



PEAK TRAMWAYS COMPANY, LIMITED
山頂纜車有限公司

Press Release

Peak Tramways to Open The Peak Tram Historical Gallery

(Hong Kong, 12 June 2007) In celebration of the 120th Anniversary of the Hong Kong Peak Tram in 2008, The Peak Tramways Company, Limited today unveiled its plans for The Peak Tram Historical Gallery, opening at the end of September 2007 in Central (Peak Tram Lower Terminus). Management of The Peak Tramways made the announcement wearing period costumes from the early 20th century as they shared with the media the development history of Asia's first cable funicular, and the Company's plans for preserving and renovating one of Hong Kong's most popular transportation modes.

A Century of Evolution: The Peak Tram down memory's lane

For over a century, The Peak Tram has been part of Hong Kong residents' memories, growing up and prospering with the city as the once sleepy fishing village grew into a cosmopolitan port.

On 28 May 1888, the then Hong Kong Governor, Sir George William des Voeux, inaugurated the Peak Tram, the first funicular in Asia. The first generation Peak Trams were driven by a steam-powered winding engine that burnt coal as fuel. By 1926, that system was replaced with an electric-powered system and in 1989, The Peak Tram received a modern boost with a HK\$60 million microprocessor-controlled electric drive system, which is still being used today.

On the first day of its service in 1888, The Peak Tram carried 600 passengers up to the Peak and within the first year of operation, 150,000 passengers – or about 80% of Hong Kong's population – had traveled on it. Today, nearly 120 years later, The Peak Tram carries more than 4 million passengers up to the Peak every year.

To commemorate the occasion of The Peak Tram's 120th birthday in 2008, a Peak Tram Historical Gallery will be set up in the Peak Tram Lower Terminus in Central. The Historical Gallery, housed in a renovated Terminus, will serve as a time tunnel momentarily bringing visitors back in time and reliving a ride up to the Peak as it was in 1888. Over 200 exhibits will be on display, including the old Tram engine, parts and compartments, conductor uniforms, early surveyors' drafting and mapping tools, ticket punchers and tram tickets, and Peak Tram-related toys and postcards. All these exhibits make up the fabric of Hong Kong's rich history and memories.

Mr. Martyn Sawyer, Group Manager for Properties and Clubs, The Hongkong and Shanghai Hotels, Limited, commented on the significance of The Historical Gallery: "Since The Peak Tram began operation in 1888, it has become an inseparable part of Hong Kong's life and to some extent it has helped to shape Hong Kong. Making the Peak accessible to locals as well as visitors, the Peak Tram had put the spectacular views of the city and Victoria Peak on display for people all over the world to see.

“The Peak Tram Historical Gallery is scheduled to open at the end of September, in advent of The Tram’s 120th anniversary and also as part of the celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR. We believe that the new Historical Gallery, housed in the renovated Lower Terminus, will give all visitors a refreshing experience.”

The renovation will also see the adoption of a new, more efficient ticketing system. Improved air-conditioned surroundings will provide greater comfort for waiting passengers in the Terminus while the other four en-route stations along the Tram track on Barker Road, May Road, MacDonnell Road and Kennedy Road will be redecorated by the end of 2007. During the renovation of the Lower Terminus, tram service and ticket sales will continue to operate as normal.

To commemorate the 120th Anniversary of the Peak Tram, a special set of five tram tickets will be issued. It will be on sale the day “The Peak Tram Historical Gallery” opens and feature the classic Peak Tram, photographs of the upper and lower Peak Tram stations and the scenic stops along the Tram route.

Furthermore, to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR, the Peak Tram has launched special offers for passengers. From June to July, all children born in these two months in 1997 can enjoy a free ride on the Peak Tram. Visitors to the Peak will also be able to enjoy the “Handover Harmony: China through Children’s Eyes” art exhibition presented by Kid’s Gallery, a famous children’s art organization in Hong Kong, at the Peak Tower between 11 June and 7 July.

About The Peak Tram & The Peak Tower

The Peak Tram is one of the world’s oldest and most famous funicular railways. Opened in May 1888, it has made daily journeys connecting Hong Kong’s Central business district to The Peak ever since. The double reversible funicular railway, as it is technically known, rises from 28m to 396m above sea level along a 1.4 km track with a gradient of between 4 to 27 degrees. Among Hong Kong’s most popular tourist attractions, it terminates at the new Peak Tower shopping and entertainment complex - and one of the world’s greatest panoramic views.

The Peak Tower, located on The Peak is one of Hong Kong’s most recognizable icons and its leading tourist destination. The Peak Tower has completed an extensive revitalization programme in 2006 and now offers visitors spectacular 360-degree views of Hong Kong from its new rooftop Viewing Terrace and Sky Gallery.

The new Peak Tower also offers four exciting signature restaurants with stunning views as well as a number of innovative casual dining outlets. A unique festival market style shopping arcade and spectacular special effects lighting both inside and out also serve to make the new Peak Tower one of Hong Kong’s most compelling leisure destinations for Hong Kong residents and tourists alike.