

DIARY: 1995

JANUARY

1 - 5 Sunday - Thursday

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6 Friday

To a meeting in the morning on the Super-scheme [?new superannuation plan].

7 Saturday

Hike: Second half difficult - 'uphill' cramps. Took a long time. On TV, saw an 89-year-old climb Mt Vaughn in the Antarctica. Nadine to An[?] show.

8 - 11 Sunday - Wednesday

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12 Thursday

Refugees at High Island [detention centre] burn some huts.

13 Friday

Teaching practice visits all day at Yuen Long. Nadine to a friend's for BBQ and sleepover.

14 Saturday

Cooler - good for hiking.

15 - 16 Sunday - Monday

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17 Tuesday

Big earthquake in Kobe, Japan.

18 - 19 Wednesday - Thursday

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20 Friday

Last teaching practice visits. SCR re-opening for snacks. Nadine to birthday party at 1A [the Walkers].

21 Saturday

Warm. Hike. Had a 'race' with three mountain bikers.

22 - 24 Sunday - Tuesday

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25 Wednesday

Final teaching of chemistry class - dinner after with class at Tai Wai. Leonie gets Maths exam result - A!

26 Thursday

Chinese satellite blows up soon after launch.

27 Friday

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28 Saturday

Colder. Fast hike (needed a pullover).

29 Sunday

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30 Monday

Drizzle and cold - about 12⁰C. Leonie not well; in bed all day.

31 Tuesday

[Start of Chinese NY holidays] All day at the office. No one here. Saw on TV that the Franz Joseph glacier [in NZ] closed to visitors.

FEBRUARY

1 Wednesday

All day at the office.

2 - 3 Thursday - Friday

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4 Saturday

Nice day but windy. Saw on TV a hotel fire in Hamilton [NZ].

5 - 10 Sunday - Friday

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11 Saturday

Nice weather. Slightly twisted a knee/leg during the hike.

12 Sunday

Quite warm. Sunbathed [on the roof] for a while.

13 Monday

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14 Tuesday

AIDS dentist dies. Saw “Shadowlands” (about C S Lewis) on TV.

15 Wednesday

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16 Thursday

Lunch and talk at shatin about revising the Science book.

17 Friday

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18 Saturday

Humid and misty. My injured leg caused problems during the second half of the run.

19 Sunday

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20 Monday

Lecture in the afternoon by Gail Carpenter on neural networks.

21 Tuesday

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22 Wednesday

Nadine to Lisa's after school for dinner.

23 Thursday

To a lecture by S Grossberg.

24 Friday

To a Grossberg lecture in the afternoon. A concrete portion for a flyover falls killing workers.

25 Saturday

Cool and drizzly. Hike affected by knee problem (so time meaningless).

26 Sunday

China - US relations reach a dead end on copyright protection.

27 Monday

Baring's Bank (UK) collapses because of a 'rogue' derivatives trader [?in Singapore].

28 Tuesday

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MARCH

1 Wednesday

Budget day - last for a *British* financial secretary [Donald Tsang to take over]. No increase in car registration!

2 Thursday

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3 Friday

Fine day

4 Saturday

Lovely weather 14 - 19⁰C. Dry. Leg lasted longer on today's hike.

5 - 8 Sunday - Wednesday

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9 Thursday

Finished revising Integrated Science Book 2.

10 Friday

Got connected to the university LAN and Internet. Found out more about the new superannuation scheme.

11 Saturday

18°C. Misty. Leg lasted the while hike.

12 Sunday

Some drizzle.

13 Monday

All day on the Internet. Lecture in the afternoon followed by dinner [?with students] at Chung Chi.

14 - 15 Tuesday - Wednesday

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16 Thursday

Warm and humid. Announced that all the control rods at the Daya Bay nuclear power plant are to be replaced.

17 Friday

Warm and humid but cooled a lot later. Did the hike today; saw a dog with a trap on its leg. Two catamarans collide in fog.

18 Saturday

At work all day. Lunch provided. Interviews in the afternoon for next year's Dip Ed intake.

19 Sunday

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20 Monday

Nerve gas attack in a Tokyo subway.

21 - 22 Tuesday - Wednesday

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23 Thursday

Freighter collides with a US submarine in the harbour.

24 Friday

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25 Saturday

Warm then rain and a drop in temperature. Hike: leg good and bad. First day of the HK Rugby 7s. Fire in a “cage men” hostel.

25 Sunday

Nice fine day. NZ win Rugby 7s Cuo.

26 - 30 Monday - Thursday

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31 Friday

Heavy rain. More disclosures about Chinese gunboats incursion into HK waters.

APRIL

1 - 4 Saturday - Tuesday

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5 Wednesday

[Holiday] All day on the Internet at the office. Post-graduate student at the University of Science and Technology killed by chlorine.

