Experience four festivals this spring in Hong Kong — just follow the joyous rhythms of rousing gongs and drums, which are the soundtrack for colourful parades in celebration of the city’s ancient Chinese past. This is a great time to soak up the energy, tradition and passion that comprise the very soul of Hong Kong.

27 April
Birthday of Tin Hau

Worshippers flock in the thousands to temples across Hong Kong on the birthday of Tin Hau, praying to the Goddess of the Sea for safety, fine weather and full fishing nets for the coming year.

**Yuen Long Shap Pat Heung Tin Hau Festival Procession**

One of the highlights of the Tin Hau festivities is the three-hour Shap Pat Heung ('18 Villages') fa pau parade in Yuen Long, featuring the Hong Kong Police Band, about 30 fa pau groups, lion dancers, dance groups and marching bands.

**Date**
27 April 2019

**Time**
10am - Procession from Yuen Long town centre to Tin Hau Temple at Tai Shu Ha (see parade route map)
3pm - fa pau raffle at Tin Hau Temple, Tai Shu Ha

**Enquiry**
+852 2476 2284

**How to Get There**
MTR Yuen Long Station Exit F, walk through Sun Yuen Long Centre and walk along the footbridge to Fung Cheung Road (for approximately 10 minutes).

**Other Celebrations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Locations</th>
<th>Events &amp; Times</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| Cha Kwo Ling Village, Kwun Tong | Cantonese opera (26–30 April, 2–5pm & 8pm to 12am) | Dragon and lion dance, fa pau competition (27 April, 8am to 2pm)
| Feng Shue Wo Road, Tsing Yi | Cantonese opera (5–9 May, 1–11pm)                   | Dragon and lion dance, fa pau competition (7 May, 10am to 2pm)
| Hang Hau                    | Ceremony (27 April, 10am)                           | Parade (10 May, 1pm)                                    | Cantonese opera (10 May, 7:30pm; 11–14 May, 8pm, 12 May, 1:30pm & 13–14 May, 2pm)
| Hau Kok, Tuen Mun           | Cantonese opera (21 April, 7–11pm; 22–24 April, 1–11pm) | Cantonese opera — Excerpt Performance (26–28 April, 7–10pm) | Parade, lion dance, fa pau raffle (27 April, 11am to 2pm)
| Joss House Bay, Sai Kung    | Dragon & lion dance, fa pau raffle, parade (27 April, 8am to 2pm) | * Ferry service to Joss House Bay is available from the North Point Ferry Pier on 26–27 April. A free single-trip ferry ride to Hung Hom or Kowloon City from North Point is offered on the same day with the original ticket stub or if using the same Octopus card upon return. Please contact First Ferry at +852 2131 8181 for details. |
| Leung Shuen Wan, Sai Kung   | Fa pau raffle (27 April, 11am)                       | Ceremony (27 April, 1pm)                                |
| Luk Yeung Sun Chuen, Tsuen Wan | Cantonese opera (24–27 April, 7:15pm; 25–27 April, 1:30pm) | Ceremony (27 April, noon to 12:30pm)                  |
| Ma Wan Main Street and Ma Wan Village, Ma Wan | Cantonese opera (24–28 April, 2pm & 7:30pm) | Worshipping ceremony and dragon and lion dance at Tin Hau Temple (27 April, 10am to 1pm) |
| Ping Yuen, Ta Kiu Ling      | Cantonese opera and singing performance (25–28 April, 8–11pm; 26 & 28 April, 1–4pm; 27 April, noon to 4pm) | Dragon and lion dance and fa pau raffle (27 April, noon to 4pm) |
| Tin Hau Kung, Tai Po        | Dragon & lion dance, parade (21 April, 2–4:30pm)    | Singing and dancing performance (20–22 April, 10am)       | Ceremony (21 April, 11am)                                    |
| Yung Shue Wan, Lamma Island | Cantonese opera (26 April, 7:30pm; 27 April, 1:30pm & 8pm; 28–30 April, 2pm & 8pm) | Dragon boat and sampan races (28 April, 9am to 4pm) |
Traditional Celebrations

9-13 May
Cheung Chau
Bun Festival

Tonnes of buns, paper-mâché effigies, lion dancers and tall tales of ancient evil spirits all converge on the small island of Cheung Chau to create one of the world’s quirkiest local festivals. During the festival period, the entire island follows the tradition to go vegetarian for three days.

