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MACAU

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The zodiac sign of Macau is Gemini. It is a city of duality. The fortresses, the churches and food of former colonial Portuguese masters speak to a uniquely Mediterranean style on the China coast, intermixed with numerous alleys, temples and shrines along the way. On the other hand, you'll find yourself in a self-styled Las Vegas of the East. Amazingly, all of these different parts of Macau are within a stone's throw of each other.

Lying 65km to the west of Hong Kong, Macau was the first European enclave in Asia, 450 years ago. When China resumed sovereignty over what is now called the Special Administrative Region (SAR) of Macau in 1999, it was by far the oldest colony. During the past few years, the charismatic-but-sleepy traits of that little Macau have undergone an intensive transformation, fuelled by the gambling industry's boost to the economy. Super-sized by massive reclamation projects for Vegas-style megacasinos and hotels, Macau has been turned into an enormous construction site. The fast pace of growth and economic prosperity have resulted in a labour shortage, skyrocketing rents and air pollution, along with a nostalgia among the people of Macau for the past – and life before 'Hongkongisation' – when people earned less money but enjoyed a better quality of life.

Though Macau remains the one and only place where casinos are legal in China, there is much more to do than just gambling. Largo do Senado on Macau Peninsula plus the islands of Coloane and Taipa form a colourful palette of pastels and ordered greenery. The Portuguese influence is everywhere: cobbled backstreets, baroque churches, ancient stone fortresses, Art Deco apartment buildings, and restful parks and gardens. The cemeteries of Macau are the final resting places of many European and American missionaries, painters, soldiers and sailors who died at 'Macao Roads'. It's a unique fusion of East and West that has been recognised by Unesco, which in 2005 named 30 buildings and squares collectively as the Historic Centre of Macau World Heritage Site.

If you travel to Hong Kong, it is well worth a short trip to Macau. Travel between the two territories has never been easier, with high-speed ferries now running virtually every 15 minutes (as well as frequent helicopter services). With time and patience you will be rewarded with something new at each step and on every visit, but even spending just a night or two will let you discover this hybrid city's unique lifestyles, temperaments and food that make it so much fun.

BACKGROUND HISTORY

Early Settlement

Archaeological finds from digs around Hác Sá and Ká Hó Bays on Coloane Island suggest that Macau has been inhabited since Neolithic times (from 4000 BC). Before the arrival of the Portuguese, Macau had a relatively small number of inhabitants, mainly Cantonese-speaking farmers and fisherfolk from Fujian.

The Arrival of the Portuguese

In 1510 and 1511 the Portuguese routed Arab fleets at Goa on the west coast of India and Malacca on the Malay Peninsula. At Malacca they encountered several junks with Chi-

nese captains and crews. Realising that the so-called Chins, about whom Portuguese mariners and explorers had heard reports a century earlier, were not a mythical people but natives of 'Cathay' (the land that Marco Polo had visited and written about 2½ centuries earlier), a small party sailed northwards to try to open up trade with China.

The first Portuguese contingent, led by Jorge Álvares, set foot on Chinese soil in 1513 at a place they called Tamaõ, today known as Shangchuan Island, about 80km southwest of the mouth of the Pearl River. However, it wasn't until 1553 that an official basis for trading was set up between the two countries, and the Portuguese were allowed to settle on Shangchuan. The exposed anchorage there forced the Portuguese traders to abandon the island that same year, and they moved to Lampacau, an island closer to the Pearl River estuary.

To the northeast of Lampacau was a small peninsula where the Portuguese had frequently dropped anchor. Known variously as Amagau, Aomen and Macau (see the boxed text, [below](#)), the peninsula had two natural harbours – an inner one on the Qianshan waterway facing the mainland, and an outer one in a bay on the Pearl River – and two sheltered islands to the south. In 1557 officials at Guangzhou let the Portuguese build temporary shelters on the peninsula in exchange for customs dues and rent. The Portuguese also agreed to rid the area of the pirates that were endemic at the time.

A Trading Powerhouse

Macau grew rapidly as a trading centre, largely due to the fact that Chinese merchants were forbidden to leave the country by imperial decree. Acting as agents for the Chinese merchants, Portuguese traders took Chinese goods to Goa and exchanged them for cotton and textiles. The cloth was then taken to Malacca, where it was traded for spices and sandalwood. The Portuguese would then carry on to Nagasaki in Japan, where the cargo from Malacca was exchanged for Japanese silver, swords, lacquerware and fans that would be traded in Macau for more Chinese goods.

During the late 16th century the Portuguese in Macau were at the forefront of all international commerce between China and Japan. Macau's growing status was evidenced when the Holy See established the bishopric of Macau in 1576, which included both China and Japan under its jurisdiction. By 1586 Macau was important enough for the Portuguese Crown to confer upon it the status of a city: Cidade de Nome de Deus (City of the Name of God).

The Golden Years

By the beginning of the 17th century, Macau supported several thousand permanent resi-

dents, including about 900 Portuguese. The rest were Christian converts from Malacca and Japan and a large number of slaves from colonial outposts in Africa, India and the Malay Peninsula. Many Chinese had moved into Macau from across the border, and they worked there as traders, craftspeople, hawkers, labourers and coolies; by the close of the century, their numbers had reached about 40,000.

Besides trading, Macau had also become a centre of Christianity in Asia. Priests and missionaries accompanied Portuguese ships, although the interests of traders and missionaries were frequently in conflict.

Among the earliest missionaries was Francis Xavier (later canonised) of the Jesuit order, who spent two years (1549 to 1551) in Japan attempting to convert the local population before turning his attention to China. He was stalled by the Portuguese, who feared the consequences of his meddling in Chinese affairs, but made it as far as Tamaõ, where he developed a fever and died in December 1552 at age 46.

The Portuguese who stayed in Macau, along with their Macanese descendants, created a home away from home. Their luxurious villas overlooking the Praia Grande, now the enclosed Baía da Praia, and splendid baroque churches were paid for with the wealth generated by their monopoly on trade with China and Japan. These buildings included the Jesuit Church of Madre de Deus (later the Church of St Paul, [p315](#)), hailed as the greatest monument to Christianity in the Far East when dedicated in 1602.

Portuguese Decline

Portugal's decline as an imperial power came as quickly as its rise. In 1580 Spanish armies occupied Portugal and for more than 60 years

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

The name Macau is derived from the name of the goddess A-Ma, better known in Hong Kong as Tin Hau. At the southwestern tip of Macau Peninsula stands the A-Ma Temple, which dates back to the early 16th century. Many people believe that when the Portuguese first arrived and asked the name of the place, 'A-Ma Gau' (Bay of A-Ma) was what they were told.

According to legend, A-Ma, a poor girl looking for passage to Guangzhou, was turned away by wealthy junk owners. Instead a poor fisherman took her on board; shortly afterwards a storm blew up, wrecking all the junks but leaving the fishing boat unscathed. When it returned to the Inner Harbour, A-Ma walked to the top of nearby Barra Hill and, in a glowing aura of light, ascended to heaven. The fisherman built a temple on the spot where they had landed (which was, in fact, on the water's edge until land reclamation early in the last century set it further inland).

In modern Cantonese, Macau is Ou Mun (Aomen in Mandarin), meaning Gateway of the Bay.

three Spanish kings ruled over the country and its empire. In the early years of the 17th century, the Dutch, embroiled in the Thirty Years' War with Spain, moved to seize the rich Portuguese enclaves of Macau, Nagasaki and Malacca. In June 1622 some 13 Dutch warships carrying 1300 men attacked Macau but retreated when a shell fired by a Jesuit priest from one of the cannons on Monte Fort hit a stock of gunpowder and blew the Hollanders out of the water.

The Japanese soon became suspicious of Portuguese and Spanish intentions and closed its doors to foreign trade in 1639. Two years later, Dutch harassment of Portuguese commerce and trading interests ended with the capture of Malacca. The Portuguese would no longer be able to provide the Chinese with the Japanese silver needed for their silk and porcelain or with spices from the Malay Peninsula.

A Change of Status

A flood of refugees unleashed on Macau when the Ming dynasty was overthrown in 1644. In 1684 the most corrupt of the new Manchu rulers, the so-called *hoppo* (*hōi poi* in Cantonese) – the customs superintendent who held the monopoly on trade with foreigners – set up an office in the Inner Harbour.

At the same time religious infighting weakened the status of Macau as a Christian centre. In what became known as the Rites Controversy, the Jesuits maintained that central aspects of Chinese belief – such as ancestor worship and Confucianism – were not incompatible with the Christian faith. The Dominicans and Franciscans, equally well represented in Macau, disagreed. It took an edict by Pope Clement XI in 1715 condemning the rites as idolatrous to settle the matter and this stopped further missionary expansion into China.

In the mid-18th century Chinese authorities created the *cohong*, a mercantile monopoly based in Guangzhou that dealt with foreign trade. Numerous restrictions were placed on Western traders, including limitations on the amount of time they could reside in Guangzhou. Macau in effect became an outpost for all European traders in China, a position it held until the British took possession of Hong Kong in 1841.

Until the mid-19th century the history of Macau was a long series of incidents involving the Portuguese, Chinese and British as

the Portuguese attempted to maintain a hold on the territory. But as time progressed and the troublesome British wrestled concession after concession out of China, the Portuguese grew bolder.

The Treaty of Nanking (1842) ceded the island of Hong Kong in perpetuity to the British; the Treaty of Tientsin (1860) gave them Kowloon on the same terms. The Portuguese felt that they, too, should take advantage of China's weakness and push for sovereignty over the territory they had occupied for three centuries. Negotiation began in 1862, although it was not until 1887 that a treaty was signed in which China effectively recognised Portuguese sovereignty over Macau forever.

With the advent of the steamship, there were fewer transshipments from Chinese ports through Macau and more direct transactions between the mainland and Hong Kong. Macau's future economy was greatly assisted by the legalisation of gambling in the 1850s, but by the close of the 19th century the ascent of the British colony and the decline of the Portuguese territory had become irreversible.

Macau in the 20th Century

By the turn of the 20th century Macau was little more than an impoverished backwater, its glory days all but forgotten. It did, however, continue to serve as a haven for Chinese refugees fleeing war, famine and political oppression. Among them was Sun Yat Sen, founder of the republic of China, who lived in Macau before the 1911 Revolution. Even the birth of the Portuguese republic in 1910 had little effect on the sleepy outpost.

In the mid-1920s large numbers of Chinese immigrants doubled the number of Macau residents to 160,000. A steady stream of refugees from the Sino-Japanese War meant that by 1939 the population had reached 245,000. During WWII many people from Hong Kong and China, as well as Asian-based Europeans, took refuge in Macau, as the Japanese respected Portugal's neutrality; by 1943 the population stood at 500,000. There was another influx of Chinese refugees in 1949 when the Communists took power in China, and from 1978 until about 1981 Macau was a haven for Vietnamese boat people. Macau was made an overseas province of Portugal in 1951.

Macau's last great upset occurred in 1966 and 1967, when China's Cultural Revolution

spilled over into the territory. Macau was stormed by Red Guards, and violent riots resulted in some of them being shot and killed by Portuguese troops. The government proposed that Portugal abandon Macau forever, but China refused to hear of it, fearing the loss of foreign trade through the colony.

In 1974 a revolution restored democracy in Portugal and the new left-wing government began to divest Portugal of the last remnants of its empire, including Mozambique and Angola in Africa and East Timor in the Indonesian archipelago. Power brokers in Lisbon tried to return Macau to China as well, but the word from Beijing was that China wished Macau to remain as it was – at least for the time being.

The End of Portuguese Rule

Once the Joint Declaration over Hong Kong had been signed by Britain and China in 1984, the latter turned its attentions to the future of Macau. Talks began in 1986 and an agreement was signed the following April.

Under the so-called Sino-Portuguese Pact, Macau would become a Special Administrative Region of China. The date set was 20 December 1999, ending 442 years of Portuguese rule. Like Hong Kong, the Macau SAR would enjoy a 'high degree of autonomy' for 50 years in all matters except defence and foreign affairs, under the slogan 'one country, two systems'.

The basic law for Macau differed from its Hong Kong equivalent in that holders of foreign passports were not excluded from holding high-level posts in the post-handover administration (apart from the position of chief executive). There was also no stipulation that China would station troops of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) in Macau after the return of the territory to China, though it did just that.

Macau had directly elected some of the members of its Legislative Assembly since the assembly's founding in 1976 but, unlike Hong Kong, it did not rush through proposals to widen the franchise or speed up democratisation at the last minute. The existing legislature continued to serve throughout the handover, unlike that in the British territory.

But not everything went so smoothly. Macau residents were pleased when Portugal gave everyone born in Macau the right to a Portuguese passport, allowing them to live anywhere in the EU – something the UK had

refused Hong Kong Chinese people. However, not everyone in Macau benefited from Portugal's move. Until 1975 any Chinese refugee reaching Macau could obtain residency. As a result, as much as 70% of the population had not actually been born in Macau and therefore didn't qualify for Portuguese citizenship.

The years 1996 to 1998 were a grim show-down for Macau and its all-important tourism industry – an escalating number of gangland killings took place. Some 40 people were killed as senior Triad leaders jostled for control of the lucrative gambling rackets, and one international hotel was raked with AK-47 gunfire. On 8 May 1998 alone, 14 cars and motorcycles and a couple of shops were engulfed in flames when Triad members, protesting the arrest of their boss, Wan Kwok 'Broken Tooth' Koi, let off a string of firebombs. The violence scared tourists off in a big way; arrivals fell by some 36% in August 1997.

As the handover approached, China put pressure on Portugal to clean up its act. The government issued a new anti-Triad law calling for a lengthy prison term for anyone found to be a senior leader. Koi was arrested and sentenced to 15 years, and many other Triad members fled overseas.

The Handover & Macau after 1999

The handover ceremony on 20 December 1999 was as stage-managed as the one held 2½ years earlier in Hong Kong. The following day 500 PLA soldiers drove down from Zhuhai. There are now an estimated 10,000 troops stationed here, though they have no responsibility for internal security.

In the past decade or so, Macau has launched a series of enormous public works and land-reclamation projects. The US\$11.8-billion airport built in 1995 and Cotai, a reclaimed area almost the size of Taipa with a six-lane highway, are among the most ambitious ones.

The deregulation of gambling laws in 2001 has further boosted the expansion of Macau's land reclamation and economy, though problems have followed this surge. On the one hand Macau has suffered a severe shortage of labour because of the galloping growth of the gambling industry, forcing casinos to raise wages dramatically to attract card dealers; on the other hand the boom doesn't really benefit

the local workers, as cheap illegal labourers are often hired for construction. A protest on May day in 2007 that resulted in a brutal police suppression reflected the undercurrents of dissatisfaction in the city. Macau's image has been further tarnished by government officials selling public land cheaply to financial giants for commercial development and receiving bribes in return. The notorious Ao Man Long case, in which the former transportation minister was accused of taking 800 million patacas in bribes – 57 times his legal income from his seven-year term of office – from a number of public-works projects, is believed to be just the tip of the iceberg.

Other grand projects continue forward, including the megaresort City of Dreams in Cotai. But the most ambitious project by far is the proposed 36km-long, US\$3.7-billion, six-lane cross-delta bridge linking Macau and Zhuhai with Hong Kong via Tai O on Lantau Island. The Y-shaped bridge would reduce the present four-hour journey by car between Zhuhai and Hong Kong to 20 minutes.

ARTS

Painting

Macau can lay claim to having spawned or influenced a number of artists. Their work is on display in the Gallery of Historical Pictures of the Macau Museum of Art (p323).

The most important Western artist to have lived in Macau was George Chinnery (see the boxed text, below). Other influential European painters who spent time in Macau include the Scottish physician Thomas Watson (1815–60), who was a student of Chinnery and lived in

Macau from 1845 to 1856; Frenchman Auguste Borget (1808–77), who spent some 10 months in 1838 and 1939 painting Macau's waterfront and churches; and watercolourist Marciano António Baptista (1856–1930), who was born in Macau.

Guan Qiaochang (1825–60), another of Chinnery's pupils, was a Chinese artist who painted in the Western style and worked under the name Lamqua. His oil portraits of mandarins and other Chinese worthies are particularly fine.

Two of the best galleries for viewing contemporary Macau and other art are Tap Seac Gallery (p326) and Ox Warehouse (p326).

Architecture

Portuguese architectural styles reflect a variety of forms, from Romanesque and Gothic through to baroque and neoclassical, and these are best seen in Macau's churches. Two excellent examples are the Chapel of St Joseph Seminary (p322), completed in 1758, and the Church of St Dominic (p321), a 17th-century replacement of a chapel built in the 1590s.

Civic buildings worth close inspection are the Leal Senado (p319), erected in 1784 but rebuilt after it was damaged by a typhoon a century later; and the Government House (p322), dating from 1849.

Macau has seen a surge of skyscrapers go up, changing its skyline drastically. Macau Tower (p324) is a 338m-tall copy of the Sky Tower in Auckland, New Zealand. The landmark Grand Lisboa Casino (p341), an ugly, 52-storey lotus-shaped golden structure, will be the tallest building in Macau upon its completion in late 2007.

GEORGE CHINNERY: CHRONICLER OF MACAU

Though George Chinnery may enjoy little more than footnote status in the history of world art, as a chronicler of his own world (colonial Macau) and his times (the early 19th century) he is without peer. In the absence of photography, taipans ('big bosses' of large companies) and mandarins turned to trade art (commissioned portraiture), and Chinnery was the master of the genre. Today he is known less for his formal portraits and paintings of factory buildings and clipper ships than for his landscapes and sometimes fragmentary sketches of everyday life.

Chinnery was born in London in 1774 and studied at the Royal Academy of Arts before turning his hand to portrait painting in Dublin. He sailed for India in 1802 and spent the next 23 years in Madras and Calcutta, where he earned substantial sums (up to UK£500 a month) as a popular portrait painter to British colonial society and spent most of it on his opium addiction. He fled to Macau in 1825 to escape spiralling debts, Calcutta's 'cranky formality' and his wife (whom he described as 'the ugliest woman I ever saw in my life'), and took up residence at 8 Rua de Inácio Baptista (Map p320), just south of the Church of St Lawrence. He lived at this address until his death from stroke in 1852.

Although Chinnery is sometimes 'claimed' by Hong Kong (the Mandarin Oriental hotel even has a bar named after him), he visited the colony only once, during the hot summer of 1846. Although he was unwell and did not like it very much, he managed to execute some vivid sketches of the place.

MACAU CALENDAR

You're likely to find a festival or some special event taking place in Macau no matter when you visit. Chinese New Year (see the boxed text, p16) is chaotic in Macau, and hotel rooms are a prized commodity during this period. Still, it's a colourful time to visit, as the city literally explodes with bangers and fireworks – they're legal here – and the streets are filled with a carnival atmosphere. The Macau Formula 3 Grand Prix (p345) is also a peak time for visitors. The website of the [Macau Government Tourist Office](#) (MGT0; www.macautourism.gov.mo) has a list of events in Macau. For dates of Macau's public holidays, see p351. For information on festivals and events celebrated both here and in Hong Kong, see p15.

