

# TRANSPORT

Amazingly well connected, Hong Kong's sea, air, road and rail links make getting there and away easy and largely stress free. Its excellent, modern infrastructure makes it a breeze to get around within the Special Administrative Region (SAR). Flights, tours and rail tickets can be booked online at [www.lonelyplanet.com/travel\\_services](http://www.lonelyplanet.com/travel_services).

## AIR

Hong Kong's importance as an international hub for China and much of East and South-east Asia ensures excellent international air connections, and competition keeps the fares relatively low (to most places except China).

A proliferation of budget airlines in recent years has only increased competition and downward pressure on many shorter haul fares in particular. Specific information on air travel to and from Macau and China can be found on [p348](#) and [p284](#), respectively.

Tickets are normally issued the day after booking, but you can usually pick up really cheap tickets (actually group fares) at the airport from the 'tour leader' just before the flight. Check these tickets carefully as there may be errors (eg the return portion of the ticket being valid for only 60 days from when you paid for a ticket valid for six months).

You can generally get a good idea of what fares are available at the moment by looking in the classified section of the *South China Morning Post*. Otherwise try any of the following websites:

**Bargain Holidays** ([www.bargainholidays.com](http://www.bargainholidays.com))

**ebookers** ([www.ebookers.com](http://www.ebookers.com))

**Last Minute** ([www.lastminute.com](http://www.lastminute.com))

**Skyscanner** ([www.skyscanner.net](http://www.skyscanner.net))

**Travelocity** ([www.travelocity.com](http://www.travelocity.com))

You'll find travel agencies everywhere in Hong Kong but the following are among the most reliable and offer the best deals on air tickets:

**Aero International** (Map [p56](#); ☎ 2545 6669, 2543 3800; [www.ticketscentre.com](http://www.ticketscentre.com); Room 603, 6th fl, Cheung's Bldg, 1-3 Wing Lok St, Sheung Wan; ☎ 9.15am-5.30pm Mon-Fri, 9.15am-1pm Sat) Convenient to Central; enter from Wing Wo St.

## Things Change...

The information in this chapter is particularly vulnerable to change. Check directly with the airline or a travel agent to make sure you understand how a fare (and ticket you may buy) works and be aware of the security requirements for international travel. Shop carefully. The details given in this chapter should be regarded as pointers and are not a substitute for your own careful, up-to-date research.

**Concorde Travel** (Map [p68](#); ☎ 2526 3391; [www.concorde-travel.com](http://www.concorde-travel.com); 1st fl, Galuxe Bldg, 8-10 On Lan St, Central; ☎ 9.30am-5.30pm Mon-Fri, 9am-1pm Sat) This is a long-established and highly dependable agency owned and operated by expats.

**Natoria Travel** (Map [p68](#); ☎ 2810 1681; fax 2810 8190; Room 2207, Melbourne Plaza, 33 Queen's Rd Central; ☎ 9am-7pm Mon-Fri, 9am-4pm Sat) Readers have long used and recommended this place.

**Phoenix Services Agency** (Map [p94](#); ☎ 2722 7378; [www.statravel.hk](http://www.statravel.hk); Room 1404, 14th fl, Austin Tower, 22-26 Austin Ave, Tsim Sha Tsui; ☎ 9am-6pm Mon-Fri, 9am-1pm Sat) Phoenix is one of the best places in Hong Kong to buy air tickets, get China visas and seek travel advice. It is also the agent for student and discount group STA Travel in Hong Kong.

**Traveller Services** (Map [p92](#); ☎ 2375 2222; [www.take-traveller.com](http://www.take-traveller.com); 1813 Miramar Tower, 132 Nathan Rd, Tsim Sha Tsui; ☎ 9am-6pm Mon-Fri, 9am-1pm Sat) Very reliable for good-value air tickets.

## Airlines

More than 70 international airlines operate between Hong Kong International Airport and some 130 destinations around the world. You can check flight schedules and real-time flight information for both Macau and Hong Kong airports at [www.hktime-table.com](http://www.hktime-table.com).

Regional short-haul operators flying to Hong Kong include Singapore-based **Jetstar** ([www.jetstar.com](http://www.jetstar.com)), which flies to Jakarta and Singapore.

Among the major airlines serving Hong Kong are the following:

**Air New Zealand** (NZ; Map [p56](#); ☎ 2862 8988; [www.airnewzealand.com.hk](http://www.airnewzealand.com.hk); Ste 1701, 17th fl, Jardine House, 1 Connaught Pl, Central)

**British Airways** (BA; [Map p56](#); ☎ 2822 9000; 24th fl, Jardine House, 1 Connaught Pl, Central)

**China Eastern/China Southern Airlines** (MU/CZ; [Map p56](#); ☎ 2861 0322; 4th fl, CNAC Group Bldg, 10 Queen's Rd Central)

**Dragonair** (KA; [Map p56](#); ☎ 3193 3888; Room 4611, Cosco Tower, 183 Queen's Rd Central)

**Hong Kong Express** (UO; [Map p70](#); ☎ 3152 3777; www.hongkongexpress.com; Room 1417, 14/F China Merchants Tower, Shun Tak Centre, 200 Connaught Rd, Central)

**Northwest Airlines** (NW; [Map p56](#); ☎ 2810 4288; Room 1908, 19th fl, Cosco Tower, 183 Queen's Rd Central)

**Qantas Airways** (QF; [Map p56](#); ☎ 2822 9000; 24th fl, Jardine House, 1 Connaught Pl, Central)

**Singapore Airlines** (SQ; [Map p63](#); ☎ 2520 2233; 17th fl, United Centre, 95 Queensway, Admiralty)

**Virgin Atlantic Airways** (VS; [Map p56](#); ☎ 2532 6060; 8th fl, Alexandra House, 16-20 Chater Rd, Central)

## Airport

**Hong Kong International Airport** ([Map p136](#); ☎ 2181 0000; www.hkairport.com), which was the world's largest civil engineering project when it opened in mid-1998, is on Chek Lap Kok, a largely man-made island off the northern coast of Lantau. It is connected to the mainland by several spans. Among them is the 2.2km-long Tsing Ma Bridge, which is one of the world's largest suspension bridges and is capable of supporting both road and rail transport, including the 34km-long Airport

Express high-speed train from Hong Kong Island to Chek Lap Kok via Kowloon.

The futuristic passenger terminal, designed by British architect Sir Norman Foster, consists of eight levels, with check-in on level seven, departures on level six and arrivals on level five. Outlets (including bank branches, moneychangers and five ATMs) total 150, and there are more than 30 cafés, restaurants and bars, and more than 280 check-in counters.

The **Hong Kong Tourism Board** (HKTB; ☎ 2508 1234; www.discoverhongkong.com) maintains information centres on level five. On the same level you'll also find branches of **China Travel Service** (CTS; ☎ 2261 2472, 2261 2062; www.chinatravel1.com; ☎ 8.45am-10pm), which can issue China visas, and counters run by the **Hong Kong Hotels Association** (HKHA; ☎ 2383 8380, 2769 8822; www.hkha.org; ☎ 6am-midnight); for details see [p250](#). Be advised that the HKHA deals with midrange and top-end hotels only and does not handle hostels, guesthouses or other budget accommodation.

If you are booked on a scheduled (but not a charter) flight and are taking the Airport Express to the airport, most airlines allow you to check in your bags and receive your boarding pass a day ahead of your flight at the in-town check-in counters at the Hong Kong Island or Kowloon Airport Express stations between 5.30am and 12.30am. You are required, however, to check yourself in at least 90 minutes before your flight. Some airlines, including Cathay Pacific Airways, China Airlines and Thai Airways, allow check-in a

full day before your flight. See the airport's website for details.

## 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 [p348](#)) must pay the same amount.

## To/From the Airport

The Airport Express line of the Mass Transit Railway (MTR) is the fastest – and most expensive – way to get to and from Hong Kong International Airport. A gaggle of much cheaper buses connects the airport with Lantau, the New Territories, Kowloon and Hong Kong Island.

## AIRPORT EXPRESS

**Airport Express** (AEL; ☎ 2881 8888; www.mtr.com.hk) has trains departing from Hong Kong station in Central every 10 to 12 minutes from 5.50am to 12.48am, calling at Kowloon and Tsing Yi stations before arriving at Airport station. The last train leaves the airport for all three stations at 12.48am. Running at speeds of up to 135km/h, trains make the journey from Central/Kowloon/Tsing Yi in only 23/20/12 minutes.

From Central/Kowloon/Tsing Yi one-way adult fares are \$100/90/60, with children three to 11 years paying half-fare. Adult return fares, valid for a month, are \$180/160/110. A same-day return is equivalent to a one-way fare.

Airport Express has two shuttle buses on Hong Kong Island (H1 and H2) and five in Kowloon (K1 to K5), with free transfers for passengers between Hong Kong and Kowloon stations and major hotels. The buses run every 12 to 24 minutes between 6.20am and 11.10pm. Schedules and routes are available at Airport Express and MTR stations and on the Airport Express website.

## BOAT

High-speed ferries run by **New World First Ferry Services** (☎ 2131 8181; www.nwff.com.hk) link Tung Chung New Development ferry pier opposite the airport (and accessible from the terminal on bus S56) with Tuen Mun in the New Territories. Ferries depart from Tuen Mun every 20 to 30 minutes between 5.40am and 11pm; the first ferry from Tung Chung pier leaves at 6am and the last at 11.20pm and the journey takes 18 minutes (one way adult/child and senior \$15/10).

## LONG HAUL, LOW PRICE

Hong Kong's first long-haul budget airline **Oasis** (www.oasishongkong.com) launched in late 2006 flying to London Gatwick and Vancouver, with plans to expand its network by the time you read this (it hopes) to Berlin, Oakland near San Francisco and Chicago.

Tickets are sold through the company website and travel agents. One-way economy fares for the Hong Kong–London route start at UK£75 or \$1000 (excluding taxes and charges) for at least 10% of the seats available and include hot meals and in-flight entertainment. Business-class fares start at UK£470 or \$6600 (excluding taxes and charges). Return economy-class fares for Vancouver start at \$3980 (excluding taxes and charges) for at least 10% of the seats available. Return business-class fares start at \$18,000 (excluding taxes and charges).

A fast ferry service called the **Skypier** (☎ 2307 0880) links Hong Kong airport with five Pearl River Delta destinations: Shekou near Shenzhen, Shenzhen Fuyong, Humen in Dongguan, Zhongshan and Macau.

One of the companies operating from the Skypier is **Turbojet Sea Express** (☎ 2859 3333; www.turbojetseexpress.com.hk), sailing four times daily to Macau (\$180) and at least seven times daily to Shenzhen (\$200).

The service enables travellers to board ferries directly without clearing Hong Kong customs and immigration. Book a ticket prior to boarding from the ticketing desks located in the transfer area on Arrivals Level 5 close to the immigration counters. An air-side bus then takes you to the ferry terminal. A planned expansion of the service by late 2008 should mean more Pearl River Delta destinations and a dedicated MTR station on the airport express line.

## BUS

Most major areas of Hong Kong Island, Kowloon, the New Territories and Lantau are connected to the airport by buses, of which there is a huge choice. The buses are run by quite a few different companies.

The most useful for travellers are the Citybus 'airbuses' A11 (\$40) and A12 (\$45), which go to or near the major hotel and guesthouse areas on Hong Kong Island, and the A21 (\$33), which serves similar areas in Kowloon. These buses have plenty of room for luggage, and announcements are usually

## CLIMATE CHANGE & TRAVEL

Climate change is a serious threat to the ecosystems that humans rely upon, and air travel is the fastest-growing contributor to the problem. Lonely Planet regards travel, overall, as a global benefit, but believes we all have a responsibility to limit our personal impact on global warming.

### Flying & Climate Change

Pretty much every form of motor transport generates CO<sub>2</sub> (the main cause of human-induced climate change) but planes are far and away the worst offenders, not just because of the sheer distances they allow us to travel, but because they release greenhouse gases high into the atmosphere. The statistics are frightening: two people taking a return flight between Europe and the US will contribute as much to climate change as an average household's gas and electricity consumption over a whole year.

### Carbon Offset Schemes

Climatecare.org and other websites use 'carbon calculators' that allow travellers to offset the greenhouse gases they are responsible for with contributions to energy-saving projects and other climate-friendly initiatives in the developing world – including projects in India, Honduras, Kazakhstan and Uganda.

Lonely Planet, together with Rough Guides and other concerned partners in the travel industry, supports the carbon offset scheme run by climatecare.org. Lonely Planet offsets all of its staff and author travel.

For more information check out our website: [www.lonelyplanet.com](http://www.lonelyplanet.com).

made in English, Cantonese and Mandarin notifying passengers of hotels at each stop. But they are also the most expensive; there are cheaper options, such as taking 'external' bus E11 (\$21) to Hong Kong Island or 'shuttle' bus S1 (\$3.50) to Tung Chung and then the MTR to Kowloon or Central. There are also quite a few night (designated 'N') buses costing from \$20 to \$31.

Bus drivers in Hong Kong do not give change, but it is available at the ground transportation centre at the airport, as are Octopus cards (p283). Normal returns are double the one-way fare. Unless otherwise stated, children aged between three and 11 and seniors over 65 pay half-fare.

Some of the New Territories buses terminate at MTR stations, from where you can reach destinations in Kowloon and on Hong Kong Island at a lower cost than the more direct buses. You can also reach Shenzhen and other points in southern China directly from the airport (p284).

The following lists give the bus numbers, service providers, routes, one-way fares and frequencies for the airport buses most useful for visitors. For full route details see [www.citybus.com.hk](http://www.citybus.com.hk).

#### Buses to Hong Kong Island:

**A11** (Citybus) Sheung Wan, Central, Admiralty, Wan Chai, Causeway Bay, North Point Ferry pier; \$40; every 15 to 30 minutes from 6.10am to midnight.

**A12** (Citybus) Tsing Ma, Kowloon Station, Wan Chai, North Point, Quarry Bay, Sai Wan Ho, Shau Kei Wan, Chai Wan, Siu Sai Wan; \$45; every 20 to 30 minutes from 6am to 12.10am.

**E11** (Citybus) Tung Chung, Tsing Ma, Kowloon Station, Sheung Wan, Central, Admiralty, Wan Chai, Causeway Bay, Tin Hau MTR; \$21; every 15 to 20 minutes from 5.20am to midnight.

**N11** (Citybus) Same routing as E11; \$31; every 30 minutes from 12.50am to 4.50am.

#### Buses to Kowloon:

**A21** (Citybus) Sham Shui Po, Mong Kok, Yau Ma Tei, Jordan, Tsim Sha Tsui MTR, Tsim Sha Tsui East, Hung Hom KCR; \$33; every 10 to 15 minutes from 6am to midnight.

**N21** (Citybus) Tung Chung, Mei Foo Sun Chuen, Lai Chi Kok MTR, Mong Kok, Tsim Sha Tsui Star Ferry pier; \$23; every 20 minutes from 12.20am to 5am.

#### Buses to Lantau:

**A35** (New Lantau) Tong Fuk village, Mui Wo; \$14 (\$23 on Sunday and public holidays); every 40 to 60 minutes from 6.30am to 12.25am.

**DB02R** (Discovery Bay Transportation Services) Discovery Bay; \$28; every 30 minutes, 24 hours.

**N35** (New Lantau) Same routing as A35; \$20 (\$30 on Sunday and public holidays); departures at 1.30am and 4am.

**S1** (Citybus) Tung Chung MTR; \$3.50; every six to 10 minutes from 5.30am to midnight.

**S56** (Citybus) Tung Chung New Development pier (ferries to/from Tuen Mun); \$3.50; every 30 minutes from 9am to 10.40pm.

#### Buses to the New Territories:

**A31** (KMB) Tsing Yi, Kwai Chung, Tsuen Wan MTR; \$17; every 15 to 20 minutes from 6am to midnight.

**N31** (KMB) Same routing as A31; \$20; every 20 to 30 minutes from 12.20am to 5.05am.

#### TAXI

In addition to the fares listed, passengers taking a taxi to or from the airport at Chek Lap Kok are required to pay the \$30 toll for using the Lantau Link road and bridge network in both directions.

Destination	Fare (\$)
Aberdeen (Hong Kong Island)	380
Causeway Bay (Hong Kong Island)	340
Central (Hong Kong Island)	340
Kwun Tong MTR (Kowloon)	320
Mui Wo (Lantau)	130
Sai Kung (New Territories)	355-370
Sha Tin (New Territories)	300
Tsim Sha Tsui Star Ferry (Kowloon)	270
Tsuen Wan (New Territories)	200-235
Tung Chung (Lantau)	30-40

There are limousine service counters in the arrivals hall and at the ground transportation centre, including **Parklane Limousine Service** (☎ 2261 0303; [www.hongkonglimo.com](http://www.hongkonglimo.com)) and **Intercontinental Hire Cars** (☎ 3193 9333; [www.trans-island.com.hk](http://www.trans-island.com.hk)). In a car seating up to four people, expect to pay from \$450 to destinations in urban Kowloon and from \$550 to Hong Kong Island.

#### BICYCLE

Cycling in urbanised Kowloon or Hong Kong Island would be suicide, but in the quiet areas of the islands (including southern Hong Kong Island) or the New Territories, a bike can be a lovely way to get around. It's not really a form of transport, though – the hilly terrain will slow you down (unless you're mountain biking) – but more recreational. Be advised that bicycle-rental shops and kiosks tend to run

## FERRY ANGRY

The Star Ferry is an institution dear to the hearts of its passengers. Mess with it and you risk getting Hong Kong's ordinarily phlegmatic folk worked up into a fury.

Take 1966, for example, when Communist China was in the grip of the Cultural Revolution. Agitators used the ferry company's fare increase of 5c as a pretext for fomenting violent demonstrations. The disturbances continued for almost a year.

More recently the demolition of the rather functional, but nonetheless iconic, 1950s Central Ferry pier in 2006 to make way for new development and land reclamation provoked more fury. In the days running up to the pier's demolition, thousands of emotional Hong Kong residents arrived to post banners and plead for the conservation of a rare piece of Hong Kong's historical architecture. Their efforts were in vain.

Mention of the Star Ferry service between Pedder's Wharf (now reclaimed land) and Tsim Sha Tsui first appeared in an 1888 newspaper article. At that time, boats sailed 'every 40 minutes to one hour during all hours of the day' except on Monday and Friday, when they were billeted for coal delivery. Service has continued ever since, with the only major suspension occurring during WWII. The Star Ferry was something of a war hero: during the Japanese invasion, boats were used to evacuate refugees and Allied troops from the Kowloon peninsula before the service was suspended for more than four years.

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. At rush hour long queues of commuters would back up as far as the General Post Office on the Hong Kong Island side and Star House in Kowloon.

out of bikes early on weekends if the weather is good (see p224).

## BOAT

Despite Hong Kong's comprehensive road and rail public-transport system, the territory still relies very much on ferries to get across the harbour and to reach the Outlying Islands.

Hong Kong's cross-harbour ferries are faster and cheaper than buses and the MTR. They're also great fun and afford stunning views. Since the opening of the Lantau Link, ferries are not the only way to reach Lantau, but for the other Outlying Islands, they remain the only game in town.

Smoking is prohibited on all ferries inside or out; the fine is a hefty \$5000. With the exception of Star Ferry services from Central to Hung Hom and Wan Chai to Hung Hom, the cross-harbour ferries ban the transport of bicycles. You can, however, take bicycles on the ordinary ferries to the Outlying Islands.

## Star Ferry

You can't say you've 'done' Hong Kong until you've taken a ride on a **Star Ferry** (☎ 2367 7065; [www.starferry.com.hk](http://www.starferry.com.hk)), that wonderful fleet of a dozen electric-diesel vessels with names like *Morning Star*, *Celestial Star* and *Twinkling Star*. Try to take your first trip on a clear night from Kowloon to Central. It's not half as dramatic in the opposite direction.

The Star Ferry operates on four routes, but the most popular one is the run between Tsim Sha Tsui and Central (pier 7). The coin-operated turnstiles do not give change, but you can get it from the ticket window (unnecessary, of course, if you're carrying an Octopus card).

For details on the special four-day tourist pass valid on trams and the Star Ferry, see p283.

#### Star Ferry routes:

**Central (Star Ferry pier 7)–Tsim Sha Tsui** Adult lower/upper deck \$1.70/2.20, child \$1.20/1.30, seniors free; seven minutes; every six to 12 minutes from 6.30am to 11.30pm.

**Central (Star Ferry pier 8)–Hung Hom** Adult/child \$5.30/2.70, seniors free; 15 minutes; every 15 to 20 minutes from 7am to 7.20pm Monday to Friday, every 20 minutes from 7am to 7pm Saturday and Sunday.

**Wan Chai–Hung Hom** Adult/child \$5.30/2.70, seniors free; 10 minutes; every 15 to 20 minutes from 7am to 8pm Monday to Friday, every 20 to 22 minutes from 7.08am to 7.10pm Saturday and Sunday.

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

## Other Cross-Harbour Ferries

Two other ferry companies operate cross-harbour ferries: **New World First Ferry** (☎ 2131 8181; [www.nwff.com.hk](http://www.nwff.com.hk)) has ferries from North Point to Hung Hom and Kowloon City; and the **Fortune**



**Ferry Co** (☎ 2994 8155) has a service linking North Point and Kwun Tong.

**North Point–Hung Hom** Adult \$4.50, child and senior \$2.30; seven minutes; every 20 minutes from 7.20am to 7.20pm.

**North Point–Kowloon City** Adult \$4.50, child and senior \$2.30; 11 minutes; every 20 minutes from 7.10am to 7.30pm.

**North Point–Kwun Tong** Adult \$5, child and senior \$2.50; 12 minutes; every 30 minutes from 7am to 7.30pm.

## New Territories Ferries

### SAI KUNG PENINSULA & TAP MUN CHAU

Boats operated by the **Tsui Wah Ferry Service** (☎ 2527 2513, 2272 2022; www.traway.com.hk) link the east-central New Territories near Chinese University with the Sai Kung Peninsula and Tap Mun Chau. From the pier at Ma Liu Shui, ferries cruise through Tolo Harbour to Tap Mun Chau and back, calling at various villages on the Sai Kung Peninsula both outbound and inbound.

Ferries leave Ma Liu Shui at 8.30am and 3pm daily, arriving at Tap Mun Chau at 10am and 4.20pm respectively, from where they continue on to Ko Lau Wan, Chek Keng and Wong Shek (weekdays/weekend \$16/25). They leave for Ma Liu Shui at 11.10am and 5.30pm. On Saturday, Sunday and public holidays an extra ferry leaves Ma Liu Shui at 12.30pm, arriving and departing from Tap Mun Chau at 1.45pm.

