

Bay of Distinction 舊城新事



As a place where metallic winged giants once soared metres from the washing lines of people's tenement apartments, and where an unpoliced mini-city formerly survived outside of society without law or order, the noisy, gritty and captivating Kowloon Bay is a little spot where the Hong Kong of old still lives on.

飛機轟隆隆在屋頂上低飛越過，猶如躁動不安的青春在吶喊。密密麻麻的「三不管」違法建築，彷彿電影中隱身在鬧市的機械人……今天，九龍城伏在現代化天際線下的一角，靜靜等待最耀眼、最華麗的轉身。

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The densely packed streets of Kowloon City have always been some of the most active and stimulating in Hong Kong. The areas around To Kwa Wan, Ma Tau Wai and Kowloon Bay expose the real Hong Kong, in all its noisy, stark unadulterated glory. These are not the commercialised areas you'll find in guide books, littered with tourists or sky-scraping glass phalluses – these are the real streets and buildings where Hong Kong first began.

Of course, one will never be able to say when the official 'beginning' of Hong Kong of truly was. However, there are many signs that link the beginnings of modern Hong Kong with this seemingly paltry corner in north-east Kowloon. Formerly home to the legendary Kowloon Walled City and the once third busiest airport in the world (Kai Tak Airport), this special little bay has played a big part in writing the pages of Hong Kong's history books. It is a gritty area of distinction where

Walled City and Kowloon Walled City Park – one can never imagine the great difference between the past and the present 九龍寨城的古與今， 見證了歲月變遷

today one can still find living remnants of old Hong Kong scattered amongst characteristic buildings, interesting restaurants and all the sights and smells of an area rooted in the past – an area with scraps of history that deserve to be experienced.

The historical importance of the area dates back to 1277, when the bay became the final resting place of the last two boy emperors of the Sung Dynasty after the Yuan Dynasty took over. A rock inscribed with the words 'Sung Wong Toi' (meaning 'Terrace of the Sung Kings') dating back to their time can still be seen today in Sung Wong Toi Garden. After the defeat of the Sung Dynasty, the same fort





翻

開一般的旅遊書，您絕對找不到這個地區的介紹。它位於土瓜灣、馬頭圍及九龍灣之間，沒有香港著名地多的摩天大廈，沒有打扮亮麗忙於拍照的中外遊客，觸目所及舊樓老店，還有隱藏在暗角一些不為人知的過去——這，是九龍城，也是最地道、最真實的香港。

九龍城是香港最早有人聚居的地方之一。到底是否「最早」已不可考，但可以肯定的是，這位於九龍半島東北部的一隅，在香港現代歷史上佔一重要席位。鴉片戰爭後，英國割據香港島及部分九龍，清政府遂在1847年修築一座石城——九龍寨城——以宣示主權。至1898年英國再迫清政府租借新界，但割讓範圍並不包括九龍寨城；清朝曾派兵進駐城內，卻因英國發難而撤走。中英雙方爭持不下，令九龍寨城成了一個「三不管」（中國、英國和港英政府都不管）的地方，內裏聚滿三教九流人物，經營着不同的非法生意。要到1994年，中英兩國才有了一致的決定，把寨城拆卸及改建為公園。

九龍寨城之所以舉世知名，全因它曾是全球人口最稠密的地方。1987年，九龍寨城僅6.5英畝的土地上住了33,000名居民，到1980年代高峰期更增至35,000人（即平均每人僅佔0.75平方米！）。除了人口密度，寨城的建築密度亦叫人目瞪口呆。看看書上的舊照，那一層層像積木般疊起的危樓內，竟有二、三十條只有走廊般狹窄的街道，儼如一個終年不見天日的迷宮。惡劣的居住環境對住客來說自然算不上樂事，但由於此番別具戲劇感的景致，寨城當年被清拆前倒引起了一陣電影界的取景熱潮。除了麥當雄的《省港旗兵》和尚格雲頓的《拳霸天下》，成龍拍攝《重案組》時更曾帶領一群日本探索家進內繪畫地圖；而周星馳的《功夫》，亦以虛擬的「豬籠城寨」暗指九龍寨城。

今天，寨城已不見影蹤；來到其舊址，是鳥語花香、優雅清爽的九龍寨城公園。公園耗資7,600萬元興建，設計仿照清初江南園林，共分為8個景區。除了是街坊一家大小的休憩場所，同時亦是欣賞古蹟的好去處。就在入口處，您便可看到極具歷史價值的三進衙門，衙門前庭兩側展示兩尊清嘉慶七年建造的大炮。越過衙府，即見「南門」遺址，讓遊人緬懷過去，欣賞寨城殘存的牆基及石板街。迤邐至獅子窺園，紅磚綠瓦的亭台樓閣，石如白浪、流水淙淙。抬頭眺望，香港最著名的獅子山儼如回頭探視，山的兩旁高樓疊起、萬家燈火。您不妨於涼亭「邀山樓」稍作歇息，怡然領會香港人最津津樂道的「獅子山下」情懷。小朋友則不妨前往奕園，於地上以卵石鋪地的棋盤以「身」對奕，樂趣無窮。