6 Thursday

A two-hour meeting on the new superannuation scheme.

7 Friday

some M.Ed interviews for new students followed by a M Phil thesis proposal.

8 Saturday

Hike. No rain and some sun later. Nadine to ballet practice for an examination.

9 - 13 Sunday - Thursday

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14 Friday

[Good Friday] All day at the office.

15 Saturday

Two “smugglers” taken by Chinese [patrol boats] in HK waters returned to HK. All day in the office.

16 - 17 Sunday - Monday

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18 Tuesday

First swim of the season; water temperature 23⁰C.

19 Wednesday

Short but fierce storm early in the evening. The back of the flat flooded. Gavin cooks dinner.

20 - 21 Thursday - Friday

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22 Saturday

Workmen here in early to unblock the sink and baths. Then to the office for the rest of the day. Another big slaughter of refugees in Rwanda.

23 - 24 Sunday - Monday

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25 Tuesday

Lunch for primary school principals.

26 Wednesday

Lunch with Au Chung Park [former teaching of chemistry student, now at the ED (?).]

27 Thursday

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28 Friday

Big gas explosion in a subway under construction in [South] Korea.

29 - 30 Saturday - Sunday

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MAY

1 - 4 Monday - Thursday

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5 Friday

Bruce [my brother] arrives in the afternoon.

6 Saturday

Bruce buys a camcorder.

7 Sunday

NZ wins the first race of the America's Cup (Saturday in the US). [Held in San Diego.]

8 Monday

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9 Tuesday

NZ wins the second race. Today the 50th anniversary of VE celebrated in Moscow.

10 - 13 Wednesday - Saturday

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14 Sunday

NZ wins the America's Cup 5 - 0 in San Diego.

15 Monday

Took Bruce to the airport early in the morning.

16 - 19 Tuesday - Friday

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20 Saturday

at the office. Riot of 11 000 refugees at the Whitehead [detention centre] when some were to be removed; 3000+ rounds of tear gas used.

21 Sunday

A group of refugees finally returned to the High Island [detention centre].

22 - 23 Monday - Tuesday

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24 Wednesday

Harold Wilson [former British labour Prime Minister] dies. America's Cup team arrives home in NZ.

25 Thursday

Watched the first of the Rugby World Cup games [held in SA] on TV - SA 27 - Australia 18.

26 - 27 Friday - Saturday

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28 Sunday

Engine fire on the new Cathay Pacific B-747 shortly after take-off; minor injuries only.

29 Monday

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30 Tuesday

Marks meeting followed by lunch. TV Rugby: SA 21 - Romania 8.

31 Wednesday

PhD thesis proposal seminar in the afternoon. Ireland v Japan Rugby match on TV.

JUNE

1 Thursday

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2 Friday

[Holiday] Second fatal shark attack this week in Sai Kung.

3 Saturday

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4 Sunday

30 000+ at the June 4th candlelight vigil. RWC: NZ beats Japan 145 - 17.

5 - 6 Monday - Tuesday

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7 Wednesday

To the clinic for more medicine - first time in a year.

8 Thursday

Pool again closed due to a thunderstorm.

9 Friday

Agreement [?between China and the UK] on the Court of Final Appeal.

10 Saturday

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11 Sunday

Finals of international dragon boat races. RWC quarter finals.

12 Monday

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13 Tuesday

Hijackers take over a hydrofoil [?between HK and Macau] and make off with \$10 million.
Another shark fatality.

14 - 17 Wednesday - Saturday

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18 Sunday

Off to NZ.

[No entries until August 7th. I guess I must have gone to New Zealand but just by myself.]

AUGUST

7 Monday

Left Singapore in the afternoon for HK. Surprised to find Gavin still here!

8 Tuesday

To the office - three days early – get it re-allocated to my leave account.

9 Wednesday

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10 Thursday

Went for first swim on return - only 20°C [?water or air].

11 Friday

To the gym for an easy workout.

12 Saturday

Severe Tropical Storm Helen [?] approaching. Cleaned the lounge and polished the floor.

13 Sunday

Heavy rain last night; many landslides. Cleaned the master bedroom and bathrooms.

14 Monday

Swim.

15 - 17 Tuesday - Thursday

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18 Friday

Didn't do any exercise today.

19 Saturday

Cleaned and tidied the kitchen and Leonie's room.

20 Sunday

Most of today cleaning and tidying Nadine's room.

21 Monday

Triads and some policemen arrested in a housing decoration scam.

22 - 26 Tuesday - Saturday

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27 Sunday

Lots of rain.

28 Monday

[Holiday] Liberation day. Former soldiers in HK from overseas for the 50th anniversary [of the Japanese surrender].

29 Tuesday

UN conference on women opens in Peking.

30 Wednesday

Leonie and Nadine back in the afternoon. HK Regiment has its last tattoo/retreat.

