Hong Kong is cosmopolitan, exciting and impressive and stands out as a definite 'must-see' city. The contrasts of the New Territories to downtown Kowloon could not be starker and even though Hong Kong is a full-on working town its entertainment options are a wonder. Asia's largest shopping hub will present you with a challenge: just how to take all the best retail outlets in on time and the same goes for the fabulous choice of dining.

City-wide you'll be amazed at the nightlife options and how the city transforms once the sun sets. Accommodation choices are plentiful. Take enough time to get to know this fascinating destination at your leisure and take in the sights and sounds of one of Asia's most vibrant cities.

http://www.hong-kong-hotels.ws/general-info.htm

SIM CARDS AND DIALING PREFIXES

Prepaid SIM cards are available at cell phone shops and most convenience stores (7-Elevens and Circle K are everywhere). The big mobile phone service providers here include CSL, PCCW, Three (3) and SmarTone. Hong Kong doesn't use area codes; to call a number within Hong Kong, simply dial the eight digit number. To call Hong Kong from abroad, dial 011, then the country code of 852 and the eight digit number. To make an international call, dial the access code 00, followed by the country code, area code and the number.

http://www.hong-kong-hotels.ws/gettingaround.htm

GETTING AROUND

The reliable Mass Transit Railway (MTR) is the best way to get around the city from about 06:00 till 01:00. Fares are quite reasonable. Beware of rush hours (08:00 – 09:30 and 17:30 – 19:00). If you are going to stay for couple of days, it's best to get the Octopus Card.

Taxis are available everywhere and are not that expensive. They are colour-coded according to their operating areas (The Red taxis are for most of Hong Kong, Green taxis for the New Territories and Blue taxis for Lantau Island.). Don't miss an opportunity to ride on the iconic double-decker tram if going for a short distance. All routes pass through the city centre.

The Star Ferry shuttles busily between Hong Kong Island and the Kowloon peninsula from 06:30 - 23:30. Like other transportation here, fares vary by distance but the ferry is inexpensive and quite convenient.


WEATHER

Hong Kong can be considered a year-round destination with a mild climate from the middle of September to February, and warm and humid weather from May to mid-September.

It's cool and dry in the winter (December to March), and hot, humid and rainy from spring and summer; July records the highest average temperature. Autumn is warm, sunny, and dry. Hong Kong occasionally experiences severe rainstorms, or typhoons. It rains a lot between May and September. Best time to go is from October - December.

http://www.hong-kong-hotels.ws/general-info/climate.htm

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

- Police 999
- Police Hotline 2860 2000
- Emergencies/Ambulance/Fire 999
- Hong Kong Adventist Hospital 2574 6211
- Queen Mary Hospital 2855 3838
- Tourism Information 2508 1234
- Red taxis for most Hong Kong 2398 1881 and 2343 3189
- Green taxis for the New Territories 2657 2267
- Blue taxis for Lantau Island 2584 1328
- Airport Flight Information 2181 0000
- Directory Assistance 1081

http://www.hong-kong-hotels.ws/general-info.htm

AIRPORT TRANSFERS

Hong Kong International Airport offers comprehensive facilities and services. You can opt to get to or from the airport by Airport Express train, public bus, or taxi. The Airport Express trains run every 12 minutes daily (05:50 – 01:15). It takes about 25 minutes to/from downtown Hong Kong to/from the airport. Hong Kong and Kowloon stations provide in-town check-in, free of charge.

Eliminate hassle from your airport transfer by booking a comfortable coach transfer. Bookings operate either way – to and from your hotel. Free for kids under two years old. You can book one in advance through the hong-kong-hotels.ws website or, upon arrival, at the counter B12 (Exit B) in the arrival hall.

Hong Kong Guide

From the Asia Travel Specialists

Hong Kong is not only the most colourful city in Asia but also is one of the world's most prolific metropolises. Its most exciting areas are Central Hong Kong Island and Kowloon. Hong Kong Disneyland and the airport are on Lantau, an island that still manages to preserve its rich culture and natural parks. With its superb transportation system, trips to outlying islands including Macau are a must.

1. Lan Kwai Fong and SoHo Hollywood

Lan Kwai Fong and Soho are two of Hong Kong’s most noted night-spots, buzzing with fashionable locals and trendy tourists seeking a cool place to hang out and enjoy a few drinks or a bite to eat once the sun goes down. Lan Kwai Fong is a famous cobble-stoned maze of restaurants, bars and nightclubs located in the heart of the Central Business District. Sophisticated Soho starts just south of Hollywood Road and meanders along Elgin Street, Shelley Street and Staunton Street. Soho offers a wide range of high-end international eateries catering to a discerning clientele seeking something a bit special. There are also plenty of chic bars which are usually packed with those who like to be seen. MTR Central Station Exit D2.

2. Causeway Bay

Causeway Bay lies in the north of Hong Kong Island and is considered a Mecca for shoppers; therefore it is a very crowded place. The 13-storey Sogo Causeway Bay Department Store and the 16-floor Times Square mega-mall just across the road are two of the biggest stores in Hong Kong and Causeway Bay landmarks. Other popular shopping options include the giant store World Trade Centre and the prestigious Lee Gardens where one can get such famous labels as Hermès and Louis Vuitton. But if you are looking for something less sophisticated, visit the shopping avenues and market stalls scattered around Causeway Bay. The cheapest way to go to Causeway Bay is by tram which happens to make a stop right in front of SoHo.

3. Tsim Sha Tsui

Located at the southern tip of the Kowloon peninsula, Tsim Sha Tsui (TST) has everything one would need during their stay in Hong Kong; from many top quality hotels to high-end restaurants and from fancy bars to night entertainments. It has a huge concentration of shops and is a perfect place to put your negotiating skills to the test (but try to avoid street touts). Keen shoppers will be happy to shop at the Harbour City right along Canton Road. As the biggest megamall in Hong Kong, it offers over 400 shops and 50 restaurants. Attractions within and nearby TST include the Avenue of Stars, Kowloon Park, the Star Ferry and the famous Nathan Road. TST is easily reached via MTR from any point in Kowloon or Hong Kong Island.

