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Hello! China

Hong Kong Travel Guidebook

Welcome to Hong Kong



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Hong Kong Quick Facts

- **City Name:** Hong Kong (香港, xiāng gǎng)
- **Population:** 7.13 million
- **Location:** Southeast China
- **Features:** One of the four financial centers in the world
- **Area Code:**00852
- **Zip Code:**999077
- **Currency:** Hong Kong dollar which is linked to the US dollar. Approximately 7.8 HK dollars equals one US dollar.
- **Time Zone:** GMT +8, and the same as mainland China, Taiwan and Singapore.
- **Languages:** Chinese (Cantonese) and English are the official languages.
- **Regionalization:** Hong Kong has eighteen districts, including Hong Kong Island's Mid-Western District, Wan Chai District, Eastern District and Western District, and Yau Tsim Mong District on Kowloon.

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Overview

Hong Kong is often called the "Oriental Pearl", deriving its name from the Xiangjiang River. The two Chinese characters in the name "Xiang (香)" and "Gang (港)" together mean the "Fragrant Harbor". Hong Kong was originally the name of the small settlement of present day Aberdeen. It was an important fishing and transit port before the colonial period. Some historians say that its Chinese name was derived from the fragrant incense that frequently wafted around the waterways.

With an area of 1,110sq.km, Hong Kong consists of Hong Kong Island, Kowloon, The New Territories and a group of 263 islands. Located on the southeast coastline of China, it is to the east of the mouth of Pearl River and about 200 km away from Guangzhou city, faces [Macao](#) across the sea in the west, and borders [Shenzhen](#) city in the north.

Hong Kong has a population of 6,900,000 of which 96% are Chinese. July 1st 1997 saw an end to British colonial rule when it was returned to China under the "One Country, Two Systems" policy. The Cantonese language is the mother tongue of the Hong Kong people but Mandarin language is becoming more popular and is taught in all schools. It has become a 'special administrative region of the People's Republic of China'. Hong Kong enjoys a high degree of autonomy with its own currency, laws and customs.

Hong Kong has developed into a very modern society. Many industries are leading the world, particularly in, telecommunication, banking, insurance and technology. It is one of East Asia's leading trading and transshipment centers. It has become renowned for its lifestyle and entertainment being amongst the world's best.. Another aspect to this development and now gaining world-wide recognition is the movie industry. Many productions are now being screened around the globe.



Hong Kong is located in low latitude, enjoying subtropical marine monsoon climate, without intense heat in summer or severe cold in winter. Due to the influence of monsoon, the weather of Hong Kong varies in different seasons significantly. Hence, sometimes it becomes scorching in summer and quite chilling in winter.

The annual average temperature is 23 °C . The coldest month of Hong Kong falls in January, with the monthly temperature of about 15.2 °C on average. July is the hottest month of Hong Kong, with the monthly average temperature of about 27.9 °C.

Hong Kong has wet season and dry season, being summer and winter respectively. Hong Kong boasts four distinct seasons, namely the moist and foggy spring from March to mid-May, the long summer from late May to mid-September, the short and cool autumn from late September to early February and the cold winter from mid-December to the following February.

Annual Temperature in Hong Kong

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
High (°C)	23.42	24.54	27.11	29.69	31.92	32.98	33.33	33.33	32.94	30.84	27.98	24.75
Low (°C)	8.14	8.28	11.18	15.31	20.04	22.65	23.55	23.66	22.31	18.49	13.24	9.72

Best Visiting Time

The periods suitable for visiting Hong Kong are from October to the following March, namely the cool autumn and the relatively warm winter. From November to December, it is fine and sunny with moderate temperature, which is the best period for traveling.



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Hong Kong Attractions



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Victoria Harbor

Victoria Harbor is situated between mainland Hong Kong (i.e., Kowloon Peninsula) and Hong Kong Island, which lies immediately south of Kowloon Peninsula. The waterway that separates Kowloon Peninsula and the nearby islands is called Victoria Channel. Named by the British in honor of Queen Victoria during the early period of the British rule of Hong Kong, Victoria Harbor is Hong Kong's main seaport.

The harbor comes alive on New Year's Eve . Both the Western calendar and the Chinese Lunar Calendar celebrations .When fireworks light it up, the fireworks at Victoria Harbor, with Hong Kong's skyscrapers in the background, is nonetheless a dazzling sight to behold.

But one need not wait until such an auspicious occasion to enjoy the nighttime beauty of Victoria Harbor, for Hong Kong's skyline is lit up every night as part of the *Symphony of Lights* multimedia experience, which combines special lighting and audio effects with fireworks (pyrotechnics). Moreover, there are special harbor cruises from which the visitor can enjoy this nightly spectacle from the very best vantage point, taking in the magnificent Hong Kong skyline in the background.

Ferries still ply the waters between Kowloon Peninsula, Hong Kong Island and Lantau Island. However, the main traffic between Kowloon Peninsula and the islands is via the large tunnels that run under Victoria Channel, similar to the famous Lincoln Tunnel that connects downtown Manhattan in New York City with the neighboring state of New Jersey, and which tunnel runs under the now-famous Hudson River, where US pilot Chesley B. Sullenberger III miraculously landed an Airbus A320 on January 16, 2009.

- **Getting there:** There is a myriad of public transportation options, including taxis, that will take you to Victoria Harbor - just ask any of the locals (or get into a cab). It is featured on all of the tourist brochures, which you can pick up at any Tourist Information kiosk.



Aberdeen

Aberdeen Bay is part of a narrow channel situated on the southwestern coast of Hong Kong Island, with Aberdeen Island (also called Ap Lei Chau) just across the narrow channel from Aberdeen Bay. Known formerly (and possibly still, on some older maps) as Shipai Bay, Aberdeen Bay got its name during the period of British rule, when the bay was named in honor of the 4th Earl of Aberdeen.

Lying nestled therefore between two land masses in a narrow channel, the bay is quite protected from north-south winds. In fact, since Aberdeen Bay has been protected to the east by a sort of peninsula (if one may speak of a peninsula on an island) on which is located Wong Chuk Hang industrial area to the north and Ocean Park to the south, Aberdeen Bay is shielded from the wind on three sides. This placid and somewhat out-of-the-ordinary location partly explains why Aberdeen Bay is such a veritable maze of floating restaurants, and also contains the remnants of Hong Kong's last surviving floating fishing village.

Some present-day junks are larger (the original Chinese junk could be as large as the largest British merchant vessels of the 18th and 19th centuries, and they regularly plied both the Pacific and the Atlantic Ocean), while some are in fact what one would call a junk-rigged yacht, i.e., a full-sized, modern yacht equipped with a modified junk sail.

- **Add:** Aberdeen Bay is located on the southwestern coast of Hong Kong Island, near the southernmost end of Aberdeen Tunnel, where the tunnel emerges and becomes first Wong Chuk Hang Road, then Aberdeen Praya Road.
- **Getting there:** First, get yourself to the Central Subway Station (by bus or by subway) on Hong Kong Island. Then take Exit A from the Central Subway Station to Trading Plaza, where you will find a bus stop offering buses (Nos. 7 or 20) to Aberdeen. If you are on Lamma Island, there is a direct ferry route to Aberdeen Bay.
- **Admission:** You can take a sampan tour around the bay at the standard price of HK\$ 50-70, depending on the number of fellow passengers (the larger the number of passengers, the cheaper the per-head rate).



Hong Kong Disneyland Park

Hong Kong Disneyland is located on Lantau Island, surrounding by mountains at three sides and facing the South China Sea. As the fifth Disneyland Park built in the mode of Disneyland and the eleventh theme park of Disneyland in the world, Hong Kong Disneyland Park is the first one take California Disney (including the Sleeping Princess Castle) as the base. On entering the park, you will be captured by the feeling of being in another world with countless excitement and adventures.

There are four theme areas in the Hong Kong Disneyland Park, namely, the Main Street, U.S.A, Adventure World, Fantastic World and Tomorrow World. All will bring you numerous fun and wonderful experience. On the Main Street, U.S.A, you can enjoy the typical old architectures from America, all kinds of classic antique cars as well as taste the delicious food from both western and eastern countries.

There are Hong Kong Disneyland Park Hotel and Disneyland Hollywood Hotel where you can enjoy to the most the fairy-tale world and movie world, surprised by Disney characters here and there. Travel Brochures like Park Guidance and Activity arrangements are offered at the customer service center.



- **Add:** On Lantau Island, Hong
- **Opening Hours:** 10:00 am- 9:00 pm
- **Admission:** It is from Monday to Friday, 295 HK\$ for adult, 210 for children from 3 and 11 years old), 170 for senior citizens (at or over 65 years old) and free for children under 3 years old. Half-year valid ticket is applied to all the ages.
- **Getting there:** Travel on the railway network of MTR and interchange for the Disneyland Resort Line at **Sunny Bay Station**. It is only 23 minutes from MTR **Airport** station, 30 minutes from MTR **Kowloon** station and 33 minutes from MTR **Hong Kong** station.

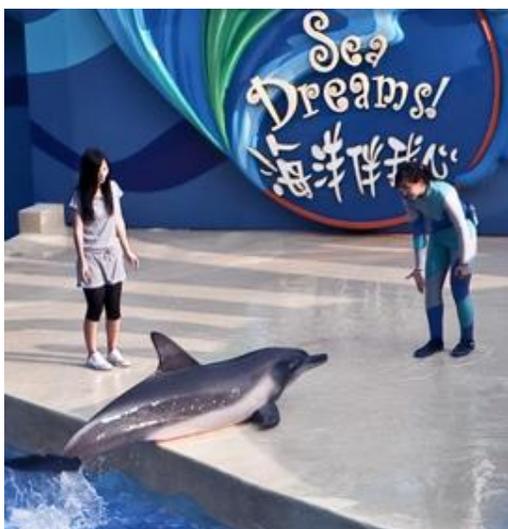
i Ocean Park

Hong Kong's Ocean Park is located on the southern coast of Hong Kong Island, just west of center, with Aberdeen Channel and Aberdeen Island (aka Ap Lei Chau) to the west, and with Deep Water Bay and Middle Island (aka Tong Fo Chau) to the east. Ocean Park, as the name itself suggests, is a theme park with a marine emphasis.

There are two entrances to the park. All of Ocean Park lies in a lush, hilly valley which slopes from north to south. The park's main entrance is the Brick Hill Road entrance in the north. Very conveniently, the two entrances are connected via a cable car, making it easy to visit the entire expanse of the park from either entrance, then take the quick route back via cable car to one's point of origin (one can also take the Ocean Express, as will be explained below).

The rides typical to most amusement parks are located in the northern, or Highlands, area of Ocean Park. Here are **Highlands Rides** and **Adventure Land**, the former of which comprises a large Ferris Wheel and a breathtakingly fast (77 km/h) rollercoaster called The Dragon - as well as 17 other exhilarating rides. The latter includes a gentler rollercoaster called the Mine Train that runs through sections of tunnel.

