

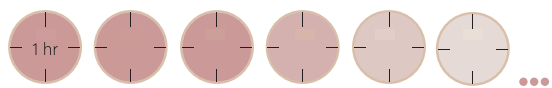
70 YEARS ON HONG KONG

Lo Wu in 70 years

The Lo Wu checkpoint, the first land port of entry between Hong Kong and the Chinese mainland, came into service in 1950. Many historic moments were recorded there, amid the changes taking place over several decades. During that time, China grew from a poverty-stricken nation to become the second largest economy in the world. Lo Wu also underwent remarkable changes, as infrastructure adapted to changing times and the software of a new era. The people who pass through the checkpoint every day, have changed, as well. **Julianna Wu** reports.

1950s

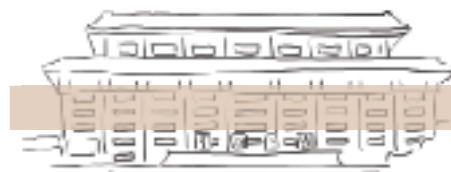
Waiting time to cross the border



People queued for hours. For many the border crossing entailed a whole day as British or Chinese officials sometimes denied entry.



Lo Wu Bridge, which has been rebuilt in 1950s, was relocated downstream in 2003, to be preserved as a monument for posterity.



