

An Ever-Changing Landscape

Wan Chai

Walking along Queen's Road East, you would never know that 100 years ago or so, you would be standing in water! The original Wan Chai waterfront ran along Queen's Road East (see map), but now extends one kilometre beyond to the Golden Bauhinia statue! It's a 15-minute walk, yet spans six separate reclamation projects encompassing more than 100 years of history. The original reclamation (1842 – 1890) provided a popular residential area; by the 1960s, further reclamation brought girlie bars and the world of Susie Wong to the district. The 1980s and 90s saw upscale buildings and landmarks including the Convention and Exhibition Centre (where the historic handover happened on 1 July 1997). A walk through Wan Chai with an eye for vestiges of the various reclamation projects is a startling experience and a reminder that Hong Kong is an ever-changing landscape!




Wan Chai Walking Map



圖例 Legend

-  路線起點
Start of Walk
-  路線
Route
-  港鐵站出入口
MTR Station Entrance
-  人行天橋
Pedestrian Bridge
-  電車路線
Tramline

地圖並非按比例繪製
Map not drawn to scale


 → MTR Wan Chai Station Exit A3, and cross Johnston Road.

1 Tai Yuen Street Market 太原街市集



Experience the hustle and bustle of a local market where on-street hawkers sell a wide range of dry goods and household merchandise at bargain prices. Opening hours: Stalls open from 7am to 7pm daily



 → Walk along Tai Yuen Street, turn left and walk along Queen's Road East to Wan Chai Road, then cross Queen's Road East and get into Stone Nullah Lane.

1842 - 1890 Coastline

2 Blue House 藍屋*



The Blue House, listed as Wah Tor Hospital in records dating back to 1872, was also known as Wah Tor Temple and is believed to be the first facility to provide traditional Chinese medicine to local Chinese inhabitants. Today, it is occupied by a medical clinic.



 → Walk back along Stone Nullah Lane to Queen's Road East, and turn left.

3 Old Wan Chai Post Office (Environmental Resource Centre) 舊灣仔郵政局 (環境資源中心)



This single-storey, L-shaped building constructed between 1912 and 1913, was once a police station. In 1915, it became the Wan Chai Post Office. Listed as a Declared Monument in 1990, it is now a resource centre belonging to the Environmental Protection Department. Opening Hours: Monday & Wednesday to Sunday - 10am to 5pm. Closed on Tuesdays and Public Holidays



→ Continue along Queen's Road East.

4 Hung Shing Temple 洪聖古廟*



Once only a small altar on a boulder over-looking the shoreline, this temple is named after a virtuous official who governed during the Tang dynasty (AD618-906). He encouraged scientific study and is said to have helped traders and fishermen avoid natural disasters. Opening hours: 8am to 5:30pm daily



→ Cross Queen's Road East and go through Tai Wong Street East to the end.

1890-1930 Coastline



Did you know...

Since 1904, trams have been running from West to East on Hong Kong Island from Kennedy Town to Shau Kei Wan. Over the last century, Hongkong Tramways witnessed the development of Hong Kong, and the tram remains an efficient and the most economical mode of public transport on Hong Kong Island.

1930 -1945 Coastline

5 Southern Playground 修頓遊樂場*

This popular playground was built on reclaimed land just north of Johnston Road. The British Navy used it during WWII and later in the 1950s and 1960s, school kids had their lessons here and labourers used to gather here waiting for jobs. In the evening, it became a working class "nightclub" offering food and entertainment. Beginning in the 1950s, it was fenced off and became a government playground.

 → Cross Hennessy Road, walk along Luard Road to Lockhart Road.

1960 -1972 Coastline

6 Lockhart Road Bar Area 駱克道酒吧區

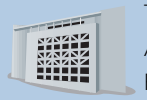
The "World of Suzie Wong" and the infamous girlie bars of Wan Chai have been replaced by trendy late-night party places. But there is still plenty of action to be found in the area's throbbing bars and eateries.

**Did you know...**

Lockhart Road (Building Materials Street)

This is the famous street where you can find all kinds of building materials for homes, including bathtubs, floor boards, taps and wallpapers.

 → Walk along Fenwick Street and cross the footbridge.

7 Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts 香港演藝學院*

The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts offers professional training in the performing arts and related disciplines as well as hosting a wide variety of concerts, plays, dance productions and art exhibits. Enquiry: 2584 8500.



→ Follow the directional signs and cross Fenwick Street.

1980 -1990 Coastline

8 Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre 香港會議展覽中心*

The award-winning Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre (HKCEC) is unmistakable with its gull-shaped roof. The first phase and an extended annex were completed in 1988 and 1997 respectively.



→ Follow the directional signs and turn left and walk northward along Fleming Road and Expo Drive East to Golden Bauhinia Square.

1990 - Present

9 Golden Bauhinia Square 金紫荊廣場*

The "Forever Blooming Bauhinia", standing on the Expo Promenade outside the HKCEC, is a gift from the Central Government to commemorate the establishment of the HKSAR on 1 July 1997. Near the Golden Bauhinia stands the Reunification Monument. Catch all the pomp and ceremony of the official daily flag raising at the Golden Bauhinia Square from 7:50am - 8:03am. Enhanced Flag Raising Ceremony is held on the first of every month, 7:45am - 8:13am. It includes a flag raising party, a rifle escort team performance by the Police Band and the Police Pipe Band.



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Did you know...

Wanchai Waterfront Promenade located next to Wan Chai Ferry Pier is open to the public and their pets, and provides amenity facilities. It also features a panoramic view of Victoria Harbour and the Kowloon Peninsula skyline. It is one of the great vantage points to watch *A Symphony of Lights*.

**Did you know...**

"Wan Chai Coastline" Historical Trail

The present layout of Wan Chai is the result of several major reclamations. Visitors can trace the evolution of the coastline along the "Wan Chai Coastline" Historical Trail and discover the living culture of the district.

For details, please refer to the "Wan Chai Coastline" booklet available at HKTB Visitor Information & Services Centre.

* Coastal history signage available on site.



For information about Hong Kong Mobile Host audio commentaries, please refer to page 1.