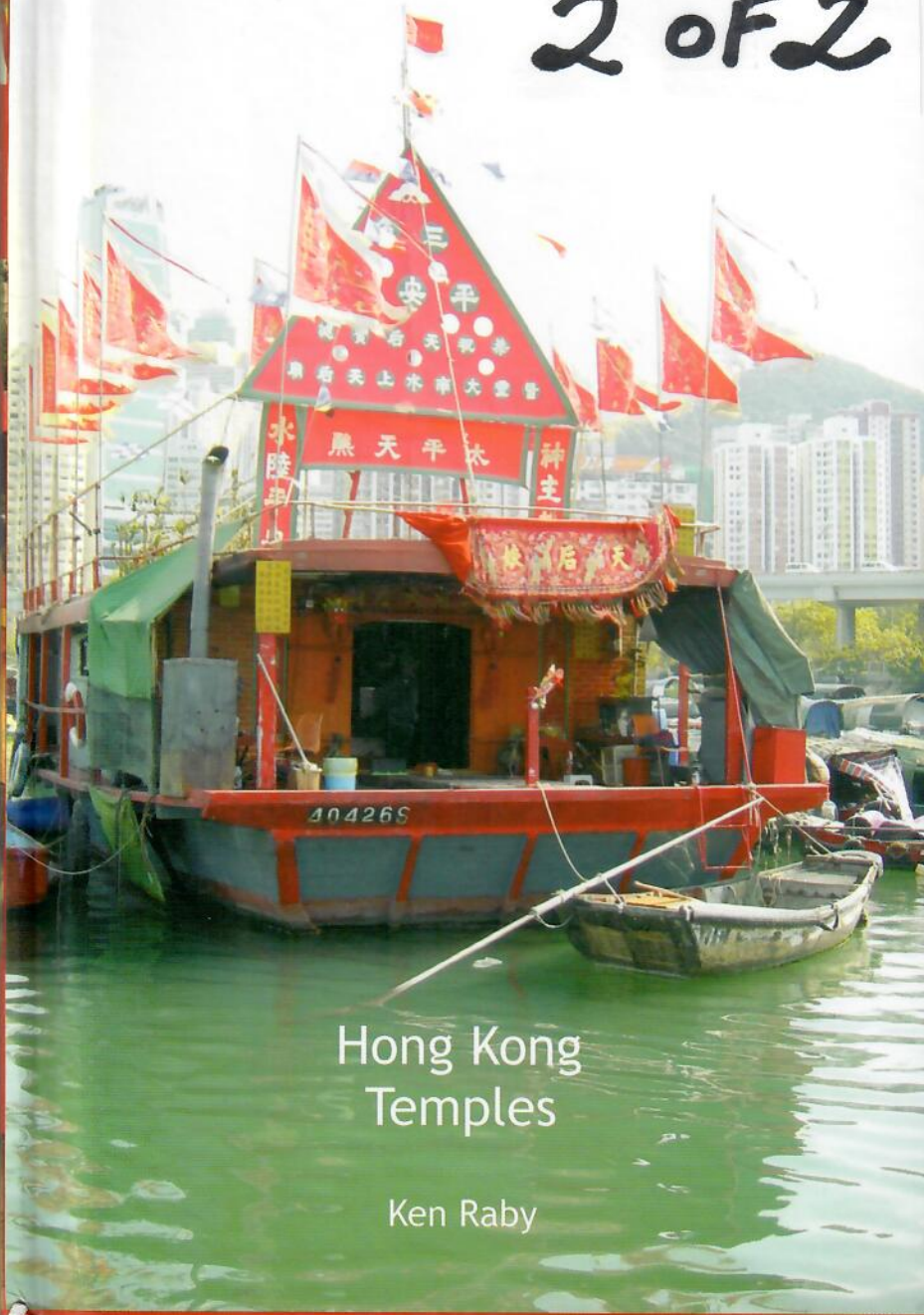
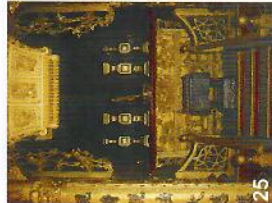


2 of 2



Hong Kong
Temples

Ken Raby



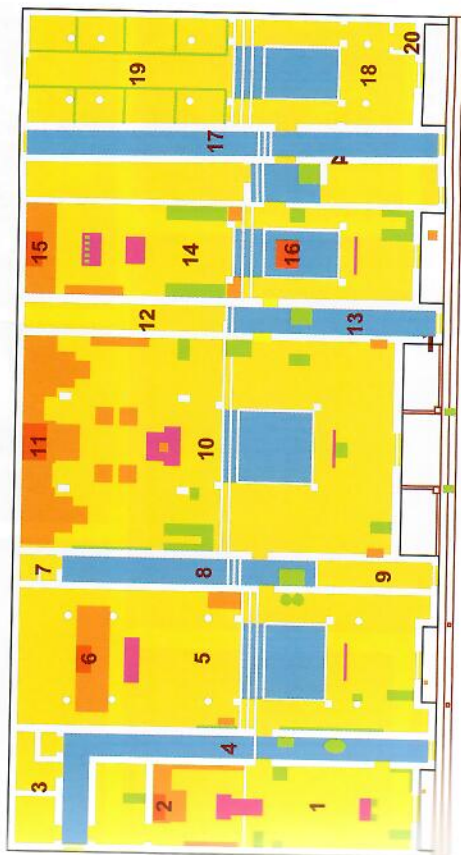
- | | | | |
|----|---------------------------------|----|----------------------------|
| 1 | All Saints | 17 | Open courtyard |
| 2 | To Dei Kung, Earth God (under) | 18 | Staff area |
| 3 | Kwun Yum, Goddess of Mercy | 19 | Bell and Drum |
| 4 | Siu Jai Tan (under) | 20 | Donation box |
| 5 | Tai Sui, Sixty Gods of the Year | 21 | Temple offerings for sale |
| 6 | Fortune teller | 22 | Spirit Screen (Dong Chung) |
| 7 | Office | 23 | Fook Dak Kung |
| 8 | Offerings table with Ng Kung | 24 | Ancestor tablets |
| 9 | Fortune teller | 25 | Gilded Sedan Chair |
| 10 | Donation box | 26 | Symbols of Eight Immortals |
| 11 | Circular opening | 27 | Fortune teller |
| 12 | Offerings table | 28 | Open courtyard |
| 13 | Smoke tower | 29 | Toilet |
| 14 | Donation box | 30 | Staff area |
| 15 | Circular opening | 31 | Temple offerings for sale |
| 16 | Incinerator | 32 | Chinese Doctor |

This is reputedly the most popular Kwun Yum Temple in Hong Kong and the large quantities of temple offerings for sale, piled high throughout the temple would indicate that this may be true. Worshipers are assisted by helpful temple staff to purchase their offerings, pay their respects to the gods and eventually to hand over the offerings to an attendant for burning in a large central incinerator located in an open courtyard on the right. The main deity Kwun Yum, Goddess of Mercy, sits on the central altar, a relatively small image for the space available. She provides a serene focus in a large bustling temple. To the left is an altar to All Saints and Buddhas with a large variety of different gods. To the right of Kwun Yum are the Tai Sui, sixty Gods of the Year, stacked up to a great height on five shelves. In between and at floor level are To Dei on the left and Siu Jai Tan on the right. The temple is large but it is very open to provide adequate space for the large numbers of worshippers. On the left, close to the main entrance are the symbols of the Eight Immortals with ceremonial fans, an umbrella and a pike. Behind these is a highly decorated and gilded sedan chair in a protective cabinet.

30

Tin Hau Complex—Yau Ma Tei

30



21 22

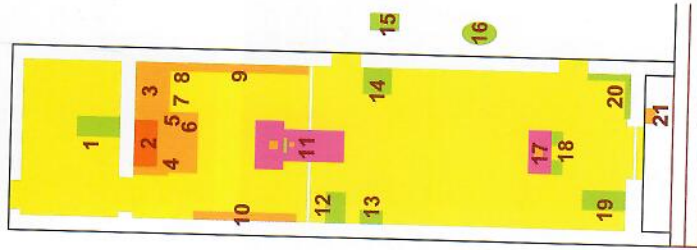
In Yau Ma Tei there is a temple complex which once used to be located only a few metres from the sea. The complex includes four individual temples and a fifth temple style building all in a row, each separated by a corridor. The main temple in the centre is dedicated to *Tin Hau*. On the immediate left is the Sing Wong Temple and further along is the 'old' Kwun Yum Temple which used to be called Fook Tak Temple. To the right of the Tin Hau Temple is the Kwun Yum and Shea Tan Temple and on the far right is a temple style building which houses small cubicle rooms for eight fortune tellers. The temple complex was moved to this site between 1887 and 1878 and the Fook Tak Temple was added in 1894. Part of the complex was used as a small school which was relocated in the early 1900s. When the complex was fully completed in 1894 Fook Tak Temple and Shea Tan Temple were both dedicated to Earth Gods. These may have existed on the site before the complex was built and it has been suggested that the Earth God within the Fook Tak Temple may have now been worshipped for about three hundred years. The complex was rebuilt and renovated in 1972.

- | | | | |
|----|----------------------------|----|--|
| 1 | Kwun Yum Old Temple | 13 | Open corridor |
| 2 | Kwun Yum, Goddess of Mercy | 14 | Kwun Yum & Shea Tan Temple |
| 3 | Toilets | 15 | Kwun Yum, Goddess of Mercy |
| 4 | Open corridor | 16 | Shea Tan, District God |
| 5 | Sing Wong Temple | 17 | Open corridor |
| 6 | Sing Wong, the City God | 18 | Temple style building with fortune tellers |
| 7 | Toilets | 19 | Fortune teller's cubicle rooms |
| 8 | Open corridor | 20 | Electrical switch room |
| 9 | Staff area | 21 | Male Stone Lion |
| 10 | Tin Hau Temple | 22 | Female Stone Lion |
| 11 | Tin Hau, Empress of Heaven | | |
| 12 | Staff area | | |

30a

Kwun Yum (Old) - Yau Ma Tei

30a



This temple, dedicated to *Kwun Yum*, the Goddess of Mercy, used to be called the Fook Tak Temple when the main deity was the Earth God, *To Dei Kung*. *Kwun Yum* now occupies the main altar and on the right, almost of the same importance is *Kwan Kung*, the God of War. *Kwun Yum* shares her altar with *Pau Kung*, the God of Justice, on the left and on the right is *Fook Sing*, the God of Happiness who has a brass rotating fan in front of him to blow away misfortune and turn it into fortune. *To Dei Kung* still remains on the main altar in a less important position. Below *Kwan Kung* is an altar to the Unpredictable Ghost (*Choi San*) and another to *To Dei Kung* and *To Dei Po*. This temple is referred to as being the old Kwun Yum Temple presumably because the statue of *Kwun Yum* is older than the statue at the Shea Tan Temple. On the wall on the right are the *Tai Sui*, the sixty Gods of the Year made of paper mache. On the opposite wall is *Gum Fa*, the Patron Saint of Pregnant Women, new mothers and their babies. She is accompanied by five of her twelve assistants, also made of paper mache, who have special duties relating to child rearing. Other statues of *Kwun Yum* are positioned throughout the temple.

1 Office

2 Kwun Yum, Goddess of Mercy

3 Kwan Kung, God of War

4 Pau Kung, God of Justice

5 Fook Sing, God of Happiness

6 To Dei Kung, Earth God

7 Choi San (under)

8 To Dei Kung and To Dei Po (under)

9 Tai Sui, Sixty Gods of the Year

10 Gum Fa, Patron of Pregnant Women

11 Offerings table with Kwun Yum and brass fan

12 Fortune teller

13 Donation box

14 Anchor shaped Bell and Drum

15 Incinerator

16 Oval turtle container

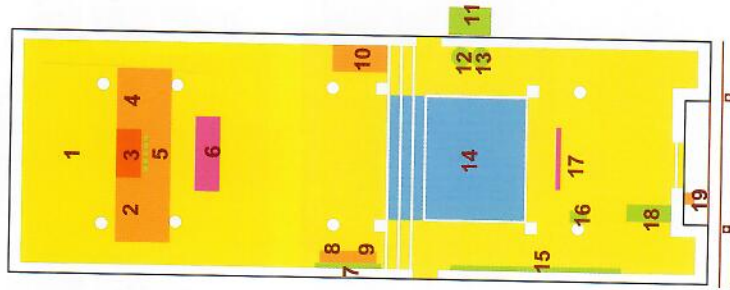
17 Display table with Kwun Yum

18 Donation boxes

19 Temple offerings for sale

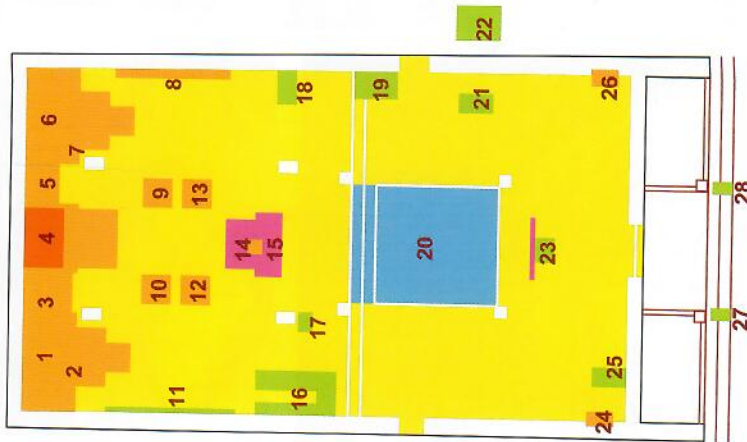
20 Ancestor tablets

21 To Dei Kung, Earth God



Within the Tin Hau Temple complex at Yau Ma Tei there is a temple dedicated to Sing Wong, the City God. He has the task of ensuring that everybody gets their just rewards in this life or in the next. His main function is to care for the dead, to make sure that they are accompanied to the courts of punishment in the underworld and to speak up for them. Sing Wong sits on the main altar and on his left and right are the 10 Judges of the Underworld who in turn consider the sins of the deceased and impose various punishments. In front of the Judges are Officials and Soldiers of the Underworld with a chained mortal. On the right hand wall there is an altar dedicated to Kwun Yum and All Saints including Tin Hau, Kwan Kung and Pak Tai. Ancestor tablets cover most of the left hand wall and a small shrine to Choi San with a White Tiger and a Yellow Horse with rider is under a central panel. When people die offerings of material things are made to help them during their time in the underworld. Paper replicas of houses, cars and other useful objects are ceremonially burned to make sure that the departed is able to live in the manner he was accustomed. These coloured paper replicas are made in this temple.