4. Mongkok

Mongkok is where many of the old-style buildings in the city still exist. Basically, their street-level floors are used as retail outlets and businesses while the units above are residential. Mongkok is also known as the most densely populated area on the planet according to the Guinness Book of Records. Everywhere you turn, you see shops, street-side stalls, local eateries and so forth. Many people come here to shop at its popular street markets; Temple Street (Hong Kong’s favourite night market), Ladies Market (a centre for women’s fashion) as well as streets and corners devoted to fish, flowers and jade. If you are looking for a computer and IT supplies, look no further than Mongkok Computer Centre on Nelson Street.

5. Lantau Island

Lantau is Hong Kong’s largest island and is located to the west of Hong Kong Island itself. Lantau offers a lifestyle that is far removed from that of most of Hong Kong with its tranquil beaches, camping and hiking opportunities, and the general atmosphere is very relaxing – think mountains, greenery, rice fields, water buffalos and old villages. For beach lovers, try Silvermine, Cheung Sha and Pui O Beach. On top of that, Lantau is home to Hong Kong Disneyland, the Ngong Ping 360 cable car ride, the famous Giant Buddha and Tai O traditional fishing village. Lantau is easily accessible by Hong Kong MTR and ferry. If you plan carefully, you might be able to accomplish at least a few things (but not all) in one day. Read more...

6. Macau

Macau is not really part of Hong Kong, but many travellers include it in their trip. Known as Asia’s gaming capital, Macau is a unique destination with its East-Meets-West architecture and culture which coexists side by side with a modern and lavish lifestyle generated by its casinos and tourist industry. The casinos have also brought ‘big time’ entertainment, dining and luxury shopping to Macau. Those who wish to try their luck can easily find a casino nearby as there are more than 30 casinos here. A well-kept old colonial location, Macau features a lot of Portuguese and Chinese architecture and has more than 20 World Heritage sites ranging from vintage churches to mansions and from Buddhist and Taoism temples to ornate squares. Read more...

BEST LUXURY HOTELS

1. Hong Kong SkyCity Marriott Hotel, Airport ★★★★★
   Offering a wonderful escape from the bustling city, Hong Kong SkyCity Marriott Hotel is located near Hong Kong International Airport. The spacious soundproofed guestrooms feature luxurious bedding and upscale bathroom fixtures. Its top-notch facilities include six restaurants, a health club, a 27-metre indoor pool, and a luxury spa. Guests can enjoy a round at the Nine Eagles Golf Course adjacent to the hotel. Hong Kong SkyCity Marriott is connected to the AsiaWorld Expo and a short walk to the Airport Express Subway Station.

2. Sheraton Hong Kong Hotel & Towers, Tsim Sha Tsui ★★★★★
   Overlooking the world-famous Victoria Harbour, the award-winning Kowloon Shangri-La is a perfect multifunctional destination for business and leisure. With 688 spacious and comfortable guestrooms along with six restaurants offering a range of exquisite cuisine, the hotel is renowned for its outstanding value for money, modern conveniences and legendary Asian hospitality.

3. Grand Hyatt Hong Kong, Wan Chai ★★★★★
   A few factors make a stay at the Grand Hyatt Hong Kong second to none. First, their spacious guestrooms come in a variety of sizes from 38 to 285sqm, most featuring floor-to-ceiling windows that provide views of Wanchai and Victoria Harbour. Then there are its excellent choices of dining, from casual to elegant. The Grand Hyatt has something for everyone, with a luxury spa, an outdoor 50-metre heated swimming pool, a golf driving range, five fitness centres and two squash courts and a concierge or Assistant Manager on duty 24 hours.

BEST SHOPPING HOTELS

1. Park Hotel, Tsim Sha Tsui ★★★★
   Ideally located in the heart of Kowloon, Park Hotel Hong Kong allows easy access for business or leisure meetings and unlimited shopping opportunities. MTR stations and ferry piers are within walking distance while buses stop right outside. Park Hotel's newly refurbished large rooms offer guests simple elegance and real comfort with double or twin-beds in restful colour tones and fully equipped with the best facilities. Guests can relax and enjoy afternoon tea or a full meal at the onsite restaurant after a long, busy shopping day.

2. The Royal Pacific Hotel and Towers, Tsim Sha Tsui ★★★★
   The Royal Pacific is conveniently linked to a Tsim Sha Tsui popular shopping centre called China Hong Kong City. Guests can choose from its 673 elegant guestrooms including 34 suites featuring views of the harbour or the attractive Kowloon Park. The Royal Pacific offers a wide range of facilities such as a 24-hour fitness centre, and a RP Club Lounge and Business Centre. The hotel is also directly connected to the China-Macau Ferry Terminal and with the MTR, Airport Express and Star Ferry nearby.

3. The Kowloon Hotel, Tsim Sha Tsui ★★★★
   The Kowloon Hotel is situated atop Seibu Department Store, an upscale, sophisticated department store in Tsim Sha Tsui, home of thousands of shops, restaurants and many interesting attractions. The Kowloon Hotel comprises 733 guestrooms, offered both smoking and non-smoking room types, all of which include facilities one would expect from a quality hotel. Guests are also entitled to use the excellent adjacent YMCA Fitness Centre with sauna, jacuzzi and 25-metre long indoor pool.
   http://www.hong-kong-hotels.ws/kowloon-hotel/

BEST BUDGET HOTELS

1. Ibis Hong Kong Central & Sheung Wan ★★★
   Located in the heart of Hong Kong's commercial, cultural and shopping districts and within short walking distance to the subway and HK Macau Ferry Pier, the stylish 550 rooms ibis Hong Kong Central and Sheung Wan features modern rooms with timber flooring, bay windows, high ceilings and complimentary high speed Wi-Fi internet access. TASTE restaurant provides international breakfast buffets and all-day dining menus that offer a variety of local and international cuisines.

