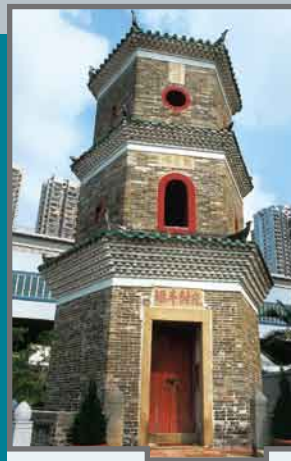




FIRST HERITAGE TRAIL IN HONG KONG YUEN LONG

Yuen Long, located in the northwest New Territories, has been transformed from a market town into a modern New Town filled with residential and commercial developments. But the district still harbours incredible vestiges of Hong Kong's past. Many heritage sites are still well preserved. The various centuries-old ancestral halls provide a rich vein of information about the early clan settlers in the New Territories. All of these heritage sites offer a wonderful way to literally step back in time and revisit the early days of Asia's world city.

This section contains information about a number of shops and restaurants or must-try 'Hidden Treasures' compiled by Dr Patrick Hase, the Immediate Past President of the Royal Asiatic Society Hong Kong Branch and Honorary Advisor to the Hong Kong Museum of History.



Yuen Long 元朗

Ping Shan Heritage Trail 屏山文物徑



MTR Tin Shui Wai Station Exit E. When you arrive at the ground floor, cross Tsui Sing Road. You will see Tsui Sing Lau Pagoda.

Did you know...

Ping Shan Heritage Trail

Originally Ping Shan was used to denote a number of villages situated below the Ping Shan Police Station. These included Sheung Cheung Wai, Kiu Tau Wai, Fui Sha Wai, Hang Tau Tsuen, Hang Mei Tsuen, Hung Uk Tsuen and Tong Fong Tsuen. But now, Ping Shan covers a much larger area.

1. Tsui Sing Lau Pagoda

聚星樓



Hong Kong's oldest pagoda, it is believed to have been built in about 1486. The three-storey, green brick building is hexagonal shaped and stands 13 metres high. The top floor of the pagoda is home to Fui Shing (Champion Star) who is believed to be the deity in charge of success or failure in examinations. You will also see auspicious sayings inscribed on each floor. Open daily: 9am – 1pm and 2pm – 5pm. Closed on Tuesday and some public holidays.



Follow the 'Ping Shan Heritage Trail' sign. Turn left and walk in the direction of the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals Kwok Yat Wai College. Follow the sign to Sheung Cheung Wai.

2. Shrine of the Earthgod

社壇



Just before you enter Sheung Cheung Wai you will come across a shrine dedicated to the Earthgod, She Kung, the deity that villagers believe protects their villages and homes. The shrines are usually simple brick structures on which pieces of stone are placed to symbolise the presence of the god.



Turn left at the Shrine of the Earth God.

3. Sheung Cheung Wai

上璋圍



This 200-year-old walled village is the only such village along the entire heritage trail. It consists of rows of symmetrical houses enclosed by a green brick wall. The gatehouse, shrines and some of the old houses are still standing. Part of the wall has been demolished but enough remains to give a good taste of a traditional Chinese walled village.



Follow the signs and turn right at the first junction and turn left at the second junction. Yeung Hau Temple is located on your left.

4. Yeung Hau Temple

楊侯古廟



Located in Hang Tau Tsuen, this temple is dedicated to the deity Hau Wong. The exact date of construction is unknown but renovations were undertaken in 1963 and 1991. The temple is divided into three bays housing the statues of Hau Wong, Kam Fa (Patron Saint of Expectant Mothers) and To Tei (God of the Earth).



Go back to the last junction and turn left. Walk along the road and you will see the Tang Ancestral Hall.



5. Tang Ancestral Hall

鄧氏宗祠



First constructed in 1273, this Tang clan Ancestral Hall is a magnificent three-hall structure with two internal courtyards, and is one of the finest examples of such a building in Hong Kong. Worth noting is the elevated pathway in the front courtyard indicating that one of the Tang clansmen held a high-ranking position in the Imperial government. Open daily: 9am – 1pm and 2pm – 5pm. Closed on the first three days of the Lunar New Year.



