

Hong Kong



If Hong Kong was a person, she'd be a difficult woman to understand. She'd be constantly changing, without losing touch with her heritage. She'd be superstitious, but scientific when she wanted to be. She'd love dim sum, and pizza too. She'd be exotic, but familiar; sexy, but never easy; a gambler, but she'd always know the odds. She'd be immaculately dressed, but she'd know how to let her hair down. She'd be all this, a contradiction and a conundrum, but more than anything she'd be a lot of fun to be around.

Hong Kong's complex personality owes something to its Sino-British past, but it's the decade since that has truly built its character. Surviving a partial reintegration with China, a seven-year economic downturn, avian flu and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) has given Hong Kong a new self-belief. The city is positively booming and for you, the traveller, it's impossible not to catch the vibe.

Hong Kong is expensive, but it also has something for everyone: shopping malls with bargains galore; romantic vistas across Victoria Harbour to one of the world's most impressive skylines; over 10,000 restaurants and dozens of cuisines; and some of Asia's most rocking nightlife.

There are also surprises. Did you know most of Hong Kong is actually green hills and mountains perfect for hiking? Or that many people still burn 'hell money' for their dead ancestors?

Hong Kong's political and economic systems are still significantly different from those of mainland China. Thus, much of the information elsewhere in this book concerning visas, currency, accommodation, international phone calls and so on does not apply to Hong Kong.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Ride the historic **Peak Tram** (p523), enjoy the view from Victoria Peak and walk back down
- Soak up the glittering skyline from the **Star Ferry** (p563) as it crosses Victoria Harbour
- Haggle like a Hong Konger in the buzzing **Temple St night market** (p535)
- Take a hike across car-free **Lamma Island** (p538) and reward yourself with a seafood lunch
- Feast in **SoHo** (p545) and follow it up with a few drinks in **Lan Kwai Fong** (p557)



■ AREA CODE: 852 ■ POPULATION: 7 MILLION ■ www.discoverhongkong.com

HISTORY

Hong Kong was very much a far-flung outpost of the Chinese empire until European traders started importing opium into the country. The British, with a virtually inexhaustible supply from the poppy fields of Bengal, developed the trade aggressively and by the start of the 19th century this 'foreign mud' formed the basis of most of their transactions with China.

China's attempts to stamp out the opium trade, including confiscating and destroying one huge shipment, gave the British the pretext they needed for military action. Two gunboats were sent in and promptly destroyed a Chinese fleet of 29 ships. A British naval landing party hoisted the Union flag on Hong Kong Island in 1841, and the Treaty of Nanking, which brought an end to the so-called First Opium War, ceded the island to the British crown 'in perpetuity'.

At the end of the Second Opium War in 1860, Britain took possession of the Kowloon Peninsula; in July 1898 a 99-year lease was granted for the New Territories.

Through the 20th century Hong Kong grew in fits and starts. Regular political crises in China led to intermittent waves of refugees arriving in Hong Kong. Infrastructure for transport and trade was steadily improved and expats came and went – then like now many were as enamoured with the vibrant colony's social life as much as anything else.

The Japanese army crashed the party in 1941 and by the end of the war Hong Kong's population had fallen from 1.6 million to 610,000. But trouble in China was again to prove instrumental in Hong Kong's development. First, refugees from the communist victory in 1949 swelled the population of Hong Kong to beyond 2 million. Then the Korean War led to a UN trade embargo on China. In response, Hong Kong reinvented itself as one of the world's most dynamic manufacturing and financial services centres.

Hong Kongers proved expert at making money and wise enough to invest some of it in improving the city. Housing improved with the development of high-rise 'New Towns', while the superefficient Mass Transit Railway (MTR, see p564) was built to help get everyone around.

But with so much at stake the 1997 question was worrying Hong Kongers. In 1984 it

was agreed China would take over the entire territory from Britain in 1997, but what would become the Special Administrative Region (SAR) of Hong Kong would retain its free-market economy as well as its social and legal systems for 50 years. China called it 'One country, two systems'.

On 1 July 1997, in pouring rain outside the Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre (p534), the British era ended.

In the years that followed, Hong Kong weathered several major storms, from the Asian economic crisis of 1997 to the outbreak of SARS. Add to this a seven-year economic downturn spurred by the sudden puncturing of Hong Kong's property bubble and general mistrust of the government, and by 2003 Hong Kong was almost as low as anyone could remember. Help came from an unlikely source.

Despite a huge protest against the Hong Kong government's attempt to ram through Beijing-inspired antiterrorism legislation, China acted to help Hong Kong's flagging economy by sharply increasing the number of mainland tourists allowed to visit the city. Coinciding with the first signs of a home-grown recovery, mainland tourists arrived and started spending up big.

By early 2006 Hong Kong's stock market was booming, unemployment was low and Sir Donald Tsang was making a better fist of leading the government than his oft-criticised predecessor, Tung Chee Hwa. The downside is the nonprogress towards a directly elected leadership, an issue that looks like being around for some time to come.

CLIMATE

Hong Kong rarely gets especially cold, but it would be worth packing something at least a little bit warm between November and March. Between May and mid-September temperatures in the mid-30s combined with stifling humidity can turn you into a walking sweat machine. This time is also the wettest, accounting for about 80% of the annual rainfall – partly due to regular typhoons.

Ultimately, the best time to visit Hong Kong is between mid-September and February. At any time of the year pollution can be diabolical, most of it pouring across the border from the coal-powered factories of Guangdong, many of them Hong Kong owned.

LANGUAGE

Almost 95% of Hong Kongers are Cantonese-speaking Chinese, though Mandarin is increasingly used. Visitors should have few problems, however, because English is widely spoken and the city's excellent street signs are bilingual. Written Cantonese uses traditional Chinese characters, which not surprisingly are more complicated than the simplified Chinese used on the mainland.

ORIENTATION

Hong Kong's ever-growing 1103 sq km of territory is divided into four main areas: Hong Kong Island, Kowloon, the New Territories and the Outlying Islands.

Hong Kong Island, particularly Central on the northern side, is the economic heart of the colony but comprises only 7% of the total land mass. Kowloon is the densely populated peninsula to the north, the southern tip of which is Tsim Sha Tsui, with lots of hotels, guesthouses and tourist-oriented shops. The New Territories, which officially encompass the 234 outlying islands, occupy more than 88% of Hong Kong's land area.

Hong Kong International Airport, located off Lantau Island about 20km northwest of Central, is easily reached by the Airport Express rail line (p562). The main train station is at Hung Hom, though the KCR East rail line (p564) this services has recently been extended to Tsim Sha Tsui East, making connections much easier. There are several important bus stations, usually located near MTR stations; Central's is situated

below the Exchange Sq complex on Connaught Rd.

Maps

Hong Kong is awash with free maps. The *Hong Kong Map*, distributed by the Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB), is enough for most travellers. It covers the northern coast of Hong Kong Island from Sheung Wan to Causeway Bay as well as part of the Kowloon Peninsula and has inset maps of Aberdeen, Stanley, Hung Hom, Sha Tin and Tsuen Wan. Lonely Planet also has a *Hong Kong City Map*.

INFORMATION

The **Hong Kong Museums Pass** (7 days \$30, 6 months adult/student & senior \$50/25, 1yr adult/student & senior \$100/50) allows multiple entries to six of Hong Kong's better museums. It's available from HKTB outlets (p522).

Bookshops

Hong Kong is one of the best places to buy books in Asia.

Cosmos Books (Map pp530-1; ☎ 2866 1677; basement & 1st fl, 30 Johnston Rd, Wan Chai; ☎ 10am-8pm)

Dymocks (Map pp526-7; ☎ 2117 0360; Shop 2007-2011, 2nd fl, IFC Mall, 1 Harbour View St, Central; ☎ 8.30am-9.30pm Mon-Sat, 9am-9pm Sun)

Page One (Map pp530-1; ☎ 2506 0381; Shop 922, 9th fl, Times Square, 1 Matheson St, Causeway Bay; ☎ 10.30am-10pm Mon-Thu, to 10.30pm Fri-Sun)

Swindon Books (Map p532; ☎ 2366 8001; www.swindonbooks.com; 13-15 Lock Rd, Tsim Sha Tsui; ☎ 9am-6.30pm Mon-Thu, 9am-7.30pm Fri & Sat, 12.30-6.30pm Sun)

HONG KONG IN ...

One Day

Catch a tram up to **Victoria Peak** (p523) for a good view of the city and enjoy the views on the walk back down, stopping in **SoHo** (p545) for lunch. Ride up to the **Bank of China Tower's** (43rd fl, 1 Garden Rd, Central; ☎ 8am-6pm Mon-Fri) observation floor for a free look, before dropping into **Pacific Place** (p558) in Admiralty for some shopping and watching the sun go down from the 7th floor of the **Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre** (p534). After dinner, head in to **Lan Kwai Fong** (p557) for happy-hour drinks and dancing.

Two Days

In addition to the above, you could take the **Star Ferry** (p563) to Tsim Sha Tsui and visit the **Art, Space or History Museums** (p535), have dim sum at **Wan Loong Court** (p547) in the Kowloon Hotel, then browse along **Nathan Road** (p535) until you're hungry enough for afternoon tea at the **Peninsula Hong Kong** (p543) hotel. After dark, take a wander up to the **Temple St night market** (p535).

Emergency

In an emergency, call ☎ 999 for fire, police or ambulance services.

Internet Access

Hong Kong is so well wired that dedicated internet cafés can be hard to find. Instead, many travellers get online at their hotel or guesthouse, or log on for free at major MTR stations (eg Central and Tsim Sha Tsui), public libraries and any of the dozens of **Pacific Coffee** (www.pacificcoffee.com) outlets, which also have wi-fi.

Central Library (Map pp530-1; ☎ 2921 0503; www.hkpl.gov.hk; 66 Causeway Rd, Causeway Bay; internet free; ☎ 10am-9pm Thu-Tue, 1-9pm Wed)

City Cyberworks (Map p532; Shop 88b, ground fl, Chungking Mansions, 36-44 Nathan Rd, Tsim Sha Tsui; internet per hr \$40; ☎ 9.30am-10pm Mon-Sat, to 7pm Sun)

Cyber Clan (Map p532; ☎ 2723 2821; south basement, Golden Crown Court, 66-70 Nathan Rd, Tsim Sha Tsui; internet per hr midnight-noon Mon-Fri \$10, noon-midnight Mon-Fri & all day Sat & Sun \$13; ☎ 24hr) Minimum one hour plus \$40 deposit.

Pacific Coffee Company (Map pp526-7; ☎ 2868 5100; www.pacificcoffee.com; Shop 1022, 1st fl, IFC Mall, 1 Harbour View St, Central; internet free with coffee; ☎ 7am-11pm) A particularly handy branch.

Media

Hong Kong has two local English-language daily newspapers, the *South China Morning Post* and the *Hong Kong Standard*. Asian editions of *USA Today*, the *International Herald Tribune*, the *Financial Times* and the *Wall Street Journal Asia* are printed in Hong Kong. For lifestyle and entertainment news and listings, the excellent *HK Magazine* and *BC Magazine* are available free in bars and restaurants.

Hong Kong has two English-language terrestrial TV stations: TVB Pearl and ATV World. There's a variety of English-language radio stations, including BBC World Service on AM 675.

Medical Services

Medical care is generally of a high standard in Hong Kong, though private hospital care is quite expensive. The general inquiry number for hospitals is ☎ 2300 6555.

The following are hospitals with 24-hour emergency services:

Matilda International (Map pp524-5; ☎ 2849 0700, 24hr hotline 2849 0111; 41 Mt Kellett Rd, Peak) A rather

pricey private hospital atop Victoria Peak – every taxi driver will know it.

Queen Elizabeth (Map p532; ☎ 2958 8888; 30 Gascoigne Rd, Yau Ma Tei) A public hospital.

Money

ATMS

ATMs are almost as common as bum holes in Hong Kong, including at the airport. Most are linked to international money systems, including Cirrus, Maestro, Plus and Visa Electron, as well as Visa and MasterCard credit systems.

CHANGING MONEY

The Hong Kong dollar is pegged to the US dollar at a rate of US\$1 to \$7.80, though it is allowed to fluctuate a little.

Banks give the best exchange rates, but three of the biggest – HSBC, Standard Chartered and the Hang Seng Bank – levy a \$50 commission for each transaction.

Licensed moneychangers are abundant in tourist districts and the ground floor of Chungking Mansions has become a virtual money-changing theme park. Nearby the **Wing Hoi Money Exchange** (Map p532; ☎ 2723 5948; ground fl, Shop No 9b, Mirador Arcade, 58 Nathan Rd, Tsim Sha Tsui; ☎ 8.30am-8.30pm Mon-Sat, to 7pm Sun) has long been reliable and can change most major currencies and travellers cheques. Rates at the airport are poor.

International credit cards are accepted almost everywhere. Some shops may try to add a surcharge to offset the commission charged by credit companies, which can range from 2.5% to 7%. In theory, this is prohibited by the credit companies, but to get around this many shops offer a 5% discount if you pay cash.

COSTS

Hong Kong has become an extremely pricey destination, but if you stay in dormitories and eat budget meals, you can survive – just – on around \$250 per day. For anything approaching comfort double that figure.

In general, tipping is not done in Hong Kong; taxi drivers only expect you to round up to the nearest dollar. However, most upmarket restaurants and hotels add a 10% service charge to their bills.

Bargaining is not as common as it once was, though you'll still be surprised how often reputable-looking shops will agree when you ask for a discount.

CURRENCY

The Hong Kong dollar (\$) is divided into 100 cents. Bills are issued in denominations of \$10, \$20, \$50, \$100, \$500 and \$1000. Copper coins are worth 50c, 20c and 10c, while the \$5, \$2 and \$1 coins are silver and the \$10 coin is nickel and bronze. All prices in this chapter are in HK\$.

Post

Hong Kong Post is excellent. For enquiries, call ☎ 2921 2222 or see www.hongkongpost.com.

General post office (Map pp526-7; 2 Connaught Pl, Central; ☎ 8am-6pm Mon-Sat, 9am-2pm Sun) Pick up poste restante from counter No 29 Monday to Saturday only.

Kowloon post office (Map p532; ground fl, Hermes House, 10 Middle Rd, Tsim Sha Tsui; ☎ 8am-6pm Mon-Sat, 9am-2pm Sun)

Telephone

Local calls in Hong Kong are free on private phones and cost \$1 for five minutes on pay phones. All landline numbers in the territory have eight digits (except ☎ 800 toll-free numbers) and there are no area codes.

Hong Kong's country code is ☎ 852. To call abroad first dial ☎ 001. Phone rates are cheaper from 9pm to 8am weekdays and on the weekend. You can make international direct-dial calls to almost anywhere from public phones with a phonocard. These are available in two forms. Stored-value cards (\$100) allow you to call from any phone – public or private – by punching in a PIN code. Hello Smartcards (available in denominations from \$50 to \$500) work in pay phones. You can buy phonecards at 7-Eleven and Circle K stores, Mannings pharmacies and Wellcome supermarkets.

Connecting to Hong Kong's excellent mobile-phone network is simple. A SIM card with prepaid call time can be as cheap as \$90. Mobile phone stores are many, including a cluster on Des Voeux Rd Central (Map pp526-7).

Some handy phone numbers:

Air temperature & time ☎ 18501

International directory assistance ☎ 10013

Local directory assistance ☎ 1081

Reverse charge/collect calls ☎ 10010

Weather ☎ 187 8066

Tourist Information

The enterprising and wonderfully efficient **Hong Kong Tourism Board** (HKTB; ☎ visitor hotline 2508 1234 8am-6pm; www.discoverhongkong.com) maintains

Visitor Information and Service Centres on **Hong Kong Island** (Map pp530-1; Causeway Bay MTR station, near Exit F; ☎ 8am-8pm); in **Kowloon** (Map p532; Star Ferry Concourse, Tsim Sha Tsui; ☎ 8am-6pm); at **Hong Kong International Airport** (Map pp524-5; ☎ 7am-11pm), in Halls A and B on the arrivals level and the E2 transfer area; and at the border to China at **Lo Wu** (2nd fl Arrival Hall, Lo Wu Terminal Bldg; ☎ 8am-6pm). As well as running an immensely useful Visitor Hotline and excellent website, staff are helpful and have reams of free information.

Travel Agencies

China Travel Service (CTS; Map pp526-7; ☎ 2522 0450; ground fl, China Travel Bldg, 77 Queen's Rd, Central; ☎ 9am-6pm Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm Sat, 9.30am-12.30pm & 2.30-5pm Sun)

Phoenix Services Agency (Map p532; ☎ 2722 7378; info@phoenixtrvl.com; room 1404-5, 14th fl, Austin Tower, 22-26a Austin Ave, Tsim Sha Tsui; ☎ 9am-6pm Mon-Fri, to 4pm Sat)

Traveller Services (Map p532; ☎ 2375 2222; www.taketraveller.com; room 1813, Mirimar Tower, 132 Nathan Rd, Tsim Sha Tsui; ☎ 9am-6pm Mon-Fri, to 1pm Sat)

Visas

Most visitors to Hong Kong, including citizens of the EU, Australia, New Zealand, the USA and Canada, can enter and stay for 90 days without a visa. British passport holders get 180 days while South Africans are allowed to stay 30 days without a visa. If you do require a visa, apply at a Chinese embassy or consulate (see p942) before arriving.

For tourist visa extensions, inquire at the **Hong Kong Immigration Department** (Map pp530-1; ☎ 2852 3047; 5th fl, Immigration Tower, 7 Gloucester Rd, Wan Chai; ☎ 9am-4.30pm Mon-Fri, to 11.30am Sat). Extensions (\$135) are not readily granted unless there are extenuating circumstances such as illness.

For information on obtaining a China visa in Hong Kong, see p954. Note that if you're planning to visit Hong Kong from China and return there, you'll need a multi-entry Chinese visa.

SIGHTS

Hong Kong Island

The northern and southern sides of Hong Kong Island have totally different characters. The northern side is mostly an urban jungle. Much of the south, on the other hand,

remains surprisingly green and relatively undeveloped. The centre of the island is a mountainous, protected area and an easy escape.

SHEUNG WAN, CENTRAL & ADMIRALTY

Central is, as the name suggests, the main business district and it's here you'll see the most eye-popping of Hong Kong's skyscrapers. Just to the west is more traditional Sheung Wan, while Admiralty is to the east.

The gravity-defying **Peak Tram** (Map pp526-7; ☎ 2522 0922; www.thepeak.com.hk; one way/return adult \$20/30, child \$6/9, senior \$7/14; ☎ 7am-midnight) is one of Hong Kong's oldest and most memorable attractions. Rising from the hyperkinetic buzz of Central, the funicular runs every 10 to 15 minutes from the lower terminus on manic Garden Rd up the side of 552m **Victoria Peak** (Map pp526-7) to finish at the newly renovated Peak Tower. It's ultratouristy, sure, but it's quite a trip and on those rare Hong Kong clear days the views from the top are spectacular. If not, going up at night takes the smog out of the equation, and your pictures.

From the upper tram terminus, wander 500m west up Mt Austin Rd, then follow the path to **Victoria Peak Garden** (Map pp526-7) or take the more leisurely stroll around Lugard and Harlech Rds that makes a 3.5km circular **walking trail** around the summit. You can walk down to Central along a track that peels off the circular trail and follows the northern edge of the mountain for a while before zig-zagging its way down the hill to Conduit Rd. With more time and more energy, you could tackle the 50km-long **Hong Kong Trail**, which traverses the mountainous spine of the island from the Peak to Big Wave Bay, near delightful Shek O.

The **Hong Kong Zoological & Botanical Gardens** (Map pp526-7; ☎ 2530 0154; Albany Rd, Central; ☎ terrace gardens 6am-10pm, zoo & aviaries 6am-7pm) is a pleasant collection of fountains, sculptures, greenhouses, a playground, a zoo and aviaries. To the east, the **Edward Youde Aviary** (Map pp526-7) in **Hong Kong Park** (Map pp526-7; ☎ 2521 5041; 19 Cotton Tree Dr, Admiralty; ☎ park 6am-11pm, conservatory & aviary 9am-5pm) is home to 90 species of bird. The park also contains the rich **Flagstaff House Museum of Tea Ware** (Map pp526-7; ☎ 2869 0690; 10 Cotton Tree Dr, Admiralty; ☎ 10am-5pm Wed-Mon) in a colonial structure built in 1846. Tea-making classes are held at 4pm and 5pm on Monday and Thursday.

Just north of Hong Kong Park is **St John's Cathedral** (Map pp526-7; ☎ 2523 4157; 4-8 Garden Rd; ☎ 7.15am-6.30pm Mon, Tue, Fri & Sat, 9.30am-5.15pm Wed, 8.30am-1.15pm Thu, 8am-6.30pm Sun), built in 1847 and one of the very few colonial structures extant in Central; enter from Battery Path.