- | | | | |
|----|--|----|----------------------------|
| 1 | Storage | 11 | Incinerator |
| 2 | Judges of the Underworld (5No.) | 12 | Bell |
| 3 | Sing Wong, the City God | 13 | Drum |
| 4 | Judges of the Underworld (5No.) | 14 | Open courtyard |
| 5 | Officials and Soldiers of the Underworld | 15 | Ancestor tablets |
| 6 | Offerings table | 16 | Donation box |
| 7 | Ancestor tablets | 17 | Spirit Screen (Dong Chung) |
| 8 | Dei Ju, Earth God (under) | 18 | Temple offerings for sale |
| 9 | Choi San (under) | 19 | To Dei Kung, Earth God |
| 10 | Kwun Yum and All Saints | A | Paper Offerings |



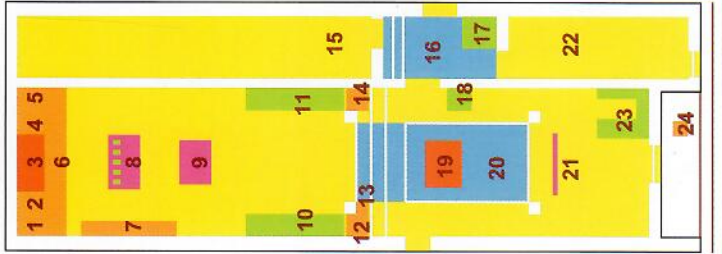
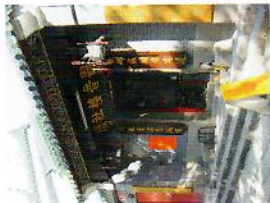
1	Pau Kung, God of Justice	16	Temple offerings for sale
2	Executioner's sword	17	Donation box
3	Choi San, Green Horse, White Tiger	18	Fortune teller
4	Tin Hau, Empress of Heaven	19	Bell and Drum
5	All Saints	20	Open courtyard
6	Kwun Yum, Goddess of Mercy	21	Fortune teller
7	Dei Ju, Earth God (under)	22	Incinerator
8	Tai Sui, Sixty Gods of the Year	23	Spirit Screen (Dong Chung) with table
9	Keeper of Tin Hau's Gold Seal	24	Moon Goon, Door Official
10	Tin Hau's Book Keeper	25	Fortune teller
11	Ancestor tablets	26	Moon Goon, Door Official
12	Favourable Wind Ears	27	Female stone lion
13	Thousand Li Eyes	28	Male stone lion
14	Offerings table		
15	Lo Ji		

This popular temple is dedicated to *Tin Hau*, the Empress of Heaven. With an open courtyard instead of a smoke tower the temple is bright with a feeling of space. *Tin Hau* occupies the main altar. In front of her are four large statues. The one holding a writing brush is *Tin Hau's* book-keeper who records people's virtues and failings. The one opposite with a bag is the keeper of the goddess's gold seal. In front of these are the two loyal fearsome demons that *Tin Hau* had subdued. The green demon with the ball club is Favourable Wind Ears who can hear things from far away. The other demon with the axe is Thousand Li Eyes who can see clearly at great distance. On the far left of *Tin Hau* is *Pau Kung*, the God of Justice, with an executioner's sword resting on his altar. In between is an alcove containing *Choi San*, the Unpredictable Ghost, a Green Horse, a White Tiger and others. On the far right of *Tin Hau* is *Kwun Yum*, the Goddess of Mercy. In between is an alcove dedicated to All Saints which include *Wong Tai Sin* and the Monkey God. On the right hand wall are the *Tai Sui*, the sixty Gods of the Year, named after the head of the Ministry of Time.

30d

Kwun Yum & Shea Tan—Yau Ma Tei

30d

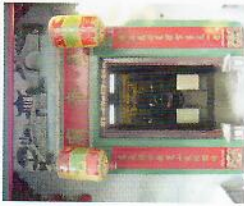


The Kwun Yum and Shea Tan Temple to the right of *Tin Hau* in the Yau Ma Tei temple complex is laid out as two temples. The temple used to be called the Shea Tan Temple dedicated to the God of the Harvest, the major Earth God for the whole district responsible for the control of other Earth Gods. The shrine of *Shea Tan* must thus be open to the sky. This can be seen as a stone tablet with four shaped stones in the open courtyard as you enter the temple. Two of the stones are shaped like Tigers and have glass balls as eyes. The District God looks after the people in the neighbourhood. The steps at the back of the courtyard become the entrance of a second temple to *Kwun Yum*. On the steps on the right is a small shrine dedicated to *To Dei Kung* and *To Dei Po*. On the left is a shrine to the Unpredictable Ghost (*Choi San*) and another to *Choi San* which is a small statue of *Pak Tai*. Ancestor tablets are on the left and right immediately after the steps. The altar at the far end of the main hall has many gods. The main deity is *Kwun Yum* dressed in white attended by Jade Girl and Golden Boy. Sharing an altar on the left are *Lung Mo* and *Gum Fa*. On the right are *Kwan Kung* and *Pak Tai*.

- | | | | |
|----|----------------------------------|----|---|
| 1 | Lung Mo, Dragon Mother | 14 | To Dei Kung and To Dei Po |
| 2 | Gum Fa, Patron of Pregnant Women | 15 | Staff area |
| 3 | Kwun Yum, Goddess of Mercy | 16 | Open courtyard |
| 4 | Kwan Kung, God of War | 17 | Incinerator |
| 5 | Pak Tai, Emperor from the North | 18 | Bell and Drum |
| 6 | Sundry Gods | 19 | Shea Tan, District God |
| 7 | Tai Sui, Sixty Gods of the Year | 20 | Open courtyard |
| 8 | Offerings table with Ng Kung | 21 | Spirit Screen (Dong Chung) (walk through) |
| 9 | Offerings table | 22 | Staff area |
| 10 | Ancestor tablets | 23 | Temple offerings for sale |
| 11 | Ancestor tablets | 24 | To Dei Kung, Earth God |
| 12 | Unpredictable Ghost (Choi San) | | |
| 13 | Choi San (image of Pak Tai) | | |



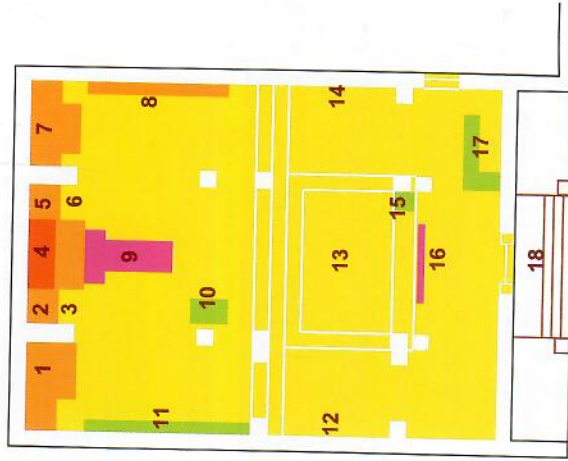
Door Gods in Shatin (35)



In the 17th year of *Kuang Hsu* (1891) the residents of Shamshuipo built this temple in honour of an ancient hero *Kwan Yu*, popularly known as *Kwan Kung* and worshipped as the God of War (*Wu Ti*). This temple is the only temple dedicated to *Kwan Kung* on the Kowloon peninsula. The main festivals for *Kwan Kung* are held on the 13th day of the fifth moon and the 24th day of the sixth moon.

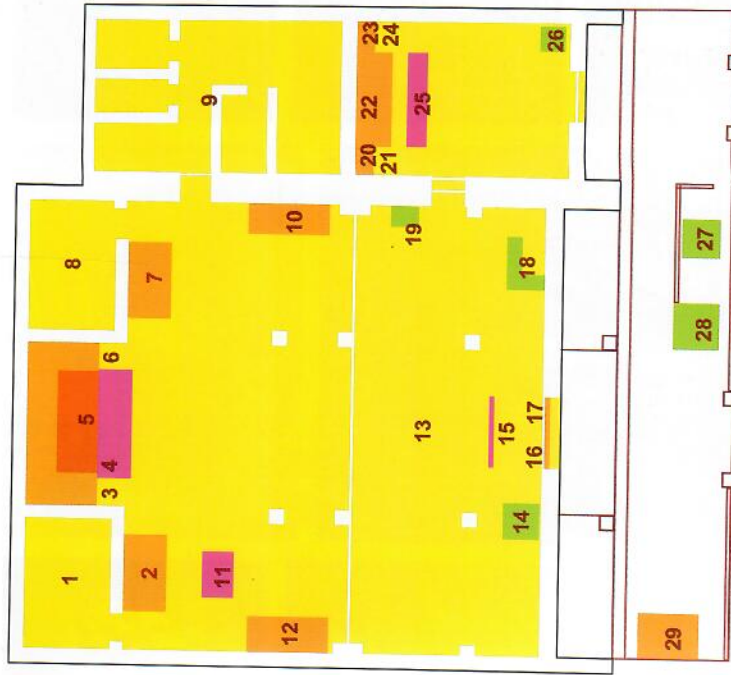
Kwun Yum, the Goddess of Mercy sits on the left of the main deity *Kwan Kung* and *Pau Kung*, the God of Justice sits on the right. Between *Kwan Kung* and *Kwun Yum* is *Man Cheung*, the God of Literature. In a similar position on the right is *Chu Lap Dai Sin*, a Doctor God.

On the wall on the right hand side of the main hall there are sixty Gods of the Year (*Tai Sui*). These appear to be a fairly recent addition to the temple.



19

- | | | | |
|----|---------------------------------|----|----------------------------|
| 1 | Kwun Yum, Goddess of Mercy | 11 | Ancestor tablets |
| 2 | Man Cheung, God of Literature | 12 | Circular window |
| 3 | Ha Tan and White Tiger (under) | 13 | Smoke Tower (above) |
| 4 | Kwan Kung, God of War | 14 | Circular window |
| 5 | Chu Lap Dai Sin | 15 | Donation box |
| 6 | To Dei (under) | 16 | Spirit Screen (Dong Chung) |
| 7 | Pau Kung, God of Justice | 17 | Temple offerings for sale |
| 8 | Tai Sui, Sixty Gods of the Year | 18 | Temple entrance |
| 9 | Offerings table | 19 | To Dei Kung, Earth God |
| 10 | Bell and Drum | | |



1	Staff area	15	Spirit Screen (Dong Chung)
2	Kwun Yum, Goddess of Mercy	16	Gate God Chen Shuk Bo
3	Choi San (under)	17	Gate God Wat Chi King Tak
4	Luk Ma Gwai Yan	18	Temple offerings for sale
5	Third Prince, Sam Tai Tze	19	Donation box
6	White Tiger (under)	20	Man Cheung Dai Gwan
7	Pau Kung, God of Justice	21	Tiger (under)
8	Staff Area	22	Pak Tai, Emperor of the North
9	Staff area	23	Tong Sam Jong
10	Gum Fa (12No), Ching Gwan,	24	Dei Ju (under)
11	Fa Kung, Fa Po	25	Offerings table
12	Offerings table	26	Bell and Drumm
13	Tai Sui, Sixty Gods of the Year	27	Incinerator
14	Smoke tower (above)	28	Incinerator
		29	Shea Tan

When a terrible epidemic broke out in Shamshuipo in the 1890s the Hakka people brought the image of their Patron Saint *Sam Tai Tze* from their native place Hui Yang to suppress the plague. The image was paraded throughout all of the streets in the area and as a result the epidemic subsided. The Hakka people attributed this to the divine power of *Sam Tai Tze* and in memory of him this temple was built in the 24th year of *Kwang Hsu* (1898). This is the only temple in Hong Kong dedicated with *Sam Tai Tze* as the main deity. An image of *Kwun Yum*, the Goddess of Mercy is on the left of the main altar and *Pau Kung*, God of Justice, sits on the right. Twelve images of *Gum Fa Leung Leung* with images of *Ching Gwan*, *Fa Kung* and *Fa Po* are on the right hand side wall of the main hall. In the main hall on the left are sixty images of the *Tai Sui*, Gods of the Year. Attached to the Sam Tai Tze Temple is a temple dedicated to *Pak Tai* which was built by the fishing folk of Shamshuipo in 1920. *Pak Tai*, the Bare Foot Emperor from the North, is accompanied by *Man Cheung* on the left and *Tong Sam Jong* on the right. The *Pak Tai* Festival is held on the third day of the third moon.



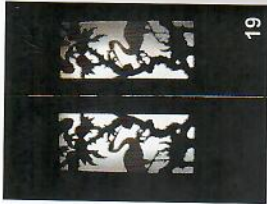
33

Tin Hau—Shamshuipo

33



19



19



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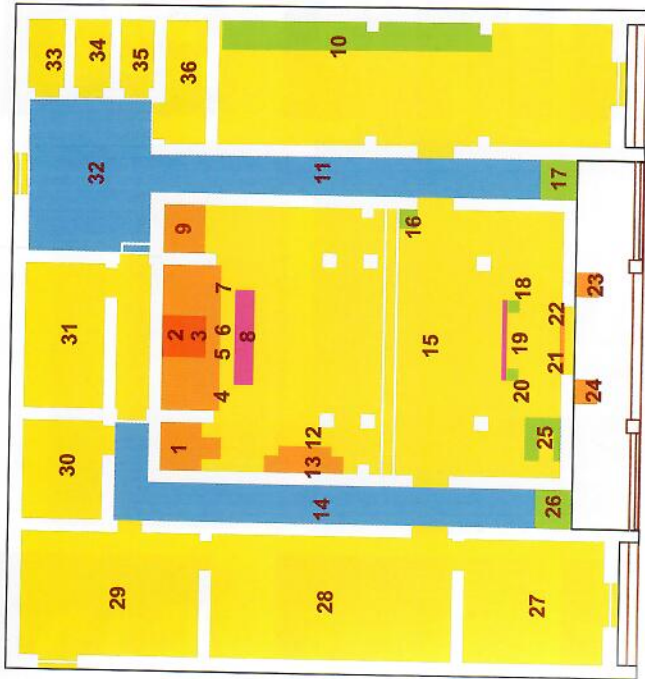
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3



16



1 Kwun Yum, Goddess of Mercy

2 Tin Hau, Empress of Heaven

3 Tin Hau

4 Choi San (under)

5 Ng Fong Ng To Lung Sun (under)

6 Luk Ma Gwai Yan, Dei Ju (under)

7 Lung Mo Leung Leung (under)

8 Offerings table

9 Pau Kung, God of Justice

10 Ancestor tablets

11 Open corridor

12 Tai Sui, Sixty Gods of the Year

13 Dao Mo, in charge of Tai Sui

14 Open corridor

15 Smoke tower (above)

16 Bell and Drum

17 Incinerator

18 Male Lion

19 Spirit Screen (Dong Chung)

20 Female Lion

21 Gate God Chen Shuk Bo

22 Gate God Wat Chi King Tak

23 To Dei Kung, Earth God

24 To Dei Po, To Dei Kung's wife

25 Temple offerings for sale

26 Incinerator

27 Staff area

28 Staff area

29 Staff area

30 Staff area

31 Staff area

32 Open courtyard

33 Shower

34 Toilet

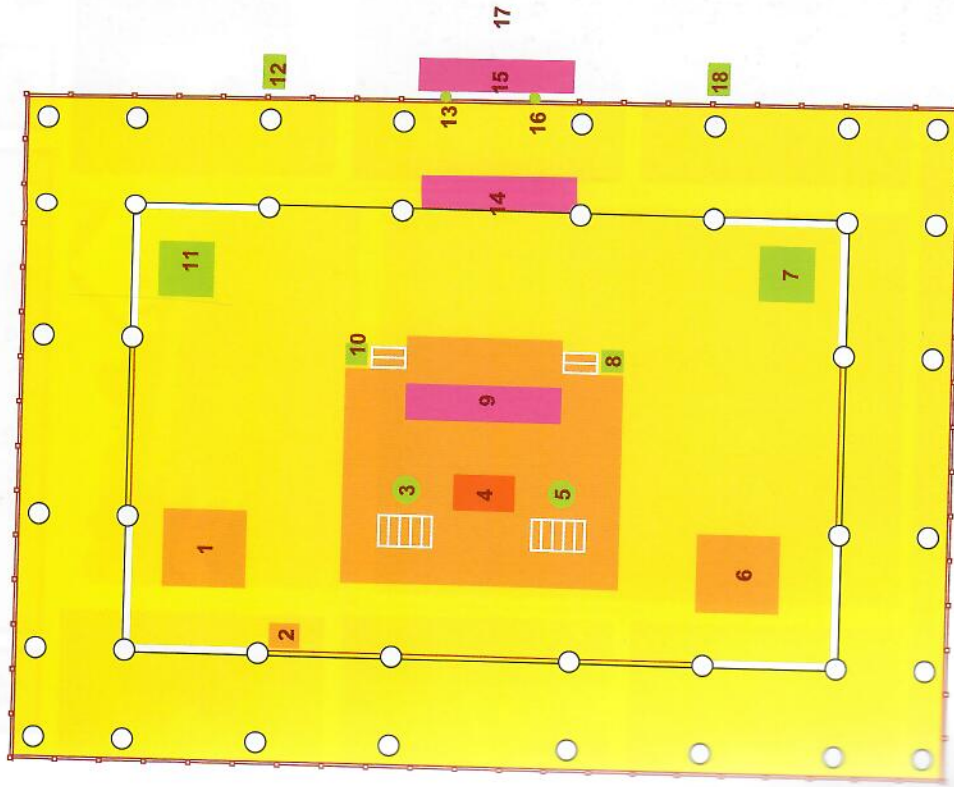
35 Toilet

36 Kitchen

This temple dedicated to Tin Hau, the Empress of Heaven and the Patron Saint of Boat People, was built in 1901. The main statue of Tin Hau is gilded all over and can be seen sitting at the back of the main altar. In front of her is another Tin Hau statue and five dark coloured attendants. This small statue of Tin Hau is carried around the district in a sedan chair during festivals. Kwun Yum, the Goddess of Mercy, sits within the altar on the left and on the right is Pau Kung, The God of Justice.

