.

List of Major Public Facilities

The Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence covers a vast area of 34,200 m². It comprises three main areas, namely the Reception Building, the Redoubt, and the Historical Trail. The Redoubt was renovated as the major exhibition area. The casemates inside the Redoubt were converted into exhibition galleries for a permanent exhibition on "600 Years of Hong Kong's Coastal Defence". Other historical military structures in the site, such as the gun batteries, the Brennan Torpedo Station, caponiers and magazines, were properly restored to form a Historical Trail so that visitors may appreciate their former roles in the network of defences at Lei Yue Mun.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facilities</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Area</th>
<th>More Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Main Lobby including:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Museum's main entrance</td>
<td>1/F, Reception Building</td>
<td>190 m²</td>
<td>Details of opening hours and service information at P.58 to P.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- box office</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- information counter</td>
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<tr>
<td>- lifts</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lecture Hall</td>
<td>2/F, Reception Building</td>
<td>70 m²</td>
<td>P.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanent Exhibition Gallerys</td>
<td>Redoubt</td>
<td>705 m²</td>
<td>P.46 to P.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Take lift at the Reception Building to 8/F; then walk for 1 minute)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Exhibition Gallery</td>
<td>Upper level, Redoubt</td>
<td>450 m²</td>
<td>P.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Souvenir Shop</td>
<td>Redoubt</td>
<td>30 m²</td>
<td>P.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cafeteria</td>
<td>East of the Redoubt</td>
<td>80 m²</td>
<td>P.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historical Trail</td>
<td>Outdoor area</td>
<td>3,680 m²</td>
<td>P.54 to P.55</td>
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</tbody>
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Architectural Features

The Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence was built by the Architectural Services Department. Since the old Lei Yue Mun Fort was a restricted military area and due to its remoteness, it was inaccessible to the general public. The Fort is precipitous and there was no provision of facilities such as water or electricity supply, the construction work faced many difficulties. The Fort now becomes a museum with modern facilities. The unique architecture of the Museum was recognised by the Hong Kong Institute of Architects with Silver Medal in the year 2001.

Reception Building

Since the site is precipitous, Reception Building with passenger lifts and a footbridge was developed as a controlled entrance point at the lower part of the headland for easy access. The idea came from the Belfry tower of Medieval Times. Belfry tower was a large tall wooden structure on wheels that could be pushed close to the enemies' castle walls. Soldiers could climb up the ladders inside the tower to reach the top and get into the castle. The basic materials of the Reception Building are fair-faced concrete and glass which can best express the rawness and simplicity of the structure. Plant room with electrical cable ducts, and rooms for piping were installed inside the Reception Building. All services such as water supply, electricity and drainage discharge were installed and connected to the Redoubt via the Reception Building and the footbridge.

Footbridge

The footbridge was designed to connect the Reception Building and the upper part of the headland. Visitors can experience the precipitous terrain of the site and appreciate the beautiful landscape of the headland. The floor decking was made of fibreglass which is a relatively economic and non-slippery material. To provide an open atmosphere for people walking on the footbridge, the balustrade was constructed with 19mm tempered glass. Railing was later added to give psychological security for people.

Redoubt

The architect had decided to cover the Redoubt with a tensile structure which could protect the building from further weathering and facilitate control of temperature and relative humidity for displaying and preserving the artefacts in a desirable environment. This tensile structure is roughly circular in plan with a diameter of about 42m. Structural supports for the fabric roof include 4 central masts positioned in the courtyard and 21 peripheral anchorage tripods connected by cables. The fabric roof is made of PTEE (Teflon) coated with fibreglass. It is fully waterproof and can block out wind and sunlight. The white fabric is reminiscent of the sturdy canvas commonly used by the early military. It is also easier to transport this light material to the summit of the hill. Besides, the quantity of construction material could be greatly reduced to save cost and to minimize the intervention induced from the construction works of the cover for the Redoubt. A viewing gallery with full-height glazed enclosure is formed above the Redoubt to welcome sunlight and let visitors enjoy the view of the Victoria Harbour. The fabric roof and glass wall panels are connected by a single layer PVC flap. This elastic flap allows considerable displacement of the fabric roof under different wind loads.