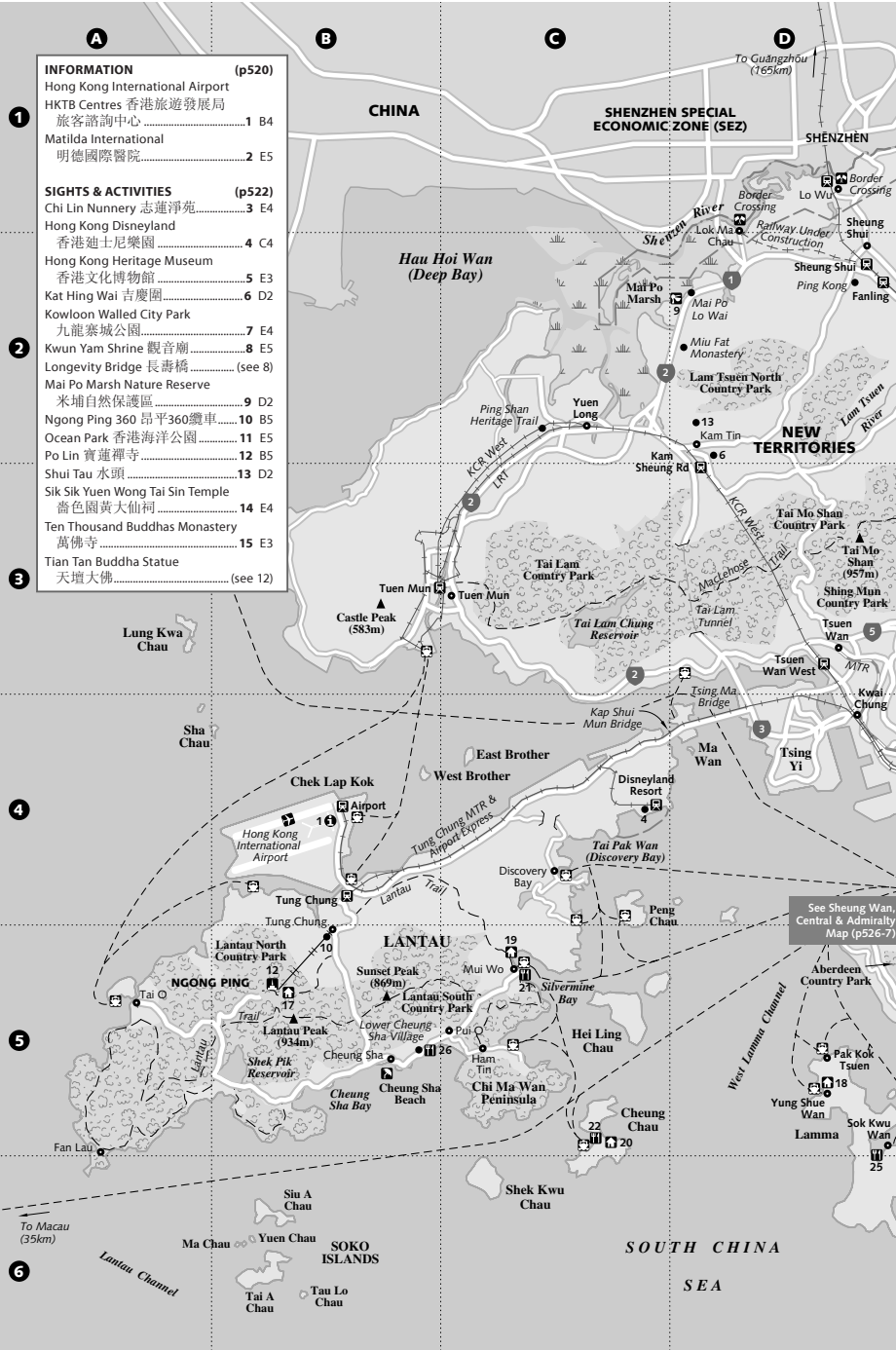
Northwest of the cathedral, linking Des Voeux Rd Central with Queen's Rd Central, **Li Yuen St East** and **Li Yuen St West** (Map pp526-7) are narrow alleys closed to motorised traffic and crammed with shops selling cheap clothing, handbags and jewellery. For exotic produce – from frogs' legs and pigs' heads to durian and mangosteens – and a serious dose of 'how can this be here in the middle of all this high-rise madness', head a few metres uphill to the **Graham St market** (Map pp526-7). The nearby **Mid-Levels Escalator** (Map pp526-7; ☎ down 6-10am, up 10.20am-midnight) is the longest in the world, transporting pedestrians 800m from Queen's Rd Central via SoHo all the way up to Conduit Rd in Mid-Levels in 20 minutes.

To the west of Central is the incense-filled **Man Mo Temple** (Map pp526-7; ☎ 2803 2916; 124-126 Hollywood Rd, Sheung Wan; ☎ 8am-6pm), built in 1847 and one of the oldest in Hong Kong. The temple celebrates the deities Kwan Yu, the righteous, red-cheeked god of war named after a Han dynasty soldier (see the boxed text, p410), and Man Cheung, the civil deity named after a Chinese scholar and statesman of the 3rd century. It's a favourite of both the police and secret societies like the Triads. Early afternoon is good for photos.

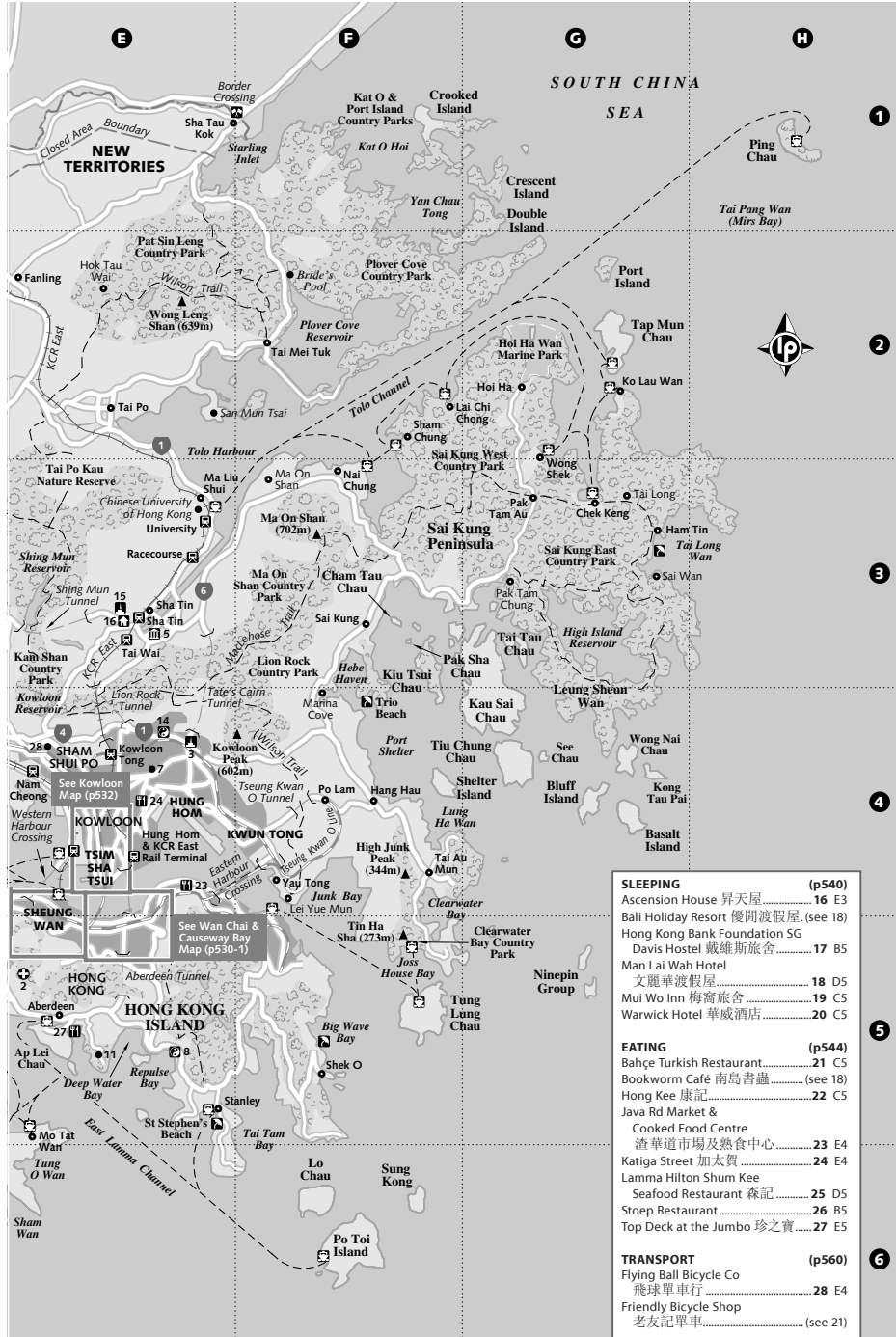
Further north is the restored **Western Market** (Map pp526-7; ☎ 2815 3586; 323 Des Voeux Rd Central; ☎ 10am-7pm), built in 1906 and filled with shops selling textiles, knick-knacks and souvenirs, and a dance studio upstairs that's fun to watch.

Hong Kong's art scene has been booming in recent years and many of the more exciting galleries have congregated in the streets of SoHo and NoHo. Among them, **Para/Site Art Space** (Map pp526-7; ☎ 2517 4620; www.para-site.org.hk; 4 Po Yan St, Sheung Wan; ☎ noon-7pm Wed-Sun) is an adventurous, artist-run space that knows no boundaries when it comes to mixing media. **Plum Blossoms** (Map pp526-7; ☎ 2521 2189; www.plumblossoms.com; ground fl, Chinachem Hollywood Centre, 1-19 Hollywood Rd, Central; ☎ 10am-6.30pm Mon-Sat) is one of the most well-established and consistently challenging galleries in Hong Kong.

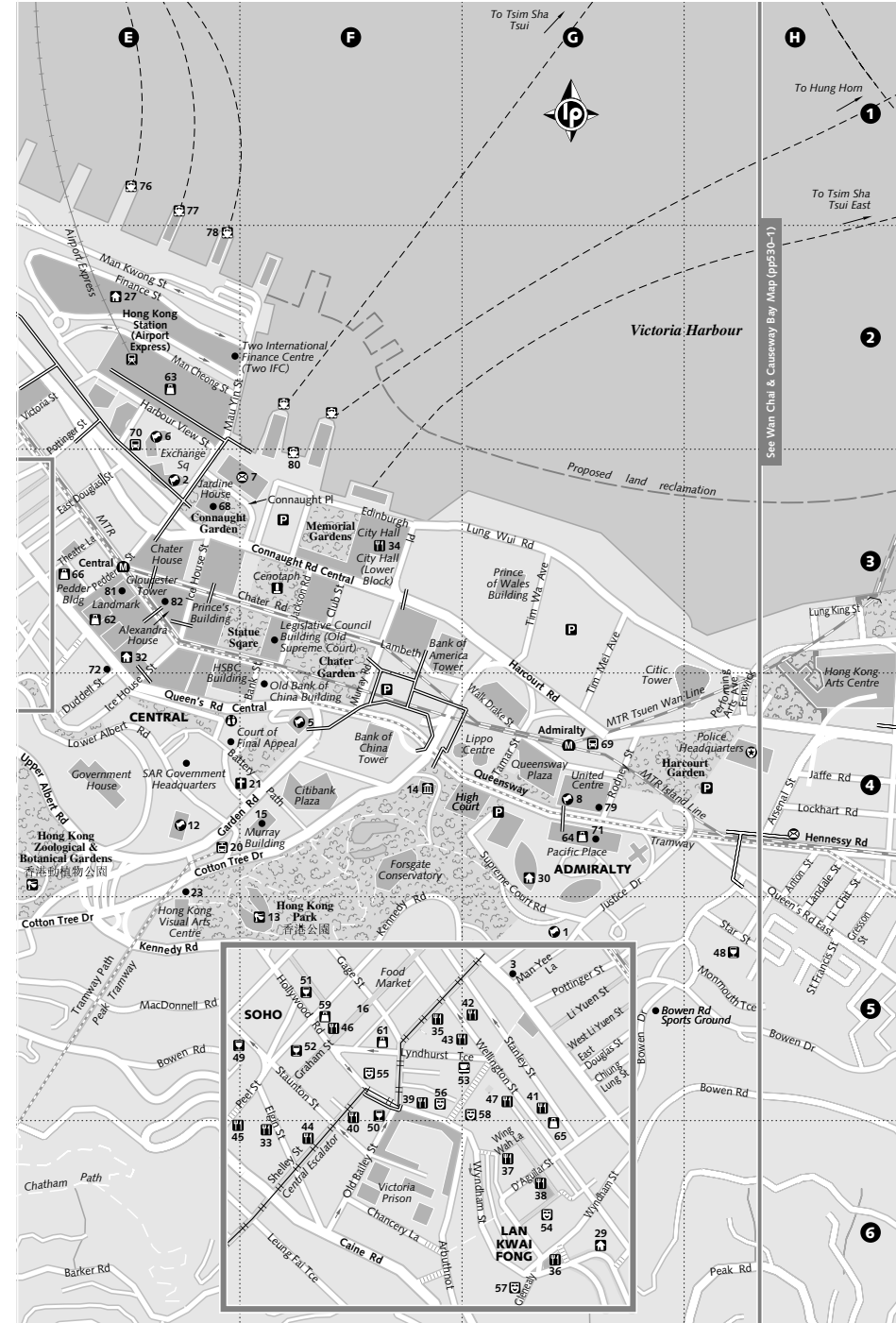
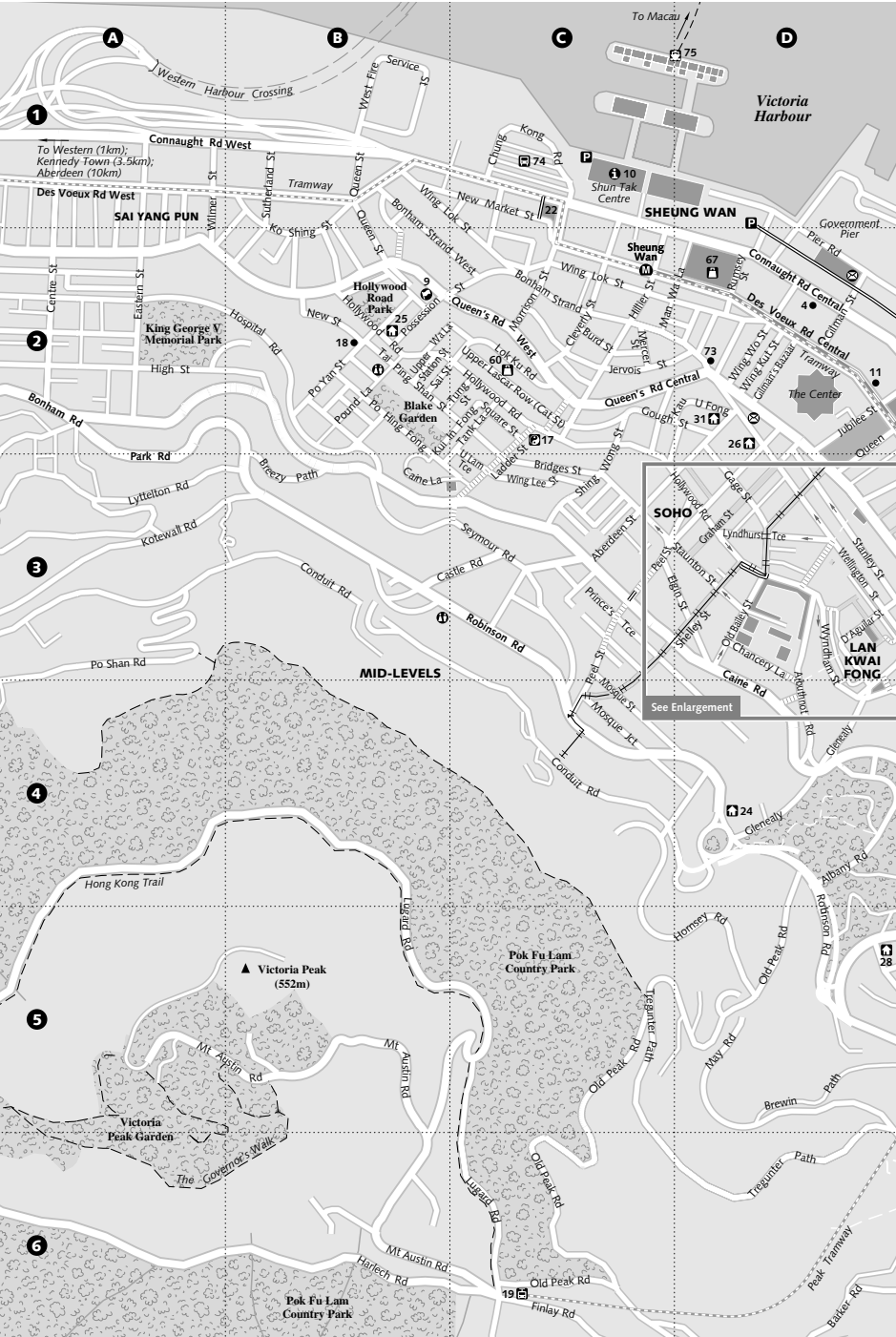
(Continued on page 534)



INFORMATION (p520)	
Hong Kong International Airport	
HKTB Centres 香港旅遊發展局	
旅客諮詢中心	1 B4
明德國際醫院	2 E5
SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES (p522)	
Chi Lin Nunnery 志蓮淨苑	3 E4
Hong Kong Disneyland	
香港迪士尼樂園	4 C4
Hong Kong Heritage Museum	
香港文化博物館	5 E3
Kat Hing Wai 吉慶圍	6 D2
Kowloon Walled City Park	
九龍寨城公園	7 E4
Kwun Yam Shrine 觀音廟	8 E5
Longevity Bridge 長壽橋	(see B)
Mai Po Marsh Nature Reserve	
米埔自然保護區	9 D2
Ngong Ping 360 昂平360纜車	10 B5
Ocean Park 香港海洋公園	11 E5
Po Lin 寶蓮禪寺	12 B5
Shui Tau 水頭	13 D2
Sik Sik Yuen Wong Tai Sin Temple	
黃色園黃大仙祠	14 E4
Ten Thousand Buddhas Monastery	
萬佛寺	15 E3
Tian Tan Buddha Statue	
天壇大佛	(see 12)



SLEEPING (p540)	
Ascension House 昇天屋	16 E3
Bali Holiday Resort 優閒渡假屋	(see 18)
Hong Kong Bank Foundation SG	
Davis Hostel 戴維斯旅舍	17 B5
Man Lai Wah Hotel	
文麗華渡假屋	18 D5
Mui Wo Inn 梅窩旅舍	19 C5
Warwick Hotel 華威酒店	20 C5
EATING (p544)	
Bahçe Turkish Restaurant	21 C5
Bookworm Cafe 南島書蟲	(see 18)
Hong Kee 康記	22 C5
Java Rd Market & Cooked Food Centre	
渣華道市場及熟食中心	23 E4
Katiga Street 加大實	24 E4
Lamma Hilton Shum Kee	
Seafood Restaurant 森記	25 D5
Steop Restaurant	26 B5
Top Deck at the Jumbo 珍之寶	27 E5
TRANSPORT (p560)	
Flying Ball Bicycle Co	
飛球單車行	28 E4
Friendly Bicycle Shop	
老友記單車	(see 21)



