

# DIARY: 2001

## JANUARY

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1 Monday

New millennium. Sunbathing at the pool. Leonie and Adam here late evening. To bed at about 1 am.

2 Tuesday

Pool closed for annual maintenance so no swim for Leonie. Gavin turns up in the afternoon for a short time. Nadine to dentist.

3 Wednesday

To airport in the morning to see off Leonie, Adam and Nadine. Gavin comes here in the afternoon to use the sun bed at the gym (\$70). He attends the Shatin races in the evening.

4 Thursday

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5 Friday

Gavin here in the afternoon; went to the gym together though I didn't do much exercise.

6 Saturday

Hike nearly 10% slower than last year. Still have the leg injury and feeling a bit tired. Gavin with his lady friend here for about an hour only!

7 Sunday

Gavin here while I was eating dinner. Air pollution (RSP) bad outside.

8 Monday

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9 Tuesday

Gavin and Katie here in the evening for overnight. The plane Gavin was to fly on was diverted to Anchorage while on its way to HK because of a drunken passenger causing damage.

10 Wednesday

Up at 5 am. Gavin and Katie off to the airport for his 9:05 departure. Went to bed then until 9 am. Later, in the gym, did my first attempt at “3 + 2” (3 km cycle + 2 km treadmill) challenge in 13' 53”.

11 Thursday

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12 Friday

Anson Chan announces she will resign, cutting short her two-year extension.

13 Saturday

19°C. Run better than I thought it would be; behind my PB at the halfway mark but clawed back most of the that. To TST in the evening.

14 Sunday

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15 Monday

More “bullet-proof” police vests tested. Video shown on force being used by immigration officials at the airport to repatriate some Falun Gung practitioners.

16 Tuesday

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17 Wednesday

“3 + 2” challenge in the gym; second attempt, time down to 13' 31”. Report that President Kabila of the Congo assassinated.

18 - 19 Thursday - Friday

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20 Saturday

Hot at about 25°C in parts of the NT. This probably accounts for the difficult run, at least during the last quarter. Joseph Estrada steps down as president of the Philippines. VP Gloria Macapagal-Arroya sworn in as the new president. George W Busd also sworn in as the new US president.

21 - 23 Sunday - Tuesday

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24 Wednesday

Year of the Snake begins. About 650 flights (in/out) from the airport today - a record. Gym open today; I was alone while there. Watched “Aida” on TV.

25 Thursday

Misty and light rain but the fireworks display over the harbour goes ahead.

26 Friday

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27 Saturday

Much cooler; 11<sup>o</sup>C in most of the NY. Wore pullover for the run. Hurt my leg again after just 10 minutes, making the run difficult.

28 - 30 Sunday - Tuesday

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31 Wednesday

“3 - 2” challenge extended another month. Did 'Super Slow' weight training in the gym. “Too Time” (TV programme) finally ends. Decision in the Lockerbie trial announced.

## **FEBRUARY**

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1 - 2 Thursday - Friday

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3 Saturday

Still cool and overcast. Leg did not tear again in today's run from Tai Po to Tai Lam Chung and over the hill to Tai Tong. To TST in the evening.

4 - 5 Sunday - Monday

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6 Tuesday

First boat from China to Taiwan in over 50 years. Israeli election.

7 - 9 Wednesday - Friday

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10 Saturday

Hike/Run in the Tai Lam Chung reservoir area. TST in the evening. US submarine hits and sinks a Japanese training trawler while practising rapid surfacing near Honolulu. HK truckers blocking roads to the container terminals over a \$40 payment slapped on them.

11 Sunday

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12 Monday

Gym has its first anniversary - got a piece of cake!

13 Tuesday

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14 Wednesday

Valentines day! Cool at 16°C. Picked up the results of my blood analysis.

15 Thursday

Donald Tsang promoted to Chief Secretary today. Watched the finals of the Rugby 7s world cup on TV.

16 Friday

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17 Saturday

About 18°C. Ran around Tai Lam Chung reservoir area - difficult! To the gym at 7 pm to watch aerobics taken by a visiting American chap.

18 - 20 Sunday - Tuesday

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21 Wednesday

Garden bakery biscuit factory goes up in smoke. Got a free "Club" T-shirt at the gym. May cost \$350 to get into HK Disneyland. Foreign passport holders to get free visas to Guangdong but need to join a tour.

22 Thursday

Another HK autistic boy found across the border in Shenzhen.

23 Friday

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24 Saturday

26°C. Hike/Run from CU up to Tai Mo Shan.

25 Sunday

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26 Monday

Don Bradman dies yesterday in Adelaide, aged 92.

27 Tuesday

A *third* mentally handicapped person gets across past Immigration, this time at the airport - 3 times!!

28 Wednesday

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## **MARCH**

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1 - 3 Thursday - Saturday

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4 Sunday

News of a US military rescue plane crashing on the way from Florida to Virginia. 100 members of a triad gang arrested while at a ceremony on a boat.

5 Monday

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6 Tuesday

NPC meetings in Beijing continue. School shooting in the US - in San Diego! Students kills two and wounds about 13. Harmful chemical likely to explode was destroyed in a controlled explosion at CUHK. Picked up my “3 + 2” certificate from the gym; I had the fastest time!!

7 Wednesday

41 pupils killed in an explosion at a primary school in China while they were making fireworks! HK budget today.

8 - 9 Thursday - Friday

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10 Saturday

Cooler for the run. Rest in the afternoon then to TST for a while in the evening.

11 - 12 Sunday - Monday

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13 Tuesday

Census count overnight tonight [?]. An F-18 drops a bomb on own troops in a Kuwait exercise, killing about 6 (including a NZ SAS observer). HSBC to shift a lot of its work to Guangdong.