(Information provided by Mr. Kenneth Tam, Architect of Architectural Services Department)
Floor Plan of Museum of Coastal Defence

Area B: Redoubt

1. Orientation
2. The Ming Period
3. The Qing Period
4. The First Opium War
5. The British Period
6. The British Period
7. The British Period
8. The Battle for Hong Kong
9. The Japanese Occupation
10. The Volunteers
11. The Hong Kong Garrison of the PLA
12. Coastal Defence Weapons Theatre
13. The Cost of War
The Lei Yue Mun Redoubt, which occupies about 1,300 m², is the central military structure of the Lei Yue Mun Fort built by the British forces in 1887. There are 18 casemates, originally used as barrack rooms, magazines, shell and cartridge stores, preparation rooms and coal store. The casemates are connected by passageways. The central part of the Redoubt is an open courtyard where the soldiers assembled. After renovation, the Redoubt is covered by a tensile structure to protect the building from further weathering and to facilitate control of temperature and humidity level. Modern museum facilities are also added to the Redoubt in which artefacts related to the history of Hong Kong's coastal defence covering the Ming and Qing period, the British period, the Japanese invasion and the period after the resumption of Chinese sovereignty over Hong Kong are displayed. In addition to panel texts, graphic illustrations and multimedia programmes, the exhibition features some 400 military artefacts. It is hoped that visitors can gain a better understanding of the history of coastal defence in Hong Kong.

**Gallery 1 : Orientation**
This gallery sketches Hong Kong's historical and geographical background, describes its role in the coastal defence of southern China and proposes a route of visit to the different galleries of the Exhibition.

**Gallery 2 : The Ming Period (1368 - 1644)**
Hong Kong, situated on the southeast frontier of China and guarding the entrance to the Zhujiang River, was a strategic outpost of coastal defence in South China since the Ming dynasty. Due to frequent attacks by marauding Japanese pirates in the early Ming period, wei-so (guards and battalions) were established along the Guangdong coast to strengthen its coastal defence. Troops were stationed in areas of strategic importance. In 1394, the Dongguan Independent Battalion was set up, with headquarters located close to Hong Kong. From then onwards, Hong Kong became one of the several outposts within the defence network guarding the Zhujiang Delta region against the attack of Japanese pirates. The history of coastal defence in the Ming period is illustrated with graphics and exhibits including the Qing armours, a cannon barrel of Southern Ming period and a model of Ming period Guangdong war junk.

**Gallery 3 : The Qing Period (1644 - 1911)**
This gallery introduces the history of coastal defence in the Guangdong region during the Qing dynasty. Coastal defence armaments and garrisons as well as the problem of piracy in early Hong Kong are also discussed. Such exhibits as the partial gun barrel found in Chek Lap Kok, letters from Qiying, Governor-general of Guangdong and Guangxi, and Imperial envoy to John Davis, Hong Kong Governor regarding the problem of opium and piracy in Hong Kong, and archaeological finds from the Tung Lung Fort are on display. The forts and batteries built in Hong Kong during the Qing period are described and illustrated with graphic panels.
Gallery 4: The First Opium War (1839 - 1842)
This gallery tells the story of the First Opium War which unfolds with the arrival of foreigners, the Canton trade system and the harm caused by the opium trade. It then proceeds to explain how Commissioner Lin Zexu destroyed a large amount of opium, how the British started the Opium War and how Hong Kong Island was ceded under the Treaty of Nanjing. There is a rich display of related artefacts, such as an opium pipe, an opium lamp, Chinese and British weapons of the period, and scale models of a Chinese war junk and a British warship. Replicas of Commissioner Lin’s memorial to the Emperor and a replica of the historic Treaty of Nanjing are also displayed. The vivid graphic presentation and a video show enable visitors to have a clearer picture of this important turning point in the history of Hong Kong.

