




Hong Kong Gardening Society

Lotus Mountain in bloom and Foshan 22 – 25 June 2018

Itinerary

Friday	22 June 18	1052	<i>Depart Hong Kong by High Speed train</i>
		1347	<i>Arrive Foshan</i>
			<i>Met on arrival and transfer to hotel Hotel: Foshan Golden City Hotel (http://www.cityhotel.net.cn/)</i>
Saturday	23 June 18	morning	<i>Visit the splendid Zumiao (Ancestor's Temple)</i>
			<i>Time permitting, we can visit an exhibition of fine ceramics, many of which are on sale.</i>
		afternoon	<i>Visit the ancient Nanfeng "Dragon" Kiln</i>
			<i>After inspecting the historic site you will have the opportunity to visit nearby shops which sell locally made ceramics at incredibly low prices.</i>
Sunday	24 June 18		<i>Depart for Lotus Mountain</i>
			<i>Visit the fine Yuyin Garden</i>
			<i>After lunch, continue to Lotus Mountain (Lianhuashan) for overnight</i>
			<i>Hotel: Lotus Hill Yuehai Resort (http://www.yuehaihotel.top/en)</i>
Monday	25 June 18		<i>See the Lotus Mountain, Goddess of Mercy, Sandstone cliffs, etc.</i>
			<i>After lunch and some free time for exploration, transfer to the ferry pier.</i>
		1800	<i>Depart Lianghuashan Port by high-speed ferry</i>
		1950	<i>Arrive Hong Kong (TST)</i>



Foshan has a long history of approximately 5000 years. It gained its name in the Tang Dynasty (618 – 907) when three Buddha statues were unearthed. A region of fish and rice, many of the local craftsmen became skilled in the making of ceramics and it is primarily because of the city's ceramic arts that we are visiting Foshan. Commerce thrived in Foshan and in the Tang and Song (960 – 1279) dynasties, Foshan was one of the four most famous cities in China and was considered the home of Chinese ceramic arts, Cantonese Opera and the martial arts.



The splendid Zumiao (Ancestor's Temple), built in the Northern Song Dynasty (960 – 1127). The Wanfu Stage, which dates from 1685 and is located at the southern end of the Temple, is considered the home of Cantonese Opera. Highlights include the Jinxiang Pool, with its fine stone carvings, the Bell and Drum

Tower and the Sanmen Gate. The Main Hall, built in 1372, is the most important building in the complex and it features a statue of the Xuantian God with gilded head, knees and feet.

The ancient Nanfeng “Dragon” Kiln, the oldest in China and still operating today.



Ancient documents indicate that this region became a centre of ceramics production during the Tang Dynasty. The pottery of Shiwan Town achieved national fame and the fine decorations one sees at the major temples in Hong Kong, all came from Shiwan.

The “Dragon Kiln” played a dominant role and is the most ancient of the three remaining “Dragon” kilns in China. It is called “Dragon Kiln” because as it winds its way along the sloping hillside, resembling a gigantic dragon. Production has never stopped at Foshan’s “Dragon Kiln”.



The Yuyin Garden was built in 1864. It was originally the private garden of Wu Bin, a successful candidate in the imperial examinations during the Qing Dynasty (1644 - 1911).

Small as it is, it is complete with everything: pavilions, bridges, lotus pool, rock hills and beautiful flowers. Bas reliefs and decorations on the buildings are all the work of experienced craftsmen.

A few minutes’ walk after entering the main gate, you will see the entrance to the inner garden with a Chinese couplet on it describing the lovely scenery – ‘flowers spread all around the small yard like red raindrops; trees shade every corner like green clouds’.

Situated in an octagonal pool is an octagonal pavilion named ‘Ling Long Shui Xie’. It used to be a place for writing poems and drinking wine. There are windows in each of the eight directions, so it is the best place for visitors to view the scene. All eight angles of the roof are decorated with different carved ornamentation.

The Yu Garden, also known as Ladies' Building, was built by Wu Zhongyu, the fourth-generation grandson of Wu Bin, in 1922. Now, it is a part of the Yuyin Garden and was the place for ladies to play the Zheng and paint etc. From the second floor one can overlook the whole scene of the Yuyin Garden.

Lotus Mountain was so named by a fairy tale. It was said that an evil dragon which lived in the South China Sea (Nan Hai) often created dangerous waves at the mouth of the Pearl River. These resulted in flooded farmlands and boats being overturned. To stop this, the Goddess of Mercy paid a visit and seeing the misery of the people, she threw her lotus flower into the water to tame the dragon. The lotus flower turned into the present day Lotus Mountain.



In 1994, a 40 meter statue of the Goddess of Mercy was completed. It required 132 tons of bronze and 7 kilograms of gold to create and has become the primary attraction for local visitors.

In addition to the splendid lotus ponds, of primary interest to foreign visitors is the Ancient Quarry dating from the Western Han Dynasty (206BC – 25AD). As one of two ancient quarries of China, it is the extraordinary “slicing up” of the mountain, that creates such a magnificent sight. Viewing the sandstone cliffs, carved out by axes and blades, one can only wonder at the skill of the ancients and the terrible dangers and hardships that the workers must have faced.



Sign-up.

The cost will be **HK\$5300** per person (twin sharing) **for members**. Single Room Supplement is **HK\$1020**

Please note that this cost is based upon a minimum of 12 people signing up. Non-members/guests pay HK\$5900 (plus single supplement @ HK\$1020, if applicable) but this includes membership of the HKGS for the current year (2018).

A final quotation will be provided (should the number not reach 12) on the **11th June 2018** for your consideration.

The tour price covers:

1. Train Ticket Hung Hom/ Foshan
2. Ferry Ticket Lianghuashan/ Hong Kong
3. Local transportation
4. 3 nights accommodation with daily breakfast
5. 6 Chinese meals with soft drink
6. Entrance tickets to local sightseeing as per the itinerary
7. English speaking guide
8. Daily bottled water
9. All tipping

The tour price does not include:

- a. Transportation to and from the coach boarding point or bus terminal prior to the commencement or after the completion of the tour program.
- b. Transportation / Accommodation /Sightseeing /Meals not as listed in the itinerary.
- c. Visa Fees: Please make sure that you have got your valid passport and visa before your entry to China.
- d. Personal expenses such as room service, internet charge, laundry, alcoholic drinks or beverages for personal consumption, fax, telephone call, optional activities, etc.
- e. Excess Handling and Insurance Charges.
- f. Insurance. Please kindly note that the full coverage travel insurance from your country of origin should be purchased in advance on your own.
- g. 4% surcharge if you pay by credit card

If you would like to sign up in this tour, please complete the required information in this email - click doris.leung@jebsholidays.com. This email link will also go automatically to Jessica, Ash, Doris and Graham

The Closing Date is **8th June 2018**

Let me know if you have any questions or if we can assist in any way.

Many thanks,

Jessica Park
Chair

chair@hkgardeningociety.org

Places we will visit...

