東龍洲
炮台及石刻

Fort and Rock Carving on Tung Lung Chau

東龍洲
Tung Lung Chau

東龍洲位於西貢清水灣半島以南，舊稱藍塘洲或南佛堂。現時島上人口不多，只有小屋十數間，環境清幽恬靜，是假日郊遊的好去處。

昔日東龍洲曾有石塔及天后廟，但島上現存古蹟不多，除洪聖宮外，另有屬法定古蹟的東龍炮台及東龍洲石刻。

Tung Lung Chau is situated at the southern tip of the Clear Water Bay Peninsula, Sai Kung. Previously named Nam Tong Island or Nam Fat Tong. The population on the island is low with few houses. Its solitary location gives this island a special serenity. It is a popular place for picnic in the holidays.

Tung Lung Chau had stone pagoda and Tin Hau Temple in the past. However, there are fewer relics on the island today. Apart from Hung Shing Temple, Tung Lung Fort and the Rock Carving on Tung Lung Chau are the declared monuments.

東龍洲位置圖
Location map of Tung Lung Chau

東龍洲鳥瞰圖
An aerial view of Tung Lung Chau

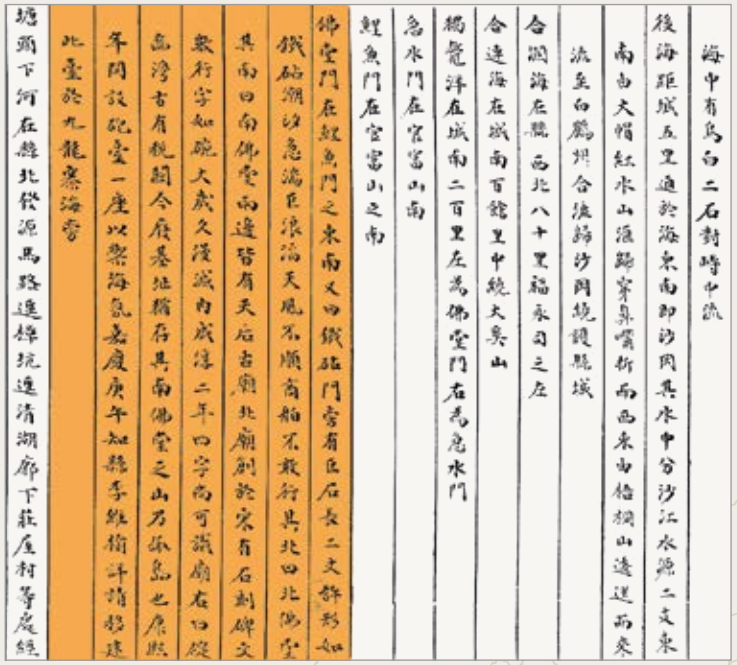
東龍炮台
Tung Lung Fort

東龍炮台座落於島上的東北端，原稱佛堂門炮台，位據軍事要點，俯瞰佛堂門海峽，扼守商船經香港海域前往廣州的航道。

據《新安縣志》所載，清政府為了防禦海盜，於康熙年間（1662–1722年）建造此炮台。另按史籍記載，這座炮台是兩廣總督楊琳在其任內（1719–1724年）下令建造，共有營房十五所及大炮八門。而據道光年間（1821–1850年）編寫的《廣東通志》記載，炮台位處的東龍洲無陸路可達，島上沒有村莊及居民，在補給和支援方面均有困難，所以清政府在嘉慶十五年（1810）撤走軍旅，將原有軍隊和軍備移駐九龍，另建新炮台，東龍炮台從此荒廢。

Tung Lung Fort, originally known as Fat Tong Mun Fort, is located at the north-eastern corner of the island, a strategic point overlooking the narrow Fat Tong Mun passage through which trading junks sailed into the sheltered waters of Hong Kong on their way to Guangzhou.

