Dance with the fire dragon like a local

百年火龍舞動
共慶地道中秋
Visit Hong Kong during the Mid-Autumn Festival, and you will see the magical fusion of a modern city with ancient traditions: century-old fire dragons wind through charming neighbourhoods; colourful lanterns adorn the city.

Some believe that the festival evolved from the moon-worshipping ceremony held by the emperor during the autumn in ancient China. For centuries, the Mid-Autumn Festival has been celebrated every year on the 15th day of the eighth lunar month, when friends and family gather to enjoy the most spectacular full moon of the year with mooncakes and lanterns. In the neighbourhoods of Tai Hang, Pok Fu Lam and Aberdeen, locals gather to take part in the fire dragon dance.
TAI HANG FIRE
DRAGON DANCE –
A RITUAL OF
FLAME AND FURY

大坑舞火龍

Amidst the roar of the drums and gongs, around 300 people carry a 67-metre-long blazing dragon through the streets of Tai Hang for an awe-inspiring dance of flames. The ritual began in the 19th century, when the residents of the village of Tai Hang were hit with a plague, which, as legend has it, they dispelled with a three-day fire dragon dance. What started as an attempt to save their own lives has now turned into a celebration for the world to enjoy and an event that is listed on China’s national list of intangible cultural heritage.
FEATURES OF THE
TAI HANG FIRE DRAGON

Team:
About 300 current or ex-residents of Tai Hang make up the team. The youngest member of the team is 16 while the eldest is over 80 — he serves as the consultant, and helps to insert the incense sticks into the heart of the dragon.

健兒:
共約300人，由現在或曾經的大坑居民組成。今年最年輕的健兒只有16歲，最年長的已有80多歲，至今仍然擔任顧問，並協助插上位於火龍心臟位置的「龍心香」！

Body:
The 67-metre-long body consists of 31 sections with a hemp rope spine wrapped in pearl straw.

體:
全長67公尺，共有31節，製作時以粗麻繩做龍骨，再用珍珠草紮成龍身。

Head:
The 70 kg head is formed by wrapping pearl straw around a rattan frame. Two electric torches are inserted into its eye sockets and its teeth and tongue are made from sheets of metal.

頭:
由藤枝彎曲為骨架，以珍珠草包紮而成，插滿香後重達70公斤！一雙炯炯有神的龍眼是兩支手電筒，龍牙與舌頭則以銅片製成。

Pearls:
The dragon is prompted forward by two 'pearls'. These are actually pomelos into which numerous sticks of incense are inserted. The fruits are twirled to create a blur of light that looks like shining pearls.

明珠:
插滿香的柚子，共有兩顆，由健兒舉著引領火龍前進，邊走邊轉動之下猶如大明珠。
On the day before the Mid-Autumn Festival, the Tai Hang Fire Dragon Dance organiser performs a series of rituals in the Hakka dialect, including ‘Eye Dotting’, ‘Flower Wearing’ and ‘Red Cloth Hanging’. The first ritual is to wake up the dragon, while the second and the third are gestures to pay respects to the awakened mythical creature. After the rituals, drums are played to kick-start the dance, while the team plants burning incense sticks into the dragon.

The dance includes intricate movements such as ‘Bridge-crossing’, ‘Double-pillar Mount’, ‘the Circling’ and ‘the Awakening’. The rituals at Lin Fa Temple start upon the dragon’s arrival at Wun Sha Street to salute the guest of honour. Then the fire dragon parades along the traditional route via Wun Sha Street, King Street, Sun Chun Street and Tung Lo Wan Road, before returning to Wun Sha Street for the burnt-out incense sticks to be replaced.

To reward the team’s dedicated efforts, the residents prepare ‘Dragon Congee’ after the performance as a token of gratitude. Nowadays, a variety of traditional Chinese cakes are served instead. Together with the ‘Culture Shirt’, the ‘Dragon Cake’ is given to those who make a donation at the Tai Hang Residents’ Welfare Association from 8:30-10pm on 14 September.
每晚火龍起舞前，按傳統必須經過嚴謹的參拜儀式。農曆八月十四日晚在蓮花宮內，總指揮陳德輝以客家話（大坑村原是客家村）帶領開光參拜儀式，先灑聖水潔淨火龍，為火龍點睛，然後「簪花」—— 插上幾種不同的紙花球，最後掛上長紅。

