

Hong Kong - a city full of surprises

Today Hong Kong is a city which is very rich and populated, but due to its small size, its buildings are very high and very close. It is situated on the south-east coast of China. Hong Kong is an Asian city which is not typical. Indeed, there are many differences between this city and other major cities in China. Hong Kong possesses many similarities with major cities around the world, like New York for example. Much visited because it is an accessible city and English is the language used for trading. This town belongs to China but it was colonized by the English three centuries ago, in 1842. The English succeeded by means of the opium war. During the 19th century, the English traded with China, but they didn't acquire the predicted profit. So they decided to sell opium, in

small doses as a medicine — in high doses it's a drug. Since the law in China did not allow this substance, the English corrupted lots of people in China to pass the drug into this state. This served to make money and at the same time weaken China. When the Chinese authorities discovered that, they researched and found a reserve full of opium, which they later destroyed. Thereby, England used

this pretext to declare war in 1839 which ended in 1842, by the treaty of Nanking which obliged the Chinese to open trade to Europeans, to repay the damage caused to the opium trade and give them a land. It was Hong-Kong. It became a port and a very flourishing centre of trade. Like other colonized cities, it got a flag representing the UK and Hong Kong inside it.

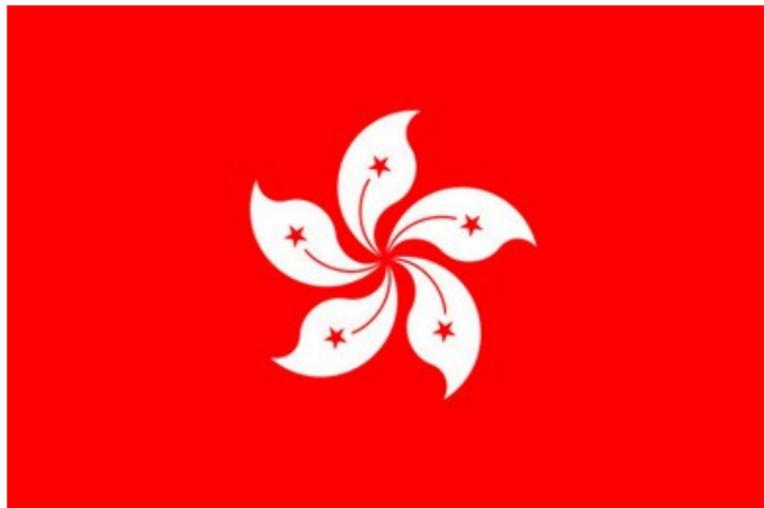


The Flag

In 1997, the UK had to give Hong Kong back to China, because of a new treaty, and a new flag was created because this city was designated a "Special Administrative Region." This flag is red with, at its centre, a white flower with five petals of Bauhinia. Each petal has a small star. The red colour is the same as the Chinese flag and represents the motherland. The Bauhinia flower has

been cultivated in Hong Kong since the end of the nineteenth century it's also the symbol of the region. The Five stars refer to those on the flag of China. Bauhinia flower (orchid tree) is the floral emblem of Hong Kong. It's present on the flag, the coat of arms since the handover of Hong Kong to China in 1997.

Thibault Hu & Théo Lemonnier



DRAGON BOAT CARNIVAL

In Hong Kong, it's very animated day and night. Hong-Kong is a city where things happen every day. In every season, you can see a festival or traditional feast.

Soon, it will be the Hong Kong dragon boat carnival which will take place.

On June 2nd, the 5th day of the 5th lunation in Victoria bay, you can admire some dragon boats. This celebration is inspired by the oldest Chinese festival and created to drive away the daemon of sickness and celebrate the entry into the hot and rainy season of the year. The event takes place in both Hong Kong and Chinese cities. People place

behind their homes protective plants and gods effigy, or drink suffers wines for example. But the most remarkable practice is the dragon boat race. The boats, which measure more than 10 meters long, are provided by a team of rowers, and move at the rhythm of the drums. Some races are organized between the teams in Victoria Bay. During the festival, there is also a competition of

dragon boat decorations. For the legend, they throw in water rice wrapped in bamboo leaves to respect the fish, to protect a poet, Qu Yuan, who flooded in the bay. In our day, they eat these bamboo leaves called zongzi to celebrate the festival. The festival is very colourful and a warm atmosphere is also present, like the fun

Pierre Moyon



MOON FEAST

The feast of the moon is another festival of Hong Kong. It's also called the mid-autumn festival. The event takes place on the 15th day of the 8th month of lunation. This year, it's on September 8th.

The moon, that night, is particularly shiny, bigger and more prettier than the rest of the year. The Chinese consider the full moon as the symbol of family gathering and it's for this reason she is also called reunion festival.

At night, every family eats lots of fruit, and peanuts with cinnamon powder. At the centre of the table, there is a pyramid of Yuebing (moon cake). When everything is ready, the whole family bows in front of the moon, in memory of Chang'e, who stayed in lunar palace. Only women must celebrate the ceremony because Chang'e was a woman.

Yuebing are eaten during the moon feast because when the

Yuan dynasty ruled China, rebels used Yuebing to give attack plans to other rebels, because Moon feast approached. And they won the battle against them. Today, to commemorate this victory, we eat Yuebing during this feast.

According to the legend, Hou yi was an archer who saved the world from ten suns. He destroyed 9 suns and left one in the sky. Then, he became a king but he started to drink and he became a bad king, a tyrant. He stole the potion of long life from the Queen mother Celeste, in the hope of becoming immortal and ruling eternally. But his wife drank it before he could, and she started to fly. She flew to the moon because Hou yi loved her a lot and did not kill her. So since that time, she is in the lunar palace.

Joshua Vatté