Yu Kiu Ancestral Hall is next to the Tang Ancestral Hall.


6. Yu Kiu Ancestral Hall

愈喬二公祠



Situated immediately to the south of the Tang Ancestral Hall, it was constructed in the early 16th century by two 11th generation Tang clan brothers. Apart from being an ancestral hall it also served as a school for kids in the Ping Shan villages. The layout and design of this building is identical to the Tang Ancestral Hall with its three halls and two internal courtyards. Open daily: 9am – 1pm and 2pm – 5pm. Closed on the first three days of the Lunar New Year.



 Follow the sign to Kun Ting Study Hall and Ching Shu Hin. Enter the Kun Ting Study Hall from the side entrance.



7. Kun Ting Study Hall

觀廷書室



Used both for ancestor worship and as a study hall, this 1870s edifice is a stunning piece of craftsmanship. It is a two-hall building with an enclosed courtyard, noteworthy for its finely carved granite columns and granite block base along the facade. The distinguished design of the ancestral hall inside the Study Hall reflects the work of skilled craftsmen of that period.

 Ching Shu Hin is next to the Kun Ting Study Hall.

8. Ching Shu Hin

清暑軒



This 1874 building was intended as a guesthouse for prominent scholars and visitors. It is a memorable feast for the eyes, decorated with carved panels, murals, patterned grilles, carved brackets and plaster mouldings – fully demonstrating the grandeur and elegance of a rich Chinese family's residence.



Did you know...

Iron Gate Incident

In 1899, a year after China leased the New Territories to Britain, the people of Kam Tin were still putting up stiff resistance to British troops. After several skirmishes, the villagers took shelter behind the latticed gates of Kat Hing Wai. But the British proved too strong and upon entering the village, removed the gates and shipped them back to Britain as booty! In 1924, a member of the Tang clan petitioned the British government to return the gates. As a gesture of goodwill, this was done and on 26 May 1925, Governor Stubbs arrived in Kam Tin for the ceremonial return of the gates. Today, there is a tablet hanging near the main gate at Kat Hing Wai giving an account of the incident.

 Turn left to Ping Ha Road. Walk along the road and the Hung Shing Temple is next to Hang Mei Tsuen Park.



9. Hung Shing Temple

洪聖宮



Hung Shing is widely worshipped, particularly by fishermen and people whose livelihoods depend upon the sea. The temple, built by the Tang clan in 1767, is a simple two-hall building with an open courtyard in between – unlike most other temples in Hong Kong, where the open courtyards are roofed over to form incense towers.

Did you know...

Retrace your steps and follow the signs to the Light Rail Hang Mei Tsuen Station, take Route 761P and alight at Tai Tong Road Station. Here you will discover a wonderful world of hidden treasures in Yuen Long compiled by Dr Patrick Hase. See pages 56 – 59 for further details.

Hidden Treasures of Yuen Long

Traditional Treats

Pun Choi or 'Big Bowl Feast' is a type of food served in wooden basins rather than traditional porcelain or metal. The tradition dates back to the late Sung dynasty. Many people visit the New Territories just to try this age-old delicacy. **Tai Wing Wah Restaurant** (大榮華酒樓) is one of the few restaurants serving this kind of meal. The restaurant's menu also features five-spices chicken. *Pun Choi* is now a popular item at family gatherings with various restaurants around town serving different kinds of *Pun Choi*.



When families gather together during the Mid-Autumn Lantern Festival, eating moon cakes are an indispensable part of the festivities. One moon cake maker, **Wing Wah Cake Shop** (榮華餅家), along with its assortment of baked goods, has pioneered the so-called healthy variety of moon cake featuring white lotus seed paste instead of egg yolks. Nowadays, thousands of cake shops all over Hong Kong sell moon cakes at festival time.