In front of Tin Hau there are a number of gods in three bays underneath. Choi San is on the left and Lung Mo Leung Leung is on the right. Other gods tucked away under the main altar are Dei Ju, Ng Fong Ng To Lung Sun and Luk Ma Gwai Yan.

On the left in the main hall are the Tai Sui, sixty Gods of the Year. These are overlooked by Dao Mo, the Mother of Measure, who has eight arms. At the entrance of the temple worshippers are greeted by To Dei Kung, the Earth God and his wife To Dei Po



- 1 Symbol for Monkey God
- 2 To Dei Kung, Earth God
- 3 Elaborate Dragon Column
- 4 Portrait of Wong Tai Sin
- 5 Elaborate Dragon Column
- 6 Symbol for Wah Tor
- 7 Drum
- 8 Bowl
- 9 Offerings table
- 10 Buddhist fish
- 11 Bell
- 12 Female stone lion
- 13 Male stone lion
- 14 Offerings table
- 15 Public offerings table
- 16 Female stone lion
- 17 Open courtyard
- 18 Male stone lion
- A To Dei Kung facing courtyard

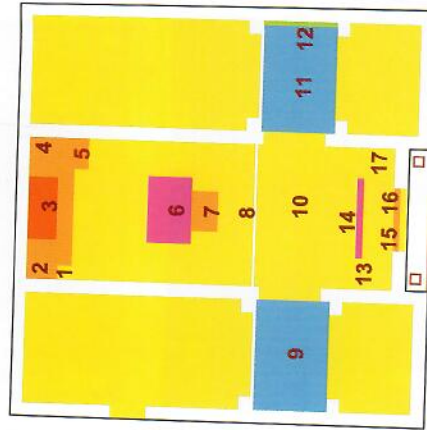
This huge popular temple was opened in 1973 by the Governor, Sir Murray MacLehose on the site of the original temple which stood for fifty years since 1921. The temple houses the first image of *Wong Tai Sin* to appear in Hong Kong which was brought down from Kwangtung by a father and son who moved south in 1915. They carried with them a painting of the Taoist god they worshipped in their local temple called *Sik Sik Yuen*. This was originally set up in a small temple in Wanchai where supporters of *Wong Tai Sin* formed a charitable organization which they named *Sik Sik Yuen*. They found a site for a new temple on the Kowloon peninsula which had good *Fung Shui* being backed by Lion Rock and facing south to the sea. The temple building, constructed in the elaborate old style of the Forbidden City in Beijing, is not accessible to the public who have to pay homage to *Wong Tai Sin* by burning joss sticks and making offerings in a large courtyard outside in front of the temple. They are able to see the painted image of *Wong Tai Sin* from a distance through open doors and shutters. The layout of the temple is very simple with a single main hall but the decoration is very ornate throughout.



35

Che Kung—Shatin

35

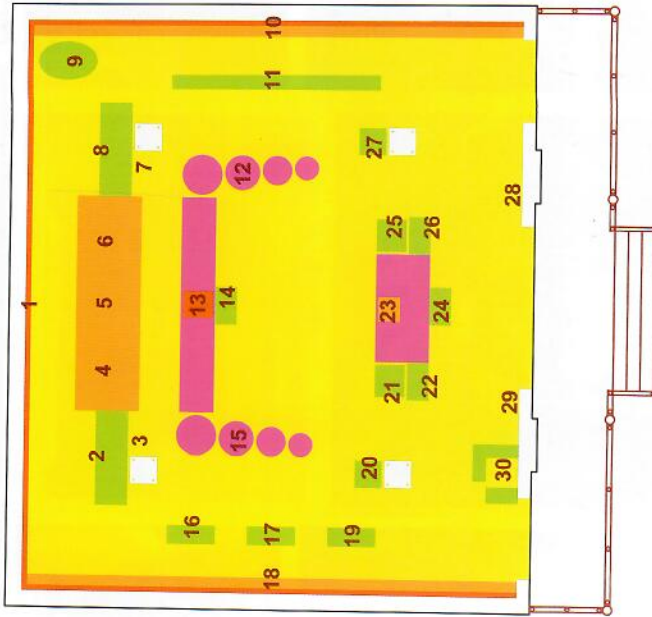


- 1 God Tablet
- 2 Gilded female lion
- 3 Che Kung
- 4 Gilded male lion
- 5 Choi San and White Tiger
- 6 Offerings table
- 7 Che Kung
- 8 Choi Moon (boat shaped carving) (above)
- 9 Open courtyard
- 10 Smoke tower (above)
- 11 Open courtyard
- 12 Donor Tablets
- 13 Anchor shaped Bell
- 14 Stone Spirit Screen (Dong Chung)
- 15 Gate God Chen Shuk Bo
- 16 Gate God Wat Chi King Tak
- 17 Bell
- A Che Kung in new temple

When you follow worshippers into the Che Kung Temple you are led through a spacious open courtyard and into a large modern temple structure. Inside there is a massive golden standing image of *Che Kung* whose powerful presence totally dominates the space. Here the worshippers honour the deity with offerings and joss sticks and they spin wheels for a 'good turn' of fortune in the coming year. This modern temple is designed to handle large numbers of worshippers but the real image of *Che Kung* faces them from behind, unseen, within the safety of his original temple which is closely located at the rear of the new edifice. The old temple was renovated in 1998 and now stands locked up for protection from the boards of worshippers who are too numerous for it to handle. The old temple has been restored to its original grandeur and its space is almost exclusive to *Che Kung*. The only other god to be seen in the temple is *Choi San* who is located with a white Tiger, under and to the right of the image of *Che Kung*. The temple is clean and simple. There is an anchor shaped bell and a stone *Dong Chung* without any doors, but it has a high ground beam to step over which serves the same purpose.



The 10,000 Buddhas Monastery, completed in 1957, sits high on a hill overlooking Shatin. The steep uphill approach to the monastery is now quite spectacular with a concrete path lined both sides with life sized gilded *Arhan* statues. These make the climb easier and create much interest. There will be five hundred gilded statues when complete. The Ten Thousand Buddhas Temple houses more than 12,800 gilded Buddha statues on shelves around the walls. The main altar houses *Dei Jon Wong*, *Sui Joi Yin Sow* and *Kwun Yum*. In front of these is the gilded body of the monastery's founder, the Reverend *Yuet Kai*, sitting in a glass case. After his death in 1965 at the age of 87 the Reverend *Yuet Kai*'s body was resumed after eight months. It was found to show no deterioration. It was then covered with Chinese lacquer and gold leaf. Today the body is perfectly preserved within a solid gold cover. In front of the three main statues there are smaller statues of *Kwun Yum*. Lining the walls on the left and right are 84 different images of *Kwun Yum*. Outside in front of the main temple is a large platform where a nine-storey pagoda and pavilions to *Kwun Yum*, *Manjusri* and *Samantabhadra* can be found.



1	10,000 + Buddhas on shelves	16	Fortune teller
2	Ancestor tablets	17	Fortune teller
3	Wishes tablets	18	Images of Kwun Yum (42 No.)
4	Dei Jon Wong	19	Fortune teller
5	Sui Joi Yin Sow	20	Drum
6	Kwun Yum, Goddess of Mercy	21	Wooden Buddhist Fish
7	Wishes tablets	22	Donation box
8	Ancestor tablets	23	Kwun Yum, Goddess of Mercy
9	Golden Fountain	24	Donation box
10	Images of Kwun Yum (42 No.)	25	Wooden bowl
11	Donations table	26	Donation box
12	All night light longevity and happiness towers	27	Bell
13	Preserved body of Reverend Yuet Kai	28	Golden list for Nominated Wishes
14	Donation box	29	Golden list for Nominated Wishes
15	All night light longevity and happiness towers	30	Temple souvenirs for sale
		A	Pagoda
		B	Gilded Arhan statue on path
		C	Wei To



17



20



1



2



3



4



5

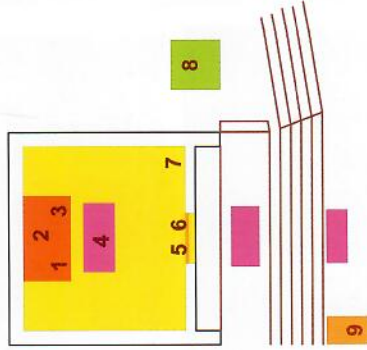
This temple looks west overlooking a river with a green hill behind. It is said to be about 400 years old and it is dedicated to *Che Kung* who is said to have lived in the Song dynasty (960–1279). He was a military commander and because of his affinity with medicine, he is revered as a curer of diseases and epidemics. The villagers of Ho Chung have historically managed to avoid any epidemics and their good health has been attributed to the protection given by *Che Kung*. To the right of *Che Kung* is *Hung Sing Yeh*, a God of the Sea. On his left is *To Dei Kung*, the Earth God, and on the left is *Mo Seung* (a God of Martial Arts). The bell in this temple has the shape of an anchor. There is a sedan chair next to it which is used to carry *Che Kung* around the village on his birthday. Wheel of fortune fans are located on a large offerings table outside the temple. A new brick hexagonal incinerator has replaced the old pink round one that stood outside on the left. Close-by and to the right of the temple is a spirit tree which has many statues of *Kwan Kung* and *Kwan Yum* at its base with a small Earth God shrine just behind it.



22

23

1	To Dei Kung, Earth God	13	Sedan Chair for Che Kung
2	Che Kung	14	Donation Box
3	Hung Sing Yeh, a God of the Sea	15	Spirit Screen (Dong Chung)
4	Mo Seung	16	Staff area
5	Man Sing	17	Bell and Drum
6	Offerings table with Ng Kung	18	Gate God Chen Shuk Bo
7	Symbols of Eight Immortals	19	Gate God Wat Chi King Tak
8	Grill Smoke Vent	20	Moon Goon, Door Official
9	Semi-enclosed courtyard	21	Staff area
10	Temple offerings for sale	22	Incinerator
11	Semi-enclosed courtyard	23	Offerings table with Wheel of Fortune Fans
12	Grill Smoke Vent		

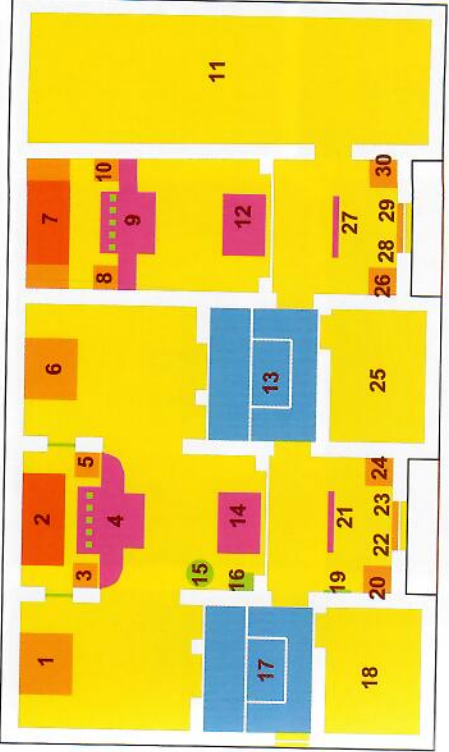


This temple comprises a single hall with a smoke tower rising above the offerings table. The temple is dedicated to *Kwun Yum*, the Goddess of Mercy and a large image of *Kwun Yum* dominates the hall. She is holding a vase and a willow branch. The vase symbolizes harmony and peace. It contains the Dew of Compassion which can result in miraculous cures. There are two Gate Gods on the doors at the main entrance. These are *Chen Shuk Bo* with a white face and *Wat Chi King Tak* with a black face. There are offerings tables outside in front of the temple and at the bottom of the approach steps is a small shrine to the Earth God (*Bak Kung*). To the right of the temple is an incinerator. *Kwun Yum* is attended by statues of Jade Maiden on the left and Golden Boy on the right. When there is a festival celebrating *Kwun Yum*'s birthday on the 19th day of the second moon a large mat-shed theatre is erected across the road in the car park. This structure is constructed mostly of bamboo scaffolding and Chinese opera is staged for a few days during the celebrations.

- 1 Jade Maiden (Yuk Nui)
- 2 Kwun Yum, Goddess of Mercy
- 3 Golden Boy (Gum Tung)
- 4 Offerings table
- 5 Gate God, Wat Chi King Tak
- 6 Gate God, Chen Shuk Bo
- 7 Bell
- 8 Incinerator
- 9 Protector Earth God (Bak Kung)



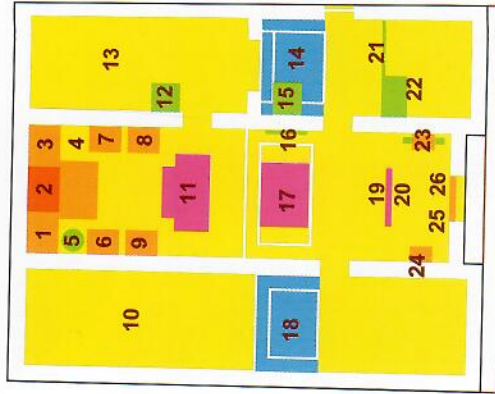
The main temple complex in Sai Kung built around 1872 is dedicated to Tin Hau and Kwan Kung. Each deity seems to have equal standing by having an equal sized temple of their own. The entrances of each temple have almost identical features with Door Gods on the entrance doors, similar Protector Gods to the left and right and similar spirit screens. Kwan Kung's main altar area is enclosed by walls on three sides. This powerful figure of Kwan Kung is attended by two statues, Jao Chong, his armour bearer and Kwan Ping, his adopted son. Tin Hau's main altar area has a more open space. Tin Hau is attended by statues of Thousand Li Eyes and Favourable Wind Ears. On each side of Tin Hau are separate halls with altars bearing Tablets. In front of each of these halls is a small open courtyard area. The bell is unusual in this temple. It is of Western style and engraved with the letters USN on the outside. This suggests that the bell was gifted from the United States Navy to replace the broken anchor shaped bell that is padlocked to the wall next to the main entrance to Tin Hau's temple. Within the space next to Kwan Kung is an office and meeting room for the local residents association.



