

Victoria Peak Garden

Top of Mount Austin Road
(Opposite No. 40 Mt. Austin Road)
The Peak, Hong Kong Island

Tel: 2853-2566 (Leisure and Cultural Services Department)
Website with area map: <http://www.lcsd.gov.hk/lsc/en/facilities.php?ftid=47&did=1>

Large patches of green grass, where children are allowed to scamper about, are a rarity in Hong Kong, which is why this picturesque garden is a good bet if you want a breath of fresh air and a place to let the kids run wild to their hearts' content. Located at the top of Victoria Peak, this garden is the remaining part of what was once the Governor's summer residence. Those Governors knew precisely what they were doing when they chose this spot for their retreats. Lovely and tranquil with welcoming breezes on a humid day, this garden is a place to unwind and get away from the city noise and heat.

The garden itself is a series of well maintained lawns connected by stone steps, each offering something slightly different, whether it be a stream, a wooded area or lovingly planted trees and flowers. Recently rejuvenated (in 2010), the tiered lawns now have Victorian-style gazebos which provide much-needed shade and are also a picturesque addition to the landscape. Benches, sundials and a stone pillared pavilion round out the new look. Numerous wooden picnic tables have also been added to accommodate those wanting to enjoy a meal in the great outdoors.

Arriving here is part of the fun! A designated stone pathway appropriately named Governor's Walk brings you from Mt. Austin Road up through the woods to the fields (see **Walking** below for explicit and detailed directions). Once you reach the very top, the path loops around to a lookout spot with fabulous views of Aberdeen and the South China Sea below. So, pack a blanket, a frisbee, some bubbles, a couple of balls to bat around and a picnic and head on up to this little-known sanctuary.

Seasons and Times

Year-round.

Admission

Free

The Best Ways of Getting There

Walking

- You can walk to **Victoria Peak Garden** from the **Peak Tram Terminus at The Peak** (see **Victoria Peak** chapter for information on riding the Peak Tram from Central) by following **Mt. Austin Road** all the way up to the top.
 - Mt. Austin Road begins just next to the **Peak Lookout Restaurant** and ends at Victoria Peak Garden. (There is a black-and-white sign at the start of this walk right next to the restaurant that reads VICTORIA PEAK GARDEN and points you in the right direction UP Mt. Austin Road.)
 - Walk about five minutes **up Mt. Austin Road** and the road gives you no choice but to curve and **follow it to the right**.
 - You will now see a nice little park on your left hand side called **Mount Austin Road Playground** (and garden). Keep the park to your left and continue straight ahead until again you have no option but to follow **Mt. Austin Road UP and this time to the left**.
 - Shortly you will come to a **small traffic circle**. At 11 o'clock on the circle, you will find some **stone steps leading upwards** (they are NOT marked with any signs). Take these steps and walk uphill 10 minutes and you will dead-end into Victoria Peak Garden.
(Tip: Don't be fooled into thinking the Mt. Austin Road Playground is Victoria Peak Garden; when you get to the playground you still have 15 minutes more to go... uphill!)
 - The walk is a bit steep in parts but if instead of taking the steps up at the traffic circle, you stay on Mt. Austin Road all the way until it dead-ends into the park (the way a car would arrive there), the road is paved and therefore it is possible to push a stroller.
- ↔ Travel time: 20-30 mins (walk).

By Car

- From **Central** drive up **Garden Road** and follow the signs to **Magazine Gap Road** (it will be a left turn at the end of Garden Road).
- Stay on **Magazine Gap Road**; when you reach the **roundabout** at the top of **Magazine Gap Road**, make a **right onto Peak Road**.

香港
山頂
山道
柯士甸

山頂公園



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- Take **Peak Road** all the way up to the **Peak Galleria Building** and then make a **left onto Mount Austin Road**.
- Follow **Mount Austin Road** to the **right** until you see the **Mt. Austin Road Playground**.
- Then follow **Mt. Austin Road up to the left** and it will dead-end into the parking lot at **Victoria Peak Garden**.

(Caution: The road on the way up is narrow and in places there is only room for one car to pass. Every few hundred feet though, there is a place to pull over so that two cars can pass each other. On Sundays and public holidays, Mt. Austin Road is blocked to all cars except taxis and residents of the area who sport a sticker in their windshield, so do not attempt to drive up here on a Sunday or a holiday as you will be turned away by the police. Park instead at the Peak Galleria car park and take the walking directions above to get there.)

P 2-hour metered parking is available in the car park.

By Taxi

- A taxi from the Peak Tram Terminus on the Peak or from the Peak Galleria building will cost HK\$22-\$26 and take 5-10 mins.
- A taxi from Central will cost HK\$50-\$60 and take 20-25 mins.
(Tip: When you are ready to leave, you can walk down or you may have to telephone for a taxi as taxis do not wait up at Victoria Peak Garden for fares. Here are a few taxi numbers you can call for a ride: 2529-8822, 2574-7311, 2861-1011, 2861-1008, 2527-6324. Please note that there is an extra \$5.00 fee which will be added to the fare for the call).

Other Ways

There are many modes of transport to Victoria Peak where you can start your walk or grab a taxi. See the **Victoria Peak** chapter – **The Best Ways of Getting There** for more information.

Getting a Bite

At the very top of the tiered garden, there is a refreshment kiosk which sells everything from cold drinks and snacks to kites and bubbles; however it is open only sporadically, generally when higher numbers of visitors are expected such as Sundays and public holidays. It would be wise to bring refreshments with you in case the kiosk is not open. Alternatively, plan to have a

meal at Victoria Peak (see **Getting a Bite** in the **Victoria Peak** chapter for details).

What's Close?

Victoria Peak and Mount Austin Road Playground.

Comments

- For all ages.
- Plan to spend at least one to two hours here.
- During the week, you will likely have this place all to yourselves and even if there are some crowds at the weekend, this place never feels crowded.
- There are toilets here near the kiosk and car park at the very top. Most are of the hole-in-the-ground kind but in the ladies' room there is a regular sit-down toilet.
- There is a baby-changing table in the ladies' bathroom.
- The garden itself is not a great place to push a stroller as there are many steps to navigate.

Extra Info

This garden is one of only a handful of places in Hong Kong where dogs are permitted. They must be leashed and of course cleaned up after, and there is a dog latrine to make that job easier. It is a lovely sight indeed to see families frolicking in the grass with their adored family pets.

Word of Mouth

It can be considerably cooler up on the top of the Peak, so even if it is temperate in Central, do bring some warmer outerwear with you especially in the cooler months.