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#### 1 iShop LOA HAI SHING 老合興 201-203 Takshing House,

20 Des Voeux Rd Central

Centuries old Shanghainese tailor shop Loa Hai Shing is in its fourth generation. Moving here from Shanghai over 100 years ago, the tailor was a favourite choice for prominent locals like Sir Run Run Shaw and continues to be popular for people such as former HK Chief Executive Tung Chee-hwa who praised the Shanghai style tailoring and wide choice of quality fabrics.

#### 1 iSurprise THEATRE LANE 戲院里 Theatre Lane

This narrow pedestrian-only street is home to a cluster of shoe shiners hugely popular among the nearby office workers, just like the traditional shoe repairs, name card printing,

stamp making and key cutting

services in the next alleyway.

#### 3 iShop SIBERIAN FUR STORE 西伯利亞皮草行

29 Des Voeux Rd Centra Surprised to find a fur store in Hong Kong's subtropical climate? Siberia opened for business in 1935. strategically located close to the piers. The shop originally catered to sailors and traders looking to impress the home front, but since then built up a loyal clientele of wealthy locals and celebrities.

### 盤谷銀行

28 Des Voeux Rd Central One of Southeast Asia's largest banks set up its first overseas branch in 1954 right here along Des Voeux Road following its clients -Thai business conglomerates - as they started to establish a presence in Hong Kong and China.

#### 6 iEat WING LOK YUEN RESTAURANT 永樂園餐廳

19 Chiu Lung Street

Everyone comes here for the hotdogs! Wing Lok Yuen is now in its third generation and sells more than a thousand hotdogs per day for a loval crowd of office workers and local celebrities like Carol Cheng and Albert Ho. They say the secret is in the sauce!

#### LI YUEN STREET EAST 利源東街

Li Vuen Street Fast Cheap and cheerful Li Yuen Street is the place to go for Chinese traditional souvenirs.In a little lane iam-packed with stalls are cheong sam dresses, chopsticks and other China memorabilia, all good value for money. Look carefully and you may find some real gems, like 'Made in Hong Kong' embroidered slippers at no.FP 22. where even local TV crews come to source authentic footwear.

#### 1 iSee KING FOOK BUILDING 景福大廈

30-32 Des Voeux Rd Central In 1971 a goldsmith from Bonham Strand started selling watches and jewellery here in a shop along Des Voeux Road. This was the start of multimillion dollar local jewellery emporium King Fook. Loyal to their roots, the flagship store is still here in the King Fook building.

#### YAT FAT STATIONERS 日發文具 2/F. Yat Fat Building.

generation stationery shop.

44-46 Des Voeux Rd Central What started 70 years ago as a small shop specialising in Chinese accounting books, grew into a successful paper and stationery business. It was so successful that the Yat Fat family ended up buying the building and entered the property business. A good thing for the loval customers of the popular second-

1 iShop

# BANGKOK BANK

**CHINESE ARTS & CRAFTS** 中藝 55 Des Voeux Rd Central Positively an Aladdin's cave of souvenirs; a good place to buy jade jewellery, porcelain chopsticks and other Chinese trinkets.

#### iSee 👁 TAK WING PAWN SHOP 德榮大押 72 Des Voeux Rd Central

landscape.

It is the trademark '囍' neon sign that gives it away: this pawnshop belongs to local 'pawnbroker king' Ko Ho Neng. The pawn business was thriving in the 1940-50s when these shops provided credit in return for gold, jewellery or other valuables. Interestingly in this city that prides itself on its sophisticated financial industry, pawnshops are still very much part of the local

#### iSee 👁 CENTRAL MARKET 中環街 80 Des Voeux Rd Central

Long before the British came to Hong Kong this was already a place where people shopped for fish, meat and vegetables. A logical location of choice for the city's first market, which opened for business on 16 May 1842. even before Hong Kong was formally colonised. The modern Bauhaus-style building that replaced the old structure in 1938, witnessed the growth of Hong iShop Kong from a small trading port to a metropolitan powerhouse. It was closed

over a decade ago and is now awaiting

old history as a central marketplace.