14 Wednesday

Letter from Gavin plus a copy of his promotion to corporal. Policeman shot and killed in Tsuen Wan.

15 - 16 Thursday - Friday

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17 Saturday

To City Hall in the evening for a concert by the Black Mountain Male Voice Choir of Wales. Back on Bus 969.

18 Sunday

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19 Monday

Unemployment up again to about 4.5% after gradually decreasing.

20 Tuesday

Two census students come here about 5 pm.

21 Wednesday

Air pollution reaches a record level of 150 in Central! Stock market at a 17-month low of about 12 700.

22 Thursday

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23 Friday

Mir space station return to Earth in a controlled crash into the Pacific Ocean. Another shooting at a San Diego high school.

24 - 26 Saturday - Monday

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27 Tuesday

Suspect in the murder of the policeman held.

28 - 30 Wednesday - Friday

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31 Saturday

No run! All day on Chinese dictionary. To TST in the afternoon. The bus driver left 30 minutes late on leaving TST due to people without tickets taking most of the seats. Then to the gym.

## **APRIL**

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1 Sunday

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2 Monday

Phone call in the morning from Nadine. Photocopies of Singapore Science Book 2 arrive. Ralph Pixton [of RTHK] dies, aged 65.

3 Tuesday

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4 Wednesday

Pit bull dogs. Bred for fighting, seized in Pat Heung.

5 - 6 Thursday - Friday

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7 Saturday

A HK plane “Spirit of Kai Tak” wins the London to Sydney small plane race.

8 Sunday

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9 Monday

Heavy rain and hail - the first time there has been hail for 11 years (hail up to \$5-coin size).

10 Tuesday

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11 Wednesday

Did the “challenge” at the gym again to get 2388 points, putting me in the lead again. China agrees to release the crew of the US spy plane.

12 Thursday

Harry Seacombe [opera singer and one of the Goons] dies. 47 people killed during a stampede at a soccer match at Ellis Park in Johannesburg. Round-the-world yachts leave HK for the Philippines. Australia beat American Samoa in soccer 31 - 0, a world record! The US spy plane crew leave China.

13 - 15 Friday - Sunday

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16 Monday

A boxing troupe from China staying on the hotel uses the gym changing room to wash clothes and the sauna to dry them!

17 Tuesday

Started swimming. Only did 600 m - thought I had done 1200 m!

18 - 22 Wednesday - Sunday

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23 Monday

A Cathay Pacific crew in a hotel in Istanbul taken hostage by a Chechen terrorist group. All were released later. An interesting TV documentary on the four main leaders of WWII - Churchill, Roosevelt, Stalin and Eisenhower.

24 Tuesday

the KCR has some kind of LTR ground-breaking ceremony down below next to the LRT station. A pilotless robotic jet flies from Edwards Air Force Base to Adelaide.

25 Wednesday

ANZAC day! Former President Estrada of the Philippines arrested on charges of economic plunder. The Cathay Pacific air-crew arrives back in HK from Istanbul.

26 - 29 Thursday - Sunday

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30 Monday

Posted mail at the Tin Shui Wai post office. Public holiday for Buddha's birthday. Bun Festival held on Cheung Chau.

## **MAY**

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1 Tuesday

Public holiday - May day. Had a swim - at the deep end [probably because too many people at the shallow end].

2 Wednesday

Watched a "Mr World" competition in Scotland on TV. The Mr USA - from UCSD - comes third. Mr HK - an embarrassment!

3 Thursday

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4 Friday

Watched the movie "Mary Shelley's Frankenstein" on TV.

5 - 6 Saturday - Sunday

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7 Monday

Hot day. Ronald Biggs, one of the “Great train robbers”, returns to the UK from Brazil [for health reasons, I think].

8 Tuesday

Jiang Zeming [Chinese president] arrives for an economic forum. Late night fireworks! An AN-225, the world's largest transport plane, has its maiden flight (it can hold 250 cars!).

9 - 14 Wednesday - Monday

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15 Tuesday

Saw on TV the incident in Christchurch of the para-glider who became entangled in power lines.

16 Wednesday

Bird flu virus reappears, so many chickens killed. See on TV a runaway train in the US.

17 Thursday

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18 Friday

All chickens in HK to be culled because of the bird flu. Heavy rain (before I got up!), therefore the BBQ [??hotel] postponed, though fine in the afternoon.

19 - 21 Saturday - Monday

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22 Tuesday

A Japanese WWII live mortar bomb (2' x 4") explodes in a shop being demolished near the SOGO department store.

23 Wednesday

NZ in the TV news - twice! First, a truck carrying rat poison tips over on the Kaikoura coast. And a NZ inventor makes a revolutionary gold ball in the shape of a Rugby ball (the same person also invented a remote-controlled sheep dog).

24 Thursday

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25 Friday

the UK trying to sell its “Merlin” helicopter to the US Marines (and others). A female employer sentenced to 22 months for wounding her Indonesian main - hitting her with a broom and burning her on the neck with an iron.

26 - 28 Saturday - Monday

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29 Tuesday

To the dentist and doctor in the morning; the clinic is temporarily in Residence 1 while the medical centre is being re-furbished.

30 - 31 Wednesday - Thursday

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## **JUNE**

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1 Friday

Fine day. Still some breathing problems - tight while swimming. The hotel poolside BBQ held in the evening; food not bad for the price which was nothing!

2 Saturday

The crown prince of Nepal massacres most of the royal family including his father (the king) and mother (the queen). A group of elderly and handicapped people charged into a Tsuen Wan HSBC branch protesting the \$40 [a month?] fee on small accounts. A policeman stabbed by an II in Tin Shui Wai; he was later cornered at gunpoint.

