

Hong Kong Traditional Celebrations

Experience four traditional festivals this spring in Hong Kong — just follow the joyous rhythms of rousing gongs and drums, which are the soundtrack for colourful parades in celebration of the city's ancient Chinese past. This is a great time to soak up the energy, tradition and passion that comprise the very soul of Hong Kong.

8 May Birthday of Tin Hau



About the Fa Pau Raffle

The raffling of *fa pau*, or floral wreaths, depicting Tin Hau is an indispensable part of the festivities to villagers of Yuen Long. The Ding Choy Pau (see right) is especially sought after as it's believed the winning village will be blessed with good fortune and fertility.

Some nine metres tall, the wreath is crafted with symbolic decorations: the ginger and lanterns represent lots of children; a gold ingot symbolises good fortune.

Information provided by Mr. Leung Fuk Yuen, Chairman of Shap Pat Heung Rural Committee.



Worshippers flock in their thousands to temples across Hong Kong on the birthday of Tin Hau, praying to the Goddess of the Sea for safety, fine weather and full fishing nets for the coming year.

Yuen Long Shap Pat Heung Tin Hau Festival Procession

One of the highlights of the Tin Hau festivities is the three-hour *Shap Pat Heung* ('18 Villages') *fa pau* parade in Yuen Long, featuring the Hong Kong Police Band, about 30 *fa pau* groups, lion dancers, dance groups and marching bands.

- Date** 8 May 2018
- Time** 10am - Procession from Yuen Long town centre to Tin Hau Temple at Tai Shu Ha (see parade route map)
3pm - *fa pau* raffle at Tin Hau Temple, Tai Shu Ha
- Enquiry** +852 2476 2264
- How to Get There** MTR Yuen Long Station Exit F, walk through YOHO MALL II and walk along the footbridge to Fung Cheung Road (for approximately 10 minutes).

Parade Route Map



Map not drawn to scale
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Other Celebrations

Locations	Events & Times
Feng Shue Wo Road, Tsing Yi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cantonese opera (15-19 May, 1-11pm) Dragon and lion dance, <i>fa pau</i> competition (17 May, 10am to 2pm)
Hang Hau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ceremony (8 May, 10am) Parade (10 May, noon) Cantonese opera (10 May, 7:30pm; 11-14 May, 2pm & 7:30pm)
Hau Kok, Tuen Mun	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cantonese opera (2-5 May, 1-10pm) Parade, lion dance, <i>fa pau</i> raffle (8 May, 11am to 2pm)
Joss House Bay, Sai Kung	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dragon & lion dance, <i>fa pau</i> raffle, parade (8 May, 8am to 2pm) * Ferry service to Joss House Bay is available from North Point Ferry Pier on 7 and 8 May. Please contact First Ferry at 2131 8181 for details.
Leung Shuen Wan, Sai Kung	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>fa pau</i> raffle (8 May, 11am) Ceremony (8 May, 2pm) * Shuttle boat service to Leung Shuen Wan is continuously available from Sai Kung Market New Ferry Pier. The ride takes about 45 minutes.
Luk Yeung Sun Chuen, Tsuen Wan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cantonese opera (5-8 May, 7:15pm; 6-8 May, 1:30pm) Ceremony (8 May, noon to 12:30pm)
Ma Wan Main Street and Ma Wan Village, Ma Wan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cantonese opera (6-9 May, 2pm; 8-9 May, 7:30pm) Worshipping ceremony and dragon and lion dance at Tin Hau Temple (8 May, 10am to 1pm)
Ping Yuen, Ta Kwu Ling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cantonese opera (6-8 May, 8-11pm; 8 May, noon to 4pm) Dragon and lion dance and <i>fa pau</i> raffle (8 May, noon to 4pm) Singing performance (6-9 May, 8-11pm; 7 and 9 May, 1-4pm; 8 May, noon to 4pm)
Tin Hau Kung, Tai Po	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ceremony (29 April, 11am) Dragon & lion dance, parade (29 April, 2-4:30pm) Cantonese opera (6-12 May, noon to 11pm)
Yung Shue Wan, Lamma Island	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dragon boat and sampan races (6 May, 10am to 3pm) Cantonese opera (7 May, 7:30pm; 8 May, 1:30pm & 8pm; 9-11 May, 2pm & 8pm)



Hong Kong Traditional Celebrations

19-23 May Cheung Chau Bun Festival



Tonnes of buns, papier-mâché effigies, lion dancers and tall tales of ancient evil spirits all converge on the small island of Cheung Chau to create one of the world's quirkiest local festivals.

