

元朗古與今

Yuen Long Now & Then

元朗地理及歷史介紹 Geography & History of Yuen Long

元朗歷史悠久，區內有不少文物古蹟。近年來，元朗區發展迅速，對外交通日趨發達，現代化設施相繼落成，令該區成為一個古今互融、饒富特色的地方。

Yuen Long has a very long history. The district is renowned for its rich cultural heritage and abundance of antiquities and monuments. With the continuous development of the new towns in the district, Yuen Long has become an extraordinary place infused with the ancient and the modern elements.

■ 名稱由來及地理特色 Name & Land

元朗位於香港西北部，三面環山，一面臨海，中間地勢平坦，面積廣闊，是香港境內一片罕見的平原。元朗區土地肥沃，物產豐盛，堪稱為本地的魚米之鄉。

元朗古時稱為「圓塢」，「圓」是代表完整、豐滿的意思，而「塢」便是指江邊或湖邊的低窪地區。從字面上了解，元朗在很久以前，已經是一片被群山所環抱，並且水源充沛的低窪地方。

Yuen Long is located at the northwestern New Territories of Hong Kong. It is a large plain surrounded by hills on three sides. The land in Yuen Long is very fertile that makes the area become an agricultural and fishery centre.

In the old days, Yuen Long was written in Chinese as “圓塢” which meant a well-developed extensive lowland along a river or lake and surrounded by hills. The Chinese characters depicted the geographical features of Yuen Long.

■ 歷史概述 History

元朗的歷史源頭可以追溯到秦朝（公元前 214 年）。清朝順治年間（1661 年），清政府頒佈了海禁條例，下令東南沿海居民遷入內陸五十里，以斷絕抗清勢力的支援，此禁令一直到康熙年間（1669 年）才被撤回。復界之初，元朗原有村民大多已經流散，以致荒地處處。因此，清政府便鼓勵內地鄉民到新界落戶，復興產業，於是，大批客家人紛紛從各地南下，散居於元朗各處，組成村落。

清朝末年，清政府與英國簽訂了《展拓香港界址專條》，將深圳河以南、九龍界限街以北及二百多個島嶼租予英國管治九十九年。在英國管治初期，由於元朗村民不知道兩國政府已經簽定條約，因此曾組織過一些抗英行動，後來終告平息。

日治時期，新界被日軍劃分為七區，元朗便是其中之一。日軍的警備司令部設於洪水橋，憲兵部則設於現今元朗民政事務處（前稱元朗政務處）附近，軍隊則駐紮在元朗舊理民府周圍，直至大戰結束為止。

上世紀 70 年代，香港政府銳意發展新界地區，開拓新市鎮。元朗亦隨之進入都市化的演變過程，發展步伐一日千里。

The history of Yuen Long can be traced back to the Qin Dynasty (214 B.C.). In 1661, the Qing Government ordered the population in the southeast coastal area to move inland to prevent their collusion with the Ming loyalist. After the revoke of order in 1669, very few inhabitants returned and the area turned into a barren land. By the encouragement of the Qing Government, many Hakka villagers moved south-bound and settled in Yuen Long.

By the convention regarding an extension of the Hong Kong territory in 1898, the area from Boundary Street to Shenzhen River and over 200 islands, known as the New Territories, was leased by the Qing Government to Britain for a term of 99 years. At the beginning, the inhabitants of the New Territories including Yuen Long did not know about the convention and had once organized some rebellions against the British occupation.

During the Japanese occupation, Yuen Long was one of the seven districts in the New Territories. The Japanese police headquarters was located in Hung Shui Kiu whereas the gendarmerie was situated beside the present location of Yuen Long District Office. A huge force of the Japanese was stationed in the former District Office stood until their withdrawal after the war.

In the 1970s, the Hong Kong government started to develop new towns in the New Territories. Since then, the urban development of Yuen Long has proceeded in full swing.

地方風貌及節日慶典 **Local Features, Customs & Festivals**

今日的元朗雖然已經是一個現代化的新市鎮，不過某些地區仍然保留了許多傳統的地方風貌及特色。

Though Yuen Long is now a well-developed new town, there are many traditional customs and local features retained.