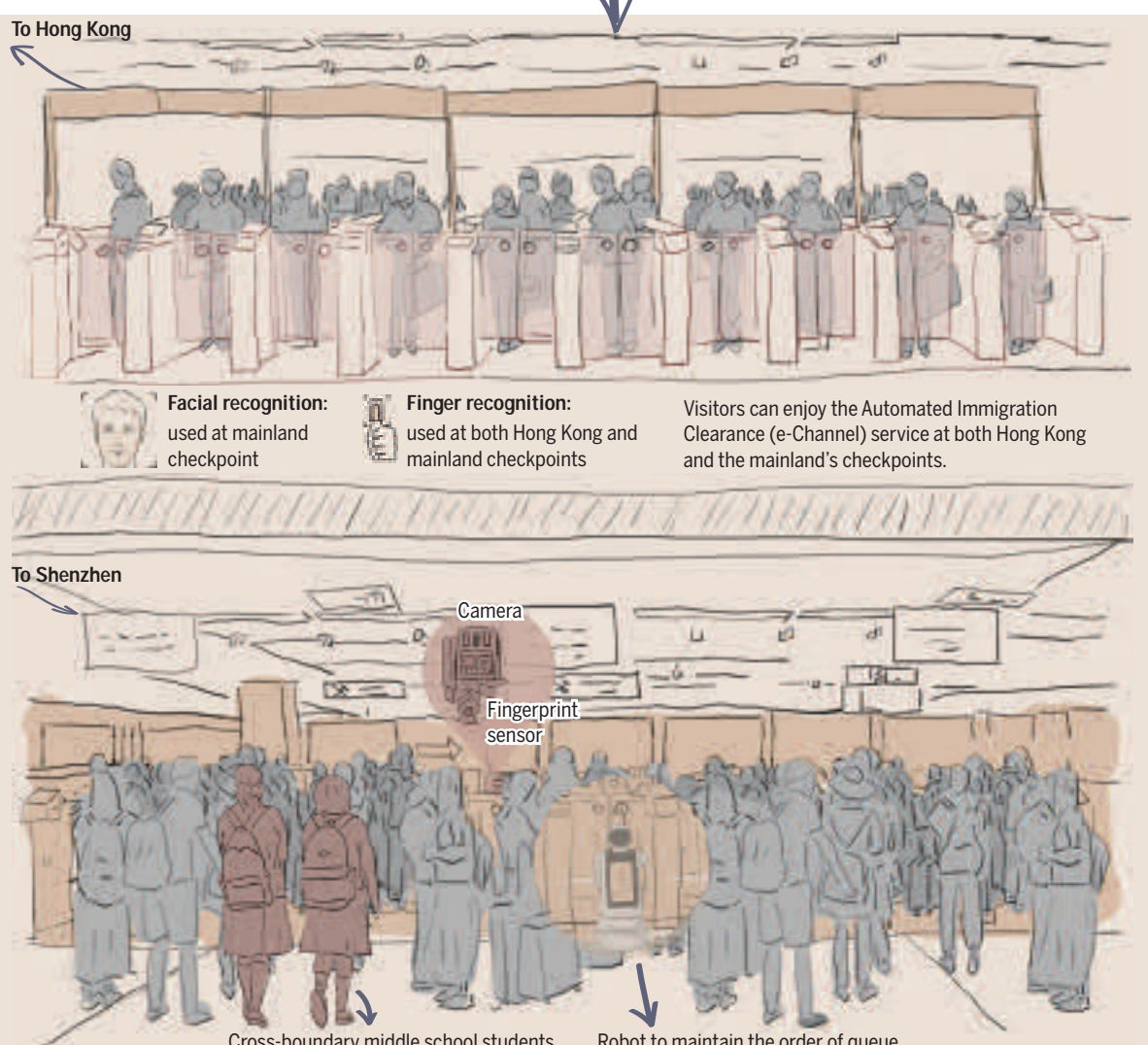
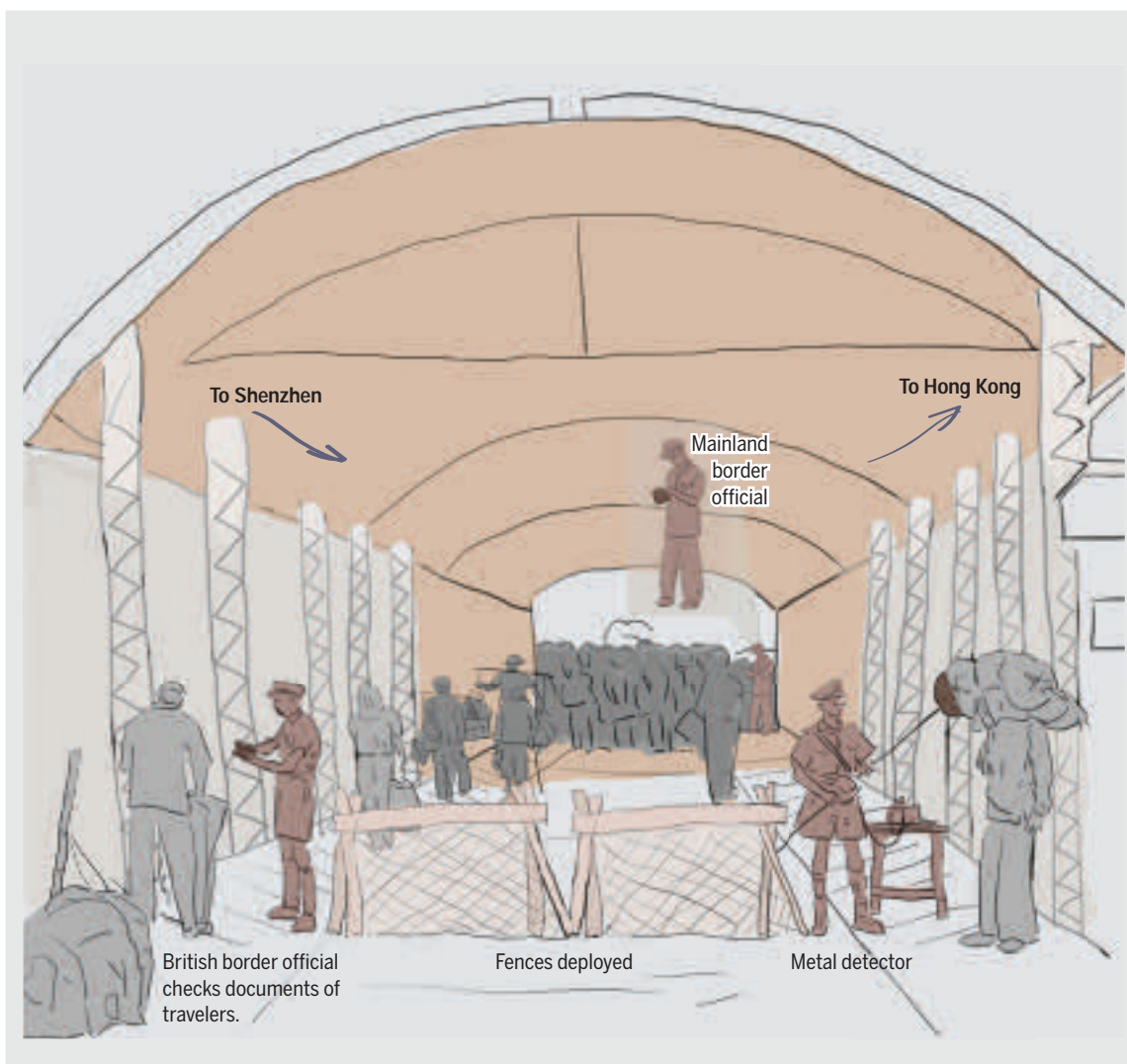
Lo Wu Control Point now is a six-story building, connecting Hong Kong MTR's East Rail Line and Shenzhen subway line.