The Piu Sik (Floating Colours) Parade

When a plague devastated Cheung Chau more than a century ago, villagers paraded through the island's narrow streets disguised as deities to drive away evil spirits. Today, small children dress up in costume to re-enact the parade, in which they appear to 'float' in the air.

Piu Sik Performers

Two child performers (aged five to six) sit on chairs hidden beneath their costumes, which are secured to each other by rods decorated with symbolic items. The floats are wheeled through the streets or sometimes carried on villagers' shoulders.

Information provided by Mr Tsang Ka Ming, Chairman of the Petrel Athletic Association Limited

The Bun Scrambling Competition

Competitors scramble up a bamboo tower covered with imitation buns, trying to collect as many as possible. Buns earn the competitors points (the higher up the better), and good fortune. The winner bags the much-coveted title of King or Queen of the Buns!

Bun Tower Facts

Nine thousand buns cover the 14-metre-tall tower. In the past they were real, but to avoid food wastage, plastic imitations are used today. Scramblers have three minutes and usually race to the top first to collect the buns with the highest points.

Information provided by Mr Yung Chi Ming, Chairman of Hong Kong Cheung Chau Bun Festival Committee

Festivities for the Cheung Chau Bun Festival

Dates & Times	Events & Venues
13 May, noon to 6pm	• Climbing Carnival at the soccer pitch at Pak Tai Temple Playground
19-22 May, 7:30-11pm	• Chinese opera performances at Pak Tai Temple Plaza
21 May, 2:30-3:15pm	• Lion and unicorn dances at Pak Tai Temple Plaza
22 May, 9:30am	• Unicorn and <i>kung fu</i> performance at Pak Tai Temple Plaza
22 May, 2-4pm	• Piu Sik Parade (please refer to parade route for details)
22 May, 11:30pm to 12:30am	• Bun Scrambling Competition* at the soccer pitch at Pak Tai Temple Playground * Complimentary admission tickets for the Bun Scrambling Competition will be distributed at Pak She First Lane next to Pak Tai Temple from 10pm, while stocks last.
23 May, 9am	• Distribution of buns at Pak Tai Temple Plaza
23 May, 2pm	• Ceremony to send the deities back to their temples

How to Get There

Ferry from Central Pier 5

Remarks

An additional sailing from Cheung Chau to Central will be available after the Bun Scrambling Competition at midnight on 22 May. Please visit First Ferry's website at www.nwff.com.hk for updates on the event day. For enquiries, call First Ferry Customer Service Hotline at +852 2131 8181 during office hours.

As the festival is very popular, visitors are advised to arrive early at Central Pier for the ferry to Cheung Chau.

Parade Route Map



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Hong Kong Traditional Celebrations

22 May Birthday of Buddha



Birthday of Buddha Celebrations at Po Lin Monastery

Po Lin Monastery, situated high atop a mountain plateau on Lantau Island, is home to the Big Buddha. Here, you can take part in the 'Buddha-bathing' ceremony. Other celebrations include *kung fu* performances by Shaolin monks as well as face-changing performances. Don't miss the Grand Hall of Ten Thousand Buddhas — completed in 2014, it is a multi-functional facility adopting classical architectural concepts of the Song dynasty (AD 960-1279).

Date	Time	Events & Venues
16-22 May	9am to 4:30pm	Buddha bathing ritual for the public, at the Hall of the Great Hero
16-19, 21-22 May	12:30-1:15pm & 3:30-4:15pm	Cultural variety show including Shaolin <i>kung fu</i> , face changing and acrobatics at Po Lin Hall
16-20 May	6-7pm	Dharma speaks at the Great Compassion Repentance Service, at the Grand Hall of Ten Thousand Buddhas (Language: Cantonese, Mandarin)

Enquiry +852 2985 5248

How to Get There

- MTR Tung Chung Station, Exit B, then take bus 23 (approximately 50 minutes)
- MTR Tung Chung Station Exit B, then take Ngong Ping Cable Car, which takes around 25 minutes. Then walk for around 10 minutes to the monastery
- Take a ferry from Central Pier 6 to Mui Wo, then take New Lantau Bus 2 to Ngong Ping.

