

Hong Kong Heritage Museum

I Man Lam Road
Shatin, New Territories

Tel: 2180-8188

Website: <http://www.heritagemuseum.gov.hk>

For area map: See website above. (Click on "About Us", then "Plan Your Visit.")

This fantastic museum might be the best-kept secret in the territory. The curators had families with young children in mind when they designed this open and spacious place. Hong Kong's heritage comes alive here with over 7,500 square metres of exhibition area and 12 thematic galleries aimed at teaching students of all ages about the very rich legacy of this area, both geologically and anthropologically.

Six of the 12 galleries house permanent exhibitions which include all of the following: the Orientation Theatre, Children's Discovery Gallery, New Territories Heritage Hall, Cantonese Opera Heritage Hall, Chao Shao-An Gallery and the T.T. Tsui Gallery of Chinese Art. The other six galleries are host to a variety of short-term exhibits, many of which will appeal to children. At the time of writing, the temporary exhibit was an extremely popular child-friendly offer: Pixar – 25 Years of Animation. Hailing from California, this wonderful display shared an inside view of Pixar's animation works with such favourites as Woody and Buzz Lightyear from *Toy Story*, Sulley and Boo from *Monsters Inc.*, and Nemo and his dad, the clownfish from *Finding Nemo*. The visiting exhibitions change frequently; check the website for the current offering before you head out.

Though the whole museum is worth exploring, if you have kids between the ages of two and 10, you will likely spend the majority of your time in the children's discovery gallery. This very special place has eight play zones, each designed to teach something about Hong Kong's cultural heritage in a fun way. Virtually everything here is interactive. There is a Mai Po wetlands zone where kids can learn about animal species of the area, a deep ocean zone covering underwater creatures of the South China Sea, an area where they can play 'archaeologist' and discover artifacts found in the Hong Kong area, and a New

Territories village zone where they can learn about traditional village life by play-acting within a reconstructed dwelling. There are kid-sized tables and chairs where parents and children can amuse themselves with games that were popular locally decades ago. There is also a toy exhibition called "The Hong Kong Toy Story" which displays toys that were both manufactured and used in Hong Kong in the 1960s and 1970s.

Don't forget to leave time for the Cantonese Opera Gallery! This very colourful large gallery is both eye-catching and interactive. Kids will love using the computers to generate an image of themselves in full make-up and headdress as well as viewing all of the beautiful costumes and watching the videos on this fascinating part of Hong Kong's cultural history.

Seasons and Times

Mondays, Wednesdays-Fridays: 10:00am-6:00pm

Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays: 10:00am-7:00pm

Closed on Tuesdays (except public holidays) and the first two days of the Chinese New Year. Closes at 5:00pm on Christmas Eve and Chinese New Year's Eve.

Admission

Adults: HK\$10; Children (aged four and older): HK\$5. On Wednesdays only: Free admission. Tickets for the visiting exhibits may have a small entry fee on top of the ticket price to the museum.

The Best Ways of Getting There

By MTR

- From Central or Admiralty to **Kowloon Tong Station**, take the red line to **Mongkok**. Transfer to the green line (across the platform at Mongkok Station) to **Kowloon Tong**.
- In Kowloon Tong station look for the **East Rail**. Ride it one stop to **Tai Wai**.
- Then transfer to the **Ma On Shan Line** and go one stop and alight at **Che Kung Temple Station**.
- Take exit "A" to your right and look to your right on the path for a post with an arrow pointing across the small river to the museum. **Cross the pedestrian bridge** following signs, make a **right after crossing the bridge** and the museum will be three minutes down the path on your left.

↔ Travel time: 20 mins (MTR) + 10-15 mins (East Rail) + 5-7 min (walk).

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香港文化博物館



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By Car

- From Central take the **Cross Harbour Tunnel**: Connaught Road→Harcourt Road→Gloucester Road→**Island Eastern Corridor**.
- In tunnel stay in right lane. Once through tollbooth (HK\$20) stay right and follow signs for **Ho Man Tin and Sha Tin**.
- Stay in centre lane, you are now on **Princess Margaret Road**. Follow signs for **Lion Rock Tunnel**. Go through tunnel (HK\$8), you are now on **Lion Rock Tunnel Road**.
- Take the exit on the left for **Sha Tin Central**.
- Follow this road around **across a small bridge** over the Shing Mun River Channel. Immediately after the bridge make a left turn onto **Man Lam Road**.

P The Heritage Museum parking lot will be on your left side just in front of the museum.

There is a small parking fee.

By Taxi

A taxi from Central will cost HK\$150-\$170 and take 35-40 mins.

Getting a Bite

There are snack tables and drink vending machines in a covered outdoor area to the left of the front entrance to the museum, facing the river. Unfortunately there is no longer a restaurant or snack stand to purchase food from on the premises, so it would be advisable to bring your own snacks and/or lunch with you and make your own picnic. Alternatively, combine this visit with a stop at Sha Tin New Town Plaza (see [Getting a Bite](#) in the **Snoopy's World/New Town Plaza** chapter) which has many child-friendly eateries to choose from and is only a 15-minute walk from the museum.

What's Close?

[Sha Tin New Town Plaza](#), [Snoopy's World](#), [Ikea](#), [Penfold Park](#), [Sha Tin Park](#) (**Biking in the New Territories** chapter).

Comments

- Suitable for all ages, but best for ages three and up.
- Plan to spend at least two hours here.
- Generally not overcrowded.
- There are toilets on every floor and they are clean, nice and the sit-down kind.

- There is a separate room here, near the toilets on the ground floor near the escalators, especially made for baby changing and baby nursing.
- Stroller-friendly.
- There is a nice gift shop on the premises.

Special Programs and Tours

The museum runs a program called MuseKids which has special events (normally centred around holiday periods) for children. Check the website or call the museum for more information.

For Educators

Schools and charitable non-profit organizations are all welcome to contact the museum for free guided tours. Call the Education and Volunteer Services Team for more details on 2180-8180. The museum has a variety of programs that cater to teachers and students.

Word of Mouth

You could easily make a full day's outing out of a trip to this museum by taking in the amusements at Sha Tin New Town Plaza or by taking a walk or bike ride along the promenade which runs parallel to the Shing Mun River. Bike rentals are available at Sha Tin Park along the river promenade.