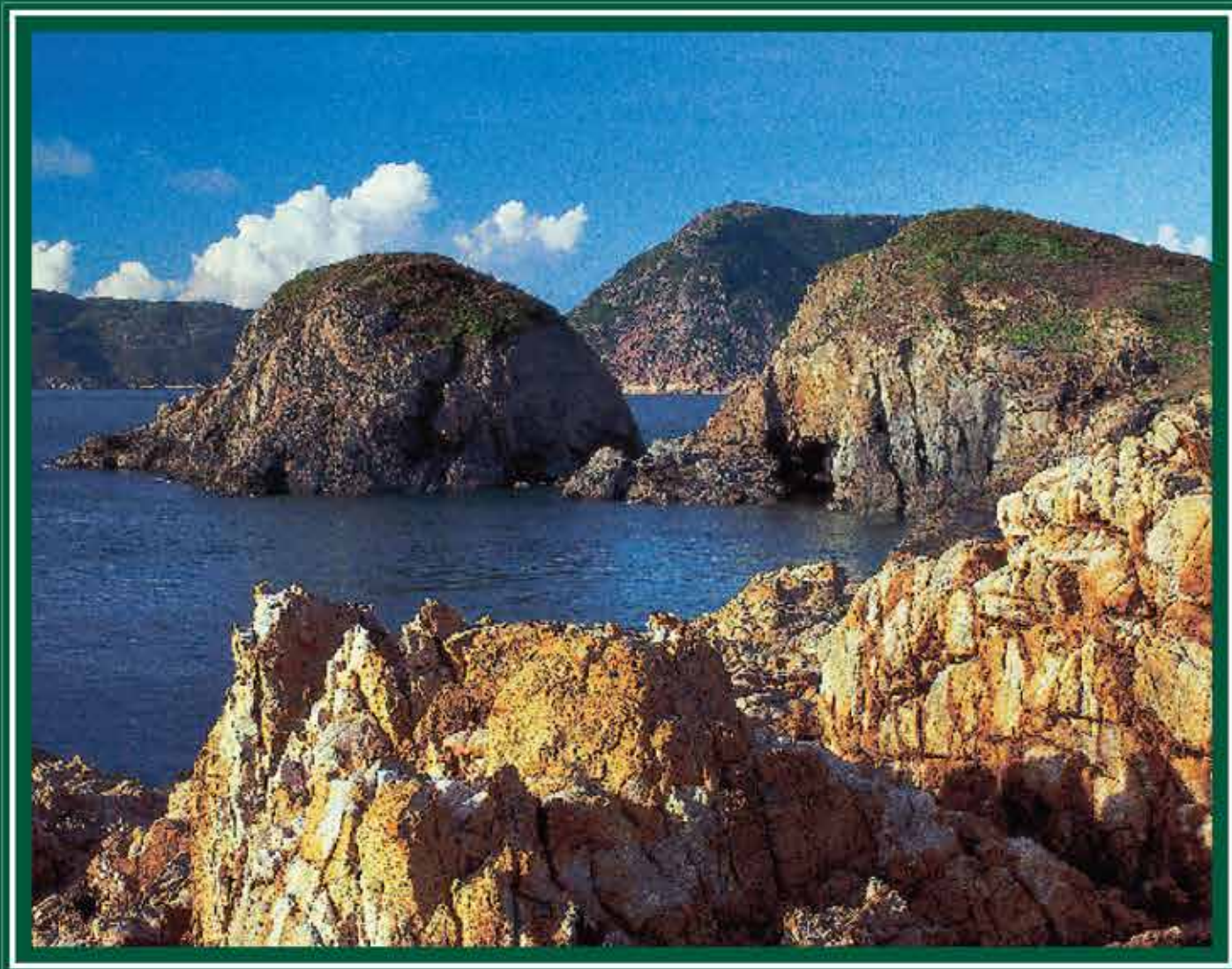


# HONG KONG NATURE LANDSCAPES



EDWARD STOKES

**Foreword by** Lord Wilson of Tillyorn,  
Governor of Hong Kong, 1987 – 1992

***Hong Kong Nature Landscapes* is a retrospective of Edward Stokes' finest Hong Kong photographs. Follow him on this personal journey, exploring the nearest and most remote regions of the Hong Kong countryside. Passion for nature and photography shine through the book's images.**

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*Hong Kong Nature Landscapes* explores the countryside's most memorable regions: Hong Kong Island, the Northeastern New Territories, Wilson Trail, Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden, and the Outlying Islands. Each region is portrayed with images of its key features, and engaging reflective essays that capture the landscapes, human stories, natural history and ecology.

