



**Harvard Club February Hike**  
**“STEPLESS” TAI LAM**  
**Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> February**



At almost 18 km this walk in the central part of the New Territories is a little longer than most, but it is also relatively flat. There are only 3 real climbs to overcome and the highest point of the day is a mere 170 metres above sea level. Furthermore the path is well shaded and fully paved.

After an exciting bus ride along the steep and twisting Route Twisk, we start our walk at the PLA barracks just outside Shek Kong village. Following a winding catchwater we look across the sprawling villages of Kam Tin and Shek Kong towards the volcanic ridges of the Lam Tsuen Country Park. Next, one of Hong Kong’s more beautiful sceneries awaits us as we cross the dam of the very quiet Tsing Tam Reservoir.

Beyond the reservoir, the flat route continues along the edge of the Pat Heung plain until we dip down into the small village of Ho Pui. After a brief stop, we then face the longest climb of the day as we follow the restricted road around pig and chicken farms up to the head of the Chat To River, where we enter the Tai Lam Country Park.

After a picnic lunch, we follow the contours of the Tai Lam Chung Reservoir, the largest and last of Hong Kong’s valley reservoirs. For the next couple of hours, there will be nothing but birds, cicadas and frogs to disturb the peace.

Before ending our hike at the busy Castle Peak Road, we get a chance to see the inmates going about their daily routine as we walk straight through one of Tai Lam’s correctional institutions. It might be an unusual way to finish a walk, but it will undoubtedly make us appreciate even more the wide open spaces we have just encountered. We suggest making a final refreshment stop at one of the stores in Tai Lam before the long busride back to Central.

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*The Basics:*

Length: **17.5 km**  
Difficulty: **4 out of 10**  
Approx. Altitude Change: Gain: **290 metres**, Loss: **385 metres**  
Highest Point: **170 metres**  
Meeting Place and Time: **Hong Kong Railway Station at 8:45am**

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## “STEPLESS” TAI LAM

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#### Practical Information

##### *Meeting Place & Time:*

We meet at **Hong Kong Railway Station** (by the Starbucks next to the Airport In-Town Check-in Counters) at **8:45am**.

*Participants staying in Tung Chung, Kowloon and the New Territories or on Park Island might prefer to join the group at Tsuen Wan West Railway Station. Please contact our guide, Michael Hansen, via [info@hansens-hikes.com](mailto:info@hansens-hikes.com) for details.*

*Out of respect for those who turn up on time, we will not be able to wait for late comers.*

##### *What to bring and wear:*

Bring **Octopus Card**, money, **hat**, sun-screen, **lunch box**, snacks and plenty of **water**. Don't forget your camera either...

It is important to wear light and comfortable clothes and you might want to consider bringing an extra (dry) shirt for the journey home. Wear your most comfortable shoes as we will spend about 5 hours walking on concrete and asphalt.

##### *Food & Drink:*

We should be able to buy water/refreshments at the store in Ho Pui, but please bring a **packed lunch** and a snack or two. As for water; a **minimum of 1.5 litres per person** is recommended, half a litre of which should be an electrolyte/ion replacement drink, such as Pocari Sweat, Gatorade, Lucosade or Green Power. Experience has shown that - even in copious amounts - bottled distilled water alone just doesn't do the trick. However, diluted fruit juice or cordial would also work...

##### *Price & Payment:*

At some point during the day, **Janny Leung** of the *Harvard Club of Hong Kong* shall be asking you for payment for the outing. The cost is **HK\$100 per person** for members and HK\$120 per person for non-members. Payment to be made **in cash**.

##### *Transportation Time & Cost:*

Wherever possible, the Harvard Club take full advantage of Hong Kong's unequalled public transport system, so here is an estimate of the approximate cost of transport and time spent traveling:

##### *Out:*

MTR:	Hong Kong - Tsuen Wan West (via Nam Cheong):	21 minutes – HK\$14.50
KMB Bus No. 51:	Tsuen Wan – Shek Kong:	25 minutes -- HK\$7.80

##### *Home:*

Citibus Bus No. 962 or 962B:	Tai Lam – Central/Admiralty:	35/40 minutes -- HK\$18.80
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The **Octopus Card** is accepted on all modes of transportation during this outing and would save you time + **HK\$1.60**.

##### *Finishing Place & Time:*

We expect to reach **Tai Lam** at about **4:15pm**,  
*which should have you back in Central by about 5:00pm.*

*Note: Should the situation so require, then it is possible to cut short the walk at Ho Pui from where minibuses connect you with the MTR West Rail or the Tai Lam Tunnel Bus Interchange.*

##### *Finally...*

Should you be unable to attend or encounter any problems on the day, please call **Janny Leung** on **9155-2295**. You can also e-mail our guide, **Michael Hansen**, [info@hansens-hikes.com](mailto:info@hansens-hikes.com), if you have any questions regarding this outing.

In case of bad weather, we will contact all confirmed participants approximately one hour before the meeting time to decide whether the hike will go ahead or not. **Thus**, if you haven't already done so, **please provide us with a contact number**.