An easier – and faster – way to reach Tap Mun Chau, with many more departures, is by *kaido* (p277) from Wong Shek pier, which is the last stop on bus 94 from Sai Kung town. The *kaidos*, operated by Tsui Wah Ferry Service, run about once every two hours (there's a total of six sailings, with two callings at Chek Keng) from 8.30am to 6.30pm Monday to Friday (\$8), and hourly (there are 12 sailings, with two stops at Chek Keng) between 8.30am and 6.35pm on the weekend and on public holidays (\$12). Be aware that the last sailing back from Tap Mun Chau is at 6pm from Monday to Friday and 6.05pm at the weekend.

If you've missed the boat or can't be bothered waiting for the next, the private sampans at Wong Shek pier, which seat up to three people in addition to the driver, charge from \$70 per trip to or from the island.

### TUNG PING CHAU

You can reach Tung Ping Chau from Ma Liu Shui, near the Chinese University, on ferries operated by **Tsui Wah Ferry Service** (☎ 2527 2513; www

.traway.com.hk), but only on the weekend and on public holidays. Ferries depart from Ma Liu Shui at 9am and 3.30pm on Saturday, returning at 5.15pm. The single ferry on Sunday and public holidays leaves Ma Liu Shui at 9am, returning from Tung Ping Chau at 5.15pm. Only return tickets (\$80) are available, and the trip takes 1½ hours. The Sunday morning ferry could well be booked out, so call ahead to check availability.

## Outlying Islands Ferries

The main Outlying Islands are all linked to Hong Kong by regular ferry services. Fares are cheap and the ferries are comfortable and usually air-conditioned. They have toilets, and some have a basic bar that serves snacks and cold drinks. The ferries can get very crowded on Saturday afternoon and all day Sunday, especially in the warmer months. They depart early and return in the evening.

There are two types of ferries: the large 'ordinary ferries', which, with the exception of those to Lamma, offer ordinary and deluxe classes; and the smaller 'fast ferries' – hovercraft that have one class only and cut travel time by between 10 and 20 minutes, but cost between 50% and 100% more. 'Weekday' fares apply from Monday to Saturday; prices are higher on Sunday and public holidays. Unless stated otherwise, children aged three to 11 years, seniors over 65 years and people with disabilities pay half-fare on both types of ferries and in both classes. Return is double the single fare.

The main operator serving the Outlying Islands is **New World First Ferry** (NWFF; ☎ 2131 8181; www.nwff.com.hk), which has a **customer service centre** (Map p56; pier 6, Outlying Islands ferry pier; ☎ 10am–2pm & 3–7pm Mon & Wed–Fri, 10am–1.30pm Tue, 10.30am–3.30pm Sat & Sun). NWFF boats sail to/from Cheung Chau, Peng Chau and Lantau, and connect all three via an interisland service. The **Hong Kong & Kowloon Ferry Co** (HKKF; ☎ 2815 6063; www.hkkf.com.hk) serves destinations on Lamma only and also has a **customer service centre** (Map p56; pier 4, Outlying Islands ferry pier; ☎ 9am–6pm).

Ferry timetables are subject to slight seasonal changes. They are prominently displayed at all ferry piers, or you can read them on the ferry companies' websites.

Tickets are available from booths at the ferry piers, but avoid queuing at busy times by using an Octopus card or putting the exact change into the turnstile as you enter.

If your time is limited, you can go on an organised tour (p298) or even hire your own junk (p230).

The NWFF's Island Hopping Pass allows unlimited rides for a day on ordinary ferries to Lantau, Cheung Chau and Peng Chau. The pass costs \$30 Monday to Saturday and \$40 on Sunday. For \$10 per trip you can upgrade to deluxe class or the fast ferry.

### LAMMA

For travelling to/from Central, both Yung Shue Wan and Sok Kwu Wan are served by HKKF ferries from pier 4 (Map p56) at the Outlying Islands ferry pier in Central. Ordinary and fast ferries depart Central for Yung Shue Wan approximately every half-hour to an hour (with additional sailings around 8am and 6pm) from 6.30am to 12.30am. The last boat to Central from Yung Shue Wan leaves at 11.30pm. The trip on the ordinary ferry takes 35 minutes, and the adult one-way fare is \$11 (\$14 on Sunday and public holidays). The fast ferries, which take just 20 minutes, cost \$16 (\$20 on Sunday and public holidays).

From Central, fast ferries (only) reach Sok Kwu Wan in 25 minutes and cost \$14 (\$18 on Sunday and public holidays). Ferries leave every 1½ hours or so, with the first departing Central at 7.20am and the last at 11.30pm. The last ferry to Central from Sok Kwu Wan is at 10.40pm.

To/from Aberdeen, fast ferries (only) link the pier at Aberdeen Promenade with Yung Shue Wan (\$12) via Pak Kok Tsuen (\$6) some 10 times a day, with the first ferry leaving Aberdeen at 6.30am and the last at 8.15pm Monday to Saturday. There are up to 15 ferries on Sunday and public holidays, with the first leaving Aberdeen at 7.30am and the last at 7.30pm. The last ferry for Aberdeen leaves Yung Shue Wan at 8.45pm and Pak Kok Tsuen at 9pm Monday to Saturday. On Sunday and public holidays, the last sailing times are 8pm from Yung Shue Wan and 8.10pm from Pak Kok Tsuen.

There is also a smaller ferry – more like a *kaido*, really – run by **Chuen Kee Ferry** (☎ 2982 8225, 2375 7883; www.ferry.com.hk) between Aberdeen and Sok Kwu Wan; all but two stop at Mo Tat Wan along the way. The journey between Aberdeen and Mo Tat Wan takes 23 minutes, and it's another seven minutes from there to Sok Kwu Wan. The adult fare is \$8 (\$12 in the evening and on Sunday and public holidays); between Mo Tat Wan and Sok Kwu Wan it costs \$3 (\$4).

There are up to 13 departures from Aberdeen to Sok Kwu Wan from Monday to Saturday between 6.40am and 10.50pm, leaving roughly every 1½ hours. In the other direction

there are the same number of daily departures from Monday to Saturday between 6am and 10.10pm. On Sunday and public holiday, the service increases to 19 trips in each direction. Boats depart approximately every 45 minutes; the earliest and latest boats from Aberdeen are 6.40am and 10.50pm. From Sok Kwu Wan, the earliest and latest trips are 6am and 10.10pm.

A sampan (p277) from Aberdeen to Sok Kwu Wan/Yung Shue Wan will cost from \$100/120 during the day and double that or more in the wee hours, when drunken revellers who have missed the last ferry back from Central are trying to get home. If you should be in the same boat – as it were – don't panic; there's usually at least one other person willing to split the cost.

### CHEUNG CHAU

For travelling to/from Central, ordinary and fast ferries for Cheung Chau depart from pier 5 (Map p56) at the Outlying Islands ferry pier in Central approximately every half-hour between 6.30am and 12.30am. There are then fast ferries at 1.30am and 4.15am until normal daytime services begin again.

The trip on the ordinary ferry takes 48 minutes, and the adult one-way fare in ordinary class is \$11.30 (\$16.70 on Sunday and public holidays). The fares for deluxe class, which allows you to sit on the open-air deck at the stern, are \$17.80 and \$26, respectively. The fast ferries, which run as frequently as the ordinary ones and take just 32 minutes, cost \$22.20 (\$32 on Sunday and public holidays).

An ordinary interisland ferry (\$9.20 all sectors) links Cheung Chau with Mui Wo (usually via Chi Ma Wan on Lantau) and Peng Chau seven days a week. The first ferry leaves Cheung Chau at 6am, and the last ferry is at 10.50pm; boats depart approximately every 1½ hours. From Cheung Chau, it takes 20 minutes to reach Chi Ma Wan, 30 to 45 minutes to Mui Wo and 50 to 75 minutes to Peng Chau.

### LANTAU

The main entry port for vessels serving Lantau proper is Mui Wo, which is known as Silvermine Bay in English. You can, however, also reach Lantau destinations from other ports: Discovery Bay from Central; the Chi Ma Wan Peninsula from Cheung Chau; the Trappist Monastery from Peng Chau; and Tai O and Tung Chung from Tuen Mun in the New Territories.

For travelling between Mui Wo and Central, both ordinary and fast ferries depart for Mui Wo from pier 6 (Map p56) at the Outlying Islands ferry pier in Central approximately every half-hour between 6.10am (7am on Sunday and public holidays) and 12.30am. There is also a 3am fast ferry to Mui Wo via Peng Chau. The last ferry from Mui Wo to Central is at 11.30pm, though there is a fast ferry at 3.40am, which calls at Peng Chau along the way.

The journey on the ordinary ferry takes 48 minutes, and the adult one-way fare is \$11.30/16.70 in ordinary/deluxe class (\$16.70/26 on Sunday and public holidays). The fast ferries, which take 31 minutes, cost \$22.20 (\$32 on Sunday and public holidays).

The ordinary interisland ferry (\$9.20) links Mui Wo with Cheung Chau (via Chi Ma Wan mostly) and Peng Chau 20 times a day. The first ferry leaves Mui Wo for Cheung Chau at 6am and for Peng Chau at 6.35am; the last ferry to Cheung Chau is at 10.20pm and to Peng Chau at 11.20pm. From Mui Wo it takes 20 to 25 minutes to reach Peng Chau, 15 to 20 minutes to Chi Ma Wan and 40 to 50 minutes to Cheung Chau.

For details on how to reach the Trappist Monastery on Lantau's northeast coast, see [right](#).

To/from Discovery Bay, high-speed ferries run by the [Discovery Bay Transportation Service](#) (☎ 2987 7351; www.hkri.com) leave from pier 3 (Map p56) at the Outlying Islands ferry pier in Central every 10 to 30 minutes between 6.30am and 1am; after that time there are additional sailings at 1.30am (on weekends only), 2am, 2.30am (on weekends only), 3.30am and 5am until the daytime schedule resumes. Similar services run from Discovery Bay to Central. Tickets are \$27 and the trip takes 25 to 30 minutes.

Ferries run by [Peng Chau Rental Kaito](#) (☎ 9033 8102) depart from Mui Wo for Discovery Bay between 7.45am and 6.45pm Monday to Friday and up to nine times on the weekend. From Discovery Bay to Mui Wo, sailings are between 7.15am and 6.15pm Monday to Friday, and there are up to nine sailings on Saturday and Sunday. Tickets cost \$10 and the trip takes between 15 and 20 minutes.

You can also reach Discovery Bay from Peng Chau ([opposite](#)).

For travelling to/from Chi Ma Wan, the ordinary interisland ferry (\$9.20) linking Cheung Chau and Mui Wo calls at the Chi Ma Wan ferry pier on the northeastern cor-

ner of the peninsula six times a day heading for Cheung Chau (with the first at 6.15am and the last at 8.30pm), and five times a day going to Mui Wo (the first at 6.55am and the last at 7.05pm), from where it carries on to Peng Chau.

To/from Tai O, there are NWFF ferries linking the Tai O berthing pier on Wing On St and Tuen Mun in the New Territories (via Sha Lo Wan and the Tung Chung New Development pier on Lantau's north coast) daily at 9.45am, 12.15pm, 4.15pm and 7.15pm, with an additional sailing at 2.15pm on Sunday. The trip takes between 50 minutes and an hour and costs \$15 (\$25 on Sunday). On Sunday and public holidays there are three direct sailings (\$25, 30 minutes) to Tuen Mun at 10.45am, 1.45pm and 5.45pm, departing from Tai O's Shek Tsai Po pier, which is about 1.2km west of the centre.

For travelling to/from Tung Chung, another service run by NWFF links Tung Chung New Development pier with Tuen Mun in the New Territories. Ferries depart from Tuen Mun every 20 minutes from 5.40am to 11pm, with the return boats leaving Tung Chung between 20 and 30 minutes later (6am to 11.20pm). The trip takes 17 minutes and costs \$15 (\$10 for concession).

## PENG CHAU

Ordinary and fast ferries leave for Peng Chau approximately once every 45 minutes between 7am and 12.30am from pier 6 (Map p56) at the Outlying Islands ferry pier in Central. There's also a 3am fast ferry to Peng Chau that carries on to Mui Wo on Lantau. The last ferry from Peng Chau to Central is at 11.30pm (11.35pm on Sunday), though there is a fast ferry at 3.25am.

The journey on the ordinary ferry takes 38 minutes, and the adult one-way fare is \$11.30/17.80 in ordinary/deluxe class (\$16.70/26 on Sunday and public holidays). The fast ferries, which take 25 minutes, cost \$22.20 (\$32 on Sunday and public holidays).

An ordinary interisland ferry (\$9.20) links Peng Chau with Mui Wo and (frequently) Chi Ma Wan on Lantau, as well as Cheung Chau, up to 11 times a day. The first ferry leaves Peng Chau at 5.40am for all three destinations; the last ferry to Mui Wo is at 11.40pm. Boats take 20 minutes to reach Mui Wo, 40 minutes to Chi Ma Wan and 70 minutes to Cheung Chau.

Peng Chau is the main springboard for the Trappist Monastery, with up to 10 sailings a

day. [Peng Chau Rental Kaito](#) (☎ 9033 8102) sails sampans to Tai Shui Hang pier from the auxiliary pier southeast of the main Peng Chau ferry pier daily between 7.45am and 5pm. They return from the monastery between 8.10am and 5.10pm.

[Peng Chau Rental Kaito](#) (☎ 9033 8102) links Peng Chau with Discovery Bay every 30 minutes to an hour, with up to 20 sailings a day between 6.30am and 10pm, from the pier southeast of the main Peng Chau ferry. The last boat from Discovery Bay sails at 10.15pm.

## MA WAN

For travelling to/from Central, ferries run by [Park Island Transport](#) (☎ 2946 8888; www.pitd.com.hk), which essentially service the high-end residential community on Ma Wan, depart from pier 2 (Map p56) at the Outlying Islands ferry pier in Central every 15 to 30 minutes from 7am to 1.30am and then run hourly until the normal schedule resumes. The one-way fare is \$16 and the trip takes 22 minutes.

To/from Tsuen Wan, boats run by Park Island Transport leave the ferry pier in Tsuen Wan, which is due south of the KCR West Rail's Tsuen Wan West station in the New Territories, for Ma Wan every 15 to 30 minutes between 5.57am and 1.02am (5.40am to 12.45am from Ma Wan to Tsuen Wan). The one-way fare is \$5 and the trip takes just 10 minutes.

## TUNG LUNG CHAU

On the weekend only, ferries run by [Lam Kee Kaido](#) (☎ 2560 9929) heading for Joss House Bay on the Clearwater Bay Peninsula from Sai Wan Ho, east of Quarry Bay on Hong Kong Island, stop at Tung Lung Chau en route. On Saturday boats sail from Sai Wan Ho at 9am, 10.30am, 3.30pm and 4.45pm, departing from Tung Lung Chau a half-hour later. On Sunday and public holidays there are boats from Sai Wan Ho at 8.30am, 9.45am, 11am, 2.15pm, 3.30pm and 4.45pm; they return from Tung Lung Chau at 9am, 10.20am, 1.45pm, 3pm, 4pm and 5.30pm. The trip takes a half-hour, and the one-way fare is \$28/14 for adults/children under 12.

To catch the ferry, take the MTR's Island line to Sai Wan Ho and then use exit A. Follow Tai On St north until you reach the quayside. The ride to Joss House Bay from Tung Lung Chau is significantly shorter than the one from Sai Wan Ho. If you're in a hurry coming back, get off there and catch bus 91 to the Choi Hung MTR station.

## PO TOI ISLAND

A ferry run by [Po Toi Kaido Services](#) (☎ 2554 4059) leaves Aberdeen for Po Toi on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 9am, returning from the island at 10.30am. On Sunday a single boat leaves Aberdeen at 8am, but there are also departures at 10am and 1.30am from [St Stephen's Beach & Water Sports Centre](#) (off Map p85; ☎ 2813 5407; Wong Ma Kok Path) in Stanley. Boats return from Po Toi at 3pm, 4.30pm and 6pm. A same-day return fare is \$40 and the journey takes about 35 minutes.

## Other Boats

Sea and harbour transport is not limited to scheduled ferries in Hong Kong. You may encounter several other types of boats as you travel further afield.

*Kaidos* (small- to medium-sized 'ferries') are able to make short runs on the open sea. Only a few *kaido* routes operate on regular schedules (eg the ones from Peng Chau to the Trappist Monastery and Discovery Bay, and from Aberdeen to Sok Kwu Wan on Lamma); most simply adjust supply to demand. *Kaidos* run most frequently on weekends and public holidays.

Sampans are motorised launches that can only accommodate a few (usually four) people. Sampans are generally too small to be considered seaworthy, but they can safely zip you around typhoon shelters like the ones at Aberdeen and Cheung Chau.

Bigger than a sampan but smaller than a *kaido*, *walla wallas* (water taxis that operate in Victoria Harbour) are a dying breed. Most of the customers are sailors stationed on ships anchored in the harbour. On Hong Kong Island look for them at Queen's pier on the east side of the Star Ferry pier. On the Kowloon side, they can sometimes be found south-east of the Star Ferry pier in Tsim Sha Tsui.

## BUS

Hong Kong's extensive bus system offers a bewildering number of routes that will take you just about anywhere in the territory. Since Kowloon and the northern side of Hong Kong Island are so well served by the MTR, most visitors use the buses primarily to explore the southern side of Hong Kong Island and the New Territories.

Although buses pick up and discharge passengers at stops along the way, on Hong Kong Island the most important bus stations are



the bus terminus below Exchange Square in Central (Map p56; at the time of writing there were plans to move the terminus to Sheung Wan in 2009) and the one at Admiralty (Map p63). From these stations you can catch buses to Aberdeen, Repulse Bay, Stanley and other destinations on the southern side of Hong Kong Island. In Kowloon the bus terminal at the Star Ferry pier in Tsim Sha Tsui (Map p92) is the most important, with buses to Hung Hom station and points in eastern and western Kowloon. Almost all New Towns in the New Territories are important transport hubs, though Sha Tin is particularly so, with buses travelling as far afield as Sai Kung, Tung Chung and Tuen Mun.

Bus fares range from \$1.70 to \$48, depending on the destination and how many sections you travel. Fares for night buses cost from \$14 to \$31. Payment is made into a fare box upon entry so, unless you're carrying an ever-so-convenient Octopus card, have plenty of coins handy, as the driver does not give change.

Hong Kong's buses are usually double-deckers. Many buses have easy-to-read LCD displays of road names and stops in Chinese and sometimes in English, and TV screens to entertain (or annoy) you as you roll along. Buses serving the airport and Hung Hom train station have luggage racks.

Hong Kong's buses are run by a half-dozen private operators, carrying more than four million passengers a day. Though it's much of a muchness as to who's driving you from A to B, you may want to check the routings on their websites.

**Citybus** (☎ 2873 0818; www.citybus.com.hk)

**Discovery Bay Transportation Services** (☎ 2987 7351; www.hkri.com)

**Kowloon Motor Bus Co** (☎ 2745 4466; www.kmb.com.hk)

**Long Win Bus Co** (☎ 2261 2791; www.kmb.com.hk)

**New Lantao Bus Company** (☎ 2984 9848; www.kmb.com.hk)

**New World First Bus Services** (☎ 2136 8888; www.nwfb.com.hk)

## Routes & Schedules

There are no good bus maps and, because buses are run by so many different private operators, there is no longer a comprehensive directory for the whole territory. Your best option is Universal Publications' *Hong Kong Public Transport Atlas* (\$50).

The HKTB has useful leaflets on the major bus routes, and the major bus companies detail all their routes on their websites.

## Night Buses

Most buses run from about 5.30am or 6am until midnight or 12.30am, but there are a handful of useful night bus services in addition to the ones linking the airport with various parts of the territory. Citybus' N121, which operates every 15 minutes between 12.45am and 5am, runs from the Macau ferry bus terminus through Central and Wan Chai on Hong Kong Island and through the Cross-Harbour Tunnel to Chatham Rd North in Tsim Sha Tsui East before continuing on to eastern Kowloon and Ngau Tau Kok (\$12.80).

Bus N122, also run by Citybus with the same fare and schedule, runs from North Point ferry bus terminus on Hong Kong Island, through the Cross-Harbour Tunnel to Nathan Rd and on to Mei Foo Sun Chuen in the northwestern part of Kowloon. You can catch these two buses near the tunnel entrances on either side of the harbour.

Other useful night buses that cross the harbour include the N118, which runs from Siu Sai Wan in the northeastern part of Hong Kong Island to Sham Shui Po in northwest Kowloon via North Point and Causeway Bay (\$12.80); and the N170, which runs from Wah Fu, a large estate near Aberdeen in the southwest of Hong Kong Island, through Wan Chai and Causeway Bay before crossing over to Kowloon and travelling as far as Sha Tin in the New Territories (\$23).

Useful night buses on Lantau include the N1 (\$16; \$25 on Sunday and public holidays) linking Mui Wo and Tai O at 3.45am and the N35 (\$20; \$30 on Sunday and public holidays) between Mui Wo (1.30am and 4.30am) and the airport (1.30am and 5am).

## CAR & MOTORCYCLE

It would be sheer madness for a newcomer to consider driving in Hong Kong. Traffic is heavy, the roads can get hopelessly clogged and the ever-changing network of highways and bridges with its new numbering system is complicated in the extreme. And if driving the car doesn't destroy your holiday sense of spontaneity, parking the damn thing will. If you are determined to see Hong Kong under your own steam, do yourself a favour and rent a car with a driver.

## Driving Licence & Permits

Hong Kong allows most foreigners over the age of 18 to drive for up to 12 months with their valid local licenses. It's still a good idea to carry an International Driving Permit (IDP) as well, though. This can be obtained from your local automobile association for a reasonable fee.

Anyone driving in the territory for more than a year will need to get a Hong Kong licence, which will be valid for 10 years (\$900). Apply to the [Licensing Division of the Transport Department](#) (Map p63; ☎ 2804 2600; www.info.gov.hk/td; 3rd fl, United Centre, 95 Queensway, Admiralty; ☎ 9am-5pm Mon-Fri).

## Hire

Car-hire firms accept IDPs or driving licences from your home country. Drivers must usually be at least 25 years of age. Daily rates for small cars start at just under \$700, but there are weekend and weekly deals available. For example, [Avis](#) (Map p94; ☎ 2890 6988; www.avis.com.hk; Ground fl, Shop 46, Peninsula Centre, 67 Mody Sq, Tsim Sha Tsui East; ☎ 9am-6pm Mon-Fri, 9am-4pm Sat & Sun) will rent you a Toyota Corolla or Honda Civic for the weekend (from 2pm on Friday to 10.30am Monday) for \$1360; the same car for a day/week costs \$680/3000. Rates include unlimited kilometres.

If you're looking for a car with a driver, contact [Ace Hire Car Service](#) (Map pp54-5; ☎ 2572 7663; www.acehirecar.com.hk; 16 Min Fat St, Happy Valley), which charges between \$160 and \$250 per hour (minimum three to five hours, depending on the location). Avis' chauffeur-driven cars are much more expensive: \$300 to \$1000 with a minimum of three hours.

