

Welcome to experience the charm in this lovely historical city, where two civilisations encounter, and capture every unforgettable moment with your eyes and camera.

# **Attractions to explore:**

## 1 Avenida da Praia Grande

Overlooking a beautiful lake and situated in the southern part of the peninsula, the Avenue is 1130 metres long and originally known as Nam Van Street. Its current name was given in 1995. A commercial centre today, the Avenue still retains its attractive appearance and is surrounded by historical buildings such as the former Court Building.

### 2 IAM Building

First built at the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> century and originally known as the Senate and Municipal Council, it was Macao's first municipal chamber, a function it maintains to the present. The complex was deteriorated due to storms and went



through several renovations. Its current appearance is the result of renovation in 1940. Throughout the past centuries, the building had served as municipal office, museum, post office, health centre, court and prison in different times. Many historical stone inscriptions and carving on the wall tell the stories of its past. Inside the building on the first floor there is a ceremonial meeting room that opens onto an elaborate carved library and a small chapel. Building is neoclassical in design and has retained all its original master walls and primary layout, including the Portuguese courtyard garden in the back.

Opening hours: 09:00 – 21:00 Admission: Free

### 3 Senado Square

It is named after the Leal Senado Building (known as "Senatorial Pavilion" in the old times, predecessor of the IAM Building). In the centre of the Square stands a fountain, which was constructed in the 70s of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and hence its nickname "the Fountain". It has been Macao's urban centre for centuries since the port of Macao was opened for trade and



is still the most popular venue for public events and celebrations today. The Square is paved with Portuguese beautiful cobblestones and surrounded by pastel coloured neo-classical buildings, creating a consistent and harmonious Mediterranean atmosphere. This attraction has been a splendid blend of Chinese and Portuguese cultural traits.

### **4 General Post Office Building**

Adjacent to Senado Square, the historic building once housed the local charitable society Tung Sin Tong. The architecture was designed by José Chan, the first Chinese chief architect appointed by the Macao Land and Sea Public Works Department. Built in 1929, it's a classical architecture of great artistic value. For the past decades, Macao Post and Telecommunications



Bureau has been offering postal services for locals and visitors. Electronic post and express mail services are also available nowadays. You can buy your favourite stamps and postcards and mail to your beloved ones, making your visit more meaningful.

### 5 St. Dominic's Church

Founded as their first church in China in 1587 by the Dominican Order from Spain, the Church is dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary and was built of wooden boards originally.Thus it is locally known as "Wooden Board Church". Having gone through numerous renovations throughout the centuries, the Church we see today dates from the early 17<sup>th</sup> century. On the right side of



the Church is a three-storey bell tower, which houses the Treasure of Sacred Art today. A collection of around 300 relics and artifacts are currently exhibited in this small museum. As one of the many Catholic festivals still in practice today in the region, Procession of Our Lady of Fátima is held in Macao on 13<sup>th</sup> May every year. The annual procession starts from St. Dominic's Church up to the Penha Chapel, where an outdoor mass is held on the hill. Each year the procession attracts many tourists and Catholic devotees.

Opening hours: 10:00 – 18:00 Admission: Free

#### 6 Sam Kai Vui Kun (Kuan Tai Temple)

This temple is located close to the old Chinese Bazar area, which nowadays functions as St. Dominic's Market, still keeping the essence of the original function of the area. Scholars could not confirm the exact year of the construction but estimate that it could be traced back to the reign of Emperor Qianlong during the Qing Dynasty at the latest. It becomes



what it looks today after several renovations. "Sam Kai" literally means three streets in Chinese, referring to Rua dos Mercadores, Rua dos Ervanarios and Rua das Estalagens. In the old days, these three historical streets formed the local business hub. Dedicated to Kuan Tai (the Saint of War and Righteousness) and Cai Bo Xing Jun (the God of Wealth), this temple is directly associated with long-standing Chinese business associations, precursors to the Chinese Chamber of Commerce in the city. However the commercial purposes were gone with the passage of time. And now it's only a shrine to serve the two Gods and hence is named Kuan Tai Temple. On the 8<sup>th</sup> day of the 4<sup>th</sup> month in Lunar Calendar is the Feast of the Drunken Dragon, a day when you can enjoy the traditional drunken dance performances and taste lucky rice for longevity outside the Temple. Opening hours: 09:00 – 18:00

#### Admission: Free

### 7 Heritage Exhibition of a Traditional Pawnshop Business

Formerly the property of rich merchant Kou Ho Neng, the owner of Tak Seng On Pawnshop, the historic architecture is well preserved in the form of cooperation between the government and private sectors. Open to public since 2003, the building has been transformed into a museum which showcases traditional pawnshop business in the old days. The architecture is awarded the Commendation at the 2004 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Awards for Culture Heritage Conservation.



Opening hours: 10:30 – 19:00, closed on the first Monday of every month Admission: Free

#### 8 Tung Sin Tong Historical Archive Exhibition Hall

Established in 1892, Tung Sin Tong Charitable Society is a Chinese charitable organization in Macao. From its humble origins of providing food, clothing and medicine to the poor, it has developed into a sizeable institution that today operates nurseries, primary medical clinics, pharmacy, secondary school and so on. Adjacent to the Hall, Tung Sin Tong Middle School is formerly known as Tung Sin Tong Free School in 1924. Feel free to visit the Archive Exhibition Hall



and learn about this charity's long history of service in Macao through its valuable records and files. It will offer you a glimpse of this inspiring institution - and the people of Macao.

