

Hong Kong tidal information available on the Government Open Data Portal (DATA.GOV.HK)

Wong Sing-ki

Tidal information has been made available on the Open Data Portal (DATA.GOV.HK), an online web interface coordinated by the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer with the participation of different government departments for data retrieval by the public. The tidal information includes hourly predicted tide, time and height of the predicted astronomical high tides and low tides for the next three years, as well as the latest tidal information from tide stations respectively operated by the Hong Kong Observatory, Marine Department and Drainage Services Department. They are accessible via this link (<https://data.gov.hk/en-datasets/category/climate-and-weather>) and indicated in the red box below.

The screenshot displays the DATA.GOV.HK website interface. The top navigation bar includes the logo, 'HOME DATA LEARN COMMUNITY', a search icon, a list icon, and 'ENG'. The main content area lists several datasets. Two datasets are highlighted with red boxes:

- Latest tidal information** (Climate and Weather, CSV):
 - Hong Kong Observatory: Provide latest tidal information
 - Marine Department: Provide latest tidal information
- Predicted tidal information (Hourly heights of tides)** (Climate and Weather, CSV, API Available):
 - Hong Kong Observatory: Provide predicted tidal information (Hourly heights of tides)
- Predicted tidal information (Times and heights of high and low tides)** (Climate and Weather, CSV, API Available):
 - Hong Kong Observatory: Provide predicted tidal information (Times and heights of high and low tides)

Other visible datasets include:

- Lightning count over Hong Kong territory in the past hour** (Climate and Weather, CSV, API Available): Hong Kong Observatory. Provide cloud-to-ground and cloud-to-cloud lightning count over Hong Kong territory in the past hour (the data provided is provisional).
- Local weather forecast** (Climate and Weather, JSON, RSS, API Available): Hong Kong Observatory. Provide local weather forecast for today and/or tomorrow.
- Locally felt earth tremor report** (Climate and Weather, JSON, RSS, API Available): Hong Kong Observatory. Provide reports on earth tremors felt in Hong Kong.
- Quick earthquake messages** (Climate and Weather, JSON, RSS, API Available): Hong Kong Observatory. Provide information on earthquakes of magnitude 6.0 or above worldwide, as analyzed by the Hong Kong Observatory.
- Regional Weather in Hong Kong - the latest 1-minute mean air temperature** (Climate and Weather, CSV): Hong Kong Observatory. Provide regional Weather in Hong Kong - the latest 1-minute mean air temperature (the data provided is provisional).

To enhance the usability of data, tidal information on the Portal is given in CSV format, a machine-readable format commonly used by the industry. The datasets are also annotated with appropriate data descriptions for easy understanding by the public and facilitating search through search engines. [Application Programming Interface \(API\)](#) is also available for accessing the tide data.

Details of the dataset are given as follows:

- (1) Latest 5-minute tide data at Quarry Bay, Shek Pik, Tsim Bei Tsui, Tai Miu Wan and Tai Po Kau provided by the Hong Kong Observatory, and Tai O provided by the Drainage Services Department;
- (2) Latest 10-minute tide data at Kwai Chung, Ma Wan, Cheung Chau, Ko Lau Wan and Sha Kiu Tau provided by the Marine Department;
- (3) Predicted tide data computed by the Hong Kong Observatory using harmonic analysis method based on hourly tide records in the past 19 years. Tidal prediction for 14 tide stations (Cheung Chau, Chek Lap Kok (E), Chi Ma Wan[#], Kwai Chung, Ko Lau Wan, Lok On Pai[#], Ma Wan, Quarry Bay, Shek Pik, Tai O, Tsim Bei Tsui, Tai Miu Wan, Tai Po Kau, Waglan Island) are available.

[#] Tide stations at Chi Ma Wan and Lok On Pai have been closed before 2000.