Gallery 5: The British Period (1841 - 1860)
This gallery covers two topics. The first is the history of Hong Kong’s coastal defence from 1841 to 1860. A number of military facilities were constructed during this period to defend the territory. This part of the exhibition introduces the early development of British coastal fortifications in Hong Kong and early topographical surveys undertaken by the Royal Engineers. Such artefacts as Lieutenant Collinson’s survey maps of Hong Kong, his letters to his mother, and a scale model of the Murray House can be seen. The second part narrates the history of the Second Opium War with graphic illustrations and a replica of the Treaty of Beijing.

Gallery 6: The British Period (1861 - 1941)
This gallery presents the development of the British coastal fortifications after 1860, advances in artillery technology and the life of British soldiers in Hong Kong. Part of a British barrack room is meticulously recreated to feature the indoor life of British soldiers in the early years. In addition, a number of different types of uncased shells unearthed in various parts of Hong Kong can be seen. Innovations in artillery technology are explained. Exhibits relating to the British army such as uniforms and equipment are also displayed.

Gallery 7: The British Period (1861 - 1941)
Illustrated with photographs and text, the display introduces the development of British coastal fortifications in Hong Kong, particularly those built at Lei Yue Mun in the 1880s. It gives a brief history of the Royal Navy and discusses the revitalization of Hong Kong’s coastal defence prior to the outbreak of the Second World War. Among the exhibits are uniforms of the Royal Navy, the gate emblem of HMS Tamar and the memorabilia from the time capsule of the Royal Navy in Hong Kong in 1902.

Gallery 8: The Battle for Hong Kong (1941)
This gallery deals with the rise of Japanese militarism, the Sino-Japanese War in 1937, the Japanese assault on Hong Kong in December 1941, the subsequent battles and the fall of Hong Kong. In order to give visitors a full account of these historical events, a video on the Battle for Hong Kong is shown. Also on display is a scale model showing how the Japanese troops engineered the Lugouqiao (Marco Polo Bridge) Incident on 7 July 1937, which signalled the launch of Japan’s ambitious plan to conquer the whole of China. The display of related artefacts such as Japanese and British army uniforms, weapons and equipment will provide visitors with a full picture of this important chapter in the history of Hong Kong.
Gallery 9 : The Japanese Occupation (1941 - 1945)
This gallery features Hong Kong under Japanese occupation: Japanese military rule, life in a prisoner-of-war camp, civilian life in Hong Kong, the East River Column (the anti-Japanese guerrilla forces) and the Japanese surrender. Various documents of the occupation period, military notes and artefacts from members of the East River Column are displayed. With audio handsets, visitors can listen to the interviews with prisoners-of-war, veterans and civilians giving accounts of their lives in this period.

Gallery 10 : The Volunteers (1854 - 1995)
This gallery traces the history of the Volunteers: their formation in 1854, their development in the 19th century and between the two World Wars, their valour during the Japanese invasion of Hong Kong in 1941, their reorganization in the post-war years and their disbandment in 1995. Exhibits include uniforms, medals, arms, equipment, photo albums and documents specially selected from the Volunteers' collection. There is a machine gun crew diorama depicting the gallant last stand of men from No.2 Company of the Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Corps in the vicinity of Stanley Village on the night of 24 December 1941.

Gallery 11 : The Hong Kong Garrison of the PLA (1997)
This gallery introduces the history of the People's Liberation Army (PLA), the formation of the Hong Kong Garrison, its positions before and after its deployment into Hong Kong, and its duties and the soldiers' daily life. A rich selection of artefacts from the Garrison, including uniforms, badges, colours, photos and military scale models, is displayed here. Visitors can gain a better understanding of the PLA Garrison in Hong Kong from the artefacts, text and graphic illustrations.

