

Modern marvels

A one-time fishing village has undergone a dramatic transformation in recent years, and is now a dynamic, buzzing metropolis which is home to millions



The Futian Shangri-La Hotel is the perfect companion to Shenzhen Kerry Plaza.
深圳嘉里建設廣場與福田香格里拉酒店互相輝映。

A favourite excursion for travellers and foreign correspondents familiar with Hong Kong before the 1980s was the near obligatory visit to the border outpost of Lok Ma Chau.

What drew them was the chance to catch a fleeting glimpse of the land that then lay behind the “bamboo curtain” and to contemplate some of its hidden mysteries. Across the border all people could see was a tiny farming community.

The villagers there went about their daily business

tending a patchwork of rice fields, vegetable plots and fishponds.

A trip to the area now reveals a vastly different scene. Glittering high-rises as far as the eye can see; the constant bustle of cargo trucks, tourist buses, business executives and school kids moving back and forth via the Huanggang border crossing; hi-tech infrastructure, neon signs and all the trappings of 21st-century commercial success.

Indeed, during the past 30 or so years, the one-time fishing village of Shenzhen has undergone a dramatic

change. As one of China’s original Special Economic Zones, it has evolved from cautious experiment to boomtown to “economic miracle”, and is now a dynamic metropolis of around 8 million inhabitants.

To get a feel for all that and to comprehend just how much has changed in such a comparatively short time, there is no better place to visit than the Futian district, the central business district of Shenzhen. Easily accessible from Hong Kong via the Huanggang border crossing, it more or less “appeared from nowhere” over the past 15 years, but is now

regarded as Shenzhen’s main business hub.

That claim is strongly supported by the distinction of being home to a host of major banks, financial institutions and conglomerates, the local stock exchange, key government departments and an impressive convention and exhibition centre. Equally important to the character and vibrancy of the district are high-rise buildings such as the first phase of Shenzhen Kerry Plaza, an architectural landmark with an environmentally friendly design, which has been “open for business” since early this year.



Top: Futian is now a bustling central business district.
 Above: The stylish lobby of Shenzhen Kerry Plaza.
 上一：福田是深圳的商業中心區。
 上二：嘉里建設廣場大堂設計時尚。

Its two towers of prime office space offer everything needed to attract some of the biggest names in banking, electronics and hi-tech manufacturing, and entrepreneurs and investors with the ideas and finance to inspire the next stage of China's economic development.

Strategically located at the heart of Futian, Shenzhen Kerry Plaza is right next to a key transit junction on the ultra-modern local metro system. It is also next to the five-star Futian Shangri-La hotel, an integral part of the same development which provides a magnificent new venue for business functions, relaxation and entertainment. Its prime location offers quick journeys to Shenzhen's international airport and ferry terminals.

For lovers of fine foods, the Futian Shangri-La is a new welcome destination. The first level of the hotel offers all-day dining at Café Zen, from a buffet to a superb à la carte menu offering an array of local and international cuisines in a lively atmosphere, covering breakfast, lunch and dinner. Fook Lam Moon Chinese restaurant on the second level serves the best of Cantonese cuisine and all tastes are catered for. Opening in December 2008, Angelini Restaurant & Bar, with its alfresco terrace will be the perfect place for an authentic Italian dinner or business lunch. Guests and visitors can top off their evenings with a drink in the sophisticated bar.

The hotel not only has the largest meeting and banqueting space in Shenzhen, it also offers everything that those attending conventions, exhibitions or high-powered international conferences could ever need. Guests will enjoy the warmth and comfort of large guestrooms and can choose to dine at a host of restaurants to suit every taste. Those keen to keep trim can head to the hotel's outdoor tennis court or to the fully-equipped health club.

Thanks to the district's meticulously planned layout, one will also find all the amenities expected of a major business hub "just around the corner". For example, the

grand Shenzhen Concert Hall provides an ever-expanding selection of mainstream and more eclectic cultural programmes.

There is also a well stocked library and a bookstore believed to be one of the largest in the world.

In the evening, a nearby street known as Bar Street is a hive of activity, with more than a dozen bars and numerous restaurants providing the perfect spot for light relief after a hectic day.

In terms of dining out in Futian, without having to venture too far, one can find restaurants specialising in all types of cuisine from various corners of the world.

Futian has come a long way in a short time, but with the pace of change still unremitting, it is difficult to imagine what it will all look like 30 years from now.

動感都會 豐盛生活

八十年代的深圳與今日相比，真是天淵之別。當時郊遊人士，以及旅居香港的外國人，都愛到落馬州邊界，於竹林深處尋幽訪勝，遙望與香港毗連的那個農村小鄉，看著村民打理稻田、菜圃及魚塘。

時至今日，深圳高樓處處，車水馬龍，貨車或載著遊客、商家，甚至學童的客車川流不息的往返皇崗口岸；高科技的基建加上五光十色的霓虹燈，到處都是廿一世紀高速商業發展的見證。三十多年來，深圳已由恬靜的漁村，一躍成為中國首批經濟特區之中最成功的城市之一，由小心翼翼的實驗經濟順利過渡為「經濟奇蹟」，現有人口達八百萬，是與香港不遑多讓的大都會。

要親身感受高速的經濟發展所帶來的轉變，到深圳的商業重鎮福田區是不錯的選擇。由香港經過皇崗口岸便是福田，這片

十五年前的荒蕪之地今日已是商業樞紐。這裡是各主要銀行、金融機構、大型企業、主要政府部門及深圳會展中心的所在。

在福田區同樣具標誌性的高有拔地參天的高樓大廈，嘉里建設廣場第一期便是其中的佼佼者，這兩座於二零零八年初入伙的甲級商廈，採用環保理念設計，提供的完善設備最適合銀行界、電子製造業及高科技行業的知名企業，以及具遠見兼有財力成為中國經濟發展新動力的企業家及投資者。

嘉里建設廣場位於福田的心臟地區，旁邊是深圳地鐵線的主要交匯處，到深圳國際機場及碼頭亦相當方便。毗鄰嘉里建設廣場的五星級深圳福田香格里拉大酒店，是整項發展計劃中的一部份，提供卓爾不群的商業、休閒及娛樂設施。深圳福田香格里拉酒店更是美食天堂，位於一樓的餐廳茶禪"Café Zen"由早到晚提供地道及國際美食，自助餐及自選食品一應俱全；位於二樓在港聞名遐邇的福臨門魚翅海鮮酒家，則供應最優質的高級粵式美食。另外，將於今年十二月開張的Angelini Restaurant & Bar意大利餐廳備有戶外露台，最適用品嚐充滿浪漫情調的正宗意大利晚餐或商務午餐；再者，訪客用膳後亦可在佈置高雅的酒廊與友人把酒談心。

酒店擁有全深圳最大的會議及宴會廳，能為國際會議及各類型展覽提供場地及設備，賓客除可入住舒適的客房及享用多家餐廳提供的佳餚，更可使用室外網球場，以及設備完善的健身會所。

福田區規劃完善，嘉里建設廣場附近的各式景點、社區設施林立，深圳音樂廳則提供愈來愈多樣化的文化節目，同區尚有藏書量豐富的圖書館及相信是全球最大的書店之一。此外，福田區食肆林立，林林總總的餐廳提供各國美食，款式包羅萬有。

福田區於短時間內的轉變令人眼前一亮，三十年後，相信又會是另一番景象。



The Shenzhen Convention and Exhibition Center plays host to global events.
 深圳會展中心舉辦多個國際性活動。