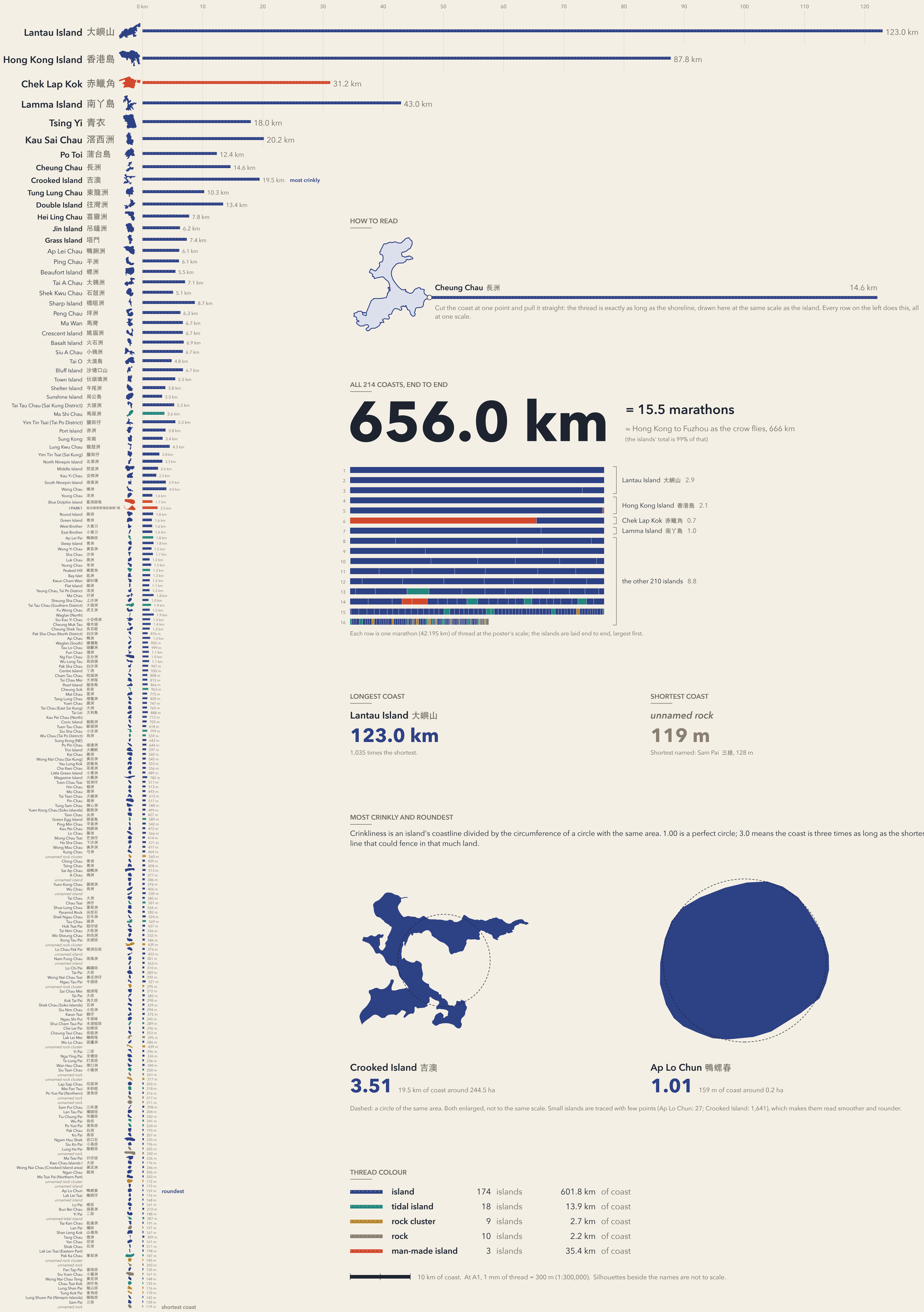
Every coastline, unrolled

每一條海岸線，拉直

The coast of each of 214 Hong Kong islands, straightened into one thread of its true length. All threads share one scale; islands run from largest (top) to smallest by area.



HOW TO READ

Cheung Chau 長洲 14.6 km

Cut the coast at one point and pull it straight: the thread is exactly as long as the shoreline, drawn here at the same scale as the island. Every row on the left does this, all at one scale.

ALL 214 COASTS, END TO END

656.0 km

= 15.5 marathons

≈ Hong Kong to Fuzhou as the crow flies, 666 km
(the islands' total is 99% of that)

Each row is one marathon (42.195 km) of thread at the poster's scale; the islands are laid end to end, largest first.

LONGEST COAST

Lantau Island 大嶼山

123.0 km

1,035 times the shortest.

SHORTEST COAST

unnamed rock

119 m

Shortest named: Sam Pai 三排, 128 m

MOST CRINKLY AND ROUNDEST

Crinkliness is an island's coastline divided by the circumference of a circle with the same area. 1.00 is a perfect circle; 3.0 means the coast is three times as long as the shortest line that could fence in that much land.

Crooked Island 吉澳

3.51 19.5 km of coast around 244.5 ha

Ap Lo Chun 鴨螺春

1.01 159 m of coast around 0.2 ha

Dashed: a circle of the same area. Both enlarged, not to the same scale. Small islands are traced with few points (Ap Lo Chun: 27; Crooked Island: 1,641), which makes them read smoother and rounder.

THREAD COLOUR

island	174 islands	601.8 km	of coast
tidal island	18 islands	13.9 km	of coast
rock cluster	9 islands	2.7 km	of coast
rock	10 islands	2.2 km	of coast
man-made island	3 islands	35.4 km	of coast

10 km of coast. At A1, 1 mm of thread = 300 m (1:300,000). Silhouettes beside the names are not to scale.

Coastline length depends on how finely you measure (the coastline paradox): these shapes are OpenStreetMap coastlines traced at about 1 to 5 m detail, so a coarser map would give shorter coasts and a finer one longer.

Shapes © OpenStreetMap contributors (ODbL); Island Hunt, mattandliora.com/islands. Marathon 42.195 km and city coordinates from Wikipedia; great-circle distance computed (haversine).