

15 great days out with Grandma

Where to take your in-bound relatives this autumn. By Charmaine Ng



1. Hong Kong Dolphinwatch

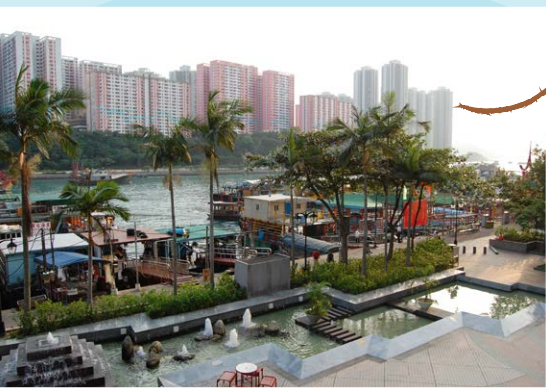
Hong Kong Dolphinwatch has been operating ecological tours to see the Indo-Pacific humpback dolphins in Hong Kong since 1995. The company works with researchers, sharing data and offering space on its trips with minimal charge to support their work. Bring Grandma to see Hong Kong's famous pink dolphins on one of their tours every Wednesday, Friday and Sunday. **\$460** per adult, **\$320** per elderly and **\$230** per child. hkdolphinwatch.com

2. Aberdeen Promenade

Stroll along the pushchair-friendly Aberdeen Wholesale Fish Market from the western end to the east side where you can hop on a sampan for a tour of the typhoon shelter. Expect to pay around **\$80** per person for a half-hour tour, during which you will get up close to the floating fishing village which is still semi-home to a number of boat-dwelling Tanka people. At the other end of the social scale, view the glossy yachts jostling for position in Aberdeen harbour – one allegedly belongs to Hong Kong action hero Jackie Chan!

3. Wong Tai Sin Temple

Located in Kowloon, this traditional style Chinese temple is nestled between high rise shopping malls and residential buildings. It's one of Hong Kong's most popular and well-known temples amongst the international Chinese communities. Wong Tai Sin, or Wong Cho-ping, was a young shepherd boy from Zhejiang province around 300AD who devoted his life to Taoism and to whom the temple is dedicated. Wong Tai Sin literally means 'great immortal Wong'. Worshippers come often to pray for good fortune through offerings, divine guidance and fortune telling. Take Exit B2 at MTR Wong Tai Sin Station and walk for around three minutes. 2 Chuk Yuen Village, Wong Tai Sin. siksikyuen.org.hk



4. Peng Chau

Grab a ferry to laidback tiny Peng Chau lying off the northeastern coast of Lantau. Famous for its temples and seafood, the island used to be a hive of activity with a matchstick factory and lime kilns – there is now just one kiln left and the former Great China Match Factory is no more than a few stones marking the boundary walls. Today, the island is great for easy hiking. The Peng Chau Family Trail is a paved walk around the island, suitable for young children and elders.



5. Yau Ley Seafood Restaurant

Head up to Sai Kung and jump on a 45-minute sampan ride to Yau Ley Seafood Restaurant, located in High Island. Enormously popular with locals and junk parties during the summer, the restaurant is calmer at this time of the year and is great for an easy family lunch in the sunshine. The beach, to the left of the restaurant, is perfect for the little kids to play and work up an appetite, while the jetty, north of the restaurant, lends itself to a spot of 'jetty jumping' for the older kids. yauleyseafood.com.hk

6. Heritage Museum

Take in some culture at this spacious museum beside the Shing Mun River in Sha Tin. It boasts Hong Kong history, art and culture via a variety of exhibits. Highlights include the New Territories Heritage Hall with mock-ups of traditional local Hakka villages, a Cantonese Heritage Opera Hall, a Bruce Lee exhibit with over 600 pieces of memorabilia and a children's area with an interactive play zone. Jump on the MTR to Che Kung Temple Station to get to the museum. 1 Man Lam Road. heritagemuseum.gov.hk



7. Ten Thousand Buddhas Monastery

Best attempted at this cooler time of the year, the Ten Thousand Buddhas Monastery is actually five temples, four pavilions, one pagoda – and 430 steep hillside steps to reach them. Make sure Grandma is forewarned and forearmed! Alongside the climb are dozens of golden and painted life-size buddha

statues, all of which are different, so take your time and catch your breath while you have a look. At the top are views across the New Territories and the bright red pagoda that appears on one hundred dollar bills printed between 1985 and 2002. To get there, take the MTR to Sha Tin Station. The steps are at the end of Sheung Wo Che Street.