February/March

Procession of the Passion of Our Lord A 400-year-old tradition on the first Saturday of Lent in which a colourful procession bears a statue of Jesus Christ from Macau's Church of St Augustine to Macau Cathedral, where it spends the night and is carried back the following day. This will fall on 9 February in 2008, 28 February in 2009 and 20 February in 2010.

April/May

A-Ma Festival This festival honours Tin Hau (known here as A-Ma), the patroness of fisherfolk and one of the territory's most popular goddesses. The best place to see the festival is at the A-Ma Temple in the Inner Harbour. This festival will fall on 28 April in 2008, 18 April in 2009 and 6 May in 2010.

Birthday of the Lord Buddha/Feast of the Drunken Dragon Buddha's statue is taken from monasteries and temples and ceremoniously bathed in scented water on this day. It also marks the Feast of the Drunken Dragon, which features dancing dragons in the streets of the Inner Harbour and a lot of legless merry-makers. 12 May in 2008, 2 May in 2009 and 21 May in 2010.

Procession of our Lady of Fatima The procession goes from Macau Cathedral to the Chapel of Our Lady of Penha to commemorate a series of apparitions by the Virgin Mary to three peasant children at Fatima in Portugal in 1917. This falls on 13 May each year.

Macau Arts Festival (www.icm.gov.mo) Macau's red-letter arts event kicks off the cultural year with music, drama and dance from both Asia and the West.

Macau Open Golf Tournament (www.sport.gov.mo) Part of the Asian PGA Tour, this event is held at the Macau Golf & Country Club on Coloane and attracts the region's best golfers.

June

Dragon Boat Festival This festival is also known as Tuen Ng (Double Fifth) as it falls on the fifth day of the fifth moon. It commemorates the death of Qu Yuan, a poet-statesman of the 3rd century BC, who hurled himself into the Mi Lo River in Hunan province to protest against a corrupt government; dragon-boat races take place and traditional rice dumplings are eaten in memory of the event. The festival will fall on 8 June in 2008, 28 May in 2009 and 16 June 2010.

Macau Lotus Flower Festival The symbol of Macau is the focus of this festival, which sees lotuses blossoming in parks and gardens throughout Macau.

July

FIVB Women's Volleyball Grand Prix (www.sport.gov.mo) This is one of the most important women's volleyball tournaments in the region.

September/October

Macau International Fireworks Display Contest This event, the largest of its kind in the world, adds a splash of colour to the Macau night sky in autumn.

October/November

Macau International Music Festival (www.icm.gov.mo) This two-week festival is a heady mix of opera, musicals, visiting orchestras and other musical events.

Macau Formula 3 Grand Prix (www.macau.grandprix.gov.mo) Approximately 30 national championship drivers compete to take the chequered flag in Macau's premier sporting event. The Grand Prix is held in the third week of November.

December

Macau International Marathon (www.sport.gov.mo) Like its Hong Kong counterpart, this running event, which takes place on the first Sunday in December, also includes a half-marathon.

ONE-DAY ITINERARY

If you only have a day in Macau, start by following the [walking tour](#) (p314) to get a feel for the lay of the land and Macau's living history. Spend an hour or so in the [Macau Museum](#) (p319) to answer all the questions you'll now have, and walk to the [ruins of the Church of St Paul](#) (p315). In the afternoon, hop on a bus for [Taipa](#) (p327) and stroll through the village to Avenida da Praia and the three-part [Taipa House Museum](#) (p329). In the evening you should also walk along peninsula Macau's more dramatic Avenida da Praia Grande, stopping for a while at the [Lisboa Casino](#) (p341) to see what all the fuss is about. Have a sundowner drink or two along the [Lan Kwai Fong](#) (p342) strip in NAPE and dinner at the atmospheric [Clube Militar de Macau](#) (p336) before catching the ferry back to Hong Kong.

The feverish construction in Macau has also given rise to a public outcry for heritage conservation, especially since the Unesco-protected Guia Lighthouse (p325) will be overshadowed by skyscrapers in the NAPE area if they are built as planned.

Literature

Macau's home-grown writers are not insignificant; you'll sample their work at the Macau Museum (p319).

First and foremost in literature was Portugal's national poet, Luís de Camões (1524–80), who was banished from Portugal to Goa and then apparently to Macau in the 16th century. He is said to have written part of his epic poem *Os Lusíadas* (The Lusíads), which recounts the 15th-century voyage of Vasco da Gama to India, during the two years he lived in the enclave, but there is no firm evidence that he was ever in Macau.

The teacher, judge, opium addict and Symbolist poet Camilio de Almeida Pessanha (1867–1926; author of such works as *Clepsidra*) lived in Macau for the last 30 years of his life; he is buried in the Cemetery of St Michael the Archangel (p325). Local-born writers include Henrique de Senna Fernandes (1923–), author of the *Nam Wan* collection of short stories and the novel *The Bewitching Braid*, and the much-beloved Macanese writer José dos Santos Ferreira (1919–93), known as Adé, who wrote in *patuá*, a dialect forging Portuguese and Cantonese. A statue in honour of Adé, who wrote plays, operettas and poems, stands in the Jardim des Artes along Avenida da Amizade, opposite the Landmark Macau building, and you can hear a recording of him reading his poetry in the Macau Museum.

CULTURE

Traditional culture among the Chinese of Macau is almost indistinguishable from that

of Hong Kong. However, the Portuguese minority has a vastly different culture that has evolved under a number of different influences through the centuries. Colonial Portuguese architecture survives throughout Macau, and Portuguese food is to be found in abundance.

Macanese culture is different again. Unlike the Portuguese and Chinese communities elsewhere in the world, the Macanese community, a tiny community of the descendants of intermarriages between Portuguese and Asians, is very distinct and exists solely in Macau. They have a unique cuisine, set of festivals and traditions, and even their own dialect called *patuá*. The *do* (traditional woman's outfit) has long disappeared, though you may catch a glimpse of it at certain festivals.

Portuguese and Chinese – Cantonese being the more widely spoken dialect – are both official languages of Macau. For key phrases and words in Cantonese and Portuguese, see p353.

For the vast majority of Macau Chinese people, Taoism and Buddhism are the dominant religions (see the boxed text, p43). Four and a half centuries of Portuguese Christian rule left its mark, however, and the Roman Catholic Church is very strong in Macau, with an estimated 30,000 (about 6% of the population) adherents. Macau consists of a single diocese, directly responsible to Rome.

ECONOMY

Tourism and gambling still drive Macau's economy, and the latter remains Macau's major cash cow; today gambling concessions contribute some 70% of government revenue through betting tax.

Tourism usually generates almost half of Macau's GDP, and about a third of the labour force works in some aspect of it. In 2006 Macau welcomed some 21 million tourists and visitors, an increase of 31% over the previous year and almost 42 times its population.

Visitors from the mainland accounted for 52% of total arrivals, with most of the balance coming from Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan and the USA. As a result of this phenomenal boost, Macau's economy expanded a record 23% in 2006.

Macau has some light industries, such as textile, garment, toy and fireworks production, but factories have slowed down and many companies have moved across the border. Unemployment in Macau is currently around 3.8%.

GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

The executive branch of the Macau SAR government is led by the chief executive, who is chosen by an electoral college made up of 200 local representatives. Edmund Ho, a popular Macau-born banker, was selected for his second (and, by law, final) five-year term in 2004.

The Legislative Assembly, which sits in its own purpose-built assembly hall on reclaimed land in the Nam Van Lakes area, now permanently consists of 29 members, 12 of whom are directly elected in geographical constituencies, 10 chosen by interest groups and seven appointed by the chief executive.

Like Hong Kong, Macau has primary courts, intermediate courts and a Court of Final Appeal.

NEIGHBOURHOODS & SIGHTS

For such a tiny city, Macau is packed with many important cultural and historical sights, including eight squares and 22 historic buildings that have collectively been named the Historic Centre of Macau World Heritage

POPULATION & PEOPLE

Macau's population is approximately 513,000, with an annual growth rate of 5.8%. Population density is more than 17,952 people per sq km. While the northern part of the peninsula is one of the most densely populated areas, Coloane Island has remained essentially rural, but Taipa is rapidly becoming an urban extension of Macau Peninsula.

The population is about 95% Chinese. Fewer than 2% of Macau residents are Portuguese and the rest are Macanese (people of mixed Portuguese, Chinese and/or African blood) or Filipino.

Site by Unesco. The best way to see the sights and to feel the uniqueness of Macau is to wander through the squares and narrow alleys. Remember to pick up the excellent series of pamphlets by the Macau Government Tourist Office (MGTO) before you set off.

Macau is divided into three main sections: the Macau Peninsula, which is attached to mainland China to the north; the middle island of Taipa, directly south of the peninsula and linked to it by the 2.5km-long Ponte Governador Nobre de Carvalho (Macau-Taipa Bridge), the 4.5km-long Ponte da Amizade (Friendship Bridge) and the new 2.2km-long covered, typhoon-proof Sai Van Bridge; and Coloane Island, south of Taipa and connected to it by recent massive land-reclamation efforts.

ORGANISED TOURS

Tours booked on the ground in Macau are generally much better value than those booked in Hong Kong, though the latter include transportation to and from Macau and sometimes a side trip across the border to Zhuhai. Tours from Hong Kong are usually one-day whirlwind tours, departing for Macau in the morning and returning to Hong Kong on the same evening. [Gray Line](#) (☎ in Hong Kong 2368 7111; www.grayline.com.hk) offers such a tour for HK\$690/\$720 on weekdays/weekends (child under 10 HK\$620/\$650).

Quality Tours organised by the MGTO and tendered to agents such as [Gray Line](#) (Map pp316–17; ☎ 2833 6611; Rua do Campo; ☎ 9.30am–6.30pm Mon–Sat) take around 6½ hours (adult/child under 10 including museum and Macau Tower tickets MOP\$200/\$150).

The Tour Machine, run by [Avis Rent A Car](#) (Map pp316–17; ☎ 2833 6789; www.avis.com.mo; Room 1022, Ground fl, Macau ferry terminal; ☎ 8am–7pm), is a replica 1920s-style English bus that seats nine people and runs on fixed routes in about two hours past some of Macau's most important sights (adult/child under 12 MOP\$150/\$80). You're allowed to disembark, stretch your legs and take photos along the way. There are two departures a day (11am and 3pm) from the Macau ferry terminal.

MACAU PENINSULA

You'll find the lion's share of Macau's museums, churches, gardens, old cemeteries and important colonial buildings on the peninsula and, in July 2005, Unesco recognised

this wealth by adding the Historic Centre of Macau, comprising 25 distinct sites, to its World Heritage list. If you're after more active pursuits, such as cycling, hiking and swimming, head for the islands (p343).

MACAU PENINSULA WALKING TOUR

1 Largo do Senado Begin your tour of the peninsula in the beautiful 'Square of the Senate' in the heart of Macau, which is accessible from the ferry terminal on bus 3. On the south side of the square facing Avenida de Almeida Ribeiro is the **main post office**, built in 1931, and nearby is the restored **Museum of the Holy House of Mercy** (p319). From here, walk to the northeast end of the square.

2 Church of St Dominic Overlooking Largo de São Domingos is this **church** (p321), with its distinctive green shutters and doors.

3 Macau Cathedral On the southern side of the square, you'll spot a narrow road called Travessa de São Domingos. Follow this up to Largo da Sé and **Macau Cathedral** (p319).

4 Lou Kau Mansion Housed on Travessa da Sé is **Lou Kau Mansion** (p321), built in 1889. The street leads down into Rua de São Domingos. Take a right at the bottom of the hill and follow Rua de São Domingos and its extension, Rua de Pedro Nolasco da Silva, to the corner with Calçada do Monte. Just visible across the garden to the east is the **Consulate General of Portugal**, housed in an exquisite colonial mansion.

5 Monte Fort Begin climbing up Calçada do Monte, and once you reach Travessa do Artileiros, turn left. A cobbled path leads up to the **Monte Fort** (p319) and the **Macau Museum** (p319).

6 Ruins of the Church of St Paul Take the escalator down from the museum and walk west to the façade of the **Church of St Paul** (right); there's a platform offering stunning views over the town on the north side leading to the former choir loft.

7 Antique & Chinese Shops Walk down the impressive stone steps in front of the façade and continue south along Rua de São Paulo, which is lined with **antique shops** (p332). Turn right onto Rua das Estalagens, which is full of **traditional Chinese shops** and, once you reach Rua de Camilo Pessanha, turn left. At the western end of this street, turn left again into Avenida de Almeida Ribeiro and immediately on your left you'll pass the **Pawshop Museum** (p322).

8 Leal Senado Continue along Avenida de Almeida Ribeiro. After passing the **Leal Senado** (p319), turn right onto Rua Central, which changes names several times as it heads southwest for the Inner Harbour. If you're feeling peckish, you may want to stop for a bowl of **caldo verde** at **Afonso III** (p336).

9 Church of St Augustine Towering above this end of Rua Central is the **Church of St Augustine** (p322) and opposite that the **Dom Pedro V Theatre** (p321).

10 Largo do Lilau Follow Rua Central's extensions, Rua de São Lourenço and Rua da Barra, passing the **Church of St Lawrence** (p321) and **Largo do Lilau**; according to local folklore, should you drink from the fountain in this romantic square, it's a given that you'll return to Macau one day.

11 Moorish Barracks Further on are these enormous barracks, completed in 1874 and now housing the offices of the maritime po-

lice. Rua do Peixe Salgado (Street of Salted Fish) debouches into Rua do Almirante Sérgio, where you should turn left. A short distance south is the ever-active **A-Ma Temple** (p324) and opposite, across Rua de São Tiago da Barra, is the **Maritime Museum** (p324). From here, you can follow Avenida da República to Avenida da Praia Grande and Avenida de Almeida Ribeiro or hop on bus 5 or 7.

Central Macau Peninsula

Avenida de Almeida Ribeiro – called San Ma Lo (New St) in Cantonese, together with its southern extension, Avenida do Infante Dom Henrique – is the peninsula's main thoroughfare. It effectively divides the narrow southern peninsula from central and northern Macau. In the centre of this long thoroughfare is the charming square, Largo do Senado. Bus 3 will bring you to the city centre, or take a free casino shuttle to Grand Lisboa from the ferry terminal. The sights are within walking distance from the casino.

RUINS OF THE CHURCH OF ST PAUL

Map p320

Ruinas de Igreja de São Paulo; Travessa de São Paulo; admission free

The most famous sight in Macau, the façade and stairway are all that remain of this early-17th-century Jesuit church, called Tai Sam Ba in Cantonese. With its wonderful statues, portals and engravings that effectively make up a 'sermon in stone' and a *Biblia pauperum* (Bible of the poor), some consider the ruins to be the greatest monument to Christianity in Asia to help the illiterate understand the Passion of Christ and the lives of the saints.

The church was designed by an Italian Jesuit and completed by early Japanese Christian exiles and Chinese craftsmen in 1602. It was abandoned after the expulsion of the Jesuits in 1762 and a military battalion was stationed here. In 1835 a fire erupted in the kitchen of the barracks, destroying everything, except what you see today.

At the top is a dove, representing the Holy Spirit, surrounded by stone carvings of the sun, moon and stars. Beneath the Holy Spirit is a statue of the infant Jesus surrounded by stone carvings of the implements of the Crucifixion (the whip, crown of thorns, nails, ladder and spear). In the centre of the 3rd tier stands the Virgin Mary being assumed bodily into heaven along with angels and two



WALK FACTS

Start Largo do Senado

End Maritime Museum

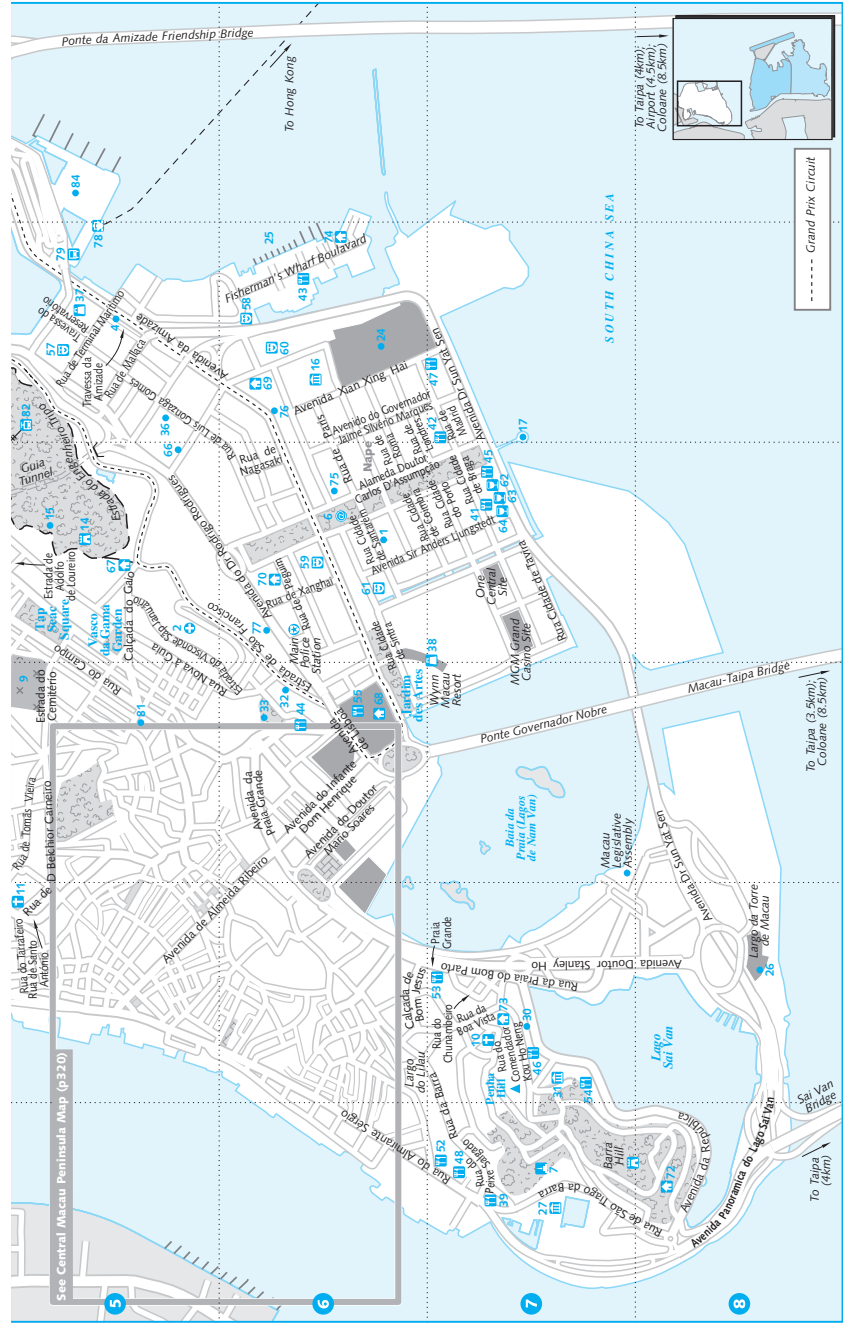
Distance 4km

Duration Three to four hours

Fuel Stops Many along the way



MACAU PENINSULA



See Central Macau Peninsula Map (p320)

MACAU PENINSULA

INFORMATION (pp350-2)