■ 地方風貌 Local Features

氏族 Clans

在新界原居民的五大氏族之中，錦田鄧氏家族和新田文氏家族為可知最早落籍元朗的居民。

錦田鄧氏原籍江西省吉水縣白沙村，北宋時期，鄧氏祖宗鄧符協舉家遷往當時的「岑田」（即今錦田）。明朝年間，鄧氏已經富甲一方，及至清朝時期，因為人口增加，鄧氏部分子

孫開始遷移到新界其他地方如屏山、龍躍頭等立業。

新田文氏原籍江西省永新北鄉錢市，其宗祖文天瑞於南宋年間南遷至廣東惠州，及至其堂兄文天祥抗元兵敗後再南逃至現在深圳，在元末明初才開始遷入元朗新田和大埔洋涌等地。

There are five major clans in the New Territories while the Tang clan from Kam Tin and the Man clan from San Tin are the earliest known settlers in the Yuen Long district.

In the Northern Sung Dynasty, Tang Fu-hip, the ancestor of Tang clan, moved from his homeland in Jiangxi Province to Kam Tin. Tang clan had become very rich and prominent since the Ming Dynasty. In the Qing Dynasty, some of the Tang's descendants moved to other places in the New Territories such as Ping Shan and Lung Yeuk Tau as a result of the population growth in Kam Tin.

The hometown of Man clan is in Jiangxi Province. Man Tin-shui, the brother of Man Tin-cheung, moved from Jiangxi to Guangdong in the late Southern Sung Dynasty. In early Ming Dynasty, Man clan started to move to San Tin in Yuen Long and Pun Chung in Tai Po.

圍村 Walled Villages

圍村在元朗非常普遍。圍村的出現是由於清政府的兵力不足以防禦海寇，村民為求自保，便築起圍牆及挖掘護城河將村落包圍，又在出入口加設堅固的大鐵閘或熨攏門作為防衛。圍村四角設有炮樓，圍牆上也有槍孔以作防禦用途。正門中軸與村尾的神廳相通，其他房屋則排列於街道兩旁，行列間也有小巷相連，設計都是井井有條。雖然現時許多圍村的建築如鐵門、護城河及城牆等，已經受到破壞，然而部分門樓和神廳仍舊保存，村內的格局和結構依然。

Since the Qing Government did not have sufficient coastal force to protect the villagers from invasion of pirates, villagers in the New Territories built walls, gates and moats around their settlements to safeguard their lives and properties by themselves. A typical walled village is rectangular in shape with weapon slits in the parapets and watch-towers at four corners. There are parallel rows of houses divided by lanes and the central axis leads from the main entrance of the village straight up to the communal shrine at the back. Over the years, most of the walled villages were damaged, however many gateways and shrines are still preserved that provide glances to its history.

墟市 Markets

墟市也是元朗地區的一大特色。據明朝嘉慶年間（1819年）所編訂的《新安縣誌》記錄，元朗最早期的市集「圓塢墟」設於大橋墩。直到錦田鄧氏祖宗鄧文蔚於清康熙八年（1669年）考中進士獲封地設墟後，才將原墟遷至西邊圍與南邊圍之間，即現在的元朗舊墟位置。由於元朗不斷發展，舊墟地方在二十世紀初期已經不敷應用，故此新墟於1915年建成，座落於舊墟西南面元朗涌的對岸。二次大戰後，元朗大馬路一帶發展迅速，許多商舖都遷離新墟，新墟最終於1984年因配合香港政府的重建計劃而遷拆。

It was stated in the 1819 edition of the “Hsin-an Gazetteer” that the earliest market place in Yuen Long was known as “Yuen Long Hui” which was located at Tai Kiu Tun. In 1669, Tang Man-wai of Kam Tin obtained the Chin-Shih degree and received an imperial grant of land and moved the market to an area between Sai Pin Wai and Nam Pin Wai, now known as “Yuen Long Kau Hui”. In 1915, a new market was established in the northwest of the original market, opposite to the Yuen Long Chung, to replace the old market which was not able to cope with the growth of trades. After the World War II, the importance of the new market declined and many shops moved to other areas. In 1984, the new market was demolished under the re-development scheme carried out by the government.

