

Sok Kwu Wan Village

Lamma Island, Outlying Islands

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Tel: 2508-1234 (Hong Kong Tourism Board)

Website: <http://www.lamma.com.hk/>

For area map: <http://www.communicate.com/Lamma/Blog/Map-DC-1.jpg>

Central ferry (HKKF Co.) Tel: 2815-6063

Central ferry website: www.hkkf.com.hk

Aberdeen ferry (Chuen Kee Ferry Co. Ltd.) Tel: 2375-7883

Aberdeen ferry website: <http://www.ferry.com.hk/eng/service.htm>

Lo So Shing Beach Tel: 2982-8252

Lo So Shing Beach website:

<http://www.lcsd.gov.hk/beach/en/beach-address-is.php>

Lamma Fisherfolk Village

Sok Kwu Wan Fish Raft, Lamma Island

Reception: Ground Floor, 5 First Street, next to Sok Kwu Wan Pier #1.

Tel: 2982-8585

Website: www.fisherfolks.com.hk



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Take the kids on a dining adventure at the seafood haven of Sok Kwu Wan. The ferry is fun and quick and drops you immediately in the heart of the village. There are no cars here, or roads for that matter, just a narrow covered sidewalk that runs the length of a lane of restaurants. Kids will enjoy looking at the seafood tanks in front of each eatery that are filled with everything edible that lives in the sea. Live fish, shrimp, crabs, lobsters, mussels, clams, sea cucumbers and other delicacies are on display just waiting for their turn to be chosen (read: Eaten!). These restaurants are all reasonably priced (especially for groups), although there are some items that are very expensive (like spotted garoupa) so be sure to ask the price before you make your selection, especially if on the menu it reads "Market Price".

All the eateries here overlook the water, are covered though not enclosed, and have multiple fans moving air around from the ceiling to keep the place comfortable even in the hot summer months. Dominating the views from the restaurants are multiple fish farming rafts that for some kids will be very interesting to observe. After your meal, walk to the southernmost end of the strip and check out the Tin Hau Temple. Make sure to hit one of the ice cream stands on the way back toward the ferry, as this too is part of the experience.

A wonderful add-on to any trip with kids to Sok Kwu Wan is the **Lamma Fisherfolk Village**, located on a series of large rafts floating near the main ferry pier. This 2,000-square-metre exhibit was designed to promote the history and way of life of Hong Kong's fisherfolk people and their culture as well as the history of the local fishing industry. A variety of both passive and active exhibits bring the old ways of fishing and living to life. Kids can enter an authentic fishing junk and get a view of a floating home, watch a demonstration and learn the fishing tricks of traditional Hong Kong fisherfolk, learn about dragon boating and beat the dragon boating drums, and best of all do some actual FISHING themselves! The reception and ticket booth for this exhibit is on land just in front of the exit of Pier 1 on Sok Kwu Wan. Tickets can be purchased there and a boat arranged to access the floating village.

If you wish to make more out of your journey here, there are a few options. Lo So Shing Beach, located just 20 minutes away on a footpath, is a good choice for a quiet visit to the beach. This secluded stretch of sand has lifeguard service, a swim raft, showers, toilets, changing facilities, shaded picnic benches and a beautiful new BBQ area that is on a small peninsula which juts out into the sea. What is missing, however, is a refreshment kiosk so be sure to stop in town and load up on provisions, or bring them from your home base. To get to Lo So Shing Beach, walk north through town past the Tin Hau Temple and follow the signs for Lo So Shing and Yung Shue Wan. About 10 minutes into the walk you will come to a school. Here the road forks and you will want to go to the left. Follow the path and signs to the beach. One point of interest en route is Cave Kamikaze, a series of grottos used by the Japanese in World War II to hide boats meant for suicide missions against Allied naval vessels. There are informational plaques on site.

If you have a whole day on the island, why not walk/hike from Sok Kwu Wan to Yung Shue Wan? For those with older kids or loads of energy this is a beautiful way to see the island. To access the path, head toward the temple and follow the paved path toward Lo So Shing Beach (as above) but veer right at the fork in the road. The journey takes 90 minutes or so. The road is paved for the entire length, and has pretty views along the way though beware that it is NOT flat and will be a challenge for some kids and adults too. (See the **Yung Shue Wan** chapter for more details.)

Seasons and Times

Lo So Shing Beach: Year-round although lifeguards are only on duty from April to October.

Lamma Fisherfolk Village: 10:00am-7:00pm daily.

Admission

Lamma Fisherfolk Village:

Adult HK\$60, Children and Seniors HK\$50

For some of the fishing on board there is an extra charge.

The Best Ways of Getting There

By Ferry

There are two places on Hong Kong Island where you can catch the ferry to **Sok Kwu Wan: Central Outlying Island Ferry Pier** and **Aberdeen Promenade**.

