

Grade 1 historic building Haw Par Mansion guided tour features new virtual reality exhibition

The Haw Par Mansion guided tour will include a new attraction, the "Virtual Reality: The 'Ten Courts of Hell' of Tiger Balm Garden" exhibition, starting from May 16. In addition to touring the private garden and most of the interior of the Mansion, members of the public who join the tour can also explore the former "Ten Courts of Hell" of the Tiger Balm Garden using virtual reality devices.

Co-organised by the Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO) of the Development Bureau (DEVB), the Hang Seng University of Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Chu Hai College, the "Virtual Reality: The 'Ten Courts of Hell' of Tiger Balm Garden" exhibition is sponsored by the Aw Boon Haw Foundation and with venue support from the Commissioner for Heritage's Office of the DEVB.

Premised on a virtual reality metaverse platform developed by the Hang Seng University of Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Chu Hai College, the exhibition focuses on reconstructing the former "Ten Courts of Hell" of the Tiger Balm Garden. Participants wearing virtual reality headsets can explore details of the murals of the "Ten Courts of Hell" and learn about the historical and cultural contexts through an interactive interface. There will also be display boards introducing the "Ten Courts of Hell" and videos of the project.

The guided tours of the Haw Par Mansion are free of charge and conducted in Cantonese from Fridays to Sundays and on public holidays (except for the first three days of Lunar New Year). Four sessions will be held per day, and each session can accommodate 24 participants. Docents will guide participants through the private garden and the Mansion's interior, introducing its history, architectural features and heritage value, followed by the "Virtual Reality: The 'Ten Courts of Hell' of Tiger Balm Garden" exhibition. The public can enrol in the guided tours through the AMO's website (www.amo.gov.hk/en/visitor-centre/docent-services/public/haw-par-mansion/index.html). For enquiries, please call the AMO on 2208 4406 or 2208 4407 during office hours.

Located at No. 15A, Tai Hang Road, Hong Kong, the Haw Par Mansion was the residence of Mr Aw Boon Haw, an overseas Chinese merchant. It was accorded Grade 1 historic building status in 2009.