由嘉賓剪綵後，鼓聲一響，廟內火龍徐徐起動，引領31節龍身，前往安庇庇街。負責舞龍的健兒，將1萬2,000枝長壽香插到整龍龍上，伴隨多個花燈及音樂團隊，巡遊正式開始！

火龍會途經浣紗街、京街、新村街等，再回到浣紗街拔香並重新插香。在沿途欣賞的你，還可以留意「火龍過橋」、「火龍繞雙柱」、「綵燈火龍結團圓」及「起結龍團」等特別的舞動方式！

巡遊結束後，以往村民會烹煮大鍋粥慰勞健兒。時至今日，「龍粥」已演變成簡便的「龍餅」—— 合桃酥、雞仔餅、老婆餅及咖喱酥，並附有祈求平安的「龍香」。觀眾也可以於9月14日晚上8:30至10:00，到大坑坊眾福利會捐款港幣$100，獲取「文化恤」一件及龍餅一盒。

Culture Shirt 文化恤

The team didn’t have a uniform until 1959. It is called the ‘culture shirt’ and is a treasured keepsake for anyone who has taken part in the dance.

起初舞火龍的健兒沒有規定衣著，直至1959年才出現正式的健兒T恤隊服，稱為「文化恤」。
The Awakening 起結龍團

This intricate movement is the way the fire dragon salutes the guest of honour. Members holding the "pearls" direct the dragon to form a coil with the head inside and tail outside.

火龍舞動方式

The Circling 絲燈火龍結團圓

Members of the community hold the fire dragon and different lanterns as they form three circles, dancing in alternate directions around a central member whose lantern reads "Tai Hang Fire Dragon Dance", symbolising the joy of family reunion during Mid-Autumn Festival.

Double-Pillar Mount 火龍纏雙柱

The fire dragon dances in a figure eight, representative of an infinity symbol, around four circles of lanterns, crossing under a central banner lantern.

Bridge Crossing 火龍過橋

The fire dragon weaves through a bridge of lantern clusters made up of people holding cloud, lotus, star and Chinese character lanterns.

星燈、雲花燈、龍花燈和舞火龍頭牌的健兒排成形如長橋的隊伍，火龍在其中左右穿插舞動，表現出漸趨成形栩栩如生的動態。
**Lin Fa Temple 蓮花宮**

Lin Fa Temple in Tai Hang was built more than 150 years ago. The temple is a Declared Monument known for its unique architectural features. The half-octagonal-shaped front hall is fitted with a Western-style verandah, an East-meets-West style of building.

大坑蓮花宮擁有超過150年歷史。廟宇的前殿為半八角形寶塔，正面的小陽台則結合了西洋風格，建築風格獨特。

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**Date 日期**
12-14 September 9月12至14日

**Time 時間**
12-13 September: Around 8:15-10:30pm
14 September: Around 8:15-10pm
9月12至13日晚上約8:15至10:30
9月14日晚上約8:15至10:00

**Venue 地點**
Tai Hang, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong Island (Best vantage point: Wun Sha Street)
香港島銅鑼灣大坑（最佳觀賞地點：浣紗街）

**Enquiries 查詢**
2577 2649

**Website 網址**
www.taikangfiredragon.hk

**How to get there 如何前往**
Tai Hang
大坑
MTR Tin Hau Station, Exit A1. Cross King’s Road and turn right. Walk straight to the second junction on the left to enter Tung Lo Wan Road, which leads to the Tai Hang area.
從港鐵天后站A1出口，越過英皇道後右轉，向前走至第二個路口，然後左轉沿銅鑼灣道步行約5分鐘。
Pok Fu Lam Village offers another opportunity to see a fire dragon during the Mid-Autumn Festival. Every year, a gigantic fire dragon parades into every corner of the village and performs in front of every shrine to pray for prosperity for the coming year. The parade ends at the seaside as a gesture of returning the dragon back to the sea. Be sure to also visit the lantern carnival inside the village.

