

Explore Macao

In accordance with the development positioning as a World Centre of Tourism and Leisure, the Macao SAR Government has been committed to building a comprehensive tourism city integrating multiple functions such as sightseeing, leisure, entertainment, conferences, exhibitions, culture and creativity, etc. The unique urban style and charm of Macao are reflected in the streets and alleys. In the city, buildings with Sino-Portuguese historical architecture and cultural characteristics can be seen everywhere, attracting a large number of tourists every year. In 2005, 22 buildings and 8 squares in Macao were inscribed in the World Cultural Heritage List and they have become popular attractions for tourists.

In this stamp issue, Dino, an IP (intellectual property) character created by a local artist, is exploring Macao sceneries as a tourist. He has experienced the charm of Macao through visiting the beautiful world heritage sites.

Lilau Square. The spring water of Lilau used to be one of the main water sources in Macao. It is adjacent to the inner harbour and the vicinity of Lilau Square was one of the first Portuguese residential quarters in the early days. Many Western-style buildings still remain in the area of Lilau Square, which give a touch of southern European charm.

St. Augustine's Square. St. Augustine's Square gathers various classified buildings, such as St. Augustine's Church, Dom Pedro V Theatre, St. Joseph's Seminary and Sir Robert Ho Tung Library. Visitors can experience a strong religious, cultural and artistic atmosphere in this area.

Cathedral Square. Cathedral Square is a small square in front of the Cathedral. The Cathedral, in a neoclassical style, has a solemn and pure external appearance and a plain and simple internal decoration. It is a very important church for the Macao Catholics, and many major Catholic celebrations or ceremonies are held here. Cathedral Square is equipped with a small fountain, a stone cross, some benches and other facilities. The Square with Portuguese pavement gives rise to the solemn and sacred atmosphere of Catholicism.

Ruins of St. Paul's. The Ruins of St. Paul's refer to the facade of the old church of Mater Dei and the ruins of St. Paul's College. The design and the sculptured motifs of the facade integrate the influences from both Eastern and Western cultures and arts. Traditional Chinese stone lions exist on both sides and Chinese characters can be found on the facade, which create a unique contrast to the Baroque architectural style of the Church. The attractions around the Ruins of St. Paul's, such as Macao Museum, Mount Fortress and Na Tcha Temple next to the Ruins of St. Paul's, are must-see spots for tourists.

Senado Square. Senado Square has been Macao's urban centre for centuries. Local residents call it the "Fountain" and it is still the most popular venue for commercial and cultural activities today. Near the Square, there are banks and government departments, such as Municipal Affairs Bureau and Macao Post and Telecommunications Bureau, etc. The wavy-patterned Portuguese pavement complements the surrounding European-style buildings and the open-air cafe, making it a popular gathering place for tourists.