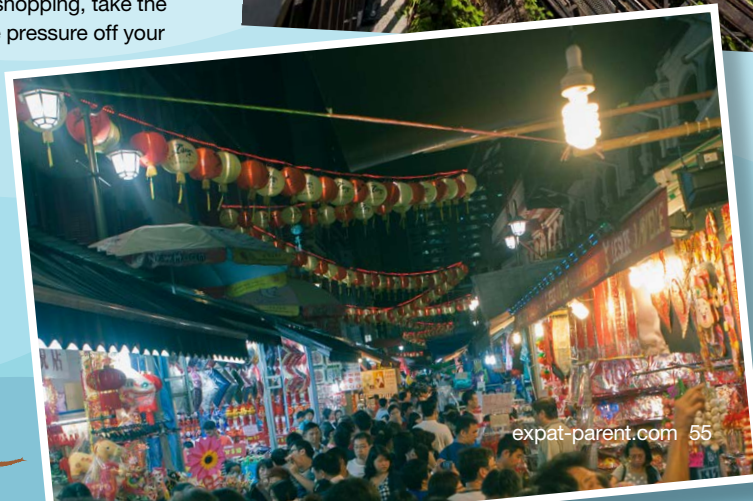
8. The Peak

You haven't been to Hong Kong if you've not ridden the Peak tram! Our hack? Take a taxi or bus to the top and catch the tram back down – this way you avoid the monster queues on Garden Road. If your group is looking to stretch their legs, the flat, paved and shady Lugard Road circular walk is just under four kilometres and offers views across Pok Fu Lam Reservoir, Aberdeen and Lamma, the Tsing Ma Bridge and finally the city in all its high rise splendour. The Peak Galleria has just reopened following a fresh revamp. Be the first to check it out at 118 Peak Road, The Peak. thepeakgalleria.com



9. Temple Street Night Markets

Bag a bargain, haggle to your heart's content, 'fess up to the fortune teller, it's all happening on Temple Street come nightfall. From handbags to wallets, clothing, trinkets, souvenirs, toys and everything in between, this is a hardcore, fast-paced version of Stanley Market. When you're done shopping, take the weight off your feet (and the pressure off your purse) with a beer and traditional Cantonese fare at a roadside dai pai dong. The food is tasty and the service is efficient, but take note – we're not talking high glamour here, expect plastic seating and toilet roll napkins! Take Exit A at MTR Jordan Station, turn right onto Jordan Road and then take another right onto Temple Street.





10. Container Port Tour

As one of the world's most important shipping hubs, Hong Kong container ports are a must-see on many visitors' bucket lists. A series of Container Port Tours organised by Hong Kong Yachting kick off this autumn, running every Sunday from now until November. Guests will be taken right up inside the container port terminal to see the action up close. After the port tour, the boat will dock at a nearby beach for a BBQ lunch and a wander through Ma Wan deserted village. **\$900** per adult, **\$760** per child. hongkongyachting.com

11. Cheung Chau

A short one-hour cruise from Central Ferry Piers takes you to Cheung Chau, the most popular outlying island in Hong Kong. Named 'the dumbbell' for its distinct shape, Cheung Chau is a photogenic fishing harbour with plenty of restaurants, cafés, bakeries and handicraft stalls to explore. If the weather permits, hit the beach, or pick up a sampan from the main pier to Sai Wan Pier for around **\$5** per person to view the infamous Cheung Po Tsai 'pirate' cave.



12. Luk Yu Teahouse

An interesting venue if you're looking to treat Grandma to traditional Chinese tea and dim sum. Running since the 1930s, this elegant three-storey teahouse is one of the longest operating in Hong Kong and used to be patronised by writers, painters and opera singers. Expect Cantonese classics such as dim sum, prawn toast, fried beef with noodles and egg tarts. Waiters are white-jacketed to fit with the avocative pre-war decor of the ceiling fans, oriental screens and stained glass. The first floor is unofficially reserved for the regulars, so expect to be seated on the second floor if this is your first time here. 24-26 Stanley Street, Central. lukyuteahouse.com



13. Chi Lin Nunnery

This large Buddhist complex in Diamond Hill, Kowloon, was founded in the 1930s as a retreat for Buddhist nuns. Rebuilt in the 1990s following traditional Tang Dynasty architecture, it is constructed entirely in cypress wood, using no nails, and is in fact the world's largest handmade wooden building. Once you've viewed the nunnery, let the kids have a scamper over 3.5 hectares of landscaped gardens across the road at Nan Lian Garden, which also houses a tasty vegetarian restaurant and teahouse. Take Exit C2 at MTR Diamond Hill Station, follow the street signs and you should find Chi Lin Nunnery. 5 Chi Lin Drive, Diamond Hill. chilin.org



14. Ngong Ping 360

Be wowed by the juxtaposition of Lantau as you travel south from the airport over rolling emerald mountains towards the village of Ngong Ping. The renowned Big Buddha, Po Lin Monastery, Ngong Ping Piazza and Wisdom Path are only five minutes from the village, where a wide array of shops and eateries offer a shopping and dining experience like no other. Expect lots of incense burning, prayers and feral buffalo wandering around. np360.com.hk

15. Lai Chi Wo Walled Hakka Village

Lai Chi Wo in Plover Cove Country Park is

one of Hong Kong's best preserved Hakka villages. The village is over 300 years old and was completely abandoned in the 1960s. Visitors are free to wander the laneways and view the 200 odd houses in the village, which is also home to temples, ancestral halls and an intact feng shui woodland. Bespoke tours can be arranged with at least two weeks' notice, and on weekends, there are regular tours including a fun 'sticky rice' demonstration. The ferry from Ma Liu Shui Pier to Lai Chi Wo runs once per week on Sunday at 9am and returns at 3.30pm. A single trip is \$50 per person and a return trip is \$80 per person. 



BIG DAY OUT



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Between 2001 and 2010 a 40 per cent drop in polar bear populations was recorded in northeast Alaska and Canada's Northwest Territories. Population numbers fell **from 1,500 to 900**.

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