

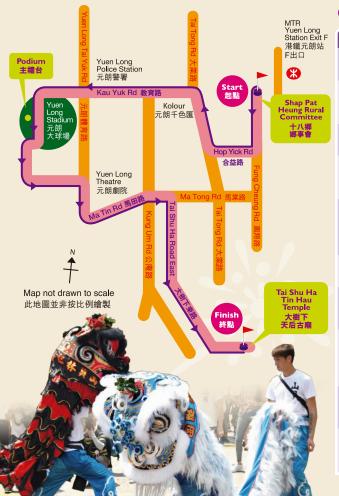
About the Fa Pau Raffle

The raffling of *fa pau*, or floral wreaths, depicting Tin Hau is an indispensible 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.

Parade Route Map



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 MTR Yuen Long Station Exit F, walk through YOHO MALL II and walk along

Get There the footbridge to Fung Cheung Road (for approximately 10 minutes).

Other Celebrations

Locations	Events & Times
Feng Shue Wo Road, Tsing Yi	 Cantonese opera (15-19 May, 1-11pm) Dragon and lion dance, fa pau competition (17 May, 10am to 2pm)
Hang Hau	 Ceremony (8 May, 10am) Parade (10 May, noon) Cantonese opera (10 May, 7:30pm; 11-14 May, 2pm & 7:30pm)
Hau Kok, Tuen Mun	 Cantonese opera (2-5 May, 1-10pm) Parade, lion dance, fa pau raffle (8 May, 11am to 2pm)
Joss House Bay, Sai Kung	 Dragon & lion dance, fa pau 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	 Fa pau 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	 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	 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	 Cantonese opera (6-8 May, 8-11pm; 8 May, noon to 4pm) Dragon and lion dance and fa pau 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	 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	 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





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 kung fu 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.



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 plaque 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

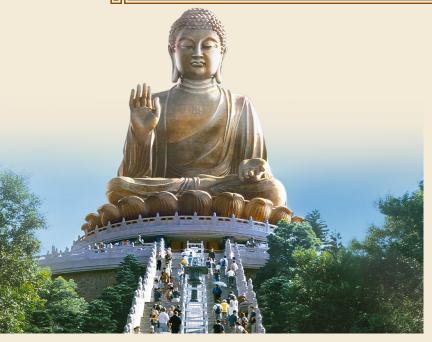
Nine thousand buns cover the 14-metre-tall tower. In the past they were real, but to avoid food wastage, plastic imitations are used today. Scramblers have three minutes and usually race to the top first to collect the buns with the highest points.

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









Birthday of Buddha Celerations 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 kung fu, 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 Lantao 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 MTR Causeway Bay Station, Exit E Get There

22 May Birthday of Buddha

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 MTR Hung Hom Station, Exit D2



Hong Kong ————— Traditional Celebrations





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 MTR Shau Kei Wan Station Exit B1 and follow Shau Kei Wan Main Get There Street East and walk for about five minutes to Tam Kung Temple

22 May Birthday of Tam Kung

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

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 360 Holidays Limited

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 +852 3666 0606/3666 0123

 Email:
 holidays@np360.com.hk

 Website:
 www.np360.com.hk

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Website: www.grayline.com.hk

Company: Lantau Tours Ltd.

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Email: info@lantautours.com.hk

Website: www.lantautours.com.hk

Company: Splendid Tours and Travel Ltd

Tel: +852 2316 2152
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Website: www.splendid.hk

Hong Kong Tourism Board Visitor Information Services

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

Website: DiscoverHongKong.com