According to the *Xin An Xian Zhi* (Gazetteer of Xin'an County), the Fort was built during the Kangxi reign (1662–1722) of Qing dynasty to defend against the pirates. Another historical document suggested that the Fort was built by the order of Yang Lin, the Viceroy of Guangdong and Guangxi during the period from 1719 to 1724. The Fort consisted of fifteen guardhouses and was armed with eight cannons. As recorded in the *Guang Dong Tong Zhi* (Guangdong Annuals) (Daoguang version 1821–1850), the Fort was located on a remote island with no villages or residents. Since it was difficult to replenish military supplies and to provide support to it, the Qing Government decided to evacuate the Fort in the fifteen year of the Jiaqing reign (1810). The garrison and the armaments were relocated to Kowloon, where a new fort would be built. Tung Lung Fort henceforth fell into ruins.



據《新安縣志》所載，東龍炮台建於清康熙年間（1662–1722年）。
As stated in the *Xin An Xian Zhi* (Gazetteer of Xin'an County), Tung Lung Fort was built during the Kangxi reign (1662–1722) of Qing dynasty.

修葺東牆的平台
Repairing the platform of east wall

東龍炮台的前方為佛堂門海峽
Tung Lung Fort with the Fat Tong Mun passage in the front

修繕工程
Restoration

荒廢經年的炮台，早為野蔓雜草所覆蓋，殘蹟僅隱約可辨。一九七九年，古物古蹟辦事處工作人員初步記錄炮台遺蹟，並決定進行修繕工程。當清除野草後，發現圍牆十多處倒塌，損毀情況極為嚴重。從遺蹟可見，炮台呈長方形，外長三十三點五米，闊二十二點五米，唯一入口設於北牆，東牆和南牆各附建一個平台，用來放置大炮，圍牆平均高度約三米。

由於炮台的原貌已不可考，故修繕原則是作局部復原，以避免無謂的推斷和臆測。修繕工程於一九七九年展開，並分階段進行，每個階段為期數週至數個月不等。除僱用數名當地村民外，主要工作人員均為義工。由於獲得各界人士、社團及政府多個部門的鼎力支持，工程於一九八二年四月順利完成。

Having been deserted for years, the overgrown ruins of the Fort were vaguely visible. In 1979, the Antiquities and Monuments Office recorded the ruins and decided to restore it. The walls were revealed when the vegetation was cleared. They were badly damaged, with more than ten collapsed sections. As seen from the ruins, the Fort was rectangular in shape, measuring externally thirty-three and five-tenths by twenty-two and five-tenths metres, with one entrance on the north wall. Two platforms for installation of cannons were built against the east and south walls respectively. The average external height of the walls was about three metres.

Since the original appearance of the Fort could not be determined, the principle adopted for the restoration work was to repair, consolidate and partially restore the Fort to avoid conjecture and speculation. The restoration work began in 1979, and was carried out in phases. Each phase lasted from a few weeks to several months. The works were mainly conducted by volunteers and a few paid workers from local villages. With the valuable assistance rendered by many individuals, institutions and government departments, the project was successfully concluded in April 1982.

修復倒塌的城牆
Restoring the collapsed wall

炮台修繕前後比較
The Fort Before and After Restoration

北牆 North wall

東北角 Northeast corner

西南角 Southwest corner

西牆石階 Stairs against west wall

東龍炮台展覽中心
Tung Lung Fort Information Centre

經古物諮詢委員會建議，東龍炮台於一九八〇年七月二十五日列為法定古蹟。一九八二年完成修繕工程後，炮台遺蹟對外開放，其後更增建展覽中心，讓遊人對炮台的歷史及修復有更多認識。

With the recommendation of the Antiquities Advisory Board, Tung Lung Fort was declared a monument on 25 July 1980. After the completion of the restoration, the Fort was open to the public. An information centre was established later to let visitors learn more about the history and restoration of the Fort.

