OLD TOWN CENTRAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS

As one of the oldest neighbourhoods in Hong Kong, Central is home to some truly fascinating historic landmarks. Like the city itself, some of these sites have evolved drastically over the years but many still retain an air of old-world charm. To experience the neighbourhood's rich history, visit these six landmarks below, which have all played important roles in the early years of Old Town Central's development.

1. Possession Street
   Possession Street was formerly on the waterfront and was where the British navy first landed when they claimed Hong Kong in 1841. The site of arrival has since been converted into Hollywood Road Park. Reclamation has also given the area more space for restaurants, shops and other attractions.

2. Pottinger Street
   Named in 1958 after Sir Henry Pottinger, the first Governor of Hong Kong, this stretch of irregular stone slabs is one of the oldest streets in Central. It’s made from a series of granite steps, so designed for pedestrians and merchants to walk easily up and down. Nowadays, the street is home to plenty of stalls, shops, restaurants and even a five-star hotel.

3. Tai Ping Shan Street
   Once a densely populated working-class neighbourhood, rapid gentrification in recent years has turned Tai Ping Shan Street into a café-filled hipster enclave known as Poho. You can still find vestiges of the past here, including temples such as the Kwong Foik I Tsz, which was built in 1851 and provided refuge for vulnerable members of the community.

4. Tai Kwun
   The former Central Police Station Compound is home to some of the oldest buildings in Central, including the Barrack Block, which was constructed between 1862 and 1864. After an extensive revitalisation project, the site reopened with 16 heritage buildings still standing. While the exteriors have been restored to much of their original splendor, the interiors are adapted into galleries, exhibition spaces, shops, bars and restaurants. Two new buildings - the JC Contemporary and JC Cube - also provide a futuristic edge to the heritage complex.

5. PMQ
   Constructed in 1889, PMQ was originally the campus for Victoria College - the oldest government school in Hong Kong - which was renamed Queen’s College. The building was later replaced with the Police Married Quarters, which was the first of its kind in the city to offer accommodation for married junior officers. In 2014 the Grade III historic building was converted into a multidisciplinary creative hub that promotes the works of young local artists and designers while also housing trendy shops and restaurants.

6. Pak Tsz Lane Park
   In 1892, Pak Tsz Lane became home to the Furen Literary Society - a group that eventually joined with Dr Sun Yat-sen’s Revive China Society to play a major role in the Xinhua Revolution. This park was erected to commemorate the achievements of these revolutionaries and mixes Chinese architectural elements with urban design, including a steel-and-timber pavilion, an interactive playground and a memorial sculpture.