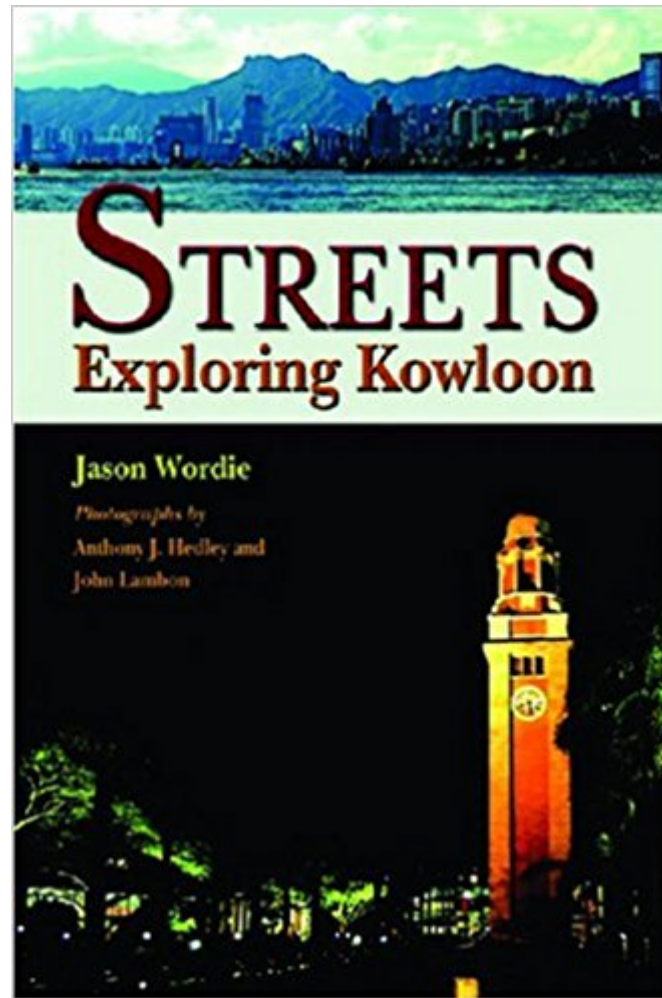




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Streets: Exploring Kowloon



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Synopsis

The book starts with a district familiar to all visitors – Tsim Sha Tsui – but then moves into the hinterland of Kowloon, taking the reader and walker far beyond the well-known streets of tourist-oriented shops and hotels. *Streets: Exploring Kowloon*, like its companion, *Streets: Exploring Hong Kong Island*, guides the reader with maps and travel information to take 45 walks throughout Kowloon, each along a specific street pointing out historically and culturally important sites, but also the curious and the intriguing.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Streets: Exploring Kowloon is a guidebook with a difference: it aims to illustrate aspects of Hong Kong's history, culture, society and heritage in ways not covered in standard works, and to guide the reader to explore areas few locals, let alone visitors, go to. It is the ideal book for the person who wishes to see a different, more authentic and gritty Hong Kong than that of the standard guidebooks and tours.

Jason Wordie is a local historian and long-time resident of Hong Kong. A graduate of Hong Kong University, he has written extensively on the history and culture of Hong Kong. He lives in the north-west New Territories.

Although this title is marketed as a guidebook, I found it to read like a fascinating and fun narrative. Jason Wordie digs deep into the heart of Kowloon and leaves no part of it untouched. I appreciated

the accompanying photos and maps and learned a ton about places I didn't know about before reading the book and more about places I have visited.

Provides historical background on streets and neighborhoods within Greater Kowloon. Not a guidebook listing every attraction... more like the observations of a longtime resident and historian who has studied these streets, and understands how an area has changed over time. The book was inspired by a newspaper series on local history -- think of it as a collection of articles, each offering highlights into a particular street or neighborhood. It covers a wider geographic area than the companion book on Hong Kong, with a greater variety of regions and cultural influences, and the writing seems a little more direct and readable too. Negatives: Read it alongside a regular street map -- the book has hand-drawn maps of neighborhoods, but you need a larger map to see it all in context. Has a deep bibliography but no index. The paper is a good weight for reading at home, but is heavy for travel -- would be a great candidate for Kindle, if Kindle supported travellers' guides. Why does that temple overlook the sea? Why does this neighborhood have such a different feel than the one a few streets over? What is the story behind that fishing village so near a city? Why is this small park so hidden, serene, quiet? Tourists in taxicabs will still need their Fodors, but walkers in Hong Kong will gain much from this book.

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