## Road Rules

Vehicles drive on the left-hand side of the road in Hong Kong, as in the UK, Australia and Macau, but *not* in mainland China. Seat belts must be worn by the driver and all passengers, in both the front and back seats. Police are strict and give out traffic tickets at the drop of a hat.

## MINIBUS

Minibuses are vans with no more than 16 seats. They come in two varieties: red and green. The red minibuses are cream coloured with a red roof or stripe, and pick up and discharge passengers wherever they are

hailed or asked to stop (but not in restricted zones or at busy bus stops). Maxicabs, commonly known as 'green minibuses', are also cream coloured but with a green roof or stripe, and operate on fixed routes. As with red minibuses there are set stops for green minibuses, but where circumstance allows and no traffic restrictions apply, you may also flag one down.

There are 4350 minibuses running in the territory. About 40% are red minibuses and 60% green.

## Red Minibus

Red minibuses can be handy for short distances, such as the trip from Central to Wan Chai or Causeway Bay, and you can be assured of a seat – by law, passengers are not allowed to stand. The destination is displayed on the front in large Chinese characters, usually with a smaller English translation below.

Minibus fares range from \$2 to \$22. The price to the final destination is displayed on a card propped up in the windscreen, but this is often only written in Chinese numbers. Fares are equal to or higher than those on the bus, but drivers often increase their fares on rainy days, at night and during holiday periods. You usually hand the driver the fare when you get off, and change is given. You can use your Octopus card on certain routes.

If you're in Central, the best place to catch minibuses to Wan Chai and other points east is the Central bus terminus below Exchange Square (Map p56). If heading west towards Kennedy Town, walk to Stanley St, near Lan Kwai Fong.

There are a few minibuses that cross the harbour late at night, running between Wan Chai and Mong Kok. In Wan Chai minibuses can be found on Hennessy and Fleming Rds. In Kowloon you may have to trudge up Nathan Rd as far as Mong Kok before you'll find one. Minibuses to the New Territories can be found at the Jordan and Choi Hung MTR stations in Kowloon.

## Green Minibus

Green minibuses operate on some 352 routes, more than half of which are in the New Territories, and serve designated stops. Fares range from \$2.50 to \$24, according to distance. You must put the exact fare in the cash box as you descend (no change is given) or, on some routes, use your Octopus card.

## MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY

The **Mass Transit Railway** (MTR; ☎ 2881 8888; www.mtr.com.hk), Hong Kong's underground rail system and universally known as the 'MTR', is a phenomenon of modern urban public transport. Sleek, pristine and *always* on time, it is also rather soulless.

Though it costs more than other forms of public transport in Hong Kong, the MTR is the quickest way to get to most destinations in the urban areas. Trains run every two to 10 minutes from around 6am to sometime between 12.30am and 1am.

The MTR travels on more than 85km of track and is made up of seven lines, including the Airport Express and the new Disneyland Resort line. It serves 53 stations and carries 2.3 million passengers a day.

The Island line (blue) extends along the northern coast of Hong Kong Island from Sheung Wan in the west to Chai Wan in the east. The Tsuen Wan line (red) runs from Central station and travels alongside the Island line as far as Admiralty, where it crosses the harbour and runs through central Kowloon, terminating at Tsuen Wan in the New Territories.

The Kwun Tong line (green), which begins at Yau Ma Tei, shares that and two subsequent stations with the Tsuen Wan line; at Prince Edward it branches off and heads for eastern Kowloon, crossing the KCR East Rail line at Kowloon Tong before joining the Tseung Kwan O line at Yau Tong and terminating at Tiu Keng Leng in the southeastern New Territories.

The Tseung Kwan O line (purple) starts at North Point and hits Quarry Bay before crossing the eastern harbour and terminating at Po Lam in the southeastern New Territories. The Tung Chung line (orange) shares the same rail lines as the Airport Express, but stops at two additional stations in Kowloon (Kowloon and Olympic) along the way. It terminates at Tung Chung, a New Town on Lantau that offers cheaper transport options to and from the airport.

The MTR connects with the KCR East Rail at Tsim Sha Tsui and Kowloon Tong stations. It meets the KCR West Rail at Nam Cheong and Mei Foo.

For short hauls, the MTR is not great value. If you want to cross the harbour from Tsim Sha Tsui to Central, for example, at \$9/4.5 per adult/child (or \$7.90/4 with an Octopus card) the MTR is more than four times the price of

the Star Ferry, with none of the views, and the journey is only marginally faster. If your destination is further away – North Point, say, or Kwun Tong – the MTR is considerably faster than a bus or minibus and about the same price. If possible, it's best to avoid the rush hours: 7.30am to 9.30am and 5pm to 7pm weekdays and Saturday morning, when 85% of the 1050 MTR carriages are in use.

Travelling by the MTR is so easy: everything, from the ticket-vending machines to the turnstiles, is automated. The system uses the stored-value Octopus card (p283), really the only way to go, and single-journey tickets with a magnetic coding strip on the back. When you pass through the turnstile, the card is encoded with the station identification and time. At the other end, the exit turnstile sucks in the ticket, reads where you came from, the time you bought the ticket and how much you paid. If everything is in order, it will let you through. If you have underpaid (by mistake or otherwise), you can make up the difference at an MTR service counter; there are no fines since no one gets out without paying. Once you've passed through the turnstile to begin a journey you have 90 minutes to complete it before the ticket becomes invalid.

Ticket prices range from \$4 to \$26 (\$3.80 and \$23.10 with an Octopus card); children and seniors pay between \$3 and \$13 (\$2.40 and \$11.60 with a card), depending on the destination. Ticket machines accept \$10 and \$20 notes and \$10, \$5, \$2, \$1 and 50c coins, and they dispense change. The machines have a touch screen with highlighted destinations. You can also buy tickets from MTR service counters and get change from the Hang Seng bank branches located in most stations.

Smoking, eating and drinking are not permitted in MTR stations or on the trains, and violators are subject to a fine of \$5000. You are not allowed to carry large objects or bicycles aboard trains either, though backpacks and suitcases are fine.

There are no toilets in any of the MTR stations. Like the 90-minute limit on a ticket's validity, the reasoning behind this is to get bodies into stations, bums on seats (or hands on straps) and bodies out onto the street again as quickly as possible. The system works, and very few people complain.

MTR exit signs use an alphanumeric system and there can be as many as a dozen to choose from. We give the correct exit for sights and destinations wherever possible, but you may find yourself studying the exit table

from time to time and scratching your head. There are always maps of the local area at each exit.

Should you leave something behind on the MTR, you can contact the **lost property office** (☎ 2861 0020; 🕒 8am-8pm) at Admiralty MTR station.

## TAXI

Hong Kong taxis are a bargain compared with those in other world-class cities. With more than 18,000 cruising the streets of the territory, they're easy to flag down.

When a taxi is available, there should be a red 'For Hire' sign illuminated on the meter that's visible through the windscreen. At night the 'Taxi' sign on the roof will be lit up as well. Taxis will not stop at bus stops or in restricted zones where a yellow line is painted next to the kerb.

The law requires that everyone in a vehicle wears a seat belt. Both driver and passenger(s) will be fined if stopped by the police, and most drivers will gently remind you to buckle up before proceeding.

'Urban taxis' – those in Kowloon and on Hong Kong Island – are red with silver roofs. New Territories taxis are green with white tops, and Lantau taxis are blue.

Hong Kong Island and Kowloon taxis tend to avoid each others' turf as the drivers' street geography on the other side of the harbour can be pretty shaky. Hong Kong Island and Kowloon taxis maintain separate ranks at places such as Hung Hom train station and the Star Ferry pier, and will sometimes refuse to take you to the 'other side'. In any case, if you're travelling from Hong Kong Island to Kowloon (or vice versa), choose the correct taxi as you'll save on the tunnel toll. New Territories taxis are not permitted to pick up passengers in Kowloon or on Hong Kong Island at all.

The rate for taxis on Hong Kong Island and Kowloon is \$15 for the first 2km and \$1.40 for every additional 200m; waiting costs \$1.40 per minute. In the New Territories it's \$12.50 for the first 2km and \$1.20 for each additional 200m; waiting costs \$1.20 per minute. On Lantau the equivalent charges are \$12 and \$1.20, and \$1.20 per minute for waiting. There is a luggage fee of \$5 per bag but, depending on the size, not all drivers insist on this payment. It costs an extra \$5 to book a taxi by telephone. Try to carry smaller bills and coins; most drivers are hesitant to make change for anything over \$100. You can tip up to 10%,

but most Hong Kong people just leave the little brown coins and a dollar or two.

Passengers must pay the toll if a taxi goes through the many Hong Kong harbour or mountain tunnels or uses the Lantau Link to Tung Chung or the airport. Though the Cross-Harbour Tunnel costs only \$10, you'll have to pay \$20 if, say, you take a Hong Kong taxi from Hong Kong Island to Kowloon. If you manage to find a Kowloon taxi returning 'home', you'll pay only \$10. (It works the other way round as well, of course.) If you cross the harbour via the Western Harbour Tunnel, you must pay the \$25 toll plus \$25 for the return unless you can find a taxi heading for its base. Similarly, if you use the Eastern Harbour Crossing, you may have to pay the \$20 toll twice.

There's no way of avoiding the whopping great toll of \$30 in both directions when a taxi uses the Lantau Link.

There is no double charge for the other roads and tunnels: Aberdeen (\$5); Lion Rock (\$8); Shing Mun (\$5); Tate's Cairn (\$10); Tai Lam (\$22); and Tseung Kwan O (\$3).

You may have some trouble hailing a taxi during rush hour, when it rains or during the driver shift-change period (around 4pm daily). Taxis are also in higher demand after midnight. There are no extra late-night charges and no extra passenger charges, though some taxis are insured to carry four passengers and some five. You can tell by glancing at the licence plate.

Some taxi drivers speak English well; others don't have a word of the language. It's never a bad idea to have your destination written down in Chinese.

Though most Hong Kong taxi drivers are scrupulously honest, if you feel you've been ripped off, take down the taxi or driver's licence number (usually displayed on the sun visor in front) and call the **taxi complaints hotline** (☎ 2889 9999), the **police report hotline** (☎ 2527 7177) or the **Transport Department hotline** (☎ 2804 2600) to lodge a complaint. Be sure to have all the relevant details: when, where and how much. If you leave something behind in a taxi, ring the **Road Co-op Lost & Found hotline** (☎ 187 2920); most drivers turn in lost property.

## TRAIN

The MTR underground system notwithstanding, Hong Kong has two 'real' train systems that are crucial for travellers getting around in the New Territories and/or heading for China.



## Kowloon-Canton Railway

Also known as the 'KCR', the [Kowloon-Canton Railway](#) (☎ 2929 3399; [www.krcr.com](#)) is made up of two lines. The KCR East Rail, which commenced in 1910, is a single-line, 43km-long commuter railway running from the new East Tsim Sha Tsui station in southern Kowloon to Lo Wo on the border with mainland China and a new spur to Lok Ma Chau, also on the border. The terminus of the new spur connects to the new Shenzhen Metro system at Huanggang station via a pedestrian bridge across the Shenzhen River.

The tracks are the same as those used by the express trains to cities in Guangdong province as well as to Shanghai and Beijing, but the trains are different and look more like MTR carriages. Ma On Shan Rail, which branches off from the KCR East Rail at Tai Wai and serves nine stations, opened in December 2004 but is of limited use to travellers.

The KCR West Rail, a separate 30.5km-long line, links Nam Cheong station in Sham Shui Po with Tuen Mun via Yuen Long, stopping at nine stations. Eventually it will be linked to the KCR East Rail at East Tsim Sha Tsui, with stops at Kowloon West and Canton Rd. At time of writing an extension of the line south from Nam Cheong to East Tsim Sha Tsui via a new station at West Kowloon was scheduled to open in 2009.

The KCR is a quick way to get to the New Territories, and the ride offers some nice vistas, particularly between the Chinese University and Tai Po Market stations on the KCR East Rail. You can transfer from the MTR to the KCR East Rail at Tsim Sha Tsui and Kowloon Tong stations. On the KCR West Rail, there is interchange with the Tung Chung MTR line at Nam Cheong, with the Tsuen Wan line at Mei Foo and with the Light Rail (see [right](#)) at Yuen Long, Tin Shui Wai, Siu Hong and Tuen Mun.

KCR trains run every five to eight minutes, except during rush hour, when they depart every three to eight minutes. The first KCR East Rail train leaves East Tsim Sha Tsui at 5.28am and the last departs from Lo Wu at 12.30am. The KCR West Rail runs from 6am to sometime between 12.15am and 12.40am. The trip from Nam Cheong to Tuen Mun on the KCR West Rail takes 30 minutes.

KCR fares are cheap, starting at \$3.50, with a half-hour ride to Sheung Shui from East Tsim Sha Tsui costing just \$12.50 (1st class is \$25) and the 40-minute trip to Lo Wu \$36.50

(1st class \$73). Children and seniors pay reduced fares of between \$1.80 and \$17.40. Paying with an Octopus card brings down fares considerably.

The KCR runs some 129 feeder buses on 18 routes via its [KCRC Bus Service](#) (☎ 2602 7799; [www.krcr.com](#)), but these are generally of interest only to residents of housing estates within striking distance of the KCR East and West Rails and the Light Rail.

## Light Rail

The KCR's [Light Rail](#) (☎ 2929 3399; [www.krcr.com](#)) system began operations in 1988 and has been extended several times since. It is rather like a modern, air-conditioned version of the trams in Hong Kong, but it's much faster, reaching speeds of up to 70km/h. It runs along 36km of track parallel to the road and stops at 68 designated stations, carrying some 320,000 passengers a day.

Until recently, only those travellers visiting the temples of the western New Territories made much use of the Light Rail as it essentially was just a link between the New Towns of Tuen Mun and Yuen Long. But with the opening of the KCR West Rail, it is an important feeder service for the KCR and, by extension, the MTR.

There are 11 Light Rail lines connecting various small suburbs with Tuen Mun to the south and Yuen Long to the northeast, both of which are on the KCR West Rail. The system operates from about 5.30am to between 12.15am and 12.45am. Trams run every four to 20 minutes, depending on the line and time of day. Fares are \$4 to \$5.80, depending on the number of zones (from 1 to 5) travelled; children aged three to 11 and seniors over 65 pay from \$2 to \$2.90. If you don't have an Octopus card, you can buy single-journey tickets from vending machines on the platforms.

The system of fare collection is unique in Hong Kong: there are no gates or turnstiles and customers are trusted to validate their ticket or Octopus card when they board and exit. That trust is enforced by frequent spot checks, however, and the fine is 50 times the maximum adult fare – \$290 at present.

## TRAM

Hong Kong's venerable old trams, operated by [Hong Kong Tramways Ltd](#) (☎ 2548 7102; [www.hktramways.com](#)), are tall and narrow double-decker streetcars, the only all double-deck wooden-sided

tram fleet in the world. They roll (and rock) along the northern coast of Hong Kong Island on 16km of track, carrying some 240,000 passengers daily.

The electric tramline first began operating in 1904 on what was then the shoreline of Hong Kong Island. This helps explain why roads curve and dogleg in ways that don't seem quite right. Try to get a seat at the front window on the upper deck for a first-class view while rattling through the crowded streets: tall passengers will find it uncomfortable standing up as the ceiling is low, but there is more space at the rear of the tram on both decks.

Trams operate from 6am to between 12.30am and 1am daily and run every two to 10 minutes, but they often arrive bunched together. Be prepared to elbow your way through the crowd to alight, particularly on the lower deck.

Hong Kong's trams are not fast but they're cheap and fun; in fact, apart from the Star Ferry ([p273](#)), no form of transport is nearer and dearer to the hearts of most Hong Kong people. For a flat fare of \$2 (\$1 for children aged three to 11 and seniors over 65) dropped into a box beside the driver as you descend, you can go as far as you like, whether it's one block or to the end of the line. You can also use your Octopus card.

Tram routes often overlap. Some start at Kennedy Town and run to Shau Kei Wan, while others run only part of the way; one turns south and heads for Happy Valley. The longest run, covering the entire length of the system from Shau Kei Wan to Kennedy Town (with a change at Western Market), takes about 1½ hours. The six routes from west to east are: Kennedy Town–Western Market; Kennedy Town–Happy Valley; Kennedy Town–Causeway Bay; Sai Ying Pun (Whitty St)–North Point; Sheung Wan (Western Market)–Shau Kei Wan; and Happy Valley–Shau Kei Wan.

## Peak Tram

The Peak Tram is not really a tram but a cable-hauled funicular railway that has been scaling the 396m ascent to the highest point on Hong Kong Island since 1888. It is thus the oldest form of public transport in the territory.

While a few residents on the Peak and in the Mid-Levels actually use it as a form of transport – there are four intermediate stops before you reach the top – the Peak Tram is intended to transport visitors and locals to the

attractions, shops and restaurants in the Peak Tower and Peak Galleria ([p78](#)).

The [Peak Tram](#) (☎ 2522 0922, 2849 7654; [www.thepeak.com.hk](#); one way/return adult \$22/33, child 3-11yr \$8/15, senior over 65 yr \$8/15) runs every 10 to 15 minutes from 7am to midnight, making between one and four stops (Kennedy Rd, MacDonnell Rd, May Rd and Barker Rd) along the way in about seven minutes. It's such a steep ride that the floor is angled to help standing passengers stay upright. Running for more than a century, the tram has never had an accident – a comforting thought if you start to have doubts about the strength of that vital cable. It carries 8500 passengers a day.

The Peak Tram lower terminus ([Map p56](#)) is behind the St John's Building. The upper tram terminus is in the [Peak Tower](#) (off [Map p56](#); 128 Peak Rd). Avoid going on Sunday and public holidays when there are usually long queues. Octopus cards can be used.

Between 10am and 11.45pm, open-deck (or air-conditioned) bus 15C takes passengers between the Star Ferry pier and Pedder St in Central and the lower tram terminus.

## TRAVEL & TOURIST PASSES

The [Octopus card](#) (☎ 2266 2222; [www.octopuscards.com](#)), originally designed for the MTR and seven other forms of transport (thus the eight-armed 'octopus' connection), is valid on most forms of public transport in Hong Kong and will even allow you to make purchases at retail outlets across the territory (such as 7-Eleven convenience stores and Wellcome supermarkets). All you do is touch fare-deducting processors installed at stations and ferry piers, on minibuses, in shops etc with the Octopus card and the fare is deducted, indicating how much credit you have left.

The Octopus card comes in three basic denominations: \$150 for adults, \$100 for students aged 12 to 25, and \$70 for children aged three to 11 and seniors ('elders' here) over 65. All cards include a refundable deposit of \$50. If you want 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. The maximum amount you can add is \$1000, and the card has a maximum negative value of \$30, which is recovered the next time you reload (thus the \$50 deposit). Octopus fares are between 5% and 10% cheaper than ordinary fares on the MTR, KCR, Light Rail systems and certain green minibuses.



You can purchase Octopus cards at ticket offices or customer service centres in MTR, KCR and LRT stations, New World First Bus customer service centres as well as Outlying Islands ferry piers on both sides.

The much-advertised Airport Express Tourist Octopus card is not really worth the microchip embedded into it. The card costs \$220 (including \$50 deposit) and allows one trip on the Airport Express, three days' unlimited travel on the MTR and \$20 usable value on other forms of transport. For \$300 you get two trips on the Airport Express and the same benefits. At the end of your trip you can claim your deposit back (plus any part of the \$20 'usable value' still on the card). For shorter stays there's the Tourist MTR 1-Day Pass (\$50), valid on the MTR for 24 hours.

## TRANSPORT TO/FROM CHINA

### Air

Competition of sorts is driving prices down slightly but expect to pay a premium to fly between Hong Kong and China as the government regulates the prices. Depending on the season, seats can be difficult to find due to the enormous volume of business travellers and Chinese tourists, so book well in advance. Some sample adult return fares valid for a year from Hong Kong are Beijing \$2520, Chengdu \$1970, Kunming \$1890 and Shanghai \$2200. One-way fares are a bit more than half the return price.

You should be able to do better than that, however, on both scheduled and charter flights, especially in summer. If you plan to fly to a destination in China from Hong Kong, you can save at least 30% on the above fares by heading for Shenzhen by bus or ferry and boarding the aircraft at Huangtian airport there.

### Land

The only way in and out of Hong Kong by land is to cross the 30km border with mainland China. The options for surface travel to and from China have increased dramatically since the handover, with buses and trains departing throughout the day to destinations as close as Shenzhen and as far as Beijing. Travellers should be aware that, although the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) is an integral part of China, visas are still required to cross the border to the mainland (see p286).

The border crossing at Lo Wu opens at 6.30am and closes at midnight. The crossing at Lok Ma Chau is open round the clock. The terminus of the new KCR spur line connects to the new Shenzhen Metro system at Huanggang station via a pedestrian bridge across the Shenzhen River.

### BUS

You can reach virtually any major destination in neighbouring Guangdong province by bus from Hong Kong. With KCR East Rail services so fast and cheap, however, few buses call on Shenzhen proper, though most of the big hotels run minivans to and from that destination for around \$100 one way. One-way fares from Hong Kong to other mainland destinations include Changsha \$280, Dongguan \$70 to \$100, Foshan \$100, Guangzhou \$80 to \$100, Huizhou \$100, Kaiping \$130, Shantou \$180 to \$200, Shenzhen's Huangtian airport \$150, Xiamen \$370 and Zhongshan \$100 to \$150.

Buses are run by a multitude of transport companies and depart from locations around the territory; the list that follows is only a sampling. Schedules vary enormously according to carrier and place, but buses leave throughout the day and departures are frequent.

**CTS Express Coach** (☎ 2764 9803, 2365 0118; <http://cts.bus.hkcts.com>) Buses depart from locations throughout Hong Kong, including the CTS **Wan Chai branch** (Map p65; ☎ 2832 3888; Southorn Centre, 130-138 Hennessy Rd) on Hong Kong Island and from just south of the CTS **Mong Kok branch** (Map p98; ☎ 2789 5888; 62-72 Sai Yee St) in Kowloon.

**Eternal East Cross Border Coach** (Map p92; ☎ 3412 6677, 3760 0888; 13th fl, Kai Seng Commercial Centre, 4-6 Hankow Rd, Tsim Sha Tsui; ☎ 7am-8pm) Buses leave from just outside the Hang Seng Bank next door.

**Motor Transport Company of Guangdong and Hong Kong** (GDHK; ☎ 2317 7900) Buses bound for destinations throughout Guangdong leave from the **Cross-Border Coach Terminus** (Map p92; ☎ 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 Chinalink** (Map p98; ☎ 2336 1111; [www.trans-island.com.hk](http://www.trans-island.com.hk)) Buses depart from Prince Edward MTR next to the Metropark Hotel. Cars and vans leave from Portland St opposite the Hotel Concourse Hong Kong.