- BookaChino 1 D6
- Conde Saõ Januário Central Hospital
山頂醫院 2 D5
- CTM Main Office 澳門電訊總站 3 D4
- Immigration Department 入境處 4 E5
- Kiang Wu Hospital 鏡湖醫院 5 C4
- MGTO Branch 旅遊諮詢處 (see 78)
- MGTO Branch 旅遊諮詢處 (see 14)
- Unesco Internet Café 6 D6

SIGHTS (pp313-32)

- A-Ma Temple 媽閣廟 7 A7
- Bishop's Palace (see 10)
- Casa Garden 東方基金會會址 8 B4
- Cemetery of St Michael the Archangel
西洋墳場 9 C5
- Chapel of Our Lady of Guia
聖母雪地聖堂 (see 14)
- Chapel of Our Lady of Penha
主教山小教堂 10 B7
- Chapel of St Michael (see 9)
- Church of St Anthony
聖安多尼教堂 11 B5
- Fire Services Museum
消防博物館 12 C4
- Flora Garden 二龍喉公園 13 E4
- Grand Prix Museum
大賽車博物館 (see 36)
- Guia Fort 東望洋炮台 14 D5
- Guia Hill Air Raid Shelter 防空洞 15 D5
- Guia Lighthouse 松山燈塔 (see 14)
- Handover of Macau Gifts Museum
澳門回歸賀禮陳列館 16 E6
- Kun lam Statue & Ecumenical Centre
觀音像 17 E7
- Kun lam Temple 觀音堂 18 D3
- Lin Fung Temple 蓮峰廟 19 D2
- Lin Zexu Memorial Hall
林則徐紀念館 20 D2
- Lou Lim Ioc Garden 盧廉若公園 21 D4
- Lou Lim Ioc Pavilion 盧廉若公園 22 D4
- Luis de Camões Garden & Grotto
白鴿巢公園 23 B4
- Macau Convention & Entertainment
Centre 澳門會展娛樂中心 (see 26)
- Macau Cultural Centre
澳門文化中心 24 E6
- Macau Fisherman's Wharf 25 E6
- Macau Museum of Art
澳門藝術博物館 (see 24)

- Macau Security Forces Museum
澳門保安部隊博物館 (see 32)
- Macau Tea Culture House
澳門茶文化館 (see 22)
- Macau Tower 澳門旅遊塔 26 B8
- Macau Wine Museum
葡萄酒博物館 (see 36)
- Maritime Museum 海事博物館 27 A7
- Old Protestant Cemetery
基督教墳場 28 C4
- Oriental Foundation 東方基金會 (see 8)
- Ox Warehouse 牛房倉庫 29 D3
- Residence of the Portuguese Consul
General 葡國領事府第 30 B7
- Santa Sancha Palace 31 B7
- St Francis Barracks 加思欄炮台 32 C6
- St Francis Garden 33 C6
- Sun Yat Sen Memorial Home
孫中山故居 34 D4
- Tape Seal Gallery 塔石藝文館 35 D4
- Tourist Activities Centre
旅遊活動中心 36 E5

SHOPPING (pp332-3)

- New Yaohan 八百伴 37 E5
- Wynn Macau Casino 永利 38 D7

EATING (pp333-40)

- A Lorcha 船屋 39 A7
- Almirante Lacerda City Market
紅街市 40 C3
- Antica Trattoria da Isa 41 D7
- Bon Appetite 美囍葡國餐廳 42 E7
- Camões 賈梅士葡國餐廳 43 E6
- Clube Militar de Macau
陸軍俱樂部 44 C6
- Fat Siu Lau 2 佛笑樓 45 D3
- Furusato 新故里 (see 55)
- Henri's Galley 美心亨利餐廳 46 B7
- La Comedie Chez Vous 47 E6
- Litoral 海灣餐廳 48 A7
- Long Wa 龍華茶樓 49 C3
- Mang Pan Koi 名品居 50 D4
- O Porto 奧波爾園 51 D3
- O Porto Interior 內港餐廳 52 A7
- Os Gatos (see 72)
- Portas Do Sol 葡京日麗 (see 55)
- Praia Grande 美麗灣葡式餐廳 53 B7
- Restaurante Tennis Civil Leon
利安餐廳 54 B7
- Robuchon a Galera 55 C6

- Serradura 沙塵娜 56 D3
- Wing Lei 永利軒 (see 38)

ENTERTAINMENT (pp340-1)

- Jai Alai Show Palace
回力廳龍舞台 57 E5
- Mandarin Oriental Casino
東方娛樂場 (see 69)
- Nicole Fashion Club 58 E6
- Pharaoh's Palace Casino
法老王宮殿娛樂場 59 D6
- Sands Macau 金沙娛樂場 60 E6
- Star World Casino 星際娛樂場 61 D6

DRINKING (p342)

- Casablanca Café 62 D7
- Moonwalker Bar 夜光杯酒吧 63 D7
- MP3 64 D7
- Vasco 乘風廊 (see 69)
- Whisky Bar (see 61)

SPORTS & ACTIVITIES (pp343-5)

- Canidrome 逸園狗場 65 C3
- Macau Sports Institute
澳門體育學院 66 D5

SLEEPING (pp345-8)

- Guia Hotel 東望洋酒店 67 D5
- Lisboa Hotel 葡京酒店 68 C6
- Mandarin Oriental
文華東方酒店 69 E6
- Metro Park Hotel 維景酒店 70 D6
- Pousada de Mong Há 望廈賓館 71 D3
- Pousada de Saõ Tiago
聖地牙哥酒店 72 A8
- Ritz Hotel 濠璟酒店 73 B7
- Rocks Hotel 萊斯酒店 74 E6
- Wynn Macau 永利澳門 (see 38)

TRANSPORT (pp348-50)

- Air Macau 澳門航空 75 D6
- Avis Rent A Car (see 78)
- Avis Rent A Car 76 E6
- China Travel Service 中旅社 77 D6
- Ferry Terminal 外港碼頭 78 E5
- Free casino shuttle buses 79 E5
- Free casino shuttle buses 80 C2
- Gray Line 81 C5
- Guia Cable Car Lower Terminus 82 D4
- Guia Cable Car Upper Terminus 83 E5
- Happy Rent A Car (see 78)
- Heliport 84 F5

monstrances and oil paintings, including a copy of a 17th-century painting depicting the martyrdom of 26 Japanese Christians by crucifixion at Nagasaki in 1597. The adjoining crypt contains the remains of the martyrs, as well as those of Vietnamese and other Japanese Christians killed in the 17th century. Also here is the recently unearthed tomb of Alessandro Valignano, the Jesuit who founded the College of the Mother of God and is credited with establishing Christianity in Japan.

LEAL SENADO Map p320

163 Avenida de Almeida Ribeiro

Facing Largo do Senado to the west is Macau's most important historical building, the 18th-century 'Loyal Senate', which now houses the Instituto para os Assuntos Cívicos e Municipais (IACM; Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau) and the mayor's office. It is so-named because the body sitting here refused to recognise Spain's sovereignty during the 60 years that it occupied Portugal.

In 1654, a dozen years after Portuguese sovereignty was re-established, King João IV ordered a heraldic inscription to be placed inside the senate's entrance hall, and this can still be seen today. To the right of the entrance hall is the **IACM Gallery** (☎ 988 4180; admission free; ☎ 9am-9pm Tue-Sun), which features changing exhibits. On the 1st floor is the **Senate Library** (☎ 2857 2233; admission free; ☎ 1-7pm Mon-Sat), which has a collection of some 18,500 books, and wonderful carved wooden furnishings and panelled walls.

MONTE FORT Map p320

Fortaleza do Monte; ☎ 7am-7pm

On a hill and accessible by an escalator just east of the ruins of the Church of St Paul, Monte Fort was built by the Jesuits between 1617 and 1626 as part of the College of the Mother of God. Barracks and storehouses were designed to allow the fort to survive a two-year siege, but the cannons were fired only once: during the aborted attempt by the Dutch to invade Macau in 1622 (p307).

MACAU MUSEUM Map p320

Museu de Macau; ☎ 2835 7911; Praceta do Museu de Macau, Fortaleza do Monte; adult/child under 11, student & senior over 60 MOP\$15/8, 15th of month admission free; ☎ 10am-6pm Tue-Sun

This wonderful museum housed in the fort tells the story of the hybrid territory of Macau through a host of multimedia exhibits.

On the 1st level, the Genesis of Macau exhibit takes you through the early history of the territory, with parallel developments in the East and the West compared and contrasted. The section devoted to the territory's religions is excellent.

On the 2nd level (Popular Arts & Traditions of Macau), you'll see and hear everything from a re-created firecracker factory, and a *chá gordo* (fat tea) of 20 dishes enjoyed on a Sunday, to the recorded cries of street vendors selling items such as brooms, tea and scrap metal. You can also hear a recording of the poet José dos Santos Ferreira (1919-93), known as Adé, reading from his work in local dialect.

The top-floor Contemporary Macau exhibit focuses on the latest architecture, literature and urban-development plans.

MACAU CATHEDRAL Map p320

A Sé Catedral; Largo da Sé; ☎ 8am-6pm

East of Largo do Senado is the cathedral, a not particularly attractive structure consecrated in 1850 to replace an earlier one badly damaged in a typhoon. The cathedral, which was completely rebuilt in 1937, has some notable stained-glass windows and is very active during major Christian festivals and holy days in Macau.

MUSEUM OF THE HOLY HOUSE OF MERCY Map p320

Núcleo Museológico da Santa Casa da Misericórdia; ☎ 2857 3938; 2 Travessa da Misericórdia; adult/student & senior over 65 MOP\$5/free; ☎ 10am-5.30pm Mon-Sat

Established in 1569, it is the oldest social institution in Macau, serving as a home to orphans and prostitutes in the 18th century. Today it is a two-room museum containing items related to the house, including religious artefacts; Chinese, Japanese and European porcelain; the skull of its founder and Macau's first bishop, Dom Belchior Carneiro; and a portrait of Martha Merop, an orphan who became a tycoon and a patron of the House, painted shortly before her death. Its **restaurant** (☎ 2833 5220; ☎ 10am-6pm Mon-Sat) at the basement serves very affordable and decent meals during lunch time.

flowers: the peony, representing China, and the chrysanthemum, a symbol of Japan. To the right of the Virgin is a carving of the tree of life and the apocalyptic woman (Mary) slaying a seven-headed hydra; the Chinese characters next to her read 'the holy mother tramples the heads of the dragon'. To the left of the central statue of Mary, a 'star' guides a ship (the Church) through a storm (sin); a carving of the devil is to the left.

The 4th tier has statues of four Jesuit doctors of the Church (from left to right):

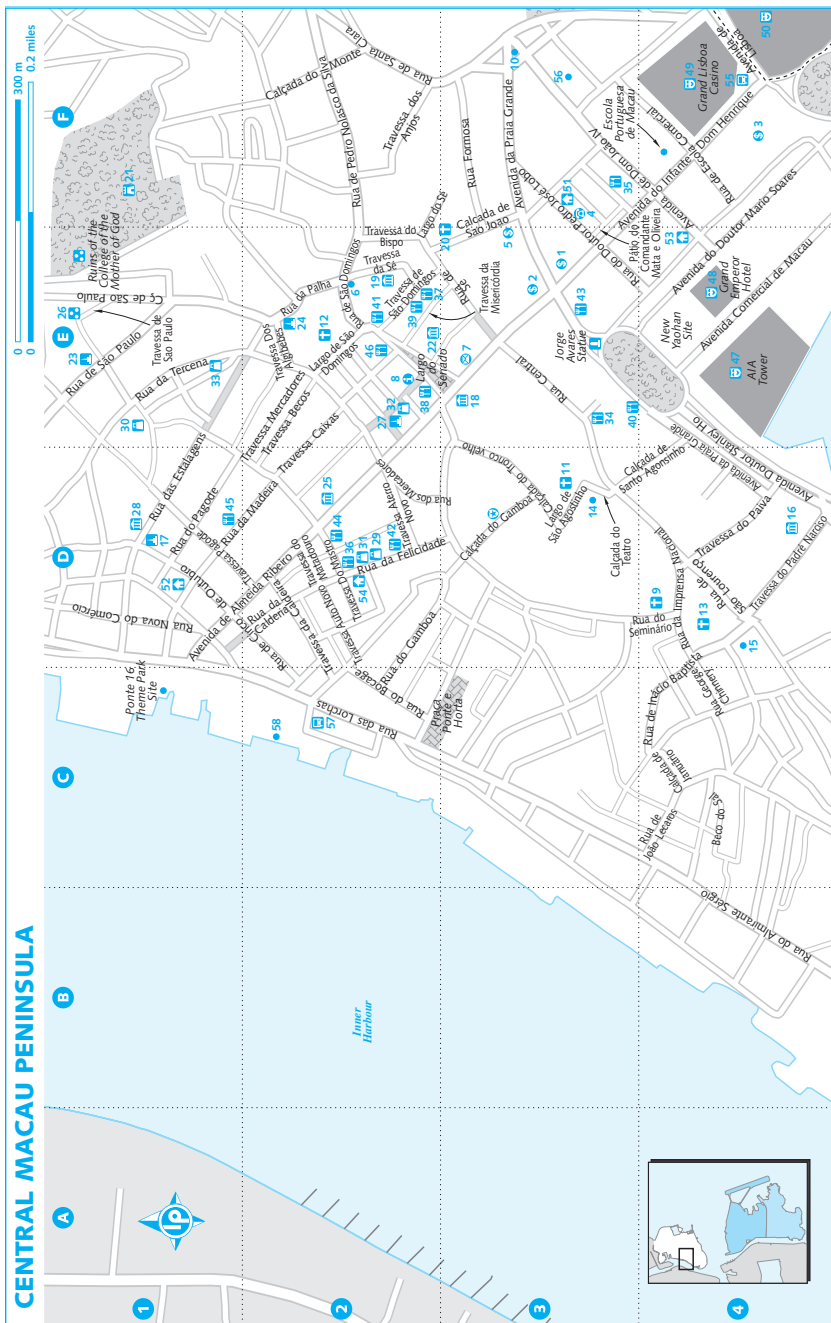
Blessed Francisco de Borja; St Ignatius Loyola, the founder of the order; St Francis Xavier, the apostle of the Far East; and Blessed Luís Gonzaga.

MUSEUM OF SACRED ART & CRYPT

Map p320

Museu de Arte Sacra e Cripta; Travessa de São Paulo; admission free; ☎ 9am-6pm

This small museum behind the ruins of the Church of St Paul contains polychrome carved wooden statues, silver chalices,

**CHURCH OF ST DOMINIC** Map p320

Igreja de São Domingos; Largo de São Domingos;
 ☎ 10am-6pm

Northeast of Largo do Senado, this 17th-century baroque church is a replacement of a chapel built by the Dominicans in the 1590s. Today it contains the **Treasury of Sacred Art** (Tesouro de Arte Sacra; ☎ 2836 7706; admission free; ☎ 10am-6pm), an Aladdin's cave of ecclesiastical art and liturgical objects exhibited on three floors.

LOU KAU MANSION Map p320

Casa de Lou Kau; ☎ 399 6699; 7 Travessa da Sé; admission free; ☎ 9am-7pm Tue-Mon & public holidays, 10am-7pm Sat & Sun

Near the Macau Cathedral is this well-preserved traditional Cantonese-style mansion built in 1889. It belonged to tycoon Lou Wa Sio, father of Lou Lim loc, who made his fortunes in Macau during the 19th century. The mansion has kept its elaborated brick relief

and lattice carvings on windows, as well as some hybrid East-West architecture. Interestingly there is no kitchen in the mansion, as the owner's concubines were supposed to bring him pleasure rather than cook.

DOM PEDRO V THEATRE Map p320

Teatro Dom Pedro V; ☎ 2893 9646; Calçada do Teatro

Opposite the Church of St Augustine, this colonnaded, neoclassical theatre built in 1858 is the oldest European theatre in China and is sometimes used for cultural performances.

CHURCH OF ST LAWRENCE Map p320

Igreja de São Lourenço; Rua de São Lourenço;
 ☎ 10am-4pm

Enter Macau's most fashionable church from Rua da Imprensa Nacional. The original was built of wood in the 1560s but was

CENTRAL MACAU PENINSULA**INFORMATION** (pp350-2)

Banco Comercial de Macau	
澳門國際銀行	1 E3
Banco Nacional Ultramarino	
大西洋銀行	2 E3
Bank of China 中國銀行大廈	3 F4
CTM Branch 澳門電訊	4 F3
HSBC 匯豐銀行	5 E3
Livraria	6 E2
Main Post Office 郵政總局	7 E3
MGTO Branch 旅遊諮詢處	(see 26)
MGTO Branch 旅遊諮詢處	8 E2

SIGHTS (pp315-22)

Chapel of St Joseph Seminary	
聖約翰修院及聖堂	9 D4
Chinese Reading Room	
八角亭圖書館	10 F3
Church of St Augustine	
聖奧斯定教堂	11 D3
Church of St Dominic 玫瑰堂	12 E2
Church of St Lawrence	
聖老楞佐教堂	13 D4
Cultural Club 文化會館	(see 25)
Dom Pedro V Theatre 崗頂劇院	14 D3
George Chinnery House	
錢納利故居	15 D4
Government House	
特區政府總部	16 D4
Hong Kung Temple 康公廟	17 D1
IACM Gallery 民政總署展覽廳	(see 18)
Leal Senado 民政總署	18 E3
Lou Kau Mansion 盧家大屋	19 E2
Macau Cathedral	
大堂 (主教座堂)	20 E3
Macau Museum 澳門博物館	(see 21)

Monte Fort 大炮台	21 F1
Museum of Sacred Art & Crypt	
天主教藝術博物館與墓室	(see 26)
Museum of the Holy House of Mercy	
仁慈堂博物館	22 E2
Nu Tcha Temple 哪吒廟	23 E1
Nu Wa Temple 女媧廟	24 E2
Pawnshop Museum	
典當業展示館	25 D2
Ruins of the Church of St Paul	
大三巴	26 E1
Sam Kai Vui Kun Temple	
三街會館	27 E2

Senate Library	
民政總署圖書館	(see 18)
Sound of the Century Museum (Tai Peng Electronics) 留聲歲月音響博物館	
(太平電器)	28 D1
Treasury of Sacred Art	
聖物寶庫	(see 12)

SHOPPING (pp332-3)

Choi Heong Yuen 咀香園	29 D2
Flea Market	30 E1
Koi Kei 鉅記	31 D2
Main Post Office 郵政總局	(see 7)
St Dominic Market 營地街市	32 E2
Traditional Shops	33 E1

EATING (pp333-8)

Afonso III 亞豐素三世餐廳	34 E3
Caravela	35 F3
Don Alfonso 1890	(see 49)
Fat Sui Lau 佛笑樓	36 D2
La Bonne Heure 良辰法國餐廳	37 E2
Long Kei 龍記	38 E2

Ou Mun Café	39 E2
Pavillons Supermercado	
百利來超級市場	40 E3
Platão 九如坊	41 E2
Sai Nam 西南飯店	42 D2
Solmar 沙利文餐廳	43 E3
The Eight 8 餐廳	(see 49)
Tou Tou Koi 陶陶居	44 D2
U Tac Hong 順德行	45 D1
Wong Chi Kei 黃枝記	46 E2

ENTERTAINMENT (pp340-2)

Crazy Paris Show	
瘋狂巴黎歌舞團	(see 49)
D2	
Emperor Palace Casino	
英皇宮殿娛樂場	48 E4
Grand Lisboa Casino	
新葡京	49 F4
Lisboa Casino 葡京娛樂場	50 F4
Sky 21	(see 47)

SLEEPING (pp345-7)

Augusters Lodge	51 F3
East Asia Hotel 東亞酒店	52 D1
Hotel Sintra 新麗華酒店	53 E4
San Va Hospedaria	
新華旅店	54 D2

TRANSPORT (pp348-50)

Buses to Islands	55 F4
China National Aviation Corporation	
中國航空	56 F3
Kee Kwan Motor Road Co	
岐關客運站	57 C2
Pier 14 十四號碼頭	58 C2

reconstructed in stone in the early 19th century and has a magnificent painted ceiling. One of the church towers once served as an ecclesiastical prison.

