

Heritage tourism and environmental education in Hong Kong

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There has been a surge in popularity of heritage and cultural tourism activities in Hong Kong recently. Citizens and school children join weekend one-day tour groups to visit the old ancestral relics of the local inhabitants of the countryside. Some of these relics are several hundred years old and are telltales of the livelihoods of the people of the old days. The participants would tour around among the ancestral buildings or villages and would enjoy the traditional village feasts too. Promoters of these heritage and cultural tours claim that such visits would promote cultural heritage and identity. This paper attempts to find out the nature of such heritage tours and how effective are they in promoting heritage and identity, the response of the inhabitants and the possible environmental impact on the cultural relics and the education opportunities such tours offer.