3 Sunday

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4 Monday

Candlelight vigil tonight in Victoria Park to commemorate June 4<sup>th</sup>. Armoured guards drugged after drinking soft drinks. Their car later abandoned in Yuen Long; \$12 million missing.

5 - 6 Tuesday - Wednesday

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7 Thursday

Heavy rain overnight which causes serious flooding in the Yuen Long area. UK elections under way. Ocean Park may have to close in a few years as it can't bring in the \$900 000 per day needed.

8 Friday

Heavy rain - red rain storm warning issued. Schools cancelled, but only after kids had arrived. Tony Blair and Labour win the UK elections. In Japan, eight primary school pupils stabbed to death at a school.

9 - 10 Saturday - Sunday

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11 Monday

Timothy McVeigh executed in the evening, HK time. Chicken sales to be resumed on Friday. The 6<sup>th</sup> cholera case identified. A CJD case in a woman who lived in the UK since 1985.

12 Tuesday

Still more rain; about 200 mm in Tai Po. Just managed a swim (22 laps, 1320 m) before the pool was closed because of the thunderstorm warning; good swim.

13 - 14 Wednesday - Thursday

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15 Friday

Chicken back on sale again in HK. Watched on TV NZ win the Wales Rugby 7s tournament and the world series for the second year, beating Australia 31 - 5 in the final.

16 - 19 Saturday - Tuesday

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20 Wednesday

WWI soldiers found, arms linked together, during excavation by BMW!! near Arras [in France, where we have been]. Cathay Pacific pilots vote to take industrial action starting July 1<sup>st</sup>.

21 - 26 Thursday - Tuesday

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27 Wednesday

Did the ½ mile challenge [in the gym] in 8 ' 10". More heavy rain - wettest June ever with over 1000 cm [??mm]. Flood warning - amber then red - as well as thunderstorm and landslip warnings issued all up at the same time. Watched another adventure race in NZ - the "Southern traverse".

28 Thursday

The world's first baby dolphins conceived by AI born at Ocean Park. (X-35 VTOL aircraft on TV.)

29 Friday

Milosovic taken to the Hague. As a result of the recent flooding, one man is seriously ill with leptospirosis. No Cathay Pacific agreement but pilots will take no action over the holiday weekend. Saw a TV documentary on super volcanoes - incredible!

30 Saturday

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## **JULY**

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1 Sunday

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2 Monday

Holiday for the anniversary of the handover. Managed to get a swim; not too many people.

3 Tuesday

Miloslovic appears in court. Cathay pilots to work to rule. More controversy after the CE gives HK's highest honour to a leftist leader of the 1967 riots and bombings. A monkey which gave officials the run-around in TST yesterday for 10 hours, finally caught - in Wanchai!! The final parts of the US EP-3 spy-plane flown out of China.

4 Wednesday

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5 Thursday

Typhoon Utor approaches - the biggest since Typhoon Hope in 1979 [the typhoon that came when Leonie was due]. MI5 files released on the successful use of double agents in WWII. July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday in the US - hotdog eating competition in New York! Ugh! Won by a Japanese man who ate 50 hotdogs.

6 Friday

Gavin called about 8 am; he is in San Diego. The No. 8 signal issued so most of HK closes down. The pool closed so did aerobic exercises in the gym instead of a swim.

7 Saturday

My last (and final) year's full-time Chemistry students came here. Had lunch in a restaurant, looked at the gym and the pool then back here for a chat and food.

8 Sunday

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9 Monday

Cathay Pacific fires 49 captains and first officers.

10 - 12 Tuesday - Thursday

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13 Friday

A CUHK professor - Critchley - killed when hit by a car while crossing a road in Shatin. Beijing awarded the 2008 Olympic Games amidst much hype!

14 Saturday

To TST in the evening. Watched some international water polo at Kowloon Park pool.

15 Sunday

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16 Monday

Started an Internet search for Gavin. Got a Hang Seng Bank-in-one card.

17 Tuesday

More thunderstorms. Managed only 14 laps of the swim (instead of my goal of 16 ½) because of the thunderstorm. The X-35 again shown on the TV news.

18 - 19 Wednesday - Thursday

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20 Friday

The Court of Final Appeal overturns the government ruling, allowing right-of-abode to Chinese citizens, but ruled against adopted children being allowed to stay here.

21 - 22 Saturday - Sunday

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23 Monday

Wahid ousted as president of Indonesia.

24 Tuesday

Tamil Tigers attack the air base and international airport at Colombo.

25 Wednesday

No 8 signal up all day but the typhoon has little effect. An adopted girl allowed to stay in HK. No swim but went to the gym instead. All chicken markets sprayed and cleaned.

26 Thursday

India's bandit queen assassinated.

27 Friday

A brief report on TV about the use of Navaho language code by the US in WWII.

28 - 29 Saturday - Sunday

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30 Monday

The KCR loses its appeal to build a spur long across the NT wetlands to Lok Ma Chau [though eventually built several years later].

31 Tuesday

Prof Li Shao Min back in HK after being expelled from China for 'spying'. Taiwan getting over its worst typhoon for the year.

## AUGUST

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1 Wednesday

Saw and caught the first cockroach in the suite! It must have come from the workman's box when he came to change the safe batteries.

2 Thursday

Just managed to squeeze in a swim between closures for thunderstorms.

3 - 8 Friday - Wednesday

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9 Thursday

Saw on TV an international youth orchestra at Verbier.

10 Friday

Two new species of mammals - a weasel and a rat - discovered in HK.