流浮山殖蠔業 Oyster Farm in Lau Fau Shan

香港著名的流浮山殖蠔區位於元朗廈村后海灣南岸。該處是一個與珠江和深圳河交匯的鹹淡水淺灘，非常適宜養殖生蠔，自十九世紀起，當地居民便開始經營蠔業，不過由於近年新界地區不斷發展，蠔田的面積已經大幅減少。

Lau Fau Shan, located on the southern shore of Deep Bay in Ha Tsuen, is a very famous oyster farm since the 19th century. This is an extensive shallow bay situated at the confluence of the Pearl River and Shenzhen River, mixed with sea water and fresh water and is ideal for cultivating oysters. Due to the urban development from the 1970s onwards, the size of oyster farm decreased drastically.

■ 節日慶典 Customs & Festivals

天后寶誕 Tin Hau Festival

元朗屬於沿海低窪地區，早期的居民多以捕魚為生。每逢農曆三月二十三日，元朗居民會大事慶祝天后寶誕，祈求風調雨順。從前在慶祝天后寶誕時會有「搶花炮」的習俗，不過因為經常發生意外，所以現時此習俗已改由元朗民政專員以「抽花炮」形式取代。

In the early years, many villagers in Yuen Long earned their living by fishing. They would celebrate the Tin Hau Festival to pray for the protection from the deity, Tin Hau for calm winds and waves. Tin Hau Festival takes place on the 23rd of the third lunar month and is an important event for the people living in Yuen Long. Formerly, the rite to “Scramble for Fa Pau” would be held in the Tin Hau Festival. Nevertheless, as it often caused quarrels and flights among participants, it is now replaced by a drawing of lots by the District Officer of Yuen Long.

太平清醮 Tai Ping Ching Chiao Festival

元朗許多歷史悠久的村落都會定期舉行太平清醮儀式，醮期會因應個別村落的風俗而異。在建醮時，村內會進行一些宗教儀式，為全村消災解困，祈求豐收和平安，村民都需要齋戒奉神。由於村民非常重視這個祭典，所以一些已經移居海外的村民在醮期時也會專程回來參與，場面非常熱鬧。

Tai Ping Ching Chiao Festival has a long history in Yuen Long and is extensively held in various villages. In accordance with the customs in different villages, the celebration might be organized in different periods of time. During the festival, ceremonies will be held to pray for a better living and villagers will eat vegetarian food in this period. Since this is a very important festival, some villagers who have emigrated overseas will return to join the ceremony.

文物與古蹟 **Heritage & Monuments**

元朗區內有許多歷史悠久的建築物，其中一些富有代表性的已被古物古蹟辦事處列為法定古蹟。

There are many historical buildings in Yuen Long and some of them were declared monuments by the Antiquities and Monuments Office.

元朗區法定古蹟 Declared Monuments in Yuen Long	
新田麟峯文公祠 Man Lun Fung Ancestral Hall, San Tin	<p>麟峯文公祠位於新田蕃田村，在十七世紀末建成，以紀念文氏先祖文麟峯。公祠是一座三進兩院的青磚的建築，以往用作教育子弟和「更練」的總部。</p> <p>The Ancestral Hall is located in Fan Tin Tsuen, San Tin. It was built in the late 17th century to commemorate the Man clan's ancestors, Man Lun-fung. The building, with three halls and two courtyards, is a green-brick structure and was used as school and headquarters of village guards in the past.</p>
新田大夫第 Tai Fu Tai Mansion, San Tin	<p>大夫第位於新田永平村，是為紀念文氏宗族之廿一世後人文頌鑾高中進士，受封為「大夫」而興建的一座傳統中國士紳府第。屋內還高掛著以漢文和滿文刻製、清光緒皇帝御賜的詔書牌匾。大夫第除了依照中國傳統建築風格外，還加入了一些西方建築的元素，採用了彩色玻璃和巴羅克式的浮雕來裝飾。</p> <p>Tai Fu Tai is located in Wing Ping Tsuen, San Tin. It was built by Man Chung-luen, the 21st generation descendant who obtained the degree of “Chin-Shih” and was addressed the title of “Tai Fu” (senior officer). A plaque, conferred by Emperor K’ang-hsi and inscribed in Chinese and Manchu, gives a brief history of the house and the clan. This building has a mixture of traditional Chinese and western architectural style.</p>
廈村楊侯宮 Yeung Hau Temple, Ha Tsuen	<p>楊侯宮位於東頭村獅頭山前端，在二百多年前由「東頭三村」即東頭村、羅屋村和巷尾村的居民合力興建，並曾於同治三年修葺。廟宇正廳供奉侯王、金花娘娘和土地公，門楣石匾上刻有清朝嘉慶十六年的年號。</p> <p>Yeung Hau Temple is in front of the Lion Head Hill in Tung Tau Tsuen and was built by villagers of “Tung Tau Sam Tsuen” - Tung Tau Tsuen, Lo Uk Tsuen and Hang Mei Tsuen. The temple was built for the worship of the deities Hau Wong, Kam Fa and To Tei. The stone lintel of the door was engraved the year 1811.</p>
錦田二帝書院 Yi Tai Study Hall, Kam Tin	<p>二帝書院位於錦田水頭村，由錦田鄧族興建，在清道光二十年間 (1840 年) 建成，是一座供奉文武二帝和作為教學的書室。為配合現代教育的制度，書院在上世紀初曾改成一所小學。及至二次世界大戰後只作供奉文武二帝，而不再作教學之用。</p> <p>Yi Tai Study Hall is situated at Shui Tau Village and was built by the Tang clan of</p>