Upper Exhibition Gallery
A video entitled "Defending the Seaboard" is shown in the Coastal Defence Weapons Theatre at the Upper Exhibition Gallery and gives a full account of the development and changes of coastal defence weapons in the Eastern and Western countries. The "Cost of War" display, an end-note to the entire exhibition, is located next to the Coastal Defence Weapons Theatre. By showing anguished faces of victims in various contemporary wars, we hope to provide an opportunity for visitors to reflect on the horror of war. Children can sit in the Children's Corner to draw their "Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence" and give full play to their imagination.
The Historical Trail

The construction of defence installations was considered in the 1880s to protect Hong Kong from possible threats posed by Russia and France. Lei Yue Mun at that time was considered virtually invulnerable to attack. However, by the First World War, the defensive importance of Lei Yue Mun had declined considerably as a result of the installation of the powerful 9.2 inch BL guns at Devil's Peak covering a greater range on the eastern sea approach. These military remains have been restored as a Historical Trail.

6 inch BL disappearing gun
Lei Yue Mun Redoubt was armed with two 6 inch breech loading (BL) Mark IV guns on disappearing carriages by 1890. Until the time for action came, the gun was concealed in the emplacement beneath its armoured shield. Before firing, the power of the hydro-pneumatic mounting lifted it through the opening where it remained briefly in this position and was fired. Driven by the force of its recoil, the gun disappeared again into its emplacement. The reconstruction in the emplacement No. 1 shows a 6 inch BL disappearing gun (replica) in its firing position.

Central Battery
This battery was completed in March 1887 and mounted with two 64 pounder rifled muzzle loading (RML) Mark III guns on traversing platforms in the emplacements No. 1 and No. 2 respectively. The magazines for the storage of the ammunition were built next to the emplacements. The battery was abandoned in early 1905. The gun barrel on display in the emplacement No. 1 is a 7 inch (17.8 cm) RML Mark I gun, unearthed from the Admiralty Garden site in 1990. It is mounted on a replicated traversing carriage. The magazine next to this emplacement displays the essential equipment used by the gun crew including the rammer, worm, sponge and wooden bucket.

West Battery
The two 9 inch (23 cm) rifled muzzle loading guns mounted in this battery in March 1887 were the largest weapons ever to be mounted at Lei Yue Mun. Both guns in the battery were directed from the depression range finder position on top of the nearby mound; below this position were the magazine, stores and gunner's shelter. Some time after 1898, the 9 inch guns were removed and were replaced by the two 4.7 inch (12 cm) QF guns which were mounted in the emplacements nearby. The barrel now displayed in the emplacement No. 1 was found in the Admiralty Garden site in 1990.

The Torpedo Station
The Brennan Torpedo station at Lei Yue Mun was built between 1892 and 1894. It was the last to be constructed either in Britain or her overseas possessions. It was hewn out of the rock of the headland. On the hillside above this torpedo station were tanks for collection of fresh water for the boilers and next to the tanks were two small storage wells for the torpedo lubricant. Besides, a narrow rail of 76.2 metres in length was constructed along the north-western shore of the Brennan torpedo station for transporting torpedoes. Torpedoes recovered after a trial launch were towed to the jetty where they were transferred on to wheeled cradles and returned to the store by the railway along the foreshore. The railway track has long been removed, leaving a segment of remnants for visitors' appreciation.
Thematic Exhibitions
Since its establishment in 2000, the Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence has staged a series of thematic exhibitions, including "Dr. Sun Yat-sen and Modern China" exhibition, "Architecture of the Museum of Coastal Defence" exhibition, "The Medal Story" exhibition jointly presented with the Orders and Medals Research Society (Hong Kong Branch), "Military Uniforms in Contemporary Warfare" exhibition jointly presented with the World Militaria Association, "Cultural Relics of the Zhongshan Gunboat" exhibition jointly presented with the Museum of the Zhongshan Gunboat, "Cultural Relics of the Fireboat Alexander Grantham" exhibition jointly presented with the Fire Services Department, and "Archery Traditions of Asia" exhibition displaying Mr. Stephen Selby's collection on traditional Chinese and Asian archery. The Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence will continue to uphold the mission of being an institution preserving and promoting the history of coastal defence in Hong Kong and Southeast China.

