



London art dealer Roger Keverne (centre) unveiling an 1820s depiction of the Siege of Lantau with his wife (left) and the Maritime Museum's curator Dr Libby Chan (right).

## Pirate art

Hong Kong Maritime Museum has unveiled an unusual Chinese export painting depicting Chinese troops attacking pirates off Lantau in the 1820s.

London art dealer Roger Keverne donated the painting to the museum last month. It represents a valuable addition to the museum's collection portraying life in the Pearl Delta in the nineteenth century.

The painting is believed to depict a scene from the Siege of Lantau, a nine-day battle when government forces attacked

the Red Fleet led by legendary pirate chief Cheung Po Tsai. In the picture, the pirates are believed to be in the bay off Tung Chung, on the north shore of Lantau, under siege by Guangdong navy junks at Chek Lap Kok, where the present day airport is located.

Tsai and his fleet controlled the coast of Guangdong province between 1800 and 1810 until they were pacified by government forces under Governor Bailing between 1809 and 1810. Tsai eventually surrendered and became a lieutenant in the Qing navy.

"It's a fascinating image and further research is needed to confirm this interpretation of the scene, but what is certain is that it brings to life a forgotten aspect of Hong Kong's history," commented Hong Kong Maritime Museum director Richard Wesley.

The picture is on display in the Pacific Basin Pirates Gallery on C-Deck, Central Pier No 8, Hong Kong, [hkmaritimemuseum.org](http://hkmaritimemuseum.org).

## Bamboo bambini

A pop-up jungle gym for children, made from 113 bamboo poles, has been constructed in Tai Tam Tuk Village as part of the Agricultural Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) Biodiversity Festival.

Designed by the Tai Tam Tuk Foundation (TTTF), this pilot hands-on education project aims to teach children about the ecological, commercial and cultural values of bamboo, Hong Kong's wonder natural resource. "Like Sir David Attenborough said, 'people won't protect something that they don't care for, and they won't care for something they've never experienced'," says Jenna Ho Marris, co-founder of TTTF. "We have 60 species of bamboo in Hong Kong and see it on buildings

everywhere in our city. We'd love to create opportunities for city kids to experience nature in a hands-on, accessible way and connect it to the bamboo we see all around us. Bamboo biodiversity jungle gym is a great start. Wouldn't it be amazing if every beach, every country park could have a customised bamboo jungle gym?"

Combining local skills, heritage and sustainable practices, the bamboo was sourced from a long established family business in Shek Kong and built by a third generation Hong Kong bamboo scaffold master. It stands on wood chip from Hong Kong's only wood recycling company. It will be open until the end of February to



Hong Kong boasts 60 species of bamboo.

limited school group. For further enquiries or to arrange a workshop, email [info@taitamtuk.org](mailto:info@taitamtuk.org)



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## Map it out

In an attempt to revive interest and understanding of more traditional parts of town, iDiscover has launched Hong Kong App&Map.

Described as a “socially responsible travel app”, App&Map offers community curated neighbourhood walks, each walk containing 20-30 sites that bring local cultural heritage to life, depicting urban legends, local stories and detailed photography.

“Cities across Asia are starting to look more and more the same,” said iDiscover founder Ester van Steekelenburg. “The irony is that meanwhile there is an increasing demand for authenticity... Travellers want to feel like a local. We want to empower local partners, such as NGOs and community organisations, to showcase their neighbourhood as a destination and share valuable local knowledge with a new audience.”

Hong Kong App&Map has six walks - Aberdeen, Sheung Wan, Sham Shui Po, Sai Kung and Kowloon City. The app also comes with a free printed map, designed by Hong Kong artists, representing a flavour of the



Discover Hong Kong's secrets with App&Map.

neighbourhoods, which are also available from participating restaurants, hotels and cafes.

The app is available as a free download from the App Store and Google Play, search iDiscover City Walks.

iDiscover is also available for Yangon, Bali, Java and Macau and is currently working on

more Asian city guides.

An exhibition showcasing the local artists' design skills is currently open until January 7, 11am-7pm, Teakha, Shop B, 18 Tai Ping Shan Street, Sheung Wan, [i-discoverasia.com](http://i-discoverasia.com).

## MTR links with Aberdeen schools

The much anticipated MTR extension linking southern Hong Kong Island with the Island Line finally opened at the end of last month.