One story goes that the delightfully named 'wife cake' has its roots in a dumpling prepared by the wife of a dim sum chef in Guangzhou. She bet him she could make a better dim sum than his version. The chef agreed and adapted his wife's recipe, naming it wife cake! The **Hang Heung Cake Shop's** (恆香老餅家) wife cake has winter melon inside and a hard-baked crust on the outside. They are hand-made and baked fresh every day. You can also look for wife cake in other traditional Chinese cake shops.



Local Favourites

Hong Kong people love to eat, and are known to go to great lengths to enjoy their favourite dishes! The **Ho To Tai Noodle Shop** (好到底麵家) has customers who go out of their way just to savour its *shrimp roe loe min* (noodle). Opened in 1948, the restaurant also supplies dumplings (wonton) filled with pork, shrimp and bamboo shoots. Wonton noodles are a local delicacy in Hong Kong and you can find many other noodle shops around town serving this popular favourite.



The humble beef ball has a loyal following amongst Hong Kong food lovers. Some shops still make them by hand and they are a popular staple in *dai pai dong*s. At **Victory Beef Ball** (勝利牛丸), the owner, Mr Liu, learned to make beef balls at age 15, and 20 years on, his outlets sell 200–300 kilos of handmade beef balls every day! You can also find other shops serving beef balls around town.



In order to beat the heat in Hong Kong, locals rely on a host of thirst-quenching concoctions. One of the most popular is the unusually named 'B Chai Grass Jelly! It's a colourful melange of jelly mixed with different fruits and can be shared between three or four people. **Kai Kee Dessert** (佳記甜品) in Yuen Long serves this local favourite with more than 10 kinds of fruit! Similar kinds of desserts can also be found in downtown dessert shops.



International Fare

Hong Kong offers food lovers a tantalising array of Indian food with dishes from virtually every corner of the country. If spicy lamb curries or mouth-watering lamb samosas are your thing, then a visit to **Shaffi's Indian Restaurant** (石崗咖喱) is in order. Run by a former British Air Force employee, this eatery features Air Force photos, adding to the ambiance. You'll find a wide choice of Indian restaurants in Hong Kong's various food districts.



Ping Shan Heritage Trail

天福路 Tin Fuk Road

天水圍 Tin Shui Wai

聚星樓 Tsui Sing Road



聚星樓
Tsui Sing Lau
Pagoda

東華三院
郭一葦中學
TWGHS
Kwok Yat Wai
College

屏山
Ping Shan

上璋圍
Sheung Chung Wai

楊侯古廟
Yeung Hau Temple

鄧氏宗祠
Tang Ancestral
Hall

愈喬二公祠
Yu Kiu
Ancestral Hall

觀廷書室
Kun Ting
Study Hall

清書軒
Ching Shu Hin

坑尾村公園
Hang Mei
Tsuen Park

洪聖宮
Hung Shing
Temple

屏廈路 Ping Ha Road

圖例 Legend

- 路線起點
Start of Walk
- 路線
Route
- 港鐵站出入口
MTR Station
Entrance
- 屏山文物徑
Ping Shan
Heritage Trail

地圖並非按比例繪製
Map not drawn to scale

Hidden Treasures of Yuen Long

元朗
Yuen Long

往港鐵
元朗站
To MTR
Yuen Long
Station

橫洲路 Wang Chau Road

泰利街 Tai Lee Street

元朗泰衡街
Yuen Long Tai Hang Street

泰豐街 Tai Fung Street

元朗泰祥街
Yuen Long Tai Cheung Street

水車館街
Shui Che Kwun Street

福海街 Fook Hong Street

輕鐵大棠路
Light Rail
Tai Tong Road Station

青山公路 - 元朗段 Castle Peak Road Yuen Long

勝利牛丸
Victory
Beef-Ball

元朗榮華餅家
Yuen Long
Wing Wah
Cake Shop

恆香
老餅家
Hang Heung
Cake Shop

好到底麵家
Ho To Tai
Noodle Shop

石崗咖喱
Shaffi's Indian
Restaurant

元朗新街
Yuen Long
New Street

阜財街 Fau Tsoi Street

佳記甜品
Kai Kee
Dessert

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圖例 Legend

- 主題美食街
Theme dining street

地圖並非按比例繪製
Map not drawn to scale