CHAPEL OF ST JOSEPH SEMINARY

Map p320

Capela do Seminário São José; Rua do Seminário; ☎ 10am-5pm

To the southwest of the Dom Pedro V Theatre is the Chapel of St Joseph, consecrated in 1758 as part of a Jesuit seminary. Its 19m-high domed ceiling has exceptionally fine acoustics, and the church is used as a concert venue.

CHURCH OF ST AUGUSTINE

Map p320
Igreja de Santo Agostinho; Largo de São Agostinho; ☎ 10am-6pm

Southwest of Largo do Senado via Rua Central is the Church of St Augustine. Though its foundations date from 1586, the present church was built in 1814. The high altar has a statue of Christ bearing the cross, which is carried through the streets during the Procession of the Passion of Our Lord on the first Saturday of Lent (p311). At the time of writing, the church was closed for maintenance.

SAM KAI VUI KUN TEMPLE

Map p320
Sam Kai Vui Kun; Rua Sui do Mercado de São Domingos; ☎ 8am-6pm

Literally 'a community hall for three streets', this temple was a meeting place for merchants then an adjudication court before the Chinese Chamber of Commerce came into existence in 1912. Also known as Kwan Tai Temple, dedicated to Kwan Yu, the god of war and justice (see p67), it gets particularly busy in May, June and July when locals celebrate three festivals in the god's honour.

TEMPLES

Macau has several interesting Chinese temples dedicated to some important but lesser worshipped deities. **Na Tcha Temple** (Map p320; Nat Tcha Miu; Rua de São Paulo; free admission; ☎ 8am-5pm), sitting quietly beside the Ruins of the Church of St Paul, was built in 1888 and dedicated to the child god of war to halt the plague occurring at that time. The **Nu Wa Temple** (Map p320; Nui Wo Miu; cnr Rua das Estalagens & Travessa Dos Algibebes; free admission; ☎ 9am-5pm), also built in 1888, was consecrated to the Chinese equivalent of Gaia.

The 200-year-old **Hong Kung Temple** (Map p320; Hong Kung Miu; cnr Rua das Estalagens & Rua de Cinco de Outubro; ☎ 8am-6pm) is for worshipping Li Lie, a general during the Han dynasty. The boat-shaped sculpture in the middle of the main hall is for offering wine to the deities during religious festivities.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE

Map p320
Sede do Governo; cnr Avenida da Praia Grande & Travessa do Padré Narciso

South of the Church of St Lawrence is monumental Government House, a pillared, rose-coloured building erected for a Portuguese noble in 1849. It's now the headquarters of the Macau SAR government. It is open to the public for a day, usually scheduled in September or October.

CHINESE READING ROOM

Map p320
Rua de Santa Clara; ☎ 9am-noon & 7-10pm Tue-Sat, 9am-10pm Sun

This attractive octagonal structure, with its double stone staircase and little round tower, is a wonderful mix of Chinese and Portuguese styles that could only be found in Macau.

PAWNSHOP MUSEUM

Map p320
Casa de Penhores Tradicional; ☎ 2892 1811; 396 Avenida de Almeida Ribeiro; admission MOP\$5; ☎ 10.30am-7pm, closed 1st Mon of month

Housed in the former Tak Seng On (Virtue and Success) pawnshop built in 1917, the museum incorporates the fortresslike eight-storey granite tower with slotted windows where goods were stored on racks or in safes. Sharing the same building is the **Cultural Club** (Map p320; Clube Cultural; ☎ 2892 1811; www.culturalclub.net; 390 Avenida de Almeida Ribeiro; admission free; ☎ 10.30am-8pm), which claims to look at various aspects of everyday life in Macau but is little more than a souvenir shop.

SOUND OF THE CENTURY MUSEUM

Map p320
☎ 2892 1389; www.tai-peng.com/antique; support@tai-peng.com; 3rd fl, 13-15 Rua Das Estalagens; admission MOP\$30; ☎ 11am-5pm

Whether you are a phonograph enthusiast or not, this private museum is eye-opening. The personal collections of the owner of Tai Peng Electronics include 200 items, from antique phonographs to tournaphones and echophones dating back to as early as 1882. Prior appointment is required.

Southern Macau Peninsula

Southern Macau Peninsula encompasses three areas: that around the extensively renovated Macau Forum, a conference and exhibition space, and Tourist Activities Centre housing two worthwhile museums; the rectangle of reclaimed land called NAPE to the south; and the southwest corner of the peninsula. While buses 8, 12 and 17, leaving from Ilha Verde, the ferry terminal and Luis de Camões Garden respectively, will take you to NAPE, the free casino shuttles provided by Sands, Babylon, Wynn Macau and Star World are an alternative.

MACAU CULTURAL CENTRE

Map pp316-17
Centro Cultural de Macau; ☎ 2870 0699, 2855 5555; www.ccm.gov.mo; Avenida Xian Xing Hai; ☎ 9am-7pm Tue-Sun

This US\$100-million centre is the territory's prime venue for theatre, opera and other cultural performances.

MACAU MUSEUM OF ART

Map pp316-17
Museu de Arte de Macau; ☎ 791 9814; www.artmuseum.gov.mo; Avenida Xian Xing Hai; adult/child under 12 & student/senior over 65 MOP\$5/3/free, Sun admission free; ☎ 10am-7pm Tue-Sun

This vast five-storey complex within the Macau Cultural Centre houses some excellent exhibits and permanent collections of Chinese traditional art and paintings by Western artists who lived in Macau, such as George Chinnery (p310). There's a library with art-related titles on the ground floor.

KUN IAM STATUE

Map pp316-17
Estátua de Kun Iam; Avenida Doutor Sun Yat Sen
This 20m-high bronze figure, emerging Virgin Mary-like from a 7m-high lotus in the outer harbour, is probably the only statue of the goddess of mercy in the world not facing the sea. It is quite relaxing once you've entered Kun Iam's 'blossom' – the **Kun Iam Ecumenical Centre** (Centro Eucuménico Kun Iam; ☎ 2875 1516; admission free; ☎ 10am-6pm Sat-Thu). Information is available on Buddhism, Taoism and Confucianism.

GRAND PRIX MUSEUM

Map pp316-17
Museu do Grande Prémio; ☎ 798 4108; Basement, CAT, 431 Rua de Luís Gonzaga Gomes; adult/child under 11 & senior over 60/child under 19 MOP\$10/free/5, adult with Macau Wine Museum MOP\$20; ☎ 10am-6pm Wed-Mon

Cars from the Macau Formula 3 Grand Prix, including the bright-red Triumph TR2 driven by Eduardo de Carvalho that won the first Grand Prix in 1954, are on display, while simulators let you test your racing skills.

MACAU SECURITY FORCES MUSEUM

Map pp316-17
Museu das Forças de Segurança de Macau; ☎ 2855 9999; Calçada dos Quartéis; admission free; ☎ 9am-5.45pm Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm Sat & Sun
Housed in the 17th-century **St Francis Barracks** (Quartéis de São Francisco; Map pp316-17), this museum has two rooms of exhibits relating to the police and their work. The building is set in the lovely **St Francis Garden** (Jardim de São Francisco; Map pp316-17).

MACAU WINE MUSEUM

Map pp316-17
Museu do Vinho de Macau; ☎ 798 4188; Basement, CAT, 431 Rua de Luís Gonzaga Gomes; adult/child under 11 & senior over 60/child under 19 MOP\$15/free/5, adult with Grand Prix Museum MOP\$20; ☎ 10am-6pm Wed-Mon

This museum is a rather inert display of wine racks, barrels, presses and tools used by wine makers, as well as a rundown of Portugal's various wine regions. Some of the recent wines of the more than 1300 on display are available for tasting, which is included in the entry fee.

MACAU FISHERMAN'S WHARF

Map pp316-17
Doca dos Pescadores; www.fishermanswharf.com.mo

Bordering the east of NAPE (pronounced 'NA-pay'), a rectangular area of reclaimed land, is Macau Fisherman's Wharf, a rather tacky 'theme park' built partially on reclaimed land. It combines attractions, hotels, shops, and restaurants, and is divided into three sections. **Tang Dynasty** focuses on Chinese history and culture; **East Meets West** is a 30m-high working volcano, an Africa Fort funfair for kids, and the Greek Square leisure and performance park; and **Legend Wharf** features landmarks from around the world.

HANDOVER OF MACAU GIFTS MUSEUM

Map pp316-17
Museu das Ofertas sobre a Transferência de Soberania de Macau; ☎ 791 9800; Avenida Xian Xing Hai; admission free; ☎ 10am-7pm Tue-Sun

This new museum, next to the Macau Cultural Centre, is a crowd-pleaser among visitors from the mainland. It displays art pieces and handicrafts presented by China's various provinces and regions to Macau to mark the return of Chinese sovereignty in 1999. Some exhibits are kitsch in the extreme.

SOUTHWEST CORNER

The southwestern tip of the Macau Peninsula has a number of important historical sights, as it should – it was the first area of territory to be settled.

A-MA TEMPLE [Map pp316–17](#)

Templo de A-Ma; Rua de São Tiago da Barra;

☎ 7am–6pm; 🗺 1, 1A, 5

North of Barra Hill, this temple – called Ma Kok Miu in Cantonese – is dedicated to the goddess A-Ma, who is better known as Tin Hau (see the boxed text, p307). The original temple on this site was probably already standing when the Portuguese arrived, although the present one may only date back to the 17th century. At the main entrance is a large boulder with a coloured relief of a *lorcha*, a traditional sailing vessel of the South China Sea. The faithful make a pilgrimage here during the A-Ma Festival sometime between late April and early May.

AVENIDA DA REPÚBLICA [Map pp316–17](#)

Avenida da Praia Grande and Rua da Praia do Bom Parto form an arc that leads into Avenida da República, the oldest section of Macau. Along here are several grand colonial villas not open to the public. The former Bela Vista Hotel, one of the most-storied hotels in Asia, is now the [residence of the Portuguese consul general](#). Nearby is the ornate [Santa Sancha Palace](#) (Palacete de Santa Sancha; Estrada de Santa Sancha), once the residence of Macau's Portuguese governors and now used to accommodate state guests.

PENHA HILL [Map pp316–17](#)

Colina da Penha

Towering above the colonial villas along Avenida da República is Penha Hill, from where you'll get an excellent view of the central area of Macau and across the Pearl River into China. The [Bishop's Palace](#) (built in 1837) is here, as is the lovely [Chapel of Our Lady of Penha](#) (Capela de Nossa Senhora da Penha;

☎ 9am–5.30pm), once a place of pilgrimage for sailors.

MACAU TOWER [Map pp316–17](#)

Torre de Macau; ☎ 2893 3339; [www.macautower.com.mo](#); Largo da Torre de Macau; ☎ 10am–9pm Mon–Fri, 9am–9pm Sat & Sun; 🗺 9A, 32, AP1 Macau Tower, at 338m, is the 10th-tallest freestanding structure in the world; it stands on the narrow isthmus of land southeast of Avenida da República. The squat building at its base is the [Macau Convention & Entertainment Centre](#).

The tower houses [observation decks](#) (adult/child 3–12 & senior over 65 MOP\$70/35) on the 58th and 61st floors; restaurants and bars such as the revolving [360° Café](#) (☎ 11.30am–3pm, 3.30–4.15pm & 6–11pm) on the 60th floor; and the [180° Lounge](#) (minimum charge MOP\$100; ☎ noon–1am), a floor below it.

If none of this takes your fancy, you might be interested in the activities of the New Zealand-based extreme-sports company [AJ Hackett](#) (☎ 988 8656), which organises all kinds of adventure climbs up and around the tower.

The truly intrepid will go for the Mast Climb (MOP\$700 to MOP\$1000), in which you go up and down the mast's 100m of vertical ladders to the top in two hours. The Skywalk (weekdays/weekends MOP\$100/\$120) is a twirl around the covered walkway – you're attached to a lanyard – under the pod of the tower (on the 57th floor) and 216m above ground. The Skywalk X (MOP\$160/\$190) is a rail-less walk around the *outer* rim, some 233m high, on the 61st floor. The faint-hearted may try something closer to terra firma: the Flying Fox (MOP\$30) is a 70m 'flight' on a zip line from one of the tower legs into a large net; the Ironwalk (MOP\$60) is an 8m-high walk via rope ladder around the legs of the tower, with a Flying Fox finish; and Long Ironwalk (MOP\$80) is a vertical version of the Ironwalk, some 23m up. Bungy (MOP\$888) is the world's highest free fall, from a 233m-high platform, and the Sky Jump (MOP\$588 to MOP\$1088) is a slower version of Bungy.

MARITIME MUSEUM [Map pp316–17](#)

Museu Marítimo; ☎ 2859 5481; 1 Largo do Pagode da Barra; adult/senior over 65/child 10–17 Mon & Wed–Sat MOP\$10/free/5, Sun MOP\$5/free/3; ☎ 10am–5.30pm Wed–Mon

Opposite the A-Ma Temple, the Maritime Museum has interesting boats and artefacts from Macau's seafaring past, a mock-up of a Hakka fishing village and displays of the long, narrow boats that are raced during the Dragon Boat Festival (p311) in June.

Northern Macau Peninsula

The northern part of the peninsula, encompassing everything northwards from the Luís de Camões Garden in the west and Guia Fort in the east to the border with the mainland, has a few important historic sites and divine gardens. With fewer tourists than other parts of the peninsula, it's an agreeable area for just wandering about.

GUIA FORT [Map pp316–17](#)

Colina da Guia

The fortress, built in 1638 atop the highest point on the peninsula, was originally designed to defend the border with China, but it soon came into its own as a lookout post. Storm warnings were sounded from the bell in the quaint [Chapel of Our Lady of Guia](#) (Capela de Nossa Senhora da Guia; ☎ 10am–5pm Tue–Sun), built in 1622. The walls of the little church have interesting frescoes only discovered recently, and there's a colourful choir loft above the main entrance. On the floor below is a tombstone with the inscription (in Latin): 'Here lies at this gate the remains of a Christian, by accident, for his body does not deserve such an honourable sepulchre'. It's believed the deceased was buried here in 1687. The 15m-tall [Guia Lighthouse](#) (Farol da Guia; 1865) is the oldest lighthouse on the China coast. It's open on 18 May annually. On clear days you can see Lantau Island from the fort, but the new skyscrapers in NAPE now block some of the view.

The 52m-long [Guia Hill Air Raid Shelter](#) (Abrigos Antiaéreos da Colina a Guia; ☎ 10am–5pm Tue–Sun), an old military installation, was constructed in 1931 and was off-limits until 1962. Photos of the history of the shelter and an electricity generator used during WWII are on display.

The easiest way to reach the top of Guia Hill is to hop on the little [Guia Cable Car](#) (Tel-eférico da Guia; one way/return MOP\$2/3) that runs from 8am to 6pm Tuesday to Sunday from just outside the entrance of the attractive [Flora Garden](#) (Rua do Túnel; ☎ 6am–7pm), off Avenida de Sidónio Pais.

CASA GARDEN [Map pp316–17](#)

13 Praça de Luís de Camões; 🗺 8A, 12, 26 This colonial villa, east of the Luís de Camões Garden, was the headquarters of the British East India Company when it was based in Macau in the early 19th century. Today the villa houses the [Oriental Foundation](#) (Fundação Oriente; ☎ 2855 4699; [www.foriente.pt](#)), an organisation founded in 1996 to promote Portuguese culture worldwide, and an [exhibition gallery](#) (☎ 398 1126; admission free; ☎ 10am–5.30pm Mon–Fri, 10am–7pm daily during special exhibitions), which houses both exhibits of Chinese antiques, porcelain and contemporary art.

OLD PROTESTANT CEMETERY

[Map pp316–17](#)

15 Praça de Luís de Camões; ☎ 8.30am–5.30pm To the east of the Casa Garden is the final resting place of many early non-Portuguese residents of Macau. As Church law forbade the burial of non-Catholics on hallowed ground, there was nowhere to inter Protestants who died here, and they were often buried clandestinely in the nearby hills. The governor finally allowed the British East India Company to establish the cemetery in 1821. A number of old graves were then transferred to the cemetery, which explains the earlier dates on some of the tombstones. Among the better-known people interred in this well-kept cemetery are the artist George Chinnery (see the boxed text, p310) and Robert Morrison (1782–1834), the first Protestant missionary to China and author of the first Chinese-English dictionary.

CHURCH OF ST ANTHONY [Map pp316–17](#)

Igreja de Santo António; cnr Rua de Santo António & Rua do Tarrafeiro; ☎ 7.30am–5.30pm

Located just outside the Casa Garden and next to the roundabout, this church, built from 1558 to 1608, is considered to be the oldest in Macau and was the Jesuit's earliest headquarters. The local Portuguese used to hold wedding ceremonies here, hence its name in Cantonese: Fa Vong Tong (Church of Flowers). It burnt down three times and the present architecture is a restoration from 1930.

CEMETERY OF ST MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL [Map pp316–17](#)

Cemitério de São Miguel Arcanjo; 2A Estrada do Cemitério; ☎ 8am–6pm

This cemetery, northeast of Monte Fort, contains tombs and sepulchres that can only be described as baroque ecclesiastical works of art. Near the main entrance is the **Chapel of St Michael** (Capela de São Miguel; ☎ 10am-6pm), a doll-sized, pea-green church with a tiny choir loft and pretty porticoes.

LOU LIM IOC GARDEN Map pp316-17

Jardim de Lou Lim Ioc; 10 Estrada de Adolfo de Loureiro; ☎ 6am-9pm; 🚗 12

The cool and shady Lou Lim Ioc Garden is the only Chinese-style garden you can find in Macau. Local people use the park to practise t'ai chi or play traditional Chinese musical instruments.

The renovated Victorian-style **Lou Lim Ioc Garden Pavilion** (Pavilhão do Jardim de Lou Lim Ioc; ☎ 988 4128; admission free; ☎ 9am-9pm Tue-Sun) is used for temporary exhibits and for recitals during the Macau International Music Festival (p311) in late October/November.

Adjacent to the garden is the recently opened **Macao Tea Culture House** (Cultura do Chá em Macau; ☎ 9am-7pm Tue-Sun), displaying the Guangdong tea culture with exhibits of various teapots.

