



Media Release
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Tai O Heritage Hotel Attracted More than 4,000 Visitors to Open House

Open House also marked the opening of special exhibition on Shiwan ceramics adorning
Lingnan architecture and temple roof ridges

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Hong Kong, 3 June 2026..... Hong Kong's UNESCO-awarded hotel, Tai O Heritage Hotel, has attracted more than 4,000 visitors from Hong Kong and overseas to its four-day Open House (22 ~ 25 May 2026). The visitors appreciated the opportunity to explore firsthand the Grade II historic building with over 120 years of history and experience the rustic charm of the Tai O fishing village.

The hotel has integrated AR (augmented reality) technology into its guided tours, enabling visitors to travel back in time and learn about the history and original vista of the building as the Old Tai O Police Station.

In a continuous effort to engage the community, the hotel partnered with the Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui and the Hong Kong Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) to host more than 700 underprivileged family members at the hotel and explore the cultural tapestry of the Tai O fishing village.



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Visitors enjoyed authentic Tai O delicacies prepared with local ingredients at Tai O Lookout, the hotel's glass-roofed restaurant. They also immersed themselves in the rich cultural heritage of the Tai O fishing village by creating unique keepsakes at workshops organised in partnership with the Tai O Cultural Association, including mould-pressing, rubbing and silk-screen printing.

The Open House also marked the opening of the month-long photo exhibition 'Presenting Roof Ridge Stages of Tai O' (22 May ~ 22 June 2026), shining a spotlight on the precious Shiwan ceramic figurines on the roof ridges of temples at Tai O. Shiwan ceramic figurines are well known for their vibrant colours and vividly rendered forms. Widely used on traditional Lingnan architecture, they adorn the roof ridges and gable walls of temples and ancestral halls. Arranged in narrative scenes, they constitute *mises en scène* on roof ridges to depict various stories from Chinese folklore. Shiwan ceramics artistry has been inscribed on the National List of Intangible Cultural Heritage, it is treasured for its profound cultural and conservation significance.

Co-curated by the hotel and Dr So-Mui Ma, a venerable scholar of historical architectural ornamentation, the photo exhibition features the intricate craftsmanship of Shiwan ceramics preserved on the roof ridges of Tai O Kwan Tai Temple. A special exhibition, 'Amongst the Blessings', is presented alongside to showcase Dr Ma's ceramic art pieces inspired by various bat motifs, introducing the distinctive charm of traditional Chinese aesthetics.

An AR experience was also introduced at Tai O Kwan Tai Temple, bringing the opera stage on the ridges to life for visitors to explore this cultural gem from a fresh perspective.

The hotel also engaged schools and young people in heritage appreciation. Students from Christian and Missionary Alliance Tai O Kindergarten dressed up as folklore characters depicted in the ceramic figurines at the Open House ceremony, while students from Buddhist Fat Ho Memorial College enjoyed Dr Ma's sharing session and traditional handicraft workshops. Trained Youth Ambassadors from Walk in Hong Kong led the fixed-point tours, sharing stories of the Old Tai O Police Station and the conservation work behind the revitalised landmark.

'We are thankful for the opportunity to promote the beautiful Tai O village and its cultural significance. Our partnership with Dr Ma this year on the exquisite Shiwan ceramic figurines, widely applied to Lingnan architecture, adds a new dimension to our conservation work. On behalf of the foundation and hotel team, I would like to sincerely thank the HKSAR Government for the visionary initiative, the UNESCO for the recognition, the Hon Vivian Kong, the Tai O neighbourhood, schools, community partners and volunteers for their wonderful support on this remarkable journey. We look forward to continuing to contribute to the development of Tai O and Hong Kong, and to present the unique charm of Hong Kong's fishing village to broader audience,' remarks Mr Daryl Ng, SBS, JP, Director of the Hong Kong Heritage Conservation Foundation.



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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



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



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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 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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