31

32

1	Tablet altar	17	Open Courtyard
2	Tin Hau, Empress of Heaven	18	Staff area
3	Favourable Wind Ears	19	Broken Anchor shaped Bell on wall
4	Offerings table with Ng Kung	20	To Dei Kung, Earth God
5	Thousand Li Eyes	21	Spirit Screen (Dong Chung)
6	Tablet altar	22	Gate God, Chen Shuk Bo
7	Kwan Kung, God of War	23	Gate God, Wat Chi King Tak
8	Armour Bearer, Jao Chong	24	Moon Goon, Door Official
9	Offerings table	25	Staff area
10	Adopted son, Kwan Ping	26	To Dei Kung, Earth God
11	Local residents association meeting room	27	Spirit Screen (Dong Chung)
12	Offerings table	28	Gate God, Chen Shuk Bo
13	Open courtyard	29	Gate God, Wat Chi King Tak
14	Offerings table	30	Moon Goon, Door Official
15	Bell (US Navy) and Drum	31	Incinerator
16	Donation box	32	Incinerator

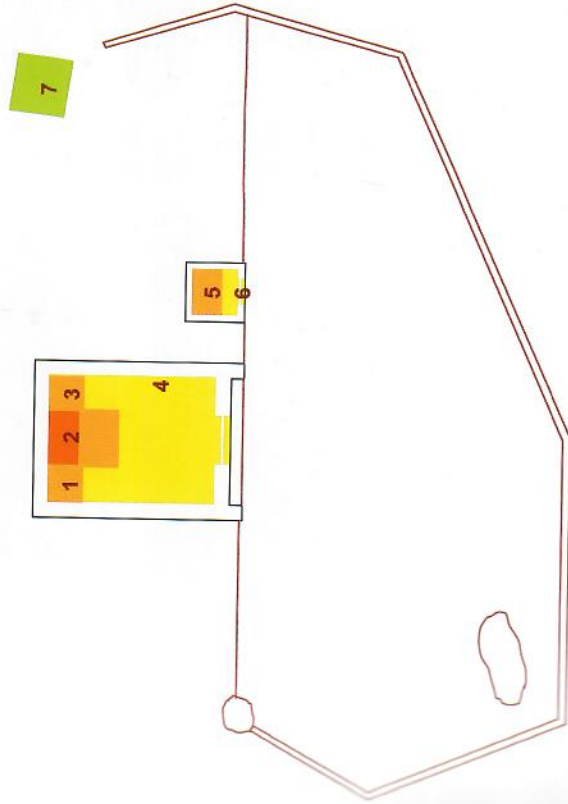


This small temple dedicated to *Hung Sing Yeh*, a God of the Sea, is located in the village of Kau Sai on the southern most tip of Kau Sai Chau. In 1999 this temple became a special project to restore it back to its original condition as it was in about 1889 in the 9th year of Emperor *Kwang Xu*. During its lifetime of over a century the temple had been renovated four times, in 1949, 1970's and in 1985. It had acquired many additions that were unsympathetic to the original design which had to be removed. The project was so successful that it was awarded the Outstanding Project Award of UNESCO Asia Pacific Heritage 2000. The temple is regarded as an important historical building originally built for praying for fishermen's safety. The right hand side hall was used as quarters for the temple keeper and the left hand side hall was once used as a school. Sitting on the left of *Hung Sing Yeh* is a statue of *Choi Bak Sing Kwan*, a God of Good Fortune and on the right is a red faced statue of *Shui Sin Yeh*, a God of the Sea. This temple has a drum and two bells, one normal and the other in the shape of an anchor. The temple was declared a monument on 15th November 2002.

1	Choi Bak Sing Gwan	16	Four symbols of Eight Immortals
2	Hung Sing Yeh with old sword	17	Offerings table with Smoke Tower (above)
3	Shui Sin Yeh	18	Open courtyard
4	Dei Ju, Earth God (under)	19	Spirit Screen (Dong Chung)
5	Washing bowl	20	Choi Moon (boat shaped carving) (above)
6	Attendant with Hung Sing's Seal	21	Screen
7	Hung Sing's Book Keeper	22	Fortune teller
8	Green Demonic Servant	23	Choi San, Wealth God, model of Dragon Boat in front
9	Pink Demonic Servant	24	To Dei Kung, Earth God
10	Side hall previously used as school	25	Door God (Moon San)
11	Offerings table	26	Door God (Moon San)
12	Drum, Bell and Anchor shaped Bell	27	Incense burner
13	Side hall previously used as staff quarters		
14	Open courtyard		
15	Incinerator		



10,000 Buddhas in Shatin (36)



- 1 Kwun Yum, Goddess of Mercy
- 2 Tin Hau, Empress of Heaven
- 3 Kwun Yum, Goddess of Mercy
- 4 Photographs
- 5 Dai Yeh, God of Heaven
- 6 To Dei Kung, Earth God (under)
- 7 Incinerator

This small temple dedicated to *Tin Hau*, Empress of Heaven and Patron Saint of Boat People overlooks a popular anchorage for yachts and recreational craft in the New Territories. *Tin Hau* sits on the main altar with a porcelain image of herself next to her. To her left and right are images of *Kwun Yum*, Goddess of Mercy.

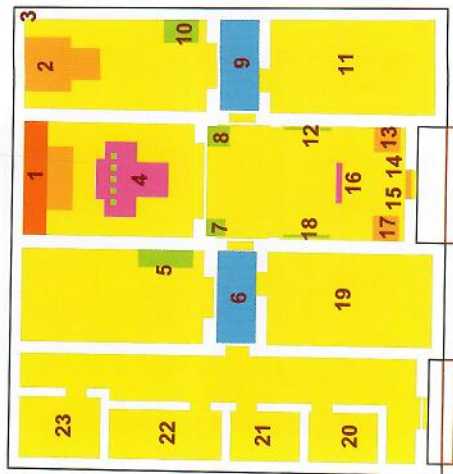
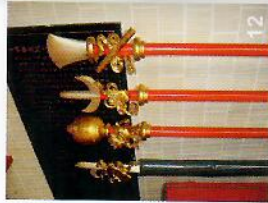
The temple was renovated in recent years and photographs on the wall show a large celebration with a ribbon cutting ceremony, a lion dance and three pigs being offered to *Tin Hau*. Of particular interest is a small group photograph which includes the last Governor of Hong Kong Chris Patton. Next to the temple there is a small concrete covered shrine on the right with an altar to *Dai Yeh*, the God of Heaven which is positioned above an altar dedicated to *To Dei Kung*, the Earth God.

The funds to build the original temple were donated by *Lau Wing Lung*.



- 1 Che Kung
- 2 Hung Sing, a God of the Sea
- 3 Dressing table
- 4 Washing bowl
- 5 Tin Hau, Empress of Heaven
- 6 Tablet altar
- 7 Sek Goon, Forgiveness Official
- 8 Ling Yee, a God of Medicine
- 9 Symbols of Eight Immortals
- 10 Female attendant
- 11 Female attendant
- 12 Demon Servant
- 13 Kwan Kung, God of War
- 14 Offerings table
- 15 Bell and Drum
- 16 Model boats
- 17 Sedan Chair
- 18 Smoke tower (above)
- 19 Spirit Screen (Dong Chung)
- 20 Choi Moon (boat shaped carving) (above)
- 21 Moon Goon, Door Official
- 22 Gate God Chen Shuk Bo
- 23 Gate God Wat Chi King Tak
- 24 To Dei Kung, Earth God
- 25 Gate God Chen Shuk Bo
- 26 Gate God Wat Chi King Tak
- 27 Spirit Screen (Dong Chung)
- 28 Open Courtyard
- 29 Horse and Attendant
- 30 Donation box
- 31 Offerings table
- 32 Horse
- 33 Kwan Kung, God of War
- 34 Tin Hau's bedroom
- 35 Male stone lion
- 36 Female stone lion
- 37 Open courtyard
- 38 Staff area
- 39 Staff area
- 40 Incinerators
- A Entrance Arch

This temple dedicated to *Tin Hau*, Empress of Heaven, is located at the remote Tap Mun Village on Grass Island to the North East of Sai Kung Country Park. Tap Mun has been a key gathering place for fishermen for centuries and the *Tin Hau* temple has played a key role in its development. Being the last point of shelter before the open sea fishermen would often take the opportunity to pray at this temple for safe and fruitful voyages. In its heyday Grass Island had a population of about 5,000 but today this is probably less than a thousand. The present temple is said to be over a hundred years old. It comprises a main hall dedicated to *Tin Hau* who is unusually depicted as being middle aged. She is attended by two ladies in waiting and two demon servants, probably Thousand *Li* Eyes and Favourable Wind Ears. On the left is a separate hall specially dedicated to *Kwan Kung*, the God of War. *Kwan Kung*'s brown horse is in an enclosure close to him. An intriguing feature of this temple is that when the wind blows hard from the east an eerie howling sound can sometimes be heard from a crevice under *Tin Hau*'s altar. This is a warning to fishermen that severe storms are coming.



This temple is dedicated to the seven daughters of the Jade Emperor, the supreme deity in charge of Heaven. On the main altar there are thus seven goddesses sitting in a row with an eighth statue sitting in front of the middle goddess. This statue represents all seven and is the statue that is carried in a sedan chair around the neighbourhood. Six of the daughters never married and the youngest spent her time sewing and weaving for her father. The Jade Emperor felt sorry for his youngest daughter and allowed her to marry a cow herdsman. After the wedding she neglected her work and this made her father very angry. He then ordered that his youngest daughter could only see her husband once a year, on the seventh day of the seventh moon. It is on this day that the Seven Sisters Festival takes place for unmarried girls and young lovers. In a separate side hall on the right there is an altar to *Kwan Kung*, God of War. There is a halberd resting against the wall in the corner to the right of the main deity. In this hall there is also a sedan chair on display. In the main hall area there are two sets of Symbols of the Eight Immortals close to the walls on both sides of the Spirit Screen.

1 Seven Sisters, daughters of Jade Emperor
2 Kwan Kung, God of War
3 Kwan Kung's Halberd standing in corner
4 Offerings table with Ng Kung
5 Temple offerings for sale
6 Open courtyard
7 Donation box
8 Bell and Drum
9 Open courtyard
10 Sedan Chair
11 Staff area

12 Symbols of Eight Immortals
13 Moon Goon, Door Official
14 Door God (Moon San)
15 Door God (Moon San)
16 Spirit Screen (Dong Chung)
17 Moon Goon, Door Official
18 Symbols of Eight Immortals
19 Staff area
20 Staff area
21 Kitchen
22 Female toilet
23 Male toilet
24 Screen wall with two incinerators



44

Fan Sin—Sheung Wun Yiu

44



This delightful temple is the only one in Hong Kong dedicated to *Fan Tai Sin Sze*, the Patron Saint of Potters. It has a history of over two hundred years with renovations in 1897, 1925, 1964, 1976 and a special restoration to its original grandeur in 2000. The temple is ideally located on a hillside terrace with a large open area immediately in front. The layout of the temple is simple but unusually there is an open courtyard immediately behind the main entrance doors. This offers natural brightness that illuminates the door gods when the doors are open. It allows light to enter the main hall with a steep ladder stair. This temple was declared a monument on 30th December 1999. It is recorded that blue and white porcelain was originally manufactured by the *Man* and *Tse* clans nearby in *Wun Yiu* during the Ming dynasty (1368–1644). In 1674 the *Man* clan purchased the kilns and the porcelain industry prospered in the middle of the Qing dynasty (1644–1911) before eventually declining and ceasing operations in 1932. The oldest relic in the temple is a wooden plaque that was carved more than two hundred years ago.



- | | | | |
|----|------------------------------------|----|---------------------------------|
| 1 | Porcelain vase | 14 | Wooden stair ladder to cockloft |
| 2 | Porcelain vase | 15 | Staff area |
| 3 | Table and stools | 16 | Offerings table with Ng Kung |
| 4 | Ping On San | 17 | Open courtyard |
| 5 | Fan Tai Sin Sze, Patron of Potters | 18 | Gate God Chen Shuk Bo |
| 6 | Offerings table with Ng Kung | 19 | Gate God Wat Chi King Tak |
| 7 | Offerings table | 20 | Kitchen |
| 8 | Temple offerings for sale | 21 | Traditional stove |
| 9 | Table | 22 | Jo Gwan, Kitchen God |
| 10 | Donation box | 23 | Female stone lion |
| 11 | Pottery artifacts | 24 | Male stone lion |
| 12 | Table and stools | 25 | Incinerator |
| 13 | Wooden stair ladder to cockloft | | |



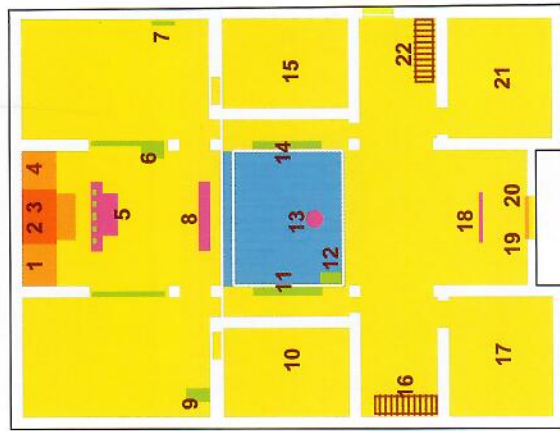
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Man Mo-Tai Po

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23



This Man Mo Temple is dedicated to *Man Cheung*, the God of Literature, a civil god, and *Kwan Kung*, the God of War, a martial god. These two deities are located on the main altar with *Kwan Kung* having the red face, on the left. *Man Cheung* is identified with a writing brush in his right hand. To the left of the two main deities there is a small altar with two small statues of *Kwun Yum*, the Goddess of Mercy and another of *Kwan Kung*. A commemorative plate suggests that the temple was built about 1895 to mark the founding of *Tai Wo Shi* at Fu Shin Street which is now commonly known as Tai Po Market. Funds for the temple were raised by the Tsat Yeuk Community of Tai Po. This temple was gazetted as a historical building on 11th May 1984 and was restored in 1985. The building has a very traditional feel with a large open courtyard. Photographs showing the Hong Kong Governor David Wilson are on one wall. The temple is interesting because of its simplicity. Wooden ladders provide access to a couple of high level areas to the left and right of the main entrance. There is a small shrine dedicated to the Earth God *To Dei Kung* and his wife *To Dei Po* at the back of the temple.

- | | | | |
|----|--------------------------------------|----|----------------------------|
| 1 | Kwun Yum, Goddess of Mercy | 12 | Incinerator |
| 2 | Kwan Kung, God of War | 13 | Incense burner |
| 3 | Man Cheung, God of Literature | 14 | Stone bench |
| 4 | Jing San | 15 | Janitor's Room |
| 5 | Offerings table with Ng Kung | 16 | Ladder stair |
| 6 | Donation Box | 17 | Staff area |
| 7 | Photographs of Governor David Wilson | 18 | Spirit Screen (Dong Chung) |
| 8 | Offerings table | 19 | Gate God Chen Shuk Bo |
| 9 | Fortune Teller | 20 | Gate God Wat Chi King Tak |
| 10 | Staff area | 21 | Kitchen |
| 11 | Stone bench | 22 | Ladder stair |
| | | 23 | To Dei Kung and To Dei Po |



This temple built in 1736 and dedicated to *Tin Hau*, Empress of Heaven, has become very well known because of the *Hui Yuen Tree*. This tree, known as the *Wishing Tree*, has become popular during the past fifty years. It is said that a boat dweller, who had been sick for a long time, prayed in front of the tree. After doing so he amazingly became well very quickly. Many people heard about this miracle and since that time worshippers have paid homage to the tree after praying in the *Tin Hau Temple*. It is the custom to write a wish onto a *Ng Bo Dip*, a wad of lucky paper, that is attached by string to an orange. The orange is then thrown high into the tree with the paper trailing behind until it is caught by the tree. Worshippers believe that the wish will come true depending upon how high it is on the tree. The higher the better. *Tin Hau* is accompanied by two maid servants on her altar and two demonic guardian statues standing in front. On the left is *To Dei Kung* and *Tai Sui* seen holding a bell. On the right is an altar to *Kwun Yum*. In a separate hall on the right there is an altar to *Man Mo*. There are two other side halls on the left and right with decorative tablets on the altars.



