
Alternative ways to celebrate Mid-Autumn Festival

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Traditions are great, but the Mid-Autumn Festival has more to offer than watching lanterns and feasting on mooncakes. Crystal Chan rounds up some alternative ways to spend the festival

Party 'til the sun comes up

Tired of the same old Mid-Autumn routines? Mix it up and celebrate Mid-Autumn like rockstars do. You can cross waters to check out American hip-hop group Far East Movement, who are playing at Macau's China Rouge on Mid-Autumn's night (see listing), or stay in town and hit up Play club's special mooncake-themed party . Fri Sep 20, Play Presents: Keep Calm & Eat Mooncakes; playclub.asia. \$200 (ladies), \$300 (gents).

Fri Sep 20, FMP – Full Moon Party at China Rouge , Galaxy Macau; china-rouge.com . \$680 (adv), \$880 (door).

Get moving on a moon run

Work off all of those post-mooncake calories with the moon on your face in the Full Moon Night Run 2013. This night trail run covers expanses of Aberdeen Country Park, and you can choose from three categories: family (5km), leisure (11km) and challenge (18km).

Thu Sep 19, Full Moon Night Run, Aberdeen Country Park, xterrace.com/fullmoon.html . 8pm. \$150.

Create your own mooncakes

Why stuff yourself silly on others' creations? Nurture your baking skills at the Hong Kong Culinary Academy's Mooncake Making workshop. Taught by a pro pastry chef, students learn the secret mooncake recipe used by Hong Kong's five-star hotels.

Hong Kong Culinary Academy, 2/F, 33 Marble Rd, North Point, 2156 0612; culinary.com.hk . \$600.

Make a lovely lantern

Hong Kong's museums are getting into the creative spirit this Mid-Autumn – witness your DIY skills lighting up the night with one of these lantern-making workshops. Watch as your skills unspool at a hemp rope lantern class or create beautiful patterns at a paper lantern class. Wish not included.

Sun Sep 15, Hemp Rope Lantern DIY, Hong Kong Museum of History, Tsim Sha Tsui, 2724 9042; hk.history.museum. 2.30pm-3.30pm. Free. Sun Sep 15, The Making of Lantern, Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum, 7 Castle Rd, Central, 2367 6373; hk.drsunyatsen.museum . 3pm-4pm. Free. Workshops conducted in Cantonese.

Get fantastically floral

Build a boat this Mid-Autumn Festival... with flowers, that is. Learn the art of flower arranging at Solomon Bloemen. Students are given all the materials needed to craft an intricate flower boat, beautiful enough to make any girl swoon.

Tue Sep 17, Mid-Autumn Festival Workshop, Solomon Bloemen Floral Designs, 6H Winner Bldg, 27-39 D'Aguilar Street, Central, 2521 1798; solomonbloemen.com . 10.30am-12.30pm. \$1,800.

Laugh out loud

Lift your spirits at this Laughter Yoga Hong Kong's Meetup event. Take a load off with a session of Laughter Yoga and then become your own masterchef with cooking instructor Shirley, as she teaches you the process of making icy mooncakes. This meetup will nourish your heart... and stomach.

Sat Sep 14, Laughing Iced Mooncake Workshop, Rm 502, Siu Wai Industrial Bldg, 29-33 Wing Hong St, Lai Chi Kok; meetup.com/laughteryogahongkong . 3.30pm. \$200.

Gaze at the moon

Pack up the family this Mid-Autumn Festival and try out some serious moon-gazing at Sai Kung's Astropark. At this time of year, the moon is at its best – and there isn't a better place in this concrete jungle to view it in its full glory. A theme park built especially for looking at the night sky, Astropark covers an area of 1,200sq m, ensuring you have front row seats to view the moon this year.

Astropark, Chong Hing Water Sports Centre, Sai Kung, 2721 0226; astropark.hk.space.museum . Free.

Festival highlights

Lanterns

The main carnival at Victoria Park features a giant eco-lantern made from 7,000 plastic bottles. There are also nightly celebrations either side of the main festival.

Lantern Wonderland , Victoria Park, Sep 14-22.

Urban Mid-Autumn Lantern Carnival , Victoria Park, Thu Sep 19.

The New Territories lantern shows feature traditional puppet shows, Chinese folk craft and performances.

New Territories East Lantern Carnival , Sha Tin Park, Fri Sep 20.

New Territories West Lantern Carniva l, Tuen Mun Park, Sat Sep 21.

The colourful display at the cultural centre has a 'home sweet home' theme this year.

Mid-Autumn Lantern Display , Hong Kong Cultural Centre Piazza, Sep 5-Oct 13.

Dragon Dances

Tai Hang's famous fire dragon parade is accompanied by 300 performers and 70,000 incense sticks and firecrackers, while in Pok Fu Lam you can witness the dragons symbolically returning to the sea.

Tai Hang Dragon Dance , Tin Hau, Sep 18-20.