In addition, at Chek Lap Kok buses run by CTS Express Coach (☎ 2261 2472), Eternal East Cross Border Coach (☎ 2261 0176) and Trans-Island (☎ 2261

0296; [www.trans-island.com.hk](http://www.trans-island.com.hk)) link Hong Kong International Airport with many points in southern China, including Dongguan (\$100), Foshan (\$150 to \$220), Guangzhou (\$100 to \$200) and Shenzhen (\$100 to \$180).

### TRAIN

You can now book cross-border train tickets online via the website of KCR ([www.it3.krc.com](http://www.it3.krc.com)). You have to sign up, but it's a useful service. Reaching Shenzhen is a breeze. Just board the KCR East Rail at East Tsim Sha Tsui station (1st/2nd class \$73/36.50) or at any other KCR East Rail station along the way (such as Hung Hom, Kowloon Tong or Sha Tin) and ride it to Lo Wu; China is a couple of hundred metres away. The first train to Lo Wu leaves East Tsim Sha Tsui station at 5.28am, the last at 11.05pm, and the trip takes about 40 minutes. For more details on KCR services, see p282.

The most comfortable way to reach Guangzhou by land is via the Kowloon-Guangzhou express train (usually via Dongguan), which covers the 182km route in approximately 1¼ hours. High-speed intercity trains leave Hung Hom station for Guangzhou East train station 12 times a day between 7.28am and 7.20pm, returning from that station the same number of times from 8.18am to 9.32pm. One-way tickets cost \$230/190 in 1st/2nd class for adults and \$115/95 for children aged five to nine. Adults/children are allowed one piece of luggage, weighing up to 20/10kg. Additional bags cost \$3.90 per 5kg.

There are also direct rail links between Hung Hom and both Shanghai and Beijing. Trains to Beijing West train station (hard/soft sleeper from \$574/934, 24 hours) depart on alternate days at 3pm and travel via Guangzhou East, Changsha and Wuhan, arriving at 3.18pm the following day. Trains to Shanghai (hard/soft sleeper from \$508/825, 23 hours) also depart on alternate days at 3pm and pass through Guangzhou East and Hangzhou East stations, arriving at 1.38pm the following day.

There is one daily departure to Zhaoqing (adult/child \$235/117.50) via Dongguan, Guangzhou East and Foshan at 12.30pm, arriving in Zhaoqing at 4.27pm. The train departs Zhaoqing at 4.56pm, reaching Hung Hom at 8.53pm.

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. To reach Hung Hom station from Tsim Sha Tsui by public transport, take the KCR East Rail for one stop, bus 5C from the Star Ferry pier, or the green minibus 6 or 8 from Hankow Rd.

One-way and return tickets can be booked 60 days in advance through CTS (p286), including at CTS **Hung Hom station branch** (☎ 2334 9333; ☎ 6.30am-8pm) and at KCR East Rail stations in Hung Hom, Mong Kok, Kowloon Tong and Sha Tin. Tickets booked with a credit card via the **Tele-Ticketing Hotline** (☎ 2947 7888) must be collected at least one hour before departure.

A cheaper but much less convenient option is to take the KCR East Rail train to Lo Wu (or to the Shenzhen Metro via Lok Ma Chau), cross through immigration into Shenzhen and catch a local train from there to Guangzhou. There are frequent local trains (Y70, two hours) and high-speed trains (Y80, 55 minutes) throughout the day.

### Sea

Regularly scheduled ferries link the **China ferry terminal** (Map p92; Canton Rd, Tsim Sha Tsui) in Kowloon and/or the **Macau ferry pier** (Map p70; 200 Connaught Rd, Sheung Wan) on Hong Kong Island with a string of towns and cities on the Pearl River Delta – but not central Guangzhou or Shenzhen. For sea transport to/from Macau, see p348.

**TurboJet** (☎ 2921 6688, 2859 3333; [www.turbojet.com.hk](http://www.turbojet.com.hk)) runs high-speed ferries (\$200, one hour) leaving the China ferry terminal for Fuyong ferry terminal (Shenzhen airport) five to seven times a day between 7.30am and 6pm. There are five return sailings from Fuyong (\$185) starting at 9am, with the last at 4.30pm. One boat a day leaves the Macau ferry pier in Central at 8am. Return sailings are at 5.50pm and 7.30pm.

**CMSE Passenger Transport** (☎ 2858 0909) runs some 13 Jetcats (day/night sailing \$110/145, one hour) that link Hong Kong with Shekou, a port about 20km west of Shenzhen town and easily accessible by bus or taxi to the town centre, from 7.45am to 9pm daily. Seven of these (between 7.45am and 7pm) leave from the China ferry terminal in Kowloon, while the rest (9am to 9pm) go from the Macau ferry pier on Hong Kong Island. Return sailings from Shekou are from 7.45am to 9.30pm.

Zhuhai can also be reached from Hong Kong on seven ferries a day (\$177, 70 minutes) from the China ferry terminal in Tsim Sha Tsui (from 7.30am to 5.30pm) and on the same number from the Macau ferry pier in

Sheung Wan (8.40am to 9.30pm) on ferries operated by the [Chu Kong Passenger Transportation Company](#) (☎ 2858 3876; www.cksp.com.hk). The 14 return sailings from Zhuhai (\$158) run between 8am and 9.30pm.

Chu Kong also has ferries from the China ferry terminal in Tsim Sha Tsui to a number of other ports in southern Guangdong province, including Humen (Taiping; \$177, 90 minutes, three a day at 9am, 1.45pm and 5.30pm), Kaiping (\$212, four hours, daily at 8.30am), Shunde (\$185, 110 minutes, six sailings between 7.30am and 6pm) and Zhongshan (\$196, 90 minutes, eight or nine sailings from 8am to 8pm).

Ferries run by [Expert Fortune](#) (☎ 2375 0688, 2517 3494) link the China ferry terminal with Nansha (\$138, five sailings daily) between 8am and 3.30pm, with return sailings (\$100) between 9.30am and 5pm or 5.30pm. One daily ferry departs from the Macau ferry pier at 8.20am.

## DEPARTURE TAX

The \$26 departure tax levied when leaving Hong Kong by sea is usually included in the ticket price.

## Visas

Everyone except Hong Kong Chinese residents must have a visa to enter mainland China. Holders of Canadian, Australian, New Zealand and most EU passports – but *not* American ones (at the time of writing) – can get a visa on the spot for \$150 at the Lo Wu border crossing, the last stop on the Kowloon–Canton Railway's East Rail. This particular visa limits you to a maximum stay of seven days within the confines of the Shenzhen Special Economic Zone (SEZ) *only*. The queues for these visas can be interminable, so it is highly recommended that you shell out the extra money and get a proper China visa before setting off even if you're headed just for Shenzhen.

If you would like to arrange your visa yourself, you can go to the [Visa Office of the People's Republic of China](#) (Map p65; ☎ 3413 2424; 7th fl, Lower Block, China Resources Centre, 26 Harbour Rd, Wan Chai; ☎ 9am-noon & 2-5pm Mon-Fri). Visas processed in one/two/three days for 'reciprocal countries' cost \$480/360/210. Visas for double/multiple entry valid six months cost \$350/850, or if you require express/urgent service the double-entry visa costs \$500/620 and the multiple entry \$1150/1400. You must supply two photos, which can be taken at photo booths in the MTR or at the visa office for \$35. Any photo-processing shop can also oblige.

Visas can be arranged by [China Travel Service](#) (CTS; ☎ 2851 17000, 2789 5401; www.ctshk.com), the mainland-affiliated agency; a good many hostels and guesthouses; and most Hong Kong travel agents, including those listed on p269.

## CHINA TRAVEL SERVICES OFFICES

There are almost three-dozen China Travel Services (CTS) offices in Hong Kong, including the five listed below.

### Offices in Hong Kong Island:

[Causeway Bay](#) (Map p74; ☎ 2808 1131; Room 606, 6th fl, Hang Kung Centre, 2-20 Paterson St; ☎ 9am-8.30pm Mon-Fri, 10am-7pm Sat)

[Central](#) (Map p56; ☎ 2522 0450; Ground fl, China Travel Bldg, 77 Queen's Rd Central; ☎ 9am-7.30pm Mon-Sat, 9.30am-5pm Sun)

[Wan Chai](#) (Map p65; ☎ 2832 3888; Ground fl, Southern Centre, 130-138 Hennessy Rd; ☎ 9am-7pm Mon-Sat, 9.30am-6pm Sun)

### Offices in Kowloon:

[Mong Kok](#) (Map p98; ☎ 2789 5888, 2789 5970; 1st & 2nd fl, Tak Po Bldg, 62-72 Sai Yee St; ☎ 9am-7pm Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm Sat, 9.30am-12.30pm & 2-5pm Sun)

### Offices in New Territories:

[Sha Tin](#) (Map p124; ☎ 2692 7773; Shop 233, 2nd fl, New Town Plaza; ☎ 9am-9pm)

# DIRECTORY

## ADDRESSES

Addresses in Hong Kong are fairly straightforward. In general the apartment (or office) number and floor precede the name of the building, street address and district. There are no postal codes. In Hong Kong (and in this book), the 1st floor is the floor above the ground floor. Virtually every business and residential building here has a guard or concierge and a table displaying the names of the occupants.

About the only problem you may have in finding your way around Hong Kong is determining the appropriate exit for your destination from the Mass Transit Railway (MTR; [p280](#)).

## BUSINESS

Hong Kong is not all about business, but it remains an important aspect of its ethos and character. Some useful business contacts:

**American Chamber of Commerce** ([Map p56](#); ☎ 2530 6900; [www.amcham.org.hk](http://www.amcham.org.hk); Room 1904, 19th fl, Bank of America Tower, 12 Harcourt Rd, Central) The most active overseas chamber of commerce in Hong Kong.

**Chinese General Chamber of Commerce** ([Map p56](#); ☎ 2525 6385; [www.cgcc.org.hk](http://www.cgcc.org.hk); 4th fl, Chinese General Chamber of Commerce Bldg, 24-25 Connaught Rd, Central) Authorised to issue Certificates of Hong Kong origin for trade.

**Chinese Manufacturers' Association of Hong Kong** ([Map p56](#); ☎ 2545 6166; [www.cma.org.hk](http://www.cma.org.hk); 3rd fl, CMA Bldg, 64-66 Connaught Rd, Central) Operates testing laboratories for product certification and can also issue Certificates of Hong Kong origin.

**Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce** ([Map p63](#); ☎ 2529 9229; [www.chamber.org.hk](http://www.chamber.org.hk); 22nd fl, United Centre, 95 Queensway, Admiralty) Services for foreign executives and firms, such as translation, serviced offices, secretarial help and printing.

**Hong Kong Labour Department** ([Map p56](#); ☎ 2717 1771; [www.labour.gov.hk](http://www.labour.gov.hk); 16th fl, Harbour Bldg, 38 Pier Rd, Central) Contact this department for labour-relations problems and queries.

**Hong Kong Trade & Industry Department** ([Map p98](#); ☎ 2392 2922; [www.tid.gov.hk](http://www.tid.gov.hk); Room 908, 700 Nathan Rd, Trade & Industry Department Tower, Mong Kok)

This department is a key source for trade information, statistics, government regulations and product certification (enter from Fife St).

**Hong Kong Trade Development Council** (HKTDC; [Map p65](#); ☎ 1830 668; [www.tdctrade.com](http://www.tdctrade.com); 38th fl, Office Tower, Convention Plaza, 1 Harbour Rd, Wan Chai) Cosponsors and participates in trade fairs, and publishes a wealth of material on Hong Kong markets.

**TDC Business InfoCentre** ([Map p65](#); ☎ 2248 4000; <http://infocentre.tdctrade.com>; New Wing, Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre, 1 Expo Dr, Wan Chai; ☎ 10am-7pm Mon-Fri, 10am-5pm Sat) Run by the HKTDC, the centre is well stocked with relevant books, periodicals and reference materials.

## BUSINESS HOURS

Office hours in Hong Kong are from 9am to either 5.30pm or 6pm on weekdays and often (but increasingly less so) from 9am to noon or 1pm on Saturday. The weekday lunch hour is usually from 1pm to 2pm. Banks are open from 9am to 4.30pm or 5.30pm weekdays and 9am to 12.30pm on Saturday.

Shops that cater to tourists keep longer hours, but almost nothing opens before 9am. As a rule of thumb, assume a place will be open from 10am to 7pm daily. For specifics, see [p152](#).

Museums are generally open from 10am to between 5pm and 9pm and are closed one day a week (usually Monday, Tuesday or Thursday).

Restaurants are open from noon to 3pm; dinner is usually from 6pm to 11pm.

## CHILDREN

Hong Kong is a great travel destination for kids (see the boxed text, [p138](#)), though the crowds, traffic and pollution might be off-putting to some parents. Food and sanitation is of a high standard, and the territory is jam-packed with things to entertain the young 'uns. As a starting point, get a copy of the *Hong Kong Family Fun Guide* from the Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB) or download it from the HKTB website [www.discoverhongkong.com/eng/travelneeds/family/index.jhtml](http://www.discoverhongkong.com/eng/travelneeds/family/index.jhtml).



Lonely Planet's *Travel with Children* includes all sorts of useful advice for those travelling with their little ones.

Most public transport and museums offer half-price fares and admission fees to children under the age of 12, but combination family tickets are rare. Hotels can recommend babysitters if you've got daytime appointments or want a night out sans child. Otherwise call **Rent-A-Mum** (☎ 2523 4868; rentamum@netvigator.com; per hr \$110-140 plus transport charges depending on the location).

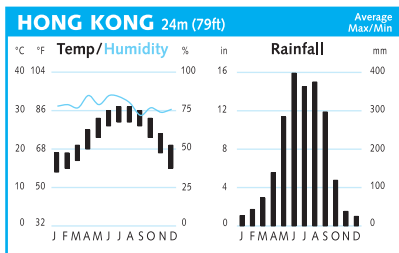
## CLIMATE

Both Hong Kong and Macau have a subtropical climate characterised by hot, humid summers and cool, relatively dry winters.

October, November and most of December are the best months to visit. Temperatures are moderate, the skies are clear and the sun shines. January and February are cloudy and cold but dry. It's warmer from March to May, but the humidity is high, and

the fog and drizzle can make getting around difficult. The sweltering heat and humidity from June to August can make sightseeing a sweaty proposition, and it is also the rainy season. September is a grand month if you like drama; the threat of a typhoon seems to loom every other day.

The very informative **Hong Kong Observatory** (Map p94; ☎ 2926 8200; www.hko.gov.hk; 134A Nathan Rd, Tsim Sha Tsui) issues weather reports on ☎ 1878 200 and on its website. The hotline for cyclone warnings is ☎ 2835 1473.



## TYPHOON!

Typhoons – massive tropical cyclones often tens of kilometres high and hundreds of kilometres wide – sometimes hit Hong Kong. When they hit, the place all but shuts down. Flights are grounded, ferries are cancelled, shops and offices close (although happily a handful of enterprising bars have been known to stay open).

Cyclones can last for as long as a few weeks, but not all will mature into typhoons. Feeding off moisture, tropical cyclones can only survive over warm oceans – once typhoons hit land, they quickly die out. The 'eye' of the cyclone is generally tens of kilometres wide and is basically a column of descending air, which is much calmer than the surrounding vortex.

Only about half the cyclones in the South China Sea ever reach typhoon ferocity. The gradation of tropical cyclones ascends as follows: tropical depression (with winds up to 62km/h); tropical storm (up to 87km/h); severe tropical storm (up to 117km/h); and typhoon (118km/h or more).

About a dozen typhoons develop in the South China Sea each year, although Hong Kong is a small target, so the chances of a direct hit – within 100km – are reasonably slim.

There is a numbering system to warn of typhoons broadcast on all media. No 1 (its visual symbol being the letter 't') means that a tropical cyclone is within 800km of Hong Kong. No 3 (an upside-down 't') – there is no No 2 – warns that winds of up to 62km are blowing, or expected to blow, generally in Hong Kong near sea level, and there is a risk of Hong Kong being hit and that people should take precautions such as securing flower pots on balconies and terraces. The system then jumps to No 8 (a triangle), which means that there are sustained winds of between 63km/h and 117km/h. People are instructed to stay indoors and to fix adhesive tape to exposed windows to reduce the damage caused by broken glass, while businesses shut down and ferries stop running. No 9 (a double triangle) warns that gale- or storm-force winds are increasing, and No 10 (a cross) is the most severe, with winds reaching upwards of 118km/h and gusts exceeding 220km/h.

Only 13 typhoons have reached No 10 since the end of WWII. The most famous ones in recent years were Typhoon Wanda (1962), the most ferocious of all, delivering hourly mean wind speeds of 133km/h and peak gusts of 259km/h; Typhoon Ellen (1983), which killed 22 people and injured over 300; and Typhoon York (1999), which had the No 10 signal up the longest of any other typhoon – 11 hours.

Rain, which can fall so heavily in Hong Kong that it sounds like a drum roll as it hits the pavement, can cause deadly landslips. Hong Kong also has a 'heavy rain warning system' that is colour-coded – in ascending degrees of severity – amber, red and black.

## CONSULATES

Hong Kong is definitely one of the world's most consulate-clogged cities. You'll find a complete list of consulates in the *Yellow Pages*.

**Australia** (Map p65; ☎ 2827 8881; 23rd fl, Harbour Centre, 25 Harbour Rd, Wan Chai)

**Canada** (Map p56; ☎ 2810 4321; 11th-14th fl, Tower I, Exchange Sq, 8 Connaught Pl, Central)

**France** (Map p63; ☎ 3196 6100; 26th fl, Tower II, Admiralty Centre, 18 Harcourt Rd, Admiralty)

**Germany** (Map p63; ☎ 2105 8788; 21st fl, United Centre, 95 Queensway, Admiralty)

**Ireland** (Map p65; ☎ 2527 4897; 6th fl, Chung Nam Bldg, 1 Lockhart Rd, Wan Chai) Honorary consulate.

**Japan** (Map p56; ☎ 2522 1184; 46th-47th fl, Tower I, Exchange Sq, 8 Connaught Pl, Central)

**Netherlands** (Map p56; ☎ 2522 5127; Room 5702, 57th fl, Cheung Kong Centre, 2 Queen's Rd Central, Central)

**New Zealand** (Map p65; ☎ 2877 4488; Room 6508, 65th fl, Central Plaza, 18 Harbour Rd, Wan Chai)

**South Africa** (Map p65; ☎ 2577 3279; Room 2706-2710, 27th fl, Great Eagle Centre, 23 Harbour Rd, Wan Chai)

**UK** (Map p63; ☎ 2901 3000; 1 Supreme Court Rd, Admiralty)

**USA** (Map p56; ☎ 2523 9011; 26 Garden Rd, Central)

## COURSES

The **Community Advice Bureau** (Map p56; ☎ 2815 5444; www.cab.org.hk; Room 16C, Right Emperor Commercial Bldg, 122-126 Wellington St, Central; ☎ 9.30am-4.30pm Mon-Fri) is a fabulous source of information on courses of all kinds in Hong Kong. The **YMCA** (☎ 2771 9111; www.ymca.org.hk) and the **YWCA** (☎ 3476 1300; www.ywca.org.hk) both offer a range of cultural classes and three-month courses, from basic Cantonese and mahjong to yoga and t'ai chi.

For visual arts, check with the **Hong Kong Museum of Art** (☎ 2721 0116), the **Hong Kong Visual Arts Centre** (☎ 2521 3008) or the **Hong Kong Arts Centre** (☎ 2582 0200). The **Fringe Club** (☎ 2521 7251; www.hkfringe.com.hk; 2 Lower Albert Rd, Central) offers any number of courses and workshops.

The Cultural Kaleidoscope Meet the People program organised by the **HKTb** (☎ 2508 1234; www.discoverhongkong.com) will whet your appetite to learn more about everything from Chinese tea and opera to t'ai chi and jade. It is unique in that it allows you to visit galleries, antique shops, jewellers to grade pearls and jade, tea-

houses, even a feng shui master's studio and a t'ai chi class. It's an excellent way to learn first-hand about Hong Kong Chinese culture. For details on times and locations see the HKTb website.

## Language

The New Asia-Yale-in-China Chinese Language Centre at the **Chinese University of Hong Kong** (Map pp50-1; ☎ 2609 6727; www.cuhk.edu.hk/dc; Fong Shu Chuen Bldg, Ma Liu Shui, New Territories) offers regular courses in Cantonese and Mandarin. There are four terms a year – four- and 11-week summer sessions and two regular 15-week terms in spring and autumn. The cost of the four-week summer term is \$8000, the 11-week session \$18,960, while the 15-week semesters are \$23,700. In addition there are shorter two-week introductory courses such as Elementary Cantonese for \$5400.

Another good place for learning Cantonese, Mandarin and other Asian languages is the School of Professional and Continuing Education at **Hong Kong University** (Map pp54-5; ☎ 2559 9771; http://hkuspace.hku.hk; Room 304, 3rd fl, TT Tsui Bldg, Pok Fu Lam Rd, Pok Fu Lam).

A number of private-language schools cater to individuals or companies. These schools offer more flexibility and even dispatch teachers to companies to teach the whole staff. For one-on-one instruction, expect to pay \$200 plus per hour. Language schools to consider:

**Essential Chinese Language Centre** (Map p56; ☎ 2544 6979; http://eclc.com.hk; 8th fl, Man On Commercial Bldg, 12-13 Jubilee St, Central)

**Hong Kong Institute of Languages** (Map p68; ☎ 2877 6160; www.hklanguages.com; 6th fl, Wellington Plaza, 56-58 Wellington St, Central)

## CULTURAL CENTRES

Opening hours for cultural centres vary according to the department (library, media centre, gallery etc) and what's exhibiting.

**Alliance Française** (Map p65; ☎ 2527 7825; www.alliancefrancaise.com.hk; 1st & 2nd fl, 123 Hennessy Rd, Wan Chai) This place has a library and offers a wide range of cultural activities.

**British Council** (Map p63; ☎ 2913 5100; www.britishcouncil.org.hk; 3 Supreme Court Rd, Admiralty) Provides English-language classes, sponsors cultural programmes, has internet access and a useful **Customer Services Centre** (☎ 9am-8.30pm Mon-Fri, 9am-6pm Sat).

**Goethe-Institut** (Map p65; ☎ 2802 0088; www.goethe.de/hongkong; 13th & 14th fl, Hong Kong Arts Centre, 2 Harbour Rd, Wan Chai) German classes, films, exhibitions and lectures.

## CUSTOMS REGULATIONS

Even though Hong Kong is a duty-free port, there are items on which duty is still charged. Import taxes on cigarettes and, in particular, alcohol are high (100% on spirits, 40% on wine, 20% on beer).

