

Macau - SSR China

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Before European arrival, **Macau** was a small fishing and trading settlement on the southern coast of China, near the Pearl River Delta. It was part of Guangdong Province and was inhabited mainly by Chinese fishing communities.

Portuguese traders first reached southern China in the early 1500s during the Age of Exploration. Around 1557, the Portuguese established a permanent trading settlement at Macau, making it the first long-term European settlement in China. Macau became a key gateway between China, Japan, India, and Europe.

During the 16th and 17th centuries, Macau flourished as a major international trading centre. Portuguese merchants carried Chinese silk, porcelain, and tea to markets across Asia and Europe. The city also became an important base for Christian missionaries travelling into East Asia.

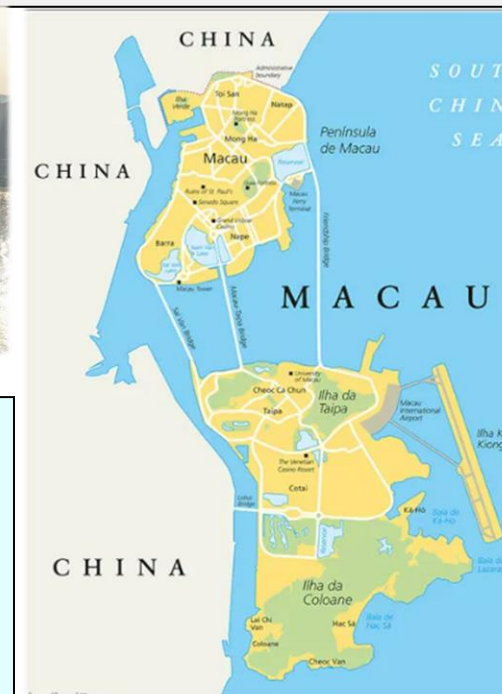
Portugal maintained administration of Macau and gradually consolidated its control. The territory remained under Portuguese administration for more than 440 years.

In 1987, Portugal and China signed the Sino-Portuguese Joint Declaration, agreeing that Macau would return to Chinese sovereignty. The handover took place on 20 December 1999, when Macau became a Special Administrative Region (SAR) of the People's Republic of China under the principle of "One Country, Two Systems."

For the Historical Water Meter Museum (HWMM), Macau is far more than a world-famous gaming destination. It is a remarkable intersection of Chinese and Portuguese history, where centuries of trade, urban growth, and infrastructure development can be viewed through the lens of water supply and metering. Macau was the final destination in China for the HWMM which has been a 30-day tour using speeds trains, flights and DD. - 13th Oct. 2026.



Arrival Arch at Macau

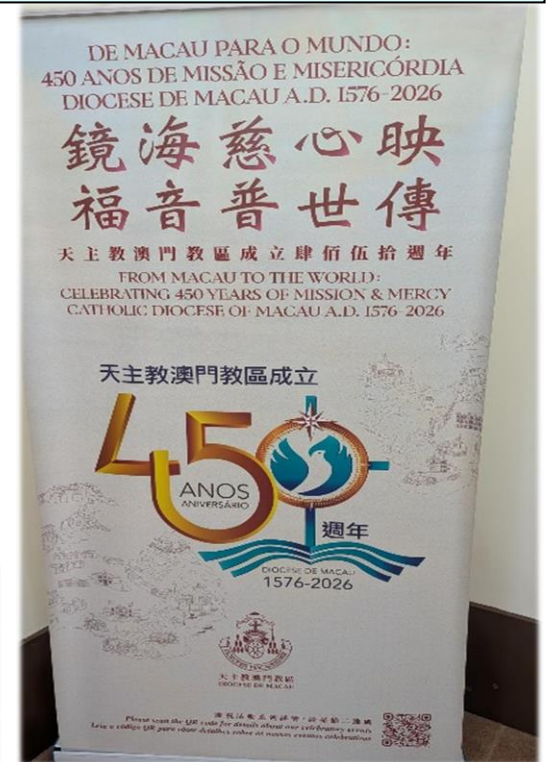
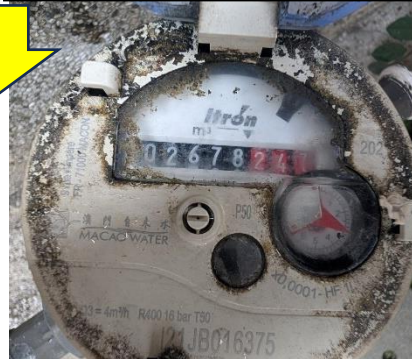