In the "lowland" area below this main ride area are located the rest of the park's various theme areas. They are **Marine Land**, **Bird Paradise**, **Lowland Gardens**, and a children's ride area, **Whisker's Harbor** (formerly called Kid's World).



- **Add:** Ocean Park, Aberdeen, Hong Kong
- **Admission:** Adults: HK\$185; Children (aged 3-11 years): HK\$85
- **Opening Hours:** Ocean Park is open Tuesday-Sunday, from 10:00 AM to 11:00 PM during the peak (summer) season; from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM the rest of the year.
- **Getting there:**
Bus 629 from Admiralty MTR station or Central Pier No. 7 goes directly to Ocean Park.
 The bus fares are \$10.6 for adults and \$5.3 for children (aged 4-11).

Avenue of Stars

Located on the very upscale Victoria Harbor promenade, Tsim Sha, on Hong Kong's "mainland" peninsula, Kowloon, the Avenue of Stars is modeled after its Hollywood forerunner, the Hollywood Walk of Fame. The list of film industry celebrities honored on the Avenue of Stars includes not only actors, but also producers, directors and other well-deserving members of the Hong Kong film industry.

In all, 73 of Hong Kong's film-industry celebrities have been singled out for Avenue of Stars recognition, 30 of whom also have their hand prints (an impression of the celebrity's hands in wet cement) – some with an autograph – shown alongside the metal star embedded in the sidewalk in their honor.

The main reason why there are not hand prints for all of the celebrities on the Avenue of Stars is that many of them were honored in this way posthumously, the Avenue of Stars being a relatively recent Hong Kong creation

Strolling along the Avenue of Stars, the visitor can enjoy the beauty of adjacent Victoria Harbor itself, as well as the famous skyscraper skyline of Hong Kong Island across Victoria Channel. In addition, the evening multimedia experience, "A Symphony of Lights", that lights up Hong Kong Island's skyscraper skyline, replete with music and fireworks, is best viewed from the Avenue of Stars, as the perspective is unparalleled from across the channel, and the multicolored reflections that dance on the waves below provide an added dimension to this unique multimedia experience.

- **Add:** On Tsim Sha Tsui promenade at Kowloon Peninsula's Victoria Harbor
- **Admission:** Free
- **Getting there:** Take the subway to the Tsim Sha Tsui station and leave the station via the G exit, which is an underground pedestrian tunnel that will lead to the adjacent Jiandong subway station, where you follow the J exit out to Salisbury Gardens and the promenade, Tsim Sha Tsui. Follow the posted signs to the Avenue of Stars.





Madame Tussauds

Hundreds of millions of people have flocked through the doors of Madame Tussauds since they first opened over 200 years ago and it remains as popular today as it ever was. There are many reasons for this enduring success, but at the heart of it all is good, old fashioned curiosity.

Visitors get the unique opportunity to take an emotionally charged journey through the realms of the powerful and famous. Unleash your true feelings about the personalities you love and loathe, get up close and personal with the world's most talked about people and relive the times, events and moments that made the world talk about them.

- **Add:** It is located on the Victoria Peak.
- **Admission:** HK\$140 for adults, HK\$70 for children under 12 and senior citizens of 65 and over.
- **Opening Hours:** 10:00am-22:00pm
- **Getting there:** The easiest and fastest way to visit this attraction is the **PEAK TRAM**

The Peak Tram runs every day at St.John's Building Peak Tram Station, including Sundays and Public Holidays, between 7:00 am and midnight. The tram departs every 15 minutes.



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Hong Kong St. John Cathedral

St. John's Cathedral is nestled in Central District between the harbor promenade and Austin Mountain, with Victoria Peak, the highest point on Hong Kong Island rising up behind it.

History

St. John's first opened for services in 1849 serving the British expatriate population of the island which had recently come into their hands. The cathedral survived the Japanese occupation of the Second World War (losing only its windows in the process) and played a role in caring for the large transient and poor population of Hong Kong, especially in the post war period.

Once the head Anglican church of much of Asia, today it is the head of the Diocese of Hong Kong. St. John's community carries out many ministries, including care for migrant workers and counseling services and also organizes a charity walkathon for the annual Michaelmas Fair.

Structure

The building itself is in English Gothic style, expressing both the Early period, known most for its pointed "lancet" arches, and the Decorated period, which brought in detailed tracery around the windows and a great sense of soaring vertical space through narrower pillars and other design elements.

Comparatively the structure is not very ornate, however, it still carries a sense of majesty and elegance; the stained glass window of Christ behind the altar is impressive along with the carved wooden choir platforms. The cathedral has housed a choir along with an organ or harmonium since near the very beginning of its history, and you can still hear the traditional choir sing hymns every Sunday morning mass.

- **Add:** 4-8 Garden Rd., Central, Hong Kong
- **Admission:** 7 am to 6 pm
- **Getting there:** Take metro Island Line and get off at Central station walk out from D1 exit, head southeast toward Pedder Street, turn right at Pedder Street, after about 200 ft. turn left at Queen's Road Central, after about 400 ft. turn right at Ice House Street, take 1st left into Battery Path, walk along Battery Path about 800 ft., the Cathedral is on the Left.

Lantau Island

Separated by roughly 10 kilometers of open sea from - and lying due west of - Hong Kong Island, the island of Lantau is the largest of the 260 islands surrounding Hong Kong's Kowloon Peninsula, and which all belong to greater Hong Kong. Lantau Island is roughly twice as large as Hong Kong Island, and lies on a southwest-northeast axis (whereas Hong Kong Island lies on a strictly east-west axis).

Lantau Island's coastline reveals a number of coves, some with quaint old fishing villages separated by long stretches of white, sandy beach, while its interior consists of abundant, pristine forests laced with streams, brooks, lakes and ponds, but with little in the way of urban build-up, prompting the island's nickname "the lungs of Hong Kong".

The main attraction of Lantau Island is the unassuming, simple charms of the island itself, such as the small hamlets and fishing villages distributed near the coastline, broken here and there by bleached-white sandy beaches. And then there's the island's interior, which, in the mountainous area to the southwest, is so lushly beautiful and so hauntingly quiet as to resemble an unknown, uninhabited-by-man planet; no wonder, then, that the locals make offerings to tree- and rock spirits.

The best way to enjoy the charms of Lantau Island is to rent a car and just take to the road, especially the small coastal roads, letting yourself be drawn by your whims, or, "with no particular place to go", as the refrain of an old song goes.

- **Getting there: By Subway/ Bus** - Take the Tung Chung subway line at the Kowloon Subway Station. Get off either at Olympic Station and catch Bus No. E21, or get off at Tsuen Wan Station and take Bus No. 31.



Thousand Buddhas Monastery

Ten Thousand Buddhas Monastery is one of the most infamous Buddhist temples in Hong Kong and yet it remains just slightly off the popular tourist path. This means that many times, you will have the site nearly to yourself.

Highlights

The grand greeting to the Ten Thousand Buddhas Monastery is the golden Buddha statues that line the walkway up to the main entrance.

There are 430 steps along this route, with about 32 unique Buddha statues greeting you on each step taken. Overall, the monastery property is situated in a bamboo forest hillside over about 8 acres. There are 5 temples, 4 pavilions, 1 veranda, and a grand pagoda.

The main highlights of the complex are the main temple (also known as Ten Thousand Buddhas Hall) and the 9 story pagoda which stands prominently atop this part of the hill.

The main temple is home to 12,800 golden Buddha statues, each with distinctive features, 12 inches high and bearing the name of its donor.

Before you leave, be sure to visit the lower level terrace which has a vegetarian restaurant with classic Buddhist dishes. Don't hesitate to inquire for recommendations! On the menu are smaller snacks and plates as well as larger a la carte meals.

- **Add:** Off Pai Tau Street, Sha Tin, New Territories District
- **Getting there:** Disembark at MTR metro station Sha Tin, exit B
- **Admission:** 9am-5pm daily



Wong Tai Sin Temple

The Wong Tai Sin Temple is very popular with residents of Hong Kong. Built in 1921, it is frequented by worshipers praying for happiness, wealth or a smooth life. Prayers usually worship and pray in front of the temple. During Spring Festival (Chinese New Year) and holidays, believers flock to this temple to wish for good health and good prosperity in the New Year.

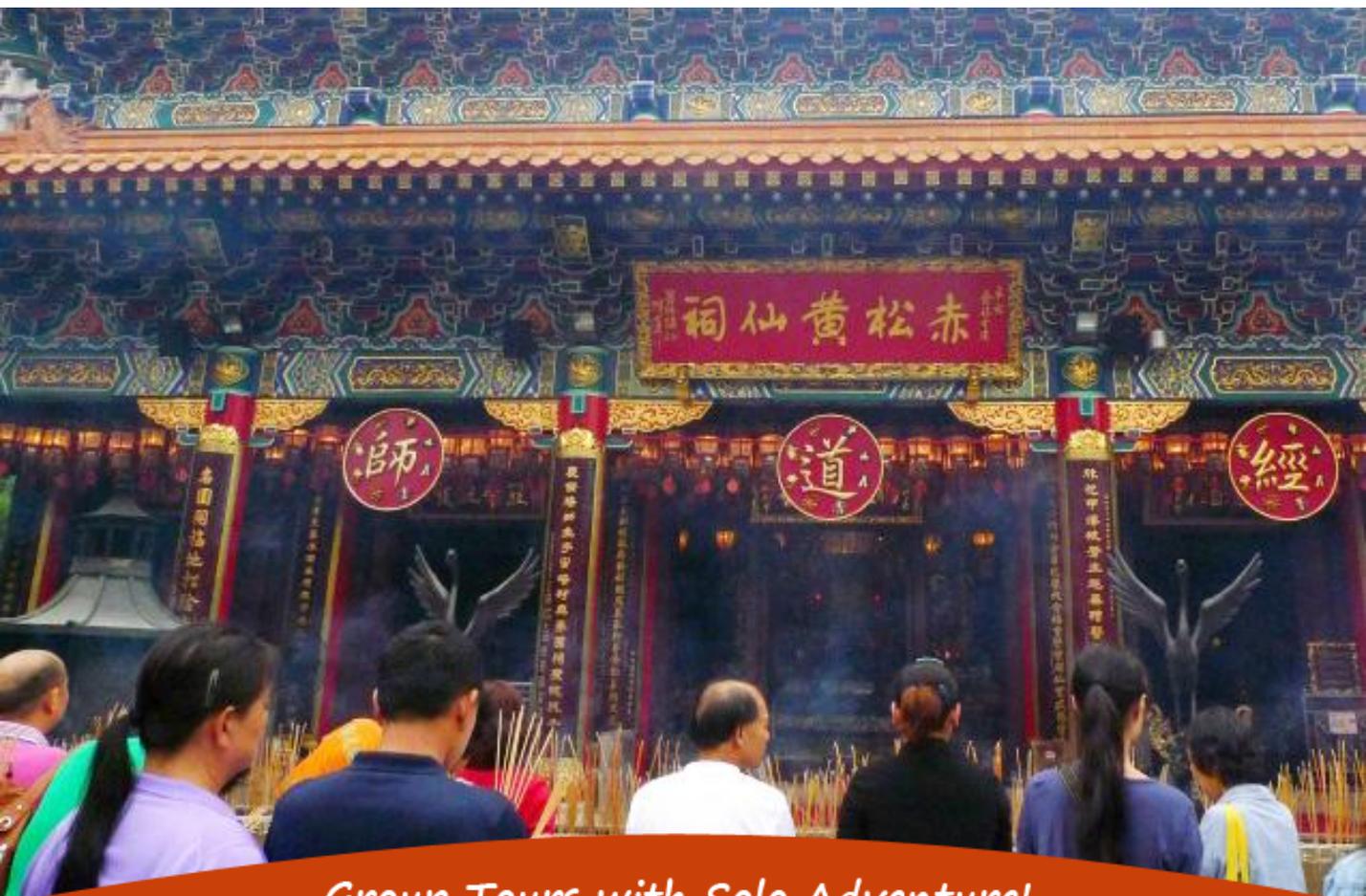
Beside, the temple is a small smartly designed garden, refined and exquisite. The Kowloon Wall nearby was also built as an imitation of the Forbidden City in Beijing. The famous Chilin Nunnery imitates the architectures of the Tang Dynasty.