	<p>Kam Tin in 1840. The Hall was built for worship of two deities, Man Cheong and Kwan Tai (literary and martial gods respectively) and also used as a school. Early last century, the study hall had once been turned into a primary school to cope with the new education system. After the World War II, Yi Tai Study Hall only kept the function for sacrificial rites.</p>
<p>八鄉上村植桂書室 Chik Kwai Study Hall, Sheung Tsuen, Pat Heung</p>	<p>植桂書室建於十九世紀末，由八鄉村民黎金泰所建，屬香港典型的中國傳統書室。書室屬兩進一天井的清代傳統建築，正面以花崗石塊和青磚築砌，屋頂簷下是雕刻精美的斗拱、駝峰和花崗石支柱。植桂書室原為教育村中子弟而建，自1930年代開始也用作祭祖和會議用途。</p> <p>Chik Kwai Study Hall is a typical traditional Chinese study hall in Hong Kong that was built in the late 19th century by Lai Kam Tai of the Lai clan in Pat Heung. The Study Hall is a two halls and one courtyard traditional building of the Qing dynasty. The impressive facade of the green-brick study hall is distinguished by the solemn granite-block wall base and the overhanging roof supported by ornamental brackets, camel humps and granite columns. From the 1930s, the hall was also used for worship of ancestor and clan's meeting.</p>
<p>橫洲二聖宮 I Shing Temple, Wang Chau</p>	<p>二聖宮位於橫洲，約在清康熙五十七年（1718年）由村民合資建成，供奉洪聖和車公，並發揮村民間守望相助之精神。建築物為一所兩進式青磚建築，內有一天井。</p> <p>I Shing Temple is in Wang Chau. It was constructed by the villagers in around 1718 to promote communal spirit. The building is a two halls and one open courtyard structure and was dedicated to the worship of two deities, Hung Shing and Che Kung.</p>
<p>屏山山廈村張氏宗祠 Cheung Ancestral Hall, Shan Ha Tsuen</p>	<p>張氏宗祠位於屏山山廈村，由張族第二十二代張炳南、張志廣、張耀晃及張瑞一於清嘉慶二十年(1815年)興建，作為村民聚會及祭祖之用，於1930至1950年代也曾用作教學用途。</p> <p>Cheung Ancestral Hall is in Shan Ha Tsuen of Ping Shan. It was built in 1815 by Cheung Bing-nam, Cheung Chi-kwong, Cheung Yiu-fong and Cheung Shui-yat, the 22nd generation descendants of the clan. The ancestral hall is used as a centre for communal gatherings and a place to worship ancestors. It was also once used as a primary school for educating members of the clan from the 1930s to 1950s.</p>
<p>屏山鄧氏宗祠 Tang Ancestral Hall, Ping Shan</p>	<p>鄧氏宗祠位於屏山三圍六村之中，為鄧氏五世祖馮遜公興建，距今已有七百多年。宗祠採用了三進兩院的建築方式，是本港同類古建築的典範。</p> <p>The Tang Ancestral Hall was built by Tang Fung-shun, the 5th generation descendant of Tang Clan about 700 years ago. The building is a magnificent three halls and two courtyards structure and is one of the typical buildings of its kind in Hong Kong.</p>
<p>屏山愈喬二公祠 Yu Kiu Ancestral Hall, Ping Shan</p>	<p>愈喬二公祠位於屏山的鄧氏宗祠旁邊，由鄧族第十一世祖鄧世賢和鄧世昭昆仲於十六世紀初興建。公祠為三進兩院式建築，除用作祠堂外，亦曾經是各村子弟讀書之所。</p> <p>Yu Kiu Ancestral Hall, is situated adjacent to Tang Ancestral Hall, comprises three halls and two courtyards. It was built by Tang Sai-yin and Tang Sai-chiu, the 11th generation descendants of the Tang clan of Ping Shan in the early 16th century. Apart from serving as an ancestral hall, the building was also used as a teaching hall for youngsters of Ping Shan.</p>
<p>屏山聚星樓 Tsui Sing Lau</p>	<p>聚星樓位於上璋圍之北，據記載為鄧氏七世祖彥通公所興建，已有超過六百年歷史，是香港現存唯一的古塔。這座六角形的古塔以青磚砌成，約十三公尺高，塔分三層，最上層供奉著魁星。</p>