Found at a construction site is a **Quangang (泉港) Water Meter Factory in Fujian Prov. Chinese 15mm Multi-Jet Water Meter**



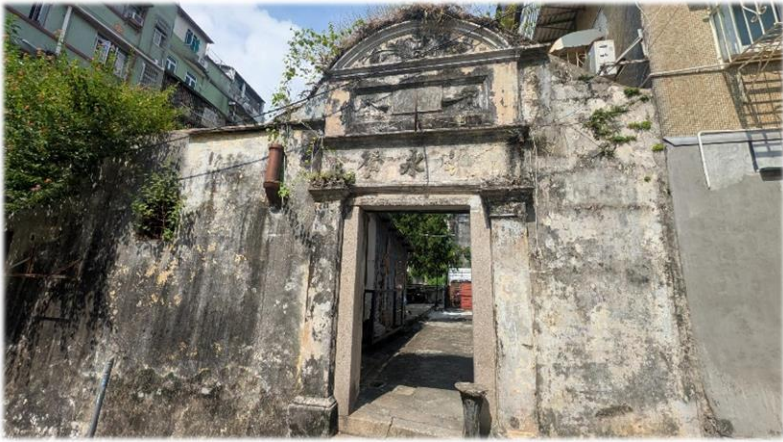
St Anthony's first built before 1560, this is one of the oldest churches in Macao, also marking the site where the Jesuits first set up their original headquarters in the city. The church was rebuilt in 1875, when it acquired its present-day configuration. In 1930, the building's exterior was covered with a grainy "shanghai-plaster". The church has a neo-classical facade and Baroque influenced interior, exemplified in the elaborate design of the main altar. In the past, this church was very popular among the local Portuguese community, particularly for wedding ceremonies, giving rise to the Chinese name of Fa Vong Tong, meaning "Church of Flowers".

At the church, we discovered a **20 mm Itron TD8 rotary piston positive displacement water meter** with a mechanical register, branded Macau Water.



Macau nightlife





This surviving segment of the city's old defence structures that were built as early as 1569, is a remnant of an early Portuguese tradition of constructing defensive walls around the main port settlements that were part of their old maritime routes, also found in Africa and India.

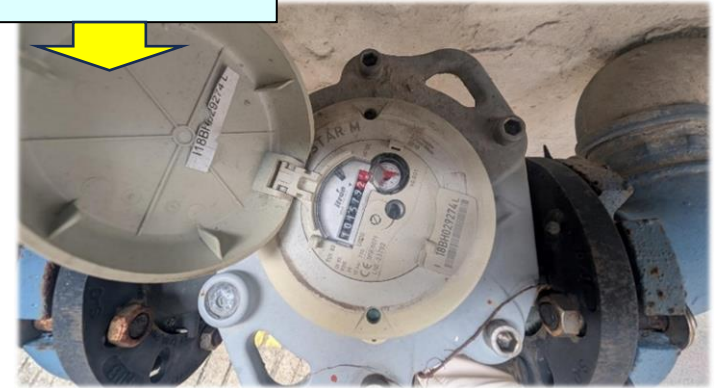
This is a Ricci Catholic school in Macau est.1955, was named after Matteo Ricci (1552-1610), the Italian Jesuit missionary and scholar who was one of the first Europeans to establish significant cultural exchanges with China.



Located outside the College is an 80mm Itron FloStar single-jet mechanical register water meter



Behind the wall, we discovered a 20 mm Itron TD8 rotary piston positive displacement water meter with a mechanical register, branded Macau Water, the meter services a small Buddhist Temple.





Mount Fortress (Fortaleza do Monte) was constructed by the Jesuits between 1617 and 1626 as Macau's principal military stronghold. It played a decisive role in repelling the Dutch attack of 1622 and was designed solely to defend the city from seaborne threats. Today, the fortress is one of Macau's most significant historic landmarks and is home to the Macao Museum.

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Pictured is a **water access port** located outside a residential property. These access points were observed at all residential premises visited. In contrast, commercial properties were fitted with water meters, indicating that residential customers are generally not individually metered for water consumption.



Lazarous Church one of the oldest Catholic churches in Macau, built in the 1550s & renovated in the late 1800s.

