

Media Release
For Immediate Release

Tai O Heritage Hotel Celebrated Lunar New Year with the Community in Style

Hotel welcomed more than 2,300 guests to the Open House, relived maritime traditions while incorporating AR technology into heritage conservation

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Hong Kong, 13 February 2025..... Hong Kong's first UNESCO-awarded hotel, Tai O Heritage Hotel, celebrated the Lunar New Year with the community in style with its annual Open House. Held on 8 and 9 February 2025, the hotel welcomed more than 2,300 visitors from Hong Kong and overseas, and celebrated Lunar New Year on an auspicious note in Hong Kong's charming fishing village.

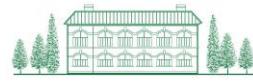
The hotel has incorporated AR (Augmented Reality) technology into docent tours for the first time, offering visitors an innovative and enriched way to appreciate the history of the heritage landmark. Young ambassadors, who have received training from local cultural enterprise Walk in Hong Kong, served as docents and shared with visitors captivating stories about the Grade II historic building.

In celebration of the Lunar New Year, the hotel has joined hands with the Tai O community to present public art installations suffused with good wishes. The auspicious community art piece, *Spinning Good Wishes for the Year of the Snake*, features a stunning assembly of 138 colourful windmills, which symbolise the turning of fortunes in traditional culture, extending wishes for happiness. Meanwhile, *Auspicious Blessings Lanterns* showcases 18 beautiful lanterns vis-à-vis the picturesque coast, boding harmony, prosperity and a prosperous year. Additionally, students of Buddhist Fat Ho Memorial College presented lion dance performances, extending blessings for the most important festival for the Chinese community.

On the back of the very positive feedback, Tai O Heritage Hotel has partnered with the Tai O Cultural Association to present 'Traditional Sampan Experience' for the second consecutive year. Participants went on a scenic journey through Tai O's waterways, reliving the maritime tradition of the old days.

This year, the hotel and Tai O Cultural Association has presented a new offering, 'Traditional Fishing Net Weaving Workshop', through which Tai O fishermen taught participants to weave modern fishing net products using the traditional craft, enabling guests to experience the indigenous fishing village culture.

'We are thankful for the opportunity to present the cultural significance of Tai O Heritage Hotel and Tai O through the Government's Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme, and would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the local community for their amazing support on this remarkable journey. I would like to sincerely thank our community partners for delivering memorable experiences for our guests and to our colleagues and volunteers for their good efforts. May I take this opportunity to wish all a blessed, prosperous and healthy new year,' remarks Mr Daryl Ng, SBS, JP, Director of the Hong Kong Heritage Conservation Foundation.



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Tai O Heritage Hotel, converted from the Old Tai O Police Station completed in 1902 and designated as a Grade II historic building, seeks to preserve the historical significance of the architectural gem. Operated as a not-for-profit social enterprise with surpluses used to support site maintenance, the hotel has been working closely with the community to promote eco-tourism. Since opening in March 2012, it has welcomed more than 2 million visitors from Hong Kong and overseas, and have participated in more than 100 festivities and community services.

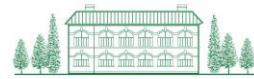
Photos



Tai O Heritage Hotel has welcomed more than 2,300 visitors from Hong Kong and overseas during the two-day annual Open House, celebrating Lunar New Year on an auspicious note. In addition to the well-received traditional sampan experience and public art installations, Tai O Heritage Hotel has incorporated AR (Augmented Reality) technology into docent tours, offering visitors an innovative and enriched way to appreciate the history of the heritage landmark.



Hong Kong Heritage
Conservation Foundation
香港歷史文物保育建設



TAI O HERITAGE HOTEL
大澳文物酒店
HONG KONG

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About the Hong Kong Heritage Conservation Foundation

Hong Kong Heritage Conservation Foundation Limited (HCF) is a not-for-profit organisation established by the Ng Family in March 2008. It identifies and showcases the heritage significance of historical projects. HCF holds the belief that conservation of cultural heritage helps the community to build a sense of identity and strengthen relationships in society. The primary objectives of HCF are to revitalise and conserve historic buildings, and to promote the appreciation and importance of cultural heritage to the community. Directors of HCF are enthusiastic supporters of community initiatives, and possess considerable experience in heritage buildings revitalisation projects. They have been actively involved in many heritage projects, including Tai O Heritage Hotel, The Fullerton Hotel Sydney, The Fullerton Hotel Singapore, The Fullerton Waterboat House, Clifford Pier, Customs House and Far East Square.

www.hkheritage.org

About Tai O Heritage Hotel

Tai O Heritage Hotel, located in Shek Tsai Po Street, Tai O and surrounded by lush greenery, has been transformed from the 123-year-old Old Tai O Police Station, built in 1902 and graded as a Grade II historic building by the Antiquities Advisory Board. The hotel is part of Batch I of Hong Kong SAR Government Development Bureau's Revitalising Historic Buildings through Partnership Scheme. Opened in March 2012 and operated as a not-for-profit social enterprise, Tai O Heritage Hotel provides free guided tours daily for the general public and charitable organisations with the aim of heightening awareness of the conservation of historic buildings. It is home to nine elegantly decorated rooms, the Heritage Interpretation Centre and the glass-roofed open-view restaurant Tai O Lookout. The Hotel has won the Award of Merit at UNESCO 2013 Asia-Pacific Cultural Heritage Awards and has been voted as 'Asia's Leading Heritage Hotel 2016' in World Travel Awards™. It has welcomed more than 2 million guests from Hong Kong and overseas since opening.

www.taioheritagehotel.com

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