2018 'A Family Legacy of Loyalty and Honor' — the Celebration Carnival for Buddha's Birthday

Organised by Buddha's Light International Association of Hong Kong, the Celebration Carnival for Buddha's Birthday attracts over 100,000 participants every year. There will be a vegetarian food fair, carnival games, a flower show, arts and crafts, as well as the 'Kid's Paradise'. You can take part in rituals such as bathing the Buddha, wish-making, meditating, and sutras calligraphy, which serve to purify one's mind.

Date	22 May
Time	10am to 6pm
Venue	Soccer Pitch No. 4-6, Victoria Park
Ticketing	Free admission
Website	fgshk.org.hk (available in Chinese only)
Enquiry	+852 3110 9000
How to Get There	MTR Causeway Bay Station, Exit E

Also called the Buddha-bathing Festival, the deity's birthday is one of the most spiritual and unique festivals celebrated in Hong Kong. At Buddhist temples across the city, devotees gather to pay their respects by bathing Buddha statues in water, in a ritual believed to help purify the soul.

Celebration of Buddha's Birthday in Year 2562 of the Buddhist Calendar (2018)

The Hong Kong Buddhist Association will hold a large-scale blessing ceremony to celebrate the Buddha's 2562nd birthday with the public. There will be Buddha-bathing rituals and charity sales booths. The Buddhist Birthday Charity Concert on 20 May evening will be this year's highlight, with performances by various Buddhist organisations and artists.

Date	20-22 May
Time	Various times. The Buddhist Birthday Charity Concert will be held from 7:30-9:30pm on 20 May.
Venue	Hong Kong Coliseum
Ticketing	Please visit the event website or contact Hong Kong Buddhist Association at 2574 9371 for details.
Website	www.hkbuddhist.org (available in Chinese only)
Enquiry	+852 2574 9371
How to Get There	MTR Hung Hom Station, Exit D2



Hong Kong Traditional Celebrations

22 May Birthday of Tam Kung



Festivities in celebration of the Birthday of Tam Kung

Devotees celebrate Tam Kung's birthday in the oldest temple dedicated to him, in Shau Kei Wan. The temple was built in 1905 and reconstructed in 2002, with its original features carefully preserved. Catch ceremonies including traditional dragon and lion dances, and a colourful street parade.

Date	22 May
Time	9am to 3pm (Dragon and lion dance parade from Shau Kei Wan Street East to Tam Kung Temple)
Venue	Tam Kung Temple Road
How to Get There	MTR Shau Kei Wan Station Exit B1 and follow Shau Kei Wan Main Street East and walk for about five minutes to Tam Kung Temple

Revered among coastal communities, Tam Kung was said to be capable of forecasting the weather and healing the sick, and learned the secret of remaining forever young when he was just 12. So, his statues usually depict an 80-year-old man with the face of a child.



Tours

Tin Hau Festival Tour

Date:	8 May 2018
Company:	Gray Line Tours of Hong Kong Ltd
Tel:	+852 2368 7111
Email:	sales@grayline.com.hk
Website:	www.grayline.com.hk
Language:	English



Regular Tours Visiting Po Lin Monastery

Company:	360 Holidays Limited
Tel:	+852 3666 0606/3666 0123
Email:	holidays@np360.com.hk
Website:	www.np360.com.hk
Company:	Gray Line Tours of Hong Kong Ltd
Tel:	+852 2368 7111
Email:	sales@grayline.com.hk
Website:	www.grayline.com.hk
Company:	Lantau Tours Ltd.
Tel:	+852 2984 8255
Email:	info@lantautours.com.hk
Website:	www.lantautours.com.hk
Company:	Splendid Tours and Travel Ltd
Tel:	+852 2316 2152
Email:	info@splendid.hk
Website:	www.splendid.hk

Hong Kong Tourism Board Visitor Information Services

Visitor Hotline: +852 2508 1234 9am to 6pm daily

Website: DiscoverHongKong.com

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