- | | | | |
|----|----------------------------|----|----------------------------|
| 1 | Lung Mo, Dragon Mother | 21 | Staff area |
| 2 | To Dei Kung, Earth God | 22 | Staff area |
| 3 | Tai Sui, Lord of Time | 23 | Open courtyard |
| 4 | Tin Hau, Empress of Heaven | 24 | Donation box |
| 5 | Kwun Yum, Goddess of Mercy | 25 | Donation box |
| 6 | Offerings table | 26 | Open Courtyard |
| 7 | Demon Servant | 27 | Circular opening |
| 8 | Offerings table | 28 | Open courtyard |
| 9 | Demon Servant | 29 | Staff area |
| 10 | Offerings table | 30 | Fortune teller |
| 11 | Man Sing | 31 | Fortune teller |
| 12 | Kwan Kung, God of War | 32 | Donation box |
| 13 | Memorial tablet altar | 33 | Open courtyard |
| 14 | Offerings table | 34 | Spirit Screen (Dong Chung) |
| 15 | Offerings table | 35 | Donation box |
| 16 | Donation box | 36 | Temple offerings for sale |
| 17 | Ceremonial fans | A | Lucky paper messages |
| 18 | Ceremonial fans | B | Wishing Tree |
| 19 | Incinerator | C | Incinerator |
| 20 | Donation box | | |

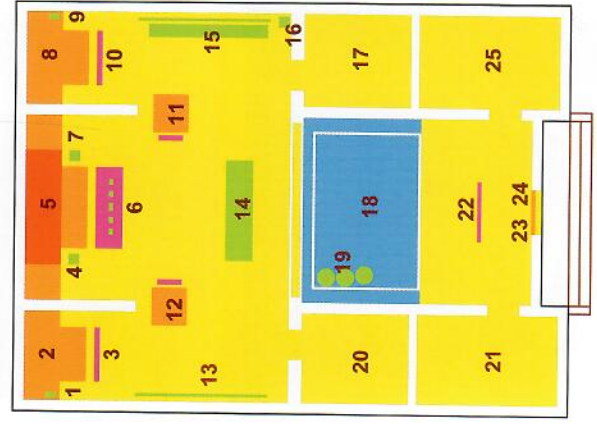


This temple is located to the north east of Fanling near to the Tang Chung Ling Ancestral Hall. It is dedicated to Tin Hau, Empress of heaven, whose main image is quite different from the norm. She wears a close fitted crown unlike the usual flat topped crown that can be seen worn by her other images close by. Tin Hau has two ladies in waiting next to her showing her status as an Empress. There are also a number of images of Kwun Yum on the main altar. In a separate hall on the left there is an altar dedicated to To Dei Kung, the Earth Protector God, and Choi San, God of Wealth. In the hall on the right there is an altar dedicated to Gum Fa, the Patron of Pregnant Women. The village elders have suggested that a temple was on this site as early as 1525 but this has not been verified. The temple was restored in 1913 and in 1981. It was declared a monument on 15th November 2002. Inside the temple are two bronze bells which were cast in 1695 and 1700 for Tin Hau to bless the sons of the Tang clan when they took their provincial examinations. Within the two staff areas off the entrance hall each room has a timber cockloft spanning the ceiling space at high level.



22

- | | | | |
|----|----------------------------------|----|----------------------------|
| 1 | To Dei Kung, Earth God | 12 | Incinerator |
| 2 | Choi San, God of Wealth | 13 | Donation box |
| 3 | Offerings table | 14 | Open courtyard |
| 4 | Tin Hau, Empress of Heaven | 15 | Staff area |
| 5 | Images of Tin Hau, Kwun Yum | 16 | Cockloft (above) |
| 6 | Gum Fa, Patron of Pregnant Women | 17 | Spirit Screen (Dong Chung) |
| 7 | Offerings table | 18 | Door God (Moon San) |
| 8 | Demon Servant | 19 | Door God (Moon San) |
| 9 | Offerings table with Ng Kung | 20 | Staff area |
| 10 | Demon Servant | 21 | Cockloft (above) |
| 11 | Open courtyard | 22 | Incinerator |



Located within Shui Tau Tsuen Village in north Kam Tin this temple is dedicated to *Hung Sing Yeh*, a God of the Sea who was an official of outstanding moral integrity who could forecast the weather to aid fishermen. The temple was originally built during the Ming Dynasty between 1465 and 1487. The temple replaced a shrine that was on the same spot. *Hung Sing Yeh* dominates the main hall with his two attendants standing in front of him. On the left is a general and on the right is a book keeper. The side hall on the left is an altar to *Tai Sui*, the God of the Year, recognized by his bell. On the right is *To Dei Kung*, the Earth God. On the altars are a couple of dragon boat heads. On the altar there is an incense burner which was cast in 1821 and an incinerator in the open courtyard, cast in 1829. These were presented by four graduates called *Tang* who had attained imperial qualifications. In front of *Hung Sing Yeh* on the offerings table are five ritual vessels called *Ng Kung*. Two stone features, possibly plinth bases for old columns, are located close to the main altar. Apart from two Door Gods guarding the entrance the whole front of the temple is also protected by a steel fence and gate.

1	Old dragon boat head	14	Table
2	Tai Sui, Lord of Time	15	Table and decoration
3	Incense holder	16	Broken Anchor shaped Bell
4	Stone feature	17	Staff area
5	Hung Sing Yeh, a God of the Sea	18	Open courtyard
6	Offerings table with Ng Kung	19	Open incinerators
7	Stone feature	20	Staff area
8	To Dei Kung, Earth God	21	Staff area
9	Old dragon boat head	22	Spirit Screen (Dong Chung)
10	Incense holder	23	Gate God Chen Shuk Bo
11	Attendant—Book Keeper	24	Gate God Wat Chi King Tak
12	Attendant—General	25	Staff area
13	Decoration, axe and flags		



This temple is known as the Tin Hau Temple under the Big Tree and it is located at Nga Yiu Tau to the south east of Yuen Long Town. When a small temple was originally built on this spot before 1662 the surrounding area was barren. It is believed that the success of the temple and the large well proportioned tree in front of the temple is living proof that the area is ideal for vegetation and growing crops. Between 1662 and 1700 a three hall temple was built on the site. Two further halls were added in 1856, one on each side. The hall on the right was built to the unknown heroes who lived nearby and a flower lobby was built on the left. A renovation in 1884 provided two more side halls and at this time the *Man Mo* hall was added. A major renovation was carried out in 2003 and today the temple appears like a new building and it is hard to believe that it has a history of more than three hundred years. The development and growth of the temple can be seen by studying the plan carefully. Slight changes in detail show the areas that were added during each major expansion. It is said that poor travelling opera singers used to stay regularly at the temple.



1 Staff area
2 Room for hanging incense coils
3 Kwun Yum, Goddess of Mercy
4 Offerings table with Ng Kung and images of Kwun Yum
5 Ancestor tablets
6 Mo, Kwan Kung, God of War
7 Man Cheung, God of Literature
8 Ancestor tablets
9 Offerings table
10 Tai Sui, Gods of the Year
11 Offerings table
12 Tin Hau, Empress of Heaven
13 Dressing table with washing basin
14 Offerings table with Ng Kung
15 Luk Sing, God of Wealth and Status
16 Choi San, God of Wealth
17 Gum Fa, Patron of Pregnant Women
18 To Dei Kung and To Dei Po
19 Offerings table

20 Unknown Heroes memorial
21 Offerings table
22 Spirit Screen (Dong Chung)
23 Bell and Drum
24 Donation box
25 Temple offerings for sale
26 To Dei, Earth God
27 Spirit Screen (Dong Chung)
28 Smoke tower (above)
29 Offerings table
30 Donation box
31 Symbols of Eight Immortals
32 Fortune Tellers
33 Fortune Tellers
34 Spirit Screen (Dong Chung)
35 Open courtyard
36 Wei To, Buddhist Temple Guardian
37 Staff area
A Big Tree Shrine

Yee Sing—Tung Tau Wai



14



29



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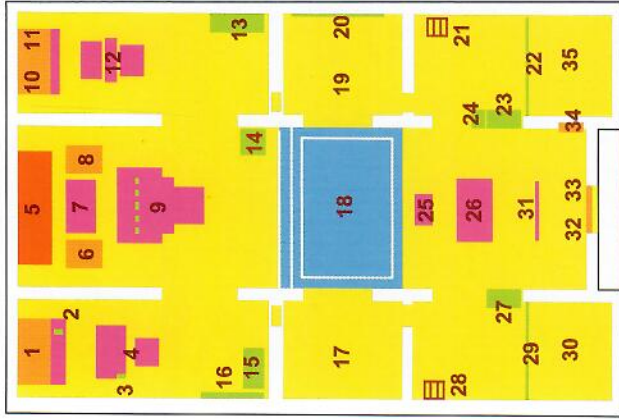
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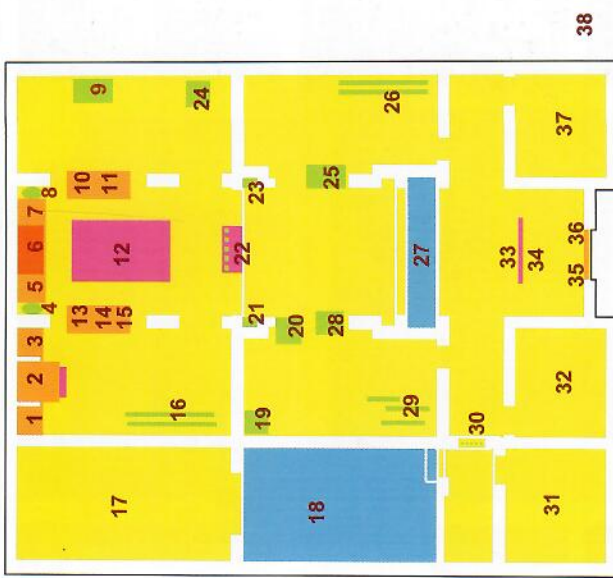


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|----|--|----|--|
| 1 | Che Kung | 19 | Study room |
| 2 | Wheel of Fortune Fan | 20 | Committee members plaque |
| 3 | Wheel of Fortune Fan | 21 | Ladder stair to cockloft |
| 4 | Offerings tables | 22 | Decorative screen |
| 5 | Dai Wong | 23 | Temple offerings for sale |
| 6 | Attendant General | 24 | Donation box |
| 7 | Offerings table | 25 | Old stone incense burner |
| 8 | Attendant Book Keeper | 26 | Offerings table |
| 9 | Offerings table with Ng Kung | 27 | Fortune teller |
| 10 | Hung Sing Yeh, a God of the Sea | 28 | Ladder stair to cockloft |
| 11 | Suk Lo Yeh, a God who provides Shelter | 29 | Decorative screen |
| 12 | Offerings table | 30 | Staff area |
| 13 | Dragon boat heads | 31 | Spirit Screen (Dong Chung) with two Choi Moon above (boat shaped carvings) |
| 14 | Bell and Drum | 32 | Gate God Chen Shuk Bo |
| 15 | Sedan Chair | 33 | Gate God Wat Chi King Tak |
| 16 | Festival flags and banners | 34 | To Dei Kung, Earth God |
| 17 | Kitchen | 35 | Staff area |
| 18 | Open courtyard | | |

This well preserved temple is located close to Tung Tau Wai village, Wang Chau to the north of Yuen Long. It was built around 1718 and was dedicated to two gods, Hung Sing Yeh and Che Kung. Today the prime deity is Dai Wong sitting on the main altar assisted by two supporting officials. On the left is a general and on the right is a book-keeper holding a pen. Che Kung has his own hall on the left of Dai Wong. He is seen holding an axe and close-by there are two rotating fans commonly associated with Che Kung. A sedan chair and festival banners can be seen opposite Che Kung. In the hall on the right there are two deities. The statue on the left is Hung Sing Yeh and next to him is Suk Lo Yeh, a God who provides Shelter. In the far corner of this chamber there are three dragon boat heads on a table. An interesting feature of this temple is that each of the deities have miniatures of themselves in front of them. A very old stone incense burner sits between the entrance and the open courtyard. There are two boat shaped carvings above the spirit screen. The temple underwent renovations in the 1970s, the 1980s and in 1996 when it was declared a monument keeping most of the original features.



Decorative Roof on Cheung Chau (62)



1	Mi Lo Fat, Laughing Buddha	21	Temple offerings for sale
2	To Dei Kung, Earth God	22	Offerings table with Ng Kung
3	Kwun Yum, Goddess of Mercy	23	Temple offerings for sale
4	Dragon boat head	24	Bell and Drum
5	Kwan Kung, God of War	25	Fortune teller table
6	Pak Tai, Emperor of the North	26	Festival placards, fans, poles.
7	Yuen Tang Fook Fu	27	Open area
8	Dragon boat head	28	Table
9	Table with artifacts	29	Old seats
10	Wah Kwong	30	Locking Five Pole Gate
11	Tai Sui, God of the Year	31	Staff area
12	Offerings table	32	Staff area
13	Yuen Tang Fook Fu	33	Spirit Screen (Dong Chung)
14	White Tiger	34	Choi Moon (boat shaped carving) (above)
15	Choi San, God of Wealth	35	Gate God Wat Chi King Tak
16	Festival placards, fans and axes	36	Gate God Chen Shuk Bo
17	Old storage area	37	Staff Area
18	Open courtyard	38	Closed kindergarden
19	Sedan Chair		
20	Incinerator		

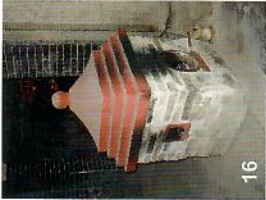
This Yuen Kwan Dai Temple is over three hundred and thirty years old. It is dedicated to *Pak Tai* (*Yuen*), who is the main deity, and also to *Kwan Kung* who stands on the left with a red face. The temple was last renovated in 1920. To the right of *Pak Tai* on the main altar is *Yuen Tang Fook Fu*. There are two Dragon Boat heads in niches on both sides of the main altar. These are from the local villages of Mong Tseng Wai and Mong Tseng Tsuen. In front of the main altar are four general gods standing. On the left is another statue of *Yuen Tang Fook Fu*, with a dark face, and *Choi San*. Between these two is a small Tiger. On the right, on the opposite side of the offerings table, there are statues of *Wah Kwong*, close to the main altar and *Tai Sui* who is holding a bell. In a separate hall on the left is *To Dei Kung*, the Earth God. On the right of him is *Kwun Yum*, Goddess of Mercy, and on the left is *Mi Lo Fat*, the Laughing Buddha. This temple is full of interesting objects that include 300 year old tall rattan hats, bullets from Japanese invaders, an old sedan chair, old lanterns and a locking five pole gate. Photographs from a kindergarden once attached to the temple are on display at the temple entrance.



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Yeung Hau—Tung Tau Tsuen

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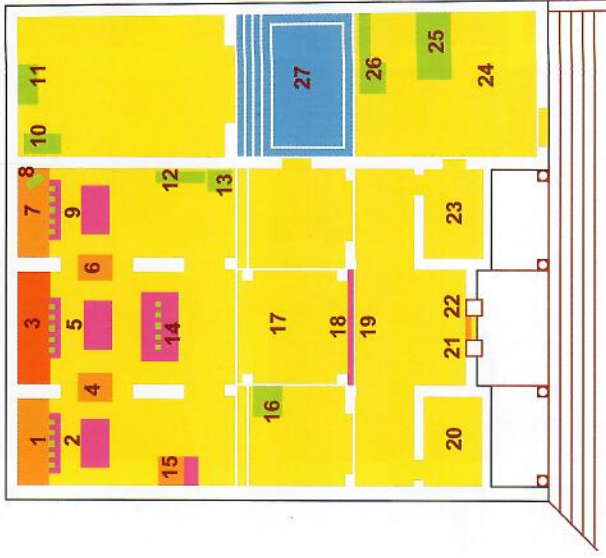


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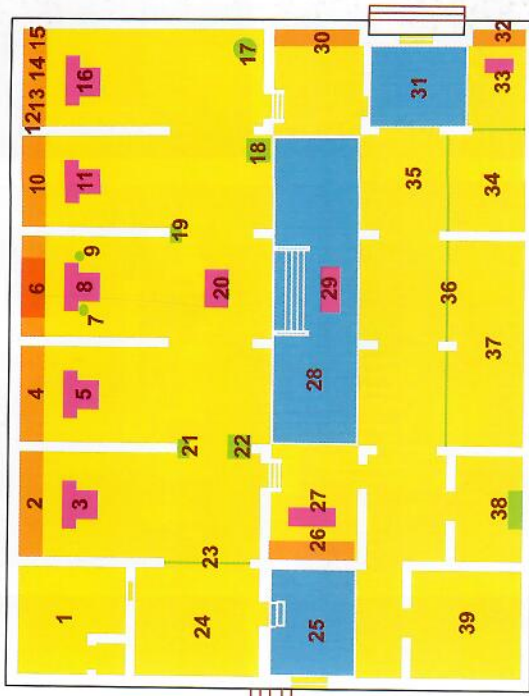


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This Yeung Hau Temple is located at Tung Tau Tsuen, Ha Tsuen between Yuen Long Town and Lau Fau Shan. The main deity is *Hau Wong*. He is supported by statues of two officials, a general and a book-keeper, to show his high status. *Gum Fa*, the Patron of pregnant women and children sits in the hall on the left. In the same hall there is a small altar to *Tim Hau*. *To Dei Kung*, the Earth Protector God sits in the hall on the right. It is reported that the temple has a history of over 200 years and it was rebuilt in its present form in 1811 during the reign of *Jia Qing* (1796–1920). When it was originally built this temple had the appeal of a prestigious mansion. Its extra height gave it an air of superiority and it was decorated throughout with fine wood carvings and paintings of auspicious Chinese motifs. At the entrance four columns made of red sandstone were the fashion of the day. It was declared a monument in 1988 and it was then fully restored by the Government. The original open courtyard in the centre of the temple has been covered over with a smoke tower roof. An unusual feature is the six panel Spirit Screen (*Dong Chung*) and above this is a gilded boat shaped *Choi Moon*.

