Boat Tours

Two boat tour routes have been designed for touring around the Hong Kong Geopark, including one for the Sai Kung Islands and one for the Northeast New Territories. Visitors can enjoy views of the various geosites by staying comfortably on board. In fact, boat tours without allowing visitors onshore help to minimise human impact on sensitive geosites and ensure visitor safety at the same time.

**Boat Tour of the Sai Kung Islands**

Spectacular hexagonal volcanic rock columns are the highlight of this boat tour. As most offshore islands in Sai Kung are remote, boat tour provides the best way for visitors to appreciate their scenic beauty. In addition, one can see the diverse morphology of sea caves, sea stacks and sea arches, as well as depositional landforms such as beaches and tombolos. Visitors can hire a boat from Sai Kung Pier for the cruise.

**Boat Tour of the Northeast New Territories**

This boat tour goes around the calm inner sea of the northeast New Territories to Geo-Areas that are better served with visitor facilities and onshore sightseeing can be made. For example, Tung Ping Chau is served by a country trail and a nature trail has been set up in Lai Chi Wo, both allowing visitors to closely observe the geosites and other scenic attractions. Visitors can hire a boat from Tai Mei Tuk Pier for the cruise.

Remarks: In view of prevailing wind and strong waves in winter, visitors are advised to undertake boat tours on fine days with stable weather (summer will be more appropriate). For safety reason, visitors are advised to stay on board and avoid going on shore the remote islands.

Please visit the website of Hong Kong Geopark for further information and safety guidelines: [www.geopark.gov.hk](http://www.geopark.gov.hk)
The Geo-Areas of Hong Kong Global Geopark of China cover about 50km² land area in Hong Kong. It comprises the Sai Kung Volcanic Rock Region and Northeast New Territories Sedimentary Rock Region, which showcase the important geological themes of igneous rocks and sedimentary rocks respectively. Each region is further composed of four Geo-Areas. To allow visitors the chance to appreciate the diverse geological features and landscapes of Hong Kong, eight land-based and two sea-based tour routes have been developed at the different Geo-Areas.

1. **Tung Ping Chau**
   - **(6 km, 3 hours)**
   - The trail runs along the coast of Tung Ping Chau. It is 6km in length, starting from the Tung Ping Chau Pier and runs around the entire island. Along the route, one will come across different sedimentary rock features, such as Kang Lau Shek, Lung Lok Shui and Cham Keng Chau. Visitors can travel by MTR East Rail and get off at the University MTR Station, then walk for about 15 minutes to Ma Liu Shui Pier where ferry service to Tung Ping Chau is available.
   
   **Remarks:** Ferry service is only available on weekends and public holidays. As seats are limited, visitors are advised to check with the ferry company beforehand (Tel: 2527 2513).

2. **Lai Chi Wo**
   - **(1.2 km, 1 hour)**
   - The trail links up the Lai Chi Wo coast, Lai Chi Wo Village and its fung shui wood with on-site interpretative panels that introduce the local ecology and heritage. Visitors can take the green minibus 20C (Special Route, Tel: 2873 6808) from Tai Po Market MTR Station to Wu Kau Tang. During public holidays, one can take KMB 275R from Tai Po Market MTR Station to Sam Mun Tsai. There are waymarks that show visitors the way to the starting point of the nature trail through the village. The route is about 1km long and reaches the tombolo via Ym Tin Tsai.
   
   **Remarks:** Visitors should note the tidal levels before crossing the tombolo.

3. **Ap Chau / Kat O**
   - **(Ap Chau: 1 km for return route, 1 hour) Kat O: 1 km, 1 hour)**
   - Ap Chau and Kat O are the only two places in Hong Kong where breccia is found. The island of Ap Chau possesses a diverse range of wavecut landforms (including sea cliff, wave-cut platform, wave-cut notch, sea arch and sea stack). Kat O highlights mainly the history of a fishing village, as well as its traditional culture and natural landscapes. The trail is generally level, though part of it is a stone path which goes to the peak, and with interpretation panels.
   
   **Remarks:** Visitors can hire boats from Tai Mei Tuk Pier to Ap Chau and Kat O, a sea route along which visitors can also visit the geosites of Lai Chi Wo.

4. **Ma Shi Chau**
   - **(3 km for return route, 2 hours)**
   - The trail features the ancient sedimentary rock formations and landforms of the island. The ancient rocks here were formed in the Permian Period about 280 to 250 million years ago. Along the trail there are interesting faults, folds, quartz veins, concretion, Lung Lok Shui, wave-cut platforms and riparian plants. Visitors can take KMB 74K or minibus 20K from Tai Po Market MTR Station to Sam Mun Tsai. There are waymarks that show visitors the way to the starting point of the nature trail through the village. The route is about 1km long and the tombolo via Ym Tin Tsai.
   
   **Remarks:** Visitors should note the tidal levels and beware of slippery rock surface.

5. **Lai Chi Chong**
   - **(1 km for return route, 1 hour)**
   - Running along the shore west of the Lai Chi Chong Pier, the Lai Chi Chong geosite is about 500m in length. Volcanic rock outcrops and associated sedimentary rocks here exhibit well-defined beddings and complex compositions. Visitors can travel by ferry to Lai Chi Chong from Ma Liu Shui Pier (Shatin) or Wong Shek Pier (Sai Kung).
   
   **Remarks:** As seats are limited, visitors are advised to check with the ferry company beforehand (Tel: 2527 2513). Visitors should note the tidal levels and beware of slippery rock surface.

6. **High Island**
   - **(2.2 km for return route, 1.5 hours)**
   - The High Island Reservoir is a water storage facility built in the 1970s by the Hong Kong Government. The project exposed various rock sections near the East Dam, which provides an ideal location for observing Hong Kong’s unique hexagonal volcanic rock columns at close range. Here one can also appreciate geological features such as faults, folds and dyke intrusions. Visitors can take KMB 94 at Sai Kung Town Centre or KMB 96R at Diamond Hill MTR station (operates on Sundays and public holidays only). Get off after Pak Tam Chung and walk along Tai Dong Sai Road, Sai Kung Man Yee Road for about 9 km to the High Island Reservoir East Dam.

7. **Tai Long Wan**
   - **(12 km, 5 hours)**
   - The trail starts at the end of Sai Wan Road. Along this route one will come across a number of scenic bays (e.g. Sai Wan, Chek Keng) and hills (e.g. Sharp Peak, Tai Mun Shan). Tai Long Wan, in particular, with its lucid water and silvery sand, has ranked top of the “Hong Kong Best Ten Scenic Sites” among visitors. Visitors can take the village bus 29R from Sai Kung Town Centre to the end of Sai Wan Road, then walk to Ham Tin through Tai Long Sai Wan. The trail finishes at Pak Tam Au, where one can take KMB 96R or 94 or minibus no. 7 back to Sai Kung Town Centre. Visitors can also undertake the tours in the opposite direction.

8. **Sharp Island**
   - **(1 km for return route, 1 hour)**
   - This 1 km trail is located at the coast on the western side of Sharp Island. Along the route one can see volcanic rocks from different geological periods, such as agglomerate and rhyolite, which serves as an ideal location for studying volcanic rocks. Visitors can visit Sharp Island by hiring boats from Sai Kung Pier.
   
   **Remarks:** Visitors should note the tidal levels before crossing the tombolo.