LIN FUNG TEMPLE Map pp316-17

Lin Fung Miu; Avenida do Almirante Lacerda; ☎ 10am-6.30pm; 🚗 12

Built in 1592 as a Taoist temple but now dedicated to Kun lam, it's where mandarins from Guangdong province would stay when they visited Macau. The most celebrated of these visitors was Lin Zexu (p21), the commissioner charged with stamping out the opium trade, who stayed here in September 1839. The **Lin Zexu Memorial Hall** (Museu de Lin Zexu; ☎ 2855 0166; tourist adult/local adult/child under 8 & senior over 65 MOP\$10/5/3; ☎ 9am-5pm Tue-Sun), with its old photographs, a model of a Chinese war junk and opium-smoking paraphernalia, recalls his visit.

KUN IAM TEMPLE Map pp316-17

Kun lam Tong; Avenida do Coronel Mesquita; ☎ 10am-6pm; 🚗 1A, 12

Dating from 1627, this is the most active Buddhist temple in Macau. It also honours the goddess of mercy with a collection of pictures and scrolls. Some of the reliefs were damaged during the Cultural Revolution.

The first treaty of trade and friendship between the USA and China (1844) was

signed at a stone table in the terraced gardens at the back; a tablet marks the spot.

SUN YAT SEN MEMORIAL HOME

Map pp316-17

Casa Memorativa de Doutor Sun Yat Sen; ☎ 2857 4064; 1 Rua de Silva Mendes; admission free; ☎ 10am-5pm Wed-Mon

Around the corner from the Lou Lim Ioc Garden, this museum is dedicated to the founder of the Chinese Republic, Dr Sun Yat Sen (1866-1925). Dr Sun practised medicine at the Kiang Wu Hospital on Rua Coelho do Amaral for a few years before turning to revolution to overthrow the Qing dynasty. The house, built in the mock Moorish style popular at the time, contains a collection of flags, photos and documents relating to the life and times of the 'Father of the Nation'. It replaces the original house, which blew up while being used as an explosives store. Sun's first wife, Lu Muzhen, died in the upstairs back bedroom in 1952.

TAP SEAC GALLERY Map pp316-17

Galeria Tam Seac; www.macauart.net/TS; 95 Avenida Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida; ☎ 10am-6pm Tue-Sun; 🚗 9, 12

Also housed in a Moorish-style mansion dating back to the 1920s, this gallery is arguably the best place to view contemporary art in Macau, and exhibitions change regularly. Check its website for details. The gallery keeps the original patio in the middle of the house, which creates a light-filled, relaxed setting.

OX WAREHOUSE Map pp316-17

Armazem de Boi; ☎ 2853 0026; www.oxwarehouse.blogspot.com; cnr Avenida do Coronel Mesquita & Avenida do Almirante Lacerda; ☎ noon-7pm Wed-Mon; 🚗 1A, 12

Near the Canidrome is the Ox Warehouse, home to a group of avant-garde artists working in a variety of media. It's also known as Old Ladies' House Art Space, where a number of installations and performances are hosted in the two exhibition halls. The lovely courtyard makes it a cheerful rest area amid the densely populated northern Macau.

LUÍS DE CAMÕES GARDEN Map pp316-17

Jardim de Luís de Camões; Praça de Luís de Camões; ☎ 6am-10pm; 🚗 8A

This lovely garden is popular with local Chinese, who use it to 'walk' their caged songbirds or play Chinese chequers. In the centre of the park is the **Camões Grotto** (Gruta de Camões), which contains a 19th-century bust of the one-eyed national poet of Portugal, Luís de Camões (see p312).

FIRE SERVICES MUSEUM Map pp316-17

Museu de Bombeiros; ☎ 2857 2222; 2-6 Estrada de Coelho do Amaral; admission free; ☎ 10am-6pm daily; 🚗 8

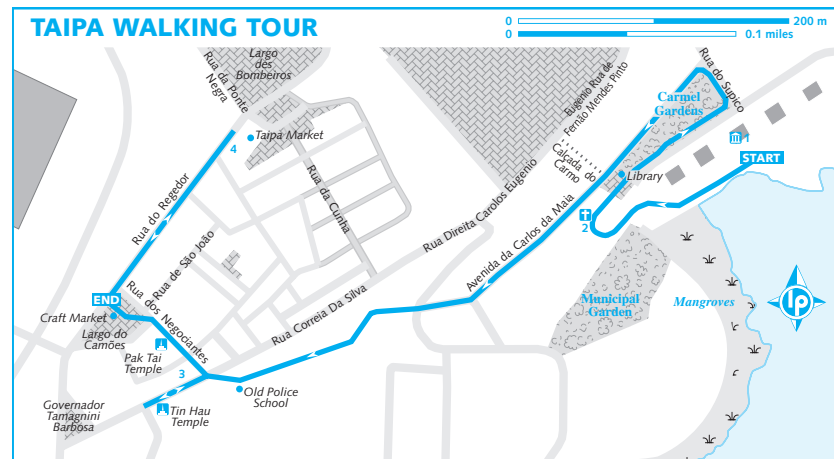
Housed in the former headquarters of the Macau fire brigade, the museum holds a small but interesting collection of old fire trucks from the 1940s and '50s, a manual pump from 1877, lots of helmets and boots.

TAIPA & COLOANE ISLANDS

Connected to the Macau mainland by three bridges and joined together by Cotai (an ever-growing area of reclaimed land), Coloane and, to a lesser extent, Taipa, are oases of calm and greenery, with striking, pastel-coloured colonial villas, quiet lanes, decent beaches, and fine Portuguese and Macanese restaurants. By contrast, the Cotai Strip is development central, with several new megacasinos sprouting up.

TAIPA WALKING TOUR

1 Taipa House Museum Bus 28A from the ferry terminal will take you to Taipa. Begin your tour by visiting the beautiful Macanese villa built in 1921, which is now converted to the **Taipa House Museum** (p329).



WALK FACTS

Start Taipa House Museum

End Largo de Camões

Distance 1km

Duration One to 1½ hours

Fuel Stop Many along Rua do Regedor

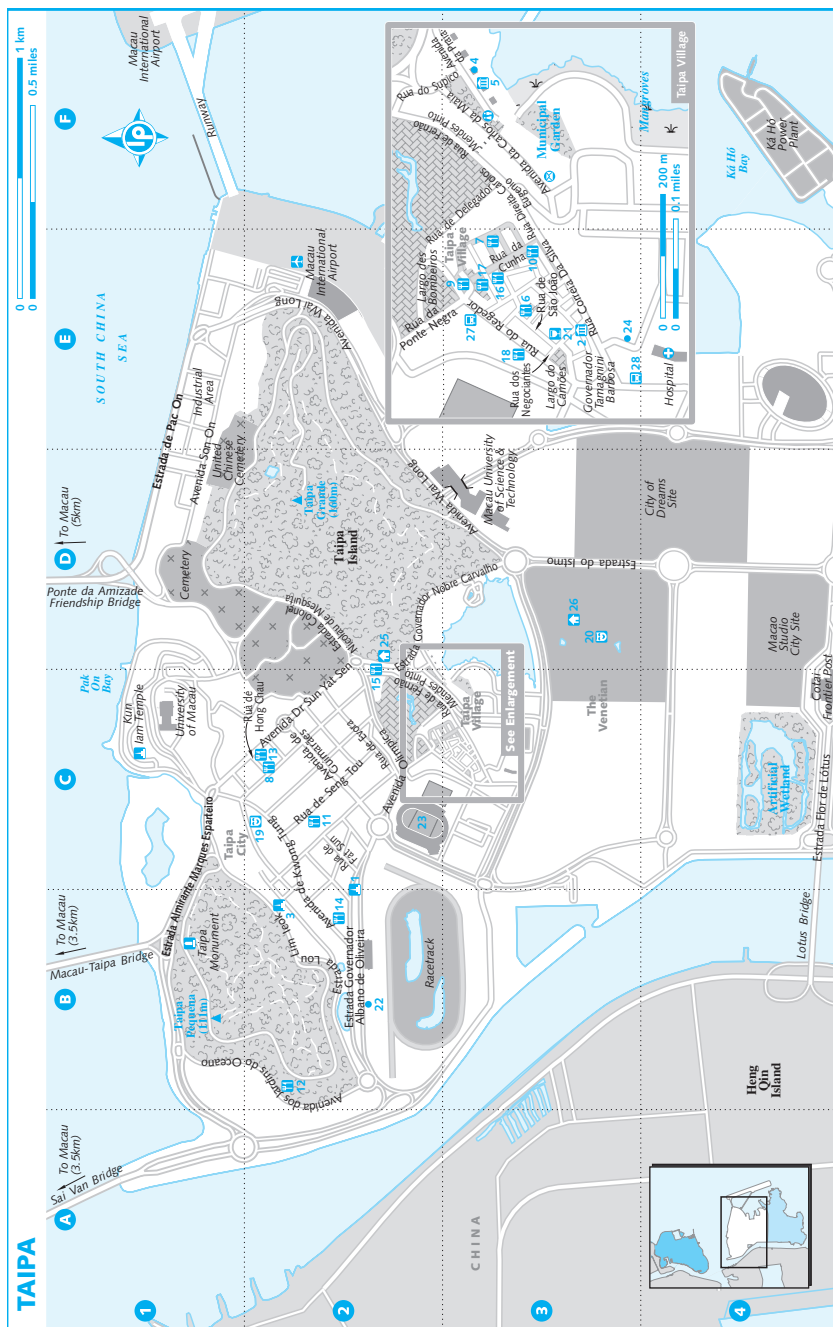
2 Church of Our Lady of Carmel Walk up the steps to the 1885 **Church of Our Lady of Carmel** from the western end of Avenida da Praia. The colonial **library**, opposite, is a recent reproduction, replacing the original that had been pulled down illegally. Surrounding it are the pretty **Carmel Gardens** and just north is **Calçada do Carmo**, a positively delightful stepped lane lined with ancient banyans.

3 Temples Following Avenida de Carlos da Maia will take you past an **old police school** and into Rua da Correia Silva, which leads to a small early-19th-century **Tin Hau temple** on Largo Governador Tamagnini Barbosa. Northeast, just off Rua do Regedor, is **Pak Tai Temple**, dedicated to the guardian of peace and order.

4 Markets The **Taipa market** is housed in a building at the end of the street. There's a weekly **crafts market** (☎ noon-9pm Sun) in Largo de Camões.

Taipa Island

When the Portuguese first sighted Taipa (Tam Chai in Cantonese, Tanjai in Mandarin), it was actually two islands. Over the centuries the pair



was joined together by silt pouring down from the Pearl River. Reclamation has succeeded in doing the same thing to Taipa and Coloane.

Traditionally an island of duck farms and boat yards, with enough small fireworks factories to satisfy the insatiable demand for bangers and crackers, Taipa is rapidly becoming urbanised and now boasts major casino-hotels, a university, a racecourse and stadium, high-rise apartments and an airport. But a parade of baroque churches and buildings, Taoist and Buddhist temples, overgrown esplanades and lethargic settlements means it's still possible to experience the traditional charms of the island. Buses 11 and 28A leave from A-Ma Temple and the ferry terminal respectively and have stops at almost all the sights in Taipa.

TAIPA HOUSE MUSEUM [Map p328](#)

Casa Museum da Taipa; ☎ 2882 7103; **Avenida da Praia;** adult/child under 12 & senior over 65/student MOP\$5/free/2, Sun admission free; 🕒 10am-6pm Tue-Sun

The five lime-green villas facing the water were built in 1921 by wealthy Macanese as summer residences and three of them collectively form this unusual museum. The two houses east of where Avenida da Praia meets Rua do Supico are used for receptions and special exhibitions; the three to the west house permanent collections.

The **House of the Regions of Portugal** (Casa das Regiões de Portugal) contains costumes and examines traditional ways of life in Portugal. The **House of the Islands** (Casa das Ilhas) looks at the history of Taipa and Coloane, with interesting displays devoted to the islands' traditional industries: fishing and the manufacture of oyster sauce, shrimp paste and fireworks.

The last is the **Macanese House** (Casa Macaense), a residence done up in traditional local style that looks like the *domo doña* (husband and wife) residing here just left. The mix of furnishings – heavy blackwood furniture and Chinese cloisonné with statues and pictures of saints and the Sacred Heart – offers a snapshot of life in Macau in the early 20th century.

TAIPA VILLAGE [Map p328](#)

This village in the south of the island is a window to the island's past. It is a tidy sprawl of traditional Chinese shops and some excellent restaurants, punctuated here and there by grand colonial villas, churches and ancient temples. Down along what was once the seafront and is now an artificial lake, Avenida da Praia is a tree-lined esplanade with wrought-iron benches and old-world charm. It's the perfect place for a leisurely stroll.

POU TAI TEMPLE [Map p328](#)

Pou Tai Un; 5 Estrada Lou Lim leok; 🕒 9am-6pm This Buddhist temple is the largest temple complex on the islands. The main hall, dedicated to the Three Precious Buddhas, contains an enormous bronze statue of Lord Gautama, and there are brightly coloured prayer pavilions and orchid greenhouses scattered around the complex. The temple also has a popular **vegetarian restaurant** (p339).

MUSEUM OF TAIPA & COLOANE HISTORY [Map p328](#)

Museu da História da Taipa e Coloane; ☎ 2882 7103; **Rua Correia da Silva;** adult/student & senior MOP\$5/2, Tue admission free; 🕒 10am-6pm Tue-Sun

TAIPA

SIGHTS	(pp327-31)	Galo 公雞餐廳.....10 E3	DRINKING ☑️ (p342)
Four-Faced Buddha Shrine 四面佛.....1 C2		Gourmet Fine Foods.....11 C2	Old Taipa Tavern.....21 E3
Museum of Taipa & Coloane History 路仔歷史館.....2 E3		Hyper Gourmet.....12 B2	
Pou Tai Temple 菩提禪院.....3 B2		Kapok Cantonese Restaurant 六棉酒家.....13 C2	SPORTS & ACTIVITIES (pp343-5)
Reception House 龍環葡韻住宅式博物館.....4 F3		O Capitulo 花窗餐廳.....14 B2	Macau Jockey Club 澳門賽馬會.....22 B2
Taipa House Museum.....5 F3		O Manel 阿曼諾葡國餐.....15 D2	Macau Stadium 澳門仔仔運動場.....23 C2
		O Santos 山度士葡式餐廳.....16 E3	Mercceria Bicicleta Aluguer.....24 E3
		Pou Tai Temple Restaurant.....(see 3)	
EATING ☑️ (pp338-9)		Seng Cheong 誠昌飯店.....17 E3	SLEEPING ☑️ (p347)
A Petisqueira 葡國美食天地.....6 E3		Serradura 沙厘娜.....18 E3	Crown Macau 澳門皇冠.....(see 19)
Amagao 阿馬交美食.....7 E3			Hotel Taipa 澳門格蘭酒店.....25 D2
Chun Yu Fang 春雨坊.....8 C2			Venetian Macao Resort Hotel 澳門威尼斯人渡假村酒店.....26 D3
Cozinha Pinocchio 木偶葡國餐廳.....9 E3		ENTERTAINMENT ☑️ (pp340-1)	
		Crown Macau 澳門皇冠.....19 C2	TRANSPORT (pp348-50)
		Venetian Macau.....20 D3	Bus Stop.....27 E3
			Main Bus Stop.....28 E3



COLOANE

The museum is built on the remnants of the former Island Municipal Council and tries to be a mini-Macau Museum with a focus on Taipa and Coloane, although the collections are not nearly as good as those on Monte Fort. There is a display of excavated relics and other artefacts on the 1st floor that represent the earlier cultural history of Taipa and Coloane, while the 2nd floor contains religious objects, handicrafts and architectural models.

FOUR-FACED BUDDHA SHRINE

Map p328

O Buda de Quatro Faces; cnr Estrada Governador Albano de Oliveira & Rua de Fat San

Northeast of the Macau Jockey Club race-track's main entrance is the Buddhist shrine guarded by four stone elephants and festooned with gold leaf and Thai-style floral bouquets. It's a popular place to pray and make offerings before race meetings.

Coloane Island

A haven for pirates until the start of the 20th century, Coloane (Lo Wan in Cantonese) fought off the last assault by buccaneers on the South China Sea in 1910, and the island still celebrates the victory every 13 July. Nowadays it's the only part of Macau that doesn't seem to be changing at a head-spinning rate. To visit Coloane Island board bus 21A at A-Ma Temple or bus 25 at Portas do Cerco. Both head to Hác Sá Beach and have stops at Avenida do Infante Dom Henrique and Coloane Village.

COLOANE VILLAGE Map p330

The only true settlement on the island, Coloane Village is still largely a fishing village in character, although tourism has given the local economy a big boost. The village is a fascinating relic of the Macau that once was, and strolling along the narrow lanes flanked by temples and colourful shops is a joy.

The bus drops you off in the village's attractive main square; Coloane **market** is on the eastern side. To the west is the waterfront; China is just across the channel. From here a sign points the way north to the **Sam Seng Temple** (2 Rua dos Navegantes), which is so small it's more like a family altar. Just past the temple is the village pier and beyond that, to the northeast, about a dozen **junk-building sheds** – a fire in 1999 destroyed many of the sheds.

CHAPEL OF ST FRANCIS XAVIER

Map p330

Capela de São Francisco Xavier; Avenida de Cinco de Outubro; ☎ 10am-8pm

This delightful little church on the waterfront was built in 1928 to honour St Francis Xavier, a missionary in Japan. Today Japanese Catholics still come to Coloane to pay their respects. For many years a fragment of the saint's arm bone was kept in the chapel, but it has now been moved to St Joseph Seminary on the Macau Peninsula. Have a look in the room to the right of the chapel, where an interesting painting of a Kum lam-like Virgin Mary is on display.

COLOANE

SIGHTS	(pp327-32)	SHOPPING	(pp332-3)	Hác Sá Sports & Recreation Park
A-Ma Cultural Village	(see 14)	Asian Artefacts	16 F3	黑沙綜合康樂及體育中心
媽祖文化村	(see 14)			26 D3
A-Ma Ornamental Entrance Gate	1 B3	EATING	(pp333-40)	Macau Dome 澳門蛋
A-Ma Statue 媽祖像	2 C3	Espaço Lisboa 里斯本地帶	17 F3	27 D1
Aviary	3 C3	Fernando 法蘭度餐廳	18 D3	Macau Golf & Country Club
Chapel of St Francis Xavier		Kwun Hoi Heen 觀海軒	(see 34)	28 E2
路環聖方濟各聖堂	4 F3	La Gondola 陸舟餐廳	19 C4	Water Sports Equipment Hire
Cheoc Van Beach	5 C4	Lord Stow's Bakery 安德魯餅店	20 F3	29 D4
Coloane Market	6 F3	Lord Stow's Cafe 安德魯咖啡	21 F3	Water Sports Equipment Hire
Hác Sá Beach	7 D3	Lord Stow's Garden Café	安德魯花園咖啡	30 D2
Junk-Building Sheds	8 B3	Nga Tim Café 雅慈花園餐廳	22 F3	SLEEPING
Kun lam Temple 觀音廟	9 F4	Restaurante Parque Hác Sá	(see 26)	(pp345-8)
Museum of Nature & Agriculture		黑沙公園葡國餐廳	(see 26)	Pousada de Coloane
土地暨自然博物館	10 C2			路環竹灣酒店
Sam Seng Temple 三聖宮	11 F3	SPORTS & ACTIVITIES	(pp343-5)	31 C4
Seac Pai Van Park 石排灣公園	12 C3	Cheoc Van Swimming Pool		Pousada de Juventude de Cheoc
Tam Kong Temple 譚公廟	13 E4	竹灣泳池	24 C4	Van 竹灣青年旅舍
Tian Hou Temple 天后廟	14 C3	Coloane Kartodrome 高卡車場	25 C2	Pousada de Juventude de Hác Sá
Tin Hau Temple 天后廟	15 F4			黑沙青年旅舍
				32 C4
				Pousada de Juventude de Hác Sá
				黑沙青年旅舍
				33 D4
				Westin Resort Macau
				威斯汀度假酒店
				34 E2
				TRANSPORT
				(pp348-50)
				Bus Stop
				35 F3
				Bus Stop
				36 D3

In front of the chapel are a monument and fountain surrounded by four cannonballs that commemorate the successful – and final – routing of pirates in 1910.