自九龍寨城公園步行5分鐘，即可見另一擁抱無限港人集體回憶的歷史遺跡——舊啟德機場。這個罕見地坐落於市中心的機場，曾是全球最繁忙的國際機場，貨運量全球第一，客運量全球第三（機場設計本能容納每年

1. Ancient 'Two Dragons' inscription at Sung Wong Toi
宋王臺的二龍爭珠石刻
2. Fude Temple near the Walled City
鄰近寨城的福德古廟
3. The densely packed clinics in the Walled City
寨城內密密麻麻的診所
4. One of the three old cannons inside the Park
寨城公園內共有三座古炮
5. Qing Dynasty soldiers outside the Walled City
攝於寨城外的清兵
6. In the 70s, Walled City residents getting fresh water from the public pipes
於70年代，寨城的居民於公眾水喉前排隊取水
7. Kowloon Bay as it was back in the day, with Kai Tak seen on the bottom and the Walled City on the far left
左下方乃興建中的啟德機場，左上方隱約可見寨城
8. Traditional grocery in today's Kowloon City
今天的九龍城，仍能見到不少傳統雜貨店

that the boy emperors sort refuge in was built into a walled garrison in 1847 as a symbol of resistance against the British by the Chinese Government, who had colonised Hong Kong Island and part of Kowloon. However, the colony did not extend to the New Territories until later, and with a large fortified wall and a bamboo fence (what is today Boundary Street in Kowloon), the suburbs behind the garrison became a place of iniquity untouched by the Brits. Even after the British later seized control of the garrison, it was regarded as a being outside of Britain's jurisdiction and it is out of these confrontational foundations that the infamous Kowloon Walled City developed. Over time it grew into an adult amusement park of dark pathways where dubious unregistered factories, unlicensed businesses and clinics all managed to subsist until the vertical slum was pulled down and replaced by a park in 1994.

The Kowloon Walled City held, and still holds, the attention of many. It was a living sociology experiment of such magnitude that will never be seen again. In 1987, the Walled City contained 33,000

2,400萬名乘客，但於1996年客運量已達2,950萬人）。雖然啟德已於1998年完成歷史任務（被赤鱗角機場取替），但相信不少人，尤其是機師，都對啟德印象難忘。無他，因為啟德機場只有一條伸入維多利亞港內的跑道，每當降落，航機必須經過西九龍區的民居，然後在離地面僅300米處作47度角右轉，方能順利著陸。這對機師而言自是一個嚴峻考驗，但對乘客來說，貼近建築物急旋降落卻極具魅力，甚至有日本電子遊戲以此作題材！因着航空安全問題，九龍城一帶的樓宇起得又矮又密，慢慢演變成此區的獨色。隨着市區發展，九龍城現在也有零星地矗立着一些新的豪宅大廈，但大部分平房依然是低樓，維持着昔日的舊區風貌。機場停用後，前跑道一帶的空曠平地再無遮擋，海風悠然吹入城內，為整區帶來一絲清爽氣息。

寨城與啟德時代的終結，令不少與航空和客運業相關的生意消失，取而代之的是熱鬧的飲食業；西九龍文娛區發展計劃的步伐亦越來越近。這一切，為九龍城陳舊緩慢的生活模式帶來了衝擊和中和的作用，為整區增添了朝氣和活力。但說到底，九龍城始終不是旅遊區。與時尚和現代化的距離，反而造就了獨一無二、餘韻無窮的舊城風貌。要是從九龍塘火車站乘一程搖搖晃晃的小巴來到，您會驚訝站滿摩天大廈的香港，原來還有着這麼多矮矮的傳統唐樓平房。