Pagoda, Ping Shan	Tsui Sing Lau Pagoda (Pagoda of Gathering Stars) is in the north of Sheung Cheung Wai and was built about 600 years ago by Tang Yin-tung, the 7th generation descendant of the Tang clan of Ping Shan. It is the only existing ancient pagoda in Hong Kong. This three-storeyed hexagonal pagoda is about 13 meters high and was mainly constructed by green brick. The God of Literature was worshipped on the third floor.
八鄉元崗村梁氏宗祠 Leung Ancestral Hall, Yuen Kong Tsuen, Pat Heung	<p>梁氏宗祠位於八鄉元崗村，由梁族興建，距今已有二百多年歷史。宗祠現時仍用作議事和舉行祭祀等傳統儀式。梁氏宗祠是清代典型的兩進式建築，兩進之間為天井，天井兩旁建有廂房，右廂房設有廚房，在喜慶活動時作為烹煮盆菜之所。</p> <p>Leung Ancestral Hall is in Yuen Kong Tsuen of Pat Heung and was built by the Leung clan about 200 years ago. Today, the Leung Ancestral Hall is still used to hold traditional ceremonies and also as a meeting place for clansmen. The Leung Ancestral Hall is a typical Qing vernacular building with two halls and one courtyard. Side chambers are located at both sides of the courtyard. The right side chamber houses a kitchen, which was used for cooking basin meals during festive events.</p>
廈村鄧氏宗祠 Tang Ancestral Hall, Ha Tsuen	<p>鄧氏宗祠又名「友恭堂」，原本位於東·西頭里之間，建於明洪武年間(1370-1380年)，以紀念惠·贊二公勤勞開基而建，及後在清乾隆十四年(1749年)遷建於現址。宗祠是鄧族重要的祭祀和節慶活動場所，建築物屬三進兩院式的清代民間建築，後院建有廂房兩間，祖先神位供奉在後進明間の木神龕內。祠堂前進門上有一牌「聖諭」匾額，祠內則放了廈村子姪功名爵號的巡遊牌板，門前還安放了一尊長十二尺的古炮，村民曾用作防衛海盜。</p> <p>The Tang Ancestral Hall, also known as Yau Kung Tong, was constructed by the Tang clan of Ha Tsuen to commemorate their ancestors, Tang Hung Chi and Tang Hung Wai, for establishing the village settlements in Ha Tsuen. The Tang Ancestral Hall has played an important role in religious and ceremonial events. The magnificent ancestral hall is a three halls and two courtyards Qing vernacular architecture, having two side chambers built in the second courtyard. The ancestral tablets of the Tangs are placed in a dignified timber altar in the main bay of the rear hall.</p> <p>There is a wooden tablet inscribed with an imperial edict in the middle of the hall and a number of procession boards record the academic and social success of the clansmen. Furthermore, there is a 12-foot long cannon placed in front of main door which was once used to defense against pirates.</p>

