



# Hong Kong Gardening Society

## Ancient Foshan China 26 – 28 October 2018

### *Itinerary*

Friday	26 Oct 18	morning	<i>Depart from Hong Kong Arrival in <b>Foshan</b> Visit <b>Liang Garden</b></i>
		noontime	<i>Lunch</i>
		afternoon	<i>Visit <b>Zumiao (Ancestral Temple)</b> Visit <b>Nanfeng Kiln</b></i>
		evening	<i>Stay at 4-star hotel in Foshan</i>
Saturday	27 Oct 18	morning	<i>Visit <b>Foshan New Shiwan Artistic Ceramics Co.</b> Morning at leisure</i>
		noontime	<i>Lunch under own arrangement</i>
		afternoon	<i>Afternoon at leisure &amp; shopping</i>
Sunday	28 Oct 18	morning	<i>Visit the <b>Qinghui Garden in Shunde</b></i>
		noontime	<i>Depart Shunde by high speed ferry</i>
		afternoon	<i>Arrive Hong Kong</i>



According to historical documents, Foshan became a ceramics base during the Tang (618-907) and Song Dynasties (960-1279).

In addition to its ceramics fame, the city is also regarded as the home of the Cantonese form of Chinese Opera and it claims to be the home of Kung Fu and also Lion Dancing.

By the early Ming (1368–1644), Foshan had grown into one of the four great markets in China. Under the Qing (1644 to 1911), its harbour was limited to smaller ships, but Foshan remained well connected with Guangdong's other ports. By the 19th century, Foshan was considered the “Birmingham of China”.

During the 20th century, following the victory of the Communists in the Chinese Civil War in 1949, the city's ancient and famed Ancestral Temple, today one of Foshan's major attractions, was converted into the Foshan Municipal Museum.

The economy stagnated during the Cultural Revolution, when the production of traditional ceramic ware was forbidden and the workshops were turned to producing Maoist and Revolutionary ceramic ornaments.

By the 1970's, Foshan had become Guangdong's second city after Guangzhou.



### *The Liang Garden*

The Liang Garden, a private garden, was constructed in the Qing Dynasty between 1796 and 1850, by Liang Airu, a famous painter and calligrapher, and his three nephews.

Constructed in the local Lingnan style, the garden was managed by these four different personalities, all of whom were painters, calligraphers and poets. It is a typical literati garden, with all the features and elements of Qing Dynasty gardens. It possesses seamless gardens, ancestral halls, mansions and a very special layout. The park possesses waterfronts lined with willows and pines, winding

waterways, beautiful flowers and clusters of fruit trees.

### *The Ancestors' Temple*

The Ancestors' Temple was built during the Northern Song Dynasty (960-1127) and was mainly used as a place where sacrifices to the Xuantian God (the God of Water in Taoism) occurred.

Having now been rebuilt and enlarged, the temple covers an area of about 3,500 square meters and has a series of well-built architectural features such as the Wanfu Stage, the Lingying Archway, the Bell and Drum Tower, the Jinxiang Pool, the Sanmen Gate, the front and main halls and the Qingzhen Tower. The main hall, built in 1372, is the most important building in the Ancestors' Temple, and in the middle of it is a statue of the Xuantian God with gilded head, knees and feet.



and in the middle of it is a statue of the Xuantian God with gilded head, knees and feet.



### *Nanfeng Kiln*

The 'Dragon Kiln', a type of kiln, played a dominant role among the kilns of Shiwan Town. Such a kiln is always built against a hill and winds its way along the slope, resembling a gigantic dragon. The hilly, wooded locale of Shiwan, provided the slopes for the “dragon kilns” and the fuel for the furnaces.

Whilst Shiwan ware has primarily been associated with roof tiles and architectural ornamentation, during the Qing dynasty more utilitarian wares were produced, especially in the form of imitation Jun ware and popular polychrome figurines.

Today, the Nanfeng Kiln is the most ancient of the three existing Dragon Kilns remaining in China.



### *Qinghui Garden, Shunde*

The Qinghui Garden is recognized as one of the four major gardens of Guangdong Province and it is ranked among the top ten gardens of China.

First constructed under the direction of a successful landscape advisor to the late Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), it has undergone regular elaborate enhancements over the years.

The garden draws inspiration from the famous Classical Gardens of Suzhou and demonstrates high quality landscape architecture. Inside its close-knit structure, winding paths will lead visitors to secluded places.

Its landscapes assemble all the splendor of Chinese traditional gardens, together with graceful pavilions, arbors, halls, rooms, verandas, corridors and boats, all of which are characterized by their robust construction in the local tradition.

There are over 100 varieties of plants, including the purple bamboo trees, wisterias, Chinese hollies, five-needle pines, golden larches and other species from the Classical Gardens of Suzhou, Shandong and Beijing. Some ginkgo trees, longan trees and yews have lived for hundreds of years, and they complement the extraordinary buildings of the garden. In addition, the garden has a fine collection of rare stones from all over the country.