2. Mingle by The Park, Wan Chai ★★★
   Mingle Place by The Park is located in the historical heritage district of Wanchai, in a half-century-old vintage 1960's balcony style Tong Lau residential building - typical architecture for the period. It is the Mingle Place Group's attempt to take you back in time to the old colonial days of Hong Kong. The Hong Kong today is different from the old days, and the group has a strong aspiration to show you what they remember, experienced, knew and saw in those days.

3. Y-Loft ★★★
   Overseas and local youths or organizations are welcome to make long-term or short-term visits at Y-Loft. Public transport is readily available with a neighbouring MTR Chai Wan Station. The 148-room Y-Loft is located in Youth Square’s Main Block and Hostel Block. Room selection includes Twin Rooms, as well as Triple Rooms, House of Six, Duplex and Accessible Rooms.

BEST BUSINESS HOTELS

1. Crowne Plaza Hong Kong Causeway Bay ★★★★★
   Crowne Plaza Hong Kong Causeway Bay is the perfect place for business or leisure travelers. Located in Hong Kong's famous commercial and shopping district, it provides easy access to key local attractions. The 263 spacious guestrooms and suites are equipped with the latest hi-tech facilities and are renowned for excellent quality service. Guests can rest assured that they are enjoying the finest in spacious comfort.

2. Sheraton Hong Kong Hotel & Towers, Tsim Sha Tsui ★★★★★
   East Hong Kong is popular for business travellers looking for a relaxed, convenient and contemporary environment. Located adjacent to Tai Koo MTR station, making anywhere in Hong Kong just a short ride away, EAST boasts 345 rooms and suites that offer the latest in iHome/iTouch technology and there is free Wi-Fi broadband internet connection throughout the hotel. Recreational facilities include a 24-hour gym and an outdoor pool. Another plus point is that the City Plaza (the largest shopping centre on Hong Kong Island) is right on the hotel’s doorstep.

3. Renaissance Harbour View Hotel Hong Kong, Wan Chai ★★★★★
   Located in the heart of one of the world's most spectacular cities, Renaissance Harbour View Hotel Hong Kong is a five-star Hong Kong hotel at the centre of it all. Situated on the waterfront, adjacent to the HKCEC, the hotel features panoramic views of Victoria Harbour, luxurious guestrooms and state-of-the-art business amenities. The Hong Kong hotel's five-star accommodations are just five minutes from the CBD, shopping, nightlife and the MTR subway - and mere steps from the Star Ferry to Kowloon.

WHAT TO SEE IN HONGKONG

Hong Kong is known for its melding of history and modernity, east and west. Both Hong Kong and Kowloon Peninsula are a cornucopia of things to see and do. Let us introduce you to some of Hong Kong's finest landmarks, new and old. Hong Kong Harbour is a fantastic sight from any angle and the rolling hills just outside the sprawling metropolis are a must for outdoors enthusiasts. Hong Kong is - quite simply - a sight to see.

1. The Peak, Central
   Talk about getting high in Hong Kong: The Peak's not only known as a gastronomic destination but it's also a place of historical interest, as well as being the location for Madame Tussaud's. Once you are up at The Sky Terrace, you have officially reached the highest viewing platform in Hong Kong at 428 metres above sea level. Here, you can enjoy the same tremendous views out over the harbour and neighbouring islands as the mega-rich on the Peak, who live in some of the world most expensive residences. Read more... Open: 10:00 – 23:00 (Mon - Fri) 08:00 – 23:00 (Sat, Sun & Public Holidays) Book a tour, call +66 2694 5770

2. Hong Kong Disneyland, Lantau Island
   Ready to get close-up-and-personal with your favourite Disney characters? Leave the outside world behind as you step into Sleeping Beauty Castle in Fantasyland; enjoy Mickey Mouse’s Fantasy Parade on Main Street, U.S.A; check out Tarzan Island and the African savannah in Adventuredeland and discover the fun and thrills in Tomorrowland. Open: Daily, though hours vary but usually from 10:00 – 20:00 Read more... How to get there: 30-minute MTR ride from Central Book a tour.

3. Symphony of Lights, Victoria Harbour
   This nightly light show is a wonderful sight to behold. The show presents an all-round vision of coloured lights, laser beams and searchlight displays off many key buildings on both Hong Kong Island and Kowloon, all synchronised to music and narration. This must-see Hong Kong experience is best appreciated by taking a harbour cruise but other good vantage points are along the Tsim Sha Tsui waterfront near the Avenue of Stars or outside the Golden Bauhinia Square in Wan Chai. Read more... Showtime: 20:00 – 20:20 Book a harbour cruise tour, call +66 2694 5770

4. Giant Buddha, Lantau Island
   The world’s tallest outdoors seated bronze Buddha, the Tian Tan, is located near Po Lin Monastery on Lantau. It was built to symbolise the harmonious relationship between man and nature, people and religion. A major centre of Buddhism in Hong Kong, it's also a popular tourist attraction. At 34 metres tall and weighing 250 metric tons, the massive statue is so prominent that it can be seen from as far away as Macau on a clear day. The climb up the 268 steps to reach it is well worth it. Read more... Open: 09:00 – 18:00 How to get there: Take ferry from Central Pier 8 to Mui Wo, then take bus 2. Book a tour, call +66 2694 5770

5. City Sightseeing by a double-decker tram or a double-decker bus
   A fun, efficient and inexpensive way to see Hong Kong is by a double-decker tram and/or double-decker bus. The tram has been a part of Hong Kong life for over a century. Nowadays, more than 160 tramcars operate daily from East to West Hong Kong Island, passing through the financial and shopping districts, past old temples, street markets and tourist attractions. Double-decker buses were introduced here only in 1949 and now enjoy an extensive network all over the city. Exact change or the Octopus Card is required. Best seating: front row on the upper deck Service Hour: Varies by routes but usually from 06:00 – 24:00.