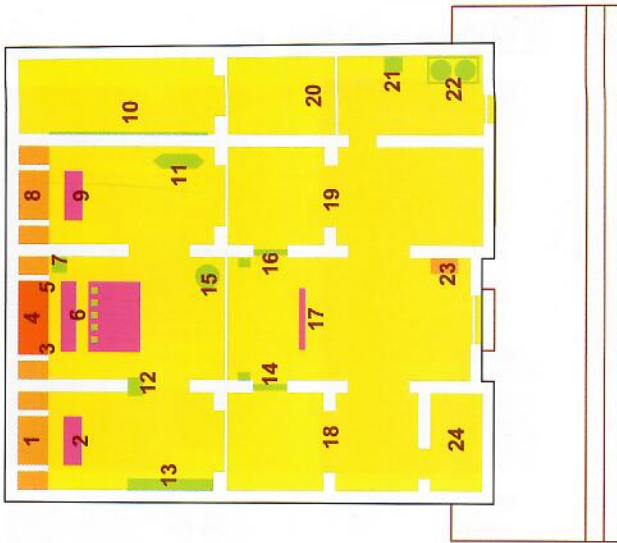


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|----|----------------------------------|----|--|
| 1 | Gum Fa, Patron of Pregnant Women | 15 | Tin Hau, Empress of Heaven |
| 2 | Offerings tables with Ng Kung | 16 | Incinerator |
| 3 | Hau Wong | 17 | Smoke Tower (above) |
| 4 | Attendant General | 18 | Six Door Spirit Screen (<i>Dong Chung</i>) |
| 5 | Offerings tables with Ng Kung | 19 | <i>Choi Moon</i> (Boat shaped carving) (above) |
| 6 | Attendant Book Keeper | 20 | Staff area |
| 7 | To Dei Kung, Earth God | 21 | Gate God Chen Shuk Bo |
| 8 | Dragon Boat Head | 22 | Gate God Wat Chi King Tak |
| 9 | Offerings tables with Ng Kung | 23 | Staff area |
| 10 | Sedan Chair | 24 | Kitchen |
| 11 | Table | 25 | Old style Stove |
| 12 | Festival flags and banners | 26 | Old style Sink |
| 13 | Bell and Drum | 27 | Open courtyard |
| 14 | Offerings table with Ng Kung | | |



1	Staff area	21	Donation box
2	Kwun Yum, Goddess of Mercy	22	Drum
3	Offerings table	23	Screen partition
4	O Lei Tor Fat (Amitabha)	24	Staff area
5	Offerings table	25	Open courtyard
6	Sik Ka Fat (Sakyamuni)	26	Kwan Kung, God of War
7	Buddhist fish	27	Offerings table
8	Offerings table	28	Open courtyard
9	Drum and bell	29	Offerings table
10	Yeuk Si Fat	30	Wei To, Buddhist Temple Guardian
11	Offerings table	31	Open courtyard at entrance
12	Wong Dai Man Sui	32	Man Cheung Dai Gwan
13	Ling Goon Wong	33	Offerings table
14	Lui Dong Bun	34	Meeting area
15	Dao Mo	35	Cloister
16	Offerings table	36	Screen partition
17	Drum	37	Ancestor tablets
18	Bell	38	Memorial tablet altar
19	Donation box	39	Staff area
20	Offerings table	A	Memorial stone for famous Well

The Ling Tou Monastery has the appearance of a large Chinese temple and it has been renovated recently. The temple is said to sit on the head of a tiger, at the end of a road about one kilometre to the west of Ha Tsuen village. The temple is quiet and peaceful, close to a stream with a small pool. The temple has a combination of Buddhist gods and Popular Chinese Religion gods overlooking a large open courtyard. At the high level facing the long edge of the light well there are altars to five gods. The main deity in the centre is *Sakyamuni (Sik Ka Fat)*. To the left of him is *O Lei Tor Fat* and on the right is *Yeuk Si Fat*. To the left of these three is *Kwun Yum* and to the right are four gods on a single altar. These are from left to right, *Wong Dai Man Sui*, *Ling Goon Wong*, *Lui Dong Bun* and *Dao Mo*. Across each short end of the light well *Kwan Kung*, the God of War faces *Wei To*, the Buddhist Temple Guardian. On entering the temple a statue of *Man Cheung Dai Gwan* is in an alcove to the left of a small open courtyard at the entrance. This is a very attractive temple and a real gem in such a remote location. The Ling Tou Monastery has a long history with articles written about it dating from 1887.

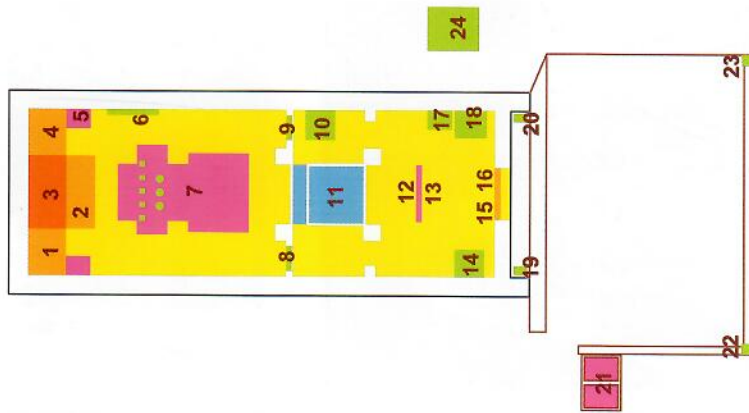


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|----|--|----|-----------------------------|
| 1 | To Dei Kung, Earth God | 15 | Anchor shaped Bell and Drum |
| 2 | Offerings table | 16 | Display flowers, banner |
| 3 | Favourable Wind Ears | 17 | Spirit Screen (Dong Chung) |
| 4 | Tin Hau, Empress of Heaven | 18 | Arch |
| 5 | Thousand Li Eyes | 19 | Arch |
| 6 | Offerings tables with Ng Kung | 20 | Kitchen |
| 7 | Bowl and mirror | 21 | Sink |
| 8 | Kwun Yum, Goddess of Mercy | 22 | Large Woks stacked on table |
| 9 | Offerings table | 23 | Moon Goon, Door Official |
| 10 | Ancestor tablets | 24 | Staff area |
| 11 | Model boat | 25 | Incense burner |
| 12 | Donation box | 26 | Incinerator |
| 13 | Temple offerings for sale | | |
| 14 | Display flowers, prayer wheel, halberd | | |

This temple is located close to the beach facing a stretch of water called Urmston Road which flows past the Castle Peak Power Station. This is a classic location for Tin Hau the Empress of Heaven and the main deity. She sits on the central altar with images of Thousand Li Eyes and Favourable Wind Ears standing on plinths to her left and right. To the left of Tin Hau sits a statue of To Dei Kung, the Earth God, and on the right is an image of Kwun Yum, the Goddess of Mercy accompanied by a group of smaller Kwun Yum images. A small door god image sits by himself next to the front entrance. The temple is simply decorated, which offers a sense of spaciousness. An interesting feature is a large model of a Chinese Junk which is on a stand in front of Kwun Yum. Close to the centre of the temple is an old Anchor Bell and a Drum below. This temple has a large kitchen but the cooking stoves for nine large woks are located in the open area outside within the shade of an old banyan tree. These stoves are intended for cooking large quantities of food for many people. When not used the woks are stored on a rack in the kitchen.



On Ma Wan Island and looking up at the Kap Shui Mun Bridge is a small attractive temple dedicated to *Tin Hau*, Empress of Heaven. In front there is a large flat open space next to the fast flowing tidal Kap Shui Mun where a large mat shed bamboo theatre is built to celebrate *Tin Hau*'s birthday with Chinese opera. As you enter the temple there is a simple Spirit Screen (*Dong Chung*) with the same door gods pasted on as can be seen on the entrance doors. Above and attached is a detailed boat like carving called a *Choi Moon*. Behind is a small open yard where a smoke tower would usually be located. This makes the temple spacially interesting as there are different transitions between the front portion of the temple and the main hall. Within the open area there is a small incinerator. Another incinerator is outside to the right of the temple. The statue of *Tin Hau* is dominant in this temple and to her left and right are small alcoves with a few small images, mostly of *Tin Hau* with a couple of *Kwun Yum*. An interesting feature in the temple is a deer's antler placed in an incense burner trough to the right of *Tin Hau*. In front of *Tin Hau* there is a small wash bowl on a stand for her to use.

1	Sundry statues of Tin Hau and Kwun Yum	13	Choi Moon (boat shaped carving) (above)
2	Wash basin	14	Sedan Chair
3	Tin Hau, Empress of Heaven	15	Gate God Chen Shuk Bo
4	Sundry statues of gods	16	Gate God Wat Chi King Tak
5	Incense trough with deer antler	17	Donation box
6	Four Symbols of Eight Immortals	18	Bell and Drum
7	Offerings table, Ng Kung and large joss sticks	19	Ceramic elephant
8	Decorative screen wall	20	Ceramic elephant
9	Decorative screen wall	21	Incense burner troughs
10	Incinerator	22	Female stone lion
11	Open courtyard	23	Male stone lion
12	Spirit screen (<i>Dong Chung</i>)	24	Incinerator



1	Choi Bak Sing Gwan	15	Large model of sailing junk
2	Bak Fu (White Tiger)	16	Drum Carriage
3	Tin Hau, Empress of Heaven	17	Sedan Chair
4	Dei Ju (under)	18	Smoke tower (above)
5	Hung Sing Yeh, a God of the Sea	19	Spirit Screen with Choi Moon above
6	Dressing table	20	Bell and Drum
7	Thousand Li Eyes	21	Sedan chair handles, pikes
8	Symbols of Eight Immortals	22	Door God (Moon San)
9	Offerings table with Ng Kung	23	Door God (Moon San)
10	Whale Bone	24	Fook Dak Kung
11	Favourable Wind Ears	25	Flag poles
12	All Saints	26	Cauldron incinerator
13	Temple offerings for sale	27	Incense burner
14	Offerings table with Ng Kung	28	Incense burner

Situated in a prime location on Peng Chau Island this temple dedicated to *Tin Hau* has been an important landmark for over two hundred years. The temple was built in 1792. *Tin Hau* is the Empress of Heaven and the Patron Saint of Boat People. She sits on the main altar with *Choi Bak Sing Gwan* on the left and *Hung Sing Yeh* on the right. In front of *Tin Hau* to the left and right are *Thousand Li Eyes* and *Favourable Wind Ears*. Close to *Favourable Wind Ears* there is an eight foot long whale bone that was dedicated to *Tin Hau* by fishermen hundreds of years ago. This whale bone is said to give blessings to the locals. On the right next to *Favourable Wind Ears* there is an altar to *All Saints* with a painted glass picture of seven gods. These are *Kwan Yum*, *Pau Kung*, *Kwan Kung*, *Pak Tai*, *Wah Tai*, *Gum Fa* and *Tai Sui*. Near the entrance there is an altar to *Fook Dak Kung* that is positioned above a small incinerator. On the left there is a large model of a Sailing Junk, a Sedan Chair and a trolley for carrying the Drum. Above the Spirit Screen (*Dong Chung*) there is a small *Choi Moon* (boat shaped carving). Outside on the left of the entrance is an old Cauldron incinerator.



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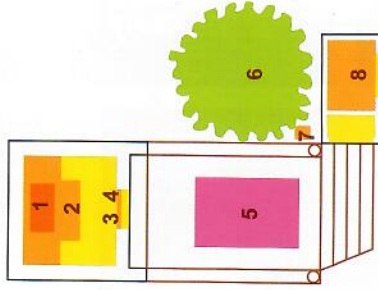


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This small temple is dedicated to *Gum Fa*, the Patron Saint of Pregnant Women and she gives the gift of sons. *Gum Fa* is also revered for her childbearing abilities and particularly so on the island of Peng Chau. When the temple was built during the Qing Dynasty in 1762 people depended upon fishing for a living and they wanted as many children as possible. It was this childbearing need that led to building a temple for *Gum Fa* on Peng Chau island and it is said that the fishermen really did have more children after worshipping her. A gilded statue of *Gum Fa* is positioned behind glass in her small temple accompanied by three smaller statues of herself and images of two plump babies. Beneath *Gum Fa*'s altar there is a tablet dedicated to the Earth God. Attached to the temple is an All Saints shrine which includes statues of *Kwan Kung*, *Kwun Yum*, *Wong Tai Sin* and the Monkey God. Beneath them is a statue of *To Dei Kung*, the Earth God. The temple is located under a large tree and there is a tablet to the Tree Protector God close by. To the left of the temple there is a well and close to it there is a small shrine to *Tig Jeng Kung*, the Well Protector God.



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|----|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | Gum Fa, Patron of Pregnant Women |
| 2 | Dei Ju, Earth God (under) |
| 3 | Door God (Moon San) |
| 4 | Door God (Moon San) |
| 5 | Offerings table |
| 6 | Banyan tree |
| 7 | Tablet to Tree Protector God |
| 8 | All Saints shrine |
| 9 | Well |
| 10 | Tig Jeng Kung, Well Protector God |



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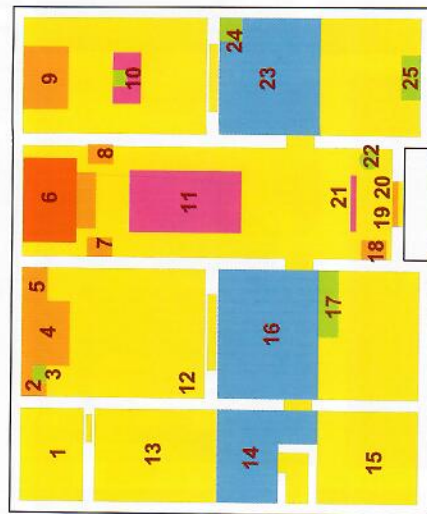
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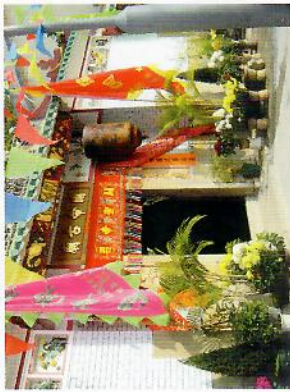


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|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1 Staff area | 16 Open courtyard |
| 2 Statues of Kwun Yum, Goddess of Mercy | 17 Temple offerings for sale |
| 3 Donation box | 18 To Dei Kung, Earth God |
| 4 Memorial tablet altar | 19 Door God (Moon San) |
| 5 Statues of Kwan Kung, God of War | 20 Door God (Moon San) |
| 6 Hau Wong | 21 Spirit Screen (Dong Chung) |
| 7 Tong Choi (Copper Fist) Health God | 22 Bell and Drum |
| 8 Tip But (Iron Pen) Education God | 23 Open courtyard |
| 9 Gum Yuk Moon Tong | 24 Incinerator |
| 10 Offerings table with donation box | 25 Old temple relics |
| 11 Offerings table | 26 Incinerator |
| 12 Large joss sticks for sale | 27 Stone bolt for securing boats |
| 13 Staff area | 28 Incense burner |
| 14 Open courtyard | 29 Oversized long lasting joss sticks |
| 15 Staff area | 30 Stone bolt for securing boats |

This temple dedicated to *Hau Wong*, known as *Yeung Leung* of the late Song Dynasty (960–1279 AD). *Hau Wong*'s birthday is celebrated on the sixth day of the sixth moon. The festival at this temple, however, now takes place on the eighth moon, not the sixth. This temple was built around 1730 and the concrete area immediately in front of the temple was once at the water's edge. The two pairs of rectangular stones were once apparently used to tie up boats when they moored alongside. Today they are for supporting high poles when there is a festival. *Hau Wong* sits on the main altar with two large statues standing in front of him. The one on the left is called *Tong Choi* (Copper Fist) who looks after Medicine and Health. The one on the right is called *Tip But* (Iron Pen) who looks after Education. In the side hall on the right there is an altar to *Gum Yuk Moon Tong*. At the opposite end of this hall old relics over two hundred years old can be seen. In a side hall on the left there is an altar in the form of a memorial plaque with small statues of *Kwan Kung* on the right and *Kwun Yum* on the left. An unusual feature of this temple are the huge joss sticks that are seen burning in front of the temple.