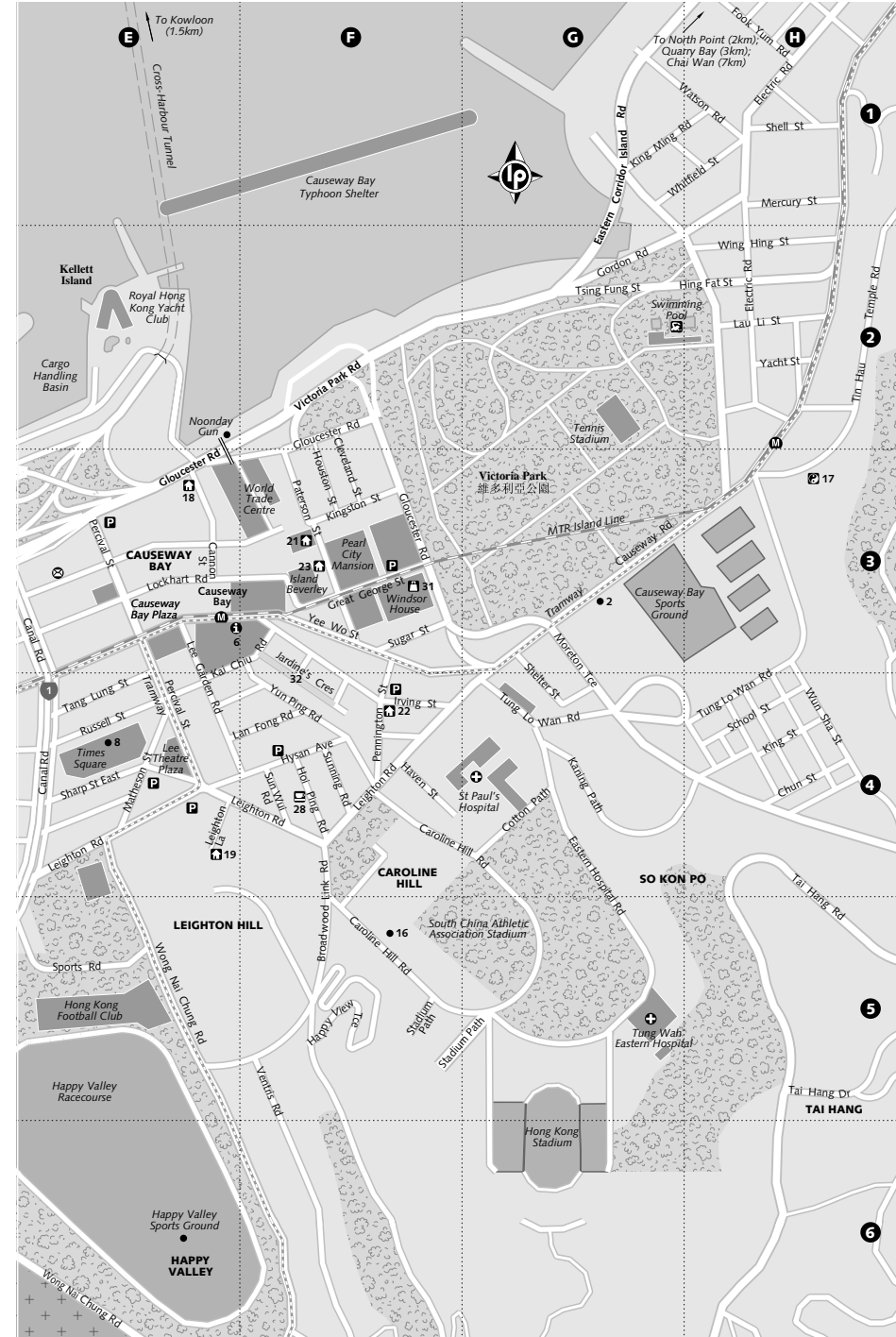
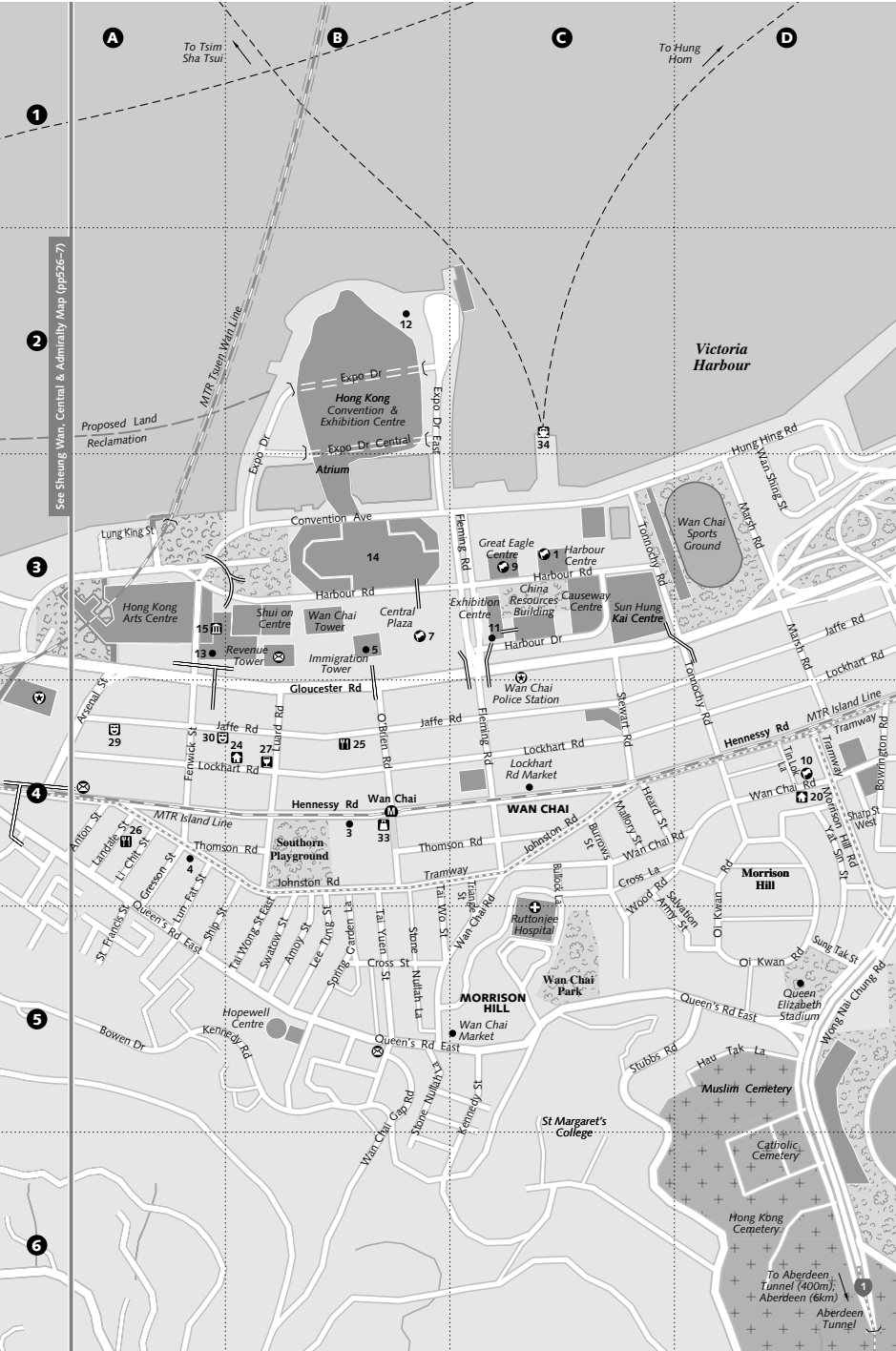
See Wan Chai & Causeway Bay Map (pp531-1)

INFORMATION	(p520)	SLEEPING 🛏	(p540)
British Consulate		Bishop Lei International House	
英國駐香港總領事館	1 G5	宏基國際賓館	24 D4
Canadian Consulate		Central Park Hotel	
加拿大駐香港總領事館	2 E3	中環麗柏酒店	25 B2
China Travel Service (Queen's Rd)		Eden	26 D2
中國旅行社(皇后大道中)	3 G5	Four Seasons Hotel 四季酒店	27 E2
China Travel Service		Garden View International House	
中國旅行社	4 D2	花園國際賓館	28 D5
Dutch Consulate		Ice House	29 G6
荷蘭駐香港總領事館	5 F4	Island Shangri-La Hong Kong	
Dymocks	(see 63)	港島香格里拉	30 G4
French Consulate		Lan Kwai Fong Hotel	
法國駐香港總領事館	6 E2	蘭桂坊酒店	31 D2
General Post Office 中央郵政局	7 F3	Landmark Mandarin Oriental	
German Consulate		文華東方酒店	32 E3
德國駐香港總領事館	8 G4	EATING 🍴	(p544)
Japanese Consulate		Bagel Factory	33 F6
在香港日本國總領事館	(see 2)	City Hall Maxim's Palace	
Laos Consulate	9 B2	大會堂美心皇宮	34 F3
Macau Government Tourist Office		city'super	(see 63)
澳門政府旅遊局	10 C1	Fragrance Vegetarian Fast Food	
Mobile phone stores 手機店	11 D2	新妙香素食快餐	35 F5
Pacific Coffee Company	(see 63)	Fringe Club 藝穗會	36 G6
US Consulate		Good Luck Thai 好運泰國菜	37 G6
美國駐香港總領事館	12 E4	Koh-i-Noor	38 G6
SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES	(p523)	La Kasbah	39 F5
Edward Youde Aviary		Life	40 F5
尤德觀鳥園	13 F5	Luk Yu Tea House 陸羽茶室	41 G5
Flagstaff House Museum of Tea Ware 茶具文物館	14 F4	Mak's Noodle 麥天雲吞麵世家	42 G5
Government Publications Office		Nha Trang 芽莊	43 F5
政府刊物銷售處	15 F4	Peak Cafe Bar 山頂餐廳	44 F6
Graham St Market		Shui Hu Ju 水滸居	45 E6
嘉咸街市場	16 F5	Sichuan Cuisine Dà Ping Huō	
Man Mo Temple 文武廟	17 C2	四川菜大平伙	46 F5
Para/Site Art Space 藝術空間	18 B2	Yung Kee 鑼記酒家	47 G5
Peak Tower 凌霄閣	19 C6	DRINKING 🍷🍺	(p548)
Peak Tram Lower Terminus		1/5	48 H5
山下纜車站	(see 20)	Barco	49 E5
Peak Tram Upper Terminus		Bohemian Lounge	50 F5
山上纜車站	(see 19)	Club 71	51 F5
Plum Blossoms 萬玉堂	(see 56)	Nzingha Lounge	52 F5
St John's Building 聖約翰大廈	20 E4	TW Cafe	53 G5
St John's Cathedral		ENTERTAINMENT 🎬	(p557)
聖約翰座堂	21 F4	Club 97	54 G6
Western Market 西港城	22 C1	Drop	55 F5
World Wide Fund for Nature Hong Kong 世界自然(香港)基金會	23 E4	Gecko Lounge	(see 56)

Propaganda	56 F5
Works	57 G6
Yumla	58 G5
SHOPPING 🛍	(p558)
Arch Angel Antiques	59 F5
Cat Street 摩羅街	60 C2
Giga Sports	(see 64)
Hing Lee Camera Company	
興利相機公司	61 F5
HMV	62 E3
Hong Kong Records	
香港唱片	(see 64)
IFC Mall 國際金融商場	63 E2
Lane Crawford 連卡佛	(see 63)
Pacific Custom Tailors	(see 64)
Pacific Place 太古廣場	64 G4
Photo Scientific 攝影科學	65 G6
Shanghai Tang 上海灘	66 E3
Wing On 永安	67 D2

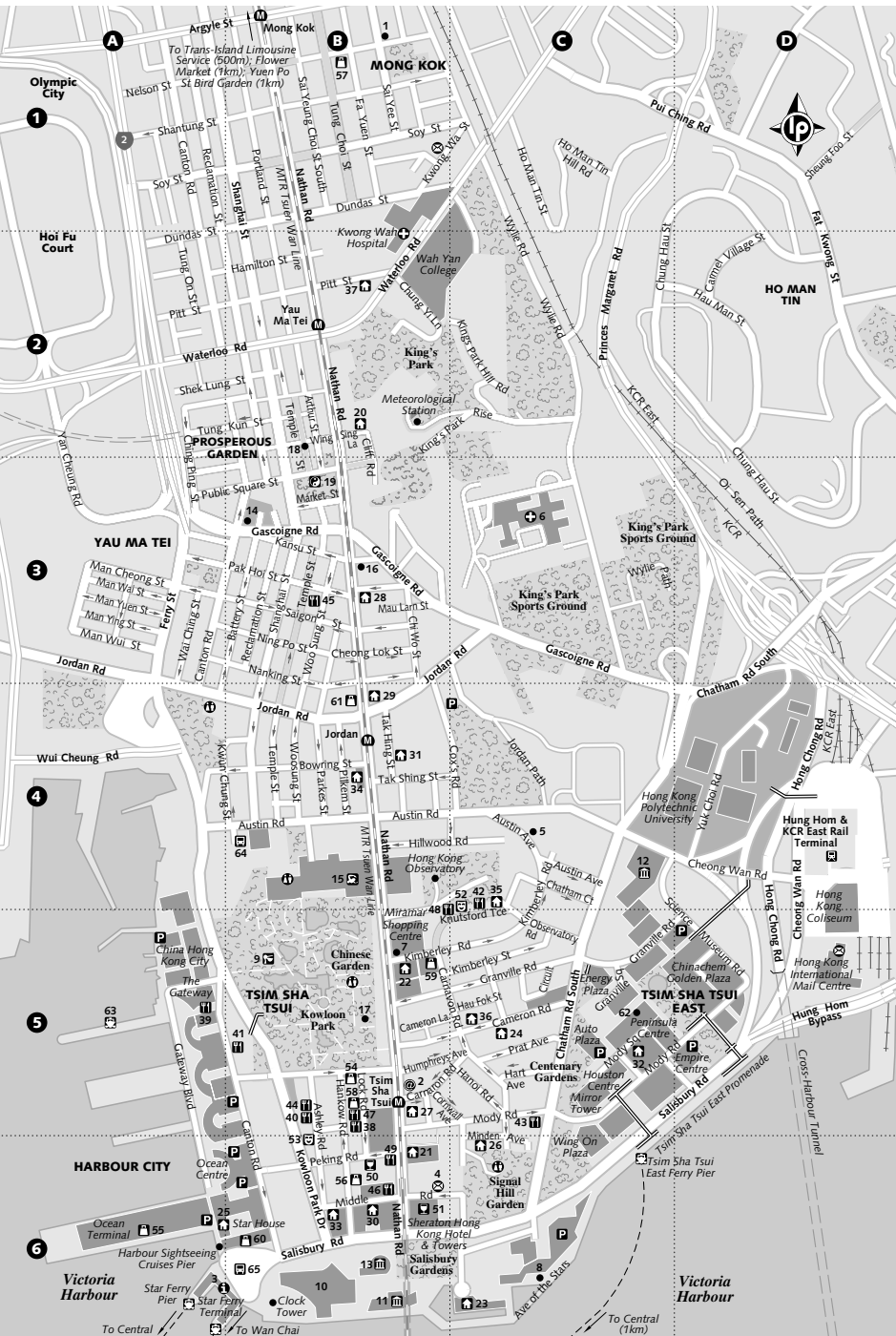
TRANSPORT	(p560)
British Airways 英國航空	68 E3
Bus Station (Admiralty)	
金鐘巴士站	69 G4
Central Bus Terminus (Exchange Sq)	
中環巴士站(交易廣場)	70 E2
China Airlines 中華航空	71 G4
China Southern/China Eastern Airlines 南方航空/東方航空	(see 72)
CNAC 中國航空	72 E3
CTS Express Coach	
中旅直通巴士總站	(see 4)
Dragonair 港龍航空	73 D2
Macau Ferry Pier Bus Terminus	
港澳碼頭巴士站	74 C1
Macau Ferry Pier 港澳碼頭	75 D1
Northwest Airlines 西北航空	(see 73)
Pier 4 (Ferries to Lamma)	76 E1
Pier 5 (Ferries to Cheung Chau)	77 E1
Pier 6 (Ferries to Lantau & Peng Chau)	78 E2
Qantas Airways 澳洲航空	(see 68)
Singapore Airlines 新加坡航空	79 G4
Star Ferry Pier 天星小輪碼頭	80 F3
United Airlines 聯合航空	81 E3
Virgin Atlantic Airways 維珍航空	82 E3

INFORMATION	(p520)	SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES	(p534)	EATING 🍴	(p544)
Australian Consulate		Golden Bauhinia 金紫荊	12 B2	Opia	(see 22)
澳洲駐香港總領事館	1 C3	Hong Kong Arts Centre		Peking Shui Jiao Wong	
Central Library		香港藝術中心	13 A3	北京水餃皇	25 B4
中央圖書館	2 G3	Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre		Prawn Noodle Shop 蝦麵店	26 A4
China Travel Service		香港會議展覽中心	14 B3	DRINKING 🍷🍺	(p548)
中國旅行社	3 B4	Pao Galleries 包氏畫廊	15 A3	Mes Amis	27 B4
Cosmos Books 天地圖書	4 A4	South China Athletic Association		Moon Garden Tea House	
Hong Kong Immigration Department 香港入境事務處	5 B3	南華體育會	16 F5	邀月茶館	28 F4
Hong Kong Tourism Board		Tin Hau Temple 天后廟	17 H3	ENTERTAINMENT 🎬	(p557)
香港旅遊發展局	6 E3	SLEEPING 🛏	(p540)	Dusk till Dawn	29 A4
New Zealand Consulate		Alisan Guest House		Wanch	30 A4
新西蘭駐香港總領事館	7 B3	阿里山賓館	18 E3	SHOPPING 🛍	(p558)
Page One	8 E4	Causeway Bay Guest House		In Square (Computer mall)	31 F3
South African Consulate		華生旅舍	19 E4	Jardine's Bazaar 渣甸街	32 F4
南非駐香港總領事館	9 C3	Charterhouse Hotel 利景酒店	20 D4	Wan Chai Computer Centre	
Vietnam Consulate		Hong Kong Hostel 香港旅館	21 F3	灣仔電腦城	33 B4
越南駐香港總領事館	10 D4	Jia	22 F4	TRANSPORT	(p560)
Visa Office of the People's Republic of China 中華人民共和國簽證辦事處	11 C3	Noble Hostel 高富旅館	23 F3	Wharney Hotel Hong Kong	
		華美酒店	24 B4	Wan Chai Ferry Pier 灣仔碼頭	34 C2



See Sheng Wan, Central & Admiralty Map (pp526-7)





INFORMATION (p520)	Hakkas Guest House 嘉應賓館..... (see 29)	Sushi One.....	44 B5
City Cyberworks..... (see 21)	Hotel Inter-Continental Hong Kong	Swagat Restaurant	
CTS Mong Kok Branch	香港洲際酒店.....	華達印度餐廳..... (see 21)	23 C6
中國旅行社.....	Lee Garden Guest House	Taj Mahal Club..... (see 21)	1 B1
Cyber Clan 網絡家族.....	利園旅館.....	Temple St Food Stalls	2 B5
Hong Kong Tourism Board	Man Hing Lung Hotel	廟街熟食檔.....	24 C5
香港旅遊發展局.....	萬興酒店..... (see 27)	Wan Loong Court 環龍閣.....	45 B3
Kowloon Post Office 九龍郵政局.....	Marco Polo Hong Kong Hotel	Wellcome 惠康.....	46 B6
Phoenix Services Agency	馬可孛羅香港酒店.....	Wildfire.....	25 A6
峯寧旅遊社.....	Minden 棉登酒店.....	Wu Kong Shanghai Restaurant	48 B5
Queen Elizabeth 伊利沙伯醫院.....	Mirador Mansion 美羅都大廈.....	滬江飯店.....	26 B5
Swindon Books 辰街..... (see 38)	Nathan Hotel 彌敦酒店.....		27 B5
Traveller Services 香港旅遊.....	New Lucky House 華豐大廈.....		28 B3
Wing Hoi Money Exchange..... (see 27)	Park Guesthouse 百樂賓館..... (see 21)		29 B4
	Payless Guest House 百利賓館..... (see 21)		25 A6
	Peninsula Hong Kong		26 C5
SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES (p534)	Avenue of the Stars 星光大道.....	香港半島酒店.....	30 B6
Aviary 百鳥苑.....	Hong Kong Cultural Centre	Rent-a-Room 港龍酒店.....	31 B4
Hong Kong Cultural Centre	香港文化中心.....	Royal Garden Hotel 帝苑酒店.....	32 C5
Hong Kong Museum of Art	香港藝術博物館.....	Salisbury 香港基督教青年會.....	33 B6
Hong Kong Museum of History	香港歷史博物館.....	Shamrock Hotel 新樂酒店.....	34 B4
Hong Kong Space Museum & Theatre 香港太空館.....	Jade Market 玉器市場.....	Stanford Hillview Hotel	35 C4
Kowloon Park Swimming Complex	九龍公園游泳池.....	仕德福山景酒店.....	36 C3
Map Publications Centre	香港地圖銷售處.....	Star Guesthouse 星華旅運社.....	37 B2
Sculpture Walk 雕塑廊.....	Temple St Night Market	Travellers Hostel..... (see 21)	38 B3
Temple St Night Market	廟街夜市.....	Welcome Guest House	39 A5
Tin Hau Temple 天后廟.....		Welfare招待所..... (see 21)	40 B5
		Whoi Wide Guest House..... (see 27)	41 B5
		YMCA International House	42 C4
		青年會國際賓館.....	43 C5
			37 B2
			38 B5
			39 A5
			40 B5
			41 B5
			42 C4
			43 C5
			44 B5
			45 B3
			46 B6
			47 B5
			48 B5
			49 B6
			50 B6
			51 B6
			52 C4
			53 B6
			54 B5
			55 A6
			56 B6
			57 B1
			58 B5
			59 B5
			60 B6
			61 B4
			62 C5
			63 A5
			64 B4
			65 B6
			66 B6
			67 B6
			68 B6
			69 B6
			70 B6
			71 B6
			72 B6
			73 B6
			74 B6
			75 B6
			76 B6
			77 B6
			78 B6
			79 B6
			80 B6
			81 B6
			82 B6
			83 B6
			84 B6
			85 B6
			86 B6
			87 B6
			88 B6
			89 B6
			90 B6
			91 B6
			92 B6
			93 B6
			94 B6
			95 B6
			96 B6
			97 B6
			98 B6
			99 B6
			100 B6

DRINKING (p548)	Delaney's.....	50 B6
Felix..... (see 30)	Sky Lounge.....	51 B6
ENTERTAINMENT (p557)	Bahama Mama's Caribbean	52 C4
Bar.....	Ned Kelly's Last Stand.....	53 B6
SHOPPING (p558)	Curio Alley.....	54 B5
Harbour City 海港城.....	KS Ahluwalia & Sons.....	55 A6
Mong Kok Computer Centre.....	Ocean Sky Divers	56 B6
Sea View Water Training Centre.....	Onestop Photo Company 忠誠.....	58 B5
Star Computer City	星光電腦城.....	59 B5
Yue Hua Chinese Products	Emporium 裕華國貨.....	60 B6
TRANSPORT (p560)	Avis.....	61 B4
Cathay Pacific 國泰航空..... (see 30)	China Ferry Terminal 中港碼頭.....	62 C5
Cross-Border Coach Terminus (Buses to China) 過境巴士站.....	Star Ferry Bus Terminal	63 A5
天星小輪巴士站.....		64 B4
		65 B6
		66 B6
		67 B6
		68 B6
		69 B6
		70 B6
		71 B6
		72 B6
		73 B6
		74 B6
		75 B6
		76 B6
		77 B6
		78 B6
		79 B6
		80 B6
		81 B6
		82 B6
		83 B6
		84 B6
		85 B6
		86 B6
		87 B6
		88 B6
		89 B6
		90 B6
		91 B6
		92 B6
		93 B6
		94 B6
		95 B6
		96 B6
		97 B6
		98 B6
		99 B6
		100 B6

(Continued from page 523)

WAN CHAI & CAUSEWAY BAY

Just east of Admiralty is Wan Chai, known for its raucous nightlife but by day just an ordinary district of shops and offices. The **Hong Kong Arts Centre** (Map pp530-1; ☎ 2582 0200; www.hkac.org.hk; 2 Harbour Rd, Wan Chai), which contains the **Pao Galleries** (Map pp530-1; ☎ 2824 5330; ☎ 10am-8pm during exhibitions) on the 4th and 5th floors, has regular exhibitions of contemporary art and photography and is a great place to meet hip young Hong Kongers.

The **Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre** (Map pp530-1; ☎ 2582 8888; www.hkcec.com; 1 Expo Dr, Wan Chai) is a colossal building on the harbour boasting the world's largest 'glass curtain' – a window seven storeys high. Ride the escalators to the 7th floor for a superb harbour view. The centre's waterfront wing, with its distinctive 'fly-away' roof, is where the handover to China took place at midnight on 30 June 1997. The **Golden Bauhinia** (Map pp530-1), a 6m-tall statue of the unique flower that became Hong Kong's symbol and flag standard, commemorates the event in all its golden gaudiness.