The Piu Sik (Floating Colours) Parade
When a plague devastated Cheung Chau more than a century ago, villagers paraded through the island’s narrow streets disguised as deities to drive away evil spirits. Today, small children dress up in costume to re-enact the parade, in which they appear to ‘float’ in the air.

Parade Route Map

The Bun Scrambling Competition
Competitors scramble up a bamboo tower covered with imitation buns, trying to collect as many as possible. Buns earn the competitors points (the higher up the better) and good fortune. The winner bags the much-coveted title of King or Queen of the Buns!

Bun Tower Facts
Nine thousand buns cover the 14-metre-tall tower. In the past they were real, but to avoid food wastage, plastic imitations are used today. Scramblers have three minutes and usually race to the top first to collect the buns with the highest points.

Information provided by Mr Yung Chi Ming, Chairman of Hong Kong Cheung Chau Bun Festival Committee

Festivities for the Cheung Chau Bun Festival

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates &amp; Times</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 May, noon to 6pm</td>
<td>• Climbing Carnival at the soccer pitch at Pak Tai Temple Playground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9-12 May, 7:30-11pm</td>
<td>• Chinese opera performances at Pak Tai Temple Plaza</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 May, 2:30-3:15pm</td>
<td>• Lion and unicorn dances at Pak Tai Temple Plaza</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 May, 9:30am</td>
<td>• Unicorn and iung fu performance at Pak Tai Temple Plaza</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 May, 2-4pm</td>
<td>• Piu Sik Parade (please refer to parade route for details)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 May, 11:30pm to 12:30am</td>
<td>• Bun Scrambling Competition* at the soccer pitch at Pak Tai Temple Playground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 May, 9am</td>
<td>• Distribution of buns at Pak Tai Temple Plaza</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 May, 2pm</td>
<td>• Ceremony to send the deities back to their temples</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Information provided by Mr Tsang Ka Ming, Chairman of the Patrol Athletic Association Limited

Piu Sik Performers
Two child performers (aged five to six) sit on chairs hidden beneath their costumes, which are secured to each other by rods decorated with symbolic items. The floats are wheeled through the streets or sometimes carried on villagers’ shoulders.

How to Get There
Ferry from Central Pier 5

Remarks
An additional sailing from Cheung Chau to Central will be provided after the Bun Scrambling Competition at midnight on 12 May. Please visit First Ferry’s website at www.nwff.com.hk for updates on the event day. For enquiries, call First Ferry Customer Service Hotline at +852 2131 8181 during office hours.

As the festival is very popular, visitors are advised to arrive early at Central Pier for the ferry to Cheung Chau. Crowd management will be handled by the police.
Celebration activities for the birthday of Buddha at Po Lin Monastery

Po Lin Monastery, situated high atop a plateau on Lantau Island, is home to the Big Buddha. Here, you can take part in the ‘Bathing the Buddha’ ceremony. Don't miss the Grand Hall of Ten Thousand Buddhas, completed in 2014; it is a multi-functional facility adopting classical architectural concepts of the Song dynasty (AD 960-1279).

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6-12 May</td>
<td>9am to 4:30pm</td>
<td>Buddha bathing ritual for the public, at the Hall of the Great Hero</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-10 May</td>
<td>6-7pm</td>
<td>Dharma speaks at the Great Compassion Repentance Service at the Grand Hall of Ten Thousand Buddhas (Language: Cantonese, Mandarin)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Enquiry +852 2985 5248 (9am to 5pm daily)

How to Get There
- MTR Tung Chung Station, Exit B, then take bus 23 (approximately 50 minutes)
- MTR Tung Chung Station Exit B, then take Ngong Ping Cable Car, which takes around 25 minutes. Then walk for around 10 minutes to the monastery
- Take a ferry from Central Pier 6 to Mui Wo, then take New Lantau Bus 2 to Ngong Ping.

