

DIARY: 2000

JANUARY

1 Saturday

About 22°C.

2 - 4 Sunday - Tuesday

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5 Wednesday

Gavin leaves early in the morning.

6 Thursday

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7 Friday

Leonie leaves later in the morning.

8 Saturday

20+°C. Good run for three hours, then very tough! Reports of robberies of hikers on Pat Sin Leng by illegal immigrants (from China).

9 - 14 Sunday - Friday

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15 Saturday

19.6°C. Good run after class - only three minutes longer than last year's fast run.

16 - 18 Sunday - Tuesday

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19 Wednesday

Last teaching of chemistry class for the full-time group [before I retire later in the year].

20 Thursday

Lower back injury again; very painful at times. Faulty piling in some Housing Authority flats in Shatin; now 31 floors high.

21 Friday

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22 Saturday

No run because of the back injury! Most of the day at the office.

23 - 27 Sunday - Thursday

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28 Friday

Pirates who killed the crew of a HK ship and took over, executed in China.

29 Saturday

18°C. Last class - ever (??). Went for a run even though not completely recovered from the back injury; first half OK but then slowed down.

30 - 31 Sunday - Monday

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FEBRUARY

1 - 2 Tuesday - Wednesday

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3 Thursday

“Millennium” concert hosted by Radio 4 in the evening. Vivaldi won the most listeners' votes; Bach not even in the top 10!

4 Friday

[Holiday] First day of the Chinese New Year holidays. At the office all day. Nadine off to Switzerland in the evening. To a flower show in Shatin but didn't go in - too many people!

5 Saturday

About 22°C. First day of the “golden” dragon (once every 60 years). Run - again the first $\frac{3}{4}$ OK but not the last quarter.

6 - 11 Sunday - Friday

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12 Saturday

About 21°C. Run still tough.

13 - 17 Sunday - Thursday

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18 Friday

Cable car system to be built from near the airport to near the Buddha statue on Lantau peak. Started feeling miserable in the afternoon; had diarrhoea in the evening with nine 'visits' here and one at the office next morning. Nadine for an overnight at Hong Lok Yuen.

19 Saturday

Phone call at the office about 9:30 am from Gavin. Still weak but went for a run. Disaster! Ended up walking on a shortened route (run time meaningless). About 22°C. The TV packed up! First race of the America's cup final postponed due to lack of wind.

20 Sunday

Very foggy. Two collisions in the harbour - injuries but no deaths. HK Marathon today. "Black Magic" wins the first race of the America's Cup final.

21 Monday

Cool and foggy. A 500 lb unexploded WWII bomb found in Yau Ma Tei; mass close down and evacuations.

22 - 25 Tuesday - Friday

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26 Saturday

About 13°C. Good conditions for the run. First 2 ½ [hours] very good then two falls! Team NZ wins the third America's Cup race.

27 - 29 Sunday - Tuesday

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MARCH

1 Wednesday

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2 Thursday

NZ completes a 5 - 0 whitewash to take the America's Cup.

3 Friday

Warmer! Big heroin haul. Pinochet returns home to Chile.

4 Saturday

About 24°C (26°C in some places). Run good initially but then fizzled out again. Stopped at KLH village and hitch-hiked to the main road. Had bought dinners from the Chung Cji canteen.

5 - 7 Sunday - Tuesday

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8 Wednesday

Cooler. Budget day! No new taxes or increases which is not was expected.

9 Thursday

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10 Friday

Nadine and I to the clinic for hepatitis B blood tests. "Eco-challenge" documentary on TV.

11 Saturday

19°C. Foggy and some drizzle. Wore the 'new' running shoes. Run felt fast but almost the same time as last year.

12 - 15 Sunday - Wednesday

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16 Thursday

Nadine and I to the clinic to get further hepatitis injections - me a booster, Nadine a first dose.

17 Friday

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18 Saturday

20⁰C. Chen Shiu-bien wins the Taiwan presidential election. A 250 kg bomb exploded next to Queen Mary Hospital; 100 evacuated from the hospital and nearby hostels. Long run - the last 1 ½ hours tough; needed many rests.

19 - 21 Sunday - Tuesday

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22 Wednesday

To Shatin College for Nadine's play "Anansi" in the evening.

23 Thursday

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24 Friday

HK Rugby 7s begin. News report of a TB increase in HK. Got a phone call from Gavin while I was in the office.

25 Saturday

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26 Sunday

Senior citizen today, I guess!! NZ in a stunning 31 - 3 win over Fiji in the Rugby 7s final.

