



Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark Geopark Schools Programme (2024-2025)

Introduction

The Geopark Schools Programme is a key education programme of Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark. Working closely with local schools, Hong Kong Geopark has rolled out a wide range of science popularisation activities to inspire student's long-term interest in earth sciences, integrated with ecology and culture, and to promote the sustainable development concept of UNESCO.

Target Groups

Local primary and secondary schools supporting the geoparks concept, sustainable development concept of UNESCO and interested in promoting science popularisation and student exchange activities for students.

Programme Period

1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025

Activities (Please refer to Annex 1 for details)

1. School talks
2. Workshops
3. Field trips
4. Exchange with overseas students
5. Volunteer services

Activity Arrangements

Every successful participating school can apply to Hong Kong Geopark for up to 5 activities during the programme period, including not more than 2 school talks or workshops, 2 geopark land excursions and 1 geopark sea excursion.

1st Activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● School talk or workshop
2nd Activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● School talk or workshop● Geopark land excursion
3rd Activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● School talk or workshop● Geopark land or sea excursion
Other Activity*	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Student exchange activities with overseas Geoparks (P.12)● Volunteer services <p>- E.g. Shore cleaning, geopark community creative art activities, etc.</p> <p>* These activities would be held irregularly. Geopark schools will be notified of activity details when activities open for application</p>

How to Apply

There is a quota of **20** schools for the 2023/24 Geopark Schools Programme. To make the programme an ongoing effort and to optimise its effectiveness, **10** places are reserved for schools that took part in the Geopark Schools Programme last year, and the remaining **10** places are reserved for schools that did not take part in the programme last year.

Schools interested in joining the programme should complete the Geopark Schools Programme application form and return it to Hong Kong Geopark before 22 September 2024 by the following methods.

Places are limited and **offered on a first-come, first-served basis**. Applicants will be notified of the result by email within seven working days. For enquiries, please contact Ms Wong, Geopark Ranger, on 21506807.

1) Downloading and completing the application form and returning it to Hong Kong Geopark by email (yuettung.wong@afcd.gov.hk) or fax (2317 0482);

Or

2) Completing the 2024/25 Geopark Schools Programme online application.

2024/25 Geopark Schools Programme Activities**School Talks (School visit or online)**

All talks are conducted in Cantonese. Each 45-60-minute session is conducted for a minimum audience of 25 students with no upper limit. Groups from several classes or grades may be combined for one activity. Schools should provide event venue and basic presentation equipment.

(Geopark School Programme members would be notified if topics updated)

Presentation Topic	Contents	Target Group
1. Discovering Hong Kong Geopark	The geoparks concept; geological, ecological and cultural heritage of Hong Kong Geopark.	Primary and secondary students
2. Rock Talk	Common rocks in Hong Kong and their distribution. Rock formation and classification;	Primary and secondary students
3. Prehistoric adventure	Fossils knowledge	Primary and secondary students

Workshops (School visit)

Workshops are conducted in Cantonese. Each 1.5-hour session is open to 20-32 students in 4 groups. Schools should provide event venue and basic presentation equipment.

Topic	Contents	Target Group
Exploring the Wonderful World of Minerals	The relationship between minerals and rocks; Properties and applications of minerals; Minerals identification workshop.	Secondary students

Notes:

1. Please reserve the activities using the “Activity reservation form”.

Field Trips

- Field trips are available on Monday to Saturday (except public holiday)
- Field trips are conducted in Cantonese
- Please read the important notes on P.13

Hong Kong Geopark Land Excursion

1. Sharp Island, Sai Kung



Highlights: Igneous rocks commonly found near volcanic craters, unique coastal landform — tombolo, and vibrant coastal ecology.

Route: Assembly at Sai Kung town centre → Field excursion along Sharp Island Geo Trail → Dismissal at Sai Kung town centre

Duration: About 3 hours

Group size: Not more than 30 people (including students and teachers)

Available time slot:

Mon-Fri: 0900-1730 or Sat: 0900-1330

AND tide level is 1.4m or below

Notes:

- Schools are responsible for arranging road transport and kaito ferry trips between Sai Kung and Sharp Island.

2. East Dam, High Island Reservoir, Sai Kung



Highlights: Hong Kong's world-class natural wonder—hexagonal rock columns, coastal erosion landforms, and history of High Island Reservoir.