SHANGHAI BOOK STORE

Building, 17-19 Jubilee Street

Hidden on the first floor you find an

old school bookstore originally from

Shanghai, relocated to the commer-

collection for some rare finds: a comic

book on Bruce Lee's Wing Chun, thread

-bound books or vintage magazines

"I have been here so many years,

I feel part of this neighbourhood

and recognise all my customers."

- Mr. Wah, owner Shanghai Books

cial heart of Hong Kong over 50

published in the '70s & '80s.

(B) iEat

**BAGELS ALLEY** 

1 Jubilee Street

clad alleyway.

G/F, Haleson Building,

years ago. Browse the impressive

1 iShop

香港上海印書館

redevelopment to revitalise its 175-year-

#### LOK HEUNG YUEN COFFEE 樂香園咖啡室 8-12 Gilman's Bazaa

Lok Heung Yuen was a small Chow Yun-fat as a regular guest.

## LAW FU KEE NOODLE SHOP 羅富記粥麵專家

144 Queen's Rd Centra Back in the '60s & '70s, the first generation Law Fu Kee was a typical local dai pai dong, known for its popular Xiaolan style deep fried fish balls with clam sauce. The current owner Mr. Law is the third-generation successor and still turns 100kg of mud carp into fish paste every day. The paste is deep fried into bouncy fish balls and paired with a unique sauce made from clams.

# (1) iSurprise

Small bagel shop hidden in a graffiti

SHANGHAI BARBER SHOP 上海皇宮理髮廳

1/F, 26-28 Gilman's Bazaar Back in the '50s-'60s, Shanghainese barber shops were very popular in Hong Kong. This shop here on Gilman's Bazaar is one of the few left. Mr.To has been in this spot for 30 years and still grooms the old-fashioned way. A full package - haircut, wash and shave-costs just HKD100.

# MEE HUANG CHUEN TEA

美香村茶莊 12 Gilman's Bazaa Regulars come to Mee Huang Chuen for premium Pu'er and Oolong tea, but perhaps even more for a chat with Mr. So, who has witnessed the transformation of this neighbourhood, while staying true to his trade.

#### 'Hongkongers still love to drink tea-Pu'er is always the top pick throughout MAN LUEN CHOON 文聯莊 the years. Other tea leaves turn bad in three years, but Pu'er gets better, just like this shon'

"We've been in this business for more than 50 years. Look at that scale, we have been using it since we opened the shop, it's now a piece of antique itself." - Mr So, owner Mee Huang Chuen Tea Co

Employees still recall the 1950s when backstreet bakery, selling HK-style pastries like egg tarts and chicken pies. Now this modest eatery is best known for its barbequed pork with egg rice and can count movie star Nicknamed 'snake spot', because this is where office workers go when they sneak out for a quick afternoon tea.

dried mandarin peel and rosé wine.

#### 1 iDrink AMBER COFFEE BREWERY

140-142 Des Voeux Rd Central Born and based in Hong Kong, Amber offers an intimate speciality coffee experience in the heart of the Central Business District.

## MAK AN KEE NOODLE 麥좇記(忠記)雲吞麵

as a modest dai pai dong has now

expanded to as far as Korea and Canada.

Originally from Guangzhou, it was the war that made popular noodle maker Mak An move to Hong Kong Central. Here at Mak's, noodles are served the traditional way, with wontons at the bottom and noodles on top so their texture remains nice and crunchy. Mak's noodles are a firm local favourite. regulars include celebrities like Simon Yam and Jackie Chan and what started

#### 1 iShop @ iSee @ NAN FUNG PLACE 南豐

2/F Harvest Building 29-35 Wing Kut Street

A true home for lovers of Chinese linked to Des Voeux Road with one of their prime properties located here. calligraphy and painting, Man Luen Choon has been around since 1955. It was in post-war Hong Kong, the Mr. Cheung continues to be a golden years of the city's manufacturfavourite supplier of local and foreign ing industry, that Ningbo-born businessman Chen Din Hwa started a artists because of his quality stock of the 'four treasures' (文房四寶): ink small textile company. This quickly brush, inkstick, paper and ink stone. became the largest yarn spinner in the city and further expanded into business conglomerate Nan Fung