修復後的炮台加建設施，方便遊人參觀
The restored Fort with new facilities for visitors

東龍炮台展覽中心開放時間：
星期一、三至日：上午九時至下午五時
星期二（公眾假期除外）、聖誕日、聖誕翌日、元旦日及農曆年初一至初三休息
Opening hours of Tung Lung Fort Information Centre:
Monday, Wednesday to Sunday: 9 : 00am – 5 : 00pm
Closed on Tuesdays (except public holidays), Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year's Day and the first three days of Chinese New Year

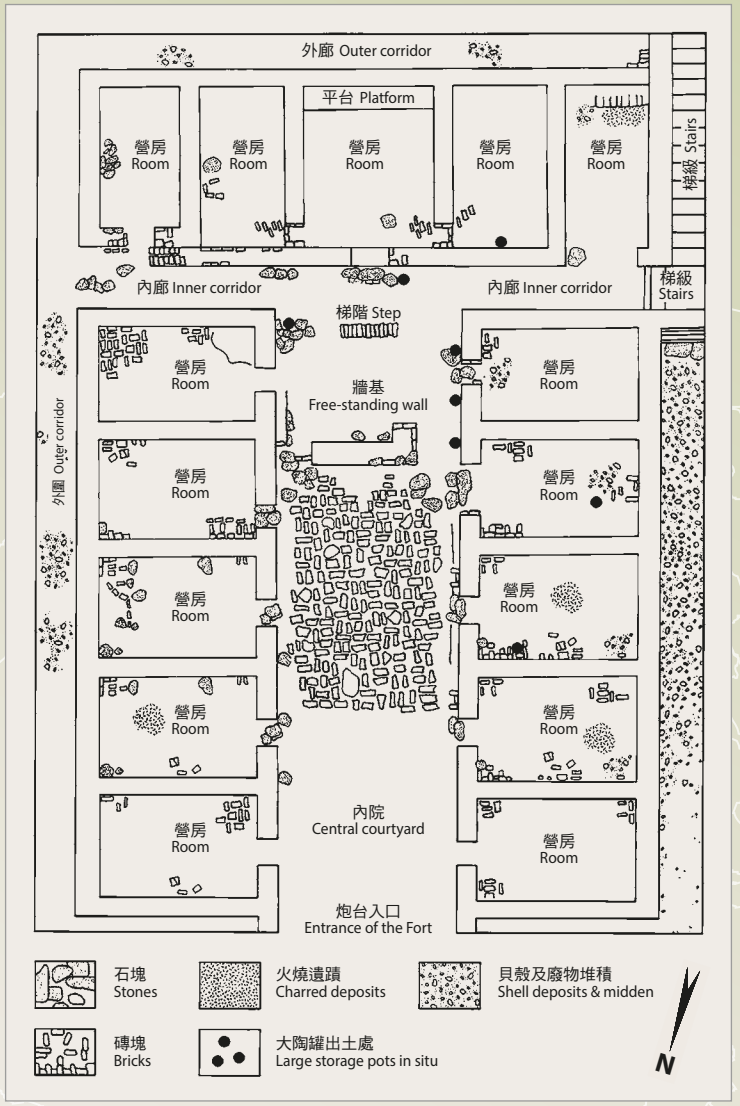
展覽中心外貌
Exterior view of the information centre

考古發掘
Archaeological Excavation

一九八一年秋，在進行最後一期修繕工程時，古物古蹟辦事處在義工的協助下，於炮台內部展開考古發掘，至一九八四年完成炮台內部約四分之三的清理工作。考古人員在一九九七年進行最後一期發掘，完成整個炮台內部的清理工作，並對圍牆外的部分地區進行調查。考古發掘出土了大量文物，如陶瓷器、金屬器物、魚獸骨骼及貝殼等，惟軍事用品的數量極少。根據發掘資料顯示，炮台內部的建築遺蹟有房舍、走廊、梯階及內院等。

While the final phase of restoration work was carried out in the autumn of 1981, the Antiquities and Monuments Office with the assistance of volunteers conducted an archaeological excavation in the Fort. Almost three quarters of the Fort's interior was cleared in 1984. The final phase of excavation was completed in 1997 and several areas outside the walls were also investigated. Abundant artefacts such as ceramic vessels, metal implements, fauna remains and shells were recovered. The quantity of military equipment was however scarce. The result of the excavation illustrated the architectural features within the Fort such as rooms, corridors, stairs and courtyard.

