

Tai Tong Lychee Valley (Farm)

No. 11 Tai Tong Shan Road
Tai Tong Tsuen, Yuen Long
New Territories

Tel: 2470-2201

Website: www.taitong.com.hk (though nearly the entire site is in Chinese without English translation).

There is a place in Hong Kong where you can take your children to pick strawberries, ride ponies, pet and feed baby goats and rabbits and take an ox cart ride. Tai Tong Lychee Valley, located in the New Territories, offers families a wonderful day out in the countryside where kids can commune with nature and animals and take part in many enjoyable outdoor leisure activities.

It is important at the start to set expectations. If your children have been to petting zoos or organic farms in Australia, Europe, the US or Canada, this will be very different from those experiences. The farm, set on over one million square feet of land, was previously an abandoned piece of property which was resurrected by the Tai Tong villagers and is now a popular outing for the Hong Kong community. It is not fancy, nor does it cater to an expat crowd. The language, signs, food and general ambience are strictly local in feeling and flavour. When approaching this outing with an open mind, this can be a fantastic family day out!

Everything here is simple and down to earth. There is a small children's playground, a large goldfish pond, an elaborate climbing net made out of knotted rope with tunnels and bridges to climb and explore, a petting and feeding area which has goats and rabbits (food can be purchased for a small fee), an emu pen (you cannot feed them though), a Chinese sturgeon pond, a net fishing area where the kids can try their hand at catching goldfish (which they can take home), a lychee forest, a papaya forest, horse paddocks, short pony rides, a strawberry farm where you can pick your own berries (usually between November and April), an artist station where kids can paint an environmental bag or a small canvas (this area is open only on weekends and public holidays), a fruit tree education path, a

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sightseeing tower, bullock cart rides, an organic products store, bike riding, war games (send an email for times and rules if your kids want to do this activity), three agricultural exhibition halls, a BBQ area and Chinese canteen.

There is enough here to keep everyone occupied for an entire day, after which the children will be begging for more. Don't forget mosquito repellent, sunscreen, a hat and sunglasses as there is not much shade to be found around the farm. The best time to visit is between November and April when the weather is more temperate.

Seasons and Times

Open daily: 9:00am-6:00pm

Closed only on Chinese New Year

Admission

Entrance fee to farm: HK\$20 per person

Combo ticket: HK\$80 per person which includes entrance and three tickets to use on any of the following: Food for petting zoo, pony rides or goldfish catching (net fishing)

Pony rides: HK\$40/two rounds

Bullock cart rides: HK\$20 a ride per person

Four-wheel bicycle: HK\$50 for 30 minutes

Bicycle: HK\$30 per hour

Strawberry picking: HK\$80 per basket (entry of one child and one adult to the fields)

Painting environmental bag or canvas: HK\$45 per person

The Best Ways of Getting There

By MTR/Taxi:

- From **Central** take the **red line** to **Mei Foo Station** and transfer there to the **MTR West Rail**, the **purple line** to **Yuen Long Station**.
- Alight the MTR at **Yuen Long Station** and take exit "G1" to the taxi queue.
- Take a taxi from Yuen Long Station to Tai Tong Lychee Valley.
↔ Travel time: 40 mins (MTR) + 10-15 mins (taxi).

By Taxi

A taxi from Central will cost HK\$300-\$350 and take 45-55 mins.

By Car

This can be a very difficult place to find; however, if you follow the directions below very carefully you will hopefully be able to avoid any frustration.

- Take the **Western Harbour Tunnel** (HK\$50), **Route 3**, staying to your left as you exit the toll booth.
- After the toll booth follow signs for **Kwai Chung and Lantau**. This is **Route 3** which you will stay on for **24.6 kilometres**, following the signs for **Route 3 and Yuen Long** and as they appear. (*Note: you will travel through a tunnel and a bridge en route*).
- **Exit Route 3 onto Route 9**. This exit will be on your **left**. The exit sign will read “**Yuen Long, Tin Shui Wai, Wetland Park, Shenzhen Bay.**”
- Once on Route 9, you will stay on this road for only **1.3 kilometres before taking Exit 13A** which reads “**Yuen Long**”.
- At the **first traffic circle** you come to, take the **SECOND spur/exit which reads “Tin Shui Wai”**. You are still on Route 9 at this point.
- At the **second traffic circle** take the **SECOND spur/exit which reads “Yuen Long (S)”**. **AS SOON AS YOU TAKE THIS SPUR/EXIT PUT YOUR LEFT TRAFFIC SIGNAL ON**, as you will take **an immediate left** which has a blue sign reading “**Tai Tong**”. You will go over an aqueduct.
- Then you will come to a **junction at a traffic light**. Behind the light you will see a huge billboard advertising **Tai Tong Lychee Valley – 3.5km**. Here you will turn **LEFT**. You are now on **Tai Tong Road**, but there are few if any signposts (you will know you are on it because every few metres there is a bus stop which reads K66 and has an MTR symbol at the top of the post).
- About a kilometre later you will make a **LEFT turn onto Kiu Hing Road** at another billboard that says **Tai Tong Lychee Valley – 2.0km**.
- You will be on **Kiu Hing Road** for only about **30 metres** before you make a **left onto Tai Tong Shan Road**, where there is another billboard for Tai Tong Lychee Valley Farm.
- Shortly you will come to the **driveway of the farm**. You cannot miss it if you look for the **GIANT billboard with strawberries on it**. This is a **right turn into the driveway**.

