

Hong Kong Mid-Autumn Festival

27 September – 2 October 2012
Factsheet

Background

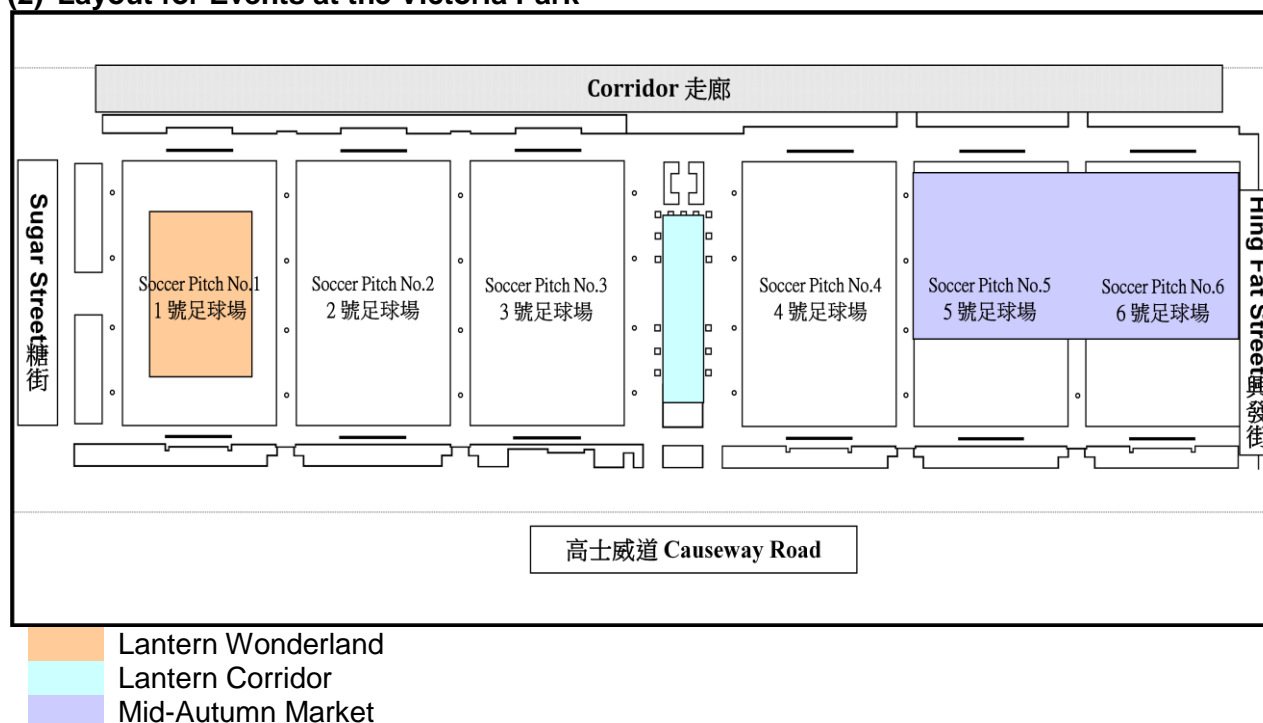
- Among the many traditional Chinese festivals celebrated in Hong Kong, the Mid-Autumn Festival is one of the most colourful and filled with a host of exciting events. For centuries, the Mid-Autumn Festival has been one of the most important Chinese festivals, a time when families get together to celebrate the abundance of a good harvest and to gaze at the full moon. Children play with lanterns of different shapes and colours adding a delightful ambience to the festivities. Traditionally, the festival is a three-day event, with people welcoming the full moon on the 14th day of the eighth moon and bidding farewell to the celestial orb on the 16th day.
- Moon cakes are a traditional and indispensable part of the Mid-Autumn festivities. Friends and relatives give one another moon cakes as gifts to convey blessings and good fortune. Moon cakes date back to the Yuan dynasty when Han Chinese rebels passed secret messages to one another hidden in the cakes to prevent their plans for insurrection being discovered by their Mongolian rulers.
- The celebrations also include colourful Chinese lanterns. Shops all over town sell coloured Chinese paper lanterns usually in the shape of animals, but more recently, in the shape of space ships and cartoon characters etc. There are also huge thematic lantern displays in different areas of Hong Kong.
- Coinciding with the Mid-Autumn Festival is the unique Tai Hang Fire Dragon Dance - a spectacular ritual that is considered one of the most extraordinary events during this Festival. In 2011, the Tai Hang Fire Dragon Dance has been inscribed on the third national list of 'Intangible Cultural Heritage' by the Ministry of Culture in China.
 - The Tai Hang Fire Dragon Dance has been performed for more than 100 years. Tai Hang located in Causeway Bay was originally a Hakka village. Legend has it that a plague broke out there in 1880s and to ward off the disease, the villagers planted joss sticks in a dragon made of grass. On the evenings of the 14th, 15th and 16th of the eighth lunar month, the villagers paraded the fire dragon through the village while letting off firecrackers. The plague ended soon after the event. From then on, the villagers have performed a three-day fire dragon dance every year to bless themselves. This breathtaking spectacle is now part of the 'unique intangible cultural heritage of Hong Kong'.
 - Highlights of the Tai Hang Fire Dragon Dance
 - Takes place from 29 Sept to 1 Oct 2012 (7:30pm – 10:30pm)
 - The Fire Dragon is 67 metres long and its body is divided into 32 segments
 - The Fire Dragon's head weighted 48 kg
 - The 3-day performance uses around 72,000 incense sticks
 - Around 300 performers are required to support the Fire Dragon
 - After the performance, the dragon will be delivered to the sea to symbolise the dragon returning to the sky after it has dispelled the plague in the village
- To enhance visitors' experience so they might celebrate the festival as locals do, the Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTb) promotes various Mid-Autumn Festival celebrations across the city. This year, with the support of Leisure and Cultural Services Department, HKTb will once again present the "Hong Kong Mid-Autumn Festival" at Victoria Park where a giant lantern with special LED light and sound effect will be installed as the centerpiece. Apart from this glowing spectacle which is the winning design of a competition, there will be a Mid-Autumn Market and a Lantern Corridor to add to the festive ambience.