6. Sik Sik Yuen Wong Tai Sin Temple, Wong Tai Sin
   This beautiful temple is the most famous religious centre in Hong Kong where three beliefs are practiced, Taoism to Buddhism, and Confucianism. Here, you will find the impressive Confucian Hall and the Good Wish Garden, lavishly decorated with many colourful design and architecture including Chinese pavilions and vintage-style bridges. Sik Sik Yuen Wong Tai Sin is much more than just a busy Hong Kong temple; it has been providing free herbal medical service to the public since 1924 and is a popular fortune-tellers centre. Open: 07:00 – 17:30 Location: North of Kowloon How to get there: MTR Wong Tai Sin Station Exit B2.

7. Ocean Park and Jumbo Kingdom floating restaurants, Aberdeen
   Ocean Park and Jumbo floating restaurant in Wong Chuk Hang, Aberdeen are the ‘must-see’ landmarks for all newcomers to Hong Kong. Ocean Park has many rides including two roller coasters plus a four-storey aquarium displaying more than 2,000 fish, a giant panda habitat and more. Jumbo Kingdom features two huge floating restaurants (Jumbo and Tai Pak) inspired by an ancient Chinese Imperial Palace. A meal here is an impressive experience. Ocean Park Open: 09:30 – 18:00 (09:30 – 22:00 in summer) Book a tour, Jumbo Kingdom Open: 11:00 – 23:30 (Mon - Sat), 09:00 – 23:30 (Sun & Public Holidays) Tel: (852) 2553-9111

8. Tai O fisher Village, Lantau Island
   A visit to a Chinese still-house community at Tai O Village on Lantau is quite an experience. Since everything is on the water, it offers a charming image serving as a reminder of old Hong Kong. Many Tai O folks are humble fishermen and duck farmers. Some of them make extra cash from selling dried seafood to tourists or running seafood eateries as well as taking guests out to sea to see pink dolphins. Attractions nearby include an 18th-century temple and the Tai O Heritage Hotel. How to get there: Take a bus from Mui Wo Pier or Tung Chung MTR Station or Po Lin Monastery. Or best to book tour, call +66 2694 5770

WHAT TO DO IN HONG KONG

Hong Kong is an endlessly fascinating destination due to its rich history, its cultural diversity, and for its many faces. From world’s tallest outdoors seated bronze Buddha statue to a vibrant nightlife and from endless street to high-end shopping opportunities to great amusement and theme parks, the choice of what to do in Hong Kong is mind boggling. Here are eight of the best tours that Hong Kong has to offer.

1. Half Day Hong Kong Island Tour

   Around Town – Tour Duration: 5hrs
   Hong Kong is rich with culture, art and modern history. While most areas seem constantly changing, many others are well preserved. Visit Man Mo Temple, Victoria Peak (by tram), Aberdeen Fishing Village and Repulse Bay. Before the trip end, make a stop at one of the most remarkable markets in the city, the Stanley Market where you can find just about anything including silk, Chinese artwork, toys, fashion accessory, decorative items and electronics goods. Book now, call +66 2694 5770

2. Hong Kong Disneyland Magic Tour

   Lantau Island - Tour Duration: 9hrs
   The only Disneyland in the world built according to the rules of Feng Shui, the park consists of four themed lands: Main Street, U.S.A., Fantasyland, Adventureland and Tomorrowland, and each come with fun attractions and rides. The park features daily firework shows as well as regular parades and shows. Meet and greet your favourite Disney characters led by Mickey Mouse, Tinkerbell, Cinderella, Snow White and don’t forget the guys from Toy Story. Make sure to bring along your camera and autograph book before joining this fantastic tour. Book now, call +66 2694 5770

3. Symphony of Lights Cruise

   Victoria Harbour - Tour Duration: 1.5hrs
   This nightly light show is a wonderful sight to behold. The show creates an all-round vision of coloured lights, laser beams and searchlights playing off many key buildings on both Hong Kong Island and Kowloon performing a stunning, unforgettable spectacle, all synchronised to music and narration. This must-see Hong Kong experience is best appreciated by taking an authentic Chinese sightseeing cruise to enjoy uninterrupted views of the dazzling show, with unlimited drinks on board for an unforgettable night. Book now, call +66 2694 5770

4. Ocean Park Tour

   Aberdeen - Tour Duration: 8hrs
   The theme park currently has at least 14 rides and other attractions such as a four-story aquarium displaying more than 2,000 fish. The Shark Aquarium is an underwater viewing tunnel featuring black tip reef sharks, pygmy swell sharks and other kinds of large fish gliding smoothly overhead. Ocean Park also features tropical birds, seals, sea lions, dolphins and several pandas (among them is the rare red panda). A thrilling cable car ride up a steep hill will take you to the Ocean Tower for a spectacular bird’s eye view of Aberdeen and Deep Water Bay. Book now, call +66 2694 5770

5. Giant Buddha and Lantau Tour

   Lantau Island - Tour Duration: 6hrs
   Catch a glimpse into Hong Kong’s past, Chinese culture and natural parks through this Lantau Island tour. Visit Po Lin Monastery, the most popular Buddhist temple in Hong Kong and Tian Tan Buddha, the world’s tallest outdoors seated bronze Buddha as well as Tai O Fishing Village. Highlights of the trip include the Ngong Ping Cable Car ride to get a 360° view of Lantau and beyond. If you’re lucky you can catch up with the local dolphins while cruising in the South China Sea. Book now, call +66 2694 5770

