



The Jamia Mosque on Shelley Street.  
位於些利街的清真寺。

## Walk down memory lane

Historic buildings and monuments line the streets of Hong Kong's SoHo district, with glimpses of the past sitting side-by-side with stylish buildings of the present

Hong Kong may take pride in its reputation as a centre for finance, fashion and hi-tech 21st century living, but that, of course, is just a small part of what the city has to offer. Once you scratch the surface and attune your senses to the signs and stories of the past, a different world appears revealing the intricate patterns that lie beneath the modern-day veneer.

With a dash of imagination, it is possible to find oneself once again walking the streets of old Hong Kong, rediscovering its historic buildings, stone stairways, secluded courtyards and significant landmarks, and retracing the footsteps of the merchants, missionaries, nationalist figures and military types who, one way or another, left an indelible mark on the fabric of the community.

A good starting point is to follow one of three Heritage Trails, well plotted and clearly signposted, each of which offers a fascinating introduction to some of the city's older architecture and distinctive cultural themes. Doing so, one might begin in Central, being reminded along the way of the days when the Legislative Council building served as the Supreme Court, St John's Cathedral towered above everything, and the French Mission Building had yet to become the Court of Final Appeal.

Alternatively, setting off from Sheung Wan, or heading from the Peak down to Sai Ying Pun, there are equally vivid reminders of yesteryear at almost every turn. Simply standing at the site of Possession Point will conjure up the rattle of drumbeats and the sound of bugles; the plaque commemorating the 1894 outbreak of bubonic plague will

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send a shiver up the spine; and the Pinewood Battery and City of Victoria boundary stone on Hatton Road still speak eloquently of bygone eras.

For the amateur historian, it can be just as fascinating to wander at leisure with no fixed itinerary and simply see what one stumbles across. That approach is perhaps best suited to the SoHo district, located handily close to Central and, not surprisingly given the history of the area, criss-crossed by several local heritage trails.

One particular highlight is the Dr Sun Yat Sen museum, housed in the Kom Tong Hall, a stunning classic red brick building built in 1914, with a permanent exhibition covering the life of the revolutionary leader.

The Sheung Wan Heritage trail takes in the museum, along with a host of other sites of historic interest, including the Ohel Leah Synagogue. Built in 1902, the building was honoured with a Unesco award for its beautiful renovation in 1998.





Above: SoHo is home to many of the city's best restaurants. Right, from top: Central Police Station, greenery on Hollywood Road, and Kom Tong Hall.

上：中環蘇豪區雲集全港最佳食肆。右由頂起：中區警署，綠蔭處處的荷李活道及甘棠第(孫中山紀念館)。

Central Market, also on the same route, sits on the same spot of land where locals first decided to build a market in 1842. It was built in the Bauhaus style in 1938 and 1939 and is one of the few remaining market buildings of this style left in the whole of China.

Walking uphill towards Mosque Street will reveal another part of SoHo's magnificent heritage, the mosque, commonly known as the Lascar Temple, which was the first mosque ever built in Hong Kong and dates back to 1849.

It is at places like this where a true meeting of old and new takes place, and where perfect examples of how the past, present and future can live side by side in the city. Just a walk around the corner from the mosque is a modern classic building that provides Hong Kong's chic urbanites with a trendy living environment right in the historic centre of SoHo. The SOHO 38 residential building on Shelley Street, is a stylish oasis of environmental design, smart living and soothing convenience.

It offers residents views across the district and out over the harbour and is a distinguished addition to an area coloured by pastel shades, wrought-iron balconies, tempting eateries and enticing stores.

Other sites will inspire further research prompted by the street names, memorials, architectural styles or evidence of long-practiced customs and religious beliefs.

An example of this can be found on Hollywood Road at the Man Mo Temple, where offerings have been made to the tutelary deity since 1847. Alert eyes and inquisitive minds will spot the wayside shrines, slab pavements, and clues in names such as Upper Lascar Row – a one-time haunt of foreign seamen – with each stop revealing new threads in the tapestry of lives and influences that created the modern city.

### 撫今追昔的時光之旅

香港既是金融及時裝品牌中心，亦具備廿一世紀高科技生活為都會的特色。事實上，這兒往往尚有更多不同的面貌被忽略，大家只要細心發掘便不難發現，這個現代都市背後錯綜複雜的歷史背景。大家走在街上，隨處可見不少歷史建築、前人走過的石道、樹蔭下的庭園及重要地標，只要多加一點想像力，就能看到香港今日所有的發展，過百年來曾為此城作出貢獻的商人、傳教士、軍人以至社會名流所留下的足跡。