East of Wan Chai is Causeway Bay, one of Hong Kong Island's top shopping areas. It is dominated by 17-hectare **Victoria Park** (Map pp530-1), which is best visited on weekday mornings when it becomes a slow-motion forest of taichi practitioners. East of the park is Hong Kong's most famous **Tin Hau Temple** (Map pp530-1; 101 Tin Hau Temple Rd, Causeway Bay; ☎ 7am-5pm), a place of worship for at least three centuries. Tin Hau is one of the most popular deities in coastal South China. Known as the Queen of Heaven, her duties include protecting seafarers and there are almost 60 temples dedicated to her in Hong Kong alone. If you visit Macau, you'll notice she is a doppelganger for the goddess A Ma...they're one and the same.

ISLAND SOUTH

The south coast of Hong Kong Island is dotted with decent beaches and other recreational facilities. If you're anxious to reach the beach, hop on bus 6 (or the express 260) to **Stanley** (Map pp524-5) from the Central bus terminus in Exchange Sq. You can rent windsurfing boards and kayaks at **St Stephen's Beach** (Map pp524-5) about 400m south of Stanley Village. Busy **Stanley Market** (Stanley Village Rd; ☎ 10am-6pm) is a covered market filled with cheap clothing and bric-a-brac. It's been a tourist attraction (some

might say 'trap') for years and is best visited during the week. Prepare to bargain.

The same buses also go to picturesque **Repulse Bay** (Map pp524-5); if heading here from Stanley hop on bus 73, which takes you along the coast. At the southeastern end of the bay is the unusual **Kwun Yam shrine** (Map pp524-5), where the surrounding area is filled with an amazing assembly of deities and figures – from goldfish and a monkey god to the more familiar statues of Tin Hau. Crossing **Longevity Bridge** (Map pp524-5) just in front of the shrine is supposed to add three days to your life. There's no word, however, on whether running back and forth all day will add years.

Northwest of Repulse Bay (and accessible on bus 73) is **Deep Water Bay** (Map pp524-5), a quiet inlet with a sandy beach flanked by shade trees, and **Aberdeen** (Map pp524-5). The big attraction at the latter is the busy harbour. Sampans will take you on a half-hour tour for \$40 per person (less if there's a group of you). But you can see almost as much on the free 10-minute trip to the harbour's celebrated **floating restaurants** (see the boxed text, p546). From Aberdeen, bus 70 will take you back to Central.

If you're feeling vigorous, the entrance to **Aberdeen Country Park** (Map pp524-5) and **Pok Fu Lam Country Park** (Map pp526-7) is about a 15-minute walk north (and uphill) along Aberdeen Reservoir Rd. From there you can take the long walk up to Victoria Peak and catch the Peak Tram to Central.

To the southeast of Aberdeen, the impressive **Ocean Park** (Map pp524-5; ☎ 2552 0291; www.oceanpark.com.hk; Ocean Park Rd; adult/child \$185/93; ☎ 10am-6pm) is a huge amusement and educational theme park complete with roller coasters and other rides, an **atoll reef** and an **aquarium** that was once the largest in the world but was, by the time we asked, 'maybe the largest in East Asia?!'. Whatever, it's quite impressive. Due to competition from the new Hong Kong Disneyland (p537), Ocean Park is getting a face-lift, an operation that's expected to continue until 2010. You can reach Ocean Park on bus 90 from the Central bus terminus; get off at the Aberdeen Tunnel and it's a five-minute walk from there.

Kowloon

Kowloon (locals are more likely to pronounce it Gaolong), the peninsula pointing southward towards Hong Kong Island whose name

means 'nine dragons', is a stark blend of locals and tourists, of opulent hotels and crumbling tenements, and of class and sleaze. Many travellers will stay and shop somewhere along its neon-lit main drag, **Nathan Road**, but it's well worth getting into the lively back streets, including the restaurant strip of Ashley Rd, the nightclubs and eateries of Knutsford Tce and the Temple St night market.

The Hong Kong government has grand plans for the reclaimed area west of the Star Ferry Pier known as the West Kowloon Cultural District. Architect Sir Norman Foster has designed an immense, space-age-looking complex of museums, galleries, entertainment venues, a marina and, of course, shops. However, the project has been dogged by controversy and at the time of writing was still not certain to go ahead.

TSIM SHA TSUI

Tsim Sha Tsui sits at the southern tip of Kowloon and is the most touristy part of the city. It's also the logical place from which to start exploring Kowloon. East of the Star Ferry terminal is the Hong Kong Cultural Centre precinct. The **Hong Kong Cultural Centre** (Map p532; ☎ 2734 2009; www.hkculturalcentre.gov.hk; ☎ 9am-11pm), with its curved roof and controversial windowless façade facing one of the most spectacular views in the world, is the first thing you'll see. There are regular performances and exhibitions here; call to find out what's on. Behind the Cultural Centre is the **Hong Kong Museum of Art** (Map p532; ☎ 2721 0116; adult/child, student & senior \$10/5, admission free Wed; ☎ 10am-6pm Fri-Wed), with six floors of Chinese antiquities, historical paintings and contemporary art.

Neighbouring **Hong Kong Space Museum & Theatre** (Map p532; ☎ 2721 0226; exhibition halls adult/child & senior \$10/5, admission free Wed, planetarium adult \$24-32, child & senior \$12-16; ☎ 1-9pm Mon & Wed-Fri, 10am-9pm Sat & Sun) has several exhibition halls and a Space Theatre (planetarium), that also shows IMAX films. Children under three aren't welcome at the theatre. To the southeast along Tsim Sha Tsui Promenade, the **Avenue of the Stars** (Map p532) pays homage to the Hong Kong film industry and its stars, with handprints and sculptures, and is a great viewpoint for watching the **Symphony of Light** (☎ 8pm), the world's largest permanent light show projected from atop the buildings of Hong Kong Island.

The lower end of Nathan Rd is known as the **Golden Mile**, a reference to both the price

of its real estate and its ability to make money out of tourism. Halfway up the thoroughfare is **Kowloon Park** (Map p532; Nathan & Austin Rds; ☎ 6am-midnight), an oasis of greenery after the hustle and bustle of Tsim Sha Tsui. This is a great place to come to see Hong Kongers enjoying themselves, particularly on Sundays when the place is packed with Filipina, Indonesian and Sri Lankan domestic workers enjoying their day off by singing, dancing and flirting. Sunday is also the day for Kung Fu Corner, a display of traditional Chinese martial arts near the otherwise fairly uninteresting **Sculpture Walk** (Map p532). There's also an **aviary** (Map p532; ☎ 6.30am-6.45pm Mar-Oct, to 5.45pm Nov-Feb), and the **Kowloon Park Swimming Complex** (Map p532; ☎ 2724 3577; adult/child & senior \$16/9; ☎ outdoor 6.30am-noon, 1-6pm & 7-10pm Apr-Oct, indoor 6.30am-noon, 1-6pm & 7-9.30pm Nov-Mar).

The **Hong Kong Museum of History** (Map p532; ☎ 2724 9042; 100 Chatham Rd South; adult/child & senior \$10/5, admission free Wed; ☎ 10am-6pm Mon & Wed-Sat, to 7pm Sun), in the reclaimed area known as Tsim Sha Tsui East, takes visitors on a fascinating and entertaining wander through Hong Kong's past from prehistoric times to the 1997 handover.

YAU MA TEI & MONG KOK

Just north of Tsim Sha Tsui, in the district known as Yau Ma Tei, the **Jade Market** (Map p532; nr Kansu & Battery Sts, Yau Ma Tei; ☎ 10am-5pm) is where some 450 stalls sell all varieties and grades of jade. Unless you really know your nephrite from your jadeite, it's wise not to buy expensive pieces here. From here it's a short walk to the incense-filled **Tin Hau Temple** (Map p532; ☎ 2332 9240; nr Public Square St & Nathan Rd; ☎ 8am-5pm) and to the **Temple St night market** (Map p532; ☎ 4pm-midnight), the liveliest place in town to bargain for cheap clothes, fake name-brand goods and knockoff DVDs.

To the east of the Prince Edward MTR station in Mong Kok is the delightful **Yuen Po St Bird Garden** (☎ 2382 1785; Flower Market Rd, Mong Kok; ☎ 7am-8pm), a place where birds are 'aired', preened, bought, sold and fed bugs with chopsticks by their fussy owners (usually men). Nearby is the fragrant **flower market**, which keeps the same hours but is busiest after 10am, especially on Sunday.

NEW KOWLOON

The southernmost 31 sq km of the New Territories is officially called New Kowloon since

TELLING YOUR FORTUNE

For all Wong Tai Sin's religious significance and supposed medicinal powers, many worshippers come here seeking good health of the hip pocket. In Hong Kong, luck, money and religion are inseparable and Wong Tai Sin Temple is the city's one-stop luck supermarket. But as in any market, you have to pay for the goods. In this case, Hong Kongers consult their choice of dozens of soothsayers. For a fee beginning at about \$30 (but do haggle!), these wise ones can divine the future by reading your palm or more exotic mediums, such as the *chim* (fortune sticks) or *sing pei* (aka the Buddha's lips). If the signs are positive, then all is good: you might choose to take the next boat to the casinos of Macau. If not, fear not: Hong Kong is a land of positive fatalism where no fate is beyond change. All that's required is to know what steps to take to change your fate, and for a bit more money the folks at Wong Tai Sin can sort you out.

Boundary St just above Mong Kok technically marks the division between Kowloon and the New Territories. Full of high-rise apartments, the area is less frantic than its neighbours to the south.

Sik Sik Yuen Wong Tai Sin Temple (Map pp524-5; ☎ 2854 4333; Lung Cheung Rd; admission by \$2 donation; 🕒 7am-5.30pm) is a large and very active Taoist temple complex built in 1973 and dedicated to the god worshipped by the sick, those trying to avoid illness and others seeking more material fortune. Just below and to the left of the temple is an arcade of fortune tellers (see above), some of whom speak English. It's right next to the Wong Tai Sin MTR station.

Northeast of Wong Tai Sin in the Diamond Hill district is the much more serene **Chi Lin Nunnery** (Map pp524-5; ☎ 2354 1604; 5 Chin Lin Dr; 🕒 nunnery 9am-5pm Thu-Tue, garden 6.30am-7pm), a large Buddhist complex with lotus ponds, immaculate bonsai and silent nuns delivering offerings of fruit and rice to Buddha and his disciples. To reach it, take the MTR to Diamond Hill.

Further east, at the edge of the now-abandoned Kai Tak International Airport, is **Kowloon Walled City Park** (Map pp524-5; ☎ 2716 9962; Tung Tau Tsuen, Tung Tsing, Carpenter & Junction Rds; 🕒 6.30am-11pm). The walls that enclose this beautiful park began as the perimeter of a Chinese garrison in the 19th century. Excluded from the 1898 lease of the New Territories, it became a lawless slum that technically remained part of China throughout British rule. The enclave became known for its gangsters, prostitution, gambling and, brace yourself, illegal dentists. The British eventually relocated the 30,000 or so residents, razed the slums and built a park filled with pavilions, ponds and renovated buildings including the Yamen building, which has a scale model of the village in the

mid-19th century. To reach the park, take bus 1 from the Star Ferry bus terminal in Kowloon and alight at Tung Tau Tsuen Rd.

New Territories

Few visitors realise that more than 80% of Hong Kong is unspoilt green hills, mountains and tropical forest. That's a lot of area in which to escape the urban jungle, and most of it is in the New Territories (San Gai in Cantonese). The New Territories are so called because they were leased to Britain in 1898, almost half a century after Hong Kong Island and four decades after Kowloon were ceded to the crown. The area has seen plenty of urbanisation of its own, with high-rise 'New Towns' like Sha Tin going up to create housing. But there remain numerous traditional villages, fabulous mountain walks and sandy beaches with nary a high-rise to be seen, all within an hour or so of Central by public transport.

TAI MO SHAN

Hong Kong's tallest mountain at 957m, Tai Mo Shan (Map pp524-5) rises out of the central New Territories. The climb to the summit isn't too gruelling and the way up is part of the 100km-long **MacLehose Trail** that runs from Tuen Mun in the west to the Sai Kung Peninsula in the east. If you want to hike anywhere along this trail, the 1:25,000 *MacLehose Trail* map, available from the Map Publications Centre (p538) is essential. To get there, take bus 51 from Tsuen Wan MTR station.

KAM TIN & MAI PO MARSH

Yuen Long, which is on both the KCR West Rail and the Light Rail Transit (LRT) rail lines (see p564), is the springboard for Hong Kong's most important grouping of walled villages as well as a world-class nature reserve.

The area around Kam Tin is home to two 16th-century walled villages. Their fortifications serve as reminders of the marauding pirates, bandits and imperial soldiers that Hong Kong's early residents faced. Just off the main road and easily accessible, tiny **Kat Hing Wai** (Map pp524-5) is the more popular of the two. Drop a coin donation in the box at the village's entrance and wander the narrow little lanes. The old Hakka women in traditional clothing will let you take their photograph for the right price (about \$10). **Shui Tau** (Map pp524-5), a 17th-century village about a 15-minute walk north of Kam Tin Rd, is famous for its prow-shaped roofs decorated along the ridges with dragons and fish. To reach Kam Tin, take bus 64K, 77K or 54 from Yuen Long.

The 270-hectare **Mai Po Marsh Nature Reserve** (Map pp524-5; ☎ 2526 4473; San Tin, Yuen Long; admission \$100 plus \$200 deposit; 🕒 9am-5pm), a protected wetland at Deep Bay in the northwestern New Territories, is home to up to 300 species of migratory and resident birds. You can visit on your own (bus 76K from Yuen Long plus a lengthy walk), but most people take the guided visit organised by the **World Wide Fund for Nature Hong Kong** (WWFHK; Map pp526-7; ☎ 2526 4473; www.wwf.org.hk; 1 Tramway Path, Central; 🕒 9am-5pm Mon-Fri); call ahead or register online for a booking. Its three-hour tours (\$70) leave the marsh's visitor centre six times between 9am and 3pm on Saturday and Sunday.

SHA TIN

The New Town of Sha Tin is popular not just for its racecourse but also for its **Ten Thousand Buddhas Monastery** (Map pp524-5; ☎ 2691 1067; 🕒 9am-5pm), about 500m northwest of Sha Tin KCR station, which actually has some 12,800 miniature statues lining the walls of its main temple. To reach it, take exit B at Sha Tin KCR station and walk down the ramp, turning left onto Pai Tau St. After a short distance turn right onto Sheung Wo Che St, walk to the end and follow the signs up the 400 steps.

While in Sha Tin do not miss the **Hong Kong Heritage Museum** (Map pp524-5; ☎ 2180 8188; www.heritagemuseum.gov.hk; 1 Man Lam Rd, Tai Wai; adult/student & senior \$10/5, admission free Wed; 🕒 10am-6pm Mon & Wed-Sat, to 7pm Sun) in Tai Wai, not far from the new Tai Wai KCR station. Its rich permanent collections (Chinese opera, fine art, ceramics) and extremely innovative temporary exhibits in a dozen different galleries are probably the best in Hong Kong.

SAI KUNG

The Sai Kung Peninsula (Map pp524-5) is the garden spot of the New Territories and is great for outdoor activities, especially hiking, sailing and eating seafood. The New Territories' best beaches are around here and hiring a sampan to deliver you to such a deserted place is both exciting and romantic. To get here from Sha Tin, take bus 299. To explore the eastern side of the Sai Kung Peninsula, take bus 94 from Sai Kung to Wong Shek.

Outlying Islands

In addition to Hong Kong Island, there are 234 islands dotting the waters around Hong Kong but only four have substantial residential communities and easy access by ferry.

LANTAU

Twice the size of Hong Kong Island, Lantau has only about 50,000 residents and you could easily spend a couple of days exploring its hilly walking trails and enjoying its uncrowded beaches.

From **Mui Wo** (Map pp524-5), the main settlement and arrival point for ferries, most visitors board bus 2 to **Ngong Ping** (Map pp524-5), a plateau 500m above sea level in the western part of the island where you'll find **Po Lin** (Map pp524-5; www.plm.com.hk; 🕒 9am-6pm), an enormous monastery and temple complex that contains the **Tian Tan Buddha statue** (Map pp524-5; 🕒 10am-5.30pm), the world's largest outdoor seated bronze Buddha statue, which can be climbed via 260 steps. The new **Ngong Ping 360** (Map pp524-5; www.np360.com.hk; one way/return adult \$58/88, child \$28/45; 🕒 10am-6pm Mon-Fri, to 6.30pm Sat & Sun) cable car linking Tung Chung and the monastery is being promoted as a major new tourist draw. Apart from what will be a very impressive ride, themed attractions such as theatres and a 'walk with Buddha' will attempt to enlighten you further. Prices rise by about 10% on public holidays.

En route to Ngong Ping you'll pass 3km-long **Cheung Sha Bay** (Map pp524-5; South Lantau Rd), boasting Hong Kong's longest beach. Another place to visit is **Tai O** (Map pp524-5), a picturesque village at the western end of Lantau famous for its pungent shrimp paste, **rope-tow ferry** across a narrow channel of water and temple dedicated to Kwan Yu (aka Kwan Tai).

Lantau's newest but most high-profile attraction is **Hong Kong Disneyland** (Map pp524-5;

☎ 1830 830; www.hongkongdisneyland.com; adult/child/senior \$295/210/170, weekends \$350/250/200; ☎ 10am-8pm), which is the expected Disney experience with a few Chinese twists. If one day isn't enough you can stay in one of the two hotels on site. To get there, take the Tung Chung MTR line from Central to Sunny Bay and change for the Disneyland train. A ferry from Central should be running by the time you read this.

LAMMA

With no cars Lamma (Map pp524-5) seems a world away from the hustle and bustle of big city Hong Kong but is only 20 minutes away by ferry. The island boasts decent beaches, excellent walks and a plethora of restaurants in **Yung Shue Wan** (Map pp524-5) and **Sok Kwu Wan** (Map pp524-5), the main settlements to the north and south respectively. A fun day involves taking the ferry to Yung Shue Wan, walking the easy 90-minute trail to Sok Kwu Wan and settling in for lunch at one of the seafood restaurants beside the water. Afterwards, take the ferry from here back to Central.

CHEUNG CHAU & PENG CHAU

Dumbbell-shaped Cheung Chau (Map pp524-5), with a harbour filled with sampans and fishing boats, a windsurfing centre, several fine temples and some lively bars and restaurants makes a fun day out. Not far away is Peng Chau (Map pp524-5), the smallest and most traditionally Chinese of the easily accessible islands.

ACTIVITIES

While tourism authorities can sometimes be responsible for the cheesiest of activities, the HKTB has a few that are interesting, fun and free. From sessions explaining feng shui led by geomancers, through harbour trips on Hong Kong's only remaining sailing junk, the *Duck Ling*, to taichi sessions on the Tsim Sha Tsui waterfront, you really have to pay credit to HKTB for providing a window into Cantonese culture that is often very hard to find by yourself. For a full list of what's on, when and where, go to www.discoverhongkong.com, click on Heritage, then Cultural Kaleidoscope.

Sporting buffs should contact the **South China Athletic Association** (Map pp530-1; ☎ 2577 6932; www.scaa.org.hk in Chinese; 5th fl, Sports Complex, 88 Caroline

Hill Rd, Causeway Bay; visitor memberships \$50), which has facilities for any number of sports. Another handy website is www.hkoutdoors.com.

Hiking

Hong Kong is an excellent place to hike and there are numerous trails to enjoy on Hong Kong Island, the New Territories and the Outlying Islands. The four main trails are the 100km-long MacLehose Trail (p536); the 78km-long Wilson Trail, which runs on both sides of the harbour; the 70km-long Lantau Trail, a 12-stage footpath that passes over both **Lantau Peak** (934m) and **Sunset Peak** (869m); and the 50km-long Hong Kong Trail (p523).

The **Map Publications Centre** (Map p532; ☎ 2780 0981; 382 Nathan Rd, Yau Ma Tei; ☎ 9am-5pm Mon-Fri, to noon Sat) and the **Government Publications Office** (Map pp526-7; ☎ 2537 1910; Room 402, 4th fl, Murray Bldg, 22 Garden Rd, Central; ☎ 9am-5pm Mon-Fri, to noon Sat) sell maps detailing these hikes.

Running

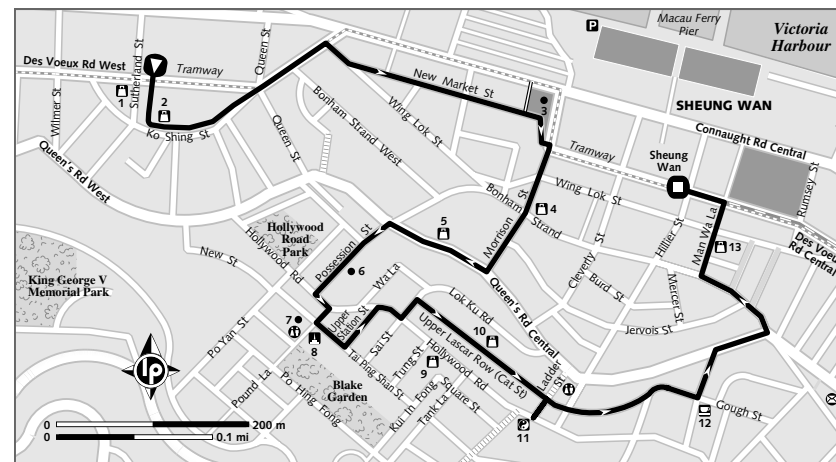
Good places to run on Hong Kong Island include Harlech and Lugard Rds on the Peak (p523), the running track in Victoria Park (p534) in Causeway Bay, and around Happy Valley Race Course (Map pp530-1).