Opening hours: Exhibition Hall 09:30 - 17:30, closed on Tuesdays and mandatory holidays

Admission: Free

#### 9 Carpentry Guildhall

Established in the early years of the reign of Emperor Daoguang during the Qing Dynasty, Carpentry Guildhall was the oldest labour union in Macao and has become the site for Macao Carpentry Trade Union today. The Guildhall was established for three traditional professions in construction industry in the old days, including carpenters, scaffolders and stone carvers. Later the wall-painting profession was also included as part of the industry. As days went by, different trade unions were founded specifically for other construction professions. The Guildhall has thus



become a trade union mainly for local carpentry profession. The 13<sup>th</sup> day of the 6<sup>th</sup> month in Lunar Calendar is master Lu Ban's birthday. In commemoration of this famous Chinese carpenter and the patron saint of Chinese builders in ancient times, you'll find celebrations held at the temple dedicated to him in the Guildhall on the day. Originally built in 1840, the building became the Carpentry Guildhall thanks to the donation of its property owner. It was later burned down by a fire in 1855 and funds were raised to rebuild the premises into what it looks today. At

the moment, the main hall of the Temple displays a large lock by Lu Ban. In the exhibition room, more than 80 traditional wooden tools, including saws, planes, drills and ink markers, etc are on display. Aside from showing the traditional techniques and wisdom of our ancestors, it also draws people's attention to carpentry techniques and the traditional industries.

Opening hours: The Woodcraft Works of Master Lu Ban Exhibition Room 10:00 - 18:00, closed on Wednesdays and public holidays Admission: Free

#### 10 Rua de Camilo Pessanha

In the old days, it was one of the typhoon shelters situated at the North Bay (known as the Inner Harbour today) in the past. There were lots of reed flowers grown on this rocky area, and hence the place was also known as the "Reed Shore" in the Chinese community. During the reign of Emperor



Tongzhi in the Qing Dynasty, the Portuguese government turned the wetlands and waterways of the North Bay into land and a neighbourhood was therefore established on this reclaimed land. In the past, lots of shops in this vicinity were famous for the production of opium pipe and the technique was considered very unique at the time that one couldn't find it elsewhere. The pipe was even exported to Beijing for sales. Today you can see some very local handicraft shops around this neighbourhood.

#### 11 Happiness Street (Rua da Felicidade)

The pursuit of happiness brought us to a street called "happiness" and the name has its origins in a seedy past. It was once the heart of Macao's red light district. There are several restaurants on this traditional street that offer tantalizing delicacies today. There, you will have a chance to sample a



great Chinese cuisine and find your favourite souvenirs.

## 12 Cheng Peng Theatre

Located on a narrow street off the main Avenida de Almeida Ribeiro, which was once part of the wetland at the Inner Harbour, the



Theatre was built in 1875 and presented Cantonese opera to local audience. It's the first theatre in Macao and its Chinese name literally means peace and prosperity. The Theatre started showing films as well later. But along with the declining theatre industry in the 1990s, it was closed down in 1992 and turned into a warehouse for storage purposes and was abandoned after. Today you can still see the fading Chinese characters of its name carved on its exterior wall as a record for visitors to trace back its history.

#### 13 Rua da Caldeira

The street used to be a typhoon shelter at the North Bay of the Inner Harbour and is named after the foams stirred up along the coast.



#### **14 Inner Harbour**

Located on the western part of the peninsula, the Harbour has a coastline of 3,500 metres at length. With its half-ring shaped embankment, it's the first harbour that served foreign merchant ships berthed at the North Bay. The historical Harbour is equipped with 34 piers in total, each of which is named after its assigned number for different functions. The Harbour



mainly served the purposes of cargo shipment, inland river transport and berth for fishing boats. From Sino-Luso trade to declining fishing industry, the Harbour has witnessed the rise and fall of maritime transportation.

#### **15 Opium House**

Located at the crossroad of Rua das Lorchas and Praca de Ponte e Horta, the building is the former Opium House built in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century in the waterside area of the Inner Harbour. It was first turned into a warehouse and then a crucible factory after opium was banned in 1946. An academic institution later



rented the House for educational purposes. In 1996, the Opium House was renovated and thoroughly restored. In 2001 the second clinic of Tong Sin Tong Charitable Society moved into the House and since then has provided Chinese acupuncture and western medical services to general public. Today, the House has remained as an excellent witness to the typical architecture at the Inner Harbour in the golden years of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

#### 16 Praça de Ponte e Horta

It's a spacious leisure plaza at the Inner Harbour. During the years from the reign of Emperor Kangxi to Emperor Tongzhi in the Qing Dynasty, it functioned as a pier for the import of opium. It was also the first wharf reserved for opium trade and the first duty-levying area for tobacco taxation throughout the history of Macao and



China, and even considered as the cradle of the Opium War. In the late 19th century, it was turned into a more spacious area due to land reclamation. The plaza became vibrant at night with stalls serving tea and entertaining performances in the past. It was also once a marketplace, where lots of venders gathered for business. Today, the plaza has become a recreational area for local citizens.