港島區就有三條各具特色的文物徑，讓大家一起走進時光隧道，沿路跟隨清楚的指示來發掘香港的歷史。中區線沿途經過曾是最高法院的立法會大樓、曾經是中區最高建築物的聖約翰教堂，以及現為終審法院的前法國傳道會大樓。上環線由上環開始，又或可從山頂走到西營盤。一些有趣的歷史地標包括：英軍登陸並命名為佔領角，現已改名的水坑口街；位於卜公花園，紀念一八九四年鼠疫的紀念碑；以及克頓道的松林炮台及維多利亞城界石。

若果不想跟隨固定路線，只想隨意走走的話，中環蘇豪區就最適合不過了。中區歷史悠久，有不少不容錯過的歷史建築，其中於一九一四年建成的甘棠第，曾是香港富商何東之弟何甘棠的住宅。外型獨特的紅磚建築，現已成為中國革命之父孫中山的紀念館。此外，莉亞堂為一猶太教堂，一九〇二年建成，為銀行家沙宣爵士所建，用以紀念其母親莉亞女士。教堂於一九九八年重修，維修計劃獲得聯合國教科文組織亞太區二千年文物古蹟保護獎優異項目獎。途經尚有中環街市，早於一八四二年，聚居附近的華人已於該地開設市場。中環街市則於一九三八至三九年興建，成為當時最新型的街市，該建築為「包浩斯」式，是現今中國境內唯一此類風格的建築物。

從中環往上走，可到訪回教清真禮拜堂。禮拜堂始建於一八四九年，為香港首座清真禮拜堂，俗稱摩羅廟。

歷史建築散落在周禮新穎的建築物之間，錯落有致，形成香港獨特的地理面貌。在清真禮拜堂旁邊，聳立著全港最新穎時尚的智能大廈 SOHO 38。位於蘇豪區些利街的SOHO 38，其現代風格的環保設計，為住客提供優質生活及無可挑剔的便捷。單位可遠眺區內風景，以至無敵維多利亞海景，物業新穎的設計與區內大部份粉色的建築物形成強烈的對比。

街道上的其他建築物，各種的建築風格以至風俗及宗教背景，都能引起歷史學家興趣。位於荷里活道的文武廟建於一八四七年，奉祀「文昌帝君」及「關聖帝君」，是香港開埠初期中環一帶的華商及居民祭祀中心。附近的摩囉上街，曾是訪港海員尋寶的地方，現時便有多家售賣歷史文物的店舖，區內眾多食肆及別緻的商店近在咫尺。



### Intriguing to visit, great to live in

The SoHo district has long been an area where locals, expats and visitors have gone to seek out some of the city's finest restaurants. Elgin Street is lined on both sides by classic and cosy restaurants to suit every taste.

The eateries and range of menus change all the time, but with everything on offer from Nepali curries to the best of Argentine-style steaks, no one will ever be short of choice.

One of the area's long-time favourites is Sole Mio, a cosy Italian restaurant on Elgin Street, serving authentic home-style cooking at reasonable prices. To maintain something of a "family atmosphere", the owners tend to favour regulars and smaller groups, but the home-made pastas, thin-crust pizzas and daily specials mean the restaurant is always busy. Reservations are recommended.

Duke's Burger, located on the corner of Shelley and Staunton Streets next to the Mid-Levels escalator, is a relative newcomer but just as popular. It opened about a year ago and is attracting a mixed clientele of business people, local residents and tourists with its new twist to the traditional burger. The concept is to serve main courses of carefully prepared and well seasoned meats "disguised as a burger", and executive chef Que Vinh Dang has been delighted with the response.

With fine dining, its historical setting and the chance to browse to one's heart's content for porcelain, antiques, artwork and mementoes, SoHo certainly offers an intriguing place to visit and, indeed, a great place to live.

### 宜遊宜居的蘇豪區

蘇豪區近年已成為全城優質食肆的集中地，無論是本地人、外國人又或是遊客，都愛在此尋找合意的餐飲選擇。伊利近街兩旁有各式餐廳，食肆的種類及提供的食物不斷更新，由尼泊爾菜到阿根廷著名牛排，裝飾典雅以至舒適的餐廳都有，各有不同的捧場客。

於伊利近街開業多年的Sole Mio，是一家舒適的意大利餐廳，主要提供家庭式的正宗意大利菜，出名的有自製意粉、脆口的薄餅及當天精選菜式等，加上取價合理，餐廳經常座無虛席，不管是老主顧還是小型派對，還是預早訂位方為上算。

Duke's Burger位於些利街與史丹頓街交界，旁邊是行人自動電梯。這家開店只短短約一年的蘇豪新貴已贏得不少食客口碑，商人、附近住客及遊客均對該店優質兼富新意的漢堡包讚不絕口。食店的理念是將千挑萬選兼味美的優質肉食，以漢堡包的形式上桌，主廚Que Vinh Dang這個嶄新的意念，獲得不少讚賞。

蘇豪區有趣的歷史背景，優質食肆，加上售賣陶瓷、古董、藝術品及紀念品的各式店舖，營造出獨一無二的特色，無論你是前來遊覽還是居住，都能樂在其中。