新市鎮及交通發展 Development of the New Town and Transport Network

■ 元朗新市鎮發展 Development of Yuen Long New Town

昔日的元朗是一個舊式墟市和村落的集中地，在香港政府的規畫發展下，今日的元朗已成為一個新市鎮。現時，元朗新市鎮的總發展面積約為 561 公頃。隨著近年落成的西鐵系統、三號幹線及香港深圳西部通道等，元朗的對外交通網絡得到重大改善，元朗新市鎮亦成為新界西北交通的樞紐。

In the past, Yuen Long was a place with traditional markets and villages. Under the town

planning policy of the Hong Kong Government, it was developed to a new town. The total development area in the Yuen Long New Town is about 561 hectares. With the commissioning of the West Rail System, Route Three and the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Corridor, the transport network of Yuen Long has been greatly improved. Today, Yuen Long New Town plays a vital role in the transport system of the North West New Territories.

■ 天水圍新市鎮發展 **Development of Tin Shui Wai New Town**

天水圍新市鎮位於新界西北面，居民一向以從事農作業和養魚業為主，1987 年開始才發展成為新市鎮。天水圍新市鎮佔地約 430 公頃，現時用以發展的土地大都是從填平窪地而得來。來往天水圍新市鎮的交通主要由輕便鐵路支線和西鐵線連繫上主幹公路網，貫通元朗、屯門及市區各地。

Tin Shui Wai New Town is located in the northwestern part of the New Territories and residents there were mainly engaged in agriculture and fisheries in the past. Since 1987, Tin Shui Wai has been developed into a New Town with a total area of about 430 hectares, whereas most of the land had been formed by reclamation of the low-lying areas. The Light Rail network, West Rail network and new roads linking the new town to the trunk road network provide good connections with Yuen Long, Tuen Mun districts and the urban areas beyond.

■ 交通網絡的發展 **Development of the Transport Network**

鐵路運輸 **Railway Transport**

輕鐵 **Light Rail**

自 1988 年起，輕鐵成為了新界西北區內的主要交通工具。隨著新市鎮的不斷建設，輕鐵網絡亦相應擴展，至 2003 年，輕鐵網絡已經覆蓋了元朗、屯門和天水圍等地區。由於新界西北地區的人口日益增長，輕鐵不單提供新界區內的交通服務，也連接到西鐵系統，令居民能夠更方便往來新界及市區地方。

Hong Kong's Light Rail has become the vital transport networks in the northwestern New Territories since 1988. In 2003, the network has expanded to meet the service needs of further development in the new towns and the entire network has covered areas in Yuen Long, Tuen Mun and Tin Shui Wai. To cope with the needs of the growing population in the New Territories, the network not only provides services within the northwestern New Territories, but also provides interchanges to the West Rail Line for a better linkage to the urban area.

西鐵 **West Rail**

西鐵於 2003 年年底通車，成為元朗地區交通發展史上的一個里程碑。西鐵系統將元朗及天水圍等地連接上西九龍地區，乘搭西鐵由南昌站至天水圍站，全程只需要約 20 分鐘，大大縮減了新界及市區兩地的距離。

The West Rail network was launched in 2003 that led the transportation system of Yuen

Long into a new era. The West Rail system linked Yuen Long and Tin Shui Wai to the West Kowloon district and it only takes about 20 minutes to travel between the stations of Tin Shui Wai and Nam Cheong.

中港運輸發展 **The Development of Trans-border Transport**

元朗位於中港邊界，日常來往中港的交通十分繁忙。現時元朗有兩個連接中國大陸的口岸，分別是落馬洲和深港西部通道。

Yuen Long is located in the border area between the Mainland and the Hong Kong SAR and the traffic across border is very busy. As at present, there are two ports linking the Mainland and the Hong Kong SAR, which are the Lok Ma Chau Control Station and the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Corridor.

落馬洲管制站 **Lok Ma Chau Control Point**

位於元朗區東北面，貼近港深邊境，鄰近深圳河，是香港與中國內地之間的邊界。落馬洲是往來香港與內地車輛交通的重要口岸，自 2003 年 1 月 27 日起，落馬洲管制站及皇崗口岸實施全日 24 小時通關，是目前香港至中國內地唯一全日開放的陸路出入境口岸。

Lok Ma Chau Control Point is the most important port for the vehicular boundary crossing between the Mainland and the Hong Kong SAR. It is located in the northeastern part of Yuen Long and is beside the Shenzhen River. From 27th January 2003 onwards, this control point provides 24-hour services and is the only all-day-open port between the Mainland and the Hong Kong SAR at present.