- **Add:** It is at the foot of Mount Kowloon

- **Getting there:**

Walk outside the Exit B2 of Wong Tai Sin Station and continue for about three minutes.

- **Opening Hours:** 7:00-17:00



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Dialogue in the Dark

Most of us find it easy to forget what real darkness is like. This is especially true living in and around cities, because not only are you surrounded by lights at every turn, but even the dark isn't true dark, there's usually some glimmer or glow that allows faint sight.

What to Do

Visitors will be brought together into a group. For what must sound simple intellectually, it was actually confounding at first, and even after some practice required great care and some guess work as to what was going on.

Finally, when the event ended, after what felt like a long and great adventure, we were able to take off our blindfolds and see. To my surprise, I saw that all we had done was walk in a simple circle around some trees. It had required all abilities, and a self-enforced calm just to do that simple task.

Going through challenging activities in total darkness is not the first thing most visitors to Hong Kong think of, but the reviews of the experience are nearly all positive, and recount it as a learning experience, both in empathizing with the blind, and in learning to work as a team through unique challenges.

- **Add:** Shop 215, 2/F The Household Centre, No. 8 King Lai Path, MeiFoo, Kowloon
- **Admission:**

Tuesday to Sunday and public holidays: 10:00 am - 7:30 pm, Closed on Mondays

Adult: \$150 Tues-Fri \$180 weekends and holidays

Students, elderly, birthday discount: \$75 Tues-Fri \$90 weekends and holidays

- **Getting there:** Take metro "Tsuen Wan Line" or "West Rail Line" and get off at "Mei Foo" station, walk out from C1 exit. Head Northeast on Lai Wan Road, about 500 ft. there is a T-crossing conjunct with Lai Wan Road and Mei Lai Road, turn left at the T-crossing to continue on Lai Wan Road. About 400 ft. turn left to King Lai Path, about 300 ft. The Dialogue in the Dark is at 2nd floor of The Household Center.



DIALOGUE IN THE DARK

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Dragon Back Hike

Who knew that a city which is known for its urban density, dynamic financial and technological prowess, and extravagant nightlife is also home to one of the best walking trails in Asia and on earth?

Without a doubt, the main reason for embarking on the Dragon's Back Trail is to enjoy the clash of urban and natural landscapes. Its name comes from the fact that it runs along the backbone of some of Hong Kong's most well situated mountains, weaving hikers along what seems to be the back of a dragon.

Highlights

Although the Dragon's Back Trail is known as an urban hike, there is simply nothing urban about it. This is where you come to get away from it all and take in the southern mountains of Hong Kong in all their glory. The nature is unspoiled and especially on a clear day, there are few hikes in the world that compare so the views found here which include Shek O Peak and village, Tai Long Wan, Big Wave Bay, Stanley, Tai Tam, the Red Hill peninsula, and the sparkling blue South China Sea. On the way you will pass groves of bamboo and woodland, while the tune in the background is sung by chirping birds. Later you will see hillsides with azaleas and rose myrtle among other delightful flora.

The walk is not for beginners or those with physical issues, but it is a rather light mountain walk by most regards. Even a non-hiker can easily enjoy the trail. For the adventurous, there are also options at Dragon's Back to paraglide. There are various operators at each ends of the trail.

- **Add:** Hong Kong Island
- **Getting there:** Take the number 9 minibus from MTR metro station Shau Kei Wan, exit A3 to stop Tei Wan on Shek O Road and walk about 1 kilometer uphill from the road until reaching the signed trailhead.





Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre

Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Center may not be at the top of the list as a tourist spot, but it is a bulwark in keeping Hong Kong at the top of the convention capitals of China, and is also an historic marker, as next door Bauhinia Square marks the transfer of Hong Kong's sovereignty back to China, from Great Britain. Daily flag raisings still mark the formation of Hong Kong as a special administrative region.

Events and Activities

If not the largest convention center in Asia (it misses out to Shanghai and Singapore among others), HKCEC is still a major hub in the region's diverse economy. Just a few of this year's 2014 events include a championship dog show, a jewelry and gem fair, an international travel expo, a disease forum and a conference on robotics and automation.

Many of the events hosted are among Asia's and the world's largest. It's not hard to see how it stimulates a spectrum of businesses and has won International Convention Center awards in the past.

- **Add:** 1 Expo Drive, Wanchai, Hong Kong
- **Getting there:**

Take No.H2 get off at "Monument in Commemoration of The Return of HK to China" bus stop, the Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Center is on right.

Take No.25 A, No.40M, No.961, No.961P get off at "HK Convention & Exhibition Center" bus stop, head north at Fleming Road after 50 ft. and it becomes East Expo Drive, the Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Center is on left.

Take No.18, No.720, No.720A get off at "Convention Avenue" bus stop. Head west on Convention Avenue toward East Expo Drive, after 200 ft. turn right at East Expo Drive, after 250 ft. the Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Center is on left.





Nan Lian Garden

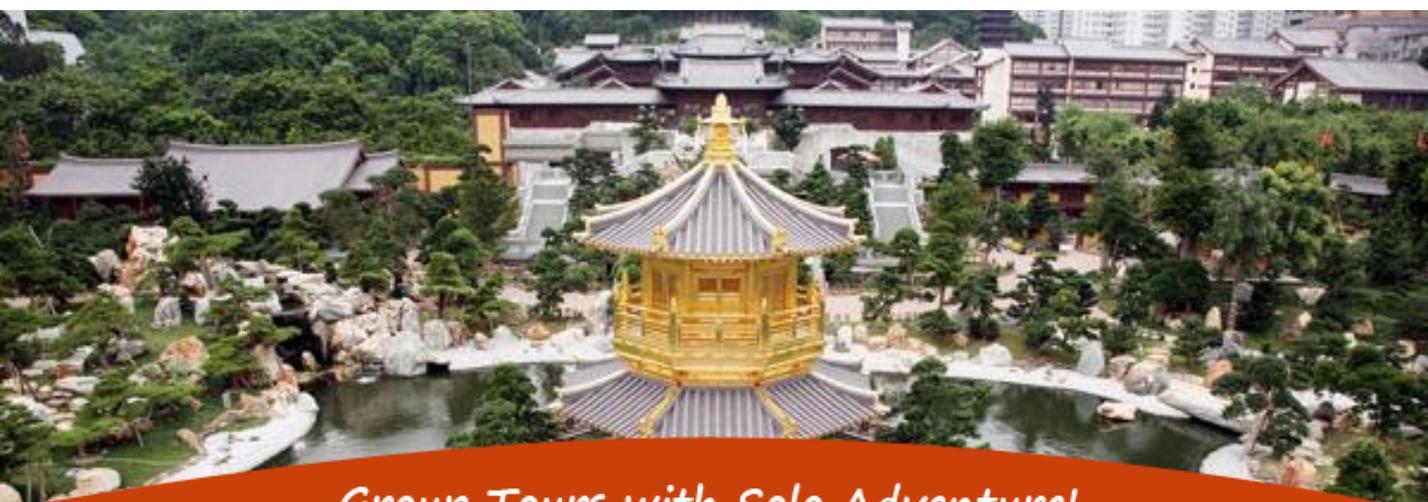
The Tang Dynasty was a major era in Chinese history due to the many measures that were taken that led the country into one of its most prosperous chapters. With that came the iconic Tang style of architecture and landscape design, both of which are best exemplified at Nan Lian Garden.

Highlights

Nan Lian Garden is a place to take a step back from the noise and tension of Hong Kong and retreat to a more peaceful and even spiritual corner of the city. The garden was designed with the intention that visitors follow a one-way route in order to best observe the classical layouts. With the tall, impressive city skyscrapers in its background contrasting with the tranquility of the natural elements in the garden, such landscapes make this destination a popular place for photography.

And of course, Nan Lian Garden is an ideal pairing with a visit to Chi Lin Nunnery very close by. This is a large Buddhist temple complex with elegant wooden structures and priceless Buddhist relics. The lotus pond is a particular favorite aspect of the visual landscape. Open for almost 100 years, the local people still come here to pray and pay their respects on a daily basis; should you wish to take photos, remember to be respectful of the sacredness of the temple and nunnery.

- **Add** : Nan Lian Garden 60 Fung Tak Road, Diamond Hill, Kowloon District; Chi Lin Nunnery 5 Chi Lin Drive, Diamond Hill, Kowloon District
- **Opening Hours**: Nan Lian Garden 6.30am-7pm daily; Chi Lin Nunnery 9am-4:30pm daily
- **Getting there**: Disembark at MTR metro station Diamond Hill, exit C2



Po Lin (Precious Lotus) Monastery

Po Lin Monastery lies on a high plateau in the middle of Lantau Island, which is by far Hong Kong's largest. Starting its history as a small thatched hut deep in the jungle accessible only by expiring hike, the monastery has seen numerous expansions, is now home to about one hundred Buddhist monks and is considered a preeminent monastery in China.

Scenery

The natural surroundings of Po Lin are a powerful draw to visitors, who include all variety of travelers along with many pious Buddhists from the region. Stunning views of the nearby peaks, such as Lotus, Lei Nak and Lion's Head along with views of the shimmering South China Sea greet monastery visitors and hikers in the surrounding trails.

A hike of one or two kilometers will take travelers to towering Lantau peak, which at 934 meters is the second highest in Hong Kong. The monastery's own major gardens, which include bauhinia, orchid and red nanmu trees along with a nearby tea farm, only enhance the beautiful embrace between the mountain greenery and man-raised structures.