The duty-free allowance for visitors arriving into Hong Kong (including those coming from Macau and mainland China) is 60 cigarettes (or 15 cigars or 75g of tobacco) and 1L of alcohol (wine or spirits). Apart from these limits there are few other import taxes, so you can bring in reasonable quantities of almost anything.

Firecrackers and fireworks are banned in Hong Kong but not in Macau and mainland China, and people crossing the border are sometimes thoroughly searched for these. Customs officers are on high alert for drug smugglers. If you're arriving from Thailand or Vietnam, be prepared for a rigorous examination of your luggage.

## DISCOUNT CARDS

### Hong Kong Museums Pass

This pass allows multiple entries to six of Hong Kong's museums: Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence on Hong Kong Island; the Hong Kong Science Museum, Hong Kong Museum of History, Hong Kong Museum of Art and Hong Kong Space Museum (excluding Space Theatre) in Kowloon; and the Hong Kong Heritage Museum in the New Territories. Passes valid for seven consecutive days cost \$30; passes valid for a half-year cost \$50/25 for adults/seniors over 60 and students; and a full-year pass is \$100/50. Passes are available from HKTB outlets and participating museums. Please note that these half-dozen museums are all free on Wednesdays.

### Hostel Card

A Hostelling International (HI) card or the equivalent is of relatively limited use in Hong Kong as there are only seven HI-affiliated hostels here and most are in remote locations in the New Territories. If you arrive without a card and want to stay in one of these hostels, you can buy one from the [Hong Kong Youth Hostels](#)

**Association** (HKYHA; Map pp88–9; ☎ 2788 1638; www.yha.org.hk; Room 225-227, Block 19, Shek Kip Mei Estate, Nam Cheong St, Kowloon) for \$110/50 over/under 18 years.

You are allowed to stay at any of Hong Kong's HKYHA hostels without a membership card, but you will have to buy a 'Welcome Stamp' (\$30) for each night of your stay. Once you've stayed six nights, you are issued your own card.

### Seniors Card

Many attractions in Hong Kong offer discounts for people aged over 60 or 65. Most of Hong Kong's museums are either free or half-price for those over 60 and most forms of public transport offer a 50% discount to anyone over 65. A passport or ID with a photo should be sufficient proof of age.

### Student, Youth & Teacher Cards

The International Student Identity Card (ISIC), a plastic ID-style card with your photograph, provides discounts on some forms of transport and cheaper admission to museums and other sights. If you're aged under 26 but not a student, you can apply for an International Youth Travel Card (IYTC) issued by the Federation of International Youth Travel Organisations (FIYTO), which gives much the same discounts and benefits. Teachers can apply for the International Teacher Identity Card (ITIC).

Hong Kong Student Travel, based at [Sincerity Travel](#) (Map p92; ☎ 2730 3269; Room 833-834, 8th fl, East Block, Star House, 3 Salisbury Rd, Tsim Sha Tsui; ☎ 10am-7pm Mon-Sat), can issue you any of these cards instantly for \$100. Make sure you bring your student ID or other credentials along with you.

## ELECTRICITY

The standard is 220V, 50Hz AC. Hong Kong's plug and socket system can be a bit confusing at first. The vast majority of electric outlets are designed to accommodate the British three square pins, but some take three large round prongs and others three small pins. Unsurprisingly, inexpensive plug adaptors are widely available in Hong Kong, even in supermarkets.

## EMERGENCY

Hong Kong is generally a very safe place but, as everywhere, things can go awry. Although

it is safe to walk around just about anywhere in the territory after dark, it's best to stick to well-lit areas. Tourist districts such as Tsim Sha Tsui are heavily patrolled by the police. In the event of a real emergency, ring ☎ 999.

Hong Kong does have its share of local pickpockets and thieves. Carry as little cash and as few valuables as possible, and if you put a bag down, keep an eye on it. This also applies to restaurants and pubs, particularly in touristed areas such as the Star Ferry piers and the Peak Tram. If your bag doesn't accompany you to the toilet, don't expect to find it when you return.

If you are robbed, you can obtain a loss report for insurance purposes at the police station in the area in which the crime occurred. For locations and contact details of police stations in Hong Kong, visit [www.info.gov.hk/police](#) and click on 'Contact Us' and then 'Report Rooms'.

If you run into legal trouble, call the [Legal Aid Department](#) (☎ 2537 7677; www.lad.gov.hk; ☎ 8.45am-1pm & 2-5.15pm Mon-Fri, 9am-noon Sat, 24hr hotline), which provides residents and visitors with representation, subject to a means and merits test. Other important numbers include the following:

**Auxiliary Medical Service (AMS) hotline** (☎ 2762 2033)

**Bushfire Control Centre hotline** (☎ 2720 0777)

**Police** (☎ general enquiries 2860 2000, report hotline 2527 7177)

**St John Ambulance Brigade** (Hong Kong Island ☎ 2576 6555, Kowloon ☎ 2713 5555, New Territories ☎ 2639 2555, territory-wide ☎ 2530 8032)

**Tropical Cyclone Warning** (☎ 2835 1473)

## GAY & LESBIAN TRAVELLERS

Those travelling to Hong Kong will find a small but vibrant and growing gay and lesbian scene in the Special Administrative Region (SAR). It may not compete with the likes of London or Sydney but Hong Kong has come a long way all the same.

It was, after all, only in 1991 that the Crimes (Amendment) Ordinance removed criminal penalties for homosexual acts between consenting adults over the age of 18. Since that time gay groups have been lobbying for legislation to address the issue of discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation. Despite these changes, however, Hong Kong Chinese society remains fairly conservative, and it can

still be risky for gays and lesbians to come out to family members or their employers.

Useful organisations:

**Chi Heng Foundation** (☎ 2517 0564; www.chihengfoundation.com; GPO Box 3923, Central, Hong Kong) Umbrella unit for gay and lesbian associations and groups in Hong Kong.

**Horizons** (☎ 2815 9268, 9776 6479; www.horizons.org.hk; GPO Box 6837, Central, Hong Kong; ☎ hotline 7.30-10.30pm Thu) Phone service that can provide information and advice to local and visiting gays, lesbians and bisexuals.

**Queer Sisters** (☎ 2314 4348; www.qs.org.hk; ☎ hotline 8-10pm Tue) Information and assistance organisation for lesbians. You can call and leave a voicemail message outside of hotline hours and staff will get back to you.

## HEALTH

The Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) outbreak of 2003 notwithstanding, health conditions in the region are good. Travellers have a low risk of contracting infectious diseases, apart from travellers' diarrhoea, which is common throughout Asia. The health system (p295) is generally excellent.

## Diseases

### DENGUE FEVER

This is caught from mosquito bites. Until recently it was unheard of in Hong Kong, yet some 30 cases were reported in 2004 (the outbreak claimed no lives).

This viral disease is transmitted by mosquitoes but unlike the malaria mosquito, the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, which transmits the dengue virus, is most active during the day, and is found mainly in urban areas, in and around human dwellings. Signs and symptoms of dengue fever include a sudden onset of high fever, headache, joint and muscle pains (hence its old name, 'breakbone fever'), and nausea and vomiting. A rash of small red spots sometimes appears three to four days after the onset of fever.

You should seek medical attention as soon as possible if you think you may be infected. A blood test can exclude malaria and indicate the possibility of dengue fever. There is no specific treatment for dengue. Aspirin should be avoided, as it increases the risk of haemorrhaging. The best prevention is to avoid mosquito bites at all times by covering up, using insect repellents containing the compound DEET and mosquito nets.

## GIARDIA

This is a parasite that often jumps on board when you have diarrhoea. It then causes a more prolonged illness with intermittent diarrhoea or loose stools, bloating, fatigue and some nausea. There may be a metallic taste in the mouth. Avoiding potentially contaminated foods and always washing your hands can help to prevent giardia.

## HEPATITIS A

This virus is common in Hong Kong and Macau and is transmitted through contaminated water and shellfish. It is most commonly caught at local island seafood restaurants. Immunisation and avoiding local seafood restaurants should prevent it.

## HEPATITIS B

Whilst this is common in the area, it can only be transmitted by unprotected sex, sharing needles, treading on a discarded needle, or receiving contaminated blood in very remote areas of China.

## INFLUENZA

Hong Kong has a bad flu season over the winter months from December to March. Symptoms include a cold (runny nose etc) with a high fever and aches and pains. You should wash your hands frequently, avoid anybody you know who has the flu and think about getting a flu shot before you travel.

## TRAVELLERS' DIARRHOEA

To prevent diarrhoea, avoid tap water unless it has been boiled, filtered or chemically disinfected (eg with iodine tablets); only eat fresh fruits and vegetables if they're cooked or peeled; be wary of dairy products that might contain unpasteurised milk; and be highly selective when eating food from street vendors.

If you develop diarrhoea, be sure to drink plenty of fluids, preferably an oral rehydration solution containing lots of salt and sugar. A few loose stools don't mean you require treatment but, if you start experiencing more than four or five stools a day, you should start taking an antibiotic (usually a quinolone drug) and an anti-diarrheal agent (such as loperamide). If diarrhoea is bloody, or persists for more than 72 hours, or is accompanied by fever, shaking chills or severe abdominal pain, you should seek medical attention.

## Environmental Hazards

### INSECTS

Mosquitoes are prevalent in Hong Kong. You should always use insect repellent and if bitten use hydrocortisone cream to reduce swelling. Lamma Island is home to large red centipedes, which have a poisonous bite that causes swelling and discomfort in most cases, but can be more dangerous (and supposedly in very rare cases deadly) for young children.

### MAMMALS

Wild boars and aggressive dogs are a minor hazard in some of the more remote parts of the New Territories. Wild boars are shy and retiring most of the time but dangerous when they feel threatened, so give them a wide berth and avoid disturbing thick areas of undergrowth.

### SNAKES

There are many snakes in Hong Kong and some are deadly, but you are unlikely to encounter any. Still, always take care when bushwalking, particularly on Lamma and Lantau Islands. Go straight to a public hospital if bitten; private doctors do not stock antivenin.

### WATER

Avoid drinking the local water as its quality varies enormously and depends on the pipes in the building you're in. Bottled water is a safer option or you can boil tap water for three minutes.

## Online Resources

The World Health Organization (WHO) publishes a superb book called *International Travel and Health*, which is revised annually and is available free online at [www.who.int/ith](http://www.who.int/ith).

## Recommended Immunisations

There are no required vaccinations for entry into Hong Kong or Macau unless you have travelled from a country infected with yellow fever. In this case, you will have to show your yellow-fever vaccination certificate. Hong Kong is a highly developed city and as such immunisations are not really necessary unless you will be travelling on to the mainland or elsewhere in the region.

Since most vaccines don't produce immunity until at least two weeks after they're given,

visit a physician four to eight weeks before departure. Ask your doctor for an International Certificate of Vaccination (or 'yellow booklet'), which will list all of the vaccinations you've received.

If your health insurance doesn't cover you for medical expenses abroad, consider supplemental insurance (see [www.lonelyplanet.com/travel\\_links](http://www.lonelyplanet.com/travel_links) for more information).

## HOLIDAYS

Western and Chinese culture combine to create an interesting mix – and number – of public holidays in Hong Kong and Macau. Determining the exact date of some of them is tricky as there are traditionally two calendars in use: the Gregorian solar (or Western) calendar and the Chinese lunar calendar.

The following are public holidays in both Hong Kong and Macau (unless noted otherwise). For Macau-specific holidays, see [p351](#).

**New Year's Day** 1 January

**Chinese New Year** 7 February 2008, 26 January 2009, 14 February 2010

**Easter** 21-24 March 2008, 10-13 April 2009, 2-5 April 2010

**Ching Ming** 5 April

**Labour Day** 1 May

**Buddha's Birthday** 12 May 2008, 2 May 2009, 21 May 2010

**Dragon Boat (Tuen Ng) Festival** 8 June 2008, 28 June 2009, 16 June 2010

**Hong Kong SAR Establishment Day** 1 July (not Macau)

**Mid-Autumn Festival** 14 September 2008, 3 October 2009, 22 September 2010

**China National Day** 1 October

**Cheung Yeung** 7 October 2008, 26 October 2009

**Christmas Day** 25 December

**Boxing Day** 26 December

## IDENTITY CARD

Hong Kong residents are required to carry a government-issued Hong Kong Identity Card with them at all times and this rule is strictly enforced. As a visitor, you are required to carry your passport; it is the only acceptable form of identification as far as the police are concerned.

Anyone over the age of 11 who stays in Hong Kong for longer than 180 days must apply for a Hong Kong ID. Enquire at the ID-issuing office of the [Hong Kong Immigration Department](#) (Map p65; ☎ 2824 6111; [.hk; 8th fl, Immigration Tower, 7 Gloucester Rd, Wan Chai; ☎ 8.45am-4.30pm Mon-Fri, 9-11.30am Sat\). Be sure to take your passport and other documents with you.](http://www.immd.gov</a></p>
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## INTERNET ACCESS

The internet is very popular in computer-literate Hong Kong, and the territory was the first place in the world to be totally accessible by broadband. Virtually every business has a website and just about anyone you're likely to do business with can be contacted by email.

Internet service providers (ISPs) most often used in Hong Kong include PCCW's [Netigator](#) (☎ 183 3833; [www.netigator.com](http://www.netigator.com)), [HKNet](#) (☎ 2110 2288; [www.hknet.com](http://www.hknet.com)), [CPCNet](#) (☎ 2331 8930; [www.cpcnet-hk.com](http://www.cpcnet-hk.com)) and [Yahoo](#) (☎ 2895 5769; [www.yah.oo.hk](http://www.yah.oo.hk)).

Most hotels and hostels have internet access. You'll also be able to log on for free at major MTR stations (eg Central and Causeway Bay) and many public libraries, including the Causeway Bay branch of the Central Library (p76). All it takes to log on to one of up to a half-dozen terminals at the [Pacific Coffee Company](#) ([www.pacificcoffee.com](http://www.pacificcoffee.com)) is the purchase of a coffee (\$21 to \$36) or a piece of cake (\$12 to \$26).

Among some of the best (ie fast machines, good locations, number of terminals) private internet cafés:

**Cyber Clan** (Map p65; ☎ 2723 2821; Luen Tai Bldg, 93-99 Wan Chai Rd, Wan Chai; membership \$5, per hr members \$12, nonmembers \$13; ☎ 24hr) Round-the-clock place located where Johnston and Wan Chai Rds meet.

**Cyber Pro Internet** (Map p74; ☎ 2836 3502; Basement, 491-499 Lockhart Rd, Causeway Bay; per hr 11am-midnight/midnight-7am Sun-Thu \$16/10, Fri & Sat \$18/13; ☎ 11am-7am) This huge place is packed with young 'uns playing games.

**IT. Fans** (Map p56; ☎ 2542 1868; Ground & mezzanine fl, Man On Commercial Bldg, 12-13 Jubilee St, Central; membership \$10, per hr members/nonmembers Mon-Thu \$16/20, Fri-Sun \$18/22; ☎ 10am-5am) This massive and very central place has 100 monitors and serves real food.

**Pacific Coffee Company** (Map p92; ☎ 2735 0112; Shop G31-G32A, Miramar Shopping Centre, 132 Nathan Rd, Tsim Sha Tsui; ☎ 7am-midnight Mon-Thu, 7am-1am Fri & Sat, 8am-midnight Sun) Internet is free for customers. In addition, there are dozens of other branches throughout Hong Kong.

**Shadowman Cyber Cafe** (Map p92; ☎ 2366 5262; Ground fl, 21A Ashley Rd, Tsim Sha Tsui; ☎ 8am-midnight Mon-Sat, 10am-midnight Sun) This is a small but convivial



place to check emails, surf the web and have lunch (sandwiches \$28 to \$100, set meal \$45). The first 20 minutes are free with your purchase, then it's \$10 every 15 minutes.

## LAUNDRY

Laundries are easy to find everywhere in Hong Kong – hey, this is China – though they're never self-service. Most hotels, guesthouses and even some hostels have a laundry service. Prices at local laundries are normally \$28 to \$35 for the first 3kg, and then \$8 to \$12 for each additional kilogram.

Dry cleaners are easy to spot and some laundries offer that service as well. Both prices and quality vary enormously, but expect to pay from \$25 for a dress shirt, from \$35 for a skirt and from \$60 for a suit.

The following are recommended laundries and dry-cleaners:

**Martinizing** (Map p56; ☎ 2525 3089; Ground fl, 7 Glenealy, Central; ☎ 8.30am-7pm Mon-Sat)

**New Furama Dry-Cleaning** (Map p56; ☎ 2537 2217; Shop 1C, Ground fl, Bank of America Tower, 12 Harcourt Rd, Central; ☎ 8am-7pm Mon-Sat)

**Wee Wei Dry Cleaner & Laundry** (Map p68; ☎ 2522 9818; 26 Old Bailey St, Soho; ☎ 7.30am-7.45pm Mon-Sat)

## LEFT LUGGAGE

There are left-luggage lockers in major KCR train stations, including the Hung Hom station, the West Tower of the Shun Tak Centre in Sheung Wan, from where the Macau ferry departs, and the China ferry terminal in Tsim Sha Tsui. Luggage costs between \$20 and \$30 for up to two hours (depending on the locker size) and between \$25 and \$35 for every 12 hours after that. The Hong Kong Airport Express station has a left-luggage office open from 6am to 1am. There's also a counter on level 5 (arrivals hall) of **Hong Kong International Airport** (☎ 2261 0110; ☎ 5.30am-1.30am). Storage here costs \$35 for up to three hours, \$50 for up to 24 hours and \$120 for up to 48 hours. It's \$80 for each 24-hour period after that.

Generally the machines don't use keys but spit out a numbered ticket when you have deposited your money and closed the door. You have to punch in this number when you retrieve your bag, so keep it somewhere safe or write the number down. Some lockers have a maximum storage time of three days, so read the instructions carefully.

If you're going to visit Macau or the mainland and you'll be returning to Hong Kong, most hotels and even some guesthouses and

hostels have left-luggage rooms and will let you leave your gear behind, even if you've already checked out and won't be staying on your return. There is usually a charge for this service, so be sure to enquire first.

## LEGAL MATTERS

Hong Kong has a serious drug problem, much of it supplied by the Triads. There are estimated to be more than 40,000 drug addicts in Hong Kong, 75% of whom are hooked on heroin, which they generally smoke – the process is called 'chasing the dragon' – rather than inject. Some female addicts finance their habit by working in the sex industry; others resort to pickpocketing, burglary and robbery.

Professional smugglers often target Westerners to carry goods into countries like Vietnam and India, where those goods are prohibited or the import taxes are high. The theory is that customs agents are less likely to stop and search foreigners. These small-time smuggling expeditions, or 'milk runs', either earn the Westerner a fee or a free air ticket to another destination. But smuggling is very, very risky.

Most foreigners who get into legal trouble in Hong Kong are involved in drugs. All forms of narcotics are illegal in Hong Kong. It makes no difference whether it's heroin, opium, 'ice', ecstasy or marijuana – the law makes no distinction. If police or customs officials find dope or even smoking equipment in your possession, you can expect to be arrested immediately. If you do run into legal trouble, contact the **Legal Aid Department** (☎ 2537 7677; ☎ 24hr hotline).

## LIBRARIES

Hong Kong has an extensive public library system – some 66 in total – and you will find a list on the internet at [www.hkpl.gov.hk](http://www.hkpl.gov.hk). The most useful for travellers is the **City Hall Public Library** (Map p56; ☎ 2921 2555; ☎ 10am-7pm Mon-Thu, 10am-9pm Fri, 10am-5pm Sat & Sun & some public holidays), spread over eight floors of the High Block of City Hall, opposite Queen's Pier in Central. With a passport and a deposit of \$130 per item, foreign visitors can get a temporary library card (3rd floor), which allows them to borrow up to six books and other materials from the library for 14 days at any one time.

In Causeway Bay the even larger **Central Library** (Map p74; ☎ 3150 1234; 66 Causeway Rd; ☎ 10am-9pm Thu-Tue, 1-9pm Wed, 10am-7pm some public holidays)

has lending sections, children's and young adult libraries, some two-dozen terminals with internet available to the public and a wonderful reading room on the 5th floor with around 4000 international periodicals.

## MAPS

Decent tourist maps are easy to come by in Hong Kong, and they're usually free. The HKTB hands out copies of the bimonthly *The Hong Kong Map* at its information centres. It covers the northern coast of Hong Kong Island from Sheung Wan to Causeway Bay and part of the Kowloon peninsula, and has inset maps of Aberdeen, Hung Hom, Kowloon City, Kowloon Tong, Sha Tin, Stanley and Tsuen Wan.

Another free map you'll find everywhere is the *AOA Street Map*, but it's full of advertising and difficult to use.

Lonely Planet's *Hong Kong City Map* has five separate maps with varying scales, a street index and an inset map of Hong Kong's rail network.

**Universal Publications** (UP; [www.up.com.hk](http://www.up.com.hk)) produces many maps of Hong Kong, including the 1:80,000 *Hong Kong Touring Map* (\$22) and the 1:9000 *City Map of Hong Kong & Kowloon* (\$25). It publishes detailed street maps of Hong Kong Island and Kowloon (\$22 each), with scales below 1:8000.

The *Hong Kong Official Guide Map* (\$45), produced by the **Survey and Mapping Office of the Lands Department** ([www.info.gov.hk/landsd/mapping](http://www.info.gov.hk/landsd/mapping)), has both street and district maps and is available from most bookshops.

If you're looking for greater detail, topographical accuracy and good colour reproduction, it's worth investing in the *Hong Kong Guidebook* (\$60), a street atlas to the entire territory published by UP and updated annually. Compiled in English and Chinese, it also includes useful information on public transport and a host of other listings. A larger format version of this, the *Hong Kong Directory* (\$70) is available as well as the pocket-size *Palm Atlas of Hong Kong* (\$42). The *Public Transport Atlas* (\$50) shows detailed information on all land public transport routes in Hong Kong, displaying all of the stops on maps.

Along with everything from flying charts to plans of the New Towns in the New Territories, the Survey and Mapping Office produces a series of eight *Countryside Series* maps that are useful for hiking in the hills and country parks. They are available from two **Map Pub-**

**lication Centres:** the **North Point branch** (Map pp54-5; ☎ 2231 3187; 23rd fl, North Point Government Offices, 333 Java Rd; ☎ 9am-5.30pm Mon-Fri) and the **Yau Ma Tei branch** (Map p97; ☎ 2780 0981; 382 Nathan Rd; ☎ 9am-5.30pm Mon-Fri).

