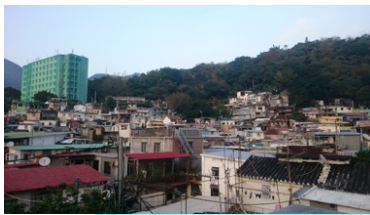


Representing Local History of Hong Kong through Designing Heritage Tours at Pokfulam

Dr. Gary Pui-fung Wong
Department of Sociology
The University of Hong Kong

Abstract

This student project examines the role of heritage tourism to heritage preservation and urban development with Pokfulam, Hong Kong as a case study. In the last decade, the general public of Hong Kong showed increasing concern about the preservation of built heritage and increasing interest in local heritage tours. Throughout this course students are engaged in critical discussion on heritage tourism and heritage revitalisation at Pokfulam. They are given chances to join heritage tours, attend professional training workshops on local tour operation and travelling guide writing, work with practitioners in tourism industry, as well as design and organise heritage tours on their own. The assessment requires students to analytically engage in the current debates over heritage tourism, evaluate the impact of local tour on local community and heritage preservation, and reflect on personal experience as a tourist and a tour organiser. Students would consolidate their learning through a critical reflection on evaluating the impact of heritage tourism at Pokfulam. This project is supported by Gallant Ho Experiential Learning Centre, Caritas Pokfulam Community Development Project and Walk In Hong Kong.



Concepts applied: / Heritage tourism / Urban Tourism / Mass tourism / Host-guest relations / Tourist experience / (Staged) authenticity / Tourist gaze / Tourist city / Cultural tourism / The consumption of tourism / Display and Representation / Grand tour/ Place branding / Spectacle / Theme parks / Theme tour / The globalisation of tourism

2

1

Pokfulam Village: An Oldest Existing Village

Pokfulam Village is one of the oldest living villages in Hong Kong that established before British colonisation with about 200 years of history. The Village is under threat of demolition. It is listed on World Monuments Watch to raise public concern of its threat and possibility of getting listed on World Heritage.

- How could a heritage tour at Pokfulam Village help deepen tourists' understanding of the complexity of Hong Kong history?
- How should the daily life of residents be presented in the tour?
- What is the role of heritage tourism to the preservation of cultural heritage?
- What are the concerns of the residents on heritage tourism?

Old Dairy Farm Senior Staff Quarter: The History and Future of Agriculture

Pokfulam was a major area of dairy farming. The historic building Old Dairy Farm Senior Staff Quarter is planned to be revitalised under the Government's Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme. There is also a plan of resuming dairy farming there.

- How could we introduce the agricultural history of Hong Kong through heritage tourism?
- What would tourists expect to experience at Old Dairy Farm Senior Staff Quarters?
- Could the resumption of dairy farming help make a balance between nature preservation and modern city development?
- How could heritage tourism contribute to the future of agriculture in Hong Kong?

3



Bethanie and University Hall: Introducing Modern Ideas

Paris Foreign Missions Society introduced new ideas and technologies to Hong Kong with Bethanie and University Hall as their centres in the 19th Century. Both built heritages are now revitalised for educational use.

- What was the role of foreign missionaries like Paris Foreign Missions Society to promote religious ideas to Hong Kong and Southern China?
- What is the role of the University of Hong Kong in education in Hong Kong?
- How could we present their roles of promoting modern ideas through a local tour?
- What lessons could we learn from the revitalisation of Bethanie and University Hall?

5

Pokfulam Reservoir and Pokfulam Country Park: Nature Preservation

Completed in 1863, Pokfulam Reservoir is the first reservoir of Hong Kong. There are six built structures declared as monuments. Pokfulam Country Park is also a home of many plants and animals.

- How could we introduce Hong Kong's history of infrastructure development through a trail walk around Pokfulam Reservoir?
- From the example of Pokfulam Reservoir, can infrastructure development bring opportunities to nature preservation?
- What kind of tourists are you going to target?
- Should the government lessen the regulation on property development at designated country park areas?



Wah Fu Estate and Chi Fu Fa Yuen: Tracing Urban Development

Originally cemetery and dairy farm, Wah Fu Estate and Chi Fu Fa Yuen were developed amid population expansion for solving housing problem. The government recently proposed to review Mid-Levels Moratorium, which might relax property development restriction at Pokfulam.

- What would tourists expect to experience at Chi Fu Fa Yuen and Wah Fu Estate?
- How would the property development plan around Pokfulam Village possibly change the daily lives of the local residents?
- How could heritage tourism raise people's concern on heritage and nature preservation?
- How could heritage tourism and urban development be balanced?

4



About Pokfulam

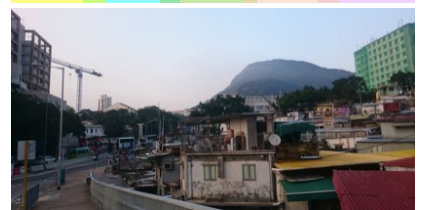
Pokfulam is situated at southwest of Hong Kong Island, where the city's history earliest history and recent development could be found. It is primarily a residential district now, with church, country park university and declared monuments built decades ago. How could Hong Kong's local history be represented through local tours? How could tourists understand the city's future through local tours? Pokfulam is a perfect site to evaluate the relationship between heritage conservation, urbanisation, colonial past and future development.

The Task

Students are required to divide into groups to work on one of the Sites of Investigation at Pokfulam, to design tours (2-3 hours long) featuring culture and heritage of respective Sites. They are engaged in critical discussion on the role of heritage tourism for the preservation of Pokfulam Village, its impact on other areas of Pokfulam, and the development of tourism industry of Hong Kong in general. Opinions from different stakeholders and concerns of local residents over local tours are taken into account in the tour design. Relevant concepts should be applied.

Assessment Methods and Final Outcomes

Report on field trip participation
Booklet and website on heritage tours at Pokfulam
Free tours guided by students
Reflective journal on organising free tours



Experiential Learning

Students have 60-hour experiential learning activities, which include

- Participation and evaluation of a heritage tour
- Field trip at Pokfulam Village, Bethanie and University Hall
- Interviews with local residents, stakeholders and experts
- Training workshop on organising local tours
- Training workshop on travel guide writing for non-local tourists
- Organising free guided tours
- Website and booklet production



Learning Outcomes

- To apply the concepts of cultural studies of tourism to design a heritage tour
- To analytically engage in the current debates over mass tourism and its social impact on host societies in recent decades, particularly in Hong Kong
- To evaluate the impact of heritage tour on local community and heritage preservation
- To apply the concepts of cultural studies of tourism to reflect on personal experiences, as a tourist and a tour organizer

Project Title

Bridging History and Future
Designing a Heritage Tour at Pokfulam Village and Its Vicinity

Instructor and Project Coordinator

Dr. Gary Wong
Department of Sociology, The University of Hong Kong

Contact

Email: garyphk@hku.hk
Address: Room C0904, The Jockey Club Tower, Centennial Campus, The University of Hong Kong, Pokfulam, Hong Kong

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