#### LEMON KING 檸檬王 FP-20, Wing Kut Street

Lemon King is a true Hong Kong brand. The old Mr. Tong worked at a Chinese medicine shop, where he learned how to differentiate good liquorice roots from bad ones. One day he bought a wooden vending trolley, started experimenting with dried lemon and liquorice powder and got lucky: he created the signature liquorice lemon which became one of Hong Kong most popular snacks. Times weren't always easy, but bureaucracy and confiscations have not stopped the business from flourishing.Come

# @ iShop

sells out by 12 noon.

early as the Lemon King usually

**KWONG FAT CHEUNG JADE 8** JEWELLERY 廣發祥珠寶玉器 8A Wing Kut Street

In the 1960s there was a huge jade market here on Des Voeux Road. Many have moved to Yau Ma Tei and this shop is one of the few left. The old Mr.Chan (now 93 years old) trained to be a jade master back in Guangdong from the tender age of 13. He came to Hong Kong in 1953 and started his own businesses. which are still operated by the same family. Grandson Chan is now in charge of cutting, refining and carving the exquisite jade pieces to customer satisfaction.

#### (B) iShop SHING LEE SHOPPING ARCADE誠利商場

35 Wing Kut Street The first two floors of Shing Lee Shopping Arcade are jam-packed with small stores specialising in coins and nostalgia and to browse the proud and those days not considered prime precious collections.

173 Des Voeux Rd Central ASSOCIATION義安公社 Nan Fung's history is intrinsically 61 Wing Lok Street

> The Hong Kong home of patriotic Hakka association Mei Zhou, named after a city in North East Guangdong, is considered as the heart of Hakka culture. Established in 1896 to improve working conditions for the early labourers from small Guangdong villages, it has since grown to a major charitable organisation helping out compatriots in Hong Kong and back home. A few years ago, Mei Zhou moved to Queen's Road, but the building still carries their spirit.

#### (A) iSurprise CHOP LANE 圖章街 Man Wa Lane

173 Des Voeux Rd Central A 6,000 square feet eatery with lofty ceilings and large windows dedicated to contemporary Chinese food.

#### SINCERE DEPARTMENT STORE 先施百貨

Group, one of the first Chinese

Stock Exchange.

YUM CHA「飲茶」

2/F. Nan Fung Place,

⚠ iEat

companies to list on the Hong Kong

G/F, Li Po Chun Chambers 189 Des Voeux Rd Central Sincere was ground-breaking in Hong

Kong's retail landscape when they pioneered department stores with a wide selection of goods, fixed prices and immaculate groomed female sales staff. From when they were founded in 1900 to now, Sincere has been a textbook example of a Hong Kong family business that has continued to be successful through times. They've diversified into property and securities trading, but retail remains at the core. standing brotherly side by side?

# ∅ iSee

#### WING ON DEPARTMENT STORE 永安百貨 209-211 Des Voeux Rd Central

Wing On has Australian roots. In the years leading up to the year 1900 two brothers Kwok Lok and Kwok Chuen, disillusioned with the harsh reality of the Australian gold mountain, started a fruit stall in Sydney, which made a small fortune. In 1907 they returned to their native Guangdong and decided to set up shop in commercially enterprising Hong Kong.

They moved to Des Voeux Road in 1912 and bought up rows of shop stamps. Come for a sense of quiet and houses at that end of Victoria Town, ir property. This proved to be a clever move. Since then Wing On has gone from strength to strength, diversifying from retail into property, hotels, textile manufacturing and banking. Now in its third & fourth generation, the Wing On building is still here where it all began at Des Voeux Road Central.

## 3 iShop HONG KONG MEI ZHOU

Lee Kung Man knitting factory, founded

(1) iShop

98 Jervois Street

Man Wan Lane is known as 'Chop Lane' because of the many market stalls with hand-made chops, along with name card printing and other services. Find a chop that catches your eye and you can have it inscribed with your own custom logo. Prices start at around HK\$80.

#### ③ iShop SING KAI HONG. 承啟行

Sing Kai Hong is all about childhood memories. The shop, which has been here for over 60 years, sells dolls, statues and toys and has always attracted a loyal crowd of locals and visitors admiring their unusual doll collection. Where else can you find traditional Chinese Guan Yin, Chairman Mao, Captain America and Iron Man

"Many customers used to hang out here when they were kids. Now they bring their own kids here for a nostalgic feeling of their childhood."-Sing Kai Hong

#### (3) iShop WONG WING KEE PRESERVED FRUITS 王榮記菓子廠

A century of producing quality preserved fruits and pioneering them

#### 1 iSurprise LEE CHEONG GOLD DEALERS 利昌金鋪 69 Bonham Strand

Lee Cheong is a quintessential Hong Kong gold dealer. Established in 1975. they have their own gold refineries and the owner Mr Wu is one of the founders of the Chinese Gold & Silver Exchange Society. They're happy to trade any gold or silver coins.

to the international market.