6. Macau Discovery Tour

   Macau - Tour Duration: 10hrs
   It’s time for you to see Macau, one of the most unique destinations in Asia with its East-Meets-West architecture and culture which coexists side by side. Known by many as the Asia’s gaming capital, Macau is much more than that. It is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site with more than 20 historical locations of note. This tour will cover many of their major attractions such as the Ruins of St. Paul’s and Senado Square. A visit to Macau will not be complete without stopping at the gambling tables, souvenir shops and factory outlets. Book now, call +66 2694 5770

7. Harbour Cruise and Seafood Dinner at Lei Yue Mun Village

   Hong Kong’s Eastern Harbour – Tour Duration: 4.5hrs
   The view of Hong Kong’s glittering Victoria Harbour and skyline is simply breathtaking and a leisurely harbour cruise is something not to be missed. Take a pleasant walk from the harbour near the waterfront to the old village of Lei Yue Mun, an off-the-beaten-track destination adored by seafood aficionados. A superb seafood dinner will be served. The tour also includes a visit to the Temple Street Market and a walk through the Hollywood-style Avenue of Stars featuring plaques for honoured Hong Kong movie celebrities (including a sculpture of Hong Kong’s most famous son - Bruce Lee). Book now, call +66 2694 5770

WHAT TO EAT

Possibly nowhere else in the world is dining out more celebrated than in Hong Kong, where foodies can revel in the broad scope of international cuisines within a compact area. A must try is Hong Kong's native cuisine, Cantonese. Cantonese fare reflects the traditionally health-conscious culture — the balance of yin (cool energy) and yang (warm energy), said to determine a person's overall well-being.

1. Dim sum
   Dim Sum is a must-try Hong Kong experience. It's a Cantonese snack that comes bite-sized and most of the time is served in small steamer baskets. If you don't have a clue of what to order, start with cha siu baau (barbecued pork stuffed in a bun), har gau (steamed shrimp dumplings) and char siu so (sweet barbecued pork pastry). For the brave enough one, try the chicken feet. Though there’s no meat, it’s a little crunchy and surprisingly delicious. Don’t let its appearance fool you!

2. Yung Kee's Roast Goose
   For Hong Kong people, the name ‘Yung Kee' is always related to roast goose, a dish that has made the name of Yung Kee Restaurant for a few generations now. Not many people can resist its crispy skin, juicy meat and beautiful aroma. Advance booking is a must, Tel: +852 2533-1624. While in Hong Kong, also try other popular roast dishes include roast pigeon at the Lung Wah Hotel in Sha Tin (Tel: +852 2691-1594) and roast duck which is available everywhere.

3. Sweet 'n Sour Pork
   Sweet and sour pork or ‘gu lu yuk' is the kind of food locals enjoy at home, or at any good Cantonese restaurant. The dish is known in many places outside China because of emigrants from Guangdong (where it is particularly popular). Despite the fact that nowadays it’s more convenient to use sweet and sour sauce instead of granny’s old-style ingredients such as preserved plums and hawthorn candy, gu lu yuk is still one of the most popular dishes in Hong Kong.

4. Crispy Roasted Pork
   Pork is largely used in Cantonese cuisine. Hong Kongers know how to turn it into many fabulous and hard-to-resist dishes but the one dish that really stands out is crispy roasted pork. You can sample it by going to any sui mei (aka roasted meats) shop. Look for the place that has roasted pork hanging in the front window. They usually display other roasted meats too (goose, duck and chicken, you name it). The crispy roasted pork goes so well with warm jasmine rice and a cup of hot Chinese tea.

5. Hot Pot
   Hot pot is probably the most fun idea when eating out with family and friends during wintertime in Hong Kong. What you start off with is a communal pot with simmering broth, and then you order your choices of ingredients whether it is seafood, pork, beef or a mixture of everything. Hot pot is very popular simply because it's so easy to manage and is not expensive. Little Sheep, a well known hot pot chain with multiple outlets in Hong Kong is a good start for hot pot enthusiasts.

6. Cantonese Braised Beef Brisket
   Beef brisket might not be everyone's thing but wait until you try Cantonese braised beef brisket. Basically the brisket is stewed for hours until the meat becomes tender, the fat melts away and the gravy becomes richer. After cooking, most chefs will allow it to stand in its soup for a day before serving. You can enjoy this delicious dish together with some warm rice or on top of egg noodles.

7. Fried Stinky Tofu and other hawker food
   No Hong Kong visit is complete without sampling stinky tofu; it's an all-time favourite snack of most Hong Kongers and it’s hard to find anything more authentic than stinky tofu when it comes to Hong Kong hawker food culture. Simple follow the strong odor, it will lead you to one of those street-side food stalls and give it a try. Other two classic street snacks worth checking out are deep-fried fish balls and egglettes (a ball waffle crisp on the outside, soft and fluffy on the inside).

8. Yin Yang (aka yuen yeung)
   This popular Hong Kong drink, made of 50% coffee and 50% Hong Kong-style milk tea (some recipes use 25% coffee and 75% milk tea), can be enjoyed both hot and cold. You can get a cup of Yin Yang at dai pai dongs or open air street vendors as well as at cha chaan tengs or traditional Cantonese tea houses around Hong Kong. To accompany this unique drink, Hong Kong offers many yummy pastries such as egg tart, Hong Kong-style western toast and bun with a sweet filling.

DINING OUT IN HONG KONG

There are more than 11,000 restaurants in Hong Kong offering cuisine from all around the world so it stands to reason that more than a few are excellent places to dine. Lovers of seafood will not be disappointed and fine-dining venues are certainly not lacking in the city. Logic dictates that authentic Chinese food is easily found although you should not feel obliged to go to the 'big-name' restaurants; ask around for what's best.

1. Felix
   Designed by avant-garde creator Philippe Starck, Felix offers the chance of a unique and unforgettable night out as its décor, atmosphere, views and cuisine are all outstanding. Felix may be many things but it is not cheap so be prepared. The modern European and Pacific Rim cuisine is supremely complemented by the design and the nighttime views over the harbour are dazzling so be sure to book a window seat. The men’s restrooms are the stuff of legend as they feature truly stunning floor-to-ceiling views. Location: Salisbury Road, Central Tel: (852) 2926-2888 Open: 18:00 – 22:30.