Taichi

One of the most popular HKTB activities is the **free taichi lessons** (☎ 8-9am Mon & Wed-Fri) along the Ave of the Stars, Tsim Sha Tsui Promenade (see p535).

WALKING TOUR

A one-hour walk through Sheung Wan is a wonderful (and easy) step back into Hong Kong's past. Begin the tour at the Sutherland St stop of the Kennedy Town tram. Have a look at (and sniff of) Des Voeux Rd West's **dried seafood and shrimp paste shops (1)** then turn up Ko Shing St, where there are **herbal medicine wholesalers (2)**. At the end of the street, walk northeast along Des Voeux Rd West and turn right onto New Market St, where you'll find **Western Market (3)**; p523) at the corner of Morrison St. Walk south along this street past Bonham Strand, which is lined with **ginseng root sellers (4)**, and turn right on Queen's Rd West. To the right you'll pass **traditional shops (5)** selling bird's nests (for soup) and paper funeral offerings (for the dead).



WALK FACTS

Start Kennedy Town tram (Sutherland St stop)

Finish Sheung Wan MTR station

Distance 2km

Duration one hour to 90 minutes, depending on how long you stop in NoHo

Cross Queen's Rd Central and turn left onto **Possession St (6)**, where the British flag was first planted in 1841.

Climbing Pound Lane to where it meets Tai Ping Shan St, look right to spot **Pak Sing Ancestral Hall (7)**; ☎ 8am-6pm), originally a store-room for bodies awaiting burial in China, and left to find two small temples dedicated to **Kwun Yam** (see the boxed text, p196) and **Sui Tsing Pak (8)**.

Descend Upper Station St to the start of Hollywood Rd's many **antique shops (9)**. Continue down Sai St and turn right onto Upper Lascar Row, home of the **Cat St market (10)**; ☎ 9am-6pm), with Chinese bric-a-brac, curios and souvenirs. Wander east to the end and climb up Ladder St to the **Man Mo Temple (11)**; p523). For a chance to sit down, head back down Ladder St and turn right along the pedestrian way to quiet Gough St, which with its cafés and low-key restaurants is also known as **NoHo (12)**, aka North of Hollywood Rd. Suitably refreshed, take the lane north to Queen's Rd Central, head northeast and turn left (west) on Bonham Strand. From there continue west to

Man Wa Lane (13) where you'll find traditional carved chops (or seals), an excellent gift or memento. The Sheung Wan MTR station is a short distance to the northwest.

HONG KONG FOR CHILDREN

In most respects Hong Kong is a great travel destination for children, although the crowds, traffic and pollution might be off-putting to some parents. In most places (hotels, restaurants and sights) children are well catered for, but if you're pushing a pram the stairs and public transport can be a pain. Sights and activities that are good for children include Hong Kong Disneyland (p537), Hong Kong Space Museum & Theatre (p535), Hong Kong Zoological & Botanical Gardens (p523) and Ocean Park (p534).

Kids also love Hong Kong's more retro forms of transport, including the Star Ferry (p563) and the trams (p565).

Most hotels can recommend babysitters if you've got daytime appointments or want a night out without the kids.

TOURS

Some of the most popular surface tours of the New Territories are offered by the HKTB (p522), including the ever-popular Land Between Tour, which takes in temple complexes, fishing villages, Tai Mo Shan (p536) and the China boundary. For a full-day (6½-hour) tour with lunch it costs \$395 for adults and \$345 for children under 16 or seniors over 60; a half-day (five-hour) tour without lunch

costs \$295 for adults and \$245 for children and seniors.

Splendid Tours & Travel (☎ 2316 2151; www.splendidtours.com) has some interesting 'orientation' tours of Hong Kong Island as well as Kowloon and the New Territories costing \$280/190 per adult/child. You can book through most hotels.

It's cheaper to take the normal ferries, but the **Star Ferry Tour** (☎ 2118 6201; www.starferry.com.hk/harbourtour) is still fair value and good fun. The ferry does a 60-minute loop beginning at Tsim Sha Tsui at 11.05am and stopping at Central, Wan Chai and Hung Hom. It continues with one circuit per hour, with the last one beginning at 9.05pm. Tickets are \$40/85 for a single loop day/evening trip; the 7.05pm ferry from Tsim Sha Tsui takes in the 8pm Symphony of Lights show. Get tickets at the relevant piers.

FESTIVALS & EVENTS

Western and Chinese culture combine to create an interesting mix of cultural events and no fewer than 17 official public holidays. However, determining the exact date can be tricky, as some follow the Chinese lunar calendar so the date changes each year. A few key events and their approximate dates are listed here, but for a full schedule with exact dates see www.discoverhongkong.com.

Hong Kong Arts Festival (www.hk.artsfestival.org)
February–March.

Man Hong Kong International Literary Festival
(www.festival.org.hk) March.

Hong Kong Sevens (www.hksevens.com) Late March or early April.

Hong Kong International Film Festival (www.hkiff.org.hk) April.

International Dragon Boat Races (www.hkdba.com.hk) May–June.

Hungry Ghosts Festival August.

SLEEPING

Hong Kong has the full gamut of accommodation, from cell-like spaces with little more than a bed and fan to palatial suites in some of the world's finest hotels. Compared with other cities in China you'll find rooms relatively expensive, though they can still be cheaper than their US or European counterparts. We have listed the high season rates here.

Most hotels are on Hong Kong Island between Central and Causeway Bay, and either side of Nathan Rd in Kowloon, where you'll

also find the largest range of budget places. High-season prices are roughly as follows: the budget range runs from about \$150 to \$400 for a double or twin room (less in a dorm); midrange rooms range from \$400 to as high as \$2000, with a decent level of comfort starting at about \$800; and in the top end you're looking at about \$2000 and way, way up. Most midrange and top-end hotels and a small number of budget places add 13% in taxes to the listed rates; check when you book.

The good news is that prices fall sharply during the shoulder and low seasons, particularly in the midrange and top end, when you can get discounts of up to 60% if you book online, through a travel agent or with an agency such as the **Hong Kong Hotels Association** (HKHA; ☎ 2375 8380; www.hkha.org), which has reservation centres at the airport.

The bad news is that Hong Kong's booming economy means these sort of deals are harder to find than they were. Hong Kong's two high seasons are March to early May (trade fair season) and October to November, though things can also be tight around Chinese New Year (late January or February).

Trade fair season can be crazy, with everywhere from the plush Peninsula to slummy Chungking Mansions booked out or close to it on trade fair days; check their exact dates on www.discoverhongkong.com.

Unless specified otherwise, all rooms listed here have private bathrooms and air-conditioning, and all but the cheapest will have cable TV in English. Many hotels, particularly in the midrange, offer weekly and monthly rates.

Hong Kong Island

Most of Hong Kong Island's top-end hotels are in Central and Admiralty, while Wan Chai caters to the midrange market, though several new midrange places in Central mean there's now more choice. Causeway Bay has quite a few budget guesthouses that are a step up (in both price and quality) from their Tsim Sha Tsui counterparts.

BUDGET

Noble Hostel (Map pp530-1; ☎ 2576 6148; www.noblehostel.com.hk; Flat A3, 17th fl, Great George Bldg, 27 Paterson St, Causeway Bay; s/d/tr \$240/340/420) Dapper Mr Lin and his wife have been running this place for more than 20 years. The 26 squeaky-clean rooms are a bit larger than others in this price range, and most have a fridge.

Hong Kong Hostel (Map pp530-1; ☎ 2392 6868, in Japanese 9831 6058; www.hostel.hk; Flat A2, 3rd fl, Paterson Bldg, 47 Paterson St, Causeway Bay; dm \$120-150, s/d/tr \$340/400/500, without bathroom \$250/340/480; ☎) The hostel formerly known as Wang Fat is a good place to meet other backpackers, with 110 rooms scattered through several floors of a large apartment building. You wouldn't describe the rooms as spacious, but many are newly renovated with phone, TV and fridge. They do vary, however, so look at a few. There are laundry facilities, and there's long-term storage, free internet access and wi-fi. Get a receipt when you pay for your room in advance.

Causeway Bay Guest House (Map pp530-1; ☎ 2895 2013; www.cbgh.net; Flat B, 1st fl, Lai Yee Bldg, 44a-d Leighton Rd, Causeway Bay; s/d/tr \$250/350/450) If you want to save on accommodation to spend in the Causeway Bay shoppopolis, this no-frills but clean seven-room guesthouse might be for you. Enter from Leighton Lane.

Alisan Guest House (Map pp530-1; ☎ 2838 0762; <http://home.hkstar.com/~alisangh>; Flat A, 5th fl, Hoito Court, 23 Cannon St, Causeway Bay; s/d/tr \$350/410/520) Spread through several apartments, the rooms in this small family-run place are clean, the welcome is warm and the advice good; it's a consistent favourite with travellers.

MIDRANGE

Eden (Map pp526-7; ☎ 2851 0303; 148 Wellington St, Central; r \$780-1200) So you're out in Lan Kwai Fong, you meet someone you like and things are getting hot. The Eden, marketed as a hotel for 'couples', might be the place for you. In fact, facilitating coupling seems to be the Eden's speciality, with rates for two- and three-hour 'sessions' as well as overnight sessions (check in after 1am). The small but stylish rooms have everything you need: down-filled bedding, DVD players, free wireless broadband, plenty of mirrors and condoms. Service is discreet and we were told it was no problem to leave your bags with reception and check in late (yes, at 1am) to take advantage of the reduced rates (from \$420). Rates rise a bit on weekends.

Lan Kwai Fong Hotel (Map pp526-7; ☎ 2850 8899; www.lankwaifonghotel.com.hk; 3 Kau U Fong, Central; r \$780-1780; ☎) Not quite as near to the Lan Kwai Fong nightlife district as you might imagine (it's about a 10-minute walk), this chic new hotel has a modern Chinese flavour in a wonderfully central location near Graham St

market. The service, rooms (the pricier rooms ending in 06 are best) and price are all good.

Central Park Hotel (Map pp526-7; ☎ 2850 0899; www.centralparkhotel.com.hk; 263 Hollywood Rd, Sheung Wan; r \$780-1780; ☎) This new 142-room affair has sleek, modern rooms that, while not tiny, seem bigger than they are through the effective use of mirrors. The location is great, a short walk to SoHo and Central.

Ice House (Map pp526-7; ☎ 2836 7333; www.icehouse.com.hk; 38 Ice House St, Central; r \$800-1500) The location, in the heart of Central and staggering distance from Lan Kwai Fong, and the 64 spacious, stylish open-plan 'suites' make the Ice House about the coolest stay in Central and excellent value. Each suite has a kitchenette, work desk, internet access and rain shower.

Bishop Lei International House (Map pp526-7; ☎ 2868 0828; www.bishopleiht.com.hk; 4 Robinson Rd, Mid-Levels; r \$1080-1680, ste from \$1880; ☎ ☎) This 203-room hotel in Mid-Levels is not luxurious but it does have its own swimming pool and some rooms have quite spectacular views. Low season rates are as low as \$540.

Garden View International House (Map pp526-7; ☎ 2877 3737; www.ywca.org.hk; 1 MacDonnell Rd, Central; r \$1350-1750, ste from \$2500) Straddling the border of Central and Mid-Levels, the YWCA-run Garden View has fine views and is one of the better midrange places in Central. Rates are about half in the low season.

Jia (Map pp530-1; ☎ 3196 9000; www.jiahongkong.com; 1-5 Irving St, Causeway Bay; r \$1800, ste from \$2600; ☎) Hong Kong's first true boutique hotel is an apartment building conversion inspired by French design guru Philippe Starck. It's chic as hell, from the stunning staff uniforms and postmodern/baroque furnishings to the guests: models in sunglasses loitering in the lobby. Standard rooms (known as studios) are poky, but the restaurants, particularly Opia (p546), are excellent.

Also recommended:

Charterhouse Hotel (Map pp530-1; ☎ 2833 5566; www.charterhouse.com; 209-219 Wan Chai Rd, Wan Chai; r \$950-1700, ste from \$2000) Book online for big discounts on fairly comfortable rooms.

Wharney Hotel Hong Kong (Map pp530-1; ☎ 2861 1000; www.gdhhotels.com; 57-73 Lockhart Rd, Wan Chai; r \$1000-2200, ste from \$3600) In the heart of Wan Chai; best value when you get an online deal.

TOP END

Island Shangri-La Hong Kong (Map pp526-7; ☎ 2877 3838; www.shangri-la.com; Supreme Court Rd, Admiralty;

r \$2400-3700, ste from \$5600; (M)) The 56-storey Shangri-La boasts some of the best-equipped rooms in Hong Kong, with everything from a four-in-one printer fax thingy to remote-controlled curtains. Check out the 16-storey tall Chinese landscape painting in the upper atrium (from the 39th floor).

Four Seasons Hotel (Map pp256-7; ☎ 3196 8888; www.fourseasons.com; IFC 3, 8 Finance St, Central; r from \$3800; ste from \$7000; (M) (S)) Everything about the Four Seasons is class, from the fine rooms and restaurants to the panoramic harbour views from its location (don't miss the incredible pool at sunset) in the International Financial Centre. But it's the enthusiastic and sophisticated service that is most memorable.

Landmark Mandarin Oriental (Map pp256-7; ☎ 2132 0188; www.mandarinoriental.com; 15 Queen's Rd Central; r \$4000-5400, ste from \$8800; (M)) This brand-new boutique five-star hotel in the centre of Central is very nice indeed. Atop the uber-exclusive Landmark shopping complex, the hotel's contemporary design is beautiful throughout the 113 spacious rooms and facilities, and the service top-notch. The drawback: there are no views.

Kowloon

Kowloon has an incredible array of accommodation: from the Peninsula, Hong Kong's poshest hotel, to its infamous neighbour, Chungking Mansions, plus plenty in between.

BUDGET

Chungking Mansions has been synonymous with budget accommodation in Hong Kong for decades. The crumbling block rising out of the prime real estate of Nathan Rd is stacked with dirt-cheap hostels, guesthouses, curry houses, immigrants and all manner of merchants. Rooms are usually minuscule and service is as rudimentary as you'd expect in the cheapest accommodation in town. And while it can seem pretty bleak, you can take comfort in knowing it used to be much worse. In recent years standards have risen (from an admittedly very low base) and when we were there several guesthouses were getting makeovers. Even the lifts have been upgraded, though they're still painfully slow. There are literally dozens of options in Chungking Mansions and the similar Mirador Mansion, just up the street, so shop around.

Payless Guest House (Map p532; ☎ 3119 2888; Flat A2, 7th fl, A Block, Chungking Mansions, 36-44 Nathan Rd, Tsim Sha Tsui; s \$100-150, d \$160-190, tr \$220) Jackey Chan, the colourful owner with the familiar name, has transformed this place from just another Chungking dump to the best option in the Mansions. His 30 rooms on two floors have been renovated in sparkling white tiles and the vast majority have windows. All have both air-con and fan, and TVs that actually work.

Park Guesthouse (Map p532; ☎ 2368 1689; fax 2367 7889; Flat A1, 15th fl, A Block, Chungking Mansions, 36-44 Nathan Rd, Tsim Sha Tsui; s/d \$140/200, without bathroom \$100/150) Small, clean and friendly, the rooms here come with the usual Chungking fare (TV, air-con, phone and a vague curry smell) plus a fridge and some reader recommendations. Room 1504 has the smallest bathtub you'll ever see.

Cosmic Guest House (Map p532; ☎ 2369 6669; www.cosmicguesthouse.com; Flat A1-A2 & F1-F4, 12th fl, Mirador Mansion, 58-62 Nathan Rd, Tsim Sha Tsui; s/tw \$150/250) The crystal-clean, quiet, friendly and secure Cosmic is a consistent favourite with travellers. Rooms are relatively bright and some rooms even have rain showers...wedged into 1m-square bathrooms! A good option.

World Wide Guest House (Map p532; ☎ 2311 3550; www.gsths@biznetvigator.com; Unit E1, 14th fl, Mirador Mansion, 58-62 Nathan Rd, Tsim Sha Tsui; s/d \$200/300) This brand-new place has seven comfortable and larger-than-normal rooms, each with a broadband connection (\$30 per hour).

Hakkas Guest House (Map p532; ☎ 2771 3656; fax 2770 1470; Flat L, 3rd fl, New Lucky House, 300 Nathan Rd, Yau Ma Tei; s \$200-250, d \$250-300, tr \$300-350) The nine clean rooms here make this the pick of the places in New Lucky House. The owner, affable Kevin Koo, is a keen hiker who sometimes leads country walks on Sunday.

Dadol Hotel (Map p532; ☎ 2369 8882; fax 2311 0250; 1st fl, Champagne Court, 16-20 Kimberley Rd, Tsim Sha Tsui; s/d \$350/420) This 41-room hotel tucked away inside a shopping arcade is one of the best deals in Tsim Sha Tsui. There aren't many windows but these rooms are big and very comfortable for the money.

Also recommended:
Travellers Hostel (Map p532; ☎ 2368 7710; www.travellers.com.hk; Flat A1-A4, 16th fl, A Block, Chungking Mansions, 36-44 Nathan Rd, Tsim Sha Tsui; dm \$55-60, d \$120-140, s/d without bathroom \$90/110; (M)) This aging Chungking landmark is very cheap for a reason.
Man Hing Lung Hotel (Map p532; ☎ 2311 8807; www.manhinglung-hotel.com; Flat F2, 14th fl, Mirador

Mansion, 58-62 Nathan Rd, Tsim Sha Tsui; s \$120-150, d \$150-200, tr \$210-240; (M)) Clean rooms and a good atmosphere overseen by friendly Mr Chan; free wireless and broadband internet access.

Welcome Guest House (Map p532; ☎ 2721 7793; guesthousehk@hotmail.com; Flat A5, 7th fl, A Block, Chungking Mansions, 36-44 Nathan Rd, Tsim Sha Tsui; s \$120-150, d \$160-190, s without shower \$100) It needs a face-lift but a English-speaking owner John Wah makes this place worth a look.

Star Guesthouse (Map p532; ☎ 2723 8951; www.starguesthouse.com; 6th fl, 21 Cameron Rd, Tsim Sha Tsui; s/tw/tr \$250/300/350) and its sister property up the road, the **Lee Garden Guest House** (☎ 2367 2284; charliechan@iname.com; 8th fl, D Block, 36 Cameron Rd, Tsim Sha Tsui; s/tw/tr \$250/300/350), are owned and run by the charismatic Charlie Chan, who can arrange almost anything. Both have small, clean rooms.

MIDRANGE

Salisbury (Map p532; ☎ 2268 7888; www.ymcahk.org.hk; 41 Salisbury Rd, Tsim Sha Tsui; dm/s \$210/\$700, d \$750-950, ste from \$1300) Operated by the YMCA, the rooms here are simple but the facilities and the five-star views are not. Budgeteers who book ahead might get a bed in the four-bed dorms. However, no-one is allowed to stay more than seven consecutive nights and walk-in guests for the dorms aren't accepted if they've been in Hong Kong for more than 10 days.

Rent-A-Room (Map p532; ☎ 2366 3011, 9023 8022; www.rentaroomhk.com; Flat A, 2nd fl, Knight Garden, 7-8 Tak Hing St, Yau Ma Tei; s/d/tr \$500/800/\$1200; (M)) Around the corner from Jordan MTR station (take Exit E), this place has 70 compact but immaculate rooms spread across several floors. Each room has shower, safe, TV, telephone (no charge for local calls), internet access and a fridge. These prices are dramatically lower most of the time.

Booth Lodge (Map p532; ☎ 2771 9266; http://boothlodge.salvation.org.hk; 11 Wing Sing Lane, Yau Ma Tei; s & tw incl breakfast \$620-1500) This wedge-shaped, Salvation Army-run place is spartan and clean but fair value in the lower midrange. Standard rooms are about \$500 out of season. Reception is on the 7th floor.

Minden (Map p532; ☎ 2739 7777; www.theminden.com; 7 Minden Ave, Tsim Sha Tsui; r \$900-1500, ste from \$2500) The boutique-ish Minden is a welcome injection of charisma to Hong Kong's midrange hotel gang. Packed with Asian and Western

antiques, curios and furnishings, it's an eclectic mix that works.

Stanford Hillview Hotel (Map p532; ☎ 2722 7822, 2313 7031; www.stanfordhillview.com; 13-17 Observatory Rd, Tsim Sha Tsui; s & d \$1000-1680, ste from \$2480) At the eastern end of Knutsford Tce, the Stanford is a quality hotel in just about our favourite location in Tsim Sha Tsui, with little traffic noise but seconds from loads of bars and restaurants. Big reductions out of season.

Nathan Hotel (Map p532; ☎ 2388 5141; www.nathanhotel.com; 378 Nathan Rd, Yau Ma Tei; tw & d \$1080-1480, ste from \$1800) Even the cheapest of the 191 recently renovated rooms here is clean, stylish, spacious and relatively good value, particularly in low season. It's near Temple St; enter from Pak Hoi St.

Also recommended:
YMCA International House (Map p532; ☎ 2771 9111; www.ymcainthousehk.org; 23 Waterloo Rd, Yau Ma Tei; dm \$330, r \$880-1380, ste from \$2080) Open to men and women. Dorm rooms (actually cosy singles with share bathroom) are cheap.
Shamrock Hotel (Map p532; ☎ 2735 2271; www.shamrockhotel.com.hk; 223 Nathan Rd, Yau Ma Tei; s \$550-1250, d \$750-1450, ste from \$1500) Good value for the location.

TOP END

Royal Garden Hotel (Map p532; ☎ 2721 5215; www.rghk.com.hk; 69 Mody Rd, Tsim Sha Tsui East; s \$2300-3000, d \$2450-3150, ste from \$4100; (M) (S)) This often-overlooked hotel is one of the best-equipped in Kowloon. And with its tasteful rooms, super rooftop recreation facilities (from pool to putting green), fine restaurants and smart service, it's an excellent top-end option.