### [Trip to Turkey]

24-25 August Friday-Saturday

Flew with SIA from HK to Singapore (747) then to Istanbul via Dubai (B777-300). All flights departed and arrived more or less on schedule. Service not bad. Weather good all the way. Women on flight to Dubai covered in black burqas from head to toe very creepy! Arrived in Istanbul at about 6.30 am local time. Had to join the 'visa' queue to pay for and get the necessary visa. Then a slow queue for immigration but sped up later when people could join the queue for locals. Changed money at the airport. Got a 'Havas' bus to town for about US\$3 (comfortable and air-conditioned). Where I got off the bus stop in town, a guy tried to persuade me to stay in his hotel. 25°C on arrival. Walked with backpack to 'Cordial House' (? pre-booked from Hong Kong); turned out to be not so cordial.

At about 10 am, set off for the Fez travel office. Got the 'Hop-on-hop-off' passes and talked about the tour. Then down to the seaside, eventually getting used to the many people hawking their wares. Got sucked into a shoe shine by a boy who would not take Hong Kong money having said he would!

Then to a fish market and got offered free coffee. Eventually also had a fish lunch. Then slowly back towards the Blue Mosque. Passed many street restaurants with friendly owners. Rested in a park - and the same SIA plane flew over on its return flight. Spent some time with a friendly Kurdish carpet seller who even provided some apple tea. Then to a bazaar near the Blue Mosque and a visit to another carpet shop. Then looked through the Blue Mosque.



Needed to cover my legs with a sheet which was provided. Bought a book on Istanbul and a set of photos after a lot of haggling. Back to the hotel to find still had the same room (the one not booked!) and couldn't get breakfast on Monday morning (before Fez bus departure).

Room hot, with no air-conditioning or fan nor windows that opened.

Went outside briefly at night. Fire (no flames!) across the street with several fire appliances in attendance.

## 26 Sunday

Sleep quite good actually! Hot but not sweating. Up at 8 am. Good buffet breakfast - bread, butter, jam, eggs, cornflakes, tomato, cucumber, tea. Set off at about 10 am. Most places still closed including the Grand Bazaar. Walked past that and found a street market. Bought a battery charger; bargained and may have been able to get it cheaper as soon found hundreds for sale! Got 'taken for a ride' by a guy selling cherry tea after getting a picture. Then around the university to the Suleyman mosque. Looked at one tomb but did not go inside the mosque. Then down the hill towards the 'Golden Horn'. Took a picture of a lady washing a carpet with her daughter. A few minutes later, the daughter came running down with her address to get a copy of the photo. On down to the Horn. Noticed again, lots of policemen, most lying down or eating from the bridge. Many men and boys fishing from the bridge. On towards the Bosphorus. Watched for some time ferries coming and going, then further along to where many people - mainly males - were 'swimming' in the sea together with jellyfish. Hot and tired now.

Across the road and up to the Topkapi Palace. Eventually found the entrance. Relatively expensive but interesting, especially Mohammed's letter, footprints, hair, etc.. Then to a restaurant there and changed £200.

To the Sophia Mosque but didn't go in as it would cost another TL7 million! (Saw signs above a shop saying "Sorry, we are open!") While asking a policeman directions to a hotel (for return to Istanbul later), a guy came from the mosque to 'help'. Went with him to a hotel, looked at rooms and he eventually offered one night at US\$40 (compared with the \$110 listed!). Then went to his rug/kilm shop and tried to sell kilms up to US\$20,000!! At least, his complimentary apple teas was nice!

Then to the original hotel and paid a deposit (for return to Istanbul). After that, had an ice-cream and then a baked potato with fillings. Back to the hotel and into a new room/correct room!

## 27 Monday

Fan in the second room but not so hot. Up about 6 am, picked up a packed breakfast (one was provided - large bread roll with fillings). Cool in the morning while walking to the Fez bus.

Off at 7 am towards Gallipoli. Stopped about 9 am so people could buy some breakfast - had soup, stew and rice. Continued with 'outsider' (guide - young Western guy) on bus trying to get video to work so we could watch the movie "ANZACs".

Arrived at Eceabat and checked in at the hostel. Mucked around on the pool table outside.

Then, at about 2 pm, off for the excellent conducted tour of the Gallipoli battlefields with a super guide. Back at the hostel at about 8 pm. Hostel put on a BBQ dinner.

## 28 Tuesday

Good sleep in spite of the lights outside and the noise of a dripping tap. Quite a good breakfast. Bus off at about 7.30 am to catch the ferry crossing to Canakkale. On arrival, four of us left the bus. Checked in at the Efes Hotel. Simple but very good room.

Then off to Troy. Walked through the town to the bus stop and got a minibus ('Dolmus') for the ½-hour ride. Had to buy an entrance ticket for the site. Very interesting with its nine cities built on top of each other over the past 5000 years or so. Got a (more comfortable) mini-bus back at 1 pm.

On return, bought cold! chips and returned to the hotel. Then slept for about two hours. After that, walked along the waterfront, ending up at a naval museum, park and castle. Bought food at a supermarket (photographed a boy in a toy car-trolley). In the evening, had a dinner near the hotel (with a waiter who reminded me of Gavin).

## 29 Wednesday

Up at 7 am after a good sleep with the fan on all night. Ate 'breakfast' of bread roll, jam and orange.

Left hotel at 8 am. Sat on the waterfront until the Fez bus arrived at 8.30 pm. Found the four of us were booked on it!! Then off to Mergma. Stopped at a 'nut' shop along the way. Arrived about 1 pm. We all had lunch in a restaurant upstairs. Saw a blindfolded cow on a truck being taken for slaughter. Lunch included Turkish bread with sheep's milk and goat cheese, Fanta, Turkish salad and salad. Then off with a guide up the hill to the ruins of the ancient city of Pergamon. Hot! Tour lasted about one hour.