2. Pearl on the Peak
   Perched high up on the Peak, one of Hong Kong’s absolute must-see attractions, Pearl on the Peak enjoys a 270-degree view of the city and bay far below through its floor-to-ceiling windows. This restaurant also serves excellent international dishes, from Japanese to Norwegian salmon to English desserts. The menu changes seasonally. To best enjoy the views do make sure you book window seats and if it’s just the view you’re after the Peak has a bar area on the terrace. Location: Shop 2, level 1, The Peak Tower, 128 Peak Rd., Central Tel: (852) 2849-5123 Open: 10:00 – 23:00.

3. Yung Kee
   One of the best-known restaurants in Hong Kong, Yung Kee serves unabashed Chinese cuisine. It’s pretty much busy every day so get there early if you want a good table. The roast goose here is legendary (the restaurant serves up to 300 of these birds a day) but you may just want to request good old-fashioned cutlery instead of tackling it with chopsticks. Yung Kee was the only Chinese restaurant chosen by Fortune Magazine as one of the Top 15 Restaurants in the World. Location: 32-40 Wellington Street, Central Tel: (852) 2522-1624 Open: 11:00 – 23:00.

4. Spring Deer Restaurant
   Another out-and-out Chinese restaurant, Spring Deer is spacious and can seat up to 300 diners but the wait staff are well trained and tend to seat foreigners together to stay on top of things. The speciality here is Peking duck with hoisin sauce and portions are large so try to go in a group but do explore other items on the menu other than the duck. It's a good idea to order a pot of Chinese tea and the Spring Deer's inexpensive Tsing Tau beer helps the food slip down better. Location: 2/F, 42 Mody Road, Tsim Sha Tsui Tel: (852) 2366-4012/2366-5839 Open: 12:00 – 23:00.

5. Afternoon Tea at the Peninsula Hotel
   This is the ultimate colonial Hong Kong experience. Seated in the lobby of the hotel, surrounded by potted palms and serenaded by a four-piece orchestra, you will be waited upon by immaculately attired waiters as you sip tea and nibble on tiny sandwiches, scones with cream and jam as well as impressive cake selection. Couples waltz in the afternoon light and it adds up to an all-pervading sense of magnificent grandeur. The Peninsula is also home to one of Hong Kong’s best restaurants – Felix. Location: Salisbury Road, Central Tel: (852) 2926-2888 Tea served: 15:00 – 18:00.

6. The Boathouse
   This three-storey colourfully painted building has great views out over Stanley Bay and its rooftop section is where to head for if you’re after atmosphere and a memorable dining occasion. The international a-la-carte menu spotlights the freshest seafood, appetizers, salads and dishes from African chicken, tandoori swordfish to barbequed baby back pork ribs. Other menu highlights include a seafood platter, a bucket of black mussels, prawns, or clams. Location: 88 Stanley Main Street, Stanley Tel: (852) 2813-4467 Open: 10:30 – 22:30.

7. Lei Yue Mun Seafood Dinner Cruise
   The combination of seafood feast, cruising in Hong Kong harbour and exploring the city is a bewitching one. Take a leisurely walk from the harbour near the old village of Lei Yue Mun, an off-the-beaten track destination adored by seafood aficionados. A superb seafood dinner will be served. Afterwards, stroll down the Avenue of Stars that features plaques for honoured movie celebrities on its walk of fame. Then visit the Temple Street Night Market with its millions of knick-knacks and street performers. Location: Lie Yue Mun Seafood Village Departure: 18:00. Book now.

8. Sai Kung
   In Hong Kong don’t expect to find first-class fish served up in a five-star setting. The best Hong Kong seafood restaurants are in small villages and island communities, where the dining is unpretentious but world class. Sai Kung, one of the most popular of these, has over the years developed into a town without losing its laidback atmosphere. Seafood fans head for the seafront promenade, where sampans sell freshly caught fish straight off the deck. Pick your dinner, before taking it to one of the promenade restaurants. Location: Sai Kung MTR to Diamond Hill, bus 92 or 96R.
WHERE TO GO FOR NIGHTLIFE

Hong Kong’s nightlife, as to be expected for such a cosmopolitan destination, is multi layered. The raucous goings on in Wan Chai and Lan Kwai Fong are far removed from the more serious pastime of gaming in Macau’s many casinos and the dining-out atmosphere of Causeway. The decidedly international atmosphere of SoHo Hollywood is great for sampling world cuisine and there’s a lot of fun to be had at Temple Street Night Market.

1. Lan Kwai Fong
This is Hong Kong’s party central; a compact square of streets in Central Hong Kong containing many bars, restaurants, clubs and drinking dens. Lan Kwai Fong is crowded every night and gets packed on its festival days and New Year’s Eve. Revellers wander from bar to bar and every place is full of people intent on partying the night away. Like Wan Chai, there’s no dress code as office workers mingle with tourists and out-and-out partygoers. The aptly-named Insomnium on D’Aguilar Street is a popular club with live music from 22:30 onwards. MTR Central Station Exit D2. Read more...

2. Wan Chai
Wan Chai has a more down-to-earth feel to it than Lan Kwai Fong and even though it still gets pretty wild it has a tangible seedy side. Situated on Hong Kong Island and not far from Hong Kong’s Central District, the intersection of Lockhart Road, Jaffe Road and Luard Road mark the hub of Wan Chi’s nightlife activity with bars such as Joe Banana’s, Delany’s and Mes Amis the leading centres of hedonism. The area may have been romanticised by ‘The World of Suzie Wong’ but it’s a good idea to keep a cool head here as the many sexy girls are not exactly looking for romance. MTR Wan Chai.