Marco Polo Hong Kong Hotel (Map p532; ☎ 2113 0088; www.marcopolohotels.com; Harbour City, 3 Canton Rd, Tsim Sha Tsui; s & d \$2500-3700, ste from \$4900; (M) (S)) This is the pick of the three Marco Polo group hotels that each feeds into the vast Harbour City complex. For shoppers or those afraid of HK's pollution, it's heaven – one reader wrote of how pleased they were to be able to shop, eat and sleep without ever going outside!

Peninsula Hong Kong (Map p532; ☎ 2920 2888; www.peninsula.com; Salisbury Rd, Tsim Sha Tsui; r \$2900-4200, ste from \$4600; (M) (S)) Hong Kong's colonial classic is pure elegance with service and up-to-the-minute facilities to match. If you can afford it, the Pen is somewhere everyone should stay at least once.

Hotel Inter-Continental Hong Kong (Map p532; ☎ 2721 1211; www.hongkong-ic.intercontinental.com; 18

Salisbury Rd, Tsim Sha Tsui; r \$3300-3900, ste from \$5500; ☎ ☎) It's getting on a bit, but the Intercon still boasts the finest waterfront position in the territory, excellent service and quirky colonial traditions, such as a fleet of Rolls Royces. The view from the Lobby Lounge bar is unbeatable.

New Territories

The New Territories does not offer travellers a tremendous choice in terms of accommodation, but there are both official and independent hostels here, usually in remote areas. The **Country & Marine Parks Authority** (☎ 2420 0529) maintains 28 no-frills camp sites in the New Territories and 11 in the Outlying Islands for hikers and trekkers. They are all free and are clearly labelled on the four trail maps (see p538). To visit the relevant page of the authority's website, go to www.afcd.gov.hk and click on Country & Marine Parks.

Ascension House (Map pp524-5; ☎ 2691 4196; www.ahouse.com; 33 Tao Fong Shan Rd, Sha Tin; dm \$125) This 11-bed place affiliated with the Lutheran Church is probably the best deal in Hong Kong because the price of a bed includes free laundry service, three meals and 'friendly Scandinavian staff'.

To get there, take the KCR East Rail to Sha Tin station, leave via exit B and walk down the ramp, passing a series of traditional village houses on the left. Between them is a set of steps. Go up these steps, follow the path and when you come to a roundabout, go along the uphill road – Pak Lok Path – to your right. After about 150m you'll see a small staircase on the right; follow the signs from here. The walk should take 15 to 20 minutes. A taxi from Sha Tin station will cost about \$20.

Outlying Islands

Lantau, Lamma and Cheung Chau all have accommodation options and are excellent places in which to escape from the hustle and bustle of urban Hong Kong. In fact, we think Lamma is the ideal place to stay if you're on a budget, with excellent-value small hotels and homestays (just pitch up and ask around), a relaxed vibe and only 20 minutes from Central by ferry (though these do stop about midnight). For campers, the Country & Marine Parks Authority (above) maintains nine sites on Lantau. Camping is prohibited on Hong Kong beaches.

Hongkong Bank Foundation SG Davis Hostel (Map pp524-5; ☎ 2985 5610; www.yha.org.hk; Ngong Ping, Lantau; dm under/over 18yr \$35/50, d \$150) This is a 10-minute walk from the bus stop near the Tian Tan Buddha statue (see p537) in Ngong Ping; ideal if you want to see sunrise at nearby Lantau Peak. From the bus stop, take the path to your left as you face the Tian Tan Buddha, pass the public toilets on your right and the Lantau Tea Garden on your left and follow the signs to the mazelike steps up to the hostel.

Bali Holiday Resort (Map pp524-5; ☎ 2982 4580; 8 Main St, Lamma; r \$250-380, apt \$400-500) On Lamma's Main St, this place has newish, well-equipped rooms that, for the money, are much more attractive than the cells in Chungking Mansions. The staff can also find rooms elsewhere on Lamma. Prices double on weekends.

Man Lai Wah Hotel (Map pp524-5; ☎ 2982 0220; hotel@my.netvigator.com; 2 Po Wah Garden, Yung Shue Wan, Lamma; r Mon-Fri \$300-350, Sat & Sun \$500) This nine-room guesthouse faces you as you get off the ferry and has friendly staff and similarly well-equipped rooms, some with balconies.

Warwick Hotel (Map pp524-5; ☎ 2981 0081; www.warwickhotel.com.hk; Cheung Chau Sports Rd, Tung Wan Beach, Cheung Chau; d with mountain/sea view Mon-Fri \$620/690, Sat & Sun \$890/990, ste from \$1500/1900) This hotel is butt ugly to look at, but you do get a wonderful vista across the sea to Lamma and Hong Kong Island.

There are a couple of hotels near Mui Wo, on Lantau, including the **Mui Wo Inn** (Map pp524-5; ☎ 2984 7225; fax 2984 1916; 14 Tung Wan Tau Rd, Silvermine Bay Beach, Lantau; r incl breakfast Sun-Fri \$350, Sat \$520), which is the last hotel on Silvermine Bay Beach; look for the ring of faux-classical statues in front. It's not exactly luxurious, but it does have sea views.

EATING

Hong Kong is becoming one of the world's great food cities and especially if you've been on the road in China for a while, you're going to love it. The options are endless, whether it be Cantonese, Chiu Chow (a regional cuisine of southern China), Northern, Shànghàinese or Sīchuān cuisine from China, or international fare as diverse as Italian and Asian fusion, basic Thai, fiery Indian curries, Malay laksas, scores of Japanese eateries and innovative vegetarian options.

Meals range from cheap and cheerful \$25 rice and noodle dishes to well into four figures, though to put it into context you'll find

the price of a decent-quality meal will be comparable with similar places in Běijīng or Shànghài, and usually cheaper than Sydney, London or New York.

Restaurants are everywhere, but if you can't decide exactly what you fancy it's a good idea to just head to a particular area and choose once you get there.

On Hong Kong Island, SoHo (see below) has easily the biggest range in an attractive setting, while Central, Lan Kwai Fong and Wan Chai are also good bets. In Kowloon, Lock Rd and Ashley Rd in Tsim Sha Tsui have a growing mix of trendy eateries and Knutsford Tce is also worth a look.

While in Hong Kong, you should try dim sum, uniquely Cantonese dishes served for breakfast, brunch or lunch. Dim sum delicacies are normally steamed and you pay by the number of baskets or dishes you order. In larger places these are stacked up on trolleys and wheeled around the dining room; just point at whatever catches your eye as the trolley rolls by. In smaller places you order from a menu card.

In Cantonese restaurants, tea is often served free of charge or at nominal cost and refilled indefinitely. When the teapot is empty and you want a refill, signal the waiter by taking the lid off the pot and resting it on the handle.

Hong Kong Island

The city's best range of food is on Hong Kong Island.

SOHO

Until 1994, the area now known as SoHo was a decaying neighbourhood of old-style apartments. Then the Central to Mid-Levels Escalator was built, making the steep walk up a nonissue, someone invented the name SoHo (ostensibly meaning South of Hollywood Rd) and everything began to change.

It has been a slow process, but one by one the old rice sellers, butchers, printers and shops selling hell money for the dead have slowly sold up or been priced out by rising rents. Enough remain that it still feels like a Chinese neighbourhood (for now), but these days SoHo is all about food and drink. The range of eateries is enormous and while we have recommended a few individually, it's well worth just lobbing up and wandering the streets until you find somewhere that fits your taste buds and your budget. This is especially pertinent when you consider that places tend to open and close in SoHo faster than brothel doors in Wan Chai.

Most restaurants in SoHo are not cheap, but with so many places and competition so fierce just about everywhere has a lunchtime special from about noon to 2.30pm. These usually involve two or three modestly sized courses for between \$75 and \$100, which is a big discount from evening prices. Evenings are also good, with happy-hour drinks usually going from about 4pm or 5pm until 8pm or 9pm.

CHINESE

Peking Shui Jiao Wong (Map pp530-1; ☎ 2527 0289; 118 Jaffe Rd, Wan Chai; dishes \$25-40; ☎ 7am-11pm Mon-Sat, noon-11pm Sun) The charismatic 'Dumpling King' serves probably the city's best (and cheapest) northern-style dumplings, *guō tiē* (pot stickers) and soup noodles.

Mak's Noodle (Map pp526-7; ☎ 2854 3810; 77 Wellington St, Central; dishes \$25-50; ☎ 11am-8pm) The wonton soup noodles (a major hangover cure) and beef brisket noodles have been drawing patrons to this low-key place for decades.

Java Rd Market & Cooked Food Centre (Map pp524-5; 2nd fl, cnr Java Rd & Shuhuk St, North Point; meals \$40-100; ☎ 5.30pm-12.30am) It's a little bit out of the way, but this place is a real Hong Kong experience. Located above the Java Rd wet market, it is essentially a giant *dai pai dong* (set of Chinese kitchens) dishing up all manner of cuisine to hundreds in a long hall, all washed down with cheap beer.

Yung Kee (Map pp526-7; ☎ 2522 1624; 32-40 Wellington St, Central; dishes \$55-150; ☎ 11am-11.30pm) Operating since 1942, the four-storey Yung Kee is Central's most famous Cantonese restaurant. The roast goose (\$100 for one or two people) and dim sum (served 2pm to 5.30pm Monday to Saturday and 11am to 5.30pm Sunday) are the signature dishes, though everything on the phonebook of a menu is pretty good.

Luk Yu Tea House (Map pp526-7; ☎ 2523 5464; 24-26 Stanley St, Central; rice & noodle dishes \$65-160, mains \$100-350; ☎ 7am-10pm) The Luk Yu is a Hong Kong classic, with distinctive old-style décor and divine dim sum (served between 7am

and 5pm) compensating for rather cavalier service.

City Hall Maxim's Palace (Map pp526-7; ☎ 2521 1303; 3rd fl, Lower Block, Hong Kong City Hall, 1 Edinburgh Pl; dim sum per person about \$100; ☎ 11am-3pm & 5.30-11.30pm Mon-Sat, 9am-11.30pm Sun) This is the full dim sum experience, in a huge kitschy hall with hundreds of locals, fantastic food and fine harbour views.

SoHo is home to several Chinese restaurants, but two Sichuan places stand out. **Shui Hu Ju** (Map pp526-7; ☎ 2869 6927; 68 Peel St, Central; meals per person from \$250; ☎ 6pm-midnight) serves delicious, chilli-packed Sichuan dishes in a delightful Chinese setting that makes you feel like you're dining in one of the neighbouring antiques shops; while **Sichuan Cuisine Dǎ Ping Huò** (Map pp526-7; ☎ 2559 1317, 9051 4496; lower ground fl, 49 Hollywood Rd, Central; meals per person \$250; ☎ 6pm-midnight) serves similarly fiery set meals in sleek surrounds, after which the owner-chef emerges to sing Chinese opera. Book ahead.

OTHER ASIAN

Prawn Noodle Shop (Map pp530-1; ☎ 2520 0268; Shop 4, Rialto Bldg, 2 Landale St, Wan Chai; meals \$25-40; ☎ 11.30am-7.30pm Mon-Sat) One of a string of cheap eateries in little Landale St, this place is famous for its soups, especially the Malay laksa. It's great value for lunch and the tight surrounds make it a good place to meet Hong Kongers.

Koh-i-Noor (Map pp526-7; ☎ 2877 9706; 1st fl, California Entertainment Bldg, 34-36 D'Aguilar St, Lan Kwai Fong; rice & biryani dishes \$25-98, mains \$44-130; ☎ noon-3pm & 6-11pm Mon-Sat, 6-11pm Sun) The north Indian cuisine here is as good as you'll find this side of Chungking Mansions and the weekday vegetarian/meat lunch buffet is a bargain at \$48/68.

Nha Trang (Map pp526-7; ☎ 2581 9992; 88 Wellington St, Central; mains \$30-60; ☎ noon-11pm) The regular Vietnamese diners in this stylish restaurant are testament to the quality and price of the food.

Lively little Wing Wah Lane, commonly known as Rat Alley, is home to restaurants serving Malay, Thai, Sri Lankan and Indian food. The outdoor eateries, including **Good Luck Thai** (Map pp526-7; ☎ 2877 2971; 13 Wing Wah Lane, Central; dishes \$35-120; ☎ 11am-1am Mon-Sat, 4pm-midnight Sun), are the perfect place to fill up before/while/after sinking a few beers in neighbouring Lan Kwai Fong (p557). It's easy to find; just look for the mega-coiffed touts.

WESTERN & MIDDLE EASTERN

La Kasbah (Map pp526-7; ☎ 2525 9493; Basement, 17 Hollywood Rd; starters from \$60, mains \$105-155; ☎ 6.30-11.30pm Mon-Sat) A kind of Frenchified Maghreb caravanerai, La Kasbah serves delightful North African dishes in a wonderfully escapist underground setting.

Peak Cafe Bar (Map pp526-7; ☎ 2140 6877; 9-13 Shelley St; meals \$100-180; ☎ 11am-2am Mon-Fri, 9am-2am Sat, 9am-midnight Sun) The fixtures and fittings of the Peak Cafe, established in 1947, have moved down the hill to this comfy restaurant and bar with excellent nosh, super cocktails and a cinemascope view of passing people on the escalator. The sandwiches (\$68 to \$98), pizza (\$88 to \$98) and lunchtime menu are good value.

Top Deck at the Jumbo (Map pp524-5; ☎ 2553 9111; Shum Wan Pier Dr, Wong Chuk Hang, Aberdeen; meals per person from \$250; ☎ 10.30am-11.30pm Mon-Sat, 7.30am-11.30pm Sun) This tourist institution is the larger of two floating restaurants moored in Aberdeen Harbour. But forget the old restaurant and head straight upstairs to Top Deck for fine seafood in a prime indoor/outdoor location. The Sunday unlimited seafood and champagne buffet (\$298; 11.30am to 2.30pm) is a great splurge. There's free transport for diners from the pier on Aberdeen Promenade (see p534).

Opia (Map pp530-1; ☎ 3196 9100; Jia Hotel, 1-5 Irving St, Causeway Bay; meals \$350-500; ☎ 6-11pm Mon-Sat) Superstylish Opia and its 'Australian freestyle' cuisine has gobbled up a remarkable number of awards in a short time, which accurately reflects both the food and décor. Not every dish works, but most totally do.

VEGETARIAN

Fragrance Vegetarian Fast Food (Map pp526-7; ☎ 2850 5866; 98 Wellington St, Central; set lunchbox \$20; ☎ 8am-9pm) On the pedestrian way opposite the escalator, the Fragrance does a brisk trade in veggie fast food. It's take away only; sit under the escalator.

Life (Map pp526-7; ☎ 2810 9777; 10 Shelley St, Central; starters & snacks \$35-75, mains \$60-110; ☎ 10am-midnight) Life has taken vegetarian Hong Kong by storm, serving vegan food and dishes free of gluten, wheat, onion and garlic over three floors. Recommended – veggie or not.

Fringe Club (Map pp526-7; ☎ 2521 7251; 2nd fl, Dairy Farm Bldg, 2 Lower Albert Rd, Central; set lunches \$76-98; ☎ noon-2pm Mon-Fri) Apart from entertainment, the Fringe serves popular vegetarian lunch-

time buffets upstairs in its Fotogalerie; there's seating on the roof terrace too.

QUICK EATS & SELF-CATERING

See the boxed text, below, for fast-food options.

city'super (Map pp526-7; ☎ 2234 7128; Shop 1041-1049, 1st fl, IFC Mall, 8 Finance St, Central; ☎ 10.30am-9.30pm) This enormous gourmet supermarket has ready-to-eat food such as sushi and salads, along with lots of fresh but pricey produce. There is another branch in Tsim Sha Tsui (Map p532; ☎ 2375 8222; Shop 3001, 3rd fl, Gateway Arcade, 25-27 Canton Rd, Harbour City; open 10am-10.30pm).

Bagel Factory (Map pp526-7; ☎ 2951 0755; 41-43 Elgin St, Mid-Levels; filled bagels \$16-30; ☎ 8am-8.45pm) The innovative filled bagels, good coffee and adjoining bakery make this a great lunch stop.

Kowloon

Kowloon doesn't have the range of Hong Kong Island, but there is still plenty of choice in both cuisine and budget, especially in Tsim Sha Tsui.

CHINESE

Happy Garden Noodle & Congee Kitchen (Map p532; ☎ 2377 2604; 72 Canton Rd, Tsim Sha Tsui; rice & noodle dishes \$22-110; ☎ 7am-1am) This top budget option has scores of rice, noodle and congee (rice porridge) dishes to choose from, including shrimp wonton noodles (\$28).

Wu Kong Shanghai Restaurant (Map p532; ☎ 2366 7244; Basement, Alpha House, 27-33 Nathan Rd, Tsim Sha Tsui; rice & noodle dishes \$35-88, mains \$60-280; ☎ 11.30am-midnight) This long-running place is known for its cold pigeon in wine sauce and crispy fried eels, but also serves dim sum and a vast array of other dishes.

Spring Deer (Map p532; ☎ 2366 4012; 1st fl, 42 Mody Rd, Tsim Sha Tsui; meals per person from \$150; ☎ noon-3pm

& 6-11pm) Hong Kong's most famous Peking duck is served here (\$280 for the whole bird), but the service can be about as welcoming as a Beijing winter, c 1967.

Wan Loong Court (Map p532; ☎ 2734 3722; Lower level 2, Kowloon Hotel Hong Kong, 19-21 Nathan Rd, Tsim Sha Tsui; meals per person from \$300; ☎ 11am-3pm & 6-11.30pm Mon-Fri, 11am-11pm Sat & Sun) The wonderful modern Cantonese food here is complemented by a famous selection of Chinese desserts.

INDIAN

Gaylord (Map p532; ☎ 2376 1001; 1st fl, Ashley Centre, 23-25 Ashley Rd, Tsim Sha Tsui; mains \$56-136, lunch buffets \$88; ☎ noon-3pm & 6-11pm) Classy service and live Indian music every night complement the excellent rogan josh, dhal and plenty of vegetarian choices in Hong Kong's oldest Indian restaurant.

Apart from cheap hotels, Chungking Mansions is packed with cheap Indian and Pakistani restaurants (called messes). Lunch or dinner will cost from about \$50; for \$100 you'll get a blowout, though if you want a drink you'll usually have to BYO. We've listed a few reliable places here, though you could just as happily follow your nose or, better, ask the locals what their favourite is.

Islamabad Club (Map p532; ☎ 2721 5362; Flat C4, 4th fl, C Block, Chungking Mansions, 36-44 Nathan Rd, Tsim Sha Tsui; ☎ noon-3.30pm & 6-10.30pm) This place serves Indian and Pakistani halal food; there's no alcohol.

Swagat Restaurant (Map p532; ☎ 2722 5350; Flat C3-4, 1st fl, C Block, Chungking Mansions, 36-44 Nathan Rd, Tsim Sha Tsui; ☎ noon-10.30pm) The only mess with a liquor licence, Swagat is a bit more expensive but its beer deals (five bottles for \$69 when we visited) make it a good place to start an evening.

Taj Mahal Club (Map p532; ☎ 2722 5454; 2nd fl, B Block; ☎ 11am-3pm & 5.30-11.30pm) Like your curry untamed? Try anything Madras.

BUDGET BITES

Hong Kongers love their fast food. And while you can deal with a Mac-attack in one of more than 200 Golden Arches outlets, you can do that anywhere so why not check out one of these (relatively) exotic chains instead. They are all pretty cheap – about \$20 to \$60 a meal – and branches are everywhere, but especially in large shopping malls and near MTR stations.

Genki Sushi (www.genkisushi.com.sg) Cheap but tasty Japanese fare.

Maxim's (www.maxims.com.hk) A huge range of Canto dishes.

Mix (www.mix-world.com) Excellent smoothies, wraps, salads and free internet.

Olivers (www.olivers-supersandwiches.com) Sandwiches and salads.

Steak Expert (www.steakexpert.com.hk) Cheap meat; watch out for the pepper sauce.

OTHER ASIAN

▣ **Katiga Street** (Map pp524-5; ☎ 2764 6436; Sung Oi Bldg, 37 Sung Kit St, Hung Hom; meals from \$35; ☎ 11.30am-11.30pm) Known to expats as Japan St, the ground-floor area under the Sung Oi building is home to several lively and cheap Japanese premises all working from the same kitchen. It's a lot of fun, but hard to find. Take a taxi (about \$25 from Tsim Sha Tsui) and ask for Bailey St, Hung Hom, then walk down to the Katiga Japanese Food Shop, through that restaurant and take a ticket out the back; they'll take you to the next spare table.

☎ **Sushi One** (Map p532; ☎ 2155 0633; 23 Ashley Rd, Tsim Sha Tsui; meals \$75-200; ☎ noon-midnight) This is a very trendy new sushi place with a mesmerising fish-tank wall.

WESTERN & MIDDLE EASTERN

☎ **Merhaba** (Map p532; ☎ 2367 2263; 12 Knutsford Tce; meze & starters \$40-70, mains \$100-180; ☎ 4pm-2am Mon-Sat, to 1am Sun) Merhaba is one of the few restaurants on ultracompetitive Knutsford Tce that is consistently busy. The meze is good, and Sunday is happy hour all night.

☎ **Wildfire** (Map p532; ☎ 3690 1598; 2 Knutsford Tce, Tsim Sha Tsui; pizzas \$125, kebabs \$168; ☎ noon-3pm & 6pm-1am) Another safe and popular bet on Knutsford Tce, Wildfire has excellent pizzas and enough skewered meat to satisfy a lion.

VEGETARIAN

☎ **Branto Pure Vegetarian Indian Food** (Map p532; ☎ 2366 8171; 1st fl, 9 Lock Rd; dishes \$30-59; ☎ 11am-3pm & 6-11pm) This cheap but excellent place serves south Indian dishes; try the *dosa* (crispy crepe from south India) with dipping sauces.

QUICK EATS & SELF-CATERING

See the boxed text, p547, for fast-food options.