TEMPLES Map p330

Southeast of the Chapel of St Francis Xavier, between Travessa de Caetano and Travessa de Pagode, is a small **Kun lam Temple** – just an altar inside a little walled compound. If you walk just a little further to the southeast, you'll find the considerably larger **Tin Hau Temple** up in Largo Tin Hau Miu.

At the southern end of Avenida de Cinco de Outubro in Largo Tam Kong Miu, the **Tam Kong Temple** is dedicated to the Taoist god of seafarers, who may be a deification of the Song-dynasty boy emperor Duan Zong (see p20). To the right of the main altar is a long whale bone, which has been carved into a model of a boat, complete with a dragon's head and a crew of men in pointed hats. Stroke the dragon's head and tail for good luck.

HÁC SÁ BEACH Map p330

Hác Sá (Black Sand) is the most popular beach in Macau. The sand is indeed a grey to blackish colour and makes the water look somewhat dirty (especially at the tide line), but it's perfectly clean. Lifeguards keep the same schedule here as on Cheoc Van Beach.

A-MA STATUE Map p330

Estátua da Deusa A-Ma; Estrada do Alto de Coloane This colossal 20m statue of the goddess who gave Macau its name (see the boxed text, p307), atop **Alto de Coloane** (176m), was hewn from a form of white jade quarried near Beijing and was erected in 1998. Below it is enormous **Tian Hou Temple** (☎ 8am–7.30pm), which, together with the statue, form the core of **A-Ma Cultural Village**, a religious complex containing a museum, retreat and medical centres, a vegetarian restaurant and handicraft shops. It's rather commercial and you'll probably see more traders than prayers, selling different kinds of products supposedly meant to bring luck and wealth, including turtles and birds. Still, it's a good spot to get a birds-eye view of Hác Sá beach on a clear day.

A free bus runs from the A-Ma ornamental entrance gate on Estrada de Seac Pai Van every half-hour from 8am to 6pm.

Otherwise you can reach both by following the Coloane Trail (Trilho de Coloane; p343) from Seac Pai Van Park.

CHEOC VAN BEACH Map p330

Estrada de Cheoc Van

About 1.5km down Estrada de Cheoc Van, which runs east and then southeast from Coloane Village, is the beach at Cheoc Van (Bamboo Bay). There are public changing rooms and toilets and, in season, **lifeguards** (☎ 10am–6pm Mon–Sat, 9am–6pm Sun May–Oct) on duty.

SEAC PAI VAN PARK Map p330

☎ 2887 0277; Estrada de Seac Pai Van; admission free; ☎ 9am–6pm Tue–Sun

At the end of Cotai, this 20-hectare park, built in the wooded hills on the western side of the island, has somewhat unkempt gardens sprouting species of plants and trees from around the world, a children's zoo, a lake with swans and other waterfowl, and a decaying walk-through aviary (☎ 9am–5pm Tue–Sun), which contains a number of rare birds. The **Museum of Nature & Agriculture** (Museu Natural e Agrário; ☎ 2882 7277; admission free; ☎ 10am–6pm Tue–Sun) has traditional farming equipment, dioramas of Coloane's ecosystem, and displays cataloguing a wide range of the island's fauna and flora.

SHOPPING

The main shopping areas in Macau Peninsula are along Avenida do Infante Dom Henrique and Avenida de Almeida Ribeiro. Other shopping zones can be found along Rua da Palha, Rua do Campo and Rua Pedro Nolasco da Silva.

The largest shopping complex in Macau is the newly opened **Venetian Macau** (Map p328). Same as the **Wynn Macau** (Map pp316–17; Rua Cidade de Sintra, NAPE), it has a number of luxury retailers selling high-end fashion. The more family-friendly Japanese-owned department store **New Yaohan** (Map pp316–17; Avenida da Amizade), opposite the ferry terminal, is expected to relocate behind the Grand Emperor Hotel (Map p320) in 2008.

ANTIQUES & CURIOS

While exploring Macau's back lanes and streets you'll stumble across bustling markets and traditional Chinese shops. Rua da

Madeira is a charming market street, with many shops selling carved Buddha heads and other religious items.

Rua dos Mercadores, which leads up to Rua da Tercena, will lead you past tailors, tiny jewellery stores, incense and mahjong shops, and other **traditional businesses** (Map p320). At the far end of Rua da Tercena, where the road splits, is a **flea market** (Map p320), where you can pick up baskets and other rattan ware, jade pieces and old coins.

Great streets for antiques, ceramics and curios (eg traditional Chinese kites) are Rua de São Paulo, Rua das Estalagens and Rua de São António, and the lanes off them; most shops are open from 10.30am or 11am to 6pm or 7pm, with a one-hour lunch some time between 12.30pm and 2pm.

Coloane Village has a few shops selling bric-a-brac, traditional goods and antiques. **Asian Artefacts** (Map p330; ☎ 2888 1022; 9 Rua dos Negociantes; ☎ 10am–7pm) is one of the best.

CLOTHING

For cheap clothing, go to the **St Dominic Market** (Map p320), in an alley just north of Largo do Senado, or the **Three Lamps District**, especially around Rotunda de Carlos da Maia (Map pp316–17), near the Almirante Lacerda City Market in northern Macau Peninsula.

SPECIALTY FOODS

On Rua da Felicidade, 'street of happiness' and once Macau's red-light district, a cluster of shops sell Chinese pastries original to Macau. **Koi Kei** (Map p320; 74 Rua de Felicidade), just next to Fat Siu Lau, specialises in phoenix rolls (shredded pork wrapped with seaweed) and peanut candies. **Choi Heong Yuen** (Map p320; ☎ 2835 5966; 70-72 Rua de Felicidade), going strong for over 70 years, is Macau's most popular place for *hang-yùn-béng* (almond-flavoured biscuits). Both shops have numerous outlets but Felicidade has the most elaborate choices. Other Macau specialties you might want to try include nougats, preserved apricots and *yuk-gáwn*, dried sweet strips of pork and other meats. The shops usually open from 10am to 10pm.

STAMPS

Macau produces some wonderful postage stamps, real collector's items that include images of everything from key colonial landmarks to roulette tables and high-speed

ferries. Mint sets and first-day covers are available from counters 17 and 18 at the **main post office** (Map p320) facing Largo do Senado.

EATING

Eating – be it Portuguese or Macanese 'soul food', Chinese dim sum or the special treats available from street stalls and night markets – is one of the most rewarding aspects of a visit to Macau. One thing to remember, though: people eat dinner relatively early here, and in some restaurants the dining room is all but empty by 9pm.

The most popular alcoholic tippie in Macau is *vinho verde*, a crisp, dry, slightly effervescent 'green' wine from Portugal that goes down a treat with salty Portuguese food and spicy Macanese dishes. You may also try one of the fine wines from Dão, Douro or Alenquer.

Portuguese & Macanese Cuisine

Portuguese cuisine is meat-based and not always particularly refined. It makes great use of olive oil, garlic and *bacalhau* (dried salted cod), which can be prepared in many different ways. The cuisine sometimes combines meat and seafood in one dish, such as *porco à Alentejana*, a tasty casserole of pork and clams. Some favourite dishes are *caldo verde* (a soup of green kale – a type of cabbage – thickened with potatoes), *pasteis de bacalhau* (codfish croquettes), *sardinhas grelhadas* (grilled sardines), and *feijoada* (a casserole of beans, pork, spicy sausages, potatoes and cabbage).

Macanese food borrows a lot of its ingredients and tastes from Chinese and other Asian cuisines, as well as from those of former Portuguese colonies in Africa and India. It is redolent of coconut, tamarind, chilli, jaggery (palm sugar) and shrimp paste.

The most famous Macanese speciality is *galinha africana* (African chicken), in which the bird is prepared in coconut, garlic and chillies.

PRICE GUIDE

This price guide is for the approximate cost of a two-course meal, with drinks.

\$\$\$	over MOP\$400 a meal
\$\$	MOP\$150–400
\$	under MOP\$150

As well as cod, there are plenty of other fish and seafood: shrimps, prawns, crabs, squid and white fish. Sole, a tongue-shaped flat fish, is a Macanese delicacy. The contribution from the former Portuguese enclave of Goa, on the west coast of India, is spicy prawns.

Other Macanese favourites include *casquinha* (stuffed crab), *porco balichão tamarino* (pork cooked with tamarind and shrimp paste), *minchi* (minced beef or pork cooked with potatoes, onions and spices), and baked rice dishes made with cod, prawns or crab. Macanese desserts include *puđim*, which is basically crême caramel, *pastéis de nata*, a scrumptious egg-custard tartlet eaten warm, and *serradura*, a calorie-rich 'sawdust' pudding made with crushed biscuits, cream and condensed milk. If you want to try the latter while touring around, visit the mistakenly spelled *Serradura* (p338).

Dining in Macau (www.dininginmacau.com) is a quarterly advertorial freebie, but a good source of information about restaurants nonetheless. You may also like to have a read of the **Macau Food Guide** (www.cityguide.gov.mo/food/food_e.htm), available for free at the tourist office.

Other Cuisines

Macau is not just about Macanese and Portuguese food. Some people swear that the dim sum here is far better than anything you'll find in Hong Kong. Burmese cuisine can also be found in the Three Lamps District, a contribution of the sizeable Burmese community living there.

MACAU PENINSULA

Macau is known for its distinct culinary pleasures, no matter whether for Chinese, Portuguese or Macanese cuisines. Most of the restaurants in Macau open from noon to around 3pm, and re-open again at 6pm till 10pm. Good news for foodies – the 5% government tax levied on food and beverage in restaurants was recently lifted.

Macau Peninsula's *dai-pai-dawng* (open-air street stalls) serve up excellent stir-fried dishes; try any of those along Rua do Almirante Sérgio.

Macau has about 10 *mercados* (markets) selling fresh fruit, vegetables, meat and fish from 6am to 8pm daily. The largest is the **Almirante Lacerda City Market** (Mercado Municipal Almirante Lacerda; Map pp316-17; 130 Avenida do Almirante Lacerda), in northern Macau, commonly known as the

Red Market. The old historic St Lawrence City Market (Mercado Municipal de São Lourenço; Rua de João Lecaros) in the south was demolished in 2006, but a new market complex at the same location is expected to be complete in 2009.

Pavilions Supermercado (Map p320; ☎ 2833 3636; 421 Avenida da Praia Grande; 🕒 10am-9pm Mon-Sat, 11am-8pm Sun), a supermarket in the centre of the Macau Peninsula, has a wide selection of imported food and drinks, including a Portuguese section in the basement. **Hyper Gourmet** (Map p328; ☎ 2881 3452; Ground fl, Magnolia Court, Ocean Gardens, Avenida dos Jardins do Oceano, Taipa; 🕒 10am-10pm), another supermarket on Taipa, and **Gourmet Fine Foods** (Map p328; ☎ 2884 1436; Ground fl, Block 25, Nava Taipa Garden, 393 Rua de Seng Tou, Taipa; 🕒 10am-9pm), a deli-style store, feature Portuguese, French and Italian foods.

ROBUCHON A GALERA

Map pp316-17 French \$\$\$
☎ 2837 7666; 3rd fl, New/West Wing, Lisboa Hotel, 2-4 Avenida de Lisboa; starters MOP\$190-290, mains MOP\$330-570; 🕒 noon-2.30pm & 6.30-10.30pm

Joël Robuchon, Michelin-starred French chef and serious *bon vivant*, opened this restaurant featuring *haute cuisine* and world-class wines. For possibly the best fine-dining experience in Macau, try the sublime 12-course tasting menu for MOP\$1400. Even if you don't hit the jackpot at the casinos, the three-course set lunch for MOP\$288 is very affordable.

DON ALFONSO 1890 Map p320 Italian \$\$\$

☎ 2828 3838; Avenida de Lisboa, Grand Lisboa; starters MOP\$180-230, mains MOP\$120-540; 🕒 noon-2pm & 6.30pm-2am

This new restaurant opened by another colourful Michelin-starred chef, Alfonso Iaccarino, is an alternative for fine dining in Macau, with a dégustation menu for MOP\$1200.

MANG PAN KOI

Map pp316-17 Cantonese, Seafood \$\$\$
☎ 2856 9256, 687 7296; 26F Rua do Bispo Me-deiros; mains MOP\$300-400, abalone & shark's fin plate MOP\$90-450; 🕒 noon-12am

This pocket-sized, homely restaurant is a hidden gem near Lou Lim lok Garden and gets a thumbs up among the Chinese in Macau. The food specialties here include

SAMPLING THE MENU

These are a few of the dishes you're likely to encounter on your travels through Macau.

Entradas

chouriço assado
croquetes de carne
pastéis de bacalhau

Sopas

caldo verde
sopa de marisco

Marisco

açorda de marisco
ameijoas 'Bulhão Pato'
arroz de marisco
camarão frito com alho e piri-piri
caril de carangueijo
casquinha

Peixe

bacalhau á 'Brás'
bacalhau á 'Zé do Pipó'
lulas recheadas
sardinhas na brasa

Carne

bife de vitela grelhado na brasa com batata frita
caldeirada de borrego
carne de porco á Alentejana
coelho á caçadora
feijoada
galinha á Africana
minchi
porco balichão tamarino

Sobremesas

fatias de tomar
puđim de ovos
serradura

Appetisers

grilled Portuguese sausage
minced beef croquettes
dried Portuguese cod cakes

Soups

Portuguese kale soup with *chouriço*, thickened with potato
seafood soup

Shellfish

seafood and mashed bread casserole
clams with garlic, coriander and olive oil
mixed seafood rice
deep-fried prawns with garlic and chilli
crab curry
stuffed crab

Fish

sautéed bacalhau with potatoes and egg
baked, dried cod with mashed potato
stuffed squid
grilled sardines

Meat

grilled veal steak and chips
lamb, potato and white-wine stew
sautéed pork and clams
rabbit stew
pork knuckle, *chouriço*, red bean and cabbage stew
grilled chicken cooked with coconut, garlic and chillies
minced beef or pork cooked with potato
pork cooked with tamarind and shrimp paste

Desserts

cake-like dessert made with egg yolks and syrup
caramel egg pudding
cream and condensed milk pudding topped with crumbled biscuits

abalone and shark fin and are all carefully prepared with fresh ingredients by the wonderful, hospitable chef Mr Dai, cooking with heart and soul. If possible, bring a Chinese friend for communication.

SAI NAM Map p320 Chinese, Seafood \$\$\$

☎ 2857 4072; 36 Rua da Felicidade; abalone & shark's fin plate from MOP\$350; 🕒 5.30-10.15pm
Handily located in the specialty foods shopping area and housed in a character-

istic former two-storey shop house, this is another decent place to sample abalone, though it's a bit overpriced.

FURUSATO Map pp316-17 Japanese \$\$\$

☎ 2837 7666; 2nd fl, East Wing, Lisboa Hotel; lunch MOP\$240-280, dinner MOP\$400-700; 🕒 noon-3pm & 6-11pm

Unlike in Hong Kong, good Japanese restaurants are never easy to find in Macau. Furusato is an exception. It is one of the

best and most impressive Japanese restaurants in town, and is a good choice for classy and delicate fine Japanese dining.

TOU TOU KOI Map p320 Cantonese \$\$\$
☎ 2857 2629; 6-8 Travessa do Mastro; mains MOP\$58-150, seafood MOP\$150-488; 🕒 8am-3pm & 5pm-12am

Located down the alley just opposite the Pawnshop Museum, this nominally Chinese restaurant serves some very traditional Cantonese dishes you can no longer find in other Chinese restaurants. Among the wide range of sumptuous dishes is its signature deep-fried stuffed crab with shrimp.

WING LEI Map pp316-17 Chinese \$\$\$
☎ 986 3688; Ground fl, Wynn Macau; dim sum MOP\$20-30, mains MOP\$80-450; 🕒 11.30am-3pm & 6-11pm

This is one of the top Chinese restaurants on the casino strip. Its ambience may not be as good as the Eight in Grand Lisboa but its dim sum definitely is.

THE EIGHT Map p320 Cantonese \$\$\$
☎ 2888 3838; 2nd fl, Grand Lisboa, Avenida e Lisboa; mains MOP\$150-200; 🕒 11.30am-2.30pm & 6.30-10.30pm
Elegantly designed in black, the main dining hall will impress you at first sight with its water-lily pool; at first taste, so will its dim sum.

CAMÕES Map pp316-17 Portuguese \$\$
☎ 2873 8818; 1st fl, 3 Lisboa Bldg, Fisherman's Wharf; starters MOP\$48-180, mains MOP\$98-178; 🕒 noon-3pm & 6-11.30pm
Camões is the best place to dine on the Fisherman's Wharf. The menu features a wide range of *bacalhau* dishes to suit everybody's fancy, along with some excellent and good-value house wine (per glass/half litre MOP\$20/50). Ask for a table on the balcony.

CLUBE MILITAR DE MACAU Map pp316-17 Portuguese \$\$
☎ 2871 4000; 975 Avenida da Praia Grande; starters MOP\$38-98, mains MOP\$120-150, lunch buffet MOP\$90; 🕒 noon-3pm & 7-11pm

The Portuguese dishes may not be the best in town, but the Military Club is one of Macau's most distinguished colonial buildings and its restaurant is as atmospheric

as you'll find in Macau. Be sure to dress smartly.

SOLMAR Map p320 Portuguese, Macanese \$\$
☎ 2888 1881; 512 Rua da Praia Grande; starters MOP\$45-88, mains MOP\$95-190; 🕒 11am-11pm
While Macau is changing at a crazy pace, this 40-year-old restaurant in the city centre has a nostalgic atmosphere filling every corner. It is particularly well known for its *galinha à Africana* (Africa Chicken).

BON APETITE Map pp316-17 Macanese \$\$
☎ 2875 7725; 73 Rua de Madrid, Wan Yu Villas, NAPE; starters MOP\$35-50, mains MOP\$88-150; 🕒 noon-3pm & 6-11pm Wed-Mon

Grab a seat near the window for a view of the Kum lam Statue and some home-style Macanese fare. The regularly changing menu features such palette-tempting delights as *carne de porco à alentejana* (fried pork meat with clams) and *pasteis e bacalhau* (codfish cakes).