深港西部通道

深港西部通道在 2007 年落成通車，為香港與深圳之間的第四條跨境行車通道，用以紓緩其他跨境行車通道的交通擠塞情況。深港西部通道全長約 5.5 公里，路線由蛇口口岸的東角頭新填海區開始，橫跨有高生態價值的后海灣而落點於新界西北區的鰲磡石，再經由后海灣幹線銜接到元朗公路。

The Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Corridor, being the fourth vehicular boundary crossing, was built to lighten the nearly saturated existing boundary crossings and to cope with future expansions. Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Corridor is 5.5-kilometre long. The alignment starts from the new reclamation in Dong Jiao Tou at She Kou, stretches across the ecologically highly valued Deep Bay waters, lands at the northwestern part of the New Territories at Ngau Hom Shek and connects to Yuen Long Highway via Deep Bay Link.

生態保育 **Ecological Conservation**

■ 米埔自然保護區 **Mai Po Marshes**

米埔沼澤及內后海灣的濕地位處香港的西北端，是候鳥經過長途艱辛旅程的歇息地點。每逢候鳥遷徙期間，大約會有 2 至 3 萬隻禽鳥在后海灣棲息，所以數十年來，米埔都是候鳥的天堂。1976 年，香港政府開始將米埔列為具特殊科學價值地點，1984 年，世界自然基金會開始接手管理米埔保護區，推行環境教育及保護工作。1995 年，米埔及

內后海灣共 1,500 公頃的濕地正式根據《拉姆薩爾公約》被列為國際重要濕地。香港政府在設立拉姆薩爾濕地之外，亦撥款港幣 4.23 億元，在其後五年間，作為收購土地、設立濕地教育及訪客中心和進行存護管理的用途。

The wetlands around the Mai Po Marshes and Inner Deep Bay in the northwestern corner of Hong Kong have been known as a heaven for migratory birds for decades. Mai Po was first recognized as a protected area in 1976 when it was designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest. In 1984, World Wild Fund (WWF) Hong Kong began to take over the management of the reserve for environmental education and conservation. In 1995, 1,500 hectares of wetlands around Mai Po and Inner Deep Bay were formally designated as a Wetland of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention. Along with the announcement of the designation, there was also a proposal to spend a sum of about \$423 million in five years for necessary land clearance, establishment of education/visitor centers and conservation management.

近年，在米埔及內后海灣拉姆薩爾濕地越冬的水鳥超過 60,000 隻，當中包括黑嘴鷗及黑臉琵鷺等瀕危鳥種，後者在米埔錄得的數目更佔全球總數的四分之一。每年春秋兩季，20,000 至 30,000 隻涉禽選擇米埔的泥灘作為中途休息站，儲備足夠的能量後再繼續牠們的長途遷徙旅程。

In recent years, over 60,000 waterbirds have wintered in and around the Mai Po and Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site, including the endangered species such as Saunders' Gull and a quarter of the world's population of the Black-faced Spoonbill. During the Spring and Autumn migrations, some 20,000 to 30,000 waders regularly use the Mai Po mudflats as a site to rest and refuel before continuing their long journey.

■ 香港濕地公園 Hong Kong Wetland Park

香港濕地公園位於天水圍北部，該地原本擬用作生態緩解區之用，以彌償因天水圍的都市發展而失去的濕地。佔地約 61 公頃的香港濕地公園不單展示了香港濕地生態系統的多樣化及突顯保護它們的重要性，亦成為一個以濕地功能及價值為主題的教育及消閒場地。香港濕地公園集自然護理、教育及旅遊用途於一身，是本地居民及海外遊客的一個著名景點。

Located at the northern part of Tin Shui Wai, the site of Hong Kong Wetland Park was originally planned to be an ecological mitigation area to compensate for the wetlands lost due to Tin Shui Wai New Town development. The 61-hectare Hong Kong Wetland Park demonstrates the diversity of the Hong Kong's wetland ecosystem and highlights the need to conserve them. It also serves as an education and recreation venue, with a theme on the functions and values of wetlands for use by local residents and overseas visitors.