From Central

- Catch the modern, enclosed and air-conditioned ferry at **Outlying Island Ferry Pier #4** in Central. The pier is located on the waterfront, behind the IFC complex, where the airport express train is located.
- The Lamma ferry has its own pier and is quite easy to find once you reach the harbour.
- The ferry leaves roughly every half-hour (see website for schedules).

↔ Travel time: 20 mins (ferry).

From Aberdeen

- Catch this old-fashioned, two-tiered ferry from the **Aberdeen Pier** located at the waterfront promenade in Aberdeen, very near the **Aberdeen fish market**.
- Look for a small pier with a time schedule and sign that reads Sok Kwu Wan – Chuen Kee Ferry.
- The ferry from Aberdeen leaves roughly hourly on the weekends and less frequently during the weekdays.

↔ Travel time: 25-30 mins (ferry).

(Tip: The Sok Kwu Wan ferry pier is located in the heart of this small village.)

By Kaido

- Go to the **Aberdeen waterfront promenade** and hire a privately-operated little boat (kaido) to take you across to Lamma.
- There are many people milling about at the promenade just waiting for someone who wants to be taken across, so don't worry about finding them, they will find you.

- Make sure to negotiate a price before getting aboard.
- ↔ Travel time: 20-25 mins (kaido).

Getting a Bite

The entire village is all about eating so you should walk the strip and pick a place that looks good to you. **Rainbow Seafood Restaurant**, one of the largest and most well known eateries, offers free ferry service to and from Central for its customers. You must first call them to make a reservation if you would like to use this special service (tel: 2982-8100).

What's Close?

Yung Shue Wan Village

Comments

- Suitable for all ages.
- Plan to spend at least two hours here.
- The area can get very crowded on weekends and public holidays.
- There are two public toilets en route worth noting. One is located immediately next to the exit of the pier for the Central ferry at Sok Kwu Wan. (There are two piers here, one for the Central ferry, one for the Aberdeen ferry.) The other is located at the beach. Both have sit-down toilets in some of the stalls.
- There is a baby-changing table at the public toilet located at the pier.
- The area is stroller-friendly, though crowds might make it difficult at times as the main walk is narrow. The last few portions of the walk down to the beach are not paved and have some steps to navigate just before you hit the sand.

Extra Info

All the restaurants on the island offer the ferry schedules (usually printed on the back of their business cards), so you can check with them to try to time the ending of your meal.

Word of Mouth

If you plan on going to the beach, try going first thing in the morning and wind up in the village for an early lunch. This way you will not only beat the restaurant crowds, but also the heat, as mornings are generally cooler than afternoons.

Yung Shue Wan Village

Lamma Island, Outlying Islands

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Tel: 2508-1234 (Hong Kong Tourism Board)

Website for downloadable basic map of Lamma:

<http://www.discoverhongkong.com/eng/attractions/outlying-lamma-island.html>

HKKF ferry Tel: 2815-6063 (24-hour service hotline)

Ferry website: <http://www.hkkf.com.hk/>

Hung Shing Yeh Beach Tel: 2982-0352 or 2852-3220

Hung Shing Yeh Beach website:

<http://www.lcsd.gov.hk/beach/en/beach-address-is.php>

Hop aboard the ferry and head out to Yung Shue Wan, a village that marches to the beat of its own drummer. Part old Chinese fishing village, part Western bohemia circa early 1970s and part holiday retreat, this island town offers a laid-back outing that all members of the family will enjoy.

You can have a full day out here by taking in the village sights, having a walk and relaxing on the beach, or do much less and just take a stroll and have a meal. The pace is slow here. There is no traffic, except for bicycles and perhaps the odd motorized cart, and the buildings are all low-rise and near the sea. Kids will enjoy walking the narrow lanes and stopping to have a look in the craft shops and other local stalls selling everything from beach toys to dried fish. At the very end of Yung Shue Wan Main Street is a small Tin Hau Temple dating back to the 1870s. If you do nothing else here, you must have a meal. The island is known for its Cantonese seafood restaurants, most of which are right on the water with outdoor seating. If seafood is not popular with your group, there are plenty of other options available.

For a more adventurous day, see the village and then have a walk that leads you to a lovely beach. To access the path, walk through town, following the signs for Hung Shing Yeh Beach. You will stay on Yung Shue Wan Main Street until it intersects with Yung Shue Wan Back Street and then make a left. (If you find yourself at the temple, you have gone too far.) From here it is a 20-minute walk on a paved narrow lane through greenery and a few clusters of residences before you reach the beach.