Route: Assembly at Sai Kung town centre → Field excursion along High Island Geo Trail → Dismissal at Sai Kung town centre

Duration: About 3.5 hours

Group size: Not more than 26 people (including students and teachers)

Available time slot: Mon-Fri: 0900-1730 & Sat: 0900-1230 or 0930-1300

Notes:

- Schools are responsible for arranging transport between the school, Sai Kung and the High Island Reservoir East Dam.
- **Only 29 seaters or smaller coach are allowed to access High Island Reservoir.** Hong Kong Geopark will assist in applying for coach permits to access the area.

3. Yim Tin Tsai, Sai Kung



Highlights: History of Yim Tin Tsai, salt pan site, and mangrove ecology.

Route: Assembly at Sai Kung town centre → Kaito ferry to Yim Tin Tsai → Guided tour of Yim Tin Tsai → Dismissal at Sai Kung town centre

Duration: About 3 hours

Group size: 20-30 people (including students and teachers)

Available time slot:

Tue-Fri: 0915-1245 & Sat: 0915-1245

Note:

- Schools are responsible for arranging road transport between school and Sai Kung town centre.

4. Ma Shi Chau



Highlights: Sedimentary rock and typical geological structures.

Route: Assembly at Sam Mun Tsai → Hike to Ma Shi Chau → Guided tour at Ma Shi Chau → Dismissal at Sam Mun Tsai

Duration: About 4 hours

Group size: Not more than 30 people (including students and teachers)

Available time slot:

Mon-Fri: 0900-1730

Sat: 0930-1330

Notes:

- Schools are responsible for arranging road transport between school and Sam Mun Tsai
- The route is affected by tidal movements. The suitable tide level is 1.5m or below
- The total length of the round trip is about 7 km. It may be physically demanding for some participants.

Hong Kong Geopark Sea Excursion

1) Kat O and Ap Chau Route



Highlights: Sedimentary rocks and coastal erosion landforms on Ap Chau. The diverse ecological environments, culture and history of Kat O and Ap Chau communities.

Route: Assembly at Ma Liu Shui Pier → Ap Chau (field study + beach cleaning) → Kat O (lunch, field study + beach cleaning) → Ma Liu Shui Pier
(beach cleaning in either Ap Chau or Kat O)

Duration: 0900-1700 (Full day)

Group size: Not more than 40 people (including students and teachers)

Available time slot: Mon – Sat

Notes:

- Schools are responsible for arranging transport between schools and Ma Liu Shui Pier
- Participants need to prepare their own packed lunch or arrange their lunch by themselves
- Beach-cleaning sessions are included. Participants may bring their own gloves

2) Lai Chi Wo and Ap Chau Route



Highlights: Sedimentary rocks and coastal erosion landforms on Ap Chau. The Hakka village, farmland rehabilitation, fung shui wood and mangrove of Lai Chi Wo.

Route: Assembly at Ma Liu Shui Pier → Ap Chau (field study + beach cleaning) → Lai Chi Wo (lunch, field study) → Ma Liu Shui Pier

Duration: 0900-1700 (Full day)

Group size: Not more than 40 people (including students and teachers)

Available time slot: Mon – Sat

Notes:

- Schools are responsible for arranging transport between school and Ma Liu Shui Pier
- Participants need to prepare their own packed lunch or arrange their lunch by themselves
- Beach-cleaning sessions are included. Participants may bring their own gloves

3) Tung Ping Chau Route



Highlights: Sedimentary rocks and coastal erosion landforms on Tung Ping Chau.

Route: Assembly at Ma Liu Shui Pier → Tung Ping Chau → Ma Liu Shui Pier

Duration: 0900-1700 (Full day)

Group size: Not more than 36 people (including students and teachers)

Available time slot: Mon – Sat

Notes:

- Schools are responsible for arranging transport between school and Ma Liu Shui Pier.
- Participants need to prepare their own packed lunch.
- The total length of the Tung Ping Chau route is about 6 km. It may be physically demanding for some participants.
- The route may be adjusted according to the weather and the sea conditions.

4) Sai Kung Volcanic Rock Region Route



Highlights: Ancient caldera relics, Hong Kong's natural wonder — hexagonal rock columns, rich and diverse coastal erosion landforms

Route: Assembly at Sai Kung Pier → High Island → Ung Kong Group → Ninepin Group or Fa Shan (depends on the sea condition) → Jin Island → Dismissal at Sai Kung Pier

Duration: 4 hours

Group size: Not more than 60 people (including students and teachers and The ratio of teachers to students should meet the requirements of the Education Bureau for outdoor excursions (a suggested minimum ratio of 1:18), and schools must arrange enough teachers or other staff to take care of the students.)