- **Add:** The Po Lin Monastery is located in the Ngong Ping Plateau of Lantau Island, between the Phoenix Mountain and the Nei Lak Mountain.
- **Admission:** Visitor don't need to pay for the Big Buddha but have to buy the ticket for vegetable diet at a cost of HK\$28 for the three-storied exhibition house under it.
- **Getting there:** Take Metro Tung Chung Line and get off at "Tung Chung" station exit B, head Northwest at "Tat Tung Road", after 600 ft. the "Tung Chung Cable Car Terminal" is on right. Take the cable car and get off at "Ngong Ping Cable Car Terminal". Head Southeast at Po Ngong Drive, after 550 ft. turn left at Ngong Ping road, after about 650 ft. there is a circle, pass that circle keep straight continue on Ngong Ping road, after about 700 ft. turn left at fork, after about 300 ft. the Po Lin Monastery is on right.



Hong Kong Tramways

The Hong Kong trams (Ding Dings) go back to the origins of the city's modern history and set the tone for the renowned and popular MTR metro system. The iconic double decker electric trams were the first forms of mass public transit in the city and are found only on Hong Kong Island between Shau Kei Wan in the east and Kennedy Town in the west, although they didn't always have the appearance they have now.

History

The tramway system was first proposed for Hong Kong in 1881. However, it wasn't until 1901 that the city's government finally accepted the proposal.

Ever since the early 20th century, the Hong Kong trams have been on the forefront of urban transportation design and organization, constantly implementing new ideas for better and more efficient movement. The current trams you see on Hong Kong Island today were installed in 2011 as a 7th generation design, giving them a classic look on the outside but modern conveniences and comforts on the inside.

Highlights

There are many benefits to taking a ding ding. Firstly, its hours are extensive, running from 6am to midnight daily. Secondly, the trips are a great way to see the urban side of Hong Kong Island on an east-west axis for just about 30 cents USD no matter how long you travel. That's a cheap ride indeed!

The first floor is perfect for watching a real-life documentary unfold before your eyes, while the second floor is best for grand overviews of the city. And of course, it is important to get to your destination in time.

- **Getting there:** Disembark at MTR metro station Causeway Bay, exit A
- **Opening Hours:** 6am-12am
- **Admission:** Adults \$2.30 HKD, children under 12 \$1.20 HKD, seniors 65 and above \$1.10 HKD



Hong Kong Food

Whether you are a casual diner or have an expert tongue, [Hong Kong](#) is sure to satisfy. As a city of contrasts where East and West come together seamlessly, this roaring metropolis is a beacon for all those who enjoy a great meal.

More importantly, [the Canton style of food](#) is unique in the world and its infinite types of dishes, always innovative and dynamic while staying authentic to its heritage, means you will never get bored of what Hong Kong's thousands of eateries have to offer.

On your visit to the city, be sure to dedicate some time getting to know its people's food culture which is a special blend of British and international dining with ancient Chinese customs.



Restaurants in Hong Kong

The nature of the restaurant industry in Hong Kong is a delicate. Thousands of eateries compete to attract the eyes, mouths, and wallets of more than 8 million residents and visitors, meaning the competition is fierce and never ending. Because of this, what is a popular and trendy restaurant today may not be so within a short period of time. Menus are always changing in order to appease the selective taste buds of Hong Kongers, and beyond that, there are always promotions, coupons, and discounts to be found and taken advantage of.

Another bright side of so much competition means that one could live a lifetime in Hong Kong and never finish trying all the different types of food available prepared in the Canton style.

Finally, although Hong Kong certainly specializes in Chinese food, there is an incredible selection of international gastronomy which puts the city among one of the best places in the world to dine. Whether you have a craving for French, Italian, English, Irish, Indian, Peruvian, American, Thai, Malaysian, Japanese, or other type of cuisine, Hong Kong's restaurateurs are ready to please. Most of these can be found within the restaurants of the top hotels as well as throughout the city in shopping centers and any street.

Regardless of where you choose to dine in Hong Kong, do not be put off by the prospect of pricing. There are restaurants to cater to all budget levels whether you want a cheap but delicious meal or are looking to indulge or celebrate a special occasion. Hong Kong citizens are humble yet refine customers and enjoy many options themselves!





Dining etiquette

- The dining etiquette in Hong Kong is a mix of Western and Chinese traditions, with leanings towards the latter of course. Here are a few tips for dining with the locals:
- In casual settings, it is commonplace to lift your bowl to your mouth (especially soup and rice), slurp, scrape the plate, and eat foods with bones with your fingers.
- Never take the last piece of food on the tray since it indicates you did not have enough to eat.
- Tea is the most traditional drink to pair with any meal; always fill others' cups before your own, and if someone fills yours, say thank you by tapping the table next to your cup with 3 fingers.
- Never stick your chopsticks up in a bowl of rice or any other food, it is auspicious.
- When you are not eating, lay your chopsticks across your bowl or on a chopstick rest. However, refrain from doing this too much as laying your chopsticks down may indicate you are finished eating.
- For significant events, dress well since personal appearance is highly emphasized in Hong Kong culture.
- In formal settings, wait to be told where to sit since there is a special hierarchy of seating based on seniority and hierarchy in many aspects. Best to let someone else lead your position if you are unsure.
- Always let the host have the first bite, then you may begin!
- Always try a bite of every dish that is ordered since this shows respect to your host's selections and hospitality.
- Tipping is not required in casual settings, however a respectable amount is appreciated in finer settings.
- As a sign of hospitality and care, hosts may serve food to your plate. This is an action of care and it is kind to thank your server.

Dim sum

Of all the various types of food found in Hong Kong, perhaps the most famous and instantly recognizable is dim sum. Dim sum is in many ways the tapas of Chinese cooking, although it comes straight from the Guangdong province in China and is one of the Eight Culinary Traditions of Chinese cuisines. Each dish comes with just a few pieces or in a small portion as if for just a taste. This means that each diner or table orders a myriad of dim sum dishes to fill out a full meal, making it a fun and tasty way to try many different types of food in one sitting.

The various dishes are prepared in an endless array of ways with the most popular being steamed, fried, or pan tossed. Chefs take ancient cooking styles and continue to create new dishes frequently, although classics such as egg tarts, BBQ pork buns, Chinese steamed eggs, congee with lean pork and century egg, green vegetables with oyster sauce, roast duck, white turnip cakes with dried seafood, and many more continue to dominate menus.

Older and more traditional style dim sum halls are large, boisterous, and have waiters pushing metal carts around the tables with dishes for diners to choose from on the spot. Other dim sum halls offer plates to order from a printed list of options. Don't be afraid to try something new!



Siu mei

This is the name for Cantonese BBQ featuring succulent meats roasted on spits over an open fire or a huge wood burning rotisserie oven. Often the meats are duck and pork, and the most prized results are the crispy skins. (Note that Peking duck, a very famous Chinese dish featuring rich crispy duck skin, hails from the Beijing and northern China area rather than Hong Kong.)



It is easy to spot restaurants offering siu mei because the meats are seen hanging prominently in their windows for all to see and admire for their beautiful roasted colors and so passersby are tantalized! You can choose to dine within most restaurants, or also popular is to order a Box by the weight to take home. White rice and vegetables are typically accompanied with siu mei meats to balance out the flavors.

Congee

Something that every Chinese mother, grandmother, and child knows intimately is congee, a clean white rice porridge often highlighted with stewed pieces of delicious pork, century egg, seafood, and vegetables. It is considered a rather light dish due to its subtle but satisfying flavor and typically eaten for breakfast or lunch. Also, it is believed to be a “pure” type of food and ideal for those looking to cleanse the stomach and body; it is often enjoyed during episodes of sickness. Congee can be found throughout Asia in many other countries, but the Canton style is certainly a distinct version to indulge in.



Noodles

If there's something that can compare to rice in the Cantonese, Chinese, and Asian diet, it is noodles. In Hong Kong, the most common types of noodles are made of either rice or egg and flour, and the preparation styles are either in a soupy broth, stir fried, or fried. Noodles are among the most versatile bases for most meals and can be cooked in an endless variety of ways, whether in the traditional school of Chinese gastronomy or infused with contemporary flair.

Of the 3 meals in a day, noodles are perhaps most commonly enjoyed for lunch. In Hong Kong, the best way to try a noodle dish is to find a small restaurant on any street and you will surely be rewarded with a delicious selection. Larger restaurants also serve fantastic noodles usually using more sophisticated and special ingredients.



Seafood

The Chinese love seafood for its inherently delicious flavors and for its cultural symbol of prosperity and luxury. For any large or significant event, you will surely see seafood on the menu. Since Hong Kong is an island and has a close connection with the sea, seafood is a very important part of the city's diet. As well, freshness is an institution in and of itself, almost to the point of obsession with local diners. At some restaurants, you may even choose your live subject from a tank, then they take it to the kitchen to prepare instantly.

Although Hong Kong is one of the best places in the world to try some exquisite seafood, be wary of electing dishes that include exotic or threatened/endangered creatures. Two of the best places to gain a seafood experience in Hong Kong are in the waterside restaurants of Aberdeen and Sai Kung.



Street food

Hong Kong dwellers are busy people and are always on the run. Therefore, there are a countless number of street stalls and stands that offer scrumptious meals without requiring the commitment to spend much time dedicated to eating. Street food in Hong Kong is a fun adventure and an integral part of the dining culture.

From meat and seafood skewers to rich soup noodles to quickly prepared stir fry dishes, you will find an impressive selection of dishes at the most humble of establishments. When electing a spot to try, find stands that have many diners to ensure higher turnover of food and running water to better ensure food and preparation hygiene.





Top Restaurants in Hong Kong

As mentioned earlier, the most popular selection of restaurants in Hong Kong changes frequently due to rapidly changing consumer tastes (literally and figuratively). However, some establishments have proven that they are mainstays on the scene and continue to serve their impeccable dishes to always-pleased diners.

Currently, one of the best websites to stay up to date on the latest top offerings is

<http://www.openrice.com> (<http://www.openrice.com/english/> for the English version). Here, you can find news, coupons, addresses, schedules, price ranges, and most importantly, recommendations and comments. As well, it can be helpful to visit the

website http://www.tripadvisor.com/Restaurants-g294217-Hong_Kong.html (TripAdvisor's Hong Kong restaurant selections page) which is a generated list of the top restaurants in the city based on customer reviews.

Below, we present our top restaurant selections as examples of the best places to find the best flavors in the great city of Hong Kong.