You will pass a military war games training centre on your left.

P Head up the driveway and follow the gravel road until you reach the car park. Parking is free of charge.

Getting a Bite

There are several options for lunch at the farm. There is a large covered BBQ area which has tables and individual-use BBQs. To do your own BBQing, simply purchase a BBQ buffet ticket at the counter and then go and get your gear and food and start cooking it all up! The BBQ ticket includes one drink per person, someone coming to light your fire, forks, tissues, a jar of honey and a brush to marinate your meat, plastic gloves, styrofoam plates, and plastic cutlery. There are many food options which are all-you-can-eat: steak, pork, chicken, chicken wings, hot dogs, fresh corn, vegetables, sweet potatoes wrapped in foil to stick into your fire, shao mai, bread (for toasting), honey.

(Tip: Start to BBQ before your kids get hungry as it takes a while to cook everything.)

Another option for a meal is the very casual Chinese restaurant right next to the BBQ area. They serve traditional Chinese fare in an alfresco setting. There are no other restaurant options in the vicinity so if Chinese fare or BBQ does not appeal to your kids, consider bringing a picnic of your own along.

What's Close?

Yuen Long Town

Comments

- Suitable for all ages though it will likely be a bigger hit with the younger kids.
- Plan to spend at least three hours here.
- The farm can get crowded on weekends and public holidays and even during the week when schools are visiting.
- The best toilets are located on the other side of the playground ropes course. They are all sit-down style but they are made for little kids. The kids won't have any problem, but they are small for adults.
- There are no baby-changing stations.
- Stroller-friendly.

For Educators

Tai Tong Lychee Valley is a popular trip for schools, particularly when students are studying farming or botany. Scouting organizations also find this farm a wonderful trip out to the countryside. For information on school group tours and visits go to the website and send an enquiry by clicking on "Contact Us" and sending them an email.

Extra Info

If you regularly use Google Maps to get around, please be aware that for this area the road names on Google Maps don't match the current road names. The maps are helpful to get only very general directions, East, West, etc... but the street names do not tie in and therefore trying to follow the names Google provides will get you lost and frustrated.

Word of Mouth

While the website is almost all in Chinese, on site the farm does provide a map/guide in English. When you arrive, head to the ticketing office and ask for an English map.

34. Yuen Long



Parking

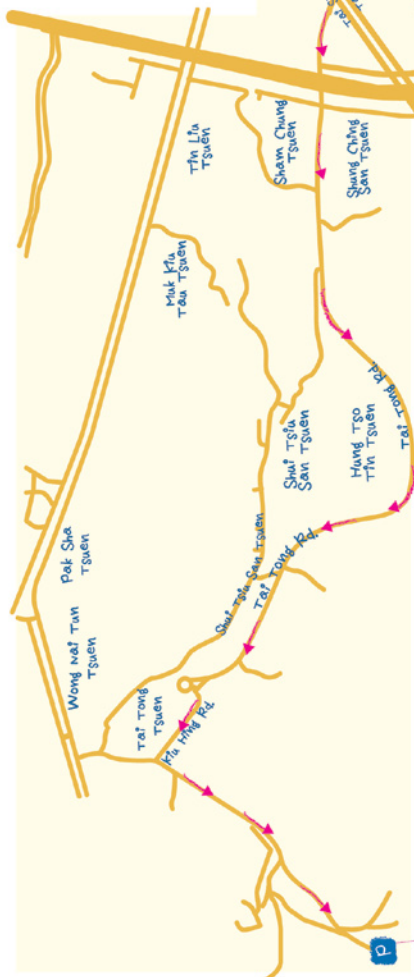
Directions to Tai Tong Lychée Valley by Car



Interchange



Information Booth



Tai Tong Lychée Valley Farm



- Ecological Park
- Horse Stable
- Chinese Sturgeon Pond
- Foot print Water Wheel
- Lychée Forest
- Family Climbing wet
- Children's Playground
- Bee Farm
- Main Entrance
- Lake Pavillion
- Toilet
- Restaurant
- Waterfall
- Sight Seeing tower
- War game zone
- Strawberry Farm
- Family Bridge