Available time slot:

Mon-Fri: 0900-1730

Sat: 0930-1330

Notes:

- Schools are responsible for arranging transport between schools and Sai Kung Town
- In view of the prevailing winds and strong waves in spring and winter, the boat tours are available **only from June to August.**
- The route may be adjusted according to the weather and the sea conditions. The Fa Shan and Ninepin Group itinerary may be changed to Sharp Island and High Island.

Overseas Student Exchange Activities

Hong Kong Geopark actively collaborates with UNESCO Global Geoparks around the world to organise educational activities. The aim is to facilitate in-depth exchange and mutual learning between students from both regions to deepen their knowledge of Earth sciences, enhance their understanding of diverse cultures, broaden their international perspectives, improve their communication and collaboration skills, and heighten their awareness of social issues.

Hong Kong Geopark works suitable overseas Geoparks as cooperation partners to co-organise these student-exchange activities. The process involves close consultation with schools from both sides regarding the activity format and themes. The exchange activities take two forms: online interaction and onsite overseas visits.

Online exchange

Through single or multiple online meetings, participating students have an opportunity to learn about the geological heritage, ecological environment, history, culture and lifestyle of other countries and regions. The students can also engage in group discussions and work together on research projects focusing on social and environmental issues of mutual concern. Each online exchange session is expected to last about 90 minutes.

Onsite Overseas Student Exchange

Hong Kong Geopark collaborates with overseas Geoparks to organize onsite exchange activities annually. These activities include cultural performances and exchanges at local schools, in-depth field studies of geological heritage, ecological environments and unique cultural heritage, and opportunities to learn about and inherit the local intangible cultural heritage. The exchanges involve both hosting overseas teachers and students in Hong Kong, and Hong Kong teachers and students visiting overseas Geoparks. The exchange programs typically last three to six days, so they are more suitable for secondary school students with strong self-care ability and communication skills.



*Detailed information about the activities will be provided separately to members of this year's Geopark School Program.

Important Notes

1. Activities are **conducted in Cantonese**.
2. Schools must get parental consent for students to join any field trips.
3. Schools should arrange appropriate insurance for all field trip participants.
4. Videos and photos may be taken during the activities. The videos or photos may be used for Hong Kong Geopark promotion purposes. (If participants do not want to be filmed or photographed, please inform Geopark staff in advance.)
5. To allow proper arrangements, please reserve your field study activities at least one month in advance using the “Activity reservation form”.
6. Only one application for a field trip is accepted per day, and admission is on a first-come, first-served basis. While Hong Kong Geopark will make its best efforts to allow equal opportunity for all schools that have joined the Geopark Schools Programme, we cannot guarantee that we will meet all the requirements of participants.
7. The field trips are subject to change because of weather, transportation or other circumstances beyond our control. Hong Kong Geopark will adjust the activities, study routes and number of participants accordingly and reserves the right of final decision.
8. Hong Kong Geopark may adjust the programme content according to operational needs.

Safety Notes for Field Trips

1. The teacher in charge should pay attention to the condition of the participants. If a participant feels unwell, the teacher in charge must notify the staff before setting off. Hong Kong Geopark or the activity provider will not be liable for any injury or death participants may suffer during the activity, if the cause of injury or death is due to participants’ own negligence or poor health or fitness.
2. Participants should bring a sufficient supply of drinking water, food, UV protection products and insect repellent.
3. Sea excursion participants who are prone to seasickness should consider taking suitable seasickness medication before the trip.
4. Participants must comply with the Safety Guidelines for Visiting the Geopark: https://www.geopark.gov.hk/tc/discover/guidelines_for_visiting_geopark
5. Participants must take note of the Country Park Hiking Safety Guidelines: https://www.afcd.gov.hk/english/country/cou_vis/cou_vis_gac/cou_wha_whe_sat.html

Adverse Weather Arrangements

If the Amber Rainstorm Signal, Standby Signal No.1 or Thunderstorm Warning is hoisted two hours before or during the activity, geopark staff will liaise with the teachers to decide the specific arrangements for the day.

If the Red or Black Rainstorm Signal or Typhoon Signal No. 3 or above is hoisted two hours before or during the activity, or in the event of safety or other hazards, the trip will be cancelled.

For Sea Excursion – In addition to the above adverse weather arrangements, to ensure safety and a comfortable experience during the sea tour, Hong Kong Geopark will decide whether to continue, shorten or cancel the activity, depending on the weather forecast, and the weather and sea conditions on the day of the activity, and will notify the applicants as early as possible, preferably 3 days in advance, to discuss rescheduling, if necessary.

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