

Aberdeen: The origin of “Hong Kong”

by Tom Wong Chi Kin

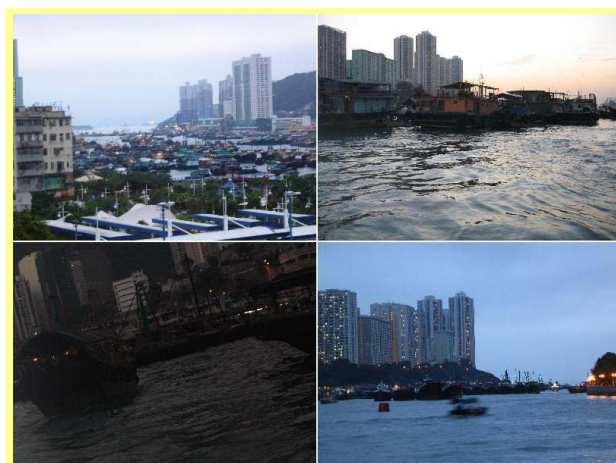
The name “Hong Kong” means “fragrant harbour” in Cantonese. It is believed that this name originated from a small village where the trading of fragrant wood products (fragrant incense) took place in the past. The village became a town and is now named Aberdeen. In Chinese, it is called “Heung Gong Tsai” which means “the small Hong Kong”. Today, Aberdeen is full of potential for you to explore.

Behind the Skyline

Aberdeen, on in the southern part of Hong Kong Island, is a residential area, a fishing port, and of course a tourism hotspot. You won't find the same concentration of tall buildings and heavy traffic in Aberdeen as around Victoria Harbour. On the contrary, Aberdeen is a relaxing area where you can explore the past and the present, nature and excitement.

The Old Fishing Village

Aberdeen Harbour is an old fishing village. Have a sampan tour around the harbour. The sampan moves along the waterways between the crowded fishing boats of different sizes, shapes and colours with people living and working on them, making different noises. This is the scene of the traditional Chinese fishing village which is hard to find in other parts of the world.



The Aberdeen Harbour © Tom Wong, 2003

When the boat is travelling around the harbour, you will see a large Chinese palace floating on the sea. It is the world famous Jumbo floating restaurant. On this floating palace you can appreciate the Chinese decorations, enjoy the different varieties of delicious seafood and



Jumbo Floating restaurant © Tom Wong, 2003

Chinese “dim-sum”, and watch the bustle of Aberdeen fishing port. At night, when the lights are on, it becomes a glorious shiny golden palace.

The Residential Town

In Aberdeen there are shops and shopping malls selling fashionable products alongside everyday items. Also, there is a wide variety of restaurants offering food from nearly all over the world.



Shops in Aberdeen © Tom Wong, 2003

Aberdeen: The Back Garden

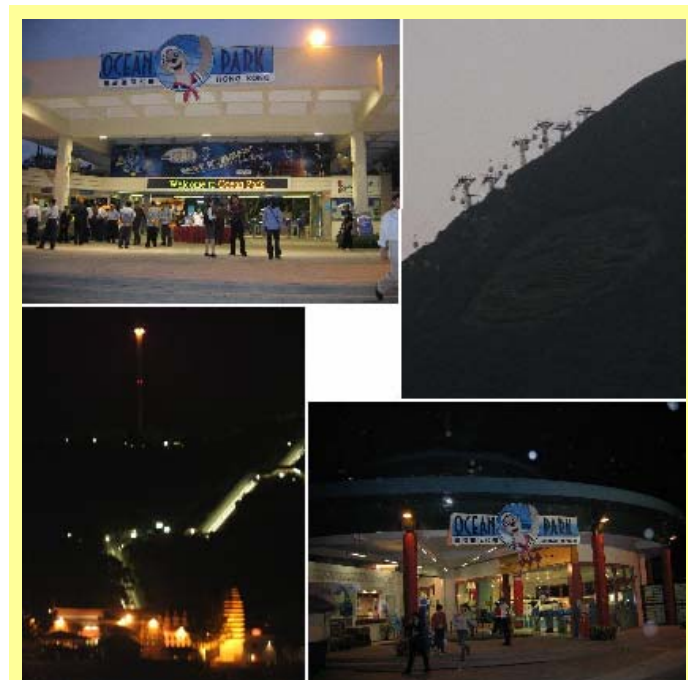
Aberdeen Country Park is situated at the hillside, far away from the town and traffic. It's hard to believe such a forest with various plants, insects and animals can be found just behind the crowded and modern city. Come and have a look by walking along the hiking trails here, appreciate the beautiful biodiversity of Hong Kong.



Aberdeen Country Park © Tom Wong, 2003

Aberdeen: Excitements

Ocean Park is a theme park in Aberdeen. It has exciting rides and marine aquariums containing colourful coral fish, seals, penguins, mysterious sharks and rays. There is also the Middle Kingdom with its live exhibition of ancient China, a walk-in butterfly house, a dolphin show and two giant pandas which recently arrived.



Ocean Park © Tom Wong, 2003

Aberdeen: A New Tourist Destination

Come to Aberdeen to see another side of life in Hong Kong. For more information about Aberdeen or Hong Kong, you can browse the websites below:

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Other Sources of Information

1. Hong Kong Tourism Board: <http://webserv1.discoverhongkong.com/eng/index.jsp>
2. Southern District Council: <http://www.districtcouncils.gov.hk/south/english/welcome.htm>
3. Jumbo floating restaurant: <http://www.jumbo.com.hk>
4. Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department Country and Marine Parks Authority
<http://parks.afcd.gov.hk/newparks/eng/index.htm>
5. Ocean Park: <http://www.oceanpark.com.hk>
6. Others: http://www.lonelyplanet.com/destinations/north_east_asia/hong_kong
http://ec.hku.hk/hiking/Hong_Kong