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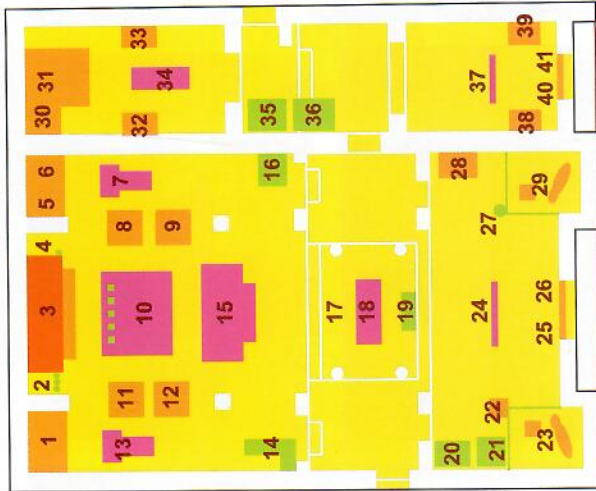
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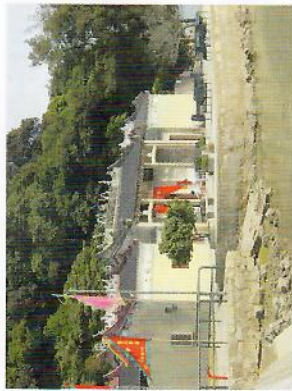


23



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|----|--|----|-------------------------------|
| 1 | Wah Tor, a Medicine God | 20 | Sedan Chair |
| 2 | Halberds, symbols of Kwan Kung | 21 | Sedan Chair handles and parts |
| 3 | Kwan Kung, God of War | 22 | White Tiger (Bak Fu) |
| 4 | Halberd, symbol of Kwan Kung | 23 | White horse and attendant |
| 5 | Tai Sui, Lord of Time | 24 | Spirit Screen (Dong Chung) |
| 6 | Choi Bak Sing Gwan | 25 | Door God (Moon San) |
| 7 | Offerings table | 26 | Door God (Moon San) |
| 8 | Kwan Ping, Kwan Kung's adopted son | 27 | Halberd, symbol of Kwan Kung |
| 9 | Black attendant with gold image on finger | 28 | Choi Bak Sing Gwan |
| 10 | Offerings table with Ng Kung | 29 | Brown Horse and attendant |
| 11 | Jao Chong, Kwan Kung's sword and armour bearer | 30 | Statues of Kwan Yum |
| 12 | Attendant with foot on dog | 31 | Tin Hau, Empress of Heaven |
| 13 | Offerings table | 32 | Favourable Wind Ears |
| 14 | Temple offerings for sale | 33 | Thousand Li Eyes |
| 15 | Offerings table | 34 | Offerings table |
| 16 | Bell and Drum | 35 | Bell and Drum |
| 17 | Smoke tower (above) | 36 | Incinerator |
| 18 | Offerings table | 37 | Spirit Screen (Dong Chung) |
| 19 | Donation box | 38 | To Dei Kung, Earth God |
| | | 39 | Moon Goon, Door Official |
| | | 40 | Door God (Moon San) |
| | | 41 | Door God (Moon San) |

This very interesting temple was originally built during the Ming Dynasty in the 1530s. It is dedicated to *Kwan Kung*, the God of War, a fierce warrior deity who protects worshippers from any kind of evil. A powerful and imposing statue of *Kwan Kung* sits on the main altar. He is dressed in green and, as always, has a red face. To the left is a side altar dedicated to *Wah Tor*, a God of Medicine. Between these two altars there are a few halberds on display. A halberd, a combined spear and axe, is a symbol of *Kwan Kung*. To the right there is an altar with two statues, one of *Tai Sui*, the God of Wealth, on the left, and a statue of *Choi Bak Sing Gwan*, a God of Wealth, on the right. In front of *Kwan Kung* there are four attendant statues, two are military and two are civil. Next to the entrance are two horses and two attendants. The brown horse belongs to *Kwan Kung*. On the right there is a separate side temple dedicated to *Tin Hau*, the Empress of Heaven. She is accompanied by two ladies in waiting and her two demonic servants, *Thousand Li Eyes* and *Favourable Wind Ears*. At the entrance there is *To Dei Kung*, the Earth God, on the left and *Moon Goon*, a Door Official God, on the right.

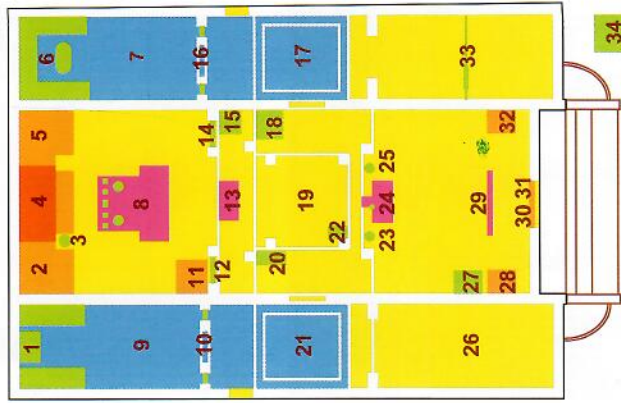


- 1 Staff area
- 2 All Saints altar with Ng Kung
- 3 Hung Sing Yeh, a God of the Sea
- 4 Kwan Kung, God of War
- 5 Choi San tablet
- 6 Hau Wong
- 7 To Dei tablet
- 8 Four poster bed for Hau Wong
- 9 Bell and Drum
- 10 Offerings table with Ng Kung
- 11 Open corridor
- 12 Open Yard
- 13 Staff Area
- 14 Circular opening
- 15 Temple offerings for sale
- 16 Moon Goon, Door Official
- 17 Symbols of Eight Immortals and other symbols
- 18 Donation box
- 19 Offerings table
- 20 Incense burner
- 21 Spirit Screen (Dong Chung)
- 22 Door God (Moon San)
- 23 Door God (Moon San)
- 24 Symbols of Eight Immortals and other symbols
- 25 Moon Goon, Door Official
- 26 Historical relics including whale bones
- 27 Circular opening
- 28 Toilets
- 29 Open area
- 30 Staff area
- 31 Incinerators

This temple has a picturesque position on the north eastern side of Tai O with water in front and trees behind. It was built in 1699 by the people of Tai O in memory of Marquis Yang Liang Chieh who rendered meritorious service to the boy emperors of the Sung Dynasty. A posthumous title of Prince was conferred upon him for his bravery and loyalty which endeared him not only to his fallen empire, but also to the residents of Kowloon and Lantau Island. To celebrate Hau Wong's birthday local residents stage theatrical performances that are very popular. Hau Wong sits on the main altar with a number of small statues of himself. To the left is an altar to All Saints with three large statues which are not easy to identify. It was suggested that the one in the middle is Hung Sing Yeh and the one on the right is Kwan Kung. To the right of Hau Wong there is a four poster bed for him, tucked behind a decorated wooden panel. Next to the main entrance there are two Door Officials. Next to the one on the right is a pile of relics which include old dragon boat heads, whale backbones and sawfish snouts. At the entrance there is a magnificent incense burner on the steps just behind the Spirit Screen.

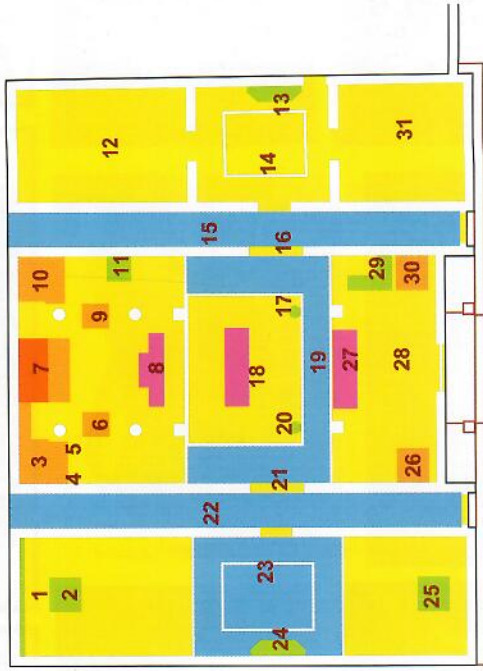


Hau Wong Temple at Tai O (60)



1	Planter area with Yellow Tree	18	Drum and Bell
2	Yu Tau Dai Wong	19	Smoke tower (above)
3	Wash basin	20	Fortune teller
4	Hung Sing Yeh, a God of the Sea	21	Open area
5	Choi Bak Sing Gwan	22	Donation box
6	Planter area	23	Flower vase stand
7	Open garden area	24	Offerings table, incense burner,
8	Offerings table, Ng Kung and peach plants	25	Gung Heung
9	Open garden area	26	Flower vase stand
10	Decorative circular opening	27	Staff area
11	Wong Tai Sin / Kwun Yum statues	28	Sedan Chair
12	Decorative screen	29	To Dei Kung, Earth God
13	Offerings table	30	Spirit Screen (Dong Chung)
14	Decorative screen	31	Door God (Moon San)
15	Decorative incinerator	32	Door God (Moon San)
16	Decorative circular opening	33	Moon Goon, Door Official
17	Open area	34	Screen
			Incinerator

This temple is dedicated to *Hung Sing Yeh*, a God of the Sea. He is worshipped to ensure calm and safe seas. The temple was originally built in 1748 and has been renovated many times. It was renovated in 1969 and a wooden joss stick celebrating this is located on the first offerings table inside the temple. *Hung Sing* sits on the main altar with some smaller images of himself in front of him. On the left of the main deity there is an altar to *Yu Tau Dai Wong*, the Fish Head King. On the right of *Hung Sing* there is an altar to *Choi Bak Sing Gwan* who is a God of Wealth. He is seen holding a tael (shoe) of gold. On the left of the main entrance there is an altar to *To Dei Kung*, the Earth God. On the right there is an altar to a Door Protector God. There are door gods painted on the entrance doors to keep evil spirits out. This temple has the unusual feature of having two small courtyard gardens within its walls. Both are entered through a decorative circular opening from a plain open courtyard. In the garden on the left there is a very attractive tree. In the other garden on the right of the main hall there is a round shaped concrete container which may have once contained fish or turtles.



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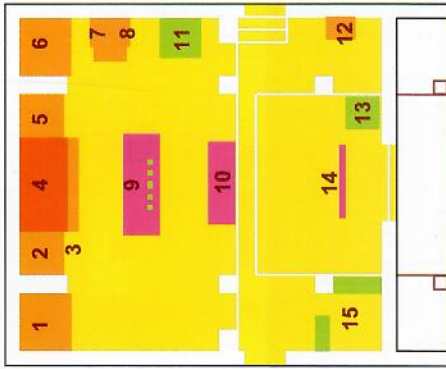
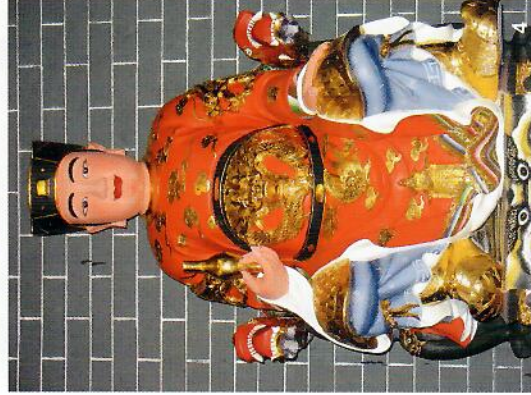
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1	Ancestor Tablets	20	Sculptured stone column
2	Sedan Chair	21	Circular doorway
3	Kwun Yum, Goddess of Mercy	22	Open corridor
4	Man Cheung Dai Gwan	23	Open courtyard
5	Sing Wong, the City God	24	White Tiger wall decoration
6	Favourable Wind Ears	25	Sedan Chair
7	Pak Tai, Emperor of the North	26	To Dei Kung, Earth God
8	Offerings table	27	Offerings table
9	Thousand Li Eyes	28	Choi Moon (boat shaped carving) (above)
10	Tin Hau, Empress of Heaven	29	Temple offerings for sale
11	Bell and Drum	30	Moon Goon, Door Official
12	Staff area	31	Staff area
13	Dragon wall decoration	32	Male stone lion
14	Open courtyard	33	Incense burner
15	Open corridor	34	Female stone lion
16	Circular doorway	35	Female stone lion
17	Sculptured stone column	36	Antique incense burner
18	Offerings table	37	Male stone lion
19	Open courtyard		

The original temple on this site was built in 1783 after plague broke out on Cheung Chau in 1777. The early settlers on the island were mainly fishermen from the Chiu Chau and Hui Chow districts of Guangdong where they worshipped Pak Tai as a God of the Sea. The main statue of Pak Tai was found floating in the sea a few years after the temple was built and it was brought back to Cheung Chau. This statue was carried through the streets in a sedan chair when another plague struck in the late 1800s and was found to be very effective to ward off sickness. In 1966 when Princess Margaret visited the temple an islander presented the temple with a 20-ounce gold crown, hung with pearls which is worn by the main Pak Tai statue. A unique three day Bun Festival takes place on the island every year where three sixty feet towers of buns are built on bamboo frames near the temple. The buns have religious significance curing minor illnesses and bringing good luck. The festival includes a procession on the third day that includes lion dancers, unicorns and hand carried floats with children performing spectacular balancing acts by means of cleverly hidden steel supports.



This temple, tucked away on a raised platform originally overlooking the sea and accessible via a few steps up a narrow alley, is dedicated to *Hung Sing Yeh*, a popular divinity on Cheung Chau. The local boat people, who formed the majority of the island's population, believed in him and thus they built this temple in his honour in the 18th year of *Chia Ching* (1830). The temple has recently been refurbished and has been dramatically brought back to its original glory after languishing in neglect for many years. The principal deity *Hung Sing Yeh* sits in a dominant position overlooking all activities in the temple. He is supported by a number of secondary deities. These include *Kwun Yum*, the Goddess of Mercy, located on the far left against the wall. In between is *Lung Mo Leung Leung*, the Dragon Mother. On the far right is *Wah Tor*, a God of Medicine seen holding a pen and 'notebook'. To the left of *Wah Tor* is *Tai Sui*, the Lord of Time. On the right hand wall near *Wah Tor* there are a pair of gods. The one on the right with a third eye is *Wah Kwong* and the other is *Sin Fung Dai Die*. The busiest time in the temple is the Hung Sing Festival on the 13th day of the second moon.

