

Macao New Eight Scenic Spots

To celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Macao Special Administrative Region, the Chinese Cultural Exchange Association hosted the global vote of “Macao New Eight Scenic Spots”, converges both social forces and wisdom to jointly select eight scenic spots of Macao. With culture, history and nature as the core, the new eight scenic spots reflect Macao’s cultural deposits and urban development by intertwining with old and new and integrating Chinese and Western cultures.

“Penha Hill” – located in the west of Macao, standing 62.7 metres above sea level. In 1622, the Portuguese built the Chapel of Our Lady of Guia at the top of the hill. In 1935, it was reconstructed as the residence of the bishop of the Diocese of Macao; hence the Chinese nickname “Bishop Hill”. Facing the hill is Nam Van Lake, with the Inner Harbor to the west. At the east side, there is the official residence of the Portuguese Consulate General in Macao (Former Hotel Bela Vista).

“Two Lakes and One Tower” – the Nam Van Lake is an artificial lake which was rehabilitated from the bay; the Sai Van Lake is an ancient scenic spot with banyan trees along the embankment and with Southern European style buildings along the bank, which leads to a beautiful view. Built in 2001, the Macau Tower is 338 metres in height and is standing opposite to the two lakes. It integrates the functions of tourism, sightseeing, performances, conferences, exhibitions, shopping, catering and entertainment.

“Senado Square” – one of the four major squares located in the centre of Macao. During the Ming dynasty (16th century), the Portuguese living in Macao set up a pavilion here to conduct business. Surrounding buildings, such as the Building of the Municipal Affairs Bureau, the CTT Headquarters’ Building and the Macau Holy House of Mercy, all together demonstrates the Portuguese architectural art style. In the early 90s, the entire area is paved with Portuguese stone with wavy pattern to show the Portuguese ancient maritime culture, making it a pedestrian zone with a strong Portuguese style.

“Long Chao Kok” – located in the southwest coast of Hac Sa Beach in Coloane, it is named after a peculiar giant rock “dragon claw” in yellowish-brown. In addition, realistic stones like “ape-man stone”, “lizard rock”, “eagle rock”, “pig head rock”, etc. can be seen along the coastline. The Long Chao Kok Coastal Trail is paved for the pedestrians to walk along the coastline to enjoy Macao’s natural scenery.

“Coloane Fishing Village” – extends northwards to the old Coloane Port and southwards to Tam Kong Temple. Coloane was once dominated by the fishing industry and those stilt houses along the coastline are now running as small restaurants or sea-products shops. The village still preserves many representative buildings that witnessed Macao’s history of the fishing industry, including traditional old shipyard, fishing port and the Taoist of Sam Seng Temple.

“Paixão Alley (Travessa da Paixão)” – adjacent to the Ruins of St. Paul’s and was opened in the 20th century. The Portuguese word “Paixão” connotes “passion”, which is originally related to the great love of Jesus who sacrifices himself for the salvation of human beings. However, it was interpreted into “Being in Love” for its Chinese name, and coupled with colorful buildings, giving the alley a romantic touch.

“Happiness Street (Rua da Felicidade)” – a well-known old street that was populated by brothels and opium houses in the past. Two-storey Chinese-style buildings with blue-grey bricks and red tiled roof are lining either side of the street, forming a brothel building complex in those years, and which has become the living fossil of the brothel culture in Macao. Nowadays, the street has become a food street with lots of restaurants and souvenir shops.

“Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge” – with a total length of 55 kilometres, a mega project connects Hong Kong with Zhuhai and Macao, the construction work started in 2009 and was inaugurated to the public in October 2018. It is the largest in scale, highest standard, most challenging cross sea bridge construction. This longest immersed tunnel and cross sea bridge-tunnel like “a dragon on the sea”, bringing opportunities for the Macao living, economy and logistics and provides convenient transportation for the residents in these three cities of Greater Bay Area.

Chinese Cultural Exchange Association
Translation: NextVector Consultants Ltd.