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Kowloon: Through the Years

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The Wong Tai Sin Temple Worshipping Platforms

Platform 1
The first platform is inside. One you walk in go straight back in the temple you’ll see the first worshipping platform. It is a platform for worshippers to offer incense and practice “kau cim” drawing a fortune-telling stick from a long cylindrical tube. After this you move back out to the next temple.

Worshipping Platform Layout
The platform has been expanded since 2011 with decoration of nearly 100 red lanterns so as to provide a more spacious and ideal environment for worshippers. Lighting the sage represents good fortune and cleansing for the new ear. When collectign your sage, you must get nine total. You light three at each platform in the temple.

Platform 2
Halfway through the staircase between the Second and First Worshipping Platforms sits a huge Long-du, on which nine lively dragons are carved. In front of the Long-du stands a pair of newly crafted, 6-meter Huabiaos. At the rear of the platform one will find the bronze statues of the Twelve Animals of the Year, a masterpiece by Mr. Lee Yiu-fai (Yee Kok), the Abbot Chairman of the Sculpture Institution and Professor Wan Xu-de, the former Chairman of the Sculpture Institution of Shanxi Province.

Worshipping at Wong Tai Sin Temple Worshipping
When Worshipping at the Platforms in the temple: You must bow three times on the sage smoke towards the temples. Hold your sage towards the temple and wave the smoke so that it covers all around. You must blow three times on the sage smoke towards the temples. Hold slowly and place your sage on the ground. Once you do this bow your head all the way so your head touches the ground. Your head must go as low as it can to show respect. When you come back up place both hands together and clap three times and do this process three times.

Wong Tai Sin Temple
Wong Tai Sin Temple is one of the biggest and most well known temples in all of Kowloon. The temple has many features that attract tourists from all over. People come here to worship and pray. During the New Year’s festival the temple is filled with people. The tradition is to come pay your respects to the ancestors and the great spirits of the world. The temple commemorates the famous monk of yore, Wong Tai Sin (also known as Yoong Chu-ping), who was born in the Fourth century and became a deity at Heng Shan (Red Pine Hill). In 1915, Taoist priest Liang Ren-wen carried a sacred portrait of Wong Tai Sin from Guangdong in southern China to Hong Kong. Now housing this precious portrait, the Wong Tai Sin Temple is where worshippers pray for good fortune through offerings, divine guidance and fortune telling.

Kowloon
Kowloon is an urban area in Hong Kong comprising the Kowloon Peninsula and New Kowloon. In 2006, it was the most populous urban area in Hong Kong. In modern-day culture, New Kowloon is not regarded as part of the New Territories but as an integral part of the Kowloon urban area whether north or south of Boundary Street.

Sources
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