Then off south to Celcuk. Chose to stay, with some others, at the ANZ Pension at Celcuk rather than the one at Kudasai as the former would be much quieter. (The 'outsider' phones ahead to book.) Arrived about 7 pm. Sat and talked on the roof lounge and then had a good dinner. Brief walk down the road later.

## 30 Thursday

Up by 8 am. Nice breakfast - eggs, sausage slices, tomato and apple tea. Off on the Fez bus for the 3 km ride to old Ephesus. Entered at the top of the hill and walked down to where the

Fez bus was waiting. Back to the hostel where we left the bus (and would wait until the next Fez bus was to pass through a few days later).

At 12.30 pm, off in the ANZ Pension mini-bus to the site of the 'Virgin Mary's' house; services are held next to it. Then to lunch in a tent-like structure where, sitting on a carpet, we had traditional bread with fillings such as cheese, eggplant, chocolate. Nice! Then to the site of the 'seven sleepers'. Off then to the old Greek village of Sirince. Back to the hostel then off to the beach for a swim. Back for a shower, then a walk to look for (?drinking) water then dinner and talking on the roof of the pension.

### 31 Friday

Up about 8 am. Breakfast late - they forgot to get my order! So, 20 minutes late leaving for a day trip to Pamakkale (thermal area and old Roman spa) and Aphrodisias (ruins of Roman town), again in the pension mini-bus. Had about 1 ½ hours in each place. Got back at about 7.30 pm.

After dinner, most of the group went for a Turkish massage. Bath OK, but the massage was disappointing.

### 1 Saturday

Up at about 8 am. Packed, had breakfast (muesli) and checked out. Had a quick look at the Temple of Artemis ruins (next to the pension) then up to the mosque near the ruins of St John's Basilica. Then a walk down the main street where an old man shared his watermelon; took photos with him.

Found an "All Black" pension and made enquiries. Walked through the Saturday street market and to the supermarket for water. Sat and wrote a postcard to Gavin.

Back to the ANZ Pension to collect the backpack then off on the Fez bus at 1 pm via Marmaris to Koycegiz. Checked in. Had an early evening walk along the waterfront then dinner at a small local restaurant. Very impressive waiter! (in a very dirty singlet) who also made home deliveries. Also met a guy born in England who works as a translator; he was wearing a rugby shirt just like those of Christ's College.

### 2 Sunday

Up after 8 am today! A la Carte menu at the hostel for breakfast. Then off at 10 am for a 10-hour excursion, beginning with a cruise across the lake. Stopped in the middle of the lake for a swim - did some 'lengths'. Then past the tombs of Kunos in the cliffs and on to Turtle Beach. There for three hours. Had lunch before getting off the boat. At the beach, Gary (an Australian) and I swam across the entrance to the 'lake' which had 'strong' currents.

Then back at a stop where most of the others had a frolic in a mud pool. Met a driver of a boat-taxi. Then another swim in the lake plus a tow behind the boat on ropes.

Before dinner, walked around town again. Found the mosque with its spring of mineral(?) water. A young boy came over and helped to get water (from a fountain). Took his photograph. Dinner at the same restaurant.

### 3 Monday

Up a little earlier to walk along the waterfront. Almost alone. Off at 9 am for a day of adventure in the Salikent Gorge ([www.salikentgorge.com](http://www.salikentgorge.com)). Stopped on the way at 'Esma's' for Gozleme (meat/honey). Then on to the gorge. First up, a 5 km ride down the river on rubber tubes. Good fun! Then a hike up the gorge as far as we were allowed to go (the 'guide' wouldn't take us up a rope at a high rock wall). On the return, floated down the icy but not-too-deep river to the main open area; did this twice!

Left for Fethiye at about 5pm, arriving there about 6 pm. Checked in to a small, rather grotty room at a hostel, in which the toilet did not flush away waste. After a rest, went out for a meal then a walk along the harbour front, with its many pleasure yachts.

### 4 Tuesday

Slept in until about 8.30 am. Had breakfast on the roof followed by a call to Fez to book a pick-up the next day. Again, the toilet would not flush properly.

Off to the ruins of a Crusaders' castle on the hill; found a way up eventually. Then along to the 4<sup>th</sup> Century B.C. Lycian tombs (didn't pay the TL 2 million entry fee as could see them well enough from the road). Also didn't buy a TL 2.5 million squeezed orange juice.

Hot now. Bought a lamb kebab (?) in bread - very nice. Then to the tent market seen earlier from the castle. Bought some apple tea, bananas and a *whole* water melon which they cut up. Back to the waterfront to eat watermelon and have a rest. Then back to the hostel for a shower and rest. Heard the fireworks 'bombs' for a ceremony at a statue on the waterfront. In the evening, back to the same shop for lamb plus bread. Then to the supermarket again and back to the hostel.

### 5 Wednesday

Up at 8 am. Walked to the PTT. Posted two postcards but couldn't buy stamps until 9 am! To breakfast at 8.30 am but not quite enough time to finish it as the Fez bus arrived about 8.50 am; it had started today at Fethiye instead of at Oludeniz as it usually does. So, off to Oludeniz to pick up others; only eight on the bus after Gary and Rachel got off to take a dolmus to Fethiye.

A two-hour ride to Kas, over some steep hills. On arrival at Smiley's restaurant, Smiley showed us his 1600-year-old Lycian wine cellar. Then taken along a road to the 'Kaptan' pension. After a shower and rest, walked around the town then up to the amphitheatre and then a beach for a swim. On returning to the pension, had a shower and a three-hour rest.

Then to town for dinner and a brief look around. Made some soup in the kitchen on return.  
Nice room - with a fan.

#### 6 Thursday

Up just after 8 am. Good breakfast; the lady gave guests refills. Supposed to be picked up at 10 am for the Kekova trip, but Ozzie had not given us tickets. So, we were taken down to the harbour front where a trip on a boat was hurriedly arranged.