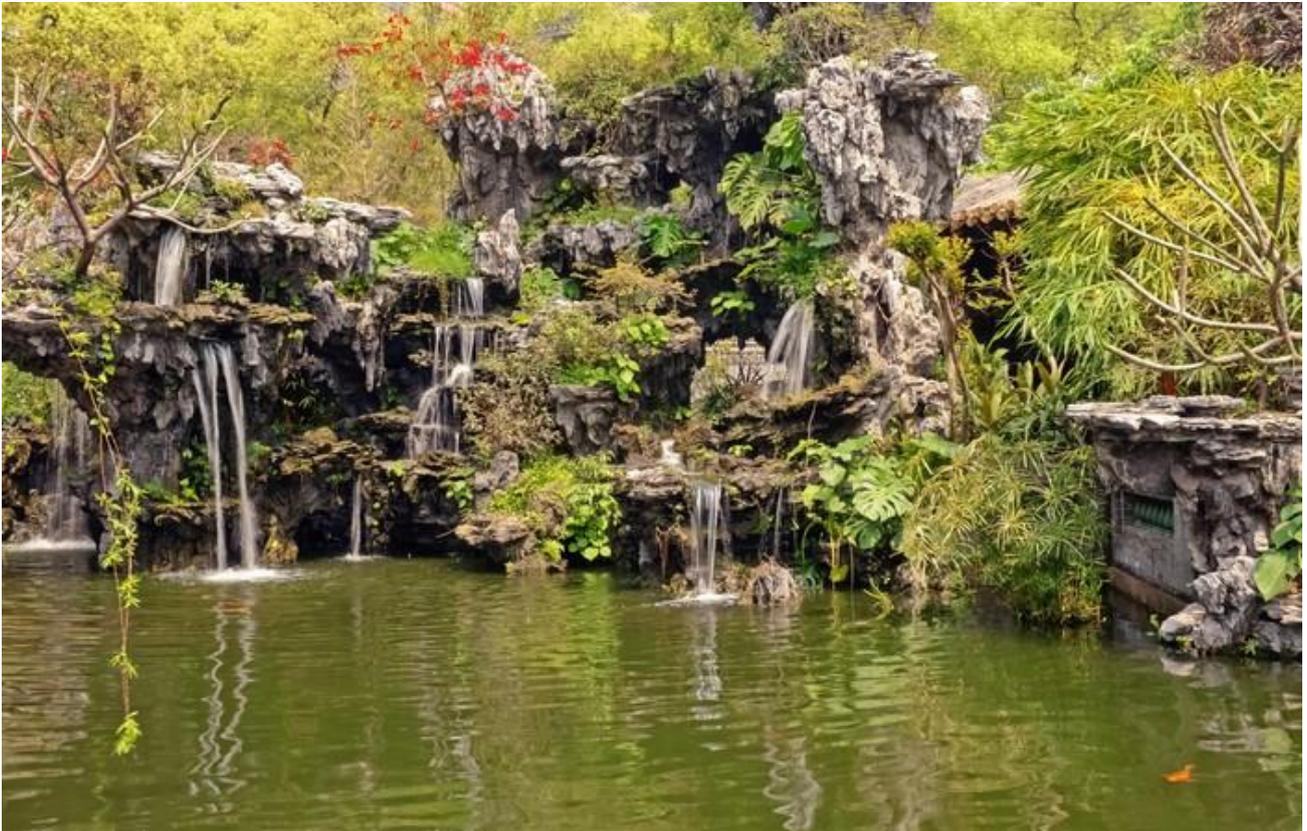
## *Shiwan ware*



Whilst Shiwan ware has primarily been associated with roof tiles and architectural ornamentation, during the Qing dynasty more utilitarian wares were produced, especially in the form of imitation Jun ware and popular polychrome figurines.

A visit to a showroom at Foshan New Shiwan Artistic Ceramics Co, where you will see some of the finest examples of what Foshan has to offer. Much of what is on display is for sale at very reasonable prices.

The wonderful array of shops adjacent to the Nanfeng Kiln, these also sell locally made ceramics at very reasonable prices.



## Sign-up.

The cost will be **HK\$5,200** per person (twin sharing) for members. Single Room Supplement is **HK\$650**.

Please note that this cost is based upon a minimum of 12 people signing up. Non-members/guests pay **HK\$5,800** (plus single supplement @ **HK\$650**, if applicable) but this includes membership of the HKGS for the current year (2018).

The tour price covers:

1. Hung Hom to Foshan train ticket and Shunde to Hong Kong ferry ticket.
2. 2 nights accommodation
3. All meals
4. All transportation and sightseeing with English Speaking Guide
5. Entrance fees
6. A representative of Jebesen Holidays
7. Tips/ Gratuities
8. A donation of HK\$200 per person for the HKGS

The tour price does not include:

- a. Transportation to and from the train station/pier on departure and return.
- b. Visa Fees: please ensure that you hold a valid passport with at least 6 months validity remaining, together with your visa for entry to China.
- c. Personal expenses such as room service charges, laundry, alcoholic drinks or beverages for personal consumption, internet charges, fax charges, telephone calls, optional activities etc.
- d. Travel Insurance. Please note that full coverage travel insurance from your country of origin should be purchased privately in advance.
- e. 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@jebesenholidays.com](mailto:doris.leung@jebesenholidays.com). This email link will also go automatically to Jessica, Ash, Doris and Graham

The Closing Date is **5 October 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](mailto:chair@hkgardeningociety.org)

*Places we will visit...*