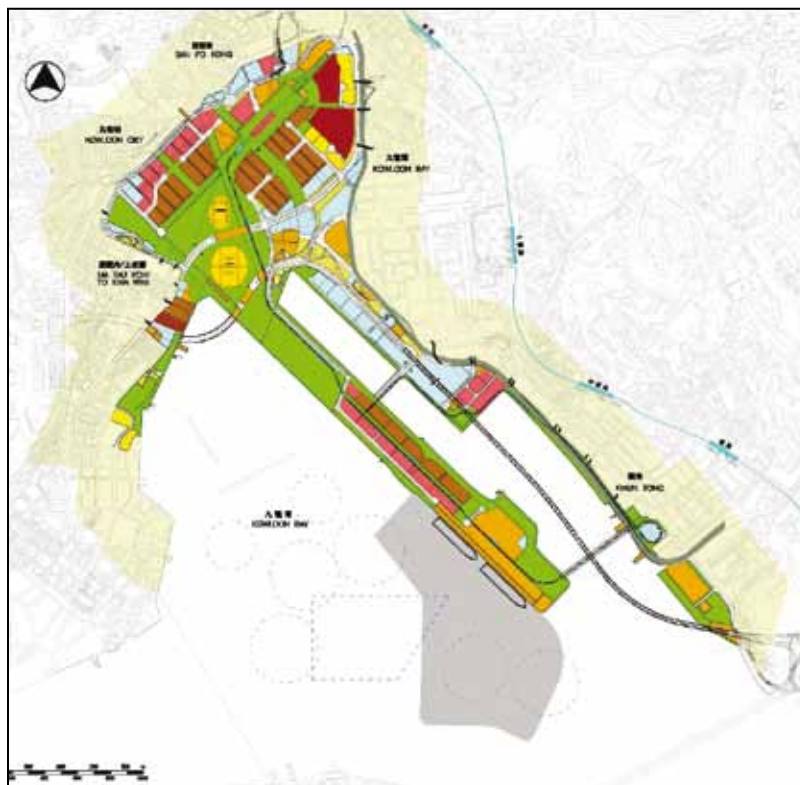
1. Sung Wong Toi Garden and the famous stone tablet
宋王臺的著名石刻
2. The design of Kowloon Walled City Park is based on the Jiangnan garden of early Qing Dynasty
寨城公園的設計仿照清初江南園林
3. Remains at the Park
寨城公園內古跡文物處處



residents within its 6.5-acre border. At its peak in the 1980s it was home to some 35,000 people – 35,000 living bodies packed into dense domino-like layers of makeshift apartment spaces broken up by labyrinths of corridors that rarely saw the light of day. Before it was demolished it enjoyed a short moment in the spotlight, heralded by films such as Long Arm of the Law ('Sheng Gang Qi Bing'), Jean-Claude Van Damme's film Bloodsport, Jackie Chan's Crime Story and, more recently, Stephen Chow's Kung Fu Hustle. Today it lives on as Kowloon Walled City Park, where the foundations of the former walls, gates and other relics can be seen in the same spot where the living, breathing slum once stood.

Built at a cost of HKD\$76 million, the Kowloon Walled City Park is easily one of the nicest parks in Hong Kong. The design of the park is based on the Jiangnan gardens of the Qing Dynasty, and at the centre of the Park is a fully restored Yamen - a declared monument as the only standing piece of architecture remaining of the Walled City. Two antiquated cannons, made in 1802, are positioned at the front of the Yamen and, nearby, another declared monument comes in the form of the foundations of the old South Gate, where a flagstone and old granite paving display the Chinese characters for 'South Gate' and 'Kowloon Walled City' upon them. The park is also home to a two-storey limestone Mountain View Pavilion, which loosely resembles a docked boat. From the second storey of the pavilion there are great views of Wong Tai Sin and Lion Rock, the famous feline-shaped rock which has been immortalised in songs and television shows, and is said to represent the spirit of the Hong Kong people living underneath it. There is also an oversized chess board (without the chess pieces) in the park, plus a lush a 300 square-metre beautifully landscaped garden.

The Walled City is but one part of this area's colourful past, as the bay was also home to the most unique airport in the world, Kai Tak International Airport, located 5 minutes away from the Walled



The most recently published plans for Kai Tak include a cruise terminal, a sports stadium, an Aviation Museum and more. 舊啟德機場的未來發展藍圖，預視該區將有一番新景象。

略剝落的油漆、充滿懷舊味道的書法大字店鋪牌匾、舊式冰室、老店主亮起燈泡與世無爭地讀報的小攤檔，一幕幕八十年代電視劇的布景，活現眼前，彷彿為厭倦了商業味道的遊人送上一服清涼劑。發掘得細心一點，這家是五星級酒店名廚創辦的低調人氣糕點店，那家就是國際飲食雜誌常客的清真菜館……原來九龍城的「時尚」氣質，是暗暗藏在走在最前、傲視全城的餐館之內。其中又因甚多泰國人聚居，所以這裏的泰國菜發展得特別蓬勃，幾乎所有泰國地道香料都能在小小雜貨店內買到。還有鄰近新蒲崗一帶的食肆，當年因着啟德機場關閉，因利乘便被傳媒訪問多了，漸漸也吸引了一群固定的「粉絲」，某些食肆的前面總是泊滿名貴房車。除了餐廳，九龍城更是舊式生意的展覽場地——中藥店、金鋪、大押、茶莊、鳥店……它們都成功捱過了時間的洗練，在這個新舊交融的小天地存活下來。