27 - 28 Monday - Tuesday

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29 Wednesday

Record levels of air pollution. Index in Central 174!

30 Thursday

Five Russian-built APCs on their way to China found at the port in HK.

31 Friday

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APRIL

1 Saturday

27°C and very high humidity. Difficult run, especially uphill! Dowsed myself twice with water (stream and worker's water) near the end.

2 - 5 Sunday - Wednesday

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6 Thursday

Trials for HK U-16 girls hockey team. Nadine selected.

7 Friday

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8 Saturday

21.5°C. Good but shorter last run of the season (got lost in the bush again). Nadine out for an overnight.

9 - 11 Sunday - Tuesday

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12 Wednesday

Chinese official "Advises" HK journalists not to report on Taiwan's independence views. Caused a storm!

13 Thursday

Two-tonne seal in Gisborne needed to scratch [???].

14 Friday

Heavy rain, especially in NW NT and across the border. Lots of flooding. Schools closed. 26+°C.

15 Saturday

Off to Brunei.

[in Brunei]

MAY

1 Monday

May/Labour day in HK. Protests about the exploitation of workers.

2 - 14 Tuesday - Sunday

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15 Monday

To a 'cocktail function' at the Holiday Inn Golden Mile for Rangi Ruru principal and dean of international students.

16 - 18 Tuesday - Thursday

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19 Friday

Dinner at Chung Chi Staff Club in the afternoon with full-time students.

20 - 28 Saturday - Sunday

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29 Monday

New computer and printer for Nadine arrives (total \$6300) - all set up in Chinese.

30 Tuesday

Hot at 35°C in Tai Mei Tuk. Found out that ED rejected my Science books. Nadine's second day of school examinations.

31 Wednesday

Another hot and humid day. Pillar Point refugee camp closes down tonight (opened in 1982).

JUNE

1 Thursday

Lord MacLehose, HK's 25th governor, dies, aged 83.

2 - 3 Friday - Saturday

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4 Sunday

45 000 (?) attend the annual June 4th candlelight vigil in Victoria Park. Temperature here 35°C; Sai Kung 36°C, but only about 33°C at the Observatory.

5 Monday

Very hot again. Riot and fighting overnight (Sunday) at the Hei Ling Chau Island drug rehabilitation prison between locals and Vietnamese. Buildings torched.

6 - 10 Tuesday - Saturday

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11 Sunday

President Assad of Syria dies (aged 70). International dragon boat races. A 23-year-old Japanese man dies of a heart attack during the final race.

[No more entries. Maybe I was in NZ. Last day at Chinese University was July 31th.]

AUGUST

1 Tuesday

Woke up after a typical sleep. Threw out the curtains, duvet, sheet and carpets. Last check; still found a few things behind beds, etc. Took 1 - 2 hours to actually get ready to leave. Because of rain, had to wait, kept walking from room to room, thinking. Left at 11:30 am just as the blokes arrived to remove the air conditioners. Walked to the station lugging a heavy load - two bags and a large plastic bag with portable radio, etc. Got to Tin Shui Wai apartments at about 1:30 pm. Checked in. Paid \$600 for the Internet connection. Spent the rest of the day connecting the computer and sorting things out. Early evening, went to the supermarket (in the same building complex). Came back and cooked dinner. To bed quite late. A number of repairs were needed. Including the air-conditioning; a second visit [by the engineers] found the thermostat needed repairing. [I had wondered why it was very hot during the night even though the thermostat was set low.]

2 Wednesday

Slept in a bit. Normal breakfast of porridge and fruit. Still adjusting to the electric cooker. Started work at about 9:30 am and spent the whole day on Chapter 12. At midday, went over to the hotel swimming pool for the first swim. Wet most of the day.

3 Thursday

Spent all day taking everything out of the cupboards, re-sorting, recording [where everything was located] and putting things back in a more logical way. At midday, went over to the gym for first workout; actually did exercises corresponding to those on the 'multi-gym' at CU. After a late dinner, went for a brief walk in the park. Tired! Wet again.

4 Friday

Leonie's birthday. Also, the Queen Mother's 100th birthday. Still slightly wet. Spent all morning re-organising stuff. Second swim midday - this time slightly longer 'lane' (~33 m). Again did about 1200 m. In the afternoon, after lunch, finished re-organising and also got a few hours work done. Two immigration staff members fighting for their lives after Wednesday's petrol-bomb attack by disgruntled right-of-abode rejectees at Immigration Tower. Another explosion of gunpowder for use in fireworks in China demolishes a building; the third explosion in the past few months.