☎ **Wellcome** (Map p532; ☎ 2369 6451; 28 Hankow Rd, Tsim Sha Tsui; ☎ 8am-10pm) Well-stocked branch of the large supermarket chain.

☎ **Big John's Café** (Map p532; ☎ 2739 6035; 17 Lock Rd, Tsim Sha Tsui; meals \$20-35; ☎ 8am-7.30pm Mon-Sat) This tiny place is great for a cheap and hearty breakfast or lunch, either Chinese or Western.

Outlying Islands

Eating options are improving on the Outlying Islands. Lamma boasts the biggest range in Yung Shue Wan (cafés, seafood and others) and Sok Kwu Wan (Chinese seafood restaurants). There are also some decent choices on

Lantau, Cheung Chau and, to a lesser extent, Peng Chau. Combined with the journey and the relatively 'rural' settings, these places make fun half-day trips (or vaguely memorable day trips if you begin imbibing at lunchtime).

☎ **Bookworm Café** (Map pp524-5; ☎ 2982 4838; 79 Main St, Yung Shue Wan, Lamma; breakfasts \$25-60, dishes \$40-80; ☎ 10am-9pm Mon-Fri, 9am-10pm Sat, 9am-9pm Sun) This long-running vegetarian café-restaurant serves fantastic fruit juices, organic wine and other fair fare, and doubles as a second-hand bookshop with free wi-fi.

☎ **Stoep Restaurant** (Map pp524-5; ☎ 2980 2699; 32 Lower Cheung Sha Village, Lantau; mains \$45-85; ☎ 11am-10pm Tue-Sun) Right on quiet Lower Cheung Sha Beach, the Stoep serves up meat, fish and South African *braai* (barbecue; \$80 to \$150) and a chilled atmosphere.

☎ **Hong Kee** (Map pp524-5; ☎ 2981 9916; 11a Pak She Praya Rd, Cheung Chau; dishes \$45-160; ☎ 10.30am-10.30pm) The excellent seafood here makes this the top spot on the Cheung Chau waterfront; try the lobster in black bean sauce. From the pier, head left (north) about 150m.

☎ **Bahçe Turkish Restaurant** (Map pp524-5; ☎ 2984 0222; Shop 19, ground fl, Mui Wo Centre, 3 Ngan Wan Rd, Mui Wo, Lantau; meals from about \$70; ☎ 11.30am-10.30pm Mon-Fri, 10am-10.30pm Sat & Sun) This small Turkish place is recommended for its delicious *sigara böreği* (filo parcels filled with cheese) and *yaparak dolması* (stuffed vine leaves).

☎ **Lamma Hilton Shum Kee Seafood Restaurant** (Map pp524-5; ☎ 2982 8241; 26 First St, Sok Kwu Wan; meals per person \$200; ☎ 10.30am-11.30pm) No hotel rooms here, but there's a huge array of delicious seafood in a village waterside setting. Walk here from Yung Shue Wan and make a day of it.

DRINKING Cafés & Teahouses

The last few years have seen a miniature explosion of cafés – both local and international – that serve a wide range of coffees. Tea and teahouses (see p99), of course, have been a major component of Chinese culture since time immemorial.

☎ **TW Café** (Map pp526-7; ☎ 2544 2237; Ground fl, 2-10 Lyndhurst Tce, Central; afternoon tea/coffee \$35; ☎ 8am-8pm) This tiny café offers more than 20 types of coffee and light snacks.

☎ **Moon Garden Tea House** (Map pp530-1; ☎ 2882 6878; 5 Hoi Ping Rd, Causeway Bay; tea & snacks \$120; ☎ noon-midnight) Choose from many brews here, then

(Continued from page 548)

lose an afternoon perusing tea books, admiring antiques (all for sale) and taking refills from the heated pot beside your table.

Pubs & Bars

Lan Kwai Fong in Central is the best area for bars, attracting everyone from expat and Chinese suits to visiting tourists. There are a stack of bars in the Fong, so just turn up – and don't forget your wallet. Further up the hill, SoHo (p545) has a growing number of bars but more restaurants; it's easily accessed by the Mid-Levels Escalator. In general, pubs and bars in Wan Chai are cheaper and more relaxed; those in Tsim Sha Tsui in Kowloon attract more locals.

It's worth seeking out happy hours, when most pubs, bars and some clubs offer discounts on drinks. Happy hour is usually in the late afternoon or early evening – 4pm to 8pm, say – but times vary from place to place.

HONG KONG ISLAND

1/5 (Map pp526-7; ☎ 2520 2515; 9 Star St, Wan Chai; ☎ 6pm-late Mon-Fri, 8pm-3am Sat) This sophisticated and very stylish lounge bar is a hit with Hong Kong's glamour crowd, which soaks up the late-st cocktails from the two-storey-high bar.

☎ **Barco** (Map pp526-7; ☎ 2857 4478; 42 Staunton St, Central; ☎ 3pm-late) One of our favourite SoHo bars, Barco has great staff, is small enough that it never feels empty and attracts a cool mix of locals and expats. Happy hour is 4pm to 8pm.

☎ **Club 71** (Map pp526-7; ☎ 2858 7071; Basement, 67 Hollywood Rd, Central; ☎ 3pm-2am Mon-Sat, 6pm-1am Sun) When Club 64, the counter culture capital of Lan Kwai Fong, was forced to close after rents spiralled, some of the owners relocated to this quiet alley in burgeoning NoHo. Club 71, named after the huge 1 July 2003 protest march, is once again one of the best drinking spots for nonposers. It's accessed via a small footpath off either Peel St or Aberdeen St. Happy hour is 3pm to 9pm.

☎ **Bohemian Lounge** (Map pp526-7; ☎ 2526 6099; 3-5 Old Bailey St, Central; ☎ 4.30pm-late) Suitably Bohemian décor, regular tarot readings and live jazz Thursday to Saturday nights (\$120 cover) make this a fun place to hang out.

Also recommended:

☎ **Mes Amis** (Map pp530-1; ☎ 2527 6680; cnr Lockhart & Luard Rds, Wan Chai; ☎ noon-2am Sun-Thu, to 6am Fri & Sat) One of Wan Chai's busiest bars with nary a bare breast to be seen. Long happy hours.

☎ **Nzingha Lounge** (Map pp526-7; ☎ 2522 0544; 48 Peel St, Central; ☎ noon-late Mon-Sat) African bar and restaurant with regular events. It's nonsmoking.

KOWLOON

☎ **Felix** (Map p532; ☎ 2315 3188; 28th fl, Peninsula Hong Kong, Salisbury Rd, Tsim Sha Tsui; ☎ 6pm-2am) Swanky Felix is where to head for amazing views and expensive drinks. Try coming during sunset, then ducking over to Chungking Mansions for a curry for the two-ends-of-the-Hong-Kong-spectrum night out.

☎ **Delaney's** (Map p532; ☎ 2301 3980; Basement, Mary Bldg, 71-77 Peking Rd, Tsim Sha Tsui; ☎ 8am-3am) This popular Irish pub has the full Irish theme, including good craic most of the time. It's a good choice for watching sports. Happy hour is 5pm to 9pm.

☎ **Sky Lounge** (Map p532; ☎ 2369 1111; 18th fl, Sheraton Hong Kong Hotel & Towers, 20 Nathan Rd, Tsim Sha Tsui; ☎ 4pm-1am Mon-Fri, 2pm-2am Sat & Sun) It may at first glance look like a departure lounge but, well, the view... Don't take flight: sit down in a scoop chair and sip a drink.

ENTERTAINMENT

To find out what's on, pick up a copy of **HK Magazine** (www.asia-city.com.hk), a comprehensive entertainment listings magazine. It's free, appears on Friday and can be found at restaurants, bars, shops and hotels throughout the territory. Also worth a look is the freebie **bc magazine** (www.bcmagazine.net), which has more complete listings.

Bookings for most cultural events can be made by telephoning **Urbtix** (☎ 2734 9009; www.urbtix.gov.hk; ☎ 10am-8pm). You can also book tickets for many films and concerts and a great variety of cultural events through **Cityline** (☎ 2317 6666; www.cityline.com.hk).

Live Music

☎ **Gecko Lounge** (Map pp526-7; ☎ 2537 4680; www.gecko.com; Lower ground fl, 15-19 Hollywood Rd; ☎ 4pm-2am Mon-Thu, to 4am Fri & Sat) Entered from narrow Ezra's Lane off Cochrane St or Pottinger St, Gecko is an intimate lounge that attracts a fun crowd, especially for the live jazz sessions Tuesday to Thursday. It also has a great wine list. Happy hour is 4pm to 10pm.

☎ **Ned Kelly's Last Stand** (Map p532; ☎ 2376 0562; 11a Ashley Rd, Tsim Sha Tsui; ☎ 11.30am-2am) This Aussie pub has jazz nightly 9.30pm till 1am, and food such as meat pies and a mega all-day breakfast (\$88). Happy hour is 11.30am to 9pm.

(Continued on page 557)

Wanch (Map pp530-1; ☎ 2861 1621; 54 Jaffe Rd; ☎ 4pm-2am) This small venue has live music (mostly rock and folk) seven nights a week from 9pm (10pm on Friday and Saturday), with the occasional solo guitarist thrown in. Happy hour is 4pm to 9pm.

Nightclubs

Yumla (Map pp526-7; ☎ 2147 2383; www.yumla.com; Lower Basement, 79 Wyndham St, Central; ☎ 5pm-2am Mon-Thu, 5pm-4am Fri & Sat, 7pm-2am Sun) This is probably the hippest and least pretentious club in Hong Kong, with a cool crowd and excellent tunes. Look for the murals and enter from Pottinger St.

Drop (Map pp526-7; ☎ 2543 8856; Basement, On Lok Mansion, 39-43 Hollywood Rd; ☎ 7pm-late Mon-Fri, 10pm-5am Sat) This long-time favourite is not as hip as it has been. Still worth a look, but there's heavy attitude on the door. Happy hour is 7pm to 10pm Monday to Friday.

Dusk till Dawn (Map pp530-1; ☎ 2528 4689; Ground fl, 68-74 Jaffe Rd, Wan Chai; ☎ noon-6am Mon-Sat, 3pm-5am Sun) This fun place is one of Wan Chai's more reliable nightclubs, and even when the dance floor is packed the atmosphere remains friendly rather than sleazy. Happy hour is 5pm to 11pm.

Bahama Mama's Caribbean Bar (Map p532; ☎ 2368 2121; 4-5 Knutsford Tce, Tsim Sha Tsui; ☎ 5pm-late Mon-Sat, 6pm-2am Sun) On the Knutsford Tce strip, Bahama Mama's has an 'island' feel and attracts a youngish crowd. The weekend usually sees DJs playing to a tightly packed dance floor. Happy hour is 5pm to 9pm and mid-night to closing Monday to Saturday, all day Sunday.

Club 97 (Map pp526-7; ☎ 2186 1897; Ground fl, Cosmo Bldg, 9-11 Lan Kwai Fong; ☎ 6pm-late Mon-Fri, 8pm-4am Sat & Sun) This schmooze lounge bar has a 'members only' policy to turn away the badly dressed – so make an effort. Happy hour on Friday (6pm to 9pm) is a gay event. On weekends, it kicks after 1am.

Gay & Lesbian Venues

Along with the gay and lesbian clubs and bars listed here, a few straight and mixed clubs, such as Club 97 (above), have gay happy hours or evenings. For the latest G&L news, pick up the free *GMagazine*.

Works (Map pp526-7; ☎ 2868 6102; 1st fl, 30-32 Wyndham St; weekend cover \$60-100; ☎ 7pm-2am) Propaganda's sister club, this is a popular starting point for an evening on the town.

Propaganda (Map pp526-7; ☎ 2868 1316; Lower ground fl, 1 Hollywood Rd; weekend cover \$100; ☎ 9pm-late Mon-Sat) Most gays make it to Hong Kong's premier gay dance club sooner or later, handing over their dough to legendary door bitch Ricardo. The weekend cover charge gets you into Works on Friday. Enter from Ezra's Lane, which runs between Pottinger and Cochrane Sts.

SHOPPING

Hong Kong is a shopping Mecca where you can find just about anything your heart desires. Finding great deals on computer equipment, cameras and watches (genuine and fake) is not difficult, but for many other items Hong Kong is not the bargain spot it once was.

Central (Map pp526-7) and Causeway Bay (Map pp530-1) are the main shopping districts on Hong Kong Island. Once Hong Kong Island's glitziest shopping mall, the vast **Pacific Place** (Map pp526-7; ☎ 2844 8988; 88 Queensway, Admiralty; ☎ 10.30am-11pm) now battles it out with the ultraschmick **IFC Mall** (Map pp526-7; ☎ 2295 3308; www.ifc.com.hk; 1 Harbour View St) in Central.

Shopping in Kowloon is a bizarre mixture of the down-at-heel and the glamorous; you can find just about anything – especially in Tsim Sha Tsui (Map p532) – and you don't even have to look very hard. If you prefer everything under one roof, head for **Harbour City** (Map p532; ☎ 2118 8666; Canton Rd, Tsim Sha Tsui), an enormous shopping centre with 700 shops in four zones.

The HKTb's (p522) free *Guide to Quality Shops and Restaurants* might be useful if you're looking for a specific item.

Antiques & Curios

For antiques and curios Hollywood Rd (Map pp526-7) should be your first stop, while cheaper Cat St (Map pp526-7) specialises in younger (ie repro) items such as old postcards and Mao paraphernalia.

Arch Angel Antiques (Map pp526-7; ☎ 2851 6848; 53-55 Hollywood Rd, Central; ☎ 9.30am-6.30pm) This well-respected shop has knowledgeable staff and a wide selection of antiques and curios, including many at affordable prices. Everything is authenticated.

Curio Alley (Map p532; Tsim Sha Tsui; ☎ 10am-7pm) This alley between Lock and Hankow Rds is full of carvings, fans, chops (stamps) and other Chinese bric-a-brac that's good for cheap gifts.

Clothing

For boutique brands Hong Kong's malls are the go. But far from being the sole preserve of millionaires, malls such as Pacific Place, IFC Mall and Harbour City also have a good range of mid-priced shops where you should be able to find clothes you'll enjoy wearing, for less than you'd pay at home.

For cheaper attire, Jardine's Bazaar (Map pp530-1) in Causeway Bay isn't bad, while several sample shops and places to pick up cheap jeans are in nearby Lee Garden Rd (Map pp530-1), three streets west. Johnston Rd (Map pp530-1) in Wan Chai also has plenty of midpriced and budget clothing outlets.

In Kowloon, the Temple St night market (p535) has the cheapest clothes. For mid-priced items, check out the eastern end of Granville Rd, Austin Ave and Chatham Rd South (Map p532), in Tsim Sha Tsui.

Pacific Custom Tailors (Map pp526-7; ☎ 2845 5377; Shop 110, 1st fl, Pacific Place, 88 Queensway, Admiralty; ☎ 9.30am-8pm Mon-Sat) One of the best choices for bespoke clothing.

Shanghai Tang (Map pp526-7; ☎ 2525 7333; 12 Pedder St, Central; ☎ 10am-8pm Mon-Sat, 11am-7pm Sun) If you fancy a very sexy cheongsam, this is the place. It's also great for gifts and accessories.

Computer Equipment

Hong Kong has some of the lowest prices on earth for laptops, desktops, external drives and absolutely everything else tech-related you can imagine. Just head to one of these four centres and let your head start spinning.

In Square (Map pp530-1; 10th-12th fl, Windsor House, 311 Gloucester Rd, Causeway Bay; ☎ 11am-9pm) This is Causeway Bay's best choice.

Mong Kok Computer Centre (8-8a Nelson St, Mong Kok; ☎ 1-10pm) This place is the cheapest of the lot, but language can be difficult.

Star Computer City (Map p532; 2nd fl, Star House, 3 Salisbury Rd, Tsim Sha Tsui; ☎ 10am-8pm) It's conveniently near to the Star Ferry Pier in Tsim Sha Tsui, but it *only* has two dozen shops!

Wan Chai Computer Centre (Map pp530-1; 1st fl, South Centre, 130-138 Hennessy Rd, Wan Chai; ☎ 10am-8pm Mon-Sat) A warren of dozens of shops just outside Wan Chai MTR; try here first.

Department Stores & Emporiums

Hong Kong's department stores are not the cheapest places to shop, but they're handy if you're in a hurry.

Lane Crawford (Map pp526-7; ☎ 2118 3388; Level 3, IFC Mall, 8 Finance St, Central; ☎ 10am-9pm) This newly opened HQ of Hong Kong's original Western-style department store is very posh.

Wing On (Map pp526-7; ☎ 2852 1888; 211 Des Voeux Rd Central, Sheung Wan; ☎ 10am-7.30pm) 'Forever Peaceful' has a big range of midprice goods and brands.

Yue Hwa Chinese Products Emporium (Map p532; ☎ 2384 0084; 301-309 Nathan Rd, Yau Ma Tei; ☎ 10am-10pm) This enormous place has seven floors of ceramics, furniture, souvenirs, clothing and traditional medicines.

Music

At the Temple St night market (p535) pirate CDs and DVDs are a 'steal'. For the genuine article, try the following:

HMV (Map pp526-7; ☎ 2739 0268; 1st fl, Central Bldg, 1-3 Pedder St, Central; ☎ 9am-10pm) Offers Hong Kong's largest choice of (legitimate) CDs and DVDs.

Hong Kong Records (Map pp526-7; ☎ 2845 7088; Shop 253, 2nd fl, Pacific Place, 88 Queensway, Admiralty; ☎ 10am-8.30pm Mon-Thu, to 9pm Fri-Sun) The hipsters hanging out here will tell you this place stocks some cool sounds among its wide selection of music, including Chinese traditional, jazz and classical.

Photographic Equipment

There are some fantastic camera stores in Hong Kong, but most are not on Nathan Rd. You might pay a bit more at the places listed here, but unlike at 99% of the stores in Tsim Sha Tsui you won't get ripped off.

Photo Scientific (Map pp526-7; ☎ 2525 0550; 6 Stanley St, Central; ☎ 9am-7pm Mon-Sat) Professional photographers come here to shop and we have enjoyed years of good service and fair prices. There is a full range of digital and nondigital cameras and film, all with fixed prices.

Hing Lee Camera Company (Map pp526-7; ☎ 2544 7593; 25 Lyndhurst Tce, Central; ☎ 9.30am-7pm Mon-Sat, 11am-5pm Sun) Hing Lee has a wide range of new and second-hand SLR and 35mm camera bodies and lenses, and they do trade-ins.

Onestop Photo Company (Map p532; ☎ 2723 4668; Shop 2, ground fl, Champagne Ct, 18 Kimberley Rd, Tsim Sha Tsui; ☎ 10.30am-8.30pm) Unusually for Tsim Sha Tsui, this camera shop has prices marked, but bargain anyway.

Sporting Goods

Giga Sports (Map pp526-7; ☎ 2524 6992; Shop 220, 2nd fl, Pacific Place, 88 Queensway, Admiralty; ☎ 10.30am-9.30pm)

This gigantic store has a wide range of sports equipment, clothing and footwear.

KS Ahluwalia & Sons (Map p532; ☎ 2368 8334; 8c Hankow Rd, Tsim Sha Tsui; ☎ 10am-7.45pm Mon-Sat, to 5pm Sun) This long-established store is full of golf, cricket and tennis gear. No prices are marked, so haggle away. Cash only.

Ocean Sky Divers (Map p532; ☎ 2366 3738; www.oceanskydiver.com; 1st fl, 17-19 Lock Rd, Tsim Sha Tsui; ☎ 10.30am-9pm) No parachutes here, but there's a full range of diving and snorkelling gear.

GETTING THERE & AWAY

Air

More than 60 airlines operate between Hong Kong International Airport and about 140 destinations worldwide. Competition keeps fares relatively low, and Hong Kong is a great place to find discounted tickets. For an idea of what fares are available when you're there, look at the classified section of the *South China Morning Post*. To see which airlines fly to Hong Kong and everything you could want to know about Hong Kong International Airport, check out www.hongkongairport.com.

There are few bargain airfares between Hong Kong and China as the government regulates the prices. Depending on the season, seats can be hard to book due to the enormous volume of business travellers and Chinese tourists, so book well in advance. Some normal return fares valid for a year from Hong Kong are: Beijing \$2300; Chéngdū \$2500; Guǎngzhōu \$600; Kūnmíng \$2200; and Shànghǎi \$1900. One-way fares are about half the return price.

You should be able to do better than that, however, on both scheduled flights and charters, especially in summer. To Běijīng, China Southern Airlines has a fixed return ticket for as low as \$1600. An open ticket valid for 30 days on the same airline is \$2200.

However, if you're prepared to travel a couple of hours to Guǎngzhōu or Shēnzhèn, in nearby Guǎngdōng province, then you can find flights for less than half the prices from Hong Kong. Shēnzhèn airport (see p614), in particular, is easily and cheaply reached by bus from Hong Kong and has flights to just about everywhere in China. For an idea of price, check out www.elong.net.