31 Thursday

Typhoon Kent approaching. T₈ signal raised at midday - miss my swim!! Leonie and Nadine to school.

SEPTEMBER

1 Friday

Typhoon passes but no school. No swim - cleaning up the pool. New Financial Secretary [Donald Tsang] takes over.

2 - 4 Saturday - Monday

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5 Tuesday

Hot and humid. Tired in the evening.

6 Wednesday

First teaching of chemistry class.

7 Thursday

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8 Friday

Lunch at the School of Education to welcome new staff; I went for the food only! Later to a psychology on reasoning [?by whom].

9 - 12 Saturday - Tuesday

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13 Wednesday

Read Bruce's e-mail to me. No exercise - tired. [Mentioned e-mail probably because it was still very new then.]

14 Thursday

No exercise today either.

15 Friday

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16 Saturday

Teaching of chemistry class [to the part-time day group] then worked on the book. The computer all gummed up – ??? wouldn't open anything.

17 Sunday

Election day to elect the legislative council.

18 - 21 Monday - Thursday

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22 Friday

Second tetanus injection. Maximum temperature 28°C.

23 Saturday

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24 Sunday

One track of the new railway opens [???]. “60 Minutes” on the Auckland rapist.

25 Monday

A mountain on the North Island of NZ erupting.

26 Tuesday

Swim one mile.

27 Wednesday

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28 Thursday

Governor jeered and heckled when visiting a transit housing area.

29 - 30 Friday - Saturday

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OCTOBER

1 Sunday

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2 Monday

Lot of rain as STS Sybil skirts HK.

3 Tuesday

Heavy rain as (the now) Typhoon Sybil passes; T₈ raised in the morning, schools closed.

4 Wednesday

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5 Thursday

Very heavy rain in the evening.

6 Friday

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7 Saturday

In the afternoon, met with teachers who are to help us with teaching practice visits.

8 Sunday

Wrote a letter to the NZ police [about licence for my rifle; eventually lost my license as I have been out of NZ for so long]. Second KCR track open [??surely the double tracking was done much earlier than this].

9 Monday

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10 Tuesday

Double 10th! [Nationalist China / KMT day]. ESF schools subsidy to be reduced.

11 - 17 Wednesday - Tuesday

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18 Wednesday

10% of HK's container trucks are stolen each year!

19 Thursday

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20 Friday

Good swim; 28 lengths, of which 24 were fast overarm.

21 -23 Saturday - Monday

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24 Tuesday

Arrests after death threats against government officials. An earthquake in Yunnan.

25 Wednesday

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26 Thursday

Telephone bill from Leonie [?] to Canada about \$5000! Collect calls to Gavin from UK \$2000.

27 Friday

Good swim - one mile. Leonie and Nadine back from camps.

28 - 29 Saturday - Sunday

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30 Monday

Mid-term break for Leonie, Gavin and Nadine.

31 Tuesday

Quebec rejects independence by just 1% point. Good swim - one mile.

NOVEMBER

1 Wednesday

[Holiday] Chung Yuen festival (autumn grave-sweeping); lots of hill fires as a result!

2 Thursday

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3 Friday

Super typhoon Angela crosses the Philippines. Teaching practice visits begin. Oxfam 100-km "Trailwalker" starts.

4 Saturday

Hike. Warm. Met trailwalker participants during my hike.

5 Sunday

Israeli Prime Minister assassinated. Cooler at 23°C.

6 Monday

Teaching practice visits in Tuen Mun.

7 - 8 Tuesday - Wednesday

Teaching practice visits.

9 Thursday

Technician comes to fix [?the home] computer - not successful. Gavin's team wins at Rugby.

10 Friday

Prince of Denmark to marry a HK girl [eurasian].

11 Saturday

Last educational psychology class in the morning. Then to HKERA conference at NCE (Northcote College of Education - a teacher training institution) to give a talk. Return for a hike: fast, finished late. Nadine at a netball tournament.

12 Sunday

Remembrance day. 90 asthma deaths [?in HK] last year.

13 Monday

Got the computer back; problem still not fixed!

14 Tuesday

A big drop in temperature in the afternoon.

15 Wednesday

Much cooler; wore a pullover! Did a fast 10-length swim.

16 Thursday

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17 Friday

To a Radio 4 concert in HK park in the evening.

18 Saturday

At the office in the morning. Hike to Tai Mo Shan in the afternoon.

19 Sunday

Macau F3 Grand Prix [won by Ralf Schumacher]. In the second leg, there was 14 - 16 car pile up. The race soon stopped because of darkness! In Rugby, All Blacks beat France.

20 Monday

Watched the 1966 World Cup final on TV in the evening - in black-and-white.

21 Tuesday

Teaching practice visits to HK side.

22 Wednesday

Swam one mile.

23 Thursday

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24 Friday

An M.Phil. thesis proposal presentation in the afternoon.