5 Saturday

Still wet. Finished off the re-organisation of the cupboards and typing up lists of where things are located. Then for the second swim and some work on the book in the afternoon. In the morning, watched the first game, live, at Wellington's new stadium; Australia beat the All Blacks 24 - 23 with a penalty goal after about four minutes of injury time.

6 Sunday

First mainly fine day. Slept in until 11 am. Went shopping in the supermarket. :Swim: later in the afternoon. Fires still raging across the Western US states.

7 Monday

HKU inquiry gets under way. Wrote the first letter to Christchurch for a while. Hot outside.

8 Tuesday

Second session in the gym. Finally got a room electrical socket fixed, one week late!

9 Wednesday

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10 Thursday

Finally got the Internet line connected. *Newsweek* magazines started to arrive. Refrigerator packs up and is replaced. Air conditioning (all over the building) not working properly in the evening.

11 Friday

Very hot outside but water in the pool hotter. Opened an HSBC savings account. Two die as a result the attack at the Immigration department - one officer and one right-of-abode seeker (one of those not charged in causing the fire).

12 - 13 Saturday - Sunday

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14 Monday

Hot outside at 33°C. Russian submarine sinks 100 m to the bottom of the Barent's Sea [following an explosion in a torpedo tube.]

[In Singapore.]

22 Tuesday

Back to HK from Singapore at 5 pm. Didn't have dinner.

23 Wednesday

Shorter swim. To TST in the evening by hotel bus for a meal at the YMCA. Windy and wet.

24 Thursday

Heavy rain last night, especially on HK island and in Sheung Shui.

25 - 26 Friday - Saturday

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27 Sunday

Long sleep in. Went for a swim in the afternoon but had to get out early; followed by a tremendous thunderstorm.

28 Monday

A 2 am call from Gavin in Trieste. Fire in a Moscow TV tower.

29 Tuesday

TV report of a 18-year old with a mental age of two whom immigration officers allowed across the border when he 'escaped' from his mother.

30 - 31 Wednesday - Thursday

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SEPTEMBER

1 Friday

Pool not open until 4 pm due to a “storm warning” though none was actually issued! HKU report on pollster inquiry issued; found that the government, the VC and others had exerted pressure on Robert Chung to stop taking polls on the CE's popularity.

2 Saturday

All day proof-reading the Singapore textbook. To TST in the evening for dinner at the YMCA.

3 Sunday

Immigration department in another botch up! A Vietnamese tourist who lost her passport but replaced it (!) locked up for 20 days!

4 Monday

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5 Tuesday

About 10 000 PSB officers to be out tonight in Shenzhen looking for the missing HK boy. More from the HKU saga; several PVCs [Pro Vice Chancellors] talking about resigning.

6 Wednesday

VC and PVC involved in the Chung controversy resign.

7 - 8 Thursday - Friday

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9 Saturday

To TST early evening. Bought an iron (\$88).

10 Sunday

Election day for the Legislative Council. I didn't vote as I would have had to have gone to CU. Swim late in the afternoon.

11 Monday

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12 Tuesday

Mid-autumn festival eve. Walk through the park in the evening. Very tired!

13 Wednesday

Slept in but still tired. Finished the major writing of the chapters for the Singapore Science book. Wendy here in the evening - first guest!

14 Thursday

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15 Friday

Pool mostly to myself! Watched most of the opening ceremony of the Sydney Olympic games.

16 Saturday

All day on “Science 2000” Workbook 2A. Swim in the afternoon then to a Beethoven concert at the Tuen Mun Town Hall. Because of continual chatter, mainly from school students, was taken to the balcony where there was no-one else!

17 - 18 Sunday - Monday

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19 Tuesday

Fire alarm in the building goes off just before midnight. Smoke detector in B1 [?] set off the alarm.

20 Wednesday

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21 Thursday

The body of a young female University of Science and Technology university lecturer found on the beach below the university.

22 - 25 Friday - Monday

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26 Tuesday

A jockey dies after a fall last weekend. Anson Chan “scolded” by Chen Xie(?)—chen in Beijing. A Greek ferry hits rocks and sinks.

27 Wednesday

Ballistics specialist arrested for corruption for ordering “bullet proof” vests that don't all work. A Greek ferry hits rocks and sinks. [?which day] Mine explosion in SE China - nearly 200 miners killed.