At the rear of the Church an **50mm Itron FloStar single-jet mechanical register water meter** was discovered.



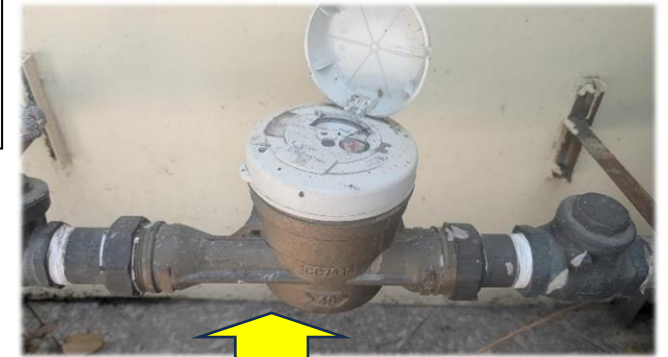


Guia Fortress was constructed between 1622 and 1638 to strengthen Macau's defences following the attempted Dutch invasion of 1622. The site incorporates the historic Guia Chapel and the **Guia Lighthouse**, built in 1865 and recognised as the first modern lighthouse on the China coast still operating today. The discovery of unique frescoes blending both Western and Chinese artistic themes highlights Macau's rich multicultural heritage, making Guia Fortress one of the city's most significant military, maritime and religious landmarks.

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During the HWMM visit to Macau, **St. Michael the Archangel Cemetery** provided a unique glimpse into the city's Portuguese and Macanese heritage. Established in 1854, the cemetery contains elaborate Catholic monuments, family mausoleums, and the beautiful **Chapel of St. Michael the Archangel**, built in 1874. Together they stand as enduring reminders of Macau's rich religious, cultural, and colonial history, offering a peaceful contrast to the bustling modern city.

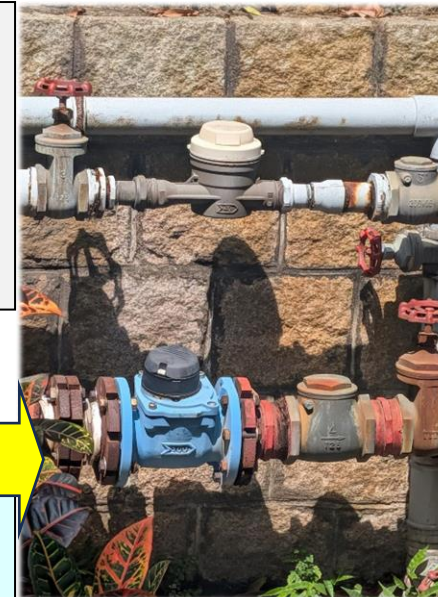


Located at the complex was a **50mm Itron FloStar single-jet mechanical register water meter**.

Found located at the entry was a meter box and within it a **40mm Itron FloStar single-jet mechanical register water meter**.



Built in 1905, this elegant **neoclassical villa** was once the home of **Manuel da Silva Mendes** (1867-1931), a celebrated writer, lawyer, and art collector. Situated on Guia Hill, it was regarded as one of Macau's three most luxurious residences of its era. Silva Mendes later donated much of his notable collection to the former Luís de Camões Museum. Distinguished by its spacious verandas, corner turrets, and battlemented roofline, the residence remains one of the most recognizable historic landmarks on Guia Hill. Now the home of The United Nations University International Institute for Software Technology.



To obtain a clear photograph, Alex from the HWMM leaned over a wall overlooking the installation. Visible were a **40mm Itron FloStar single-jet water meter** and, beneath it, **an 80mm turbine water meter** likely an Itron model.



The Ruins of St. Paul's built 1602, the façade surviving after a fire in 1832 remains a powerful symbol of Macau's resilience, cultural diversity, and historic importance within the Pearl River Delta.





Constructed in 1849, the **Government Headquarters** was originally the residence of the Viscount of Cercal, thereby being previously known as the “Palace of Cercal”. The Macao government bought then used it as the Governor’s office from 1884. Since the handover of Macao back to China, the building became the headquarters of the Macao SAR Government.

Casinos are a huge part of the Economy.



It was noted that most buildings are equipped **with fire hydrant service ports**, while numerous Macau **Water access covers** can be found throughout the city, highlighting the extensive reach of the water supply infrastructure. Further, nearly all water meters fitted throughout the city are Itron FloStar and TD8 models.



All colour pictures taken by Alex Manu.

