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AS IT IS

## Famous Hong Kong Floating Restaurant Towed Away

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Jumbo Floating Restaurant on Aberdeen Harbor in Hong Kong was **towed** away on Tuesday after being closed by the pandemic. The owners of the famed eating place could not find investors to reopen the historic site.

Jumbo Floating Restaurant opened in 1976 and served Cantonese food and seafood like slow-cooked baby pig and lobster. More than 30 million people ate there over the years.

Some of the restaurant's famous visitors were Queen Elizabeth and movie star Tom Cruise.

The business owner, Aberdeen Restaurant Enterprises, said it became too costly to keep the property in good condition while it was closed. The floating restaurant required millions of dollars each year in **maintenance** and inspection costs.

On Tuesday, several small boats pulled the restaurant away from its place in the harbor. Officials did not say where the property was going.

“We do not **foresee** that it can **resume** business in the immediate future,” the company said.

Some area lawmakers called for the government to step in and buy the restaurant. Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam rejected the idea. Lam said the government was “not good” at running a business like a restaurant.

Some Hong Kong **residents** expressed regret at the loss of the restaurant.

Wong Chi-wah operates a boat in the harbor. He talked about the old days of Jumbo Kingdom and said many Japanese visitors would come.

“The streets were full of **parked** vehicles as visitors arrived in big groups,” he said.

Encore Sin said Hong Kong was losing something unusual.

“If the restaurant leaves today, there is definitely a sense of loss, not just for people who live around this area but for the whole of Hong Kong,” said Sin.

Sin said he has been to many places in the world to take photographs.

“Where else in the world are there such floating restaurants?” Sin asked. “I don’t think there are any left.”

I’m Dan Friedell.

*Dan Friedell adapted this story for VOA Learning English based on reporting by The Associated Press.*

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## Words in This Story

**tow** – *v.* to hook a rope or attachment to something and pull it away

**maintenance** – *n.* the act of fixing or repairing something on a regular period of time

**foresee** – *v.* to look into the future

**resume** – *v.* to start something again after stopping

**resident** – *n.* a person who lives in a place or city

**park** – *v.* to stop and leave a car on the side of a road