



THE HONG KONG JEWISH CEMETERY

Hong Kong's Jewish Cemetery is an oasis of peace and tranquillity. Located in Happy Valley, it is surrounded by high rise apartment blocks, with the entrance flanked on either side by a Buddhist temple and its school. It is laid out on five levels and has its own chapel and *tahara* (ritual purity) room.

Dedication plaque

Set into the cemetery's back wall is a dedication plaque in Hebrew, which translates as:

For the souls who have departed this life for their Master in the holy community of Hong Kong, may G-d protect it. And this (land) is a gift of our mistress the Queen (Victoria), may G-d bless her, given with payment in full a sum of money that was necessary by David Sassoon in the year [615]. May he see offspring and have a long life.

Old Sephardi area

As the Community prospered, the massive yet simple granite sarcophagi that mark most of the first burials gave way to a variety of styles including ornate, plain, modern and white marble with Ionic style canopies. Sprays of flowers, scrolled tops, garlanded columns and leafy branches are the most frequently seen ornamentations on the headstones, with one gravestone bearing a broken column, indicating a premature death.

A marble canopy adorns David Belilios' grave

The cemetery is laid out on five levels

Abraham Moseh Alvares Vegas' gravestone

"Show me the manner in which a nation or community cares for its dead and I will measure with mathematical exactness the tender mercies of its people, their respect for laws of the land, and their loyalty to high ideals."

William Ewart Gladstone (unverified)

The chapel and tahara room

The Jewish Historical Society maintains a database of all the cemetery records and is always looking to add information to it. If you know someone who is related to one of the deceased members of our Community, please ask them to contact us.

Hong Kong Jewish Cemetery
13 Shan Kwong Road, Happy Valley, Hong Kong



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