Top Local Style Restaurants

One Dim Sum

- **Highlights:** Guangdong/Canton style dim sum
- **Average price:** less than \$50 per person (shared in traditional dim sum dining style)
- **Address:** Shop 1 & 2, G/F, Kenwood Mansion, 15 Playing Field Road, Prince Edward
- **Phone/reservations:** 2789 2280
- **Hours:** to be confirmed
- **Getting there:** MTR station Prince Edward



Din Tai Fung

- **Highlights:** Chinese/Taiwanese style dim sum
- **Average price:** \$100-200 per person
- **Address:** there are 3 locations - Shop 130, 3/F, Silvercord, 30 Canton Road, Tsim Sha Tsui; G/F, 68 Yee Woo Street, Causeway Bay; Shop 166, 1/F., New Town Plaza Phase 1, 18 Sha Tin Centre Street, Sha Tin
- **Phone/reservations:** 2730 6928, 3160 8998, and 2778 1236, respectively
- **Hours:** Monday to Sunday 11:30 am to 10:00 pm
- **Getting there:** MTR stations Tsim Sha Tsui, Causeway Bay, and Sha Tin, respectively





Top Three Foreign Cuisine Restaurants

Trattoria Caffè Monteverdi

- **Highlights:** Italian
- **Average price:** \$200-400 per person
- **Address:** G/F, 6A High Street, Sai Ying Pun, Western District
- **Phone/reservations:** 2559 0115
- **Hours:** Tuesday to Sunday 11:00 am to 11:00 pm; closed on Mondays
- **Getting there:** 26/F, 11 Stanley Street, Central



Liberty Private Works

- **Highlights:** French style private kitchen
- **Average price:** \$400-800 per person
- **Address:** 26/F, 11 Stanley Street, Central
- **Phone/reservations:** 5186 3282
- **Hours:** to be confirmed
- **Getting there:** MTR station Central



Aqua Roma, Aqua Tokyo & Aqua Spirit

- **Highlights:** 3 concepts in 1 location - Japanese, Italian and Western style fine dining
- **Average price:** \$200-400 per person
- **Address:** 29/F, Penthouse, 1 Peking Road, Tsim Sha Tsui
- **Phone/reservations:** 3427 2288
- **Hours:** Monday to Sunday 12:00 pm to 2:30 pm, 6:00 pm to 11:30 pm
- **Getting there:** MTR station Tsim Sha Tsui



Top Three Special Occasion Restaurants

Amber (within The Landmark Mandarin Oriental Hotel)

- **Highlights:** French fine dining
- **Average price:** \$400-800 per person
- **Address:** 7/F, The Landmark Mandarin Oriental, 15 Queen's Road, Central
- **Phone/reservations:** 2132 0066
- **Hours:** Monday to Sunday 7:00 am to 10:30 am, 12:00 pm to 2:30 pm, 6:30 pm to 10:30 pm
- **Getting there:** MTR station Central



The Lobby (within The Peninsula Hotel)

- **Highlights:** British-Hong Kong style high tea
- **Average price:** \$200-400 per person
- **Address:** G/F, The Peninsula Hong Kong, 19-21 Salisbury Road, Tsim Sha Tsui
- **Phone/reservations:** 2696 6772
- **Hours:** Monday to Sunday 7:00 am to 11:00 am, 11:30 am to 2:30 pm, 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm; Tuesday to Sunday dinner 6:30 pm to 10:30 pm
- **Getting there:** MTR station Tsim Sha Tsui

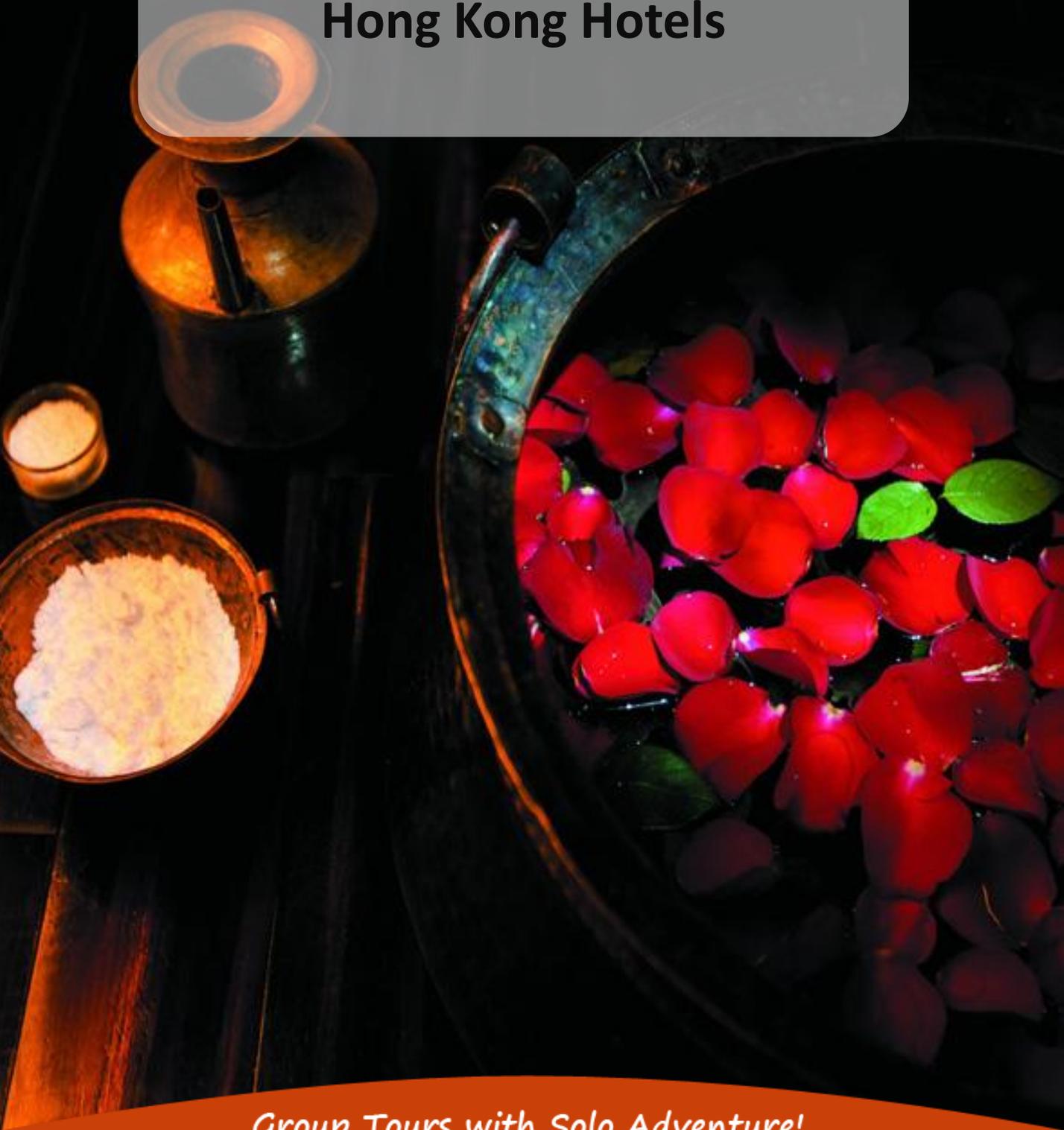


Mandarin Grill + Bar (within the Mandarin Oriental Hotel)

- **Highlights:** Western steakhouse
- **Average price:** over \$800 per person
- **Address:** Mandarin Oriental Hong Kong, 5 Connaught Road Central, Central
- **Phone/reservations:** 2825 4004
- **Hours:** Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 10:30 pm; Saturday 6:30 pm to 10:30 pm; Sunday and public holidays 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm;
- **Getting there:** MTR station Central



Hong Kong Hotels



The Hotel Icon (4.5 star)

The contemporary hotel gives off a very cozy feel. The Market offers a casual dining experience, the neighborhood café is a great source for light meals, while it comes with a spa and a pool where you can relax and spend more time to yourself or friends. The Hotel Icon is also a recommended venue for special events like weddings because of its strategic location and excellent function rooms. It is also near amazing HK sites like the famed Science Museum. The hotel is also a research and training center for students in HK's polytechnic university.



- **Address:** 17 Science Museum Road, Kowloon, Hong Kong
- **Tel. No:** +852 3400 1000

Four Seasons Hotel Hong Kong (5-star)

How can you ever go wrong with Four Seasons? It has everything you can be looking for in an HK trip: nearness to the International Finance Center, close to the Star Ferry, and an infinity pool with a great view of the Victoria Harbor. Business services are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, while it has its own boutique where you can shop for signature items.

The Executive Club, located at the 45th floor, guarantees enjoyment and personalized service. It's the real family-oriented hotel with services ranging from baby-sitting to kids' customized attractions and activities.



- **Address:** 8 Finance Street, Central, Hong Kong, China
- **Tel. No:** (852) 3196-8888

Kowloon Shangri-la Hong Kong (5-star)

When you think of hotel, definitely Shangri-la is one of the first things you'll remember. The Shangri-la Hotel in Kowloon certainly doesn't disappoint. Its deluxe rooms, which span more than 40 square meters, are exquisite with its floor-to-ceiling windows and panoramic views of the metro's skyline.

The services and facilities are also top notch: complimentary shoeshine, hospitality lounge, valet and laundry, limousine and shuttles, and express check-in and checkout. It even has its own medical facility, which is missing in a lot of traditional hotels. The business facility and room service are available at any time.

- **Address:** 64 Mody Road, Hong Kong
- **Tel. No:** +852 2721 2111



Langham Place, Hong Kong (5-star)

The Langham Place may not have the grandness of the other hotels here in the list, but it remains competitive as ever. As one of the most reviewed and therefore well-loved hotels of HK tourists all around the globe, it fascinates everyone with its impeccable customer service.

The staff are always ready to accommodate needs and requests. The Club Room and its personalized service are worth every penny. Found in Mong Kok, it's close to the area's own MTR and great local markets. Let's not forget as well it is its own commercial and shopping complex.

- **Address:** No. 555 Shanghai Street, Mong Kok, Hong Kong, China
- **Tel. No:** +852 3514 9088





The Mira Hong Kong (5-star)

One of the beauties of Mira Hotel is its location. Some of the most iconic HK attractions are only a walk or a quick ride away: Hong Kong Museum of Art, Avenue of Stars, Shopper's Paradise, Mira Mall, and Knutsford Terrace.

Only around 10 to 15 minutes is the Star Ferry. The hotel, meanwhile, provides a variety of room palettes and styles that cater to the guests' discerning preferences. When it comes to dining, they can choose from European Whisk to Cantonese Cuisine Cuisine or delicious chocolate treats of Coco.

- **Address:** 118 Nathan Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, Hong Kong
- **Tel. No:** +852 2368 1111





The background image shows two people from the waist down, wearing blue jeans. They are holding several shopping bags: a green bag with a diamond pattern, a rainbow striped bag, and a plain white bag. The person on the left is wearing a blue shirt, and the person on the right is wearing a purple shirt. The scene is set outdoors on a paved surface.