3. SoHo Hollywood
Walk down Hollywood Road and you’ll come across Hong Kong’s SoHo, in other words the location ‘South of Hollywood Road’. Along Staunton Street, Elgin Street and Shelley Street you’ll find a mixed bag of bars, international restaurants and much more. Take a ride on the world’s longest covered escalator, jump off wherever takes your fancy and explore the cosmopolitan atmosphere of this popular and vibrant dining and nightlife quarter. In SoHo Hollywood you’ll be able to try cuisine from China, Mexico, England, France and even Nepal. MTR Central Station Exit D2. Read more...

4. Tsim Sha Tsui
Tsim Sha Tsui and Tsim Sha Tsui East are pretty good areas to head for nightlife. For lively pubs, busy bars, and cozy bistros, head to Knutsford Steps, Knutsford Terrace, Observatory Court, Ashley Road or Hart Avenue and Part Avenue. Tsim Sha Tsui East is the place to go for karaoke bars, nightclub and hostess bars. This area starts off a little earlier than Lan Kwai Fong (20:00) and subsequently finishes earlier. The main difference is that here you can enjoy your drinks in the open air as well as inside. MTR Tsim Sha Tsui Station Exit B1.

5. Causeway Bay
Causeway Bay is a prime spot to sit with a drink and take in the sights. Also a popular shopping area, many young people combine a shopping outing with an evening out. For a place with character try the bar Inn Side Out where drinkers are encouraged to throw their (free) peanut husks on the floor! Causeway is more attuned to people who enjoy a good meal rather than out-and-out mad partiers although it does have a few good choosers where you can let your hair down. Causeway Bay MTR Exit A.

6. Temple Street Night Market
At Kansu Street and Jordan Road in Mongkok, Temple Street Night Market features row after row of brightly lit stalls selling a fantastic variety of cheap goods (strangely enough almost exclusively for men). These include clothing, pens, luggage, watches, CDs, hardware, DVDs and electronic gadgets. Fortune-tellers congregate and do business at the Yau Ma Tei end of the street. You may not find items you consider buying but all in all this is a great non-alcoholic nighttime experience. The market commences activity at 16:00 but really gets going after dark.

7. Casino, Macau
The Island of Macau has long been Asia’s gaming capital. In the past the casinos were exclusively owned by billionaire Stanley Ho but in 2002 a new era of Macau began when the Chinese government stepped in and halted the monopoly and has since opened its doors to many new investors including foreigners who brought billion-dollar establishments to the island. Nightlife on Macau Island is not as wild as in Hong Kong but spectacular venues such as the $2.3 billion Venetian (the largest casino in the world) are worth a visit for the deluxe and impressive experience it offers. Read more...

8. Best Party Venues
In Wan Chai some of the best party and meeting-up places are the spacious Joe Bananas, Delaney’s and Mes Amis. In Lan Kwai Fong head for Bulldog’s Bar & Grill with its Aussie/Brit vibe as well as the unpretentious and tiny The Keg. Stormies, with regularly spilling out into the street on busy nights, is considered party central in Lan Kwai Fong. There’s another branch of Bulldog’s Bar & Grill in Tsim Sha Tsui that is worth a visit as is 8 Fine Irishmen. A visit to The Venetian Casino on Macau Island is a must-do while simply strolling through the Temple Street Night Market is a fascinating and rewarding experience.

WHERE TO SHOP

Practically all of Hong Kong is a shopper’s paradise. Year-round, you’ll find many sales in and around Central on Hong Kong Island and limitless bargains to be had in Mongkok, on the Kowloon side. Designer shops and exclusive labels are a dime a dozen here, and lots of foreign tourists usually come here to restock and update their wardrobe as well as shop for silk products and Chinese artwork at affordable prices.

1. Kowloon Street Shopping
Kowloon is quite the place for shoppers. Busy and fascinating street markets feature at the Yau Ma Tei and Mong Kok areas at the other end of Nathan Road. The extremely popular Ladies’ Market (daily from 12:30 – 22:30) and Jade Market (open 10:00 – 17:00) are not to be missed. Nathan Road runs the whole length of Kowloon. The lower part of the road, marked at one end by the Tsim Sha Tsui Promenade and the other end by the Jordan MTR Station, is the place to go if you are bargain hunting with many tacky stores aimed at tourists.

2. Temple Street Night Market, Kowloon
Temple Street Night Market, a traditional Chinese dinner and the spectacular harbour view will fill your night with delightful memories. As one of the liveliest flea markets in Kowloon, it’s the place to go for cheap clothes, delicious open-air street stall food, watches, CDs and DVDs, sports and everyday footwear, electronics, and souvenirs. Any marked prices should be taken as suggestions alone as this is definitely the place to bargain. Best time to go: Around 19:00 to 22:00 Location: Yau Ma Tei, Kowloon MRT: Jordan Station Exit A or Yau Ma Tei Station Exit C.

3. The Landmark, Central Hong Kong
The Landmark, also known as ‘Central’, is one of the oldest and most prominent shopping malls in Hong Kong. Five levels of chic designer shopping offer brands that are rarely showcased elsewhere in Asia. The Landmark attracts those with plenty of cash to splash at the huge collection of boutiques; there are enough exclusive brands and stylish choices to satiate even the fussiest consumer. Plus fine dining and funky eateries offer a welcome respite in which to rest those Jimmy Choo’s. Read more... Open: 10:00 – 22:00 Location: Des Voeux Road MRT: Central Station exiting at either G or H.

4. Harbour City, Tsim Sha Tsui
Harbour City at Tsim Sha Tsui, is a vast retail destination featuring more than 700 stores, 50 food and beverage outlets and a couple of cinemas over four levels. There is shopping to suit most budgets at Harbour City from mid-range goods to high end designer brands. Parents and kids might want to take a trip to Asia’s biggest Toys ‘R’ Us outlet and the KidX area for Barbie Kids, Burberry Kids and more. Read more... Open: 10:00 – 21:00 and stay open until 22:00 on weekend Location: Canton Road West How to get there: Easy to reach by bus, or MTR station – exit at A1 Tsim Sha Tsui.