2019

Waiting time to cross the boundary



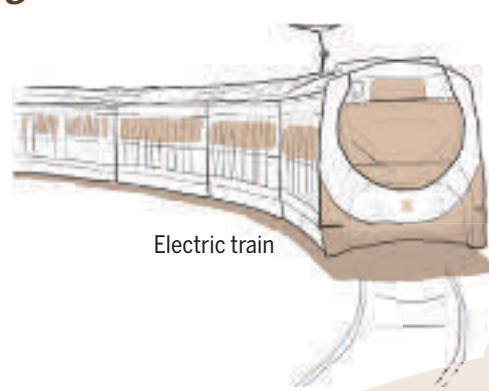
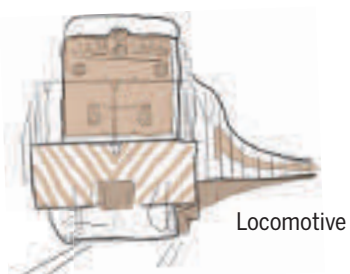
E-channels reduce the time for passing the mainland's or Hong Kong's checkpoint to 30 seconds. In total it takes less than 30 minutes to cross the boundary.



Travelers



Travelers often bring electrical appliances to the mainland. Fans are said to be the most popular, as weather is pretty hot in Guangdong.



Nowadays, people like to bring seasonal Hong Kong products back to the mainland, like Jenny's cookies, mooncakes, dry seafood and others

Bamboo shoulder pole

People wore layers of clothing which were passed on to poor mainland relatives. Clothing worn while crossing the border was tax free.



Ticket: HK\$5.8 from the old Kowloon station in Tsim Sha Tsui to Lo Wu

Annual travelers crossing Lo Wu in the 1960s
0.8 million



Ticket: HK\$39 for Octopus users, HK\$43 for single trip from Hung Hom to Lo Wu

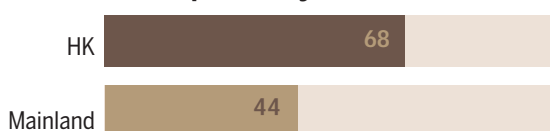
Annual travelers crossing Lo Wu in 2018
85 million



No. of public holidays:
17 HK 19 Mainland

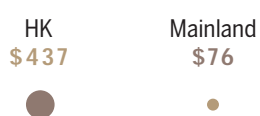
1961

Life expectancy



Society

GDP per Capita (current \$)



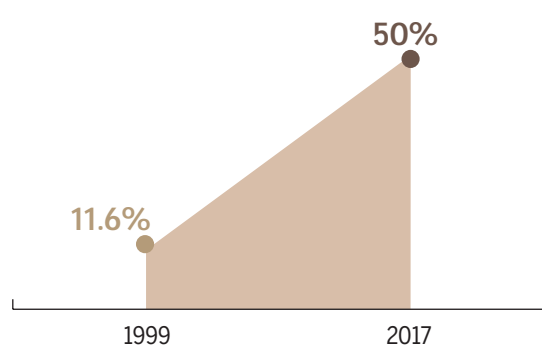
2017

Life expectancy

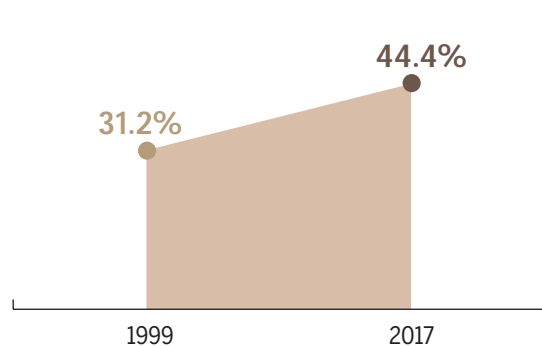


Changes in cross-boundary travelers

Percentage of mainland residents among all cross-boundary travelers



Percentage of female cross-boundary travelers



Traveling purpose of mainland visitors to HK varies through time