Hong Kong Shopping



Causeway Bay

Located in Hong Kong Island, [Causeway Bay](#) (铜锣湾) is the premier business, entertainment center and also the shopping center. The rent for places in this area is very expensive, which is second only to the Fifth Avenue in New York. It is now a landmark of Hong Kong Shopping. Every day the area is bustle and hustle. Many famous Hong Kong movie/singing stars may go shopping there. It even becomes a must-go place to shop till drop for a lot of Asian stars. In 2013, Causeway Bay has become the second best spots travelers wishing to visit in Hong Kong. The first one is [Tsim Sha Tsui](#) (尖沙咀).

Below is what we recommend. **SOGO** (崇光百货) is the largest and best department store in Hong Kong including a big supermarket (Freshmart) and over 150 big brands on sale. It is also the landmark of Causeway Bay. **Time Square Shopping Mall** (时代广场) is one of the top five malls in HK boasting 16 floors and around 200 stores. It is the first mega-mall in the city, aiming at the average shoppers by providing a wide range of mid-range brands both from local and foreign countries. There is also no lack of food in the mall from local food to various international restaurants. A big food court standing different stalls is also in it.

Other places worth going are Yee Woo street, Fashion Walk, Lee Gardens and Lee Gardens Two, Jardine's Bazaar and Jardine's Crescent. These spots offer a variety of luxury and budget fancy brands. You will not leave empty. Shops and streets will be busy until 22:00. Flocks of locals hunt for great bargains there as great discounts are offered every day for most big brands.

- **How to get there:**

Take First Bus No.65 and get off at SOGO Stop (崇光百货站);

Take City Bus No.96 and get off at Wan Chai Fire Department Stop (湾仔消防站);

Take Hong Kong Island Bus Line No. 10 and get off at SOGO Stop (崇光站);

Take Bus No.171/n171 and get off at Jiannadao West Stop (坚拿道西站).



Mong Kok

Different with that of Causeway Bay, **Mong Kok (旺角)** is far less glitzy and main for ordinary locals. However, this area is the most populated area per meter in the world and also the most crowded street! Some stores and restaurants even run 24 hours. The whole area is full of banks, skyscrapers and small stores with different specialties. Visitors will meet numerous markets selling anything cheap Chinese fashion you could think about, handbags, watches and copy versions of many designer products. You will even find a Goldfish and Flower market there.

Although most of the crowds are travelers, you could still come across many locals wandering around looking for bargains. This would be a very nice area to see real and traditional local life. Many traditional and old stores like the traditional cookies store, mah-jongg stores and baldachin stores in town. It owns several oldest streets in Hong Kong and walking would be the best way to explore them. Mong Kok area is also famous for its delicious and popular food from all over the world. The area could also be taken as the second dining hall for locals.

The landmark in Mong Kok area is **Langham Place (朗豪坊)** consisting of a big mall, a hotel and an office. Grand Atrium on the 4th floor serving as a main conjunction of the mall, hotel and the office tower is a main highlight. Visitors could take the longest elevator Xpresscaltors in HK to the 7th floor. The sculpture in front of the place named Happy Man is the landmark of Langham Place. In total there are 13 floors of the building.

The other one is the **Mong Kok Computer Center**. It is one of the best centers in Hong Kong for cheap computer gear. Don't miss this place!

- **Getting there:** Take subway Guantang Line (观塘线) and Quanwan Line (荃湾线), then get off at Wangjiao Station (旺角站).



Central

The Central District (中环) is the political and commercial center in Hong Kong. The area gathers many fancy and top-end stores, financial centers and a variety of dining places offering expensive cuisine. Some said it jokingly that the area is awash with cash as one will find the swankiest malls and stores located in these buildings. Top-end shops such as Luis Vutton, Harvey Nichols and some other luxury department stores find their places in Central.

In Central District, **Pacific Place (太古广场)** would be one of the best five shopping malls in Hong Kong for selections of real upmarket from Armani to Versace and things in between. Instead of a bargain place, the area is more like the home to something new from the fashion shows of Paris and London. The place also serves everything you could imagine but most are international top notch brands instead of Chinese or Asian brands. Delicious local food and other cuisines from different places are also offered in this fancy mall. Pacific Place is closely connected to three top hotels in Hong Kong and a cinema.

If you want to get to the heartland of the Central, then the **Landmark (置地广场)** is the place to go. While it offers the chic and swanky international boutiques there with unbeatable quality, it is the home of heavy price tags in the city. Even the fruit in the supermarket is not cheap! But surely it will give you a thrilling shopping experience. Just remember to take your credit card and you could indulge yourself in flagship stores of Harvey Nichols and Louis Vuitton, fashion stores like Alberta Ferreti and Gucci, shoes and handbags brands such as Celine and Fendi.

The Jewelry store De Beers even set its foot there. When you are tired, Caviar Gaspia(French) Amber would be a star restaurant offering you a place of refreshment in elegant surroundings. It is in the Landmark Oriental Hotel.

- **Getting There:** Take MTR Quwan Line and get off at Exit D1 of Central Station (中环站).



Sham Shui Po

Located in the south end of Koo-loon Peninsular, [Sham Shui Po](#) (尖沙咀) is on the opposite side of Central District across the Victoria Harbor. It is the major shopping and tourism area in Koo-loon. This exotic area is always favored by most travelers. No wonder there are many foreign visitors. Chuncking Mansion is the best testament of its exotic culture which was also rated as the Best Example of Globalization in Asia by the magazine Times.

When entering the mansion, it seems going into India as it is the gathering place of southern Asian and African people. The biggest Mosque could also be found in the area near Koo-loo Park. A five star hotel Peninsular Hotel is full of England style where customers could enjoy a full view of Victoria Harbor. Kimberley Street is famous as a Korean Street nestled with many Korean restaurants and supermarkets for Korean food.

The recommended shopping mall there definitely is **Harbor City** (海港城), which is also one of the best five malls in the city consists of over 700 stores, 50 restaurants, two theaters and three hotels! It offers a wide range of goods from articles of everyday use to Jewelry. Many flagship stores and famous world-class names like Lane Crawford and Louis Vuitton call the place their homes.

Every year during Christmas and Spring Festival, Harbor City will invite some hot stars to the light ceremonies. Once going there, it would be wise of you to write the brand names down you are going to buy in advance and ask the information desk about the exact floors and locations. When you see something you really love, do not hesitate or think about buying it later as you are likely to get lost or too tired to go back!

Golden Shopping Arcade (黄金电脑市场) is rated as the best priced computer center in Hong Kong for fames and gaming equipment.

- **Getting there:**

Take MTR Quwan Line and get off at Exit A2 of Shams Shui Po Station(尖沙咀站).
Take West Rail Line and get off at Exit L4 of Jiandong Station(尖东站).



Best Local Markets in Hong Kong

Besides top-end or mid-range malls in this international metropolis, there are some local markets specifying in certain ranges with low price. For visitors wishing to reveal the veil of local life, these markets would be nice doors to open Hong Kong culture.

Ladies Market

If you only have a limited time to know the local market, [Ladies Market](#) (女人街) would be a good choice. Probably it is the most famous market in the city and also the must-go place for visitors. In the beginning, the market only sold articles of ladies.

However, now the market offers a wide range of low priced goods like articles of daily use and men's clothing and even toys. Maybe Ladies' Market is also the gathering place of commodities in copies and fakes. Bargain is the topic when getting to this market.

- **Address:** Tung Choi Street, Mongkok.



Temple Street Market

[Temple Street Market](#) (庙街) would be the best local market locals like to go. Even if you are not interested in buying anything there, numerous stalls there selling everything cheaply and the scene of crowds bargaining with vendors worth visiting. It would be much more like enjoying the atmosphere and a bargain than shopping there. Also don't leave before you grabbing a bite at a Dai Pai Dong which could be seen everywhere. The market gets busy when the dark is upon the city (2:00pm-11:00pm).

Anything popular and hot fashion in the malls could be seen their copies or fakes on the temple street market. They often offer a low price but you still can bargain hard. Around 3:00 pm it is the best time to buy things like silk clothing, fashion clothing (often fake or copy), Chinese embroidered linen and clothing, shoes, socks and underwear, CDS (often pirated) and antiques (often fake). However, around 20:00 pm would be the perfect hours to experience the atmosphere there.

- **Address:** Temple Street, Yau Ma Tei



Stanley Market

Stanley Market (赤柱集市) is a nice market for foreigners to start their local market exploration. It only stretches two streets with nice covers. Most things are served as souvenirs, such as silk clothing, sports clothing, Hong Kong themed souvenirs, Chinese embodied linen and calligraphy.

Most travelers like to get their English names transcribed into Chinese. In fact this is not a real tough local market, but for first-timers for market shopping, this offers a good start as most vendors could speak simple English and things are clearly categorized. Recommended place is I Love Hong Kong Souvenirs. Don't expect bargain there. It opens between 10:30 am and 6:30 pm. The best time to visit is in the morning before the crowds flocking into.

- **Address:** Stanley Market Road, Stanley
- **Getting there:** Take bus 6, 6X, 6A, 66, 260



Hong Kong Transportation

As one of the most modern and developed cities in the world, [Hong Kong](#) has a public transportation system to rival any other city on earth. There is mainly just 1 payment system (aside from cash) and the network is centralized so that travelers can move between different types of transportation seamlessly. Below, we present a guide for getting around Hong Kong. It's great to have options!



The Octopus Card

Hong Kong runs on the Octopus Card, a reusable contactless stored value smart card which is used to pay for all transport, not to mention store purchases, parking meters, supermarkets, and other venues these days. It is easy to purchase and recharge value on a new Octopus Card at all MTR stations, ferry stations, convenience stores such as 7-11s, and select other transportation stations.

The purchase price of a new card varies depending whether you are an adult, child, student, senior, or request a personalized design. Using an Octopus Card is easy. Once you have charged it with enough money value, when you want to make a purchase or pay a fare, simply wave the card in front of the Octopus card reader and a scan sound will emit, noting that the payment has been fulfilled.

Often times, such as on the MTR, there are small discounts for passages paid for with an Octopus Card (this also applies to shops and vendors that accept card payments). To check the value left on your card, visit one of the enquiry machines at any MTR station. Once you are ready to leave Hong Kong, you may return your Octopus Card to a customer service representative at a MTR station and you can receive your remaining value; a processing fee may apply.



MTR metro transit railway

The MTR underground metro system is perhaps the easiest and most convenient way to get around Hong Kong on the large scale. There are a total of 84 railway stations and 68 light rail stops. From the outer limits of the New Territories to the heart of Hong Kong Island at Central to the eastern reaches of the island to the corners of Lantau Island and other outer islands, it is easy to understand and navigate the MTR network due to its multilingual signage and easy connection services.

The MTR even reaches to the limits of Hong Kong with China, making it easy for people to move between the two regions. At each station, there are numerous exits, each of which is well labeled to show nearby highlights and attractions for orientation and visitation.

Note that the MTR gets incredibly busy during rush hours and weekends, so if possible, it may be best to avoid riding during those times. Food and drinks are strictly prohibited when riding the MTR and is fiercely regulated by patrol guards. The cost of a ride is dependent on distance traveled with most rides between \$8 and \$20.



