

Tomiris Urstembayeva:	:17216257
Mereen Santirad:	:17201837
Cathrine Haugen Wroldsen	:19504365
Alec Jaren Opolentisima Lastimosa	:19202911
Alexis Olivier Charles Philippe Andre Franchaud	:19501889
Phoebe Lam Ming Yu	:19203748

Data Journalism : Final Report

1. THE IDEA :

We are a group of mostly exchange students as well as self-proclaimed explorers. We are all new to the Hong Kong and want to explore it, brick by brick. All of us have the desire to travel but we don't know where to travel to and where we want to spend our time at. When we all arrived Hong Kong, we didn't know what we wanted to do, since Hong Kong has so much to offer it was hard to choose where to explore first. That is why we came up with the idea to make a webpage about what to do, where to go and where to go exploring first in Hong Kong.

Our idea is to spread the knowledge and information, that we and our fellow exchange students at Hong Kong Baptist University have, and from our experience what places we recommend other exchange students to visit in Hong Kong. As said earlier we are all exchange students and want to discover Hong Kong, but we could not find a web page or app that have the information of the best and most economical saving places to go. Of course, we could google it and find one a lot of pages with different information, but there was no webpage that had all the information about different places to explore on just one page, and especially not from former exchange students. Since we are students It is hard to plan where to go, especially with a tight budget. So, we all decided that we wanted to make this exact webpage for exchange students that don't know where to go first, that have a tight schedule, and as well do not have the biggest budget.

So this is from us, former exchange students to you guys, the new exchange students. Safe travels...

2. THE PROBLEM

As exchange students meeting for the first time, we were speaking about our first experiences in Hong Kong and of course the best places to visit. Most of the time, anybody had two or three places which explains that at the end, we were not able to remember everything and to synthesize it. Furthermore, even if you hear about two interesting places, you do not have a spatial vision which allows you to conceptualize an itinerary. As a result, it is necessary to grab data by yourself about different places, to consider the different distances of each element that you can remember from your discussion later, or that you have seen in a guide. The idea that each element is spread out means that you lose time to do some research and most of the exchange students only have four months. Added to this, academic work and administrative procedures take a lot of time. The risk is then to be forced to lower our expectations or to miss a lot of beautiful places because of a lack of organization.

Furthermore, even if we have the time to do some researches, we are not always sure about who is describing. The aesthetic is of course very relative, but some other points can be too like for example the price of a restaurant: when someone writes on a blog that this one is quite cheap, does he have the same budget than an exchange student? Other example, if someone estimates that a hike is hard to achieve, is it a seasoned veteran, a young adult or anybody else? We miss common references which can be directly addressed to our specific situation. As an exchange student, grabbed data must be significant regarding to our global needs.

3. HOW WE WORKED

After submission of proposal and discussion, we compiled an Airtable to split up the work and set up the deadlines. The link to our Airtable:

<https://airtable.com/invite/l?inviteId=inv349haChVkSYvcQ&inviteToken=6ee80c3b511c9ee56cfa8c242ff7cd30aeabdaaf855ccfe4db4fdf92ddc5732e>

We decided that our website will consist of four pages in total: the main page with photo carousel of best places to visit in Hong Kong, page about top 5 places to visit, third page about top 5 places to eat at in HK, and fourth page with interactive map of must-see spots including shopping areas, beaches, temples, hiking trails and sightseeing.

We have started with collecting data from HKBU exchange students to assess the needs of our target audience. We finished the questionnaire and started to collect data from October 16th.

The link to our questionnaire form:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSebcj05zXSNIJbhZU-eQ1pc8WsqDH11-uNko9_043w3aGMKdw/viewform

Collecting data from the survey was finished by the 12th of November. Overall, we got 35 responses and despite limited number of respondents we noticed the tendency in preferences. From the responses the most favourite places were classified into five categories: shopping, sightseeing, beaches, hiking and temples. We've collected photos and videos, edited them, wrote short descriptions to each of the spots.