AFONSO III Map p320 Portuguese \$\$
☎ 2858 6272; 11A Rua Central; starters MOP\$55-85, mains MOP\$75-155; 🕒 noon-3pm & 6.30-10.30pm Mon-Sat

This simple authentic Portuguese restaurant, a short stroll southwest of the Leal Senado, has won a well-deserved reputation among the Portuguese community in Macau. Tables are often in short supply, so phone ahead.

LA BONNE HEURE Map p320 French \$\$
☎ 2833 1209; 12A-B Travessa de São Domingos; starters MOP\$68-148, mains MOP\$98-228, 1-/2-/3-course set lunch MOP\$60/75/85; 🕒 noon-3pm & 5.30-10pm Sun-Wed, 5.30-11.30pm Thu-Sat

This affordable French restaurant is in a charming old building just up from the Largo do Senado. The set lunches are a par-

ticularly good value. The bar area extends its opening hours until 1.30am on Fridays. There is a tiny gallery (tall people mind your head!) upstairs exhibiting artwork from local young artists.

PRAIA GRANDE Map pp316-17 Portuguese \$\$
☎ 2897 3022; 10A Praça Lobo d'Ávila; starters MOP\$35-65, mains MOP\$80-200; 🕒 noon-11pm Mon-Fri, 11.45am-11pm Sat & Sun; 🕒 6, 9, 32
Get a table by the window upstairs for a view of the boulevard. This stylish place serves adequate Portuguese dishes on the historic Praia Grande.

PLATÃO Map p320 Portuguese \$\$
☎ 2833 1818; www.plataomacau.com; 3 Travessa de São Domingos; starters MOP\$28-40, mains MOP\$94-206; 🕒 noon-11pm Tue-Sun

This restaurant is renowned for its chef, who once worked for the governors of Macau. Dishes worth trying include the baked duck rice and the rack of lamb with mustard. The giant *serradura* (MOP\$52) is a must.

OS GATOS Map pp316-17 Portuguese, Mediterranean \$\$
☎ 2837 8111; Avenida da República, Pousada de São Tiago; mains MOP\$88-380; 🕒 7am-11.30pm
You might go inside this restaurant just for a cup of coffee and no one could blame you, as its romantic ambience is unbeatable. Not to be missed is its afternoon tea set (MOP\$110), served from 3pm to 6pm.

A LORCHA Map pp316-17 Portuguese \$\$
☎ 2831 3193; 289A Rua do Almirante Sérgio; starters MOP\$38-56, mains MOP\$78-146; 🕒 12.30-3pm & 6.30-11pm Wed-Mon

'The Sailboat', right by the A-Ma Temple, is a benchmark of Portuguese food on the peninsula. Try the pork-ear salad and deep-fried *bacalhau* cakes. If you can only try one Portuguese restaurant in Macau, make it this one.

ANTICA TRATTORIA DA ISA Map pp316-17 Italian \$\$
☎ 2875 5102; 1st fl, Vista Magnífica Bldg, 40-46 Avenida Sir Anders Ljungstedt; starters MOP\$38-70, mains MOP\$78-120; 🕒 noon-10.45pm
This Italian restaurant in NAPE has an extensive menu of well-prepared dishes, lovely décor and warm, helpful service.

Pizzas (MOP\$78 to MOP\$95) and pasta (MOP\$70 to MOP\$95) are popular.

LITORAL Map pp316-17 Macanese, Portuguese \$\$
☎ 2896 7878; 261A Rua do Almirante Sérgio; starters MOP\$30-50, mains MOP\$60-120; 🕒 noon-3pm & 6-10.30pm

This authentic Macanese restaurant attracts both locals and tourists alike. Apart from the delightful Macanese fare, including baked duck rice, it's renowned for its home-made crab soup and shrimp soup served in a bread bowl.

O PORTO INTERIOR Map pp316-17 Macanese, Portuguese \$\$
☎ 2896 7770; 259B Rua do Almirante Sérgio; mains MOP\$55-130; 🕒 noon-11.30pm
If you can't get a table at A Lorcha, this lovely restaurant is a good alternative for both Portuguese and Macanese fare. The juicy African chicken deserves savouring.

RESTAURANTE TENIS CIVIL LEON Map pp316-17 Macanese, Portuguese \$\$
☎ 2830 1189; 1st fl, 14 Avenida da República; starters MOP\$40-75, mains MOP\$88-150; 🕒 11am-3pm & 6-11pm

This restaurant may not serve the best Portuguese food but it definitely has a lovely ambience with a wonderful view overlooking Sai Van lake. Though housed in a tennis club, the restaurant welcomes both members and nonmembers.

HENRI'S GALLEY Map pp316-17 Macanese \$\$
☎ 2855 6251; 4G-H Avenida da República; starters MOP\$38-72, mains MOP\$60-135; 🕒 11am-11pm
Located on the waterfront at the southern end of the Macau Peninsula, this 30-year-old institution serves up specialities of African chicken and Macau sole with a unique recipe expertly prepared by the cheerful Macanese chef Henri Wong.

FAT SIU LAU Map p320 Macanese \$\$
☎ 2857 3580; cnr Rua da Felicidade & Travessa Do Mastro; mains MOP\$42-156; 🕒 noon-11pm
At least three generations in Macau would have heard about this charming century-old restaurant. Try its signature dish *pommo assado* (roasted pigeon). The chic **Fat Siu Lau 2** (Map pp316-17; ☎ 2872 2922; Ef Vista Magnífica Ct, Avenida Dr Sun Yat Sen; 🕒 noon-3pm & 6.30pm-12am), its first and only branch after a century, has some fusion initiatives in its menu.

top picks

MACAU RESTAURANTS

- A Lorcha (opposite)
- Robuchon A Galera (p334)
- Amagao (p339)
- Tou Tou Koi (left)
- Espaço Lisboa (p340)

PORTAS DO SOL Map pp316-17 Cantonese \$\$

☎ 2888 3888; 2nd fl, East Wing, Lisboa Hotel; dim sum MOP\$14-30, mains MOP\$68-188; ☎ 9.30am-3pm & 6.30-11.30pm

Portas do So changes its dim sum menu regularly to keep you surprised every time you visit and it has a very spacious dining hall. Make sure you have a reservation if you go on the weekend as it gets pretty full during lunch time when families get together for dim sum.

LONG KEI Map p320 Cantonese \$\$

☎ 2858 9508; 7B Largo do Senado; dishes MOP\$48-138; ☎ 11.30am-3pm & 6-11.30pm

This landmark place is a straightforward Cantonese restaurant with more than 300 dishes on offer. The food may not be the best, but its location makes it a handy choice.

LA COMEDIE CHEZ VOUS

Map pp316-17 French \$

☎ 2875 2021; Shop G, Ground fl, Edf Zhu Kuan, Avenida Xian Xing Hai; mains MOP\$42-250; ☎ noon-2.30pm & 7-10.30pm Mon-Thu, noon-2.30pm & 7-11pm Fri & Sat

A favourite with business executives for its excellent-value set lunch (MOP\$65) and, presumably, its comfy chairs. It's also a handy place to hang out after watching a performance at the cultural centre.

CARAVELA Map p320 Café \$

☎ 712 080; Ground fl, Kam Loi Bldg, 7 Pátio do Comandante Mata e Oliveira; cakes MOP\$10-25, set lunch MOP\$60; ☎ 8am-10.30pm

This excellent *pastelaria* (pastry shop), just north of Avenida de Dom João IV, is the hang-out of choice for Portuguese residents on the peninsula. Grab a *befe a Caravela* (Caravela beef) if craving something more substantial.

O PORTO Map pp316-17 Macanese, Portuguese \$

☎ 2859 4643; 17 Travessa de Paria; mains MOP\$55-100; ☎ 12.30pm-2.30pm & 7-10.30pm

This unmarked place is actually a soccer club, evident from its soccer banners on display. It's out of the way, but good value for a unique Portuguese experience with robustly flavoured cuisine.

SERRDURA Map pp316-17 Macanese Dessert \$

☎ 2833 2880; Ground fl, Tin Fok Bldg, 15 Avenida do Coronel Mesquita; ☎ noon-11pm

This shop sells bite-sized (MOP\$11) and large (MOP\$88) versions of *serradura*, a rich local dessert made with crushed biscuits, cream and condensed milk. It also has a branch in **Taipa** (Map p328; ☎ 2833 2880; Rua do Regedor; ☎ noon-10pm), next to Cozinha Pinocchio.

OU MUN CAFÉ Map p320 Café \$

☎ 2837 2207; 12 Travessa de São Domingos; sandwiches MOP\$12-25, dishes MOP\$50; ☎ 8am-8pm Tue-Sun

This is a rather flashy little café with the rather imaginative name of 'Macau'. While the former is often clustered with Cantonese, this is a Macanese hang-out spot, serving a range of decent sandwiches, cakes and coffees.

LONG WA Map pp316-17 Cantonese, Tea House \$

☎ 2857 4456; 3 Avenida do Almirante Lacerda; dishes MOP\$12-25; ☎ 7am-2pm

Next to the red market, this yellowish two-storey tea house's ambience and age-old tiled floors tell you it's a rare survivor of the traditional Cantonese tea houses in Macau. There is no English menu, but you can just point to the dim sum carts. No smoking, no pets, no alcohol.

WONG CHI KEI Map p320 Cantonese \$

☎ 2833 1313; 17 Largo do Senado; rice & noodle dishes MOP\$18-36; ☎ 8am-midnight

Visit this centrally located Chinese eatery for a fix of cheap late-night noodles. It is particularly renowned for its noodle soup with wontons.

U TAC HONG Map p320 Cantonese Dessert \$

☎ 2892 0598; 19D Rua da Madeira; snacks & drinks MOP\$4-10; ☎ 7am-7pm

Also known as Lee Hong Kee, U Tac Hong is a tiny local place that has been selling soya-bean products for 50 years, and is reputable for its silky *tofufa*, sweet bean-curd with evaporated milk (MOP\$4), and soya-bean milk.

TAIPA & COLOANE ISLANDS

The number of restaurants in Taipa has grown by leaps and bounds in just a few short years. While much of the choice is restricted to Portuguese and Macanese cuisine, you'll also find some excellent Cantonese eateries here, too.

Coloane is not the treasure-trove of restaurants and other eateries that Taipa is, but there are a few decent options offering a variety of cuisines at various price levels.

Taipa Island

A PETISQUEIRA Map p328 Portuguese \$\$

☎ 2882 5354; 15A-B Rua de São João; starters MOP\$25-85, mains MOP\$85-180; ☎ noon-3pm & 7-10.30pm

'The Snackery', an excellent restaurant set in a little alley that is easy to overlook, is considered to have the best Portuguese food in Taipa. It serves its own *queijo fresca da casa* (homemade cheese; MOP\$22). Try the baked seafood with rice.

AMAGAO Map p328 Macanese \$\$

☎ 2882 7627; Rua Ho Lin Vong; starters MOP\$24-60, mains MOP\$60-120; ☎ 6-10pm Thu-Tue

Located in a side alley off Rua da Cunha, Amagao is a 10-seat family-style Macanese restaurant, probably the best in Macau. It continues to wow crowds with its fabulously flavourful Portuguese chicken (MOP\$88), and the hospitality of its store owner/chef.

O MANEL Map p328 Portuguese \$\$

☎ 2882 7571; 90 Rua de Fernão Mendes Pinto; starters MOP\$25-30, mains MOP\$60-135; ☎ noon-3.30pm & 6-11pm Wed-Mon

Another family-run restaurant, though a bit isolated from Taipa Village, it still attracts both locals and expats alike with its splendid Portuguese dishes such as grilled *bacalhau*.

O SANTOS Map p328 Portuguese \$\$

☎ 2882 7508; 20 Rua da Cunha; mains MOP\$62-120; ☎ noon-3pm & 6.30-10.30pm

Head here for the *sapateira recheada*, a type of crab flown in fresh from Portugal, and *maçã assada*, a special baked apple. Expect a crowd.

O CAPÍTULO Map p328 Portuguese \$\$

☎ 2882 1519; Ground fl, Nam San Bldg, Avenida de Kwong Tung; starters MOP\$30-140, mains MOP\$70-165; ☎ noon-10pm

O Capítulo's home-made Portuguese dishes are as fresh as its recent renovation. Try the superb suckling pig and *fatias de Tomar*, a rich dessert made with egg yolks and syrup.

KAPOK CANTONESE RESTAURANT

Map p328 Cantonese \$\$

☎ 2883 3333; 60 Rua de Hong Chau, Hoi Yee Garden; mains MOP\$60-150; ☎ 11am-5pm & 5.30-11pm Mon-Sat, 9am-3pm & 5.30-11pm Sun

Next to the peaceful tea house Chun Yu Fang is this bustling restaurant, which is arguably the best place for dim sum in Taipa, and is always full during the weekends.

COZINHA PINOCCHIO Map p328 Macanese \$\$

☎ 2882 7128; 195 Rua do Regedor; starters MOP\$40-62, mains MOP\$52-135; ☎ 11.45am-11pm

The well-known Cozinha Pinocchio, after its relocation to Rua do Regedor, is less atmospheric than before. But on the weekends it's still packed with local and tourists alike enjoying the stir-fried curried crab and grilled fresh sardines.

GALO Map p328 Macanese, Portuguese \$\$

☎ 2882 7423; 45 Rua da Cunha; starters MOP\$20-48, mains MOP\$48-120; ☎ 11am-3pm & 6-10.30pm

You can easily recognise this place by the picture of a red-combed *galo* (rooster) above the door. The food is adequate and the service flawless.

CHUN YU FANG Map p328 Chinese, Tea House \$

☎ 2883 9093; 42 Rua de Hong Chau; snacks MOP\$28-38, tea for 2 MOP\$40-88; ☎ 12.30-9.30pm Wed-Mon

Located behind Crown Macau, this graceful tea house is a paradise amid the rapid changes in Taipa. Its serenity offers you a delectable tea experience.

SENG CHEONG Map p328 Cantonese \$

☎ 2882 5323; 28-30 Rua da Cunha; mains MOP\$80; ☎ noon-midnight

This simple Chinese restaurant is celebrated for its fried fish balls, steamed eel and *congee* (rice porridge with savoury titbits).

POU TAI TEMPLE RESTAURANT

Map p328 Chinese, Vegetarian \$

☎ 893 0321; 5 Estrada Lou Lim Ieok; dishes MOP\$36-55; ☎ 11am-8pm Mon-Sat, 9am-9pm Sun & the 1st & 15th day of the lunar calendar month

If you get tired of the meat-laden Portuguese cuisine, this strictly vegetarian restaurant, set in a Buddhist temple in northern Taipa, is a great find for the health conscious. It's housed in the basement of the building next to the main hall.

Coloane Island

ESPAÇO LISBOA Map p330 Portuguese \$\$

☎ 2888 2226; 8 Rua dos Gaivotas; starters MOP\$55-188, mains MOP\$98-288; ☎ noon-3pm & 6.30-10pm Tue-Fri, noon-10.30pm Sat & Sun The 'Lisbon Space' restaurant, located in a charming village house over two floors, serves some of the most thoughtfully prepared Portuguese dishes in Macau. Get a table on the balcony. Daily specials cost MOP\$88 to MOP\$168, and the wine list is superb.

KWUN HOI HEEN Map p330 Cantonese \$\$

☎ 899 1320; 3rd fl, Westin Resort Macau, 1918 Estrada de Hác Sá; rice & noodle dishes MOP\$28-78, mains MOP\$35-210; ☎ lunch 11am-3pm Mon-Fri, 9.30am-4pm Sat & Sun, dinner 6.30-11pm daily Though it boasts alfresco dining and sumptuous views, it's the superb Cantonese cuisine that makes Kwun Hoi Heen stand out among the hotel restaurants on Coloane Island. Dim sum is MOP\$18 to MOP\$22. The Saturday buffet lunch (MOP\$180) and dinner (from MOP\$198) are excellent value.

LA GONDOLA Map p330 Italian \$\$

☎ 2888 0156; Cheoc Van Beach; mains MOP\$55-180; ☎ 11am-11pm Next to the swimming pool at Cheoc Van Beach, La Gondola is a good spot to soak up some beach-side views from the terrace while enjoying your meal. It offers some excellent pizzas cooked in a wood-fired oven.

FERNANDO Map p330 Portuguese \$\$

☎ 2888 2264; 9 Hác Sá Beach; starters MOP\$22-26, mains MOP\$66-148, rice dishes MOP\$60-66; ☎ noon-9.30pm Fernando has a devoted clientele and is famed for its seafood. It's the perfect place for a protracted, boozy lunch by the sea. The bar stays open till midnight.

RESTAURANTE PARQUE HÁC SÁ

Map p330 Portuguese \$

☎ 2888 2297; Hác Sá Sports & Recreation Park, Estrada Nova de Hác Sá; snacks & sandwiches MOP\$16-30, mains MOP\$30-90; ☎ noon-11pm This is a pleasant place for meals by the beach at Hác Sá, with barbecue dishes figuring prominently on the menu. Dine inside or out on the terrace.

NGA TIM CAFÉ Map p330 Cantonese, Portuguese \$

☎ 2888 2086; 1 Rua Caetano; mains MOP\$100; ☎ 11am-1am

This café itself is no work of art, but it has a unique and laidback setting just in front of the Chapel of St Francis Xavier. Enjoy the scene, and the hybrid Sino-Portuguese food.

LORD STOW'S CAFÉ Map p330 Café \$

☎ 2888 2174; 9 Largo do Matadouro; sandwiches & quiches MOP\$22-35, desserts MOP\$10-26; ☎ 10.30am-7pm

Though the celebrated English baker Andrew Stow passed away recently, his café and **Lord Stow's Bakery** (☎ 2888 2534; 1 Rua da Tassara; ☎ 7am-10pm Thu-Tue, 7am-7pm Wed) keeps his memory well alive by serving his renowned *pastéis de nata*, a warm egg-custard tart (MOP\$6) and cheesecake (MOP\$14) in unusual flavours, including black sesame and green tea. The **Lord Stow's Garden Café** (☎ 2888 1851; 105 Rua da Cordoaria; ☎ 10.30am-7pm) near the Coloane bus stop has a very relaxed atmosphere on its patio.

ENTERTAINMENT

The **Macau Cultural Centre** (p323) is the territory's premier venue for classical music concerts, dance performances and studio film screenings. To book tickets ring ☎ 2855 5555 or, in Hong Kong ☎ 2380 5083, or check the website www.macauticket.net. The mammoth **Venetian Macau** (p347) hosts a 15,000-seat indoor arena that will likely be a great place for live-music performances.

Macau Travel Talk, a free bimonthly available at MGTO outlets and larger hotels, has useful entertainment listings at the back.

CASINOS

As of late 2007, Macau had 27 casinos. Most of them are located at big hotels on the 'casino strip' along Avenida da Amizade, and provide frequent **free shuttle service** (☎ 9.30am-midnight) to and from both the ferry terminal and Portas do Cerco. All casinos are open 24 hours.

The legal gambling age in Macau is 18 years (21 for Macau residents). Photography is absolutely prohibited inside the casinos. Men cannot wear shorts, even relatively long ones, or a singlet (undershirt) unless they have a shirt over it. Women wearing shorts or sleeveless tops are refused entry, the same for anyone wearing thongs (flip-flops).