Education Activities and Extension Services

Education Activities
The Museum aims at preserving, studying and presenting the history of coastal defence of Hong Kong and southern part of China. In order to arouse public's interest in the history of coastal defence of Hong Kong, the Museum organizes various kinds of general or academic education activities, such as lectures, workshops, performances, demonstrations and field trips. The Education Unit of the Museum is responsible for the planning and execution of these activities. The Museum also collaborates with primary and secondary school teachers to provide backup for teaching of history at schools.

Guided Tour Service
Guided tour service on the Permanent Exhibition and Historical Trail is available for pre-booked visiting groups and general visitors. For enquiries and booking, please call 2569 1248 during office hours.

Museum Website
Facility Information

Lecture Hall
The Lecture Hall of the Museum is located at the second floor of the Reception Building. Occupying an area of about 70m², the Lecture Hall is equipped with advanced audio-visual equipment. It is mainly used for organizing lectures, training programmes, briefing sessions, film shows and other activities.

Souvenir Shop
The souvenir shop is located near the entrance of the Redoubt. It occupies some 30 m² and sells a wide range of merchandise including books and souvenirs related to coastal defence or military history of Hong Kong and South China. Some of the Museum's publications and souvenirs as listed on p.34 to p.35 are also available here. Museum Pass holders can enjoy a 10% discount on cash purchase of selected items at the shop.

Cafeteria
The cafeteria is located in a single storey purpose-built structure at the eastern part of the Redoubt. It occupies about 80 m² and sells a wide range of snacks and drinks. Here visitors can enjoy the refreshment and a spectacular view of the Victoria Harbour.
Service Information of the Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence

| Address/Correspondence | 175 Tung Hei Road, Shau Kei Wan, Hong Kong  
Tel.: (852) 2569 1500  
Fax: (852) 2569 1637  
Email: hkmcd@lcsd.gov.hk |
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<td>Museum's main entrance and box office</td>
<td>The Museum's main entrance and box office are located on 1/F Reception Building (i.e. ground level), the box office will stop service 30 minutes before the Museum's closing time.</td>
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| Opening hours | 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. daily  
(Closed on Thursdays, except public holidays) |
| Other closing days | Closed on the first two days of the Chinese New Year |
| Admission fees and Museum Passes | Please browse the Museum website  
http://hkcoastaldefence.museum  
or call 25691500 for details.  
Free admission on Wednesday. |
| Advance booking of tickets | Please call 2569 1746 for details |
| Visit by schools and registered charitable / non-profit-making organizations | Free (advance booking required), please call 2569 1248 during office hours. |
| Visit by people with disabilities | Please call 2569 1248 or 2569 1746 for making advance arrangement. |
| Public transport | 1. Walk 15 minutes from Exit B2 of the Shau Kei Wan MTR Station.  
2. Take First Bus No. 84 (circular route), running between Yiu Tung Estate and Heng Fa Chuen.  
3. Take Citybus No. 85, from North Point Ferry Pier to Siu Sai Wan.  
4. Museum carpark is open to visitors from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on a first-come-first-served basis. Maximum parking time is 3 hours. |
| Website | http://hk.coastaldefence.museum |
Museum's entrance
Shau Kei Wan MTR Station Exit B2
Public carpark
Bus-stop

(The transport information is for reference only, and is subject to change with the transport companies' announcement as final.)
Hong Kong Museum of History
100 Chatham Road South, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon, Hong Kong
Tel. (852) 2724 9042
Opening hours and service information at P.36-P.37
Website: http://hk.history.museum

Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence
175 Tung Hei Road, Shau Kei Wan, Hong Kong
Tel. (852) 2569 1500
Opening hours and service information at P.58-P.59
Website: http://hk.coastaldefence.museum

Lei Cheng Uk Han Tomb Museum
41 Tonkin Street, Sham Shui Po, Kowloon, Hong Kong
Tel. (852) 2386 2863
Opening hours and service information at P.39
Website: http://hk.history.museum

Law Uk Folk Museum
14 Kut Shing Street, Chai Wan, Hong Kong
Tel. (852) 2896 7006
Opening hours and service information at P.41
Website: http://hk.history.museum