MTR Corporation opted to launch during a holiday period when schools were shut to take advantage of lighter commuter flow during the first few days of operation.

The line links Admiralty station with Ocean Park, Wong Chuk Hang, Lei Tong and South Horizons (on Ap Lei Chau).

Schools and businesses in the Aberdeen area are positioned to reap the benefits of additional public transport.

“It’s our guess that a number of secondary students will decide to switch from the school bus to the MTR,” said a spokesperson for Victoria Shanghai Academy, which is located in Aberdeen.

Singapore International and Canadian International schools (CDNIS) are also located close by.

According to CDNIS, more than 80% of the school community currently travels

to and from the school by school bus. According to a survey in the autumn, parents were keen the school add a shuttle bus service to and from the MTR station, an option which is currently being investigated by the school.

“The school sees this as an opportunity to deliver a quality add-on service that would provide reciprocal benefits to both CDNIS and the wider school community,” said a spokesperson for the school. The nearest station entrance is at Heung Yip Road, about a 15-minute walk from the CDNIS campus.

According to MTR Corporation, the \$16.5 billion line will operate driverless, three-carriage trains, running at one train every three minutes during peak periods between Admiralty and South Horizons. Admiralty station has also been extended to cope with the extra flow of passengers, with 17 additional escalators, five new lifts and a floorspace increase of 35,000sqm.

### In brief...

...PMQ turns the spotlight on Central of yesteryear with the launch of interactive exhibition “LONG TIME NO SEE: A Virtual Encounter with Neighbourly Nostalgia”.

The centrepiece of the exhibition is an interactive mural drawn by local artist Bo Law who grew up in PMQ in its previous life as the Police Married Quarters.

Painstakingly hand drawn over the course of two months, the mural incorporates the area’s heritage buildings, including Tai Kwun, Central Market, Man Mo Temple and Kom Tong Hall, which is today the Dr Sun Yat Sen memorial museum.

Parts of the mural can be brought alive on your smartphone screen by downloading the AR-EX app.

The event runs until March 31, 10am-8pm, room H402, PMQ, 35 Aberdeen Street, Central. Admission is free.

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### SENSE OF TOUCH

Multi-award winning spa group Sense of Touch is opening a new Retreat at Le Méridien Cyberport. Chic and pulsing with an urban cool, the spa nestled amongst a backdrop of greenery while overlooking the South China Sea, it is stylishly designed for a unique pampering journey for both body and mind with another level of relaxation.

Enjoy a Southside escape with a complimentary 30-minute tension relief back massage and relaxing foot massage worth \$840. You can also upgrade your getaway with an Afternoon Tea Set for Two for only \$280.

**Deadline: January 27**

### ESCAPADE SPORTS

Rugby fans will love this one — just in time for the New Zealand tour, Escapade Sports has received exclusive rights to sell the British & Irish Lions official replica match jersey. Made using VapoShield technology, each jersey is water-repellent and quick dry. One lucky reader will win a jersey.



**Deadline: January 26**



### ULTIMATE PERFORMANCE

Ultimate Performance was conceived with one simple vision in mind — to create and implement the most effective consultative health and fitness model in the personal training industry. Their trainers are absolutely obsessed with making sure their clients see results. We're giving away one hybrid two-week membership including two personal training sessions, bodyfat measurements, a movement assessment, a nutrition plan and access to unlimited group classes for two weeks.



**Deadline: January 25**

### SLEEP NAKED

Famed for their hotel quality bed linens, Sleep Naked also produces robes & wraps that are made from 100% pure 500g combed cotton — true five star quality. Their bath robes and wraps are available in three different colours in cotton velour towelling, with design and size options for both children and adults. We're giving away two his and hers robe sets in beige and grey.



**Deadline: January 24**

### SNOW FOX

Snow Fox Skin Care is a simple 3-step regime for flawless skin. It only uses natural, certified organic ingredients that are 100% vegan and cruelty-free. The range is great for all skin types, especially for hypersensitive skin - with no parabens, SLS, phthalates, petrochemicals, preservatives or harsh chemicals. With daily use, the range will even out skin tone, balance oily sebum and maintain hydration. One lucky reader gets a full set of Snow Fox products.



**Deadline: January 23**



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