展望將來，九龍灣一帶將有翻天覆地的巨變。香港特區政府計畫自資港幣81.56億元於啟德空置地興建全球最大的郵輪碼頭，並有體育場館、公園、酒店及住宅等配套設施。為了綠化環境，連接觀塘一帶將建造一條900米長的海濱長廊（200米工程已完成），連接九龍寨城公園內的巨型腳踏車場，為新蒲崗附近的民居帶來一番新景象……。滄海桑田，物是人非，在變化步伐急速的香港，您有興趣來九龍城一趟，細味一下未被污染的香港風味嗎？





Today, Kowloon City is also one of the most popular dining areas for the locals. From Top: Hong Kong's unique 'pineapple' bun and 'double layer' milk pudding. 今天的九龍城食肆林立，是本地人最愛的美食區。圖為香港傳統的菠蘿包（上）及雙皮奶。

City. Closed down in 1998, Kai Tak was once the third busiest airport in the world in terms of passenger traffic (it was designed to handle 24 million passengers per year, but in 1996 Kai Tak handled 29.5 million passengers), and first in terms of international cargo throughput. However, the airport was recognised for more than just numbers. With numerous skyscrapers and mountains located to the north and the only runway of the airport jutting out into Victoria Harbour, landings at the airport were infamously difficult and provided quite an exhilarating experience for passengers. To land there pilots had to manoeuvre planes over the densely populated areas of Western Kowloon and then make a 47-degree visual right turn to line up with the runway at a height of 300-metres above the buildings and streets below. As a result of this flight approach the area has always had low closely-packed architecture, which was the upshot of a height restriction regulation. Although a few luxury apartments now litter the area, for the most part low height buildings remain, and the large open spaces around the former runway do not block the sea breezes making this area consequently cooler and divergent from the rest of Hong Kong.

Today the pace of life in Kowloon Bay is a lot different, and all the effervescence and exhilaration has been replaced with an old-world charm and a quite sense of calm. Sure the area lost much of its notoriety when the Walled City was brought down, and sure many businesses were lost when the Kai Tak Airport was closed, but there is still a sense of magic

that lives on in the form of the old-style architecture, the low-slung buildings and the many unique shops and restaurants that litter the area. With a large Thai community, the appealing quarter is home to quite a few authentic Thai restaurants. There are also a number of other famous eateries clustered around the San Po Kong area, with some having even gained more fame and customers with the closure of the airport. There is also a collection of traditional herbalists, jewellers, tea merchants and bird shops – many of which have also stood the test of time.

However, one cannot resist time forever, and there are big development plans in the woodworks for Kowloon Bay and its surrounding area. The most recently published proposal envisions a massive cruise terminal, a sports stadium, a public park, an Aviation Museum and a permanent 900-metre promenade in nearby Kwun Tong of which 200-metres has already been made. It is clear to see nothing ever stays the same in Hong Kong, and when the bulldozing is complete the relics and the vestiges are all we have left – at least for now.



The quaint streets around the Kowloon City area are a hotbed for good restaurants, and there are a number of idiosyncratic eateries offering interesting food. Here are some of the most popular:
九龍城以美食馳名。在整齊的街道上，開滿人氣火爆的老店，絕對能讓您大飽口福：

Islam Food清真牛肉館 (Halal Food伊斯蘭菜)
Must-tries必試：Beef Bun 牛肉飽餅、Veal Goulash Curry 咖喱牛腩、Spring Onion Pancake蔥油餅
1 Lung Kong Road
龍崗道1號
+852 2382 2822

Patisserie Tony Wong (Western Bakery 西式糕點)
Must-tries必試：Green Tea Opera Cake綠茶蛋糕、Cherry Napoleon Cake櫻桃拿破崙餅、Chocolate Truffle Cake 巧克力松露蛋糕
74 Fok Lo Tsun Road
福佬村道74號
+852 2382 6639

Lok Hau Fook Restaurant 樂口福酒家 (High-end Chiu Chow Cuisine高級潮州菜)
Must-tries必試：Cold Cooked Fish凍魚、Oyster Congee蠔仔粥
1-3 Hau Wong Road
侯王道1-3號
+852 2382 7408

Cambo Thai Restaurant 金寶泰國菜館 (Thai Seafood泰式海鮮)
Must-tries必試：Fried Crab with Curry咖喱蟹、Fresh Shrimp Sashimi生蝦刺身、Shrimp Balls炸蝦球
15 Nga Tsin Long Road
衙前壆道15號
+852 2716 7318