Left about 10.15 am. On the way, there were two stops for swimming. Then a ride past the Kekova sunken (partially) city. Over to a mainland 'tourist village' for a buffet lunch, which was included in the price. Good! Then a hike up to the castle and the Lycian (?) tombs, avoiding the many ladies and girls selling things.

Left for the return journey at 3.30 pm. One stop for a swim. A heavy shower of rain at that time. The boat arrived back at Kas at 6.30 pm, ½ an hour late, probably due to the rough seas. The skipper caught four fish on the way back.

Met Gary and Rachel on the roof of the hostel when I went up to look at a waterspout that was moving across the harbour. Slept OK though someone made a lot of noise at one point during the night.

#### 7 Friday

Slept in a little as the Fez bus pick up was not until the afternoon. Had another good breakfast - bread, tea, boiled egg, tomatoes, cucumber, olives, cheese and jam or honey. And refills if wanted!

Went for a walk around the Marina area then up to the open-air market. Also selling silver jewellery. Then back to the hostel for a shower and checkout at noon. Said thank you and goodbye.

The Fez bus left for Olympos at 2 pm. Got Brett as the 'outsider' (he was not supposed to be doing this) as the regular guy became sick. On the way, the bus stopped at a cove, where a few of us had a swim in the choppy water. Arrived at Olympos at about 6 pm. Had a welcome apple tea and given the "Yellow Submarine" tree-house! Shower (not in the tree-house) and then dinner.

At 9 pm, the group left on a bus to see the flames of Chimeria. Back at about 11.30 pm. (Also called in at a BP service station which won some award and which the outsider - Brett - was going on about!) A lot of rowdy music until about 4.30 am; had to use ear plugs!

#### 8 Saturday

Up at 7 am for breakfast, which was served more than half an hour late! The bus left about 45 minutes late as many of the party / music goers couldn't wake up on time.

Got to Antalya about 1 ½ hours later. A person from the hotel was waiting near the bus stop; he saw the hotel brochure in my hand and took all of us there.

Starting to feel feverish! After checking-in, walked around the marina area and up to the tourist information office for maps. etc. Then bought some sweet Turkish rolls. Walked along to the old minaret, the clock tower and then to part of Hadrian's wall. Feeling miserable at this stage so back via a park to the hotel by 1.30 pm. Slept all afternoon - or tried to - with a dog continually yelping and fighting (with?) cats.

Early evening, walked to town again. Sat by the clock tower for a while (where there were many Russian tourists). Looked at food stalls but didn't eat anything.

Back to the hotel to go to bed and sweat out the fever. Very noisy at night - not the dog(s) this time, but disco music.

## 9 Sunday

Up late. Fever gone but was weak and tired. Ate quite a bit of the fruit part of the buffet breakfast on the roof.

Off at 11 am for a slow walk around town but only lasted two hours. Had to come back and rest. Just no energy!

In the evening, into town again. Managed to eat a dinner - pita bread filled with salad. But then straight back to the pension and to bed.

## 10 Monday

Up at 8 am for breakfast on the roof. Then off to wait for the Fez bus opposite the clock tower. Had to wait for more than 30 minutes and then it came and stopped on the other side of the road. Bus almost full.

Off to Goreme. Outside Antalya, a stop for refreshments (at a service station) at a shop that charged high prices. Off again over mountainous country. Then a stop at a mountain oasis for lunch.

Out of the hills and on to the Anatolian plateau. Passed though the Islamic centre of Konya late afternoon. Saw air force jets flying over. Then on to Goreme arriving at about 7.30 pm. The bus outsider didn't book accommodation, but arranged some in the "Kookaburra" pension, one connected with the ANZ pension in Celcuk. Then off to a so-called 'folklore' evening with dinner. Turned out to be a dinner-dance with *some* folk dances and a belly dance. Plus plenty of cigarette smoke! A Hong Kong tour group walked in halfway through. A disappointing evening. And, didn't get back until 1 am!!

## 11 Tuesday

Up at about 8 am again. The pension breakfast rather expensive. Then down to wait for the Fez bus for a whole-day excursion of the area. First stop was the top of Pigeon Valley. Then

to an underground city followed by a trek along the Ihlara Valley. (Somewhere on the route, stopped to look at houses, churched in the rock columns.) This was followed by a swim in a crater lake; cool, but refreshing. Also noticed fish jumping out of the water.

Then on to a pottery factory to watch a brief demonstration. Bought a few small items (which I have never used!). Finally, a brief visit, in the dark, to the fairy chimneys.

At this time, while in the tour van, heard a garbled message from the guide about the crashes of the aircraft into the World Trade Center twin towers in New York with the subsequent collapse of the buildings, to be followed by the crash into the Pentagon building. Only really found out what had happened on getting back to the pension and seeing it on TV.

In the evening, went to an Internet café to send e-mail to Leonie and Nadine. Actually got a good quality sleep.

## 12 Wednesday

Got up after 9 am. Had breakfast down at the corner; trouble caused by a small dog! Then down to the PTT to call the Fez bus company to book seats. Then to Yama travel to ask for direction for walking up Pigeon Valley.

Set off for the walk about 11 am! Just outside Goreme. looked at some cave churches in the rock columns; one very interesting one with frescoes. Continued the hike up the valley along (sometimes) wet tracks and orchards; ate one sort of apple from a tree. Continued onward and upward, eventually reaching the rock 'castle' at U...(?), the highest point in Cappadocia. The view from the top was very good. Bought a book on Cappadocia as well as some souvenirs. Spent some time there.

