

Urban Mystery Tour - Nine Dragons Hong Kong – Sunday 4 May, 2014.

Armed with umbrellas and pens, seventeen adventurous, competitive people met up at Tsim Sha Tsui on Sunday 4 May at 1:30pm, wondering where the afternoon would take us, in this popular tourist area of Hong Kong. Our first mystery, for a few of us apparently, was to find out what the word 'palindromic' means. Having met at the Heritage 1881 Site, Linda then gave us our instructions.

It was so interesting to discover that this beautiful Victorian-era building has the Indian Balcony, a completely cast-iron structure, hidden away amongst the trees.



As we meandered our way towards the Cultural Centre and Art Museum, the many sculptures caught our attention. By this time, my two intrepid fellow-explorers, Judy and Stewart, and I noticed we seemed to be on our own amidst the crowds on the Avenue of Stars, with no group members in sight. Bruce Lee was inspiration to rack our brains about those movies; now they bring back memories! So it didn't take much coaxing from Linda to stop for a coffee, a chat and some people-watching.

It is amazing how many times one can walk past the Dragon Head Fountain without stopping to find out why it is there. Another great mystery, that interesting Vertical Garden, posed a few problems for some of us – but, thanks to the lovely, helpful concierge and our determination to match that photo – a very tricky one too, thanks Linda - we finally had success.

Exploring the streets around the Science Museum, Kimberley Road, and then on to Nathan Road ('the Golden Mile'), fighting with umbrellas, trying to keep our

booklet dry AND answer the questions had a ‘dampening’ effect. The ‘PLEASE’ sculpture says it all – the rain had abated, so we trudged through Kowloon Park; a whole new world opens up in there.

The ‘Ming Dynasty Room’ surprised us with its amazing floor made of huge squares, with bits of broken china under ‘glass’- very creative!

Once again, a very helpful man behind the desk in ‘The HK Heritage Discovery Centre’ came to our rescue with the names of the companies associated with Wharf Holdings. It certainly goes to prove, “there is no harm in asking”.

The ‘Irish Drinking House’ welcomed some of us – we were nearly ready to send out a search party for the, dare I say, ‘stragglers’, when they arrived with an explanation. (Not sure what it was).

When the tally was finished, oh no – we had won! That isn’t the problem! It is just that there were three of us to share the prize. I was the ‘lucky one’ to receive a book on Walks in Hong Kong and Outlying Islands – but the catch is, it was my turn to write this report.

It was a fun, stimulating and saturating afternoon. Thanks, fellow explorers.



Thanks Linda for your organisation. All the best for your move away from Hong Kong. We will miss you and your Urban Mystery Tours.

*Report by Jean Jeffries / Photos
Linda Wilson*