Hong Kong tramways

The trams that run through Hong Kong Island are as iconic to the urban landscape as the skyscrapers and wet markets. [Hong Kong's trams](#) have been serving the public for over 100 years and they continue to set the standard. First of all, it is the only system with only double storied tram cars. While the trams today continue to feature a similar aesthetic to their ancestral versions, the interiors are all modern and new for today's sophisticated riders.

While the trams are still part of many people's daily lives, they are also very popular tourist attractions since they allow visitors to look into authentic Hong Kong lifestyle. The total tram network stretches from Shau Kei Wan to Kennedy Town on Hong Kong Island (west to east) and has a total run length of 13 kilometers, plus a detour route to Happy Valley Racecourse.

Overall, it takes about 80 minutes to travel the entire distance. As well, up to 115 riders per train are welcome between 5:30am and 12:30am, meaning it is candidly still useful and relevant even these days with the MTR. Fares are a flat \$2.30 making it a steal for getting around, and payment can be made with the Octopus Card or with exact change into the farebox.





Star Ferry

The Star Ferry is the most beautiful way to cross Victoria Harbor! (The other ways include over bridge on a bus, or underground via MTR metro.) Whether you take upper deck seats which are \$2.50 on weekdays and \$3.40 on weekends, or lower deck seats that cost \$2.80 on weekdays and \$2 on weekends, you will be able to look out the sides of the iconic green and white vessel and experience how people have been crossing the harbor since 1888.

A ride will take you from Central on Hong Kong Island and Tsim Sha Tsui in Kowloon, or the other way around. There is also a less popular route from Wan Chai on Hong Kong Island to Tsim Sha Tsui. To ride the Star Ferry, you may pay with your Octopus Card or tokens purchased at the stations. Owing to its beautiful ride, historical significance, and low cost, the Star Ferry has regularly been hailed as one of the top ferry rides on earth.



Group Tours with Solo Adventure!

Ferries to outer islands

Hong Kong is comprised of a series of Pacific islands, meaning that water travel is as important as land travel. In addition to the ferries that transport travelers across Victoria Harbor, there are also many boats that take people from Kowloon and Hong Kong Island to the outer islands such as Lantau Island, Lamma Island, and Cheung Chau Island. There are also ferries to Macau on the China mainland which operate ever 15 to 30 minutes depending on the company and is a journey of about 1 hour.

The place to take these ferries is predominantly the port area just next to the Star Ferry in Tsim Sha Tsui in Kowloon. There are fast ferries and slow ferries, with the faster ones costing more, about double. Due to crowds and the increase in price of about 50% on Sundays, traveling on this day should be avoided if possible. As well, be careful of taking ferries for general safety reasons during poor weather such as storms or typhoons. Be sure to note the ferry schedules since they do not run 24 hours and you don't want to be stranded away from home!



Taxi

For a large city, Hong Kong's taxi system is very well maintained, regulated, and operated. They are plentiful, cheap, and efficient. Moreover, the price is very affordable for being in a worldly city such as Hong Kong. To note, red taxis can travel anywhere within Hong Kong and are the most expensive.

Green colored taxis are a bit cheaper but operate only around the New Territories, airport, and Hong Kong Disneyland. Blue taxis are the cheapest but only run on Lantau Island, including Disneyland and the airport. All taxis accept cash but it is better if you have exact change since many of the drivers will not have it. Some vehicles are outfitted with equipment to process Octopus Card payments too.

Fares are calculated by a sit-in fee, then the distance traveled is measured by meter. As you can see, taxis are a convenient way of getting around Hong Kong, even if most drivers speak no or basic English. As such, it is recommended that you write your destination or know a big landmark to relay to your driver if you don't speak Chinese.



Bus

Buses are frequent and far reaching, even if their schedules can be unpredictable. As with all other forms of transport, payment can be made with your Octopus Card; if paying with cash, exact fare is required as change is not distributed. Fares are distance dependant.

There are 3 types of buses that operate throughout Hong Kong. The first are double decker buses which arguably have the most extensive network. It can be exhilarating to sit at the front of the second deck, giving you full views as you weave around mountains and pass urban monkeys.

The second type is public light buses which are the size of large vans fit for 16 passengers each. However, these can be more difficult for non-Chinese speakers to utilize since the signs, language, and routes are all in Chinese. Also, they are designed for those who are familiar with the city and know where they are going. Yet, they offer convenient and fast access to many parts of Hong Kong.

The third kind of buses is MTR feeder buses. These are extension buses from the metro system and are complimentary if taken after an MTR ride. Overall, the Hong Kong bus system offers exemplary extensions to unique and hidden destinations that the metro does not reach.





How to Plan a 3-day Hong Kong Trip



Day 1 Visit Mong Kok, Tsim Sha Tsui and Victoria Harbor

On your first day in [Hong Kong](#), it is a good idea to first orient yourself from the Kowloon Peninsula which leads directly to China. This area, which is comprised of the regions called the New Territories as well as the infamous Kowloon, is home to an entire spectrum of residential areas, historical landmarks, and other pieces of Hong Kong that will give you a well rounded perspective of this multifaceted metropolis.

Suggested route

- Mong Kok for breakfast
- Jordan and Tsim Sha Tsui sightseeing & shopping
- [Victoria Harbor](#) for dinner & photography
- Mong Kok and Jordan for nighttime market exploration

Breakfast

Try something from a hole-in-the-wall restaurant! Anywhere you go, you will find small but delicious eateries tucked into the smallest or largest of streets. Dim sum, a style of Cantonese food which comes in small plates or portions much like Spanish tapas, is a favorite of all Hong Kong dwellers. Some of the best selections can be found in the Mong Kok neighborhood around the main streets Nathan Road and Argyle Street. The MTR metro station Mong Kok is the most convenient way to access this gastronomic area.

Lunch

A typical lunch in Hong Kong consists of a hot bowl of noodles cooked in a rich but light broth filled with meats and vegetables. These meals are relatively simple but full of flavor. Anywhere in the area that you will be walking today, you will find noodle shops all around, ranging from basic eateries to trendier cafes and restaurants. If you don't speak Cantonese Chinese, it may be helpful to choose a dining spot which has photos on their menus!

Dinner

Since you should be around Tsim Sha Tsui during sunset to see the last bits of light strike the skyline, it will be a nice idea to stay in the area for dinner due to the views that many restaurants offer. As well, there are restaurants of all kinds to choose, from local Cantonese styles to Indian to Western to international. For example, a world-renowned tea time and dinner choice is Felix at the Peninsula Hong Kong Hotel or tapas at the Kowloon Shangri-La for those looking for a special night out. Otherwise, there are many other choices particularly along Chatham Road or back on Nathan Road and their side streets.

During the day

Walking south of Mong Kok down the famous Nathan Road, you will pass through the neighborhoods Jordan and then Tsim Sha Tsui on the shores of Victoria Harbor. Mong Kok is a boon for shoppers, especially females, as some of the trendiest and predictive fashion on earth can be found in its impressive shopping centers. Prices vary between extreme bargains to ultimate luxury. These 2 reasons are why Mong Kok is a world-class shopping and style district.

Jordan is an extension of Mong Kok, in many ways, but it has its own flair. Here you will find shopping centers full of the latest electronic gadgets, large scale print projects, furniture, high-end handbags and makeup, and almost anything else you can imagine.

The streets, meanwhile, are flush with both dry and wet markets, making Jordan a fascinating place for those who enjoy discovering the local food scene and observing typical daily life. Ladies Market, Flower Market, Goldfish Market, Bird Market, and Apliu Street are among the best places to poke around. Also as you gaze upwards, you will see rusty, old apartment buildings alongside some of the most expensive condos and properties in the world. Jordan is a neighborhood of contrasts.

Finally, make your way to the “end of the road” as it may be, to Tsim Sha Tsui. This is perhaps the most visited area in Hong Kong on the whole with its endless array of shops and restaurants that are targeted towards visitors.

There are also museums such as the Hong Kong Space Museum, Hong Kong Museum of History, Hong Kong Science Museum, Hong Kong Museum of Art, and the Hong Kong Cultural Center (admission fees vary).

But the main draw is the Avenue of Stars which is the Hong Kong version of the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Here you will find handprints from some of Hong Kong's most famous celebrities during the day (it is also a great place for people watching) and a colored laser lights show across the city's iconic skyscraper-filled skyline at night, rising above the gleaming waters of Victoria Harbor.

At Tsim Sha Tsui, you may also take the affordable Star Ferry across the harbor to reach Hong Kong Island.

One thing is for sure, is that one day in these districts of the southern Kowloon Peninsula, you will never be for a lack of things to see or do!

Should you wish to take the MTR metro, you may also access these areas by accessing the stations Jordan, Tsim Sha Tsui, and Tsim Sha Tsui East, respectively.

Night activities

Although you will have had a long day of shopping and sightseeing, it is fascinating to explore Hong Kong's nocturnal side. The night hours are the best time to return to the markets of Jordan, most particularly the Temple Street Market.

In the darkness lit up with a million lights, you will see teenagers enjoying the adventurous air of evening, businessmen in suits sharing large plates of seafood dinners, children in hand with their parents seeking new toys, tourists exploring knick knacks and souvenirs, and fortune tellers offering their special eye to passersby.

Feel free to walk around and discover since the area is very safe, but all the same, do watch your personal items as you would in any large city at night. The closest MTR station is Yau Ma Tei.



Day 2 Experience Hong Kong culture

Having spent your first day in Hong Kong on Kowloon Peninsula learning about the different aspects of daily life in this city of contrasts, your second day will be well spent on Hong Kong Island itself. This is where you will see old Hong Kong blended seamlessly with new Hong Kong; British influences can still be seen, while the most dynamic

Suggested route:

- Star Ferry from Tsim Sha Tsui to reach Hong Kong Island
- ICF building to reaching new heights
- Take a ride on a [“ding ding” tram](#)
- Victoria Peak for views of the city
- Ride the outdoor escalators between Central and the Mid-Levels
- Shopping in Central

Breakfast

An interesting way to start the day is to pop into a restaurant that serves Western style Cantonese food. What does this mean? Over a century of occupation, the British left their mark especially in the food scene. Today, you can find Chinese vegetable soups filled with short macaroni pasta, omelets with sides of white rice and typical meats, and much more. Café de Coral, Fairwood, and Maxim are all very popular restaurant chains that serve favorite dishes as these.

Lunch

On Hong Kong Island, you will have the best chance to try Hong Kong’s world class restaurants especially in the Central and Wan Chai neighborhoods which are among the most exclusive and in-demand in the world. At some properties, reservations must be made months in advance. And in an immensely large and populated city such as Hong Kong, competition and the desire to overturn the new with the even newer means that competition is fierce and the next best thing is always just around the corner. Because of this, it is hard to find a bad meal!

