

## Style & Culture – South East Asia 2

Macao is well known as the gambling hub of the East. Casino is a lucrative business here. And the economy is growing day after day, years after year, because most of Chinese enjoy gambling for the pursuit of a fortunate luck.

So the story said, the name Macao is derived from the A-Ma Temple that was built in 1448 to dedicate to Matsu, a goddess of local seafarers and fishermen. When the Portuguese sailors landed at the coast just outside the Temple, they had known the name of the place by the natives. So, the Portuguese then named this land as 'MACAO'

Standing in front of the A-Ma Temple, and knowing the historical event of then and now, is a surreal experience as a visitor. The architectural structure has gone through many changes – but still untouched in a time capsule of the past, connecting the old and modern world of the 21st century.



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The well known Portuguese pavement in front of the Temple creates the presence of a culture of the Far West and holds a value of history.



And next beside the A-Ma Temple is the past Portugal governor building. It is for sure, it has gone through some considerable renovation to transform it for a tourist attraction spot. It is indeed a landmark of a historical place where East and West has met, and has changed the landscape, the culture beyond the tradition.



The most spectacular monument to be seen in Macao is the ruin of St Paul's Cathedral. This magnificent structure was built in 1602 but unfortunately was destroyed by fire in 1835. The remain that survived is the southern stone facade, as shown here.



The beauty of the intricacies of the Portuguese architecture captures visitors' heart. This historical ruin is the land mark of Macao city amongst many beautiful and old buildings with characters - [view in style & culture South East Asia 3], which can be found in the heart of the city. The Portuguese has left Macao many years ago, and thanks to the colonised regime of the 15th century, Macao's wealth in the mix of the West and East culture. If the Portuguese was not landed in Macao then, what is it now?