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|----|----------------------------|
| 1 | Kwun Yum, Goddess of Mercy | 9 | Offerings table |
| 2 | Lung Mo Leung Leung | 10 | Offerings table |
| 3 | White Tiger | 11 | Sedan Chair |
| 4 | Hung Sing Yeh, a God of the Sea | 12 | To Dei Kung, Earth God |
| 5 | Tai Sui, Lord of Time | 13 | Bell and Drum |
| 6 | Wah Tor, a God of Medicine | 14 | Spirit Screen (Dong Chung) |
| 7 | Sin Fung Dai Die | 15 | Temple offerings for sale |
| 8 | Wah Kwong | 16 | Incinerator |



13



4



2



7



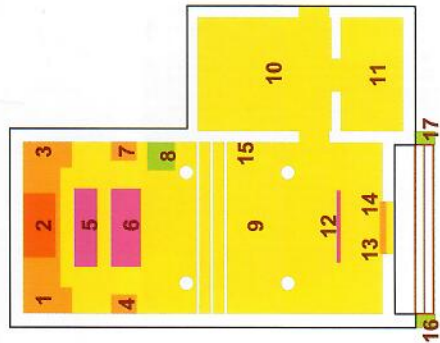
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15



14



17

This temple, located in an open space at Sok Kwu Wan on Lamma Island is dedicated to *Tin Hau*, the Empress of Heaven and a Patron Saint of boat people. *Tin Hau* is protected by her two loyal horned guards, Thousand Li Eyes and Favourable Wind Ears. They stand in front of *Tin Hau* on each side of the offerings table. The temple has a number of interesting objects which include the saw shaped nose of a large sawfish, a dragon head from a dragon boat and a parasol umbrella used in festivals. The smoke tower in the middle of the temple is supported on old wooden pillars painted red where coils of joss sticks burn with red trays collecting ash. This provides an old world appearance that gives this small temple a special individuality. *Tin Hau* is supported by two protector gods on the left and three protector gods on the right. Every nook and cranny is filled to the rafters. Large rattan lanterns occupy ceiling areas not filled with red trays. The entrance doors are decorated with images of two imposing guardian generals, one with a black face called *Wat Chi King Tak* and the other, with a white face, called *Chan Shuk Bo*. (This temple was sadly destroyed by fire in 2004 and is being rebuilt.)

1 Patron Gods, with sawfish nose
2 Tin Hau, Empress of Heaven
3 Patron Gods
4 Thousand Li Eyes
5 Offerings table
6 Offerings table
7 Favourable Wind Ears
8 Bell and Drum
9 Smoke tower (above)

10 Staff area
11 Staff area
12 Spirit Screen (Dong Chung)
13 Gate God Chen Shuk Bo
14 Gate God Wat Chi King Tak
15 Dragon Boat Head
16 Female stone lion
17 Male stone lion



2



5



13



3



6



16

This temple dedicated to *Tin Hau*, the Empress of Heaven and the Patron Saint of Boat People, sits spectacularly overlooking the South China Sea on Po Toi Island. This is the most southerly temple in Hong Kong and it is only accessible by boat. A small ferry runs from St. Stephen's Beach near Stanley to Po Toi Island at weekends. *Tin Hau* sits at the rear of the temple with statues of Thousand Li Eyes standing just in front to the right and with Favourable Wind Ears standing on the left. In a separate altar on the left of *Tin Hau* there is an image of *Joh San* and on the right is *Yau San*. Against the walls on the left and right are ceremonial fans and the Symbols of the Eight Immortals. To the left and right are models of boats and dragon boats. The temple bell cast in 1835 is painted red above the drum. On top of the support frame is the backbone of a large fish or dolphin in a display case. Close-by are two dragon boat heads. To the left and right of the main hall are two areas used for storage. The one on the left is filled mostly with the rock of gods, mostly of *Tin Hau*, for sale.



1	Joh San	14	Table with donation box
2	Favourable Wind Ears	15	Choi Moon (boat shaped carving)
3	Tin Hau, Empress of Heaven	16	Model boats
4	Offerings table	17	Spirit Screen (Dong Chung)
5	Thousand Li Eyes	18	Door God (Moon San)
6	Yau San	19	Door God (Moon San)
7	Brass fan, Symbols of Eight Immortals	20	Storage area
8	Offerings tables with Ng Kung	21	Gods for sale
9	Brass fan, Symbols of Eight Immortals	22	Sedan Chair
10	Rock	23	To Dei Kung, Earth God
11	Model boat	24	Rocky hillside
12	Storage area	25	Incinerator
13	Drum and Bell with dragon boat heads and backbone above		



Jade Emperor (18)

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Bak Fu	白虎	Bai Hu	White Tiger, Demon subduing Tiger	1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 13, 18, 26, 27, 28, 30c, 31, 32, 35, 51, 56, 59, 62, 63
Bak Kung	伯公	Bo Gong	Protector Earth God	18, 22, 38
Boon Fong She Jik	本坊社稷	Ben Fang She Ji	Local Wayside God	15
Chai Tin Dai Sing	齊天大聖	Qi Tian Da Sheng	Great Sage equal to Heaven (Monkey God)	5, 24, 34
Che Kung	車公	Che Gong	Great Healer Marshal Che	1, 35, 37, 42, 50
Chee Gwok Tin Wong	持國天王	Chi Guo Tian Wang	Heavenly King (Four String Guitar)	25
Chen Shuk Bo	秦叔寶	Qin Shu Bao	Gate God General (White Face)	1, 13, 14, 16, 21, 23, 26, 32, 33, 35, 37, 38, 39, 42, 44, 45, 48, 50, 51, 52, 55, 64
Cheung Gwo Lo	張果老	Zhang Guo Lao	One of Eight Immortals (bamboo tube drum)	(page 38)
Cheung Tin Sze	張天師	Zhang Tian Shi	Buddhist Cheung, Attendant to Man Mo	7
Chin Lei Ngan	千里眼	Qian Li Yan	Thousand Li Eyes	3, 14, 16, 21, 30c, 39, 54, 56, 59, 62, 64, 65
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Chow Gwok Kau	曹國舅	Cao Guo Jiu	One of Eight Immortals (castanets/jade tablet)	(page 38)
Chu Lap Dai Sin	朱立大仙	Zhu Li Da Xian	Doctor Chu, a God of Medicine	31
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Dai Yeh	太乙	Tai Yi
Dao Mo	斗母	Dou Mu
Dei Jon Wong	地藏王	Di Zang Wang
Dei Ju	地主	Di Zhu
Dei Mo Leung Leung	地母娘娘	Di Mu Niang Niang
Dou Man Tin Wong	多聞天王	Duo Wen Tian Wang
Fa Kung	花公	Hua Gong
Fa Po	花婆	Hua Po
Fan Tai Sin Sze	樊大仙師	Fan Da Xian Shi
Fat Mo Leung Leung	法母娘娘	Fa Mu Niang Niang
Fook Dak Kung	福德公	Fu De Gong
Fook Dak Lo Yeh	福德老爺	Fu De Lao Ye
Fook Sing	福星	Fu Xing
Gum Fa Leung Leung	金花娘娘	Jin Hua Niang Niang
Gum Tung	金童	Jin Tong
Gum Yuk Moon Tong	金玉滿堂	Jin Yu Men Tang
Gwong Muk Tin Wong	廣目天王	Guang Mu Tian Wang
Ha Tan	下壇	Xia Tan
Hau Wong	候王	Hou Wang
Ho Sing Goo	何仙姑	He Xian Gu
Hoi San	海神	Hai Shen
Hon Seung Ji	韓湘子	Han Xiang Zi
Hung Fu Ji	孔夫子	Kong Fu Zi

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Lord of the Flowers	32
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Patron of Pregnant Women	1, 9, 14, 21, 23, 30a, 30d, 32, 47, 49, 52, 57
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Hung Sing Yeh	洪聖爺	Hong Sheng Ye	a God of the Sea	1, 4, 9, 37, 40, 42, 48, 50, 56, 60, 61, 63
Jai Kung Wood Fat	濟公活佛	Ji Gong Huo Fo	Beggar Monk with good character	10
Jao Chong	周倉	Zhou Cang	Kwan Kung's sword and armour bearer	1, 7, 39, 59
Jing San	正神	Zheng Shen	First Moon God	45
Jo Gwan	灶君	Zao Jun	Kitchen God	44
Joh San	左神	Zuo Shen	God on the Left	65
Jong Lei Koon	鍾離權	Zhong Li Quan	One of Eight Immortals (fan)	(page 38)
Kwan Kung	關公	Guan Gong	God of War	1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 14, 16, 17, 20, 22, 30a, 30d, 31, 39, 42, 43, 45, 46, 49, 51, 53, 58, 59, 60
Kwan Ping	關平	Guan Ping	Kwan Kung's adopted son	1, 7, 39, 59
Kwun Yum	觀音	Guan Yin	Goddess of Mercy	1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 30a, 30b, 30c, 30d, 31, 32, 33, 36, 38, 41, 45, 46, 47, 49, 51, 53, 54, 55, 58, 59, 61, 62, 63
Lam Choi Wo	藍采和	Lan Cai He	One of Eight Immortals (flower basket)	(page 38)
Lei Tig Gwai	李鐵拐	Li Tie Guai	One of Eight Immortals (iron crutch/gourd)	(page 38)
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Ling Yee	靈醫	Ling Yi	a God of Medicine, a Magical Doctor	42
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Lok Jo	六祖	Liu Zu	Sixth Patriarch, the Protective Genius	12
Lok Ma	綠馬	Lu Ma	Green Horse	30c
Lu Pan	魯班	Lu Ban	Patron of Carpenters and Builders	6, 23
Lui Dong Bun (Lui Jo)	呂洞賓(呂祖)	Lu Dong Bin (Lu Zu)	One of Eight Immortals (fly whisk/magic sword)	(page 38), 8, 10, 12, 16, 53
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Man Sing	文星	Wen Xing	Civil Attendant / God	37, 46
Men Ju Po Sa	文殊菩薩	Wen Shu Pu Sa	Bodhisattva of Divine Wisdom on Lion	25
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Moon Goon	門官	Men Guan	Door Official	3, 6, 13, 17, 18, 19, 21, 28, 30c, 37, 39, 42, 43, 54, 59, 60, 61, 62
Moon San	門神	Men Shen	Door God	6, 19, 22, 24, 28, 40, 43, 47, 56, 57, 58, 59, 65
Moon San Kung	門神公	Men Shen Gong	Male Door (Official) God	16
Moon San Po	門神婆	Men Shen Po	Female Door (Official) God	16
Ng Fong Ng To Lung Sun	五方五土龍神	Wu Fang Wu Tu Long Shen	God from All Directions	33
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O Lei Tor Fat
Pak Tai
Pang Jo
Pau Kung
Ping On San
Po Yin Po Sa
Sai Fong Fat Mo
Sam Bo Fat
Sam Ching Dou Jo
Sam Goon Dai Die
Sam Tai Tze
Sau Sing
Sau Wu San
See Foo See San
See San
Sei Dai Tin Wong
Sek Goon
Sek Gum Dong
Shea Kung
Shea Tan
Shui Sin Yeh
Shun Fung Yee
Sik Ka Fat

阿彌陀佛
北帝
彭祖
包公
平安神
普賢菩薩
西王母
三寶佛
三青道祖
三官大帝
三太子
壽星
守護神
師父侍臣
侍神
四大天王
赦官
石敢當
社公
社壇
水仙爺
順風耳
釋迦牟尼佛

A Mi Tuo Fu
Bei Di
Peng Zu
Bao Gong
Ping An Shen
Pu Xian Pu Sa
Xi Wang Mu
San Bao Fo
San Qing Dao Zu
San Guan Da Di
San Tai Zi
Shou Xing
Shou Hu Shen
Shi Fu Shi Chen
Shi Shen
Si Da Tian Wang
She Guan
Shi Gan Dang
She Gong
She Tan
Shui Xian Ye
Shun Feng Er
Shi Jia Mou Ni Fu

Amitabha (Fourth Cosmic Buddha)
Barefoot Emperor of North
The Master
God of Justice
God who looks after Safety
Bodhisattva of Divine Grace on Elephant
Buddha of the West (Queen Mother of West)
Three Precious Buddhas
Three Pure Ones
Three Great Primordial Rulers
Third Prince (Na Cha)
God of Long Life
Temple Guardian
Skilled Master Attendant
Attendant God
Four Heavenly Kings (Four Diamonds)
Forgiveness Official
Local God, Looks after People's Welfare
District God
District God, God of Grains, God of Land
a God of the Sea
Favourable Wind Ears
Sakyamuni (Lord Buddha)

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Playin

先鋒大帝

Sin Fung Dai Die

Xian Feng Da Di

63

a Pioneer, a Front Line Leader

聖祖佛祖

Sing Jo Fat Jo

Sheng Zu Fu Zu

4, 5, 17, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30b, 30c, 56, 57, 60

All Saints and Buddhas, Various Gods

城隍

Sing Wong

Cheng Huang

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The City God

消災壇

Siu Joi Tan

Xiao Zai Tan

10, 29

Takes away Bad Luck

消災延壽

Siu Joi Yin Sau

Xiao Zai Yan Shou

36

Buddha of Medicine

孫猴子

Suen Ng Hung

Sun Hou Zi

5, 24, 34

Monkey God

宿老爺

Suk Lo Yeh

Xiu Lao Ye

50

a God who provides Shelter

太歲

Tai Sui

Tai Sui

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Lord of Time, (Sixty) Gods of the Year

Tam Kung

譚公

Tan Gong

1, 12, 17

Sea God Lord Tam

Tig Jeng Kung

天井公

Tian Jing Gong

57

Well Protector God

Tin Gau

天狗

Tian Gou

8, 28

Heavenly Dog

Tin Hau

天后

Tian Hou

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Empress of Heaven

Tin Hau Leung Leung

天后娘娘

Tian Hou Niang Niang

27

Patron of Boat People

Tin San

天神

Tian Shen

15

a God of Heaven

Tip But Kung

鐵筆公

Tie Bi Gong

58

Iron Pen, a God of Education

To Dei (Choi San)

土地(財神)

Tu Di (Cai Shen)

10

To Dei as Choi San

To Dei Kung

土地公

Tu Di Gong

Earth God

1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 19, 21, 22, 23, 26, 27, 29, 30a, 30b, 30c, 31, 33, 34, 37, 39, 40, 41, 42, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 54, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 65

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To Dei Po	土地婆	Tu Di Po
Tong Choi	銅錘	Tong Chui
Tong Sam Jong	唐三藏	Tang San Zang
Tsang Cheung Tin Wong	增長天王	Zeng Chang Tian Wang
Wah Kwong	華光	Hua Guang
Wah San Sing Mo	華山聖母	Hua Shan Sheng Mu
Wah Tor	華陀	Hua Tuo
Wat Chi King Tak	尉遲敬德	Yu Chi Jing De
Wat Chi Kung	尉遲恭	Yu Chi Gong
Wei To	韋陀	Wei Tuo
Wong Dai Man Sui	黃帝萬歲	Huang Di Wan Sui
Wong Tai Sin	黃大仙	Huang Da Xian
Yau San	右神	You Shen
Yeuk Si Fat	藥師佛	Yao Shi Fo
Yin Tang Fat	燃燈佛	Ran Deng Fo
Yu Loi Fat Jo	如來佛祖	Ru Lai Fo Zu
Yu Tau Dai Wong	魚頭大王	Yu Tou Da Wang
Yuen Cheung	玄張	Xuan Zang
Yuen Tang Fook Fu	玄壇伏虎	Xuan Tan Fu Hu
Yuk Nui	玉牛	Yu Nu
Yuk Wong Kung	玉皇上帝	Yu Huang Shang Di
Yute Lao	月老	Yue Lao

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Monk who acquired Buddhist Scriptures	32
Heavenly King (Sword)	25
God of Fire, Patron of Goldsmiths	8, 23, 51, 63
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Model Dragon Boat

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With my inability to read or write Chinese it is inevitable that the identities of some gods within this book may be incorrect or require clarification. Their names have mostly been obtained from my interpretation and transliteration of spoken Cantonese by many temple keepers. Hopefully the errors are few but to make this book more accurate and useful the author would be delighted to receive any corrections or feed back. The names of some God statues may never be remembered and these may have now been lost forever. (Please contact raby@netvigator.com)

During the past thirty years a number of books referencing Hong Kong Chinese temples and gods have been written in English. Most of these are listed in the bibliography. They make excellent reading and provide a wealth of information about Hong Kong's heritage. These have inspired me to put together this snapshot visual guide to a selection of Hong Kong Temples that most readers can hopefully follow with ease and find useful.

Ken Raby
April 2005



Temple Embroidery

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