28 Thursday

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29 Friday

10 tons! Of fireworks seized at Kam Tin near the Sek Kong barracks.

30 Saturday

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OCTOBER

1 Sunday

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2 Monday

Public holiday for National Day. Working all day.

3 - 4 Tuesday - Wednesday

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5 Thursday

Protesters storm the Serbian parliament in an apparent attempt to overthrow Miloslevic. Opposition leader proclaimed president and winner of last week's elections.

6 Friday

Chung Yuen holiday; thunderstorms hale to reduce the number of hill fires [caused by grave sweepers]. Limited my swim to just 6 lengths. Today. A war commemoration ceremony was held at City Hall, and not at the Cenotaph.

7 Saturday

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8 Sunday

Schumacher wins the Japanese GP to become F1 world champion; Ferrari, his team win the constructor's championship for the first time in 21 years.

[Trip to Britain]

NOVEMBER

1 Wednesday

Arrived back from London at 6 pm. Temperature about 25°C. Tired. Checked e-mail. Heard of a SIA crash in Taipei.

2 Thursday

Suffering from jet lag. Slept in. Didn't go to the gym.

3 Friday

Went for a swim. Did my 20 laps (1200 m) but still suffering from jet lag.

4 Saturday

Got a bit of work done on the Brunei Teachers' Book 2, but not easy. Phone call from Gavin from Malta.

5 Sunday

Slept in until noon. Got the first instalment of the holiday letter written.

6 Monday

Almost a normal day again! Though very tired in the evening.

7 Tuesday

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8 Wednesday

The US presidential election today (Tuesday in the US). So close that a re-count was needed in Florida, the state that was deciding the outcome of the election.

9 - 11 Thursday - Saturday

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12 Sunday

Remembrance Sunday; rained, the first time in 50 years some of the participants said. Cooler at 18°C. HK loses to Korea in bid to stage the 2006 Asian Games. Had a hotel dinner in the evening delivered to the room [??]

13 Monday

Much cooler; maximum about 20°C. Still went for a swim though the water was cool.

14 Tuesday

HK media invited to a function in Shenzhen; believed linked to an outburst by [president] Jiang recently over questions asked him by HK journalists.

15 - 16 Wednesday - Thursday

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17 Friday

President Clinton arrives in Vietnam after an APEC meeting in Brunei.

18 Saturday

Tried to do the 4 km [treadmill] run in the gym. The pace was too fast so stopped at 3.2 km; also the first machine stopped at about the 3 km mark. [I think this was some competition held in the gym.]

19 Sunday

Macau GP. Fatal accident in the sports car warm up when the brakes on a car fail and it shoots down the escape road and hits people then a track.

20 - 21 Monday - Tuesday

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22 Wednesday

19.9°C. Emil Zatopek dies, aged 78.

23 Thursday

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24 Friday

Home-made bomb planted in Festival Walk; hundreds evacuated and the bomb defused.

25 - 28 Saturday - Tuesday

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29 Wednesday

Bomb explodes in a car in Yuen Long this morning.

30 Thursday

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DECEMBER

1 Friday

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2 Saturday

About 23°C. Another bomb explodes, this time in a phone booth at 5:30 am in TST. Slept in. Didn't do any work. After going to the supermarket, went for the first hike of the season - a short one up a nearby hill.

3 - 4 Sunday - Monday

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5 Tuesday

Went for my free medical test - one of 30 'chosen' (?) from serviced suited [promotion by a new clinic in the other building]. Took blood pressure and a blood sample.

6 - 7 Wednesday - Thursday

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8 Friday

About 22°C. Went for a run - not so easy because of cracked heels and a lingering muscle injury. Also some time needed spent to find correct paths [was I was now doing runs in a new area].

9 - 10 Saturday - Sunday

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11 Monday

Container with semi-conscious illegal immigrants found. Admart closes. Audrey Eu (I) wins a HK by-election.

12 Tuesday

Cooler. Drizzle. Leonie et. al off to Peking. I completed my first 2000 m rowing challenge [in the gym] in 7 min 58 s. Nadine to Shatin College with Lisa.

13 Wednesday

Big drip in temperature; down to 9°C in parts of the NT early morning. About 12-13°C when I went for a swim; OK as the water was about 20°C. Another Osprey crash; this time in NC - four Marines killed. All Ospreys grounded. Went to Sheung Shui to meet Nadine.

14 Thursday

With Nadine to CU. I went to the clinic and dental hygienist. Lunch at BJC then back. Nadine to school for the afternoon. Gore concedes the US presidency. The deputy director of the Inland Revenue Department convicted of swindling the government with home loans.