Returned along the highway, then a short cut suggested by a guy asking for Hong Kong money to add to his collection. Arrived back at about 4.30 pm. Got a donner from one of the few places selling selling them then had a quick look at the open-air market; bought three peaches. Then back to the pension for a shower and rest.

Later, went into town for dinner, some shopping and use of the Internet.

## 13 Thursday

Had a brief sleep-in and checked out by 10 am. To town for breakfast - with cats! Then spent a long time in a shop selecting scarves as gifts for people in Hong Kong. Walked along to the open-air museum but did not go in. Just as I was about to take a photo, a group of Italians walked in front of me, so I had to wait!

Back to town and had a rest at the bus station followed by a phone call at the PTT. Then back to the pension for a shower and back to town for dinner. When the boy waiter was shown a dead fly in the bread, he just picked it up and threw it away!

Collected the backpack and walked around to the 'Tuna caves' pension for the 8 pm departure of the Fez bus for the overnight journey to Istanbul. Quite full! Passed through Ankara at

about midnight.

14 Friday

Arrived in Istanbul at about 7.30 am. Quite cool in the morning. Walked down to the Hotel Astara but too early to get the (pre-booked) room immediately. So, walked into 'town' ending up at the supermarket next to Cordial(?) House. Walked back again and had breakfast, Turkish style, in a restaurant. Then sat in the sunshine and wrote the diary for yesterday! Checked in the hotel room then walked down to the site of a Roman hippodrome with Egyptian obelisks. From there to the underground East Roman Cistern; interesting, if over-priced.

From the cistern to the Grand Bazaar for a while. Then down the narrow streets ending up at the ferries. Took one across the Bosphorus. Spent about ½ hour there, then came back on the ferry of a different company. Bought a small donner then walked hurriedly back to the hippodrome area for shopping. Returned to the hotel for a shower and rest.

In the evening, watched a 'Son at Lumière' at the Blue Mosque before having dinner and watching a whirling dervishes performance at a nearby open-air restaurant.

15 Saturday

Very good sleep. Good breakfast on the roof terrace. Then to buy a Turkish newspaper in English and a quick visit to the Grand Bazaar again. Needed a shower on returning to the hotel.

Left on an airport dolmus at 11 am; took about 40 minutes. On check-in, SIA had changed the requested seat but got a similar one.

## **SEPTEMBER**

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16 Sunday

Arrived back from Turkey midday. Tired. Legislative Council by-election. Another cholera case; total now up to about 35.

17 Monday

The son of the Nigerian consul jailed for two years for wounding an off-duty policeman and possession of a stun gun.

18 Tuesday

Bank savings interest rates down to only 1% - lowest for 30+ years. Another cholera case. The KCR to build a tunnel and viaduct to protect a valley in the construction of the spur line to Lok Ma Chau.



19 - 20 Wednesday - Thursday

—

21 Friday

The typhoon which wreaked terrible havoc in Taiwan dissipates as it approached HK and has little effect here. Saw on TVB news that marines from Camp Lejeune are in the process of being sent overseas!

22 Saturday

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23 Sunday

Another accident in China involving a bus with HK tourists. In Sijuan, six were drowned when the bus falls into a gorge after being knocked by an overtaking car. Another six are missing.

24 - 30 Monday - Sunday

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## **OCTOBER**

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1 Monday

National day and a public holiday (and “Golden week” - one week of holidays in China). There was the inevitable scuffle of April 5<sup>th</sup> protesters with the police!

2 Tuesday

Holiday for mid-autumn festival.

3 Wednesday

Two arrested after sending letters to CH Tung threatening to poison his food and drink. Interest rates reduced again - savings rate down to ½%.

4 - 7 Thursday - Sunday

—

8 Monday

US-British attack on Afghanistan began today, taking place overnight. An SAS plane collides with a small plane on the runway in fog at Manila and crashes into a building; no survivors.

9 Tuesday

—

10 Wednesday

The CE's policy speech today. \$600 billion to be spent, including funds for native English speaker teachers for all primary schools.

11 - 14 Thursday - Sunday

—

15 Monday

APEC conference begins in Shanghai.

16 Tuesday

Unemployment in HK up to above 5%.

17 - 24 Wednesday - Wednesday

—

25 Thursday

Chung Yuen holiday. Over 100 hill fires! Including TST. Remembrance day also; ceremony at Statue square. The CE's office receives a hoax anthrax envelope. Fire in the tunnel between Switzerland and Italy.

26 Friday

Population census results released ; about 6.7 million, 95% Chinese.

27 Saturday

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28 Sunday

The Canadian International School closes down with immediate effect; over 380 students at K, primary and secondary levels.

29 Monday

A six-storey building under demolition collapses in Yau Tong; one killed.

30 - 31 Tuesday - Wednesday

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## **NOVEMBER**

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1 - 5 Thursday - Monday

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6 Tuesday

Airport train services disrupted early morning. Two killed in an arson attack in a Tsing Yi flat. Cargo-handling fee by midstream operators dispute coming to the fore again. A NZ horse wins the Melbourne Cup.

7 - 10 Wednesday - Saturday

—

11 Sunday

Remembrance Sunday - WWI Armistice day today. Turned TV on at 7 pm and by chance went to the BBC channel and saw the beginning of the remembrance service in London at 11 am. In HK, the first two Chinese warships to visit HK were open to the public.

12 Monday

Kabul falls to the Northern Alliance as the Taliban pull out. An American Airlines A-300 crashes in New York.

13 Tuesday

Renewed the lease for the suite for another year. Gym not so good today; lot of asthma inhalation medicine inside me.

14 - 16 Wednesday - Friday

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17 Saturday

21°C. Nice day. First day for hikes/runs; no problems with last year's injury and footwear [? as occurred last year].