## LEE KUNG MAN KNITTING FACTORY利工民

111 Wing Lok Street

in 1923, is one of the oldest in town. dating back to the glory days of the Hong Kong textile industry. The shop's own brand, Cicada, is a household name when it comes to knitwear. In the 50's and 60's, anyone from Bruce Lee to your granny wore Cicada, especially in the colder winter months: comfy t-shirts, vests, underwear and cardigans made from quality cotton ₩ iEat and wool. From their base in Hong Kong, Cicada is sold in Singapore, Japan and the USA.

"We are proud to be a true Hong Kong brand, we ship our products to any place with a Chinese community" - Mr. Fung, Owner Lee Kung Man Knitwear

#### PRESERVED EGGS 順興行 2/F. Western Market

Known as the 'king of preserved eggs'. Seo Hing started as a small street side stall on what was once known Egg Street (Wing Sing Street). The egg's smooth texture and its soft boiled and sweetened heart made it a locally favourite delicacy. Come early as Seo Hing eggs sell out quickly.

#### 3 iSurprise &: CLEVERLY STREET 急庇利街 Cleverly Street

Cleverly Street is better known as 'exchange street'. This is where you go @ iSee ... to get the best rates for your currency. The many shops, old and new, big and 323 Des Voeux Rd Centra small, are a great example of Hong A lone Edwardian survivor amidst Kong's curiously harmonious business clustering practice.

#### 3 iShop MA FOOK KEE SEEDS COMPANY馬福記菜種行 1A Cleverly Street

Mr. Ma. third generation, came back 19 years ago to help his father rejuvenate the 50-year-old traditional seed business. He added foreign products like Danish spinach seeds and German fertilizers and expanded the client base that consisted mainly of local farmers. His clients now come from all over the world.

# **GEOW YONG TEA**

嶤陽茶行 70 Bonham Strand

Geow Yong is named after a village in Xiamen, famous for producing The Sheung Wan Municipal services exquisite tie quan yin tea. The shop's building is a huge complex, wet century old Fujian heritage is visible in market, cultural venue, sports centre the traditional Chinese style paintings and library all in one. Don't forget to try and calligraphy, original tin cans, out Shui Kee on the top floor known scales and rattan baskets to keep the for its excellent iced milk tea and Hong tea leaves dry and fresh. Geow Yong Kong-style French toast. This small still process the leaves in-house using stall is part of a lively food hall known strong fire giving the tea its unique as a 'cooked food centre'. These were built to house hawkers displaced from the streets in the 1970s. Today, they're

#### TIM'S KITCHEN 桃花源小廚 84-90 Bonham Strand

always a good spot for a cheap and

From the mid-1800s, traders and

merchants came to Hong Kong to sell

dry goods of all kinds: seafood, fruit,

ginseng, bark, roots and herbs and

also more controversial items like

deer, shark's fin and bird nests. All

these traditional goods are still in high

demand for their reputed health benefits

world from Wing Lok Street. You'll also

traditional Chinese herbal medicines

seafood. Mr. Sit is the fourth genera-

"Chinese have always been the

our cultural heritage.We even

majority of our customers. Dried

collaborate with HKU to investi-

Still today, the tram is a key element

system carrying 200,000 passengers

accessibility and frequency. Along

Des Voeux Road, you never have to

walk more than 50 metres to find a

tram stop and there is a tram every

90 seconds at peak hour. Even better,

it's very affordable and it's a flat fare

no matter how far you ride!

of Hong Kong's public transport

every day with an unparalleled

on this street. On Hing Ho is one of the

and they're exported all around the

find many shops specialising in

oldest shops on Wing Lok St,

tion person in charge.

⊕ iSee ◆
●

specialising in wholesale of dried

cheerful meal.