The book will inspire all those interested in heritage, nature or photography. Notes on Hong Kong's natural history add to the book. Edward Stokes' appreciation of light, and his visual and technical mastery of landscape photography, enrich the images and inform the detailed photographic commentaries.

The Chinese expression for 'landscape' is *shan shui*, meaning 'mountains water'. As the book's images reveal, the phrase suits Hong Kong perfectly. In very few other South China regions are hills and sea blended together in such dramatic grandeur. And in few other places do natural beauty, superb landscapes and diverse ecology exist so close to a great metropolis.

Part of the magic of the Hong Kong countryside lies in this proximity to the city. But the countryside's deeper appeal springs from its purely natural features: sheer slopes and ridges; cascading streams and wooded valleys; rocky coasts and islands; and the native flora and fauna.

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**The book's photographs were taken by Edward Stokes between 1993 and 2003. Since then, the Hong Kong urban districts have changed greatly. Yet its Country Parks, which this book celebrates, remain the same. As they are seen here – captivating and rewarding.**

**Edward Stokes** is a photographer and writer. Originally from Australia, he grew up in Hong Kong and studied at Magdalen College, Oxford. He later completed five books that portrayed Australia's history and landscape, most illustrated with his own images. He returned to Hong Kong in 1993, to work on projects about the natural landscape. He began this with *Hong Kong's Wild Places* – a highly regarded, evocative portrayal of the evolution of the natural landscape and ecology, describing the interplay between 'man and land'. His other Hong Kong books each explored a different part of the natural setting.

**The Photographic Heritage Foundation**, a not-for-profit publisher, was established in 2008. The Foundation acts as a bridge between little-known historical photographs of Asia, their places of origin, and all who are interested in the region's cultural heritage, its recording and preservation. Its objectives are to search out historical or other significant images, and publish them in books, websites and other media. The Foundation also publishes books that portray the region's cultural, natural and urban landscapes.

[www.photo-heritage.com](http://www.photo-heritage.com)

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Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden (KFBG) assisted with this and earlier books by Edward Stokes. Within KFBG are streams, woodlands, orchards and vegetable terraces, together with conservation and education facilities. KFBG, today, is a unique public-private partnership. Since 1995, KFBG has focused on promoting conservation and sustainable living in Hong Kong and South China, with programmes on flora and fauna conservation and the promotion of organic agricultural practices.

[www.kfbg.org.hk](http://www.kfbg.org.hk)

The University of Hong Kong Libraries was the research base for this book's prior Hong Kong nature studies by Edward Stokes; most of his research was completed in the Special Collections of the Hong On-Tu Memorial Library. Special Collections is a legal depository for materials published or printed in Hong Kong. It contains a unique collection of books, serials, government publications, newspaper clippings and non-print materials covering almost every aspect of Hong Kong life.

[www.lib.hku.hk](http://www.lib.hku.hk)

**Medium format photos by PENTAX 67**

Photographs of Hong Kong usually show its urban districts, where soaring towers line the harbour. This book shows a different Hong Kong – its natural landscapes, scenic beauty and rich ecology. Exploring the dramatic countryside, and roaming its majestic coasts, *Hong Kong Nature Landscapes* reveals the grandeur of the local setting.

Hong Kong has some of South China's most impressive natural settings. Their beauty and ecology rival far larger places. With some forty per cent of its total land area set aside for nature conservation, Hong Kong's Country Parks offer superb hiking and recreation.



*Hong Kong Nature Landscapes* presents ninety photographs of Hong Kong's countryside. The book will be treasured by all who appreciate nature and admire fine photography.

'Edward Stokes is a photographer, historian and conservationist, and this publication reflects each of those qualities. Through his photographs he captures the evolution of Hong Kong's natural landscapes, and he portrays their intrinsic beauty and ecology.'

Dr Gary Ades, Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden



PHOTO HERITAGE

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