18 Sunday

Macau F3 Grand Prix today. The government thinking of cutting domestic servants' pay - again!

19 Monday

Spectacular meteor shower over HK and much of North Asia early in the morning. HK gets another medal in games in Guangzhou. A second coal-mining accident in China in the past few days.

20 Tuesday

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21 Wednesday

Christmas lights switched on in TST. Radio 4 Operation Santa Claus concert in the Cultural Centre; funds to go to the Kelly Support Group.

22 Thursday

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23 Friday

Saw Robert Sapolsky on a BBC TV programme “The future just happened”.

24 - 25 Saturday - Sunday

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26 Monday

To the Education Department meeting for publishers in the afternoon. US marines now in Afghanistan. Finally got tickets to NZ. Human cloning 'breakthrough' in the US.

27 - 29 Tuesday - Thursday

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30 Friday

George Harrison [one of the Beatles] dies. Largest shark fin restaurant [?in HK] closes. Victims of tour bus crash in China return to HK. US battle fleet arrives in HK for a four-day stay. The Hotel Furama closes down.

## **DECEMBER**

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1 - 2 Saturday - Sunday

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3 Monday

To the university clinic in the morning. Then chatted with Mr Yip and had lunch with him. Two killed when a taxi driver accidentally hits the accelerator instead of the brake and flies into people outside a restaurant in Shatin.

4 - 6 Tuesday - Thursday

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7 Friday

A bit cooler. Went for a run in the morning. Sir Peter Blake murdered by pirates on a yacht on the Amazon River.

8 Saturday

Worked all day then off to NZ.

[visit to NZ - can't remember why though]

27 Thursday

Back from NZ early morning. Gavin and Nadine already here. Suite quite a mess! About 18°C.

28 Friday

Did supermarket shopping then to the gym for a light workout. Gavin there teaching a staff guy some self-defence moves.

29 Saturday

Went for a hike/run; the first two hours were OK but had severe cramps during the last hour.

30 Sunday

—

31 Monday

Leonie arrives about 7 pm. Slept through the new year.

Hikes: 2001 - 2002

2001

1	17/11	21°C	Tai Po V → lead mine pass (36) → loop → Grassy Hill /rd (1.16) → forest → Tai Po	1:57
2	24/11	22°C	Tai Po V → lead mine pass (37) → Tai Mo Shan (1.42) → Twisk (2.03) → Kap Lung train → Sek Kong	2:45
3	1/12	22°C	Tai Wo → Cloudy Hill (48) → first reservoir → family walk (1.30) → Hok Tau reservoir (1.49) → Cloudy Hill (2.31) → Tai Wo park	3:05
4	7/12	19°C	Tai Tong → reservoir (36) → forest track → [Stage 10] (1.15) → reservoir (1.30) → track → village	1:57
–				
5	29/12	19°C	Tai Po V → lead mine pass (36) → top of reservoir (49) → road to base of Needle Hill → Needle Hill (1.45) → [cramps] → Grassy Hill → lead mine pass (2.40) → Tai Po V	3:10

2002

6	5/1	21°C	Tai Mei Tuk → Pat Sing Leng (40) → hill #8 (1.00) → Hok Tau (2.00) → Cloudy Hill (2.48) → Tai Wo park	3:17
7	12/1	22°C	CU station → [4] (53) → Kowloon Peak (2.00) → Shatin /river (2.33) → CU	3:02
8	17/1	17°C	CU station → [4] (52) → Pyramid Peak → Ma On Shan (1.49) → [4] (2.27) → CU	3:08
9	26/1	16°C	Tai Mei Tuk → Brides pool (47) → village (1.02) → Sam A Chung → Lai Chi Wo (1.50) → fire lookout (2.27) → Brides pool (2.46) → Tai Mei Tuk	3:34
10	2/2	14°C	Plover cove dam → grave (58) → ridge (1.35) → stream (2.15) → Brides pool (2.45) → Tai Mei Tuk	3:35
11	9/12	20°C	Tai Po V → lead mine pass (35) → Ng Tai Chung turnoff (1.17) → temple (1.39) → Kadoorie farm (1.57) → Fanling	3:41
12	16/2	20°C	Tai Wo → Tai Po (29) → lead mine pass (1.04) → top of reservoir (1.16) → pineapple track → main dam (1.41) → track → top of reservoir (2.21) → lead mine pass (2.48) → Tai Po V	3:15

13	23/1	22°C	Tai Po V → Lead mine pass (45) → top of reservoir (1.10) → track → dam → bus stop	2:25
14	3/2	22°C	Tai Tong → track → reservoir (41) → road to dam (1.37) → small reservoir → Tai Tong bus terminus	3:15
15	9/3	22°C	Tai Po V → lead mine pass (34) → Tao Mo Shan (1.32) → Twisk (1.51) → Tai Lam Chung (2.51) → hill to Tai Tong	3:24
16	16/3	26°C	Tai Tong → trail → reservoir (35) → Stage 10 track → road (1.13) → far side of main dam (1.41) → top of reservoir (2.21) → trail → Tai Tong road	2:52
17	23/3	22°C	Tai Tong → trail → reservoir (35) → forest → road (1.02) → (1.33) → dam (1.54) → Stage 10 turnoff (2.22) → Wong Nai Chung reservoir (2.42) → Tai Tong bus	2:56
18	30/3	23°C	Tai Tong → trail → reservoir (41) → Yuen Tun trail → road (1.44) → top of reservoir ( 2.07?) → Tai Lam Chung trail → Tunnel bus	3:44
19	6/4	27°C	Tai Tong → trail → reservoir (34) → Tai Lam Chung trail → [tunnel bus] (1.27) → Y-junction (2.10) → Sek Kong	3:00

Average time (19 runs) 3:03