熱心的義工正在發掘，一九八四年。
Enthusiastic and dedicated volunteers at excavation work, 1984.



炮台內部平面圖及考古發現
Plan of the interior of the Fort and archaeological discoveries

考古人員進行測量工作，一九九七年。
Surveying work conducted by archaeologists, 1997.

出土文物
Finds unearthed

青花瓷杯 Porcelain cups in underglaze blue

石硯 Ink stones

釉陶器具 Glazed pottery vessels

炮彈 Cannon balls

東龍洲石刻
Rock Carving on Tung Lung Chau

東龍洲北岸保存了一個古代石刻。清朝嘉慶年間(1796–1820年)的《新安縣志》曾有記載：「石壁畫龍，在佛堂門，有龍形刻於石側。」從石刻的風化情況推斷，石刻的刻鑿年代可能相當久遠。

東龍洲石刻高約一百八十厘米，長約二百四十厘米，是現時香港境內最大的石刻。石刻由兩組曲線圖案組成，較香港其他石刻圖案複雜。

香港境內共有九個石刻列為法定古蹟，它們的風格頗為接近，紋飾基本上由幾何圖案和曲線組成，亦有擬似人形或動物的抽象圖案。石刻的刻鑿年代、方法及由誰人刻鑿，由於缺乏文獻記載，故難以考證。但境內的原居民並沒有流傳關於刻鑿石刻的神話和傳說，因此亦可推測石刻並非近代刻鑿。此外，石刻的圖案，不論是幾何紋或鳥獸紋，均與香港出土的青銅時代陶器和青銅器上的紋飾相似。由此推斷，這些石刻的刻鑿年代與青銅時代大致相同，即距今約三千年左右。

東龍洲石刻於一九七九年一月二十六日列為法定古蹟，受《古物及古蹟條例》保護。

An ancient rock carving has been preserved on the northern coast of Tung Lung Chau. It was recorded in the Jiaqing edition (1796–1820) of *Xin An Xian Zhi* (Gazetteer of Xin'an County) during Qing dynasty: "A dragon impression on rock was found at Fat Tong Mun; the form of a dragon was carved on the rock's vertical surface". Judging from its state of weathering, it has existed for a long time. It is believed that this ancient rock carving existed long before the compilation of the *Xin An Xian Zhi* (Gazetteer of Xin'an County).

This carving, measuring one hundred and eighty by two hundred and forty centimetres, is ranked as the largest rock carving known in Hong Kong. The design consists of two sets of curved motif, which are more complicated when compared with other rock carvings in Hong Kong.

Nine rock carvings are declared monuments in Hong Kong. They form a fairly homogeneous group, having patterns basically composed of geometric patterns and lines, and abstract patterns with hints of human or animal images. It is difficult to establish when, how and by whom the carvings were made. However, these rock carvings must be very old because they are not figured in the myths and legends of the present-day inhabitants of Hong Kong. Also, the patterns resemble strikingly those on the Bronze Age stamped pottery and bronze vessels unearthed in the territory. It is perhaps reasonable to date the carvings to Hong Kong's Bronze Age, about three thousand years ago.

The Rock Carving on Tung Lung Chau was declared a monument on 26 January 1979 and is protected under the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance.

位於臨海石崖上的石刻
The rock carving is situated on a boulder facing the sea

石刻全貌
Overview of the rock carving

石刻上的紋飾
Pattern on the rock carving

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