2019 'Always Well-rounded and Auspicious' — the Celebration Carnival for Buddha’s Birthday

Organised by Buddha's Light International Association of Hong Kong, the Celebration Carnival for Buddha's Birthday attracts over 100,000 participants every year. There will be a vegetarian food fair, carnival games, a flower show, arts and crafts, as well as the 'Kid's Paradise'. You can take part in rituals such as Bathing the Buddha, wish-making, meditating and sutras calligraphy, which serve to purify one's mind.

Date 12 May
Time 10am to 6pm
Venue Soccer Pitch No. 4-6, Victoria Park
Ticketing Free admission
Website flshk.org.hk (available in Chinese only)
Enquiry +852 3110 9000
How to Get There MTR Causeway Bay Station, Exit E

12 May Birthday of Buddha

Also called the Buddha-bathing Festival, the deity's birthday is one of the most spiritual and unique festivals celebrated in Hong Kong. At Buddhist temples across the city, devotees gather to pay their respects by bathing Buddha statues in water, in a ritual believed to help purify the soul.

Celebration of Buddha’s Birthday in Year 2563 of the Buddhist Calendar (2019)

The Hong Kong Buddhist Association will hold a large-scale blessing ceremony to celebrate the Buddha's 2563rd birthday with the public. There will be Buddha-bathing rituals and charity sales booths. The Buddhist Birthday Charity Concert in the evening of 11 May will be this year’s highlight, with performances by various Buddhist organisations and artists.

Date 11-13 May
Time Various times. The Buddhist Birthday Charity Concert will be held from 7:30-9:30pm on 11 May.
Venue Hong Kong Coliseum
Ticketing Please visit the event website or contact Hong Kong Buddhist Association at +852 2574 9371 for details.
Website www.hkbuddhist.org (available in Chinese only)
Enquiry +852 2574 9371
How to Get There MTR Hung Hom Station, Exit D2
Festivities in celebration of the Birthday of Tam Kung

Devotees celebrate Tam Kung’s birthday in the oldest temple dedicated to him, in Shau Kei Wan. The temple was built in 1905 and reconstructed in 2002, with its original features carefully preserved. Catch ceremonies including traditional dragon and lion dances and a colourful street parade.

Date: 12 May
Time: 9am to 3pm (Dragon and lion dance parade from Shau Kei Wan Street East to Tam Kung Temple)
Venue: Tam Kung Temple Road
How to Get There: MTR Shau Kei Wan Station Exit B1 and follow Shau Kei Wan Main Street East and walk for about five minutes to Tam Kung Temple

12 May Birthday of Tam Kung

Revered among coastal communities, Tam Kung was said to be capable of forecasting the weather, healing the sick and learned the secret of remaining forever young when he was just 12. So, his statues usually depict an 80-year-old man with the face of a child.

Tours

Tin Hau Festival Tour
Date: 27 April 2019
Company: Gray Line Tours of Hong Kong Ltd
Tel: +852 2368 7111
Email: sales@grayline.com.hk
Website: www.grayline.com.hk
Language: English

Regular Tours Visiting Po Lin Monastery
Company: 360 Holidays Limited
Tel: +852 3666 0666/0666 0123
Email: holidays@np360.com.hk
Website: www.np360.com.hk

Company: Gray Line Tours of Hong Kong Ltd
Tel: +852 2368 7111
Email: sales@grayline.com.hk
Website: www.grayline.com.hk

Company: Lantau Tours Ltd.
Tel: +852 2984 8255
Email: info@lantautours.com.hk
Website: www.lantautours.com.hk

Company: Splendid Tours and Travel Ltd
Tel: +852 2316 2151
Email: info@splendid.hk
Website: www.splendid.hk

Hong Kong Tourism Board Visitor Information Services
Visitor Hotline: +852 2508 1234 9am to 6pm daily
Website: DiscoverHongKong.com

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