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Hung Shing Yeh Beach has a resort-like feel to it. There are snack stands that rent umbrellas, an inn right on the beach that has an alfresco restaurant, and, at the very far end, a small but quaint organic farm called **Herboland** (tel: 9094-6206) that grows, displays and sells its healthy produce. It has a bunny hutch that is sure to make the little ones happy. Amenities at this beach include lifeguards, a first aid station, showers, changing rooms, BBQ areas and toilets, making it very easy to have a relaxing time.

If you have older kids and/or are feeling very energetic, you can walk from this beach to the other main village on Lamma called Sok Kwu Wan. (Total distance between towns is around 3km.) You can pick up the family trail on the opposite end of the beach from where you came. This 60+ minute walk will take you past lovely scenic vistas and, about halfway between town en route, there is often a brave man with a cart selling ice cream and cold drinks in a rest area. Aim for him and take a break there with the kids. It is mostly downhill from the man onward (even if the man is not there, this spot is a great place to sit down, take in the view and have some water). Once you get to Sok Kwu Wan, there are many seafood restaurants to choose from. (See the **Sok Kwu Wan** chapter for more information.) You can also get a ferry from here back to Hong Kong Island, making the hike a one-way affair. You can push a stroller on the trail, many people do, but there are a few steep parts and a few areas of the path that have uneven stones.

Seasons and Times

Year-round, although lifeguards are only on duty from April to October.

Admission

Free

The Best Ways of Getting There

By Ferry

There are two places on Hong Kong Island where you can catch the ferry to Yung Shue Wan: **Central Outlying Island Ferry Pier** and **Aberdeen Promenade**.

From Central

- Catch the ferry from **Outlying Island Ferry Pier #4 in Central**. The pier is located on the waterfront, behind the IFC complex, where the airport express train is located.

- The Lamma ferry has its own pier and is quite easy to find once you reach the harbour.
 - The ferry departs roughly hourly or more frequently depending on the time of day. (See website or telephone number for schedules.)
- ↔ Travel time: 20-30 mins (depending on whether or not you take the high-speed ferry).

From Aberdeen

- Catch the ferry from the **Aberdeen Pier** located at the waterfront promenade in Aberdeen, near the **Aberdeen fish market**. (*Tip: Look for a small playground as a marker.*)
 - The pier is well marked with a **HKKF ferry banner** in white and blue (check to make sure the posted timetable reads “to Yung Shue Wan”).
 - The ferry from Aberdeen leaves roughly hourly or more frequently depending on the time of day.
- ↔ Travel time: 20 mins (ferry)
(Tip: The Yung Shue Wan ferry pier is located in the heart of this small village.)

Getting a Bite

Yung Shue Wan Village is known for its outdoor Cantonese-style seafood restaurants and in fact many local Hong Kong residents come here just for the food. The restaurants are too numerous to name, but a good bet would be to pick one with an outdoor area overlooking the water. Other fare in the village includes Indian, Japanese, Thai, Italian, vegetarian and international cuisine.

Hung Shing Yeh Beach has a restaurant called the **Concerto Inn Garden Cafe** (tel: 2982-1662). The restaurant offers kid-friendly food options such as pasta and pizza and also serves a variety of international and Asian food. The side terrace of the lovely café has an outdoor toddler play area for kids to enjoy while parents take in a leisurely meal by the sea. The restaurant is a small operation, so if you plan to eat there, make sure you call ahead to see if they can accommodate you.

What's Close?

Sok Kwu Wan Village

Comments

- Suitable for all ages.
- Plan to spend at least half a day here.
- The area can get very crowded on weekends and public holidays. Try to come in the morning, as it is much less crowded then.
- There are two public toilets en route. One is located near the pier on your left. The other is located at the beach. Both have sit-down toilets in some of the stalls.
- There is a baby-changing table at the public toilet located three minutes from the pier on your left side as you head toward town.
- The area is stroller-friendly, though crowds might make it difficult at times, as the main walkway is narrow.

Extra Info

There is a large power station on Lamma Island which is clearly visible from this beach. Kids probably won't care about their view of the sea being obstructed, but parents might. One way to minimize the unsightliness is to stay on the north side of the beach (very near the entrance to the beach from the trail). From there the station is not visible.

Word of Mouth

- At the beach, children will enjoy frolicking in the water, especially the small rock outcropping that juts into the sea and has a few small pools that collect water between the boulders. Be aware, though, that at the edges of the rocks are some small molluscs with sharp edges that can cut feet very easily.
- On the way to the beach, on Yung Shue Wan Back Street before the village ends and before the path turns into more of a trail, there is a shop on the right hand side that has bikes for rent. Look for the bikes and the bike rental sign. Remember there are no cars here so this is a great place to ride around.



-  Cave KamiJaze
-  Pavilion
-  Restaurants
-  Temple
-  Toilet
-  Lamna Fisher Folk village
-  Ferry Route