The Big Buddha (Hong Kong)

**The Big Buddha** is a large [bronze statue](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bronze_statue) of [Buddha](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buddha), completed in 1993, and located at [Ngong Ping](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ngong_Ping" \o "Ngong Ping), [Lantau Island](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lantau_Island), in Hong Kong. The statue is sited near [Po Lin Monastery](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Po_Lin_Monastery) and symbolises the harmonious relationship between [man and nature](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Man_and_nature), people and faith. It is a major centre of [Buddhism in Hong Kong](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buddhism_in_Hong_Kong), and is also a tourist attraction.[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Big_Buddha_(Hong_Kong)#cite_note-1)

Description[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=The_Big_Buddha_(Hong_Kong)&action=edit&section=1" \o "Edit section: Description)]

The statue's base is a model of the Altar of Heaven or Earthly Mount of [Tian Tan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tian_Tan), the Temple of Heaven in Beijing. One of the five large Buddha statues in China, it is enthroned on a [lotus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nelumbo_nucifera) on top of a three-platform altar.[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Big_Buddha_(Hong_Kong)#cite_note-atlas-2) Surrounding it are six smaller bronze statues known as "The Offering of the Six [Devas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deva_(Buddhism))" that are posed offering flowers, incense, lamp, ointment, fruit, and music to the Buddha. These symbolise the [Six Perfections](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Six_Perfections) of generosity, morality, patience, zeal, meditation, and wisdom, all of which are necessary for [enlightenment](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Enlightenment_in_Buddhism).[*[citation needed](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Citation_needed" \o "Wikipedia:Citation needed)*]

The statue is 34 metres (112 ft) tall, weighs over 250 [metric tons](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tonne) (280 [short tons](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Short_ton)), and was constructed from 202 bronze pieces. In addition to the exterior components, there is a strong steel framework inside to support the heavy load. Reputedly the figure can be seen across the bay from as far away as [Macau](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Macau) on a clear day.[[*citation needed*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Citation_needed)] Visitors have to climb 268 steps to reach the Buddha,[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Big_Buddha_(Hong_Kong)#cite_note-atlas-2) though the site also features a small winding road for vehicles to provide access for disabled people. The Buddha's right hand is raised, representing the removal of affliction, while the left rests open on his lap in a gesture of generosity. He faces north, which is unique among the great Buddha statues, as all others face south.[*[citation needed](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Citation_needed" \o "Wikipedia:Citation needed)*]

There are also three floors beneath the statue: the halls of the Universe, of Benevolent Merit and of Remembrance. One of the most renowned features inside is a [relic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Relic) of [Gautama Buddha](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gautama_Buddha),[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Big_Buddha_(Hong_Kong)" \l "cite_note-3) consisting of some of his alleged [cremated](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cremated) remains. Only visitors who purchase an offering for the Buddha are allowed to see the relic, entering to leave it there. There is a huge carved bell inscribed with images of Buddhas in the show room. It was designed to ring every seven minutes, 108 times a day, symbolising the release of 108 kinds of human vexations.[*[citation needed](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Citation_needed" \o "Wikipedia:Citation needed)*]

History[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=The_Big_Buddha_(Hong_Kong)&action=edit&section=2" \o "Edit section: History)]

The Big Buddha was constructed beginning in 1990, and was finished on 29 December 1993, which the Chinese reckon as the day of the Buddha's enlightenment. When the statue was completed, monks from around the world were invited to the opening ceremony. Distinguished visitors from mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, India, Japan, Korea, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, [Sri Lanka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri_Lanka), and the United States all took part in the proceedings.[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Big_Buddha_(Hong_Kong)#cite_note-4)

On 18 October 1999, the [Hong Kong Post Office](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hongkong_Post) issued a definitive issue of landmark stamps, of which the HK$2.50 value depicts The Big Buddha.[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Big_Buddha_(Hong_Kong)#cite_note-5) On 22 May 2012, it was also featured on the HK$3 value of the Five Festival set, this one celebrating the birth of Sakyamuni Buddha. The [MTR](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MTR) corporation has also issued a souvenir ticket featuring a photograph of the statue.[*[citation needed](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Citation_needed" \o "Wikipedia:Citation needed)*]

Visiting and access[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=The_Big_Buddha_(Hong_Kong)&action=edit&section=3" \o "Edit section: Visiting and access)]

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Tian_Tan_Entrance.JPG)

Entrance of Tian Tan Buddha

Po Lin Monastery and the Buddha are open to the public between 10:00 and 17:30. Access to the outside of the Buddha is free of charge, but there is an admission fee to go inside the Buddha.

Visitors can reach the site by bus or taxi, travelling first to [Mui Wo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mui_Wo) (also known as "Silvermine Bay") via ferry from the Outlying Islands piers in [Central](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Central,_Hong_Kong) (pier No. 6) or to [Tung Chung station](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tung_Chung_station) via the MTR, or cable car. Visitors may then travel to and from the Buddha via the following bus routes:

* Mui Wo ↔ Ngong Ping — [NLB](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Lantao_Bus" \o "New Lantao Bus) No. 2
* [Tung Chung](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tung_Chung) ↔ Ngong Ping – NLB No. 23

The [Ngong Ping 360](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ngong_Ping_360" \o "Ngong Ping 360) gondola lift between Tung Chung and Ngong Ping (25 minutes).[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Big_Buddha_(Hong_Kong)#cite_note-6)

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| ***The Big Buddha*** | |
| 天壇大佛 | |
| [Tian Tan Buddha 001.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Tian_Tan_Buddha_001.jpg) | |
| **Coordinates** | https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/5/55/WMA_button2b.png/17px-WMA_button2b.png[22°15′15″N 113°54′19″E](https://geohack.toolforge.org/geohack.php?pagename=The_Big_Buddha_(Hong_Kong)&params=22.254106_N_113.905144_E_type:landmark)[Coordinates](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geographic_coordinate_system): https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/5/55/WMA_button2b.png/17px-WMA_button2b.png[22°15′15″N 113°54′19″E](https://geohack.toolforge.org/geohack.php?pagename=The_Big_Buddha_(Hong_Kong)&params=22.254106_N_113.905144_E_type:landmark) |
| **Location** | Hong Kong |
| **Material** | Bronze |
| **Height** | 34 metres (112 ft) |
| **Completion date** | 29 December 1993 (age 28) |

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| **The Big Buddha** | |
| [Traditional Chinese](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Traditional_Chinese_characters) | 天壇大佛 |
| [Simplified Chinese](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Simplified_Chinese_characters) | 天坛大佛 |
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[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Tian_Tan_Buddha_Face.jpg)

View from the upper platform, with the detail of the Buddha's robes clearly visible.

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Tain_Tan_Buddha_NP.JPG)

A view of Big Buddha from Ngong Ping Village. [Lantau Peak](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lantau_Peak) is visible in the background.