15 - 16 Friday - Saturday

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17 Sunday

In the afternoon, Nadine and I go for a walk through Tin Shui Wai and discover a big flea market.

18 Monday

Nadine leaves here in the morning. Another swim. Leonie, Adam and V back from China.

19 Tuesday

Nadine to Shatin College sports day.

20 Wednesday

Leonie and Adam here early evening, just in time for dinner.

21 Thursday

Nadine to the clinic to get a second opinion on her heart murmur. Leonie and Adam to a movie in the evening.

22 Friday

22°C. Hike with Leonie and Adam from Tai Mei Tuk to Brides pool, around the area and back.

23 Saturday

Swim in the afternoon with Leonie; she did 1 km while I did only 600 m. Leonie and Adam leave later.

24 Sunday

Gavin arrives in the evening. Calls me at 12:15 am from Tsuen Wan but doesn't come here.

25 Monday

To a Christmas dinner in the Kowloon Hotel at Gavin's behest; Leonie, Adam and Nadine there but Nadine leaves early without eating.

26 Tuesday

Over 200 killed last night in a disco in China.

27 - 28 Wednesday - Thursday

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29 Friday

Went to the gym especially to do a last 2 km rowing challenge before the deadline on the 31st; managed 7' 42", a personal best. Sunbathed at the pool in the afternoon. V returns to the US in the evening.

30 Saturday

Leg injury still affected my run slightly. Posted tax. Nadine here overnight.

31 Sunday

Last [real] day of the millennium. Took Nadine to the bus stop then did shopping. Sunbathing in the afternoon at the pool (I think). Stayed up till midnight to welcome in the millennium. Bought running shoes at the flea market (I think).

Hikes: 2000 - 2001

2000

1	3/12		Hotel → nearby hill → hotel	-
2	8/12	22°C	Tai Wo → lead mine pass (~1.12) → (7) and loop (2.00) → forest road → Tai Po	2:45
3	16/12	22°C	Tai Po (viaduct) → lead mine pass (38) → Tai Mo Shan (1.45) → Twisk (2.11) → Kap Lung trail → Sek Kong	3:00
4	22/12	22°C	Tai Mei Tuk → Brides pool → Wu Kau Tung → (Lek Kung track) → Tai Mei Tuk	-
5	30/12	21°C	Tai Po (V) → lead mine pass (38) → road to Needle Hill → Needle Hill (1.50) → pass (2.40) → Tai Po (V)	3:08

2001

6	6/1	20°C	Tai Wo → Cloudy Hill (43) → first reservoir → family walk → Hok Tau reservoir (1.52) → Cloudy Hill (2.33) → park	3:07
7	13/1	19°C	Tai Mei Tuk → Nam Chung → peak (1.56) → Hok Tau (2.38) → Cloudy Hill (2.25) → park	(3.59)
8	20/1	25°C	Tai Mei Tuk → Brides pool (46) → Sam A Chung → Lai Chi Wo (1.52) → fire lookout (2.12) → Tai Mei Tik	3:59!
9	27/1	13°C	Plover cove → grave (1.02) → ridge (1.41) → stream (2.26) → Brides pool (3.00) → Tai Mei Tuk	3:58
10	3/2	16°C	Tai Po V → lead mine pass (39) → Tai Mo Shan (1.41?) → Twisk (2.01) → Tai Lam Chung (3.15) → Tai Tong	4.00
11	10/2	17°C	Tai Tong → (hill?) → reservoir → stage 10 track → road → small reservoir (Wong Nei Tung) → Tai Tong	~3:00
12	17/2	18°C	Tai Tong → trail → reservoir (36) → trail and road → dam (2.08) → Wong Nei Tung reservoir → Tai Tong	~3:30
13	24/2	26°C	CU → Pyramid Peak → Man On Shan → Kei Ling Ha	~4.10
14	3/3	22°C	Tai Wo → lead mine pass (1.09) → top of reservoir (1.21) → main dam (1.47) → reservoir track → pass (3.02) → Tao Po	3:32
15	10/3	19°C	Tai Po → lead mine pass (38) → Ng Tung Chai → Kadoorie farm (2.11) → Fanling	3:58
16	17/3	25°C	Tai Tong trail → reservoir (38) → stage 10 → road (1.23) →	~3.38

			dams → road to top of reservoir (2.54) → trail → village/rd	
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Average time (14 runs) 3:37