



A STROLL THROUGH HISTORY

# HONG KONG'S PING SHAN HERITAGE TRAIL

## PROFILE



TEXT AND  
PHOTOS BY

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Dr Chang Tou Liang is a family physician. From 2004 to 2008, he was the artistic director of the Singapore International Piano Festival. He is presently Singapore's most prolific classical music reviewer, having contributed over 2,000 articles to the *Straits Times*. He is married to Janet, has a 14-year-old son Shan Ming and owns 12 cats.

A visit to Hong Kong should not be just about shopping and feasting. Even its popular tourist attractions like the Victoria Peak, Temple Street Market and Disneyland can get a bit boring after the initial thrill. For decades, Hong Kong used to be the world's window into the enigma that was communist China. Today, some of the old Cantonese and Hakka traditions still live on in the hamlets of Hong Kong's New Territories.

Armed with a pocket camera, I made a short trip to the wonderfully preserved Ping Shan Heritage Trail and spent several hours admiring the village architecture and heritage. Far removed from the skyscrapers, expressways, shopping centres and political protests, time stood still as I imagined what it would be like standing in a southern Chinese village a century ago.

## GETTING THERE

You'll have to hop on the West Rail Line Mass Transit Railway (MTR) from East Tsim Sha Tsui station towards Tuen Mun station, and alight at Tin Shui Wai station. Follow the road signs that

lead you to the Tsui Sing Lau Pagoda, which is the first stop on the Ping Shan Heritage Trail. There, you can pick up a free booklet and map detailing all the sights on the trail.

## USEFUL TIPS

Give yourself a minimum of two hours to slowly explore the trail (about 1.6 km) and bring along lots of water as there are few refreshment stops along the way. Some of the sights include private residences, so be mindful not to intrude or disturb the peace. The trail ends on a hilltop where the Tang Clan Gallery and Heritage Trail Visitor Centre are located, and offers visitors a panoramic view of the Yuen Long area. To get back to civilisation, simply take the Light Rail Transit from Ping Ha Road to Yuen Long MTR station for a return trip on the West Rail Line. ◆

For more information,  
visit this website:

[http://www.amo.gov.hk/en/trails\\_pingshan.php](http://www.amo.gov.hk/en/trails_pingshan.php)

Intricate porcelain figurines adorn the rooftop of the Tang Ancestral Hall



Tsui Sing Lau Pagoda



Tsui Sing Lau Pagoda is Hong Kong's oldest pagoda and is believed to be built in the 15th century



The twin facades of the Tang (13th century) and Yu Kiu (16th century) Ancestral Halls are symmetrical in almost every detail

Sheung Cheung Wai



The imposing gatehouse of Sheung Cheung Wai walled village, a gated residence of the Tang family which is around 200 years old

Ping Shan Tang Clan Gallery and Heritage Trail Visitor Centre



Splendid craftsmanship in the Kun Ting Study Hall (c.1870s) – a testament to the Chinese emphasis on education and academic pursuits

Kun Ting Study Hall



Tang Ancestral Halls

Ching Shu Hing



A moon gate looking into a courtyard in Ching Shu Hing, a guesthouse for scholars visiting the Kun Ting Study Hall

Shut Hing Study Hall

The old Ping Shan Police Station (built in 1900) now houses the Ping Shan Tang Clan Gallery and Heritage Trail Visitor Centre



Exquisite wooden and stone carvings over the preserved entrance of Shut Hing Study Hall, which has unfortunately been demolished to make way for a private residence

An airy classroom in Kun Ting Study Hall, with tall folding doors