Each of the six *Countryside Series* maps is 1:25,000, with larger-scale inset maps. One of them covers Hong Kong Island and surrounds: *Hong Kong Island & Neighbouring Islands* (\$50). Three maps are devoted to the New Territories: *North-West New Territories* (\$62); *North-East & Central New Territories* (\$50); and *Sai Kung & Clearwater Bay* (\$50). For the islands, there's *Outlying Islands* (\$45), with large-scale maps of Cheung Chau, Lamma, Peng Chau, Ma Wan, Tung Lung Chau and Po Toi, and *Lantau Island & Neighbouring Islands* (\$62), essentially a 1:25,000-scale map of Hong Kong's largest island, with several larger-scale inset maps.

Most bookshops stock UP's 1:32,000-scale *Lantau Island, Cheung Chau & Lamma Island* (\$25), which is laminated and contains useful transport information, and its 1:54,000 *Tseung Kwan O, Sai Kung, Clearwater Bay* (\$25).

If you're heading for any of Hong Kong's four major trails, you should get a copy of the trail map produced by the Country & Marine Parks Authority, which is available at the Map Publication Centres.

## MEDICAL SERVICES

The standard of medical care in Hong Kong is generally excellent but expensive. Always take out travel insurance before you travel. Healthcare is divided into public and private, and there is no interaction between the two. In the case of an emergency, all ambulances (☎ 999) will take you to a government-run public hospital where, as a visitor, you will be required to pay \$570 for using emergency services. Treatment is guaranteed in any case; people who cannot pay immediately will be billed later. While the emergency care is excellent, you may wish to transfer to a private hospital once you are stable.

There are many English-speaking general practitioners, specialists and dentists in Hong Kong, who can be found through your consulate (p289), private hospital or the *Yellow Pages*. If money is tight, take yourself to the nearest public hospital emergency room and be prepared to wait. The general enquiry number for hospitals is ☎ 2300 6555.

Public and private hospitals with 24-hour accident and emergency departments:

## HONG KONG ISLAND

**Hong Kong Central Hospital** (Map p68; ☎ 2522 3141; 18 Lower Albert Rd, Central) Private.

**Matilda International Hospital** (Map pp54–5; ☎ 2849 0111, 24hr help line 2849 0123; 41 Mt Kellett Rd, The Peak) Private.

**Queen Mary Hospital** (Map pp54–5; ☎ 2855 3838; 102 Pok Fu Lam Rd, Pok Fu Lam) Public.

## KOWLOON

**Hong Kong Baptist Hospital** (Off Map pp88–9; ☎ 2339 8888; 222 Waterloo Rd, Kowloon Tong) Private.

**Princess Margaret Hospital** (Map pp50–1; ☎ 2990 1111, 24hr help line 2990 2000; 2–10 Princess Margaret Hospital Rd, Lai Chi Kok) Public.

**Queen Elizabeth Hospital** (Map p97; ☎ 2958 8428; 30 Gascoigne Rd, Yau Ma Tei) Public.

## NEW TERRITORIES

**Prince of Wales Hospital** (Map p124; ☎ 2632 2415; 30–32 Ngan Shing St, Sha Tin) Public.

There are many pharmacies in Hong Kong and Macau. They bear a red-and-white cross outside and there should be a registered pharmacist available inside. Though many medications can be bought over the counter without a prescription in Hong Kong, you should always check it is a known brand and that the expiry date is valid. Birth-control pills, pads, tampons and condoms are available over the counter in these dispensaries, as well as in stores such as Watsons and Mannings.

## MONEY

Consult the inside front cover for a table of exchange rates and refer to the boxed text on p18 for information on costs.

## ATMs

Hong Kong Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) can be found almost everywhere and are usually linked up to international money systems such as Cirrus, Maestro, Plus and Visa Electron. Some HSBC so-called Electronic Money machines offer cash withdrawal facilities for Visa and MasterCard holders; American Express (Amex) cardholders have access to Jetco ATMs and can withdraw local currency and travellers cheques at the Express Cash ATMs in town.

## Changing Money

One of the main reasons why Hong Kong has become a major financial centre is because it has no currency controls; locals and foreigners can bring/send in or take out as much money as they like.

Banks in Hong Kong generally offer the best rates, though two of the biggest ones – Standard Chartered and the Hang Seng Bank – levy a \$50 commission for each transaction on nonaccount holders. Avoid HSBC where this charge is \$100. If you're changing the equivalent of several hundred US dollars or more, the exchange rate improves, which usually makes up for the fee.

There are licensed moneychangers, such as Chequepoint, abundant in touristed areas, including Tsim Sha Tsui and the Shun Tak Centre, from where ferries depart for Macau. While they are convenient (usually open on Sunday and holidays and late into the evenings) and take no commission per se, the less-than-attractive exchange rates offered are equivalent to a 5% commission. These rates are clearly posted, though if you're changing several hundred US dollars or more you might be able to bargain for a better rate. Before the actual exchange is made, the moneychanger is required by law to give you a form to sign that clearly shows the amount due to you, the exchange rate and any service charges. And try to avoid the exchange counters at the airport: they offer some of the worst rates in Hong Kong. The rates offered at hotels are only marginally better.

One moneychanger that we've been using since the ink was still wet on the Treaty of Nanking is **Wing Hoi Money Exchange** (Map p92; ☎ 2723 5948; Ground fl, shop No 9B, Mirador Mansion Arcade, 58 Nathan Rd, Tsim Sha Tsui; ☎ 8.30am–8.30pm Mon–Sat, 8.30am–7pm Sun). It will change just about any currency as well as travellers cheques.

No foreign currency black market exists in Hong Kong. If anyone on the street does approach you to change money, assume it's a scam.

## Credit Cards

The most widely accepted credit cards in Hong Kong are Visa, MasterCard, Amex, Diners Club and JCB – and pretty much in that order. When signing credit card receipts, make sure you always write 'HK' in front of the dollar sign if there isn't one already printed there.

If you plan to use a credit card, make sure you have a high enough credit limit to cover major expenses such as car hire or airline tickets. Alternatively, leave your card in credit when you start your travels. And don't just carry one card, go for two: an Amex or Diners Club card with a MasterCard or Visa card. Better still, combine cards and travellers cheques so you have something to fall back on if an ATM swallows your card or the bank won't accept it.

Some shops in Hong Kong 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 will offer a 5% discount if you pay cash. It's your call.

If a card is lost or stolen, you must inform both the **police** (☎ 25277177) and the issuing company as soon as possible; otherwise, you may have to pay for the purchases that the unspeakable scoundrel has racked up on your card. Some 24-hour numbers for cancelling cards:

**American Express** (☎ 2811 6888)

**Diners Club** (☎ 2860 1888)

**JCB** (☎ 001 800 0009 0009 toll free)

**MasterCard** (☎ 800 966 677)

**Visa** (☎ 800 900 782)

The Visa number may be able to help you (or at least point you in the right direction) should you lose your Visa card but, in general, you must deal with the issuing bank in the case of an emergency. Round-the-clock emergency bank numbers:

**Chase Manhattan Bank** (☎ 2881 0888)

**Citibank** (☎ 2860 0333)

**HSBC** (☎ 2748 4848)

**Standard Chartered Bank** (☎ 2886 4111)

## Currency

The local currency is the Hong Kong dollar (HK\$), which is divided into 100 cents. Bills are issued in denominations of \$10, \$20, \$50, \$100, \$500 and \$1000. There are little copper coins worth 10¢, 20¢ and 50¢, silver-coloured \$1, \$2 and \$5 coins, and a nickel and bronze \$10 coin.

Hong Kong notes are issued by three banks: HSBC (formerly the Hongkong & Shanghai Bank), the Standard Chartered Bank and the Bank of China (all but the \$10 bill).

For exchange rates see the inside front cover, or check out the **FXconverter website** ([www.oanda.com/convert/classic](http://www.oanda.com/convert/classic)).

## Personal Cheques

Personal cheques are still widely used (and accepted) in Hong Kong; a group of diners will often write separate cheques to pay for their share of a meal. If you plan to stay for a while in Hong Kong – or even travel around Asia and return here – you might want to open a bank account here. There is no need to be a Hong Kong resident, and current and savings accounts can be opened in Hong Kong dollars or most other major currencies.

## Travellers Cheques

Travellers cheques offer protection from theft but are becoming less common due to the preponderance of ATMs. Most banks will cash travellers cheques, and they all charge a fee, often irrespective of whether you are an account holder or not. HSBC, Standard Chartered and Hang Seng banks all charge commissions, whether this be a flat amount or a percentage of the total exchanged.

If any cheques go missing, contact the issuing office or the nearest branch of the issuing agency immediately. **American Express** (☎ 3002 1275) can usually arrange replacement cheques within 24 hours.

## NEWSPAPERS & MAGAZINES

There are two principal English-language newspapers available in Hong Kong. The daily broadsheet *South China Morning Post* ([www.scmp.com](http://www.scmp.com)), which has always toed the government line – before and after the handover – has the larger circulation and is read by more Hong Kong Chinese than expatriates. Its classified advertisement sales have placed it among the world's most profitable newspapers in the past. The tabloid *Hong Kong Standard* ([www.thestandard.com.hk](http://www.thestandard.com.hk)), published from Monday to Saturday (weekend edition), is generally more rigorous in its local reporting. It dubs itself 'Greater China's Business Newspaper', though it's hard to see how it can claim that sobriquet. The Beijing mouthpiece *China Daily* ([www.chinadaily.com.cn](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn)) also prints out a Hong Kong English-language edition of its paper.

The *Asian Wall Street Journal* as well as regional editions of *USA Today*, the *International Herald Tribune* and the *Financial Times* are printed and are available in Hong Kong.



Hong Kong also has its share of English-language periodicals, including a slew of home-grown (and Asian-focused) business magazines. *Time*, *Newsweek* and the *Economist* are all available in the current editions.

## ORGANISED TOURS

Despite its size a profusion of organised tours operates in Hong Kong. There are tours available to just about anywhere in the territory and they can make good options if you only have a short time in Hong Kong or don't want to deal with public transport. Some tours are standard excursions covering major sights on Hong Kong Island such as the Peak and Hollywood Rd, while other tours take you on harbour cruises, out to the islands or through the New Territories. For tours to Macau, see [p313](#).

### Air

If you hanker to see Hong Kong from on high – and hang the expense – [Heliservices](#) ([☎](tel) 2802 0200; [www.heliservices.com.hk](http://www.heliservices.com.hk)) has chartered Aerospatiale Squirrels for up to five passengers available for \$6000/9000 for each 15-/30-minute period. They depart from rooftop helipads atop the Peninsula Hong Kong ([p257](#)) annexe.

### Boat

Several operators offer Harbour Tours. If you're on a budget, the [Hong Kong Tourism Board](#) (HKTB; [p301](#)) offers a one-hour free ride on the *Duk Ling*, a traditional Chinese junk complete with red triangular sails, departing Kowloon Public pier at 2pm and 4pm Thursday and 10am and noon on Saturday. It also picks up from Central pier 9 at 3pm and 5pm on Thursday, and at 11am and 1pm Saturday.

The easiest way to see the full extent of Victoria Harbour from sea level is to join a circular [Star Ferry Harbour Tour](#) ([☎](tel) 2118 6201, 2118 6202; [www.starferry.com.hk/harbour\\_tour](http://www.starferry.com.hk/harbour_tour)), of which there are a number of different options. A single daytime round trip, departing from the Star Ferry pier in Tsim Sha Tsui hourly between 2.05pm and 5.05pm daily, costs \$45/40 for adults/concessions (children aged three to 12 and seniors over 65). A full-/half-day hopping pass, available from 11.05am to 7.05pm/5.05pm respectively, costs \$165/70 for adults and \$148/63 for concessions. At night, a two-hour round trip (at 7.05pm and 9.05pm) is \$115/104 for adults/concessions. A single night ride taken between 6.05pm and

11.05pm costs \$95/85. There are also departures from the piers at Central, Wan Chai and Hung Hom; see the website for details.

Many agents, including [Gray Line](#) ([☎](tel) 2368 7111; [www.grayline.com.hk](http://www.grayline.com.hk)), [Splendid Tours & Travel](#) ([☎](tel) 2316 2151; [www.splendidtours.com](http://www.splendidtours.com)) and [Hong Kong Dragon Cruise](#) ([☎](tel) 2131 8181; [www.nwft.com.hk](http://www.nwft.com.hk)), run by New World First Travel, offer tours of Victoria and Aberdeen Harbours, but the company with the longest experience in these is [Watertours](#) ([Map p92](#); [☎](tel) 2926 3868; [www.watertours.com.hk](http://www.watertours.com.hk); Shop 5C, Ground fl, Star House, 3 Salisbury Rd, Tsim Sha Tsui; 🚗 9am-9pm). Some eight different tours of the harbour and the Outlying Islands, as well as dinner and cocktail cruises, are available. Prices range from \$220 (\$130 for children aged two to 12) for the Morning Harbour & Noon Day Gun Firing Cruise, to \$390 (\$360 for children) for the Harbour Lights & Lei Yue Mun Seafood Village Dinner Cruise.

For the Outlying Islands, [HKKF Travel](#) ([☎](tel) 2533 5339, 2533 5315; [info@hkkf.com.hk](mailto:info@hkkf.com.hk)) has a five-hour Outlying Islands Escapade (\$360) that takes in Cheung Chau and Lamma Island. Departure is from pier 4 at the Outlying Islands ferry terminal in Central.

### Bus

For first-time visitors to Hong Kong trying to get their bearings, [Splendid Tours & Travel](#) ([☎](tel) 2316 2151; [www.splendidtours.com](http://www.splendidtours.com)) runs some interesting 'orientation' tours of Hong Kong Island, Kowloon and the New Territories. The tours last four to five hours and cost \$320/220 per adult/child aged three to 12 years. Another tour company to try is the old stalwart [Gray Line](#) ([☎](tel) 2368 7111; [www.grayline.com.hk](http://www.grayline.com.hk)), which has a five-hour tour (\$320/215) taking in Man Mo Temple, Victoria Peak, Aberdeen and Repulse Bay.

Some of the most popular surface tours of the New Territories are offered (or sub-contracted) by the [Hong Kong Tourism Board](#) ([p301](#)). The ever-popular Land Between Tour takes in the Yuen Yuen Institute temple complex in Tsuen Wan and Tai Mo Shan lookout, as well as several other sights. The full-day tour (adult/child under 16 or senior over 60 \$420/370) takes 6½ hours and includes lunch; the half-day tour (\$320/270) is five hours, without lunch. The five-hour Heritage Tour (\$320/270), which does not include lunch, takes in such New Territories sights as Man Mo Temple in Tai Po, the Tang Chung Ling Ancestral Hall in Leung Yeuk Tau village and

the walled settlement of Lo Wai. Contact the [HKTB tours reservation hotline](#) ([☎](tel) 2368 7112; 🚗 7am-9pm) for information and bookings.

## Walking

For tailor-made, personal walking tours of both urban and rural Hong Kong, contact [Walk Hong Kong](#) ([☎](tel) 9187 8641, 9359 9071; [www.walkhongkong.com](http://www.walkhongkong.com)), which is run by a couple of long-term expatriates.

An unusual way of touring Hong Kong with a 'guide' is on offer from an outfit called [Walk the Talk](#) ([☎](tel) 2380 7756; [www.mobileadventures.net](http://www.mobileadventures.net)). It's effectively an audioguide that uses your mobile phone. For \$150 (or \$88 if you don't need a Hong Kong SIM card), you get guided tours of Central, Tsim Sha Tsui and Macau. Each is made up of 15 to 20 segments that last two to three minutes each and contain history and stories, as well as suggestions on where to eat, shop and visit the loo. You can buy Walk the Talk tour packages, which include a pocket-size map, access code and/or SIM card, from any HKTB information centre.

## PASSPORT

A passport is essential for visiting Hong Kong, and if yours is within six months of expiration get a new one. If you'll be staying for some time in Hong Kong, it's wise to register with your consulate. This makes the replacement process much simpler if you lose your passport or it is stolen.

Hong Kong residents are required to carry an officially issued identification card at all times ([p293](#)). Visitors should carry their passports with them at all times, as the immigration authorities do frequent spot checks to catch illegal workers and those who overstay their visas, and this is the only form of identification acceptable to the Hong Kong police.

## PHOTOGRAPHY

Almost everything you could possibly need in the way of photographic accessories is available in Hong Kong. Stanley St on Hong Kong Island is the place to look for reputable camera shops.

Photo developing is relatively inexpensive; to develop a roll of 36 exposures and have them printed costs from \$50 for size 3R and from \$60 for size 4R. Processing and mounting slide film is \$50. Most photo shops will take four passport-size photos of you for \$35

or \$40. Some of the best photo-processing in town is available at [Color Six](#) ([Map p68](#); [☎](tel) 2526 0123; [www.colorsix.com](http://www.colorsix.com); Ground fl, 28A Stanley St, Central; 🚗 8.30am-7pm Mon-Fri, 8.30am-4pm Sat). Not only can colour slides be professionally processed in just three hours, but many special types of film, unavailable elsewhere in Hong Kong, are on sale here. Most photography shops are well geared up for printing from digital formats and for copying onto CDs.

## POST

[Hong Kong Post](#) ([☎](tel) 2921 2222; [www.hongkongpost.com](http://www.hongkongpost.com)) is generally excellent; local letters are often delivered the same day they are sent and there is Saturday delivery. The staff at most post offices speak English, and the lavender-coloured mail boxes with lime-green posts are clearly marked in English.

## Receiving Mail

If a letter is addressed c/o Poste Restante, GPO Hong Kong, it will go to the GPO on Hong Kong Island. Pick it up at counter No 29 from 8am to 6pm Monday to Saturday only. If you want your letters to go to Kowloon, have them addressed as follows: c/o Poste Restante, Tsim Sha Tsui Post Office, 10 Middle Rd, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon. Mail is normally held for two months.

## Sending Mail

On Hong Kong Island, the [General Post Office](#) ([Map p56](#); 2 Connaught Place, Central; 🚗 8am-6pm Mon-Sat, 9am-2pm Sun) is just west of the Star Ferry pier. In Kowloon, the [Tsim Sha Tsui Post Office](#) ([Map p92](#); Ground fl, Hermes House, 10 Middle Rd, Tsim Sha Tsui; 🚗 9am-6pm Mon-Sat, 9am-2pm Sun) is just east of the southern end of Nathan Rd. Post office branches elsewhere keep shorter hours and usually don't open on Sunday.

You should allow five days for delivery of letters, postcards and aerogrammes to the UK, Continental Europe and Australia, and five to six days to the USA.

## COURIER SERVICES

Private companies offering courier delivery service include the following. All four companies have pick-up points around the territory. Many MTR stations have DHL outlets, including the [DHL Central branch](#) ([☎](tel) 2877 2848) next to exit F, and the [Admiralty MTR branch](#) ([☎](tel) 2529 5778) next to exit E.



**DHL International** (☎ 2400 3388)  
**Federal Express** (☎ 2730 3333)  
**TNT Express Worldwide** (☎ 2331 2663)  
**UPS** (☎ 2735 3535)

## POSTAL RATES

Local mail is \$1.40 for up to 30g. Airmail letters and postcards for the first 20/30g are \$2.40/4.50 to Asia (excluding Japan) and \$3/5.30 elsewhere, and \$1.20 and \$1.30 respectively for each additional 10g. Aerogrammes are a uniform \$2.30.

## SPEEDPOST

Letters and small parcels sent via Hong Kong Post's **Speedpost** (☎ 2921 2288; www.hongkongpost.com/speedpost) should reach any of 210 destinations worldwide within four days and are automatically registered. Speedpost rates vary enormously according to destination; every post office has a schedule of fees and a timetable.

## RADIO

Hong Kong's most popular English-language radio stations are RTHK Radio 3 (current affairs and talkback; 567AM, 1584AM, 97.9FM and 106.8FM); RTHK Radio 4 (classical music; 97.6-98.9FM); RTHK Radio 6 (BBC World Service relays; 675AM); AM 864 (hit parade; 864AM); and Metro Plus (news; 1044AM). The *South China Morning Post* publishes a daily schedule of radio programmes.

## RELOCATING

Several companies offer relocation services in Hong Kong. One of the larger ones is **Santa Fe Transport** (☎ 2574 6204; www.santaferelo.com), which operates in cities around Asia and also offers online quotations. For a fuller list of relocation agents, see yp.com.hk.

See also the sections in this book on working in Hong Kong (p303) and long-term rental accommodation options (p249).

## TAXES & REFUNDS

There is no sales tax in Hong Kong. The only 'visible' tax visitors are likely to encounter is the 3% government tax on hotel rates.

## TELEPHONE

### International Calls & Rates

Hong Kong's country code is ☎ 852. To call someone outside Hong Kong, dial ☎ 001,

then the country code, the local area code (you usually drop the initial zero if there is one) and the number. Country codes:

**Australia** (☎ 61)  
**Canada** (☎ 1)  
**China (mainland)** (☎ 86)  
**France** (☎ 33)  
**Germany** (☎ 49)  
**Japan** (☎ 81)  
**Macau** (☎ 853)  
**Netherlands** (☎ 31)  
**New Zealand** (☎ 64)  
**South Africa** (☎ 27)  
**UK** (☎ 44)  
**USA** (☎ 1)

Remember that phone rates in Hong Kong are cheaper from 9pm to 8am on weekdays and throughout the weekend. If the phone you're using has the facility, dial ☎ 0060 first and then the number; rates will be cheaper at any time.

International Direct Dial (IDD) calls to almost anywhere in the world can be made from most public telephones in Hong Kong, but you'll need a phonecard. There's a wide range available, both in terms of the denominations and the service providers, including PCCW's Hello card. You can buy phonecards at any PCCW branch, 7-Eleven or Circle K convenience stores, Mannings pharmacies or Wellcome supermarkets.

**PCCW** (☎ 2888 2888, 1000 hotline; www.pccw.com), the erstwhile Hong Kong Telecom and now known as Pacific Century Cyber Works, has retail outlets called **i.Shops** (☎ 2888 0008; www.pccwshop.com) throughout the territory, where you can buy phonecards, mobile phones and accessories. The most convenient shops for travellers are the **Central branch** (Map p56; Ground fl, 113 Des Voeux Rd Central; ☎ 10am-8pm Mon-Sat, noon-7pm Sun) and the **Tsim Sha Tsui branch** (Map p92; Shop G3, Ground fl, Hotel Miramar, 118-130 Nathan Rd; ☎ 10am-10pm). There's also a **Causeway Bay branch** (Map p74; G3, Ground fl, McDonalds Bldg, 46-54 Yee Wo St; ☎ 10am-10pm Mon-Sat, 11am-9pm Sun).

### Local Calls & Rates

All calls made from private phones in Hong Kong are local calls and therefore free. From public pay phones calls cost \$1 for five min-

utes. The pay phones accept \$1, \$2, \$5 and \$10 coins. Hotels charge between \$3 and \$5 for local calls.

All land-line numbers in the territory have eight digits (except ☎ 800 toll-free numbers and specific hotlines), and there are no area codes.