The link to the folder with edited photos:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1InXsI74DBMtgQzVKkfz73RjpeaqUtyeb>

The interactive map was made by using open data of coordinates of the must-see places in Hong Kong. Here is the link to the spreadsheet which includes title, coordinates, links to the photos and videos, short descriptions and category:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=112UEYUbk914i9SiqQIc8L3E34yW0eC-9>

Group meetings were conducted each Tuesday before the class, to discuss the progress and set up further plan for the next week. The last face-to-face meeting was on November 12th as most of our groupmates are international students and we had to return to our countries. However, we still continued to communicate online using messengers to make sure the project could be ready on time.

4. WHO DID WHAT?

We divided the work into six categories and allocated it to each team member.

1. Data research
2. Survey form developed
3. Description of places and Graph
4. Photos and videos
5. Interactive map
6. Website Template

I. Data research

Data research was done by all team members. We approach some organizations for data collection, but we mainly based on online research. Data includes place of most visited in Hong Kong, famous local dishes, number of exchange students in Baptist University, photos and videos of well-known outing area in Hong Kong.

II. Survey Form

The form was developed by the team and was sent out to exchange students at HKBU to complete the surveyed. We designed some questionnaire that related to traveling and outing while studying in Hong Kong.

III. Description of places, food and Graph

LASTIMOSA Alec Jaren Opolentisima

Responsible to write a short description of places and illustrate data from conducted survey and illustrate it into graph. Online research was carried out and summarise it into short description.

Phoebe Lam Ming Yu

Responsible to write a short description of famous local dishes in Hong Kong and research about its location. Online research was carried out and summarise it into short description.

IV. Photos and Videos

FRANCHAUD Alexis Olivier Charles Philippe Andre and Catherine Haugen Wroldsen

Responsible for photos and videos for this project. Their roles include taking photos, videos of selected places by the team members. Photos and videos were retrieved from online when it is necessary. After photos and videos are collected, such raw materials were edited and finalized for the website.

V. Interactive Map

Tomiris Urstembayeva

Responsible for interactive map. The map demonstrates specific locations of renowned places in Hong Kong. The places are divided into Hiking, Beaches, Sighting seeing, Markets and Temples. The selected places based on the survey completed by exchange students in Hong Kong Baptist University (HKBU). Data analysis and further online research on the places rank by exchange students was conducted and collected data was interpreted into the interactive map.

VI. Website Template

Mereen Santirad

Responsible to draft template for the website and collect information from all team members and add finalized information to the template. The template was chosen from bootstrap website and was edited in the Pingento and Visual studio. The website was divided into four pages, such as Home, Place, Food and interactive map.

5. THE SOLUTION

Our website aims to help exchange students exploring where they can relax, what they can do on weekends.

First of all, exchange students can find the most interesting places to visit including hiking, beaches, sighting seeing, markets and Temples. Exchange students can use our webpage to increase their knowledge about Hong Kong culture like doing in Rome as the Rome do, enjoying local flavour and doing the traditional ritual. They use our webpage to broaden their horizon, appreciate the life of local people.

Secord, exchange students can find some famous local food in Hong Kong. Hong Kong as a Gourmet Paradise, our website includes some tempting local snacks and specialty restaurants. Students will not miss the popular food in Hong Kong and culinary nirvana.

Finally, our pages have interactive map to help students to find recommend restaurants and sightseeing place. Exchange students is not the local from Hong Kong, they cannot find the location. This map avoids them getting lost and quickly to find the place where they would like to go.

6. HOPE FOR THE PROJECT

As exchange students in HKBU, there is a need to experience what Hong Kong can offer from the sights to see, the local cuisine to try out or even check out religious monuments. But at the same comes schoolwork and the responsibility to study. Despite our yearning to explore and absorb the culture of the city, we do not have much time, or at times- money to satisfy our quest for adventure. As a result, we decided to research and come up with optimal locations for not only exchange students, but everyone to visit and spend their time while at the same time being university students.

From this project, we hope to accomplish our goal of optimizing time and money based off our survey results and research. Taking into account of budget, it goes into the specifics of where you want to go according to different categories and how much students are willing to spend. From this, we want the exchange students to experience the best of Hong Kong while keeping tabs on their expenditure. By providing a website with a built-in map, it allows students to customize and tailor their trips wherever they are.

At the same time, we hope that by creating a website dedicated to these needs, it does not waste time for the students to browse through the internet to find out what they want, as it takes a long period of time. By having an “all-in-one” budget/trip planner, it makes navigation easier or discovering new places they have not thought of before to try out before their exchange ends.