除了大坑外，香港島南區的薄扶林村，也會舉行舞火龍儀式，祈求合境平安，風調雨順。近百位健壯的村民舞動一條火龍，穿梭大街小巷，於每家每戶前祈福，並在每個社壇前拜祭。最後，火龍會舞到海中，寓意「龍歸滄海」。您可以參加村內的花燈晚會，觀賞這項傳統習俗。

Date 日期: 13 September 9月15日
Time 時間: Around 6:30–11:45pm 下午約6:30至晚上約11:45
Venue 地點: Along Pok Fu Lam Village and Waterfall Bay 香港島南區薄扶林村至瀑布灣海灘
Enquiries 聯絡: 6043 0768

How to get there 如何前往
From MTR HKU Station Exit A1, take buses 4, 7, 40, 40M, 90B, 970 or 970X to Pok Fu Lam Village; or take bus 973 from Tsim Sha Tsui (either Mody Road bus terminal or along Canton Road) to Pok Fu Lam Village.
從港鐵香港大學站A1出口，搭乘4、7、40、40M、90B、970或970X號巴士；或從尖沙咀廣東道或麼地道搭乘973號巴士，全部都在薄扶林村下車。
THE FIRE DRAGON OF ABERDEEN

香港仔舞火龍

In Aberdeen, the parade team, formed by around a hundred people, starts from Tsung Man Street and goes through Aberdeen Main Road, Aberdeen Old Main Street, Tung Sing Road, Sai On Street, Chengtu Road and then to Wah Fu Estate, ending by the sea at Pok Fu lam Waterfall Bay Park.

在香港仔的中秋火龍盛會，近百人組成的火龍隊伍由崇文街出發，途經香港仔大道、香港仔舊大街、東勝道、西安街、成都道，再前往華富邨，最後在薄扶林瀑布灣公園進行「火龍落海」儀式。

Date 日期 | 13 September 9月13日
Time 時間 | Around 8:30pm to Midnight 下午約8:30至午夜約12:00
Venue 地點 | Along Aberdeen (Tsung Man Street) and Waterfall Bay 香港島南區香港仔崇文街至瀑布灣海濱
Enquiries Enquiries | 2552 0192

How to get there 如何前往

From MTR HKU Station Exit A1, take bus 7; or take bus 971 from Mong Kok Nathan Road to Tsung Man Street.

從港鐵香港大學站A1出口，搭乘7號巴士；或從旺角彌敦道搭乘971號巴士，全部都在崇文街下車。

LANTERN DISPLAYS AND CARNIBALS

綵燈會及綵燈展覽

Moon Night in Tai Kwan 大館賞月

Date 日期 | 12-15 September 9月12至15日
Venue 地點 | Parade Ground, Tai Kwan, 10 Hollywood Road, Central, Hong Kong Island 香港島中環荷李活道10號大館
Directions 如何前往 | MTR Central Station, Exit D1, turn right on Pedder Street and then again at Queen's Road Central, walk along and then turn left at Pottinger Street up to Hollywood Road. 從港鐵中環站D1出口，經畢打街右轉至皇后大道中，步行至砵典乍街後左轉，前往荷李活道。

Enquiries Enquiries | 3559 2600

查詢 | www.taikwun.hk
### Mid-Autumn Interactive Lighting Installation

**‘Magic Behind the Moon’**

**Date** 30 August to 22 September  
**Time** 6:30–11pm  
**Venue** Hong Kong Cultural Centre Piazza, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon  
**Directions** MTR East Tsim Sha Tsui Station Exit J, walk for about 10 minutes to the piazza.

**Remarks** Opening hours for the lighting installation will be extended to midnight on 13 September.

### Urban Mid-Autumn Lantern Carnival 2019

**Venue** Victoria Park, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong Island  
**Directions** MTR Causeway Bay Station Exit E. Walk along Great George Street until you reach the park. Or, MTR Tin Hau Station Exit A2. Turn left at the exit and enter the park from Hing Fat Street.

**Enquiries** 2591 1340
New Territories East Mid-Autumn Lantern Carnival
己亥年新界東中秋綵燈會
Date 日期: 7-15 September 9月7日至15日
Time 時間: 6:30-11pm 下午6:30至晚上11:00
Venue 地點: Sha Tin Park, New Territories 新界沙田公園
Directions 如何前往: MTR Sha Tin Station Exit A3. Walk along Sha Tin Centre Street for 10 minutes until you reach the park.

New Territories West Mid-Autumn Lantern Carnival
己亥年新界西中秋綵燈會
Date 日期: 11-15 September 9月11日至15日
Time 時間: 6:30-11pm 下午6:30至晚上11:00
Venue 地點: Tsuen Wan Park, New Territories 新界荃灣公園
Directions 如何前往: MTR Tsuen Wan West Station Exit D. Cross Tai Ho Road at the pedestrian crossing to reach the park.

Enquiries 2591 1340
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