## Mobile Phones

Hong Kong has one of the world's highest per-capita usage of mobile telephones, and they work everywhere, including in tunnels and on the MTR. Any GSM-compatible phone can be used here.

PCCW i.Shops have mobile phones and accessories along with rechargeable SIM chips for sale at \$180 and \$280. Local calls work out to cost between 30¢ and 50¢ a minute (calls to the mainland are about \$1 to \$2 a minute) and top-up cards are \$88 and \$180. Handsets can be hired for as little as \$35 a day from **Hong Kong CSL** (☎ 2888 1010; www.hkcs.com), which maintains 1010 outlets in Hong Kong, including a **1010 CSL Central branch** (Map p68; ☎ 2918 1010; Ground fl, Century Square, 1-13 D'Aguilar St; ☎ 8.30am-11pm) and a **1010 CSL Tsim Sha Tsui branch** (Map p92; ☎ 2910 1010; Ground fl, Canton House, 82-84 Canton Rd; ☎ 8.30am-10pm). CSL's prepaid SIM cards come in a variety of price options, depending if and where you need roaming services; top-up cards are also available at 7-Eleven and Circle K convenience stores.

## Useful Numbers

The following are some important telephone numbers and codes; for emergency numbers, see p290. Both the telephone directory and the *Yellow Pages* can be consulted online (www.yip.com.hk).

**Coastal Waters & Tidal Information** (☎ 187 8200)  
**International Dialling Code** (☎ 001)  
**International Directory Enquiries** (☎ 10015)  
**International Fax Dialling Code** (☎ 002)  
**Local Directory Enquiries** (☎ 1081)  
**Reverse-Charge/Collect Calls** (☎ 10010)  
**Time & Temperature** (☎ 18501)  
**Weather** (☎ 187 8200)

## TELEVISION

Hong Kong's four free terrestrial TV stations are run by two companies: Television Broad-

casts (TVB) and Asia Television (ATV). Each runs a Cantonese-language channel (TVB Jade and ATV Home) and an English one (TVB Pearl and ATV World). Programmes are listed daily in the *South China Morning Post* and in a weekly Sunday supplement.

There are also numerous pay cable channels and a variety of satellite channels.

## TIME

Hong Kong does not have daylight-saving time. Hong Kong time is eight hours ahead of GMT and London; 13 hours ahead of New York; 16 hours ahead of San Francisco; the same time as Singapore, Manila and Perth; and two hours behind Sydney.

## TIPPING

Hong Kong isn't particularly conscious of tipping and there is no obligation to tip, say, taxi drivers; just round the fare up or you can throw in a dollar or two more. It's almost mandatory to tip hotel staff \$10 to \$20, and if you make use of the porters at the airport, \$2 to \$5 a suitcase is normally expected. The porters putting your bags on a push cart at Hong Kong or Kowloon Airport Express station do not expect a gratuity, though; it's all part of the service.

Most hotels and many restaurants add a 10% service charge to the bill. Check for hidden extras before you tip; some midrange hotels charge \$3 to \$5 for each local call when they are actually free throughout the territory, and some restaurants consistently get the bill wrong. If using the services of a hotel porter, it's customary to tip them at least \$10.

## TOILETS

Hong Kong has never had as many public toilets as other world-class cities but that is changing rapidly, with new ones being built and old ones refurbished and reopened. They are always free to use. Almost all public toilets have access for people with disabilities, and baby-changing shelves in both men's and women's rooms. Equip yourself with tissues, though; public toilets in Hong Kong are often out of toilet paper.

## TOURIST INFORMATION

The enterprising and energetic **Hong Kong Tourism Board** (HKTB; ☎ 2508 1234; www.discoverhongkong.com) is one of the most helpful and useful in the

world. Staff are welcoming and have reams of information. Most of its literature is free, though it also sells a few useful publications and books, as well as postcards, T-shirts and souvenirs.

Before you depart, check the HKTB website, which should be able to answer any question you could possibly have. While on the ground and in Hong Kong phone the **HKTB Visitor Hotline** (☎ 2508 1234; 📞 8am-6pm) if you have a query, a problem or you're lost. Staff are always able (and, what's more, keen) to help.

HKTB Visitor Information & Service Centres can be found on Hong Kong Island, in Kowloon, at Hong Kong International Airport on Lantau, and in Lo Wu on the border with the mainland. Outside these centres and at several other places in the territory you'll be able to find iCyberlink screens from which you can conveniently access the HKTB website and database 24 hours a day.

**Hong Kong International Airport HKTB Centres** (Map p136; Chek Lap Kok; 📞 7am-11pm) There are centres in Halls A and B on the arrival level and the E2 transfer area.

**Hong Kong Island HKTB Centre** (Map p74; Causeway Bay MTR station, near exit F; 📞 8am-8pm)

**Kowloon HKTB Centre** (Map p92; Star Ferry Concourse, Tsim Sha Tsui; 📞 8am-8pm)

**Lo Wu HKTB Centre** (Map pp50-1; 2nd fl, Arrival Hall, Ko Wu Terminal Bldg; 📞 8am-6pm)

Other excellent sources for information:

**Community Advice Bureau** (Map p56; ☎ 2815 5444; www.cab.org.hk; Room 16C, Right Emperor Commercial Bldg, 122-126 Wellington St, Central; 📞 9.30am-4.30pm Mon-Fri) Will answer questions for anyone about anything but primarily directed at new Hong Kong residents trying to get their feet on the ground.

**Hong Kong Information Services Department** (☎ 1823 hotline; www.info.gov.hk) Can answer specific questions or direct you to the appropriate government department.

## TRAVELLERS WITH DISABILITIES

People with disabilities have to cope with substantial obstacles in Hong Kong, including the stairs at many MTR and KCR stations, as well as pedestrian overpasses, narrow and crowded footpaths, and steep hills. On the other hand, some buses are accessible by wheelchair, taxis are never hard to find, most buildings have lifts (many with Braille panels) and MTR sta-

tions have Braille maps with recorded information. Wheelchairs can negotiate the lower decks of most ferries.

For further information about facilities and services for travellers with disabilities in Hong Kong, contact either of the following:

**Hong Kong Paralympic Committee & Sports Association for the Physically Disabled** (☎ 2602 8232; www.hkparalympic.org)

**Joint Council for People with Disabilities** (Map p65; ☎ 2864 2931; www.hkcss.org.hk; Room 1204, 12th fl, Duke of Windsor Bldg, 15 Hennessy Rd, Wan Chai)

## UNIVERSITIES

Hong Kong has a total of eight universities. **Hong Kong University** (Map pp54-5; ☎ 2859 2111; www.hku.hk), established in 1911, is the oldest and most difficult to get into. Its campus is in Pok Fu Lam on the western side of Hong Kong Island. The **Chinese University of Hong Kong** (Map pp50-1; ☎ 2609 6000; www.cuhk.edu.hk), established in 1963, is most applicants' second choice. It is situated on a beautiful campus at Ma Liu Shui, which is north of Sha Tin in the New Territories.

The **Hong Kong University of Science & Technology** (Map pp50-1; ☎ 2358 6000; www.ust.hk) admitted its first students in 1991, and is situated at Tai Po Tsai in Clearwater Bay in the New Territories.

The other five universities are based in Kowloon and include the **Hong Kong Polytechnic University** (Map p94; ☎ 2766 5111; www.polyu.edu.hk) in Hung Hom, which was set up in 1972.

## USEFUL ORGANISATIONS

**Hong Kong Consumer Council** (Map p56; ☎ 2929 2222; www.consumer.org.hk; Ground fl, Harbour Bldg, 38 Pier Rd, Central) Can help with complaints about dishonest shopkeepers and other rip-offs. See its website for locations of other offices around Hong Kong.

**Royal Asiatic Society** (☎ 2813 7500; www.royalasiatic.society.org.hk; GPO Box 3864, Central) Organises lectures, field trips of cultural and historical interest, and puts out publications.

**Royal Geographical Society** (☎ 2583 9700; www.rgshk.org.hk; GPO Box 6681, Central) Organises lectures by high-profile local and foreign travellers, as well as hikes and field trips.

**World Wide Fund for Nature Hong Kong** (WWFHK; ☎ 2526 1011; www.wwf.org.hk; 1 Tramway Path, Central)

## VISAS

The vast majority of travellers, including citizens of Australia, Canada, the EU, Israel, Japan, New Zealand and the USA, are allowed to enter the Hong Kong SAR without a visa and stay for 90 days. Holders of British passports can stay up to 180 days without a visa, but British Dependent Territories and British Overseas citizens not holding a visa are only allowed to remain 90 days. Holders of many African (including South African), South American and Middle Eastern passports do not require visas for a visit of 30 days or less.

If you do require a visa, you must apply beforehand at the nearest Chinese consulate or embassy; for addresses and contact information consult the website [www.immd.gov.hk/e/html/embassy.htm](http://www.immd.gov.hk/e/html/embassy.htm).

If you plan on visiting mainland China, you must have a visa, although American citizens must apply for their visas prior to crossing the border; for further details, see p286.

Visitors may have to prove they have adequate funds for their stay (a credit card should do the trick) and that they hold an onward or return ticket. Ordinary visas cost \$160 (or the equivalent in local currency), while transit visas are \$84.

Visitors are not permitted to take up employment, establish any sort of business or enrol as students while visiting on a tourist visa. If you want to work or study, you must apply for an employment or student visa beforehand. It is very hard to change your visa status after you have arrived in Hong Kong. Anyone wishing to stay longer than the visa-free period must apply for a visa before travelling to Hong Kong. For details on applying for a work permit, see p304.

## Visa Extensions

In general, visa extensions (\$160) are not readily granted unless there are special or extenuating circumstances, such as cancelled flights, illness, registration in a legitimate course of study, legal employment, or marriage to a local.

For more information contact the **Hong Kong Immigration Department** (Map p65; ☎ 2824 6111; www.immd.gov.hk; 5th fl, Immigration Tower, 7 Gloucester Rd, Wan Chai; 📞 8.45am-4.30pm Mon-Fri, 9-11.30am Sat).

## VOLUNTEERING

Being small and developed, the scope for volunteering schemes is rather limited. [Volunteerabroad.com](http://Volunteerabroad.com) contains a handful of

listings for Hong Kong aimed at incoming volunteers. **Ho-Sum** ('Good Heart'; [www.ho-sum.org](http://www.ho-sum.org)) tends to list scores of schemes, most of them more short-term volunteering projects aimed at local residents.

## WEIGHTS & MEASURES

Although the international metric system (see the inside front cover) is in official use in Hong Kong, traditional Chinese weights and measures are still common. At local markets, meat, fish and produce are sold by the *léung*, equivalent to 37.8g, and the *gàn* (catty), which is equivalent to about 600g. There are 16 *léung* to the *gàn*. Gold and silver are sold by the tael, which is exactly the same as a *léung*.

## WOMEN TRAVELLERS

Respect for women is deeply ingrained in the Chinese culture. Despite the Confucian principle of the superiority of men, women in Chinese society often call all the shots and can wield a tremendous amount of influence at home, in business and in politics.

Hong Kong is a safe city for women, although common-sense caution should be observed, especially at night. Few women – visitors or residents – complain of bad treatment, intimidation or aggression. Having said that, some Chinese men regard Western women as 'easy' and have made passes at foreigners – even quite publicly. If you are sexually assaulted, call the **Hong Kong Rape Hotline** (☎ 2375 5322).

Other useful organisations:

**Hong Kong Federation of Women** (Map p65; ☎ 2833 6131; hkfw.org; Ground fl, 435 Lockhart Rd, Wan Chai)

**International Women's League** (Map p97; ☎ 2782 2207; 2nd fl, Boss Commercial Bldg, 28 Ferry St, Jordan)

## WORK

Travellers on tourist visas are barred from accepting employment in Hong Kong. It is possible to obtain work 'under the table', but there are stiff penalties for employers who are caught hiring foreigners illegally. Still, to earn extra money many foreigners end up teaching English or doing some other kind of work – translating, modelling, acting in Chinese films, waiting on tables or bartending. Few – if any – restaurants or bars will take the risk and hire you if you don't have a Hong Kong ID card these days.

For professional jobs, registering with Hong Kong personnel agencies or head-hunters is important; check out [Jobs DB](#) ([www.jobsdb.com/hk](http://www.jobsdb.com/hk)). [Drake International](#) ([Map p56](#); ☎ 2848 9288; [www.drakeintl.com](http://www.drakeintl.com); 19th fl, Chekiang First Bank Centre, 1 Duddell St, Central) is an international employment agency that often advertises work in Hong Kong. You can always check the classified advertisements in the local English-language newspapers. The Thursday and Saturday editions of the *South China Morning Post* or the Friday edition of the *Hong Kong Standard* are particularly helpful. *HK Magazine* also has a jobs section.

*Recruit* ([www.recruit.com.hk](http://www.recruit.com.hk)) and *Jiu Jik* (Job Finder; [www.jiujik.com](http://www.jiujik.com)) are free job-seeker tabloids available on Wednesdays and Fridays at the majority of MTR stations. There are also the *Job Market Weekly* ([www.jobmarket.com.hk](http://www.jobmarket.com.hk)) and *Career Times* ([www.careertimes.com.hk](http://www.careertimes.com.hk)), for sale at most newsagents.

## Work Permits

To work legally here you need to have a work permit. The Hong Kong authorities require

proof that you have been offered employment, usually in the form of a contract. The prospective employer is obligated to show that the work you plan to do cannot be performed by a local person. If you're planning on working or studying in Hong Kong, it could be helpful to have copies of transcripts, diplomas, letters of reference and other professional qualifications in hand.

In general, visitors must leave Hong Kong in order to obtain a work permit, returning only when it is ready; unfortunately Macau and the mainland do not qualify as interim destinations. Exceptions are made, however, especially if the company urgently needs to fill a position. Work visas are generally granted for between one and three years. Extensions should be applied for at least a month before the visa expires.

From overseas, applications for work visas can be made at any Chinese embassy or consulate ([p289](#)). In Hong Kong, contact the [Immigration Department](#) ([Map p65](#); ☎ 2824 6111; [www.immd.gov.hk](http://www.immd.gov.hk); 24th fl, Immigration Tower, 7 Gloucester Rd, Wan Chai; ☎ 8.45am-4.30pm Mon-Fri, 9-11.30am Sat) for information on how to apply.

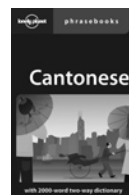


# LANGUAGE

The Official Languages Ordinance of 1974 names Hong Kong's two official languages as English and Cantonese. Cantonese, a southern Chinese dialect (or language, depending on your definition), is spoken in Guangdong and Guangxi provinces on the mainland as well as in Hong Kong and Macau. Cantonese preserves many archaic features of spoken Chinese that date back to the Tang dynasty, which is why Tang and Sung dynasty poetry can sound better in Cantonese than in Mandarin.

While Cantonese is used in Hong Kong in everyday life by the vast majority of the population, English remains the lingua franca of commerce, banking and international trade, and is still used in the law courts. There has been a noticeable decline in the level of English-speaking proficiency in the territory, however, due to emigration and the switch by many secondary schools to Chinese vernacular education, although some schools see it as a sign of prestige to keep teaching English, and many parents believe it is better for their children to have learnt English. In general, most Hong Kong Chinese, even those taught in English, cannot hold a candle to their cousins in Singapore, who can often speak English almost as a first language.

On the other hand, the ability to speak Mandarin is on the increase due to the political realities. For a Cantonese native speaker, Mandarin is far easier to learn than English. It's not uncommon these days to hear Cantonese and Mandarin being spoken in a sort of fusion-confusion.



## Get Some Lingo

It's true – anyone can speak another language. Don't worry if you haven't studied languages before or that you studied a language at school for years and can't remember any of it. It doesn't even matter if you failed English grammar. After all, that's never affected your ability to speak English! The key to picking up a language in another country is just to start speaking.

Learn a few key phrases before you go. Write them on pieces of paper and stick them on the fridge, by the bed – anywhere that you'll see them often.

You'll find that locals appreciate travellers trying their language, no matter how muddled you may think you sound. If you want to learn more Cantonese than we've included here, pick up a copy of Lonely Planet's comprehensive but user-friendly *Cantonese Phrasebook*.

## PRONUNCIATION

### Vowels & Vowel Combinations

a	as the 'u' in 'but'
eu	as the 'er' in 'fern'
ew	as in 'blew' (short and pronounced with tightened lips)
i	as the 'ee' in 'deep'
o	as in 'go'

u	as in 'put'
ai	as in 'aisle' (short sound)
au	as the 'ou' in 'out'
ay	as in 'pay'
eui	as in French <i>feuille</i> (eu with i)
iu	as the 'yu' in 'yuletide'
oy	as in 'boy'
ui	as in French <i>oui</i>

### Consonants

In Cantonese, the **ng** sound can appear at the start of the word. Practise by saying 'sing along' slowly and then do away with the 'si' at the beginning.

Note that words ending with the consonant sounds **p**, **t**, and **k** must be clipped in Cantonese. This happens in English as well – say 'pit' and 'tip' and listen to how much shorter the **p** sound is in 'tip'.

Many Cantonese speakers, particularly young people, replace an **n** sound with an **l** if it begins the word – **náy** (you), is often heard as **láy**. Where relevant, this change is reflected in the words and phrases in this language guide.

### Tones

The use of tones in Cantonese can be quite tricky for an English speaker. The 'tone' is the

pitch value of a syllable when you pronounce it. The same word, pronounced with different tones can have a very different meaning, eg **gwat** means 'dig up' and **gwàt** means 'bones'.

In our simplified pronunciation guide there are six tones: high, high rising, level, low falling, low rising and low. They can be divided into two groups: high and low pitch. High-pitch tones involve tightening your vocal muscles to get a higher note, whereas lower-pitch tones are made by relaxing the vocal chords to get a lower note. These tones are represented as accents and diacritics as shown in the list below; the low tones are all underlined in the Romanisations. Tones in Cantonese fall on vowels (a, e, i, o, u) and on n.

à	high
á	high rising
a	level
à	low falling
á	low rising
a	low

## SOCIAL

### Meeting People

Hello.	
你好。	láy-hó
How are you?	
你幾好啊嗎?	láy gáy hó à maa
Fine, and you?	
幾好, 你呢?	gáy hó láy lè
Good morning.	
早晨。	jó-sàn
Goodbye/Bye.	
再見/拜拜。	joy-gin/bài-baai
What's your name?	
你叫乜嘢名?	láy giu màt-yé méng aa
My name is ...	
我叫...	ngáw giu ...
Please ...	
唔該...	ng-gòy ...
Thank you.	
唔該。	ng-gòy
多謝。(for a gift)	dàw-je
You're welcome.	
唔駛客氣。	ng-sái haak-hay
Yes.	
係。	hai
No.	
唔係。	ng-hai
Excuse me. (to get attention)	
對唔住。	deui-ng-jew
Excuse me. (to get past)	
唔該借借。	ng-gòy je-je

I'm sorry.	
對唔住。	deui-ng-jew
Do you speak (English)?	
你識唔識講(英文)啊?	láy sik-ng-sik gáwng (yìng-mán) aa
Do you understand?	
你明唔明啊?	láy mìng-ng-mìng aa
Yes, I do understand.	
明白。	mìng-baak
No, I don't understand.	
我唔明。	ngáw ng mìng

Could you please ...?	
唔該你...?	ng-gòy láy ...
repeat that	
再講一次	joy gáwng yàt chi
write it down	
寫落嚟	sé lawk lài

### Going Out

What's on ...?	
...有乜嘢活動?	... yáw màt-yé wut-dung
locally	
呢度附近	lày-dò fu-gan
this weekend	
呢個週末	lày-gaw jàu-mut
today	
今日	gám-yat
tonight	
今晚	gám-máan

I feel like going to (a/the) ...	
我想去...	ngáw séung heui ...
Where can I find ...?	
邊度有...?	bin-dò yáw ...
clubs	
夜總會	ye-júng-wuí
gay venues	
同志吧	tung-ji-bàa
places to eat	
食飯嘅地方	sik-faan ge day-fáwng
pubs	
酒吧	jáu-bàa

Is there a local entertainment guide?	
有冇本地娛樂指南?	yáw mó bún-day yèw-lawk jí-làam

### Local Lingo

Beautiful!	靚啊!	jeng aa
Excellent!	冇得頂!	mó-dàk-díng
Great!	冇得頂!	mó-dàk-díng
It's OK.	OK.	ò-kà
Maybe.	可能。	háv-làng

No way!	無得傾!	mó-dàk-king
No problem.	無問題。	mó-man-tài

## PRACTICAL

### Accommodation

Where's a ...?	
邊度有...?	bin-dò yáw ...
guesthouse	
賓館	bàn-gún
hotel	
酒店	jáu-dim
hostel	
招待所	jiù-doy-sáw

Do you have a ... room?	
有冇...房?	yáw-mó ... fáwng
double	
雙人	sèung-yàn
single	
單人	dàan-yàn

How much is it per (night/person)?	
(晚/個人)幾多錢?	
yàt (máan/gaw yàn) gáy-dàw chín	

### Banking

Where can I ...?	
我喺邊度可以...?	
ngáw hái bin-dò háw-yí ...	
I'd like to ...	
我要...	
ngáw yiu ...	
cash a cheque	
兌一張支票	deui yàt jèung jí-piu
change money	
換錢	wun chín

Where's the nearest ...?	
最近嘅...喺邊度?	
jeui kán ge ... hái bin-dò	
automatic teller machine (ATM)	
自動提款機	ji-dung tái-fún-gà
foreign exchange office	
換外幣嘅地方	wun ngoy-bai ge day-fáwng

### Days

Monday	星期一	sing-kày-yàt
Tuesday	星期二	sing-kày-yí
Wednesday	星期三	sing-kày-sàam
Thursday	星期四	sing-kày-say
Friday	星期五	sing-kày-ng
Saturday	星期六	sing-kày-luk
Sunday	星期日	sing-kày-yat

## Internet

Where's the local internet café?  
附近有冇網吧?  
fu-gan yáw-mó máwng-bàa

I'd like to ...	
我想...	
ngáw séung ...	
check my email	
睇下我嘅電子信箱	tái háa ngáw ge dín-ji yàw-sèung
get internet access	
上網	séung-máwng

## Numbers

0	零	ling
1	一	yàt
2	二	yí
3	三	sàam
4	四	say
5	五	ng
6	六	luk
7	七	chát
8	八	baat
9	九	gáu
10	十	sap
11	十一	sap-yàt
12	十二	sap-yí
13	十三	sap-sàam
14	十四	sap-say
15	十五	sap-ng
16	十六	sap-luk
17	十七	sap-chát
18	十八	sap-baat
19	十九	sap-gáu
20	二十	yí-sap
21	二十一	yí-sap-yàt
22	二十二	yí-sap-yí
30	三十	sàam-sap
40	四十	say-sap
50	五十	ng-sap
60	六十	luk-sap
70	七十	chát-sap
80	八十	baat-sap
90	九十	gáu-sap
100	一百	yàt-baak
200	兩百	léung-baak
1000	一千	yàt-chín
10,000	一萬	yàt-maan