AIRLINES

Airline offices in Hong Kong:

British Airways (BA; Map pp526-7; ☎ 2822 9000; 24th fl, Jardine House, 1 Connaught Place, Central)

Cathay Pacific (CX; Map p532; ☎ 2747 1888; 10th fl, Peninsula Office Tower, 18 Middle Rd, Tsim Sha Tsui)

China Airlines (CI; Map pp526-7; ☎ 2868 2299; Suite 901-907, 9th fl, One Pacific Pl, 88 Queensway, Admiralty)

China Southern/China Eastern Airlines (CZ/MU; Map pp526-7; ☎ 2861 0322; 4th fl, CNAC Group Bldg, 10 Queen's Rd Central)

Dragonair (KA; Map pp526-7; ☎ 3193 3888; 46th fl, Cosco Tower, 183 Queen's Rd Central)

Northwest Airlines (NW; Map pp526-7; ☎ 2810 4288; 19th fl, Cosco Tower, 183 Queen's Rd Central)

Qantas Airways (QF; Map pp526-7; ☎ 2822 9000; 24th fl, Jardine House, 1 Connaught Pl, Central)

Singapore Airlines (SQ; Map pp526-7; ☎ 2520 2233; 17th fl, United Centre, 95 Queensway, Admiralty)

United Airlines (UA; Map pp526-7; ☎ 2810 4888; 29th fl, Gloucester Tower, the Landmark, 11 Pedder St, Central)

Virgin Atlantic Airways (VS; Map pp526-7; ☎ 2532 3030; 8th fl, Alexandra House, 16-20 Chater Rd, Central)

DEPARTURE TAX

Hong Kong's airport departure tax – \$120 for everyone over the age of 12 – is always included in the price of the ticket. Those travelling to Macau by helicopter (see p583) must pay the same amount.

However, if you arrive and depart the same day you can get a refund. Once you've checked in at the airport but before passing immigration, take your ticket/receipt and departing boarding pass to the Civil Aviation Department counter on level 7, Departure Hall, Aisle D and make your claim.

Boat

Regularly scheduled ferries link the **China ferry terminal** (Map p532; Canton Rd, Tsim Sha Tsui) in Kowloon and/or the **Macau ferry pier** (Map pp526-7; 200 Connaught Rd, Sheung Wan) on Hong Kong Island with a string of towns and cities located on the Pearl River delta – but not central Guǎngzhōu or Shēnzhèn. For sea-transport information to and from Macau, see p583.

High-speed ferries run by **TurboJet** (☎ 2921 6688; www.turbojet.com.hk) leave the China ferry terminal for Fúyǒng ferry terminal (Shēnzhèn airport) six to eight times a day between 7.30am and 5.30pm (\$189, 40 minutes). There are five or six return sailings from Fúyǒng (\$171) starting at 9am with the last at 5pm. One boat a day leaves the Macau ferry pier at 8am. Return sailings are at 5.50pm, 7pm and 8.30pm.

HKIA TO CHINA THE FAST WAY

With domestic airfares much cheaper from airports elsewhere in the Pearl River Delta, a growing number of travellers are heading straight from Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA) to airports in Macau, Shēnzhèn and Guǎngzhōu.

The new **TurboJet Sea Express** (☎ 2859 3333; www.turbojetseexpress.com.hk) links HKIA to Shēnzhèn airport (\$230, 40 minutes) seven or eight times daily between 10am and 9.15pm. It also runs to Macau (see p583). In addition, buses run by **CTS Express Coach** (☎ 2261 2472), **Eternal East Cross Border Coach** (☎ 2261 0176) and **Gogobus** (☎ 2261 0886; www.gogobus.com) link HKIA with many points in southern China, including Dǒngguǎn (\$100), Fóshān (\$130 to \$150), Guǎngzhōu (\$100) and Shēnzhèn (\$100).

CMSE Passenger Transport (☎ 2858 0909; day/night sailing \$110/130) has 13 services daily between Hong Kong and Shékǒu (one hour), 20km west of Shēnzhèn and efficiently linked to the town centre. Seven of these leave from the China ferry terminal (between 7.45am and 7pm), while the rest go from the Macau ferry pier (9am to 9pm). Sailings from Shékǒu are between 7.45am and 9.30pm.

Zhūhǎi can also be reached from Hong Kong on seven ferries a day from the China ferry terminal (\$177, 70 minutes, from 7.30am to 5.30pm) and eight from the Macau ferry pier (8.40am to 9.30pm) on ferries operated by the **Chu Kong Passenger Transportation Co** (☎ 2858 3876; www.ckspp.com.hk). The 14 return sailings from Zhūhǎi run between 8am and 9.30pm.

Chu Kong also has ferries from the China ferry terminal to a number of other ports in southern Guǎngdōng province, including: Húmén (Tàipíng; \$167, 90 minutes, 9am, 1.45pm and 5.30pm); Kǎipíng (\$192, four hours, 8.30am); Shūndé (\$175, 110 minutes, six sailings between 7.30am and 6pm); Zhōngshān (\$196, 90 minutes, nine sailings from 8am to 8pm); and Zhàoqíng (\$205, 3¼ hours, 8.15am).

Hong Kong levies a \$19 departure tax that is normally included in the ticket price. Trips from China are usually \$19 cheaper.

Bus

You can reach virtually any major destination in Guǎngdōng province by bus from Hong Kong. With KCR East Rail services so fast and cheap, however, few buses call on Shēnzhèn proper, though most of the big hotels run minivans to and from that destination for \$100 one way. One-way fares from Hong Kong include: Chángshā (\$280); Dǒngguǎn (\$70 to \$100); Fóshān (\$100); Guǎngzhōu

(\$80 to \$100); Shàntóu (\$180); Shēnzhèn airport (\$110); Xiàmén (\$350); and Zhōngshān (\$100 to \$130).

Buses are run by a multitude of companies and depart from locations around the territory; the following is only a sampling. Schedules vary enormously according to carrier and place, but buses leave frequently throughout the day. For buses from the airport to China, see above.

CTS Express Coach (☎ 2365 0118; <http://ctsbus.hkcts.com>) buses depart from locations throughout Hong Kong, including the China Travel Service **main branch** (Map pp526-7; ☎ 2853 3888; 78-83 Connaught Rd Central) and the **CTS Wan Chai branch** (Map pp530-1; ☎ 2832 3888; Southern Centre, 130-138 Hennessy Rd) on Hong Kong Island and from just south of the **CTS Mong Kok branch** (Map p532; ☎ 2789 5888; 62-72 Sai Yee St) in Kowloon.

Motor Transport Company of Guangdong & Hong Kong (GDHK; ☎ 2317 7900; www.gdhkmtc.com) buses bound for destinations throughout Guǎngdōng leave from the **Cross-Border Coach Terminus** (Map p532; ☎ 2317 7900; Ground fl, Hong Kong Scout Centre, 8 Austin Rd, Tsim Sha Tsui; ☎ 6.30am-7pm), which is entered from Scout Path.

Trans-Island Limousine Service (☎ 3193 9333; www.trans-island.com.hk) cars and vans leave from Portland St opposite the Hotel Concourse Hong Kong, north of Mong Kok.

Train

Reaching Shēnzhèn by train is a breeze. Board the KCR East Rail train at Hung Hom in Kowloon (\$66/33 in 1st/2nd class, 35 minutes) or any KCR East Rail station along the way, and ride it to the China border crossing at Lo Wu. From Shēnzhèn you can take a local train or bus to Guǎngzhōu and beyond.

The most comfortable way to reach Guǎngzhōu is via the Kowloon–Guǎngzhōu express train, which covers the 182km route in

approximately 1¼ hours. Trains leave Hung Hom station for Guǎngzhōu East 12 times a day between 7.30am and 7.15pm, returning between 8.35am and 9.23pm. One-way tickets cost \$230/190 in 1st/2nd class for adults and \$115/95 for children under nine.

There are also direct rail links between Hung Hom and both Shànghǎi and Běijīng. Trains to Běijīng (hard/soft sleeper \$574/934, 24 hours) depart on alternate days at 3pm and travel via Guǎngzhōu East, Chángshā and Wūhàn, arriving at 3.18pm the next day. Trains to Shànghǎi (hard/soft sleeper \$508/825, 25 hours) also depart on alternate days at 3pm and pass through Guǎngzhōu East and Hángzhōu East stations, arriving at 4.38pm the next day.

There is one daily departure to Zhàoqīng (adult/child \$235/117.50) via Dōngguǎn, Guǎngzhōu East and Fóshān at 2.20pm, arriving in Zhàoqīng at 6.30pm. The train departs Zhàoqīng at 9.37am, reaching Hung Hom at 1.38pm.

Immigration formalities at Hung Hom are completed before boarding; you won't get on the train without a visa for China. Passengers are required to arrive at the station 45 minutes before departure. One-way and return tickets can be booked in advance at CTS (p522) and KCR East Rail stations in Hung Hom, Mong Kok, Kowloon Tong and Sha Tin. Tickets booked with a credit card by phone (☎ 2947 7888) must be collected at least one hour before departure. Get the latest prices and schedules from the KCRC's excellent website www.kcrc.com.

GETTING AROUND

Hong Kong's public transport system is the envy of cities the world over. Fast, easy to navigate, relatively inexpensive and ridiculously easy with the Octopus card payment system. From the moment you arrive you'll be wondering why more cities can't do PT like Hong Kong.

To/From the Airport

The Airport Express line of the MTR is the fastest, easiest and consequently the most expensive public route to/from **Hong Kong International Airport** (HKIA; ☎ 2181 0000; www.hkairport.com) at Chek Lap Kok off the northern coast of Lantau. A gaggle of much cheaper buses connects it with Lantau, the New Territories, Kowloon and even Hong Kong Island.

However, the **Airport Express** (☎ 2881 8888; www.mtr.com.hk) is so easy it's hard to resist. Trains stop literally inside the departures level of the airport, and most airlines allow Airport Express passengers to check in at the Central or Kowloon stations (offices open 5.30am to 12.30am) many hours ahead of departure. Boarding passes are issued, meaning you can forget your luggage, spend the day sightseeing and head straight to immigration once you get to the airport. Trains depart from Hong Kong station (Map pp526–7) in Central every 12 minutes from 5.54am to 1.15am daily, calling at Kowloon station in Jordan and Tsing Yi Island en route. The journey from Central/Kowloon/Tsing Yi takes 23/20/12 minutes and costs \$100/90/60, with children three to 11 and seniors over 65 half price. Adult return fares, valid for a month, are \$180/160/110. A same-day return is equivalent to a one-way fare.

Even if you're travelling solo, it's worth hooking up with someone (or more) to take advantage of sizable discounts for groups. Fares to Central are \$160/\$220/\$250 for two/three/four passengers. When you get off, free Airport Express shuttle buses link Kowloon and Central to largish hotels (check the list at the airport).

Most areas of Hong Kong are linked to the airport by bus, of which there is an enormous choice. The most useful for travellers are the A11 (\$40) and A12 (\$45), which go past major hotel and guesthouse areas on Hong Kong Island, and the A21 (\$33), which serves similar areas in Kowloon. These buses run from about 6am to midnight; the 'N' series of buses follows the same route after midnight. Note that an A11 round-trip ticket is cheaper and can be used for three months.

Cheaper buses from the airport include the E11 (\$21) to Hong Kong Island or the S1 (\$3.50) to Tung Chung and then the MTR to Kowloon or Central. A taxi from the airport to Central will cost about \$335.

For information on ferries from HKIA to Shēnzhèn airport, see p561.

Bicycle

Cycling in built-up Kowloon or Central would be suicidal, but in quiet areas of the Outlying Islands or New Territories a bike can be a lovely way of getting around.

At Silvermine Bay (aka Mui Wo) on Lantau Island, bicycles are available for hire (\$10 per

hour, \$25/35 weekdays/weekend and overnight) from the **Friendly Bicycle Shop** (Map pp524–5; ☎ 2984 2278; Shop 12, Mui Wo Centre, 1 Ngan Wan Rd; ☎ 10am–8pm Wed–Mon), opposite Wellcome supermarket. Get in early on sunny weekends.

Flying Ball Bicycle Co (Map pp524–5; ☎ 2381 3661; www.flyingball.com; 478 Castle Peak Rd, Cheung Sha Wan; ☎ 11am–8pm Mon–Sat, to 5pm Sun) is Hong Kong's premier shop for bicycles and cycling accessories. To get there, take the MTR to Cheung Sha Wan and turn right out of Exit C2, take your first right, then first left on Fuk Wing St – it's at the far end.

Boat

Commuting by ferry is the most enjoyable (and surprisingly the cheapest) way of getting around Victoria Harbour.

CROSS-HARBOUR FERRIES

First launched in 1888 (see the boxed text, below), the **Star Ferry** (☎ 2367 7065; www.starferry.com.hk) is as much a tourist attraction as a mode of transport. It operates on four routes, but the most popular one by far is the seven-minute (soon to be less when the new pier opens) run between Tsim Sha Tsui and Central. Seniors travel free on all Star ferries.

Central–Hung Hom Adult/child \$5.30/2.70, 15 minutes, from Star Ferry Pier every 15 to 20 minutes 7.20am to 7.20pm Monday to Friday, every 20 minutes 7am to 7pm Saturday and Sunday.

Central–Tsim Sha Tsui \$1.70/2.20 lower/upper deck, seven minutes, from Star Ferry Pier every six to 12 minutes 6.30am to 11.30pm.

Wan Chai–Hung Hom Adult/child \$5.30/2.70, 10 minutes, from Wan Chai Ferry Pier every 15 to 20 minutes 7.08am to 7.17pm Monday to Friday, every 20 to 22 minutes 7.08am to 7.10pm Saturday and Sunday.

A STAR IS BORN

The Star Ferry service between Pedder's Wharf (now reclaimed land) and Tsim Sha Tsui began in 1888 when boats sailed 'every 40 minutes to one hour during all hours of the day' except on Monday and Friday, when they were seconded for coal delivery. Service has continued ever since, with the only major suspension occurring during WWII.

The old workhorse has figured prominently during several periods of history. During the Japanese invasion in 1941, boats were used to evacuate refugees and Allied troops from the Kowloon Peninsula. And in 1966, when communist China was locked in the grip of the so-called Cultural Revolution, agitators used the ferry company's proposed fare increase of 5c as a pretext for fomenting violent demonstrations.

Until the Cross-Harbour Tunnel opened in 1978 and the first line of the MTR two years later, the Star Ferry was the only way to cross the harbour by public transport. Today it's by far the most enchanting.

Wan Chai–Tsim Sha Tsui Adult/child \$2.20/1.30, eight minutes, from Wan Chai Ferry Pier every eight to 20 minutes 7.30am to 11pm Monday to Saturday, every 12 to 20 minutes 7.40am to 11pm Sunday.

Of the other cross-harbour ferries the route of most interest to travellers is from Queen's Pier (Map pp526–7) in Central to Tsim Sha Tsui East, which runs every 20 minutes from 7.40am (from 8am Sunday) to 8.20pm and costs \$4.50 for adults and \$2.30 for children and seniors. It is run by the **Discovery Bay Transportation Service** (☎ 2987 7351; www.hkri.com).

Controversy notwithstanding, expect both the Star Ferry Pier and Queen's Pier to have moved a little closer to Kowloon by the time you arrive. Both will be victims of a huge land-reclamation project that is planned to turn the harbour front into an urban recreation zone.

OUTLYING ISLANDS FERRIES

The main companies serving the islands are **New World First Ferry** (NWFF; ☎ 2131 8181; www.nwff.com.hk), which runs services to Lantau, Cheung Chau and Peng Chau, and the **Hong Kong & Kowloon Ferry Co** (☎ 2815 6063; www.hkfk.com.hk), which serves Lamma. Schedules are posted at all ferry piers and the ferry companies' websites, or ask for a pocket-sized timetable. Fares are higher on so-called fast ferries and on Sundays and public holidays. Most ferries depart from the Outlying Islands ferry piers just west of the Star Ferry Pier in Central, though some weekend services to Lantau and Cheung Chau leave from the Star Ferry Pier in Tsim Sha Tsui. NWFF also runs a handy inter-island service connecting Peng Chau, Mui Wo (Lantau Island) and Cheung Chau.

Car & Motorcycle

For the uninitiated, driving on Hong Kong's maze of one-way streets and dizzying expressways probably isn't a good idea. But if you're hellbent on ruining your holiday, **Avis** (Map p532; ☎ 2890 6988; Shop 46, ground fl, Peninsula Centre, 67 Mody Rd, Tsim Sha Tsui; 🕒 8am-6pm Mon, 9am-6pm Tue-Fri, 9am-4pm Sat & Sun) will rent you a Toyota Corolla from 2pm on Friday to 10am Monday for \$1500; or for \$720/3200 a day/week with unlimited kilometres.

Public Transport

TRAVEL & TRANSPORT PASSES

The **Octopus card** (☎ 2266 2222; www.octopuscards.com) is a reusable, prepaid 'smart card' valid on most forms of public transport in Hong Kong and good for purchases in a fast-growing number of stores. It costs \$150/100/70 for adults/students aged 12 to 25/children aged three to 11 and seniors over 65, including a refundable deposit of \$50. To add more money to your card, just go to one of the add-value machines or the ticket offices located at every MTR station. Octopus fares are between 5% and 10% cheaper than ordinary fares on the MTR, KCR, LRT and certain green minibuses.

The **Airport Express Tourist Octopus card** costs \$220 (including \$50 deposit) and allows one trip on the Airport Express, three days' unlimited travel on the MTR and \$20 usable on other forms of transport, though you'll want to be travelling a fair bit to make it worthwhile. For \$300 you get two trips on the Airport Express and the same benefits. For shorter stays there's the new **Tourist MTR 1-Day Pass** (\$50), valid only on the MTR for 24 hours.

BUS

Hong Kong's extensive bus system will take you just about anywhere. The **HKTb** (p522) has useful leaflets on the major bus routes or try the **Yellow Pages Map** website (www.yppmap.com). Most buses run from about 5.30am or 6am until midnight or 12.30am, though there are a handful of night buses including the **N121** (running from the Macau ferry pier bus terminus - Map pp526-7 - on Hong Kong Island to Chatham Rd in Tsim Sha Tsui East and on to eastern Kowloon), the **N122** (running from North Point on Hong Kong Island to Nathan Rd and on to Lai Chi Kok in Kowloon) and the **N112** (running from

Percival St in Causeway Bay to the Prince Edward MTR station in Kowloon).

Fares range from \$1.20 to \$45, depending on the destination, with night buses costing from \$12.80 to \$23. You need to have exact change.

There are myriad bus stops and stations, but if you stick with these few you should be right. On Hong Kong Island, the terminuses below Exchange Sq in Central (Map pp526-7) and above Admiralty MTR (Map pp526-7) will get you to Aberdeen, Repulse Bay and Stanley on the southern side of the island. In Kowloon the terminal at the Star Ferry Pier has buses to Hung Hom station and points in eastern and western Kowloon.

KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY (KCR)

The **Kowloon-Canton Railway (KCR)**; ☎ 2602 7799; www.krcr.com) consists of two main lines and two smaller lines. KCR East Rail runs from Tsim Sha Tsui East station in Kowloon to Lo Wu, gateway to Shēnzhèn and the mainland. A spur runs from Tai Wai to Wa Kai Sha. KCR West Rail, which opened in late 2003, links Nam Cheong station in Sham Shui Po with Tuen Mun via Yuen Long. Eventually it will be linked to Tsim Sha Tsui East via an extension of the KCR East Rail. The KCR offers excellent transport to the New Territories and some nice vistas.

Trains run every five to eight minutes or every three minutes during rush hour, and fares are cheap, starting at \$4.50. A half-hour ride from Tsim Sha Tsui to Sheung Shui/Tuen Mun costs just \$12.

LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT (LRT)

The **Light Rail Transit (LRT)**; ☎ 2929 3399; www.krcr.com) operates on eight routes in the western part of the New Territories between Tuen Mun and Yuen Long and feeds the KCR West Rail. Fares are \$4 to \$5.80.

MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY (MTR)

The **Mass Transit Railway (MTR)**; ☎ 2881 8888; www.mtr.com.hk) is arguably the best underground railway on earth. Fast, incredibly efficient and convenient and always on time, it operates on seven lines, including the Airport Express and the new Disneyland spur. You can buy individual tickets or use an Octopus card. Prices range from \$4 to \$26 (\$3.80 and \$23.10 with an Octopus card). Short trips, such as crossing from Central to Tsim Sha Tsui, aren't great

value, being almost four times more than the ferry. But longer trips are much faster than buses for about the same price. Once you go past the turnstile, you must complete the journey within 90 minutes. The MTR operates from 6am to between 12.30am and 1am. See the route map on p171.

PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES

'Public light buses' (an official term that no-one ever uses) have no more than 16 seats and come in two varieties. Most are painted a cream colour, with either a red or green roof (or sometimes a stripe). Red 'minibuses' supplement the regular bus services and cost \$2 to \$20. They generally don't run regular routes, but you can get on or off almost anywhere - just yell *ni do, m góí* (here, please). Pay either with an Octopus Card or coins as you exit.

Green-topped minibuses operate on more than 350 set routes and make designated stops. Two popular routes are bus 6 from Hankow Rd in Tsim Sha Tsui to Tsim Sha Tsui East and Hung Hom KCR station, and bus 1 from east of the Star Ferry Pier in Central for Victoria Peak on Hong Kong Island.

TRAM

Hong Kong's century-old trams, operated by **Hongkong Tramways Ltd** (☎ 2548 7102; www.hktramways.com), are the only all double-deck wooden-sided tram fleet in the world. They operate on six overlapping routes, on 16km of track running east-west along the north side of Hong Kong Island. The tram is fun and a bargain at \$2 for any trip; pay as you get off.

Taxi

On Hong Kong Island and Kowloon (red taxis), the flag fall is \$15 for the first 2km then \$1.40 for every additional 200m. In the New Territories (green taxis), flag fall is \$12.50 and \$1.20 for every subsequent 200m. On Lantau (blue taxis) the equivalent charges are \$12 and \$1.20. There is a luggage fee of \$5 per bag but it's usually only charged for bags you put in the boot. It costs an extra \$5 to book a taxi by telephone.

If you go through the Cross-Harbour Tunnel (\$10), or the Eastern (\$20) or Western Harbour Crossing (\$25), you'll be charged double the toll unless you manage to find a cab heading back to its base.

© Lonely Planet Publications. To make it easier for you to use, access to this chapter is not digitally restricted. In return, we think it's fair to ask you to use it for personal, non-commercial purposes only. In other words, please don't upload this chapter to a peer-to-peer site, mass email it to everyone you know, or resell it. See the terms and conditions on our site for a longer way of saying the above - 'Do the right thing with our content.'