5. Pacific Place, Central Hong Kong
Pacific Place or Admiralty is situated in a top location at the centre of Hong Kong with views across the harbour. Inside, the centre caters to a smattering of exclusive labels across four levels offering 130 outlets and three department stores. The emphasis at Pacific Place is on mid- and high-priced designer brands with high street fashion. Pacific Place is also home to a unique movie house with stadium-style seating and a range of beer, wine and gourmet canapés served while you catch up on the latest flick. Read more... Open: 10:00 – 20:00 Location: Above the Admiralty MTR Station.

6. The IFC mall, Central Hong Kong
The IFC Mall packs in over 200 stores, a cinema, fitness gym and department store over four levels. It’s worth visiting the mall just to dine here, with some of the restaurants considered amongst Hong Kong’s finest offering spectacular views across Victoria Harbour. Whether you’re after cutting-edge hand-tailored formal or office wear or funky urban street clothes, you’re sure to find something to your taste. Restaurants, café and coffee shop are dotted across all levels of the IFC Mall. Read more... Open: 10:00 – 22:00 Location: Above Hong Kong MTR Station.

7. Times Square, Causeway Bay
With more than 10 floors and two basement levels, Times Square is a huge complex full of top names roughly divided by floors. Long escalators connect floors and ingeniously allow you to skip certain levels should you want to. There are more than 230 shops plus a cinema and a good selection of restaurants from fast and cheap to pricey and chic. The mall is also famous for its huge external video screen and piazza. Read more... Open: 10:00 – 22:00 MRT: Causeway Bay Exit A and follow the subway into the Basement 2 Floor Tram: Five-minute walk from its stop on Yee Wo Street.

8. Stanley Market, Stanley
Best explored in the cooler morning hours, Stanley Market is packed to the rafters with inexpensive treasures. Items loosely labelled as ‘antiques’, albeit not in the western sense, include bamboo bird cages and carved Chinese ornaments. There is also plenty of Chinese silk and linen on display. Gadget fans will love the cut-price watches, torches and other electronic wizardry at very good prices. Read more... Open: 09:00 – 18:00 Location: Stanley Town Bus: no# 6, 6A or 260 from the Exchange Square Terminal. MRT: Chai Wan Station Exit C then catches the green minibus 16M to the market.

More at [http://www.hong-kong-hotels.we/shopping.htm](http://www.hong-kong-hotels.we/shopping.htm)
TIPS AND GOOD TO KNOW

Taxi Tips

All taxis here are metered, and can be hailed on the roads or arranged by phone. They are three types of taxis according to their areas of service. (1) Red Taxis cover all areas in Hong Kong except Tung Chung Road and roads in south Lantau. (2) Green Taxis serve only the New Territories and specific roads in Lantau. (3) Blue Taxis cover all areas in Lantau. All taxis reach the airport but not Discovery Bay. Many drivers don’t necessarily speak English and if they do – they don’t always speak it well. Write down your destination or bring along a map. Wearing a seatbelt is required by law.

Carry small change & get an Octopus Card

Hong Kong street markets are not only massive magnets for tourists but fun to practice your bargaining skills at. Stanley Market is good for Chinese souvenirs while the Ladies’ Market is known for women's fashion and the Temple Street Night Market sells everything from fashion to local snacks and more. The former is not your best option for bargain shopping but aim to chip anything from 30-40% off the quoted price at the latter two markets. And by all means, walk away if the price is disagreeable – more often than not you’ll be called back for last ditch negotiations!

Bargain, but nicely

Hong Kong street market is not only a massive magnet for tourists but a fun place to practice your bargaining skills. Stanley Market is good for Chinese souvenirs while the Ladies’ Market is known for women's fashion and the Temple Street Night Market is everything from fashions to local snacks and more. The former is not your best option for bargain shopping but aim to chip anything from 30-40% off the quoted price at the latter two markets. And by all means, walk away if the price is disagreeable – more often than not you’ll be called back for last ditch negotiations!

Beware scammers

If you are approached by some street touts and offered ridiculously low prices on a luxury wristwatch or jewelry (A 10HK$ jade, anyone?), it’s time to put your guard up and politely walk away. Use your common sense when looking into buying any lavish goods, especially antiques. If the price is too cheap to be true, it simply can’t be real. Another thing to be watched out for is to make sure that you get the right product you paid for, not something inferior than the one you have chosen. Some unscrupulous storeowners switch when you are not looking.

Dim sum restaurant table manners

Treat yourself well by visiting dim sum shops when in Hong Kong. The delicious food and the experience that come with it will stay with you for a long time. Modern dim sum places are using a new system - you tick what you want on the menu card provided and food will be served accordingly. But many times you will find the vintage shops using traditional cart wheeled around carrying the dim sum selection. Quickly pick the food you like and don’t delay the service. No matter what you do, don’t stand in the dim sum trolley’s way! Watch out for the hungry crowds!

Drink lots of water

This tip, of course, applies even to the Antarctic. But packing a supply of the wet stuff in Hong Kong’s sticky, stifling summer heat is even more crucial to your wellbeing. Our unscientific rule of thumb: drink more than you sweat. Fortunately you are never more than a few paving stones from a drinks vendor. Also the weather here can be unpredictable, especially when visiting some places like the Peak or the Big Buddha, bring along extra layers of clothes so you can add or subtract a layer to warm up or cool down.

Carry a photocopy of your passport

Whether it be an impromptu demand from a local policeman or a request from security at one of the city’s swanky nightspots, carrying ID is a must in Hong Kong. The fact that you are 25 but look like you’re pushing 40 doesn’t matter as carrying a proof of your ID when you’re abroad is always a good practice. Instead of dragging your passport around with you, and with it the constant fear of losing it, take a photocopy.