

FAQ By Hikers (updated 3/09)

What is difficulty rating?

We rate our hikes from 1 to 5 to give hikers an idea what to join or what not. If you join us for the first time, please experience with us rated 2 or below trips before committing to higher rated ones. You never know if this were the group you would like to hang out with. You will have more time to learn about our group by talking with fellow hikers during rated 2 or below hikes, but seldom the case in the high rated ones because we're all too busy to huff and puff.

Below is the rating description:

1.0 = for all ages, 1 to 2 hours, stroll along flat paths

1.5 = for all ages, 1 to 2 hours, stroll along up/downhill sloped paths

2.0 = for all hikers, 3 hours plus, low altitude strolls

2.5 = for experienced hikers, 3 hours plus, higher altitude hikes (500-meter below)

3.0 = for experienced hikers, 3 hours plus, higher altitude hikes (500-meter above)

3.5 = for experienced hikers only, 5 hours plus, higher altitude hikes (500-meter above), climbs on slippery, loose stone and barren terrains

4.0 = for adventurous hikers, 7 hours plus, climb up/downhill on terrains as described in 3.5

4.5 = same as 4.0 but under, gale, cold, heat and humid condition

5.0 = for crazy hikers who are willing to risk life (haven't scheduled one yet)

- **TO ORGANIZERS, PLEASE CONSIDER TO ADJUST RATING UPWARD BY 0.5 DURING SUMMER. IT'S YOUR CALL**

What physical fitness is required for our hikes?

Usually rated 1 to 2 hikes are for beginner hikers. Even that it requires constant ups and downs of slope that could stop you from enjoying it if you are not fit. So what is the fitness required for scheduled hikes? We couldn't answer for you. As a rule, don't register rated 3 hikes if you haven't done rated 2 or 2.5 with us before. As the group turns larger, we notice some hikers suffered fatigue easier than others, particularly after ascension flights of stairs. Most our hikes are purposely scheduled in places with huge flight of steps. You must build stamina before entering to rated 3 or above hikes. Otherwise you won't enjoy the hike and worse still we might just leave you to rest and get going without you.

What are proper hiking gears? (bold are must items)

If you don't prepare anything, the least you must do is to wear a pair of proper hiking or trekking shoes, not sneakers or trainers. These days, all sports shops make available hiking wears and apparel with fashionable design to suit whatever you need. There are no universal guidelines. Usually whatever makes you comfortable will do. Suggested gears and items to bring along may include: **trekking shoes**, **water**, towel, walking stick, whistle, camera, **headlight**, pen knife, **gloves**, plasters, antiseptic cream, sun block, hat, umbrella, a few sandwiches, snacks and some fruit, and personal hygiene items etc.

What is the policy for latecomers?

We will wait **maximum ten minutes** or you may need to do catching up. The group won't wait.

How about I bring friends along?

Welcome to your friends or guests. Please brief your friends the rating system and other condition that may affect them. You are responsible for the safety of your guests. I recommend your guests to register and rsvp separately so they will receive updated information as you.

Where do I get information for transportation to the assembling points?

1) MTR

www.mtr.com.hk/jplanner/eng/planner_index.php

2) Citybus

www.nwstbus.com.hk/home/default.aspx?intLangID=1

3) Kowloon Motor Bus

www.kmb.hk/english.php?page=search

4) Mini bus routes

www.i-busnet.com/minibus/minibus.htm

5) Franchised & Licenssed Ferry Services

http://www.td.gov.hk/transport_in_hong_kong/public_transport/ferries/service_details/index.htm#k04

6) First Ferry

www.nwff.com.hk/english/schedule/search_route.asp

7) Kaito Ferry Service

www.traway.com.hk/routes.html

Should I call the organizer for any questions?

Of course, please call whoever organizes the trail for more information. The organizer will usually leave his or her number for contact. Since we have about several active organizers, please note the number of the organizer for the day in order not to call the wrong one.

Should I go if the weather goes bad?

The organizer will normally make announcement about the status of the hike. If you not hear from him or her, the hike will still be on. As a rule, rain will go but thunderstorm not. But you need to make your decision whether you want to go. It's your choice

Is this hiking meet-up a profit making entity?

No. It's only a voluntary hiking platform to put hikers together. In fact, organizers have donated their time and a little money to up keep the site.

Can I be an organizer?

This is what we want from the start to have, as many organizers as we want, not only organize hike for weekends but weekdays also. Please let us know if you want to post trails of your choice, will make you an organizer.