## Phones & Mobile Phones

Where's the nearest public phone?  
呢度附近有冇公眾電話呀?  
lày-dò fu-gan yáw-mó gùng-jung dín-wáa aa

I want to ...  
我想...  
ngáw séung ...  
buy a phonecard  
買張電話卡  
mái jèung dìn-wáa-kàat  
call (Singapore)  
打電話去(新加坡)  
dǎa dìn-wáa heui (sàn-gaa-bàw)

I'd like a ...  
我想買個...  
ngáw séung máai gaw ...  
charger for my phone  
手機充電器  
sáu-gày chùng-dìn-hay  
mobile/cell phone for hire  
出租手機  
chèut-jò sáu-gày  
prepaid mobile/cell phone  
預付手機  
yew-fu sáu-gày  
SIM card for your network  
你地網絡用嘅SIM卡  
láy-day mǎwng-lǎwk yung ge sim-kàat

## Post

Where is the post office?  
郵局喺邊度? yǎu-gúk hái-bin-dò

I want to send a ...  
我想... ngáw séung ...  
parcel 寄包裹 gay bàau-gwáw  
postcard 寄明信片 gay mǐng-seun-pín

I want to buy a/an ...  
我想買... ngáw séung máai ...  
aerogram 個航空 gaw hàwng-hùng  
郵柬 yǎu-gáan  
envelope 個信封 gaw seun-fùng  
stamp 張郵票 jèung yǎu-piu

## Shopping

I'd like to buy...  
我想買... ngáw séung máai...  
I'm just looking.  
睇下。 tái hạ  
How much is it?  
幾多錢? gáy-dàw chin

Can I pay by credit card?  
可唔可以用信用卡埋單呀?  
hǎw-ng-hǎw-yí yung seun-yung-kàat maai-  
dǎan aa

less 少啲 siú dì  
more 多啲 dǎw dì  
bigger 更大 gang dǎai  
smaller 細啲 sai dì

## Transport

Where's the...?  
...喺邊度? ... hái bin-dò  
airport 機場 gáy-chèung  
bus stop 巴士站 bàa-sí-jaam  
China Ferry terminal 中國客運碼頭 jùng-gawk haak-wan  
máa-tǎu  
subway station 地鐵站 day-tit-jaam

Is this the ... to (...)?  
呢班...係唔係去(...)嘍?  
láy bàan ... hai-ng-hai heui (...) gaa  
Which ... goes to (...)?  
去(...)坐邊班...?  
heui (...) chǎw bin-bàan ...  
bus 巴士 bàa-sí  
ferry 渡輪 dò-lèun  
train 火車 fǎw-chè  
tram 電車 dìn-chè

What time does it leave?  
幾點鐘出發?  
gáy-dím jùng chèut-faa  
How much is a (soft-seat) fare to ...?  
去...嘅(軟座飛)幾多錢?  
heui ... ge (yèwng-jaw fǎy) gáy-dǎw chin  
I'd like to get off at (Panyu).  
我要喺(番禺)落車。  
ngáw yiu hái (pùn-yèw) lawk-chè  
Please stop here. (eg taxi, minibus)  
唔該有落  
ng-gòy yau lawk

Let me know when we arrive at (Causeway Bay).  
唔該喺(銅鑼灣)叫我落車。  
ng-gòy hái (Tùng Lǎw Wǎn) giu ngáw  
lawk chè  
Where is ...?  
...喺邊度?  
... hái-bin-dò  
How far is it?  
有幾遠?  
yǎu gáy yéwn

By ...  
...去。 ... heui  
bus 坐車 chǎw-chè  
foot 行路 hàang-lò  
train 坐地鐵 chǎw dǎi-tit

Can you show me (on the map)?  
你可唔可以(喺地圖度)指俾我睇我喺  
邊度?  
láy hǎw-ng-hǎw-yí (hái day-to dò) jí báw  
ngáw tái ngáw hái bin-dò

## EMERGENCIES

Help!  
救命! gau-mèng  
Could you please help?  
唔該幫幫忙? ng-gòy bàwng bàwng  
mǎwng  
Call the police!  
快啲叫警察! faai-dì giu gíng-chaat  
Call a doctor!  
快啲叫醫生! faai-dì giu yì-sàng  
Call an ambulance!  
快啲叫救傷車! faai-dì giu gau-sèung-chè

## HEALTH

Where's the nearest ...?  
最近嘅...喺邊度?  
jeui kán ge ... hái bin-dò  
dentist 牙醫 ngǎa-yì  
doctor 醫生 yì-sàng  
hospital 醫院 yì-yéwn  
(night) pharmacist (晝夜)藥房 (jau-yè) yèuk-fǎwng

I'm sick.  
我病嘞。  
ngáw bèng-jǎw

I need a doctor (who speaks English).  
我要睇(識講英文嘅)醫生。  
ngáw yiu tái (sik gǎwng ying-mán ge)  
yì-sàng

## Symptoms

I have (a/an) ...  
我有... ngáw yǎu ...  
asthma 哮喘 hàau-chéwn  
diarrhoea 肚痾 tó-ngǎw  
fever 發燒 faat-siù  
headache 頭痛 tǎu-tung  
sore throat 喉嚨疼 hǎu-lùng-tung

## FOOD & DRINK

### Useful Phrases

Where would you go for (a) ...?  
你會去邊度...?  
láy wui heui bin-dò ...  
banquet 食大餐 sik dǎai chàan  
cheap meal 食平嘢 sik pèng-yé  
local specialities 地方小食 day-fǎwng siú-sik  
yum cha 飲茶 yám-chǎa

Can you recommend a ...?  
有乜好...介紹?  
yǎu màt hó ... gaai-xiù  
bar 酒吧 jáu-bàa  
canteen 快餐廳 faai-chàan-tèng  
cooked food stall 熟食檔 suk-sik-dawng  
restaurant 茶樓 chàa-lǎu  
snack shop 零食店 lìng-sik-dim  
tea house 茶館 chàa-gún

I'd like ..., please.  
唔該我要...  
ng-gòy ngáw yiu ...  
a menu (in English)  
(英文)菜單 (ying-màn) choy-dǎan



a table for (five)  
(五位) 嘅檯 (*ng wái*) *ge tóy*  
the set lunch  
套餐 *to-chàan*  
the bill  
埋單 *mài-dàan*  
a fork  
叉 *chàa*  
a knife  
刀 *dò*  
a spoon  
羹 *gàng*

I'd like a local speciality.  
我想食地方風味菜  
*ngw séung sik day-fawng fùng-may choy*  
What would you recommend?  
有乜嘢好介紹?  
*yáu màt-yé hó gaai-siu*  
I'm (a) vegetarian.  
我係食齋嘅  
*ngw hai sik jài ge*

## Food Glossary

### FISH & SHELLFISH

*baak-cheuk-hàa* 白灼蝦  
steamed fresh prawns  
*ching jing yèw* 清蒸魚  
whole steamed fish, usually grouper, served with spring  
onion, ginger and soy sauce  
*jin hò béng* 煎蠔餅  
oyster omelette  
*jiù yim yàu-yéw* 椒鹽魷魚  
squid dry-fried with salt and pepper in a wok  
*lùng hàà* 龍蝦  
rock lobster  
*siù yéw chi* 燒魚翅  
braised shark's fin  
*tìm sèwn yéw* 甜酸魚  
sweet-and-sour fish, usually yellow croaker  
*yéw dāan* 魚蛋  
fish balls, usually made from pike

### MEAT & POULTRY

*chàa siù* 叉燒  
roast pork  
*hò yàu ngàu yuk* 蠔油牛肉  
sliced beef with oyster sauce  
*hùng siù jèw sàu* 紅燒豬手  
red simmered pork knuckle  
*hùng siù pài guàt* 紅燒排骨  
braised pork spareribs  
*jaa jí gài* 炸子雞  
crispy-skin chicken  
*jèung chàa ngáap* 樟茶鴨  
camphor-smoked duck

*jui gài* 醉雞  
'drunken chicken'; poached chicken that has been  
marinated in broth and rice wine and served cold as an  
appetiser  
*lìng mùng gài* 檸檬雞  
lemon chicken  
*muì choi kau yuk* 霉菜扣肉  
twice-cooked pork with pickled cabbage  
*si jiù cháau pài gwát* 豉椒炒排骨  
beef spareribs in black bean sauce  
*siù ngáap* 燒鴨  
roast duck  
*siù ngáv* 燒鵝  
roast goose  
*siù yéw jèw* 燒乳豬  
roast suckling pig  
*tìm sèwn pài gwát* 甜酸排骨  
sweet-and-sour pork spareribs  
*yim guk gài* 鹽焗雞  
salt-baked Hakka-style chicken

### RICE & NOODLE DISHES

*chàa-siù fān* 叉燒飯  
barbecued pork with rice  
*cháau-fān* 炒飯  
fried rice  
*cháau-mìn* 炒麵  
fried noodles  
*fán-si* 粉絲  
cellophane noodles or bean threads  
*gài jùk* 雞粥  
chicken congee  
*gòn siù yi-mìn* 乾燒伊麵  
dry-fried noodles  
*hàam-yéw cháau-fān* 鹹魚炒飯  
fried rice with salted fish  
*háv-fán* 河粉  
wide, white, flat rice noodles that are usually pan fried  
*hói-nàam gài* 海南雞  
Hainanese steamed chicken served with chicken-flavoured  
rice  
*sing-jàu cháau-mìn* 星州炒麵  
Singapore noodles; rice noodles stir-fried with curry  
powder  
*sìn-hàa hàà wàn-tàn* 鮮蝦餛飩  
won tons made with prawns  
*wàn-tàn mìn* 餛飩麵  
won ton noodle soup  
*yáu-jaa-gwái* 油炸鬼  
'devils' tails; dough rolled and fried in hot oil  
*yèung-jàu cháau-mìn* 揚州炒麵  
Cantonese-style fried rice  
*yéw dāan* 魚蛋  
fish balls  
*yéw pín jùk* 魚片粥  
congee with sliced fish

### SAUCES

*gaai laat* 芥辣  
hot mustard  
*hò yàu* 蠔油  
oyster sauce  
*laat jiù jeung* 辣椒醬  
chilli sauce  
*si yàu* 豉油  
soy sauce

### SOUPS

*baak-choy tàwng* 白菜湯  
Chinese cabbage soup  
*dáan fà-tàwng* 蛋花湯  
'egg flower' (or drop) soup; light stock into which a raw  
egg is dropped  
*dùng-gwàa tàwng* 冬瓜湯  
winter-melon soup  
*ái yuk sùk mái gàng* 蟹肉粟米羹  
crab and sweet corn soup  
*wàn-tàn tàwng* 餛飩湯  
won ton soup  
*yéw-chi tàwng* 魚翅湯  
shark's-fin soup  
*yin wàw gàng* 燕窩羹  
bird's-nest soup

### VEGETARIAN DISHES

*ching dān bàk gù tòng* 清燉北菇湯  
black mushroom soup  
*chùn géwn* 春卷  
vegetarian spring rolls  
*gài lò máy* 雞滷味  
mock chicken, barbecued pork or roast duck  
*gàk gù sùn jím* 金菇筍尖  
braised bamboo shoots and black mushrooms  
*lāw hon jài yì mìn* 羅漢齋伊麵  
fried noodles with braised vegetables  
*lāw hon jài* 羅漢齋  
braised mixed vegetables  
*yè choi gún* 耶菜卷  
cabbage rolls

### CANTONESE DISHES

*baak cheuk hàà* 白灼蝦  
poached fresh prawns served with dipping sauces  
*ching cháau gài lán* 清炒芥蘭  
stir-fried Chinese broccoli  
*ching jing sek bāan yéw* 清蒸石斑魚  
steamed grouper with soy sauce  
*gèung chùng guk háai* 薑蔥焗蟹  
baked crab with ginger and spring onions  
*háai yuk pàa dau miù* 蟹肉扒豆腐  
sautéed pea shoots with crab meat  
*háai yuk sùk mái gàng* 蟹肉粟米羹  
crab and sweet corn soup

*hò yàu choi sām* 蠔油菜心  
choisum with oyster sauce  
*hò yàu ngàu yuk* 蠔油牛肉  
stir-fried sliced beef with oyster sauce  
*jiù yim pài gwát* 椒鹽排骨  
deep-fried spareribs served with coarse salt and pepper  
*sài lán fà daai jí* 西蘭花帶子  
stir-fried broccoli with scallops  
*sè gàng* 蛇羹  
snake soup  
*si jiù sin yáu* 豉椒鮮魷  
stir-fried cuttlefish with black bean and chilli sauce  
*siù yéw gaap* 燒乳鴿  
roast pigeon

### DIM SUM

*chàa siù bāau* 叉燒包  
steamed barbecued pork buns  
*chéung fán* 腸粉  
steamed rice-flour rolls with shrimp, beef or pork  
*ching cháau sè choi* 清炒時菜  
fried green vegetable of the day  
*chiù-jàu fán gwáv* 潮州粉果  
steamed dumpling with pork, peanuts and coriander  
*chùn géwn* 春卷  
fried spring rolls  
*fán gwáv* 粉果  
steamed dumplings with shrimp and bamboo shoots  
*fú pà yéw gn* 腐皮卷  
crispy beancurd rolls  
*fung jáu* 鳳爪  
fried chicken feet  
*hàa gáau* 蝦餃  
steamed shrimp dumplings  
*lāw mài gài* 糯米雞  
sticky rice wrapped in lotus leaf  
*pài gwát* 排骨  
small braised spareribs with black beans  
*sàan jùk ngàu yuk* 山竹牛肉  
steamed minced beef balls  
*siù máai* 燒賣  
steamed pork and shrimp dumplings

### CHIU CHOW DISHES

*bàk gù sài lán fàa* 北菇西蘭花  
stewed broccoli with black mushrooms  
*bing fà gwün yin* 冰花官燕  
cold sweet bird's-nest soup served as a dessert  
*cheng jiù ngàu yuk si* 青椒牛肉絲  
fried shredded beef with green pepper  
*chiù-jàu lò séui ngáv* 潮州滷水鵝  
Chiu Chow soyed goose  
*chiù-jàu yéw tòng* 潮州魚湯  
aromatic fish soup  
*chiù-jàu yì mìn* 潮州伊麵  
pan-fried egg noodles served with chives

<b>dung jing hái</b> cold steamed crab	凍蒸蟹
<b>fòng yéw gáam laam</b> fried kale with dried fish	方魚甘藍
<b>jeung hëung ngáap</b> deep-fried spiced duck	醬香鴨
<b>jin jeui gài</b> diced chicken fried in a light sauce	煎醉雞
<b>sek láu gài</b> steamed egg-white pouches filled with minced chicken	石榴雞
<b>tím-sèwn hùng-siù hà/ háai kàu</b> prawn/crab balls with sweet, sticky dipping sauce	甜酸紅燒蝦/蟹球

## NORTHERN DISHES

<b>bàk gù pàa gèwn</b> <b>baak choi</b> Tianjin cabbage and black mushrooms	北菇扒卷白菜
<b>bàk-ging fùng jàu</b> <b>lái mìn</b> noodles fried with shredded pork and bean sprouts	北京封州拉麵
<b>bàk-ging tìn ngáap</b> Peking duck	北京填鴨
<b>chòng bàau yèung yuk</b> sliced lamb with onions on sizzling platter	蔥爆羊肉
<b>chòng yáu béng</b> pan-fried spring onion cakes	蔥油餅
<b>dáa bin lò</b> Chinese hotpot or steamboat	打邊爐
<b>fu gwai gài/</b> <b>hàt yì gài</b> 'beggar's chicken'; partially deboned chicken stuffed with pork, Chinese pickled cabbage, onions, mushrooms, ginger and other seasonings, wrapped in lotus leaves, sealed in wet clay or pastry and baked for several hours in hot ash	富貴雞/乞丐雞
<b>gòn cháau ngàu yuk si</b> dried shredded beef with chilli sauce	乾炒牛肉絲
<b>sàam sin tòng</b> clear soup with chicken, prawn and abalone	三鮮湯

## SHANGHAISE DISHES

<b>chùng pày háai</b> hairy crabs (an autumn dish)	重皮蟹
<b>chùng séw wòng yéw</b> sweet-and-sour yellow croaker fish	松鼠黃魚

<b>fáw téui siù choi</b> Shanghai cabbage with ham	火腿燒菜
<b>hùng siù jèw sáu</b> simmered pigs knuckle	紅燒豬手
<b>jaa jí gài</b> deep-fried chicken	炸子雞
<b>jeui gài</b> drunken chicken	醉雞
<b>lùng jéng hà jàn</b> shrimps with 'dragon-well' tea leaves	龍井蝦仁
<b>m hëung ngàu yuk</b> cold spiced beef	五香牛肉
<b>sgung-hóí chò cháau</b> fried Shanghai-style (thick) noodles with pork and cabbage	上海粗炒
<b>siú lùng bàau</b> steamed minced pork dumplings	小籠包

## SICHUAN DISHES

<b>cheui páy wòng yèw pín</b> fried fish in sweet-and-sour sauce	脆皮黃魚片
<b>ching jiu ngau yok si</b> sautéed shredded beef and green pepper	青椒牛肉絲
<b>daam daam mìn</b> noodles in savoury sauce	擔擔麵
<b>gòn jin say gwai dáu</b> pan-fried spicy string beans	乾煎四季豆
<b>gòng baau gài dīng</b> sautéed diced chicken and peanuts in sweet chilli sauce	宮爆雞丁
<b>jèung chàu hàau ngáap</b> duck smoked in camphor wood	樟茶烤鴨
<b>máa ngái séung sew</b> 'ants climbing trees'; cellophane noodles braised with seasoned minced pork	螞蟻上樹
<b>màa pàw dáu fù</b> stewed beancurd with minced pork and chilli	麻婆豆腐
<b>say-chèwn mīng hà</b> Sichuan chilli prawns	四川明蝦
<b>sèwn laot tòng</b> hot-and-sour soup with shredded pork (and sometimes congealed pig's blood)	酸辣湯
<b>wui gwàw yuk</b> slices of braised pork with chillies	回鍋肉
<b>yèw hëung ké ji</b> sautéed eggplant in a savoury, spicy sauce	魚香茄子

## GLOSSARY

**amah** – literally 'mummy'; a servant, traditionally a woman, who cleans houses, sometimes cooks and looks after the children

**arhats** – Buddhist disciple freed from the cycle of birth and death

**Bodhisattva** – Buddhist striving toward enlightenment

**chàu** – Cantonese for 'island'

**cheongsam** – a fashionable, tight-fitting Chinese dress with a slit up the side (*qipáo* in Mandarin)

**chim** – bamboo sticks shaken out of a cylindrical box usually at temples, and used to divine the future

**chop** – see *name chop*

**daai-pàai-dawng** – open-air eating stalls, especially popular at night, but fast disappearing in Hong Kong  
**dim sum** – literally 'touch the heart'; a Cantonese meal of various tidbits eaten as breakfast, brunch or lunch and offered from wheeled steam carts in restaurants; see also *yum cha*

**dragon boat** – long, narrow skiff in the shape of a dragon, used in races during the Dragon Boat Festival

**feng shui** – Mandarin spelling for the Cantonese *fung sui* meaning 'wind water'; the Chinese art of geomancy that manipulates or judges the environment to produce good fortune

**gáwn-bui** – literally 'dry glass'; 'cheers' or 'bottoms up'  
**godown** – a warehouse, originally on or near the waterfront, but now anywhere

**gung-fú** – Chinese for 'kung fu'

**gwái-ló/páw** (m/f) – literally 'ghost person'; a derogatory word for 'foreigner', especially a Caucasian Westerner, but now used jocularly

**Hakka** – a Chinese ethnic group who speak a different Chinese language from the Cantonese; some Hakka people still lead traditional lives as farmers in the New Territories

**háwng** – major trading house or company, often used to refer to Hong Kong's original trading houses, such as Jardine Matheson and Swire

**hell money** – fake-currency money burned as an offering to the spirits of the departed

**HKTB** – Hong Kong Tourism Board

**Hoklo** – boat dwellers who originated in the coastal regions of present-day Fujian province

**Il** – illegal immigrant

**joss** – luck or fortune

**joss sticks** – incense

**junk** – originally Chinese fishing boats or war vessels with square sails; diesel-powered, wooden pleasure yachts that can be seen on Victoria Harbour

**kaido** – small to medium-sized ferry that makes short runs on the open sea, usually used for non-scheduled

services between small islands and fishing villages; sometimes spelled *kaito*

**KCR** – Kowloon-Canton Railway

**KMB** – Kowloon Motor Bus Company

**kung fu** – the basis of many Asian martial arts

**LRT** – Light Rail Transit, former name for the KCR's Light Rail system

**màai-dàan** – bill (in a restaurant)

**mahjong** – popular Chinese game played among four persons using tiles engraved with Chinese characters  
**makee learnee** – Anglo-Chinese pidgin for 'apprentice' or 'trainee'; rarely heard in Hong Kong today

**name chop** – carved seal; the stamp it produces when dipped into red ink paste often serves as a signature  
**nullah** – uniquely Hong Kong word referring to a gutter or drain and occasionally used in place names

**PLA** – People's Liberation Army

**PRC** – People's Republic of China

**Punti** – the first Cantonese-speaking settlers in Hong Kong

**sampan** – motorised launch that can only accommodate a few people and is too small to go on the open sea; mainly used for inter-harbour transport

**SAR** – Special Administrative Region of China; both Hong Kong and Macau are now SARs

**SARS** – Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome

**SEZ** – Special Economic Zone of China that allows more unbridled capitalism but not political autonomy; both Shenzhen and Zhuhai have SEZ status

**shroff** – Anglo-Indian word meaning 'cashier'

**sitting-out area** – Uniquely Hong Kong word meaning open space reserved for passive or active recreation

**snakehead** – a smuggler of *lls*

**t'ai chi** – slow-motion shadow boxing and form of exercise; also spelled *tai chi*

**tai tai** – any married woman but especially the leisured wife of a businessman

**taijiquan** – Mandarin for *t'ai chi*; usually shortened to *taiji*

**taipan** – 'big boss' of a large company

**Tanka** – Chinese ethnic group that traditionally lives on boats

**Triad** – Chinese secret society originally founded as patriotic associations to protect Chinese culture from the influence of usurping Manchus, but today Hong Kong's equivalent of the Mafia

**wàan** – bay

**walla walla** – motorised launch used as a water taxi and capable of short runs on the open sea

**wet market** – local word for an outdoor market selling fruit, vegetables, fish and meat

**yum cha** – literally 'drink tea'; common Cantonese term for *dim sum*

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