Event Details

(1) Events at Victoria Park Soccer Pitch No. 1 – 6

Event Name	Event Date & Time	Venue
1. Lee Kum Kee Lantern Wonderland A splendid display of a giant lantern as the centerpiece with LED light and sound show. The lantern will be created according to the winning design of a lantern design competition organised by HKTb and supported by Hong Kong Designers Association, the Institute of Architects and Ambassadors of Design	Date: 27 Sept – 2 Oct 2012 Time: 6:30pm – 11pm (extended to 12am on 30 Sep & 1 Oct 2012)	Victoria Park Soccer Pitch No. 1
2. Lantern Corridor A walkway illuminated with strings of decorative lantern display	Date: 27 Sept – 2 Oct 2012 Time: 6:30pm – 11pm (extended to 12am on 30 Sep & 1 Oct 2012)	The area between Victoria Park Soccer Pitch 3 & 4
3. Mid-Autumn Market Festive foods and handicrafts will be on offer for visitors to get a taste of Chinese culture	Date: 27 Sept – 2 Oct 2012 Time: 6:30pm – 11pm (extended to 12am on 30 Sep & 1 Oct 2012)	Victoria Park Soccer Pitch 5 & 6
4. Urban Mid-Autumn Lantern Carnival 2012 Spectacular lantern display with festive activities and performances	Date: 27 Sept – 2 Oct 2012 Time: 6:30pm – 11pm (extended to 12am on 30 Sep & 1 Oct 2012)	Victoria Park Soccer Pitch 2, 3 & 4
5. Fire Dragon Dance The legendary Tai Hang Fire Dragon Dance makes a special appearance at Victoria Park	Date: 30 Sept 2012 Time: 10:45pm – 11:30pm	Victoria Park Soccer Pitch 5 & 6

(2) Layout for Events at the Victoria Park



Key Locations