25 Saturday

Cooler, dry day. Another fast hike.

26 - 30 Sunday - Thursday

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DECEMBER

1 Friday

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2 Saturday

Fast hike. Cooler, dry day.

3 - 6 Sunday - Wednesday

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7 Thursday

CU graduation day. Our school had its own special occasion; I didn't go. Nadine not well.
The new airport at Macau opened.

8 Friday

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9 Saturday

Cooler; about 18°C. Fast hike. Though some breathing and stomach trouble.

10 - 13 Sunday - Wednesday

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14 Thursday

Wei Jing-sheng sentenced to 14 years prison in China. Bosnian peace treaty signed.

15 Friday

Wet all day. Nadine to a P6 disco in the evening. In HK, breathalyser test comes into use.

16 Saturday

Dull but no rain. Fast hike.

17 Sunday

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18 Monday

Posted [marked] educational psychology projects to students [School decided to do this - can't remember why - instead of students having to collect them from boxes outside office doors.]

19 - 20 Tuesday - Wednesday

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21 Thursday

Nadine's choir at SJS performs in a restaurant in TST.

22 Friday

Shatin College sports day. Leonie wins girls 100 m and sets a record [which still stands, I think]. Leonie's last day at Shatin College [after one term in Form 6]. Jetfoil hijackers sentenced in China - some to death.

23 Saturday

Gavin to Rugby training; selected for HK Under 15s. Temperature about 20⁰C. On the radio, the Asian Youth Orchestra perform Beethoven's 9th symphony.

24 Sunday

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25 Monday

[Christmas day] Most of the day spent at the office.

26 - 27 Tuesday - Wednesday

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28 Thursday

Preparatory Committee [for the handover to China] announced.

29 Friday

Others to dinner with the Mutohs [family who lived in Residence 6 when we lived there]; I was not invited.

30 Saturday

Cooler and very dry. Hike [Tai Mei Tuk → Pat Sin Leng → Tai Po]: The first half of the run was good; then leg cramps, though not as bad as last year. Got charged by a wild pig at Sha Lo Tung!

31 Sunday

At the office all day. King Faud [of Saudi Arabia] 'abdicates'.

1996

JANUARY

1 Monday

Three HK people drowned in a white-water rafting accident in Bali.

2 Tuesday

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3 Wednesday

Worst day for pollution based on the new index; over 100+, that is, 'Unhealthy'.

4 - 6 Thursday - Saturday

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7 Sunday

Got a cold.

8 Monday

The UK foreign secretary visits HK. Former President Mitterrand on France dies.

9 - 12 Tuesday - Friday

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13 Saturday

Good weather for hiking. Faster, even though still getting over cold.

Hikes: 1995 - 1996

1995

1		Station → Man On Shan village → Station	2:40
2		Office → lead mine pass → Grassy Hill → 5B	3:12
3		Station → (4), (5) → Shatin → Station	3:20
4		Office → Tai Mo Shan and return	4:15
5		Station → (4) → Pyramid Peak → Ma On Shan → (4) → CU	3:30
6		Tai Wo → Cloudy Hill → reservoir 1 → family walk → Hok Tau reservoir → Cloudy Hill → Tai Wo	3:40
7		Office → lead mine pass → Needle Hill (along road) → 5B	4:20
8		Tai Mei Tuk [TMT] → Nam Chung → Hok Tau → Cloudy Hill → Tao Wo	4:02
9		TMT → coast → Lai Chi Wo → lookout → TMT	3:57
10		Around Plover cove → Pat Sin Leng → Tai Po	6:40

1996

11		Office → lead mine pass → Ng Tai Chung → Fanling	4:36
12		Shatin → (5), 6, 7 → 5B	4:55
		--- [no hike]	
13		Sai Kung → Pak Tam Au → 3 → (4) → CU	5:40
14		Sai Kung → (1, 2), 3 → Kei Ling Ha (KLH)	5:08
15		KLH → TV tower → Hoi Ha → Tai Tan → hill → TV → KLH	5:10
16		Office → Tai Mo Shan → Tai Lam Chung → Sek Kong	4:58
17		KLH → around TV tower → Tai Tan → Wong Shek → (3) → KLH	4:23
18		Office → lead mine pass → tracks → water course → Shing Mun → 5B	5:10

19		Station → (4), 5 (& road zig-zag), track → [past Amah Rock] → Tai Wai station	4:20
20		5B → lead mine pass → tracks around to youth hostel → pass → 5B	5:45
21		5B → lead mine pass → top of Shing Mun reservoir → road to base of Needle Hill → Needle Hill → pass → forest → Fo Tan → Shatin river → CU station → 5B	5:30
22		Sai Kung → 1 → (2) → Chek Heng → Cheung Sheung → Jacobs ladder → KLH	6:15