1 iSurprise

ON HING HO 安興號

Chef Tim Lai started with a modest 30-seat Guangdong style eatery and has since expanded into a well-known restaurant chain, very popular among locals for its classy banquets.

#### 3 iSurprise FABRIC STREET 花布街

323 Des Voeux Rd Central

Back in the days, Wing On street was 'fabric street', filled with all sorts of cotton, linen and silk, where tailors and merchants from all over the world came to purchase. The shops even employed security quards to protect their wares. The fabric sellers have now moved to the second floor of Western Market where you can still find a great selection of Chinese brocades, Thai printed silk, soft wool, seafood is an important part of cotton poplin and canvas upholstery

# WESTERN MARKET 西港城

HK TRAMWAYS 香港電車 towering office buildings. Dating Des Voeux Rd back to 1906, the red brick Western Market is the oldest original The tram is what makes Des Voeux surviving market building in Hong Road unique. For more than 100 Kong. Check out the wide staircases years trams have rambled along this stained glass windows, high granite road carrying passengers from east arches and the 'red/white bandaged to the west and back again. The first brickwork' on the façade. You may tram track was laid from Kennedy wonder why a market building had Town to Causeway Bay back in 1903 such elaborate design details? It was when the city's first reclamation originally built to house Hong Kong's project turned the waterfront Praya Harbour Office and only later into Des Voeux Road. became a market.

#### 1 iSee What's in a name? "The Stories behind ten side streets" SHEUNG WAN MARKET 上環市政大廈 345 Queen's Rd Central

Lt.William Pedder was the first

lieutenant of the Nemesis. Britain's first ocean going warship and Hong Kong's first harbour master. At the end of Pedder street was Blake Pier. the prime landing space where when it was replaced by a in the city.

# Chin Lung Street

Chiu Lung was one of Hong Kong's first Chinese companies set up in 1878 by Au Tak. He became a very influential businessman and leading philanthropist in the early colony. built rows of shop houses and

governor of Hong Kong and this

gate the medical value of sea street was the unofficial boundary cucumbers". Mr.Sit 'On Hing Uncle between the Chinese and European quarter of Victoria city.

# Jubilee Street

Jubilee Street was named to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Queen Victoria's reign in 1887 main pier, Jubilee Street Pier.

Hillier Street

Charles Batten Hillier was a magistrate and coroner in the colonial government. Hillier street was one of the first planned Chinese residential areas on newly reclaimed land.

Theatre Lane

The one thing you won't find on street gets its name from the Queen's Theatre, which stood at the corner of Theatre Lane and Queen's Road from 1924 to 2007 colonial dignitaries would arrive luxurious new shopping and office complex:

Li Yuen Street East

Kim Li Yuen was a wealthy Chinese merchant originally from In 1894 he bought this piece of newly reclaimed land in Central made a fortune.

Street" - a boundary to prevent Chinese from spreading to the East. The street was renamed Man Yee Lane in 1971 after the Man Yee building was constructed

Tit Hong Lane

Named after 鐵行火輪船公司 Peninsular and Oriental Steam headquarters in this little lane

> Bonham Strand 交威東街

This stretch of 'strand' - originally at the waterside - was named afte Sir George Bonham, third governor of Hong Kong. It was project in the city after a big fire in

# Des Voeux Road Central

THE HEART OF CHINESE ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN HONG KONG

More than a century ago Des Voeux

Road was Hong Kong's bustling waterfront promenade known simply as 'the Praya'. This place was the first point of arrival for merchants. labourers, artists and fortune seekers from Shanghai, Guangzhou and beyond. It was here, right next to the colonial centre of town, where they set up shop, started their businesses and turned rags into riches. Still today Des Voeux Road Central is the true heart of Chinese entrepreneurship in Hong Kong, a unique place where east meets west and old meets new.

## Walk DVRC IS PLEASED TO HELP YOU DISCOVER HISTORIC

DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL

Walk DVRC Ltd., a Hong Kong NGO, is committed to transform Des Voeux Road Central - from Pedder Street to Western Marketinto a people-centric space that values pedestrians over cars. As a first step, Walk DVRC is proud to showcase the heritage of this culturally rich area on Hong Kong's north shore. Join us on this phase of our journey to enhance the city's walkability. Happy iDiscovering!