Dinner

Grab something to eat in the Mid-Levels or Central! Whether you're craving a taste of home or the best Chinese food that Hong Kong has to offer, this is definitely the place to find it. As far as budget goes, as elsewhere in Hong Kong, you will find options that cater to all levels.

During the day

Picking up from where you left off the day before, take the 11-minute Star Ferry ride from Tsim Sha Tsui across the calm waters of Victoria Harbor and arrive to Hong Kong Island. The ferry itself is an icon of Hong Kong heritage and has carried passengers for over 120 years. Tickets prices depend on the deck you choose to enjoy: upper deck seats are \$2.50 on weekdays and \$3.40 on weekends, lower deck seats cost \$2.80 on weekdays and \$2 on weekends. Both offer incredible views of the city skyline.

Once on Hong Kong Island, skip over to the IFC, or the International Finance Centre which is made of 2 towers, one for shopping and one for commerce. A must-do is to visit the Hong Kong Monetary Authority and Currency Museum, not only for its fascinating exhibits about the history of the city's currency and economy, but also for the unbeatable 360-degree views of the harbor and developed island. To reach the IFC by MTR metro, disembark at Hong Kong station. Entrance to the museum is free, but be sure to bring an official photo ID in order to enter (for security reasons); allow at least 30 minutes to enjoy your visit.

Get moving again and just outside of the IFC, there are stations for riding the "ding ding" trams that are so iconic to the Hong Kong urban landscape on this island. They have been taking passengers for over 100 years and are both vital forms of transportation to this day as well as tourist attractions. Today, the trams have the outer appearance of their vintage designs but the interiors are as modern as they get. If you're feeling free, enjoy the ride especially towards the eastern end of the island; the tram runs altogether from Shau Kei Wan to Kennedy Town. A lower level seat lets you see the city up close and personal, while an upper level seat gives you a bird's eye view of the activity below. Tickets are 2.30 for adults and \$1.20 for children under 12.

If the views from the Currency Museum do not satisfy you, continue on to Victoria Peak, also just known to locals as The Peak. From the shopping center and observation platforms, you will be granted sweeping panoramas of Central, Victoria Harbor, and Lamma Island among other highlights of the greater Hong Kong region. This is one of the most famous and popular sites in Hong Kong and on weekends it can get especially busy.

To reach Victoria Peak, take the Peak Tram from Central on Old Peak Road just south of the Hong Kong Zoological and Botanical Gardens, or a quick bus, which is lower in cost and in some ways more visually exciting. Tram tickets are \$28 one way or \$40 roundtrip for adults, \$11 one way or \$18 roundtrip for children and seniors. To enjoy the facilities at Peak Tower is free of charge.

Afterwards, make your way back down to Central and do some shopping as you wish. This is one of the most premier shopping areas on the planet, and you will find the world's top and exclusive brands all around.

For one last adventure for the day, take the outdoor escalators from Queen's Road Central in Central up to the Mid-Levels area of Hong Kong Island. Not only is this a unique way to see the island, the transportation system itself is a wonder: this is the longest outdoor covered escalator system in the world, taking 20 minutes nonstop for the entire one-way journey, and more than 55,000 people utilize them daily to get from home to work and beyond. And of course, along the way, you will see the wealthy side of Hong Kong particularly once you reach the Soho area.

Night activities

Go for a drink or attend a party in one of the most elite nightlife districts in the world, Lan Kwai Fong. Found in Central, Lan Kwai Fong is where the young, the beautiful, and the rich gather to see and be seen. A drink with a view may also be up your alley; if you're looking to splurge, head to the bars found at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Upper House Hotel, East Hotel, Pacific Place, or the Peninsula Hong Kong Hotel!

For those looking for a cultural experience, it is worth it to attend a horse race at Happy Valley Racecourse especially on Wednesday race nights. Horseracing (and betting) is an institution in Hong Kong and even for those who are not usually interested in racing or horses, a night at Happy Valley will still surely entertain.



Day 3 beyond the ordinary

Day 3 is ideal for seeing outer Hong Kong. That is, a visit to one of the outer islands or parks is a great way to pass your third day in the city.

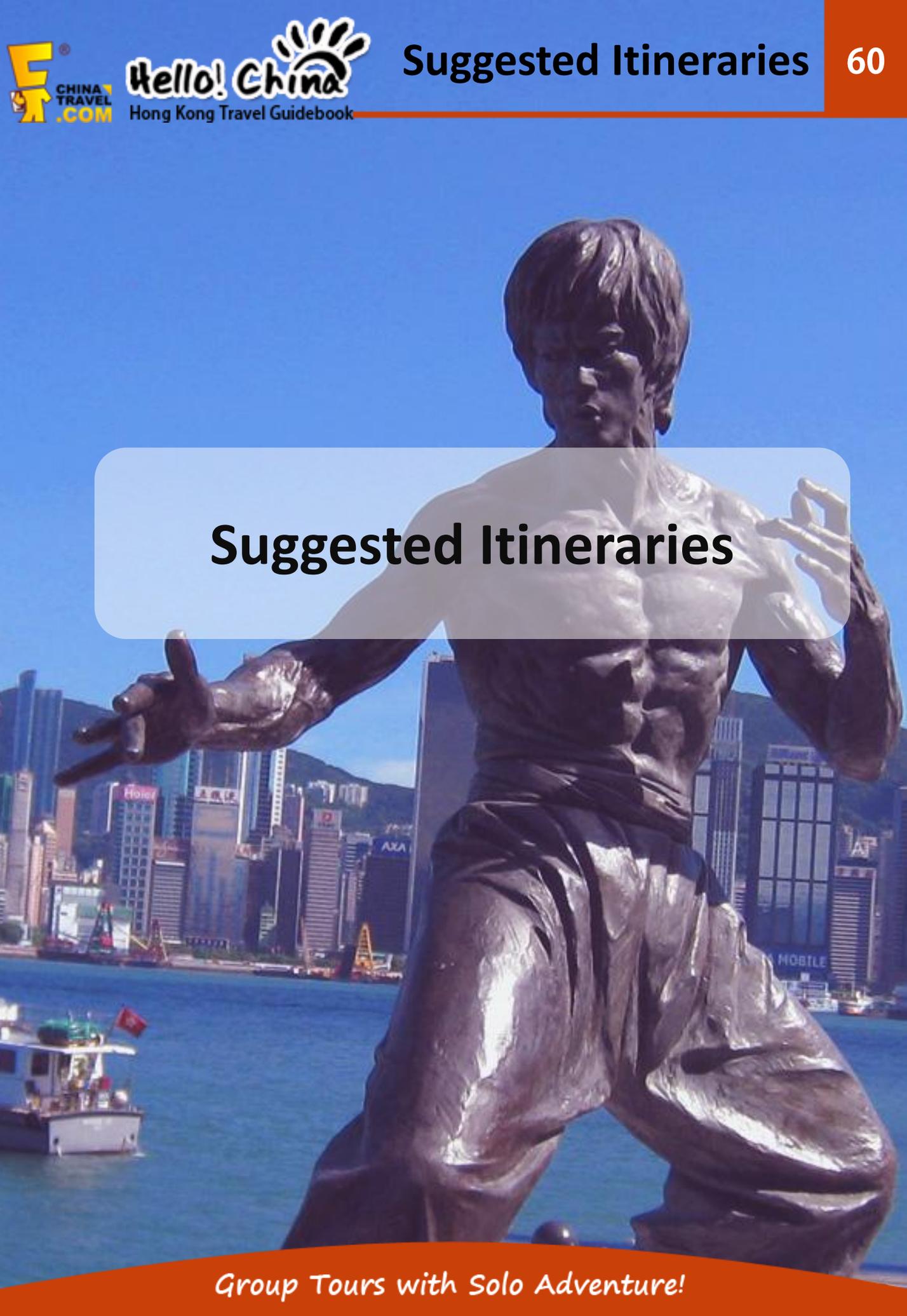
Suggested destinations:

- [Lantau Island](#) to visit Tai-O village and the Tian Tan Buddha (Big Buddha)
- [Aberdeen](#) to eat the freshest seafood
- [Dragon's Back Trail](#) and other hikes

Lantau Island to visit Tai-O village and the Tian Tan Buddha (Big Buddha): Lantau is where you will find Hong Kong's international airport. However, the largest outer island in the region also offers unparalleled natural beauty due to the mountains and the forests, a cable car that provides breathtaking views of the Pacific islands group, traditional Tai-O village which sits on stilts and is a favorite for seafood lovers, and the immense golden Tian Tan Buddha (Big Buddha) and temple on top of a peak. This option is ideal for those who love to learn about the local culture, religion, and landscapes. Take a Lantau Island ferry from Tsim Sha Tsui to arrive.

Aberdeen to eat the freshest seafood: Since Hong Kong is a gem in the sea, it is no wonder it yields some of the freshest and most flavorful seafood of any country. There are many restaurants that have live sea creatures, some more exotic than others, in tanks outside of their main door; diners are welcome to choose what they want prepared for their meal. An international favorite is Jumbo Kingdom, a floating restaurant which has served top seafood meals for many decades. Bus Route 973 from Tsim Sha Tsui East Bus Terminus is the most convenient way to reach Aberdeen.

Dragon's Back Trail and other hikes: Despite Hong Kong being a world-ranked metropolis, the majority of its lands are actually pure, undisturbed nature. The Dragon's Back Trail at the eastern end of Hong Kong Island is regarded as one of the most beautiful urban hikes that exist; on a clear and sunny day, you will appreciate the mountain views along with the contours of the sandy beaches down below. Also, there are hikes along the Maclehoose Trail, Lantau Trail, Hong Kong Trail, Wilson Trail, and more. Almost all of these are accessible for beginners and intermediate hikers.



Suggested Itineraries

Group Tours with Solo Adventure!



Travel to Hong Kong in One Day

Arrival - Peak Tower & Peak Tram- New Territories – Ten Thousand Buddahs Monastery – Nightlife in Lan Kwai Fong/ Departure



Travel to Hong Kong in Three Day

Day 1: Arrival

Day 2: Victoria Peak - Stanley Market

Day 3: Lantau Island across Tsing Ma Bridge - Po Lin Monastery - The Giant Buddha - the Tai O picturesque and beautiful village - Departure





Recommended Tours

Group Tours with Solo Adventure!

 [Essence of Hong Kong](#)

Day 1 Arriving in Hong Kong

Day 2 Half day tour to Victoria Peak, Aberdeen, Repulse Bay

Day 3 Hong Kong Departure

 [Essence of Hong Kong and Beijing Tour](#)

Day 1 Arriving in Hong Kong

Day 2 Half-day Hong Kong Island tour

Day 3 Flight from Hong Kong to Beijing

Day 4 Visit the wonders of Beijing for Mutianyu Great Wall and Temple of Heaven,

Day 5 Experience the history and culture of authentic Beijing by visiting The Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square, Summer Palace and Hutong

Day 6 Beijing Departure