CROWN MACAU Map p328 Casino

☎ 2886 8888; www.crown-macau.com; Avenida de Kwong Tung, Taipa This self-proclaimed six-star hotel-casino has 220 gaming tables and targets high rollers. Ostentatiousness is readily displayed.

EMPEROR PALACE CASINO

Map p320 Casino

☎ 2888 9988; 299 Avenida Comercial De Macau, Grand Emperor Hotel, Macau Peninsula The Emperor Palace is worth a visit, if only for its entrance. The princely concourse, with incantation on the marble columns and pure gold bricks on the floor, is where you'll find deployment of the art of feng shui to make fortunes, if not to show off.

GRAND LISBOA CASINO Map p320 Casino

☎ 2838 2828; Avenida de Lisboa, Macau Peninsula Connected to the Lisboa Casino by a foot-bridge is the new, plush Grand Lisboa, with its glowing golden bulb and truly kitschy lotus-shaped towering structure. The interior ventilation works much better here.

LISBOA CASINO Map p320 Casino

☎ 2837 5111; Hotel Lisboa, 2-4 Avenida de Lisboa, Macau Peninsula This once-nopolistic old-timer used to be a bizarre icon in Macau. Those days are gone, but the tightly packed baccarat tables and pungent clouds of smoke still live on.

MANDARIN ORIENTAL CASINO

Map pp316-17 Casino

☎ 2856 4297; Mandarin Oriental, 956-1110 Avenida da Amizade, Macau Peninsula Though the Mandarin cannot compete with the other casinos listed here, in terms of size and riches, its gentility earns it a name.

SANDS MACAU Map pp316-17 Casino

☎ 2888 3377; www.sands.com.mo; 23 Largo de Monte Carlo, Macau Peninsula Run by the consortium from Vegas leading Macau's gambling business renaissance, it has a spacious atrium allowing natural lighting together with a fantastic array of crystal lights. Only high rollers with US\$10,000 minimum bets are invited to stay in its hotel.

VENETIAN MACAU Map p328 Casino

☎ 2882 8888; www.venetianmacao.com; Cotai Strip As the world's largest casino and three times the size of its Vegas counterpart,

you're guaranteed to get lost in this behemoth. Gambling tables are omnipresent in its labyrinth-like complex. Expect throngs of gamblers from the mainland. Its free shuttle service also goes to Cotai Frontier Post.

WYNN MACAU Map pp316-17 Casino

☎ 2888 9966; Rua Cidade de Sintra, NAPE, Macau Peninsula Mimicking its counterpart in Vegas, Wynn Macau has the most glamorous and elegant ambience, albeit a bit low-ceilinged. This is the first casino with a nonsmoking area.

OTHER CASINOS

Other casinos you might consider for a visit (and, perhaps, a laugh) include the mediocre **Star World Casino** (Map pp316-17; ☎ 2838 3838; Avenida da Amizade), a favourite for the mainland Chinese punters, and **Pharaoh's Palace Casino** (Map pp316-17; ☎ 2878 8111; 3rd fl, Landmark Macau, Avenida da Amizade), where a failed attempt to re-create an ancient Egyptian palace makes you feel like you are gambling inside a tomb.

CLUBBING

The club scene in Macau is flourishing with more opening every day. The trendiest spots are clustered near the pubs in the NAPE area, while the tacky nightclub floorshows and hostess clubs are on the casino strip.

D2 Map p320 Club

☎ 2872 3777; 2nd fl, AIA Tower, 301 Avenida Comercial de Macau, Macau Peninsula; ☎ 10pm-7am, happy hour 11pm-2am

To strut your stuff on the dance floor, head to the latest incarnation of DD, the former (in)famous bar and dance club. It's smaller than its predecessor but more fashionable. It's full of young women dancing by 3am. A place to revel, and to flirt.

NICOLE FASHION CLUB Map pp316-17 Club

☎ 2872 8922; Block 1, Trinidad, Fisherman's Wharf, Macau Peninsula; ☎ 10pm-6am This glitzy bar is where partiers dress to impress or be impressed. Resident and visiting DJs host dance parties almost every night, making it the best place on the Wharf.

SKY 21 Map p320 Club

☎ 2822 2122, 2872 3344; www.sky21macau.com; 21st fl, AIA Tower, 301 Avenida Comercial de Macau; ☎ noon-11.30pm 21st-22nd fl, noon-3am bar area, 5pm-2am 23rd fl

Located in the same building as D2, this three-storey multiplex flashy club has a more distinguished atmosphere, and ambitiously caters to people from all walks of life. DJs from Portugal host dancing parties and Troupe from Amsterdam dances everything from hip-hop to salsa. A big plus is its superb view of Nam Van Lake and Macau Tower.

DRINKING

The southern end of the NAPE area on Macau Peninsula (what locals call Lan Kwai Fong) is where to head for pub crawls. For a quieter drink, the local Portuguese and Macanese have some wonderful, low-key places that are hidden away from the usual tourist haunts; in the unassuming buildings near the Flora Garden (Map pp316–17) and Kiang Wu Hospital (Map pp316–17), you'll need patience to unearth them, but you'll be rewarded with the discovery of some pleasingly authentic local watering holes.

Macau Beer has a couple of its own brews: the citrus-tasting Blond Ale and Amber Ale, which is quite hoppy. All sorts of 'ruby' ports are available in Macau – the Parador is particularly fine – but go for something different, such as the evocatively named Lágrima do Christo (Tears of Christ), a white port. Some Portuguese *aguardentes* (brandies) are worthwhile, such as Adegá Velha and Antqua VSOP Aliança.

CASABLANCA CAFÉ Map pp316–17 Bar

☎ 2875 1281; Ground fl, Vista Magnífica Court Bldg, Avenida Doutor Sun Yat Sen, Macau Peninsula; ☎ 6pm–4am, happy hour 6–8pm

Next to the famous Moonwalker is this favourite hang-out for the Portuguese. It has a long list of cocktails, plays cold jazz in the background and is considered the best spot to chill out in NAPE.

MOONWALKER BAR Map pp316–17 Bar

☎ 2875 1326; Ground fl, Vista Magnífica Court Bldg, Avenida Doutor Sun Yat Sen, Macau Peninsula; ☎ 4pm–4am, happy hour 4–8pm

Moonwalker features fun live entertainment on most nights (usually Filipina chanteuses), and is considered the most famous (and expensive) one among its neighbours.

MP3 Map pp316–17 Bar

☎ 2875 1306; www.mp3barlounge.com; Ground fl, Vista Magnífica Court Bldg, 1333 Avenida Doutor Sun Yat Sen, Macau Peninsula; ☎ 6pm–4am, happy hour 6–9pm

With live shows, music and the unbeatable MOP\$100 all-you-can-drink during happy hour, MP3 has become a popular spot along the strip. DJs spin all kinds of music; drag queens and pose dancers dazzle your eyes.

OLD TAIPA TAVERN Map p328 Bar, Live Music

☎ 2882 5221; Rua dos Negociantes, Taipa; ☎ noon–1am, happy hour 5–8pm

Known as 'OTT', its location next to the Pak Tai Temple at Taipa Village makes this bar delightful. A wonderful band plays every Saturday. You can also have a sip while watching ritual performances at the temple.

VASCO Map pp316–17 Bar

☎ 793 3830; Ground fl, Mandarin Oriental, 956–1110 Avenida da Amizade, Macau Peninsula; ☎ 2pm–2am

For a quiet place to drink, the Vasco lounge in the Mandarin Oriental Hotel is populated mostly by beautiful urbanites. In the afternoon it serves *tapas*-style afternoon tea.

WHISKY BAR Map pp316–17 Bar

☎ 2838 3838; 16th fl, Star World Hotel, Avenida da Amizade, Macau Peninsula; ☎ 11am–2am Sun–Thu, 11am–3am Fri & Sat

The tacky Star World casino-hotel somehow has a cheerful bar where you can have a pleasant glimpse of the Guia Lighthouse flashing at night. Get a window seat.

THEATRE

There's very little in the way of legitimate theatre in Macau, though, as in Las Vegas, floorshows – including the following two – are popular.

CRAZY PARIS SHOW Map p320 Theatre

☎ 2838 2828; Grand Lisboa Casino, Avenida de Lisboa, Macau Peninsula; ☎ 9pm–midnight

The Crazy Paris Show features a multitude of leggy women onstage strutting around in a couple of beads and a feather or two.

JAI ALAI SHOW PALACE

Map pp316–17 Theatre

☎ 2872 6126; 3rd fl, Jai Alai Complex, Travessa do Reservatório, Macau Peninsula; ☎ 7pm–2am

Come here to witness lots of women wannabes (it's a transvestite show) doing what the girls in the Crazy Paris Show do – only much better.

SPORTS & ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITIES

Cycling

You can rent bicycles (MOP\$12 to MOP\$18 per hour) in Taipa Village from **Mercearia Bicicleta Aluquer** (Map p328; ☎ 2882 7975; 36 Largo Governador Tamagini Barbosa), next to the Don Quixote restaurant. There's no English spoken.

Biking across the Macau–Taipa Bridges is prohibited. Although biking across the Cotai road linking Taipa and Coloane is allowed, it is also suicidal – and definitely not recommended – due to the many heavy trucks plying the road.

Gambling

In 2007 Macau overtook Las Vegas as the world's casino capital. The story begins with the end of a casino monopoly held by Stanley Ho's Sociedade de Turismo Diversões de Macau (STDM) in 2002. The gambling industry was shaken up with the subsequent arrival of consortia from Las Vegas. Revenue from gambling reached US\$7.2 billion in 2006, but the passing of the baton to Macau is not without problems. The number of addicted gamblers has increased drastically in Macau and the neighbouring mainland. Very little has been done to curb gambling addiction so far. Other side-effects, such as money laundering, domestic violence and prostitution, have also shot up.

Although the games in Macau are somewhat different from those played in Las Vegas and elsewhere (see the boxed text, p344), the same basic principles apply. No matter what the game, the casino enjoys a built-in mathematical advantage. In the short term, anyone can hit a winning streak and get ahead, but the longer you play, the more certain it is that the odds will catch up with you.

Go-Karting

The **Coloane Kartodrome** (Map p330; ☎ 2888 2126; Estrada de Seac Pai Van; ☎ 11.30am–7pm Mon–Fri, 11am–8.30pm Sat & Sun), run by the Macau Motorsports Club, is the region's most popular venue for go-karting. There's a choice of seven circuits. It costs MOP\$100/\$180 for 10/20 minutes; a two-seater is MOP\$150 for 10 minutes. Races are held on Sunday.

Golf

The 18-hole, par-71 course at **Macau Golf & Country Club** (Map p330; ☎ 2887 1188; 1918 Estrada de Hác Sá),

connected to the Westin Resort Macau on Coloane by walkway on the 9th floor, is open to foreigners through the hotel. Green fees are MOP\$800/\$1500 on weekdays/weekends, and you must have a handicap certificate to tee off. There's also a **driving range** (☎ 2887 1111; per 40 balls MOP\$40), from where you drive balls into the ocean.

Hiking

There are two trails on Guia Hill (Map pp316–17), in central Macau Peninsula, which are good for a stroll or jog. The **Walk of 33 Curves** (1.7km) circles the hill; inside this loop is the shorter **Fitness Circuit Walk**, with 20 exercise stations. You can access these by Guia Cable Car.

The **Little Taipa Trail** (Trilho de Taipa Pequena; Map p328) is a 2km-long circuit around a hill (111m) of that name in northwestern Taipa reachable via Estrada Lou Lim Ieok. The 2.2km-long **Big Taipa Trail** (Trilho de Taipa Grande; Map p328) rings Taipa Grande, a 160m-high hill at the eastern end of the island. You can access the trail via a short paved road off Estrada Colonel Nicolau de Mesquita.

Coloane's longest trail, the **Coloane Trail** (Trilho de Coloane; Map p330), begins at Seac Pai Van Park and is just over 8km long; the main trailhead is called the Estrada do Alto de Coloane. The shorter **Northeast Coloane Trail** (Trilho Nordeste de Coloane), near Ká Hó, runs for about 3km. Other trails that offer good hiking include the 1.5km-long **Altinho de Ká Hó Trail** and the 1.5km-long **Hác Sá Reservoir Circuit** (Circuito da Barragem de Hác Sá), which both loop around the reservoir to the northwest of Hác Sá Beach.

SPECTATOR SPORTS

The **Macau Stadium** (Estádio de Macau; Map p328; ☎ 2883 8208; www.sport.gov.mo; Avenida Olímpica), next to the Macau Jockey Club on Taipa Island, seats 16,250 people and hosts international soccer matches and athletics competitions. On the first Sunday in December the Macau International Marathon starts and finishes here. The impressive **Macau Dome** (Map p330) on Coloane was built to host the 2005 East Asian Games and the 2007 Indoor Asian Games. Its main arena seats more than 7000 spectators.

For details of forthcoming events, contact the **Macau Sports Institute** (Instituto do Desporto de Macau; Map pp316–17; ☎ 2858 0762, 2888 1836; Macau Forum, Avenida do Doutor Rodrigo Rodrigues).

SOME FUN & GAMES IN MACAU

Baccarat

Also known as *chemin de fer* (railroad), this has become the card game of choice for the upper crust of Macau's gambling elite. Baccarat rooms are always the classiest part of any casino, and the minimum wager is high – MOP\$1000 at some casinos. Two hands are dealt simultaneously: a player hand and a bank hand. Players can bet on either (neither is actually the house hand), and the one that scores closest to nine is the winner. The casino deducts a percentage if the bank hand wins, which is how the house makes its profit. If the player understands the game properly, the house enjoys only a slightly better than 1% advantage over the player.

Blackjack

Also known as 21, it is an easy game, although it requires some skill to play it well. The dealer takes a card and gives another to the players. Face cards count as 10, aces as one or 11. Cards are dealt one at a time – the goal is to get as close as possible to 21 (blackjack) without going over. If you go over 21 you 'bust', or lose. Players are always dealt their cards before the dealer, so if they bust they will always bust before the dealer does. This is what gives the casino the edge over the player. If the dealer and player both get 21, it's a tie and the bet is cancelled. If players get 21, they win even money plus a 50% bonus. Dealers must draw until they reach 16, and stand on 17 or higher. The player is free to decide when to stand or when to draw.

Boule

This is very similar to roulette, except that boule is played with a ball about the size of a billiard ball, and there are fewer numbers – 24 numbers plus a star. The payoff is 23 to one on numbers. On all bets (numbers, red or black, odd or even), the casino has a 4% advantage over players.

Daai-sai

Cantonese for 'big little', this game is also known as *sik-bó* (dice treasure) or *chàai sik* (guessing dice) and remains popular in Macau. Three dice are placed in a covered glass container, the container is then shaken and you bet on whether the toss will be from three to nine (small) or 10 to 18 (big). However, you lose on combinations where all three dice come up the same (2-2-2, 3-3-3 etc) unless you bet directly on three of a kind. For betting *daai-sai* the house advantage is 2.78%. Betting on a specific three of a kind gives the house a 30% advantage.

Faan-taan

This ancient Chinese game is practically unknown in the West. The dealer takes an inverted silver cup and plunges it into a pile of porcelain buttons, then moves the cup to one side. After all bets have been placed, the buttons are counted out in groups of four. You have to bet on how many will remain after the last set of four has been taken out.

Pài-gáu

This is a form of Chinese dominoes similar to mahjong. One player is made banker and the others compare their hands against the banker's. The casino doesn't play, but deducts a 3% commission from the winnings for providing the gambling facilities.

Roulette

The dealer spins the roulette wheel in one direction and tosses a ball the other way. Roulette wheels have 36 numbers plus a zero, so your chance of hitting any given number is one in 37. The payoff is 35 to one, which is what gives the casino its advantage. Rather than betting on a single number, it's much easier to win if you bet odd versus even, or red versus black numbers, which only gives the house a 2.7% advantage. If the ball lands on zero, everyone loses to the house (unless you also bet on the zero).

Dog Racing

Macau's **Canidrome** (Map pp316–17; ☎ 2822 1199, racing information hotline 2833 3399, Hong Kong hotline 800 932 199; www.macauydog.com; Avenida do General Castelo Branco;

admission MOP\$10; 🕒 1, 1A, 3, 25), in the northern part of the Macau Peninsula, is the only facility for greyhound racing in Asia. Greyhound races are held on Monday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 7.30pm. There are 16

races per night, with six to eight dogs chasing a mechanical rabbit around the 455m oval track at speeds of up to 60km/h. If you want to sit in the members' stands, it costs MOP\$80 weekdays and MOP\$120 on the weekend.

Grand Prix

The biggest sporting event of the year is the Macau Formula 3 Grand Prix, held in the third week of November. The 6.2km Guia circuit (Map pp316–17) starts near the Lisboa Hotel and follows the shoreline along Avenida da Amizade, going around the reservoir and back through the city. It is a testing series of twists and turns – including the infamous Melco hairpin – that calls on drivers' reserves of skill and daring.

Certain zones in Macau are designated as viewing areas for the races. Streets and alleys along the track are blocked off, so it's unlikely that you'll be able to find a decent vantage point without paying for it. Prices for seats in the Reservoir Stand are MOP\$250/350 for a single day/package (which includes practise days and qualifying events before the start of the actual races) and from MOP\$450 to MOP\$650 at the Lisboa and Grand Stands (MOP\$900 for the package). To watch just the practise days and qualifying events costs MOP\$50. For ticket enquiries and bookings call ☎ 796 2268 or consult www.macau.grandprix.gov.mo.

Horse Racing

Regular flat racing takes place at the Taipa racetrack (Hipodromo da Taipa) of the **Macau Jockey Club** (Jockey Clube de Macau; Map p328; ☎ 2882 1188, racing information hotline 2882 0868, Hong Kong hotline 800 967 822; www.macauhorse.com; Estrada Governador Albano de Oliveira; admission MOP\$20; 🕒 11, 15, 22) through most of the year, usually on Saturday or Sunday from 2pm, and midweek (generally Tuesday or Wednesday) from 5pm. Summer recess lasts from late August to mid-September.

WATER SPORTS

The **Hác Sá Sports & Recreation Park** (Map p330; ☎ 2888 2296; Estrada Nova de Hác Sá, Coloane; 🕒 8am–9pm Sun–Fri, 8am–11pm Sat), by the beach, has an **outdoor swimming pool** (adult/child/student MOP\$15/5/7; 🕒 8am–noon & 1–9pm Sun–Fri, 8am–noon & 1–11pm Sat).

The **Cheoc Van swimming pool** (Map p330; ☎ 2887 0277), which costs the same for entry and keeps the same hours as the Hác Sá pool, is at the southern end of the beach.

There are **watersports equipment stands** where you can hire windsurfing boards, jet skis and water scooters at either end of Hác Sá Beach.

SLEEPING

With a host of new hotels on the way, Macau will have some great hotel rooms with cheap rates in the coming years. Usually hotels with casinos attached charge lower rates, and substantial discounts (30% or more) are available for hotels of three stars and above if you book through a travel agency. In Hong Kong many of these agents are at the **Shun Tak Centre** (Map p70; 200 Connaught Rd Central, Sheung Wan), from where the ferries to Macau depart. You can book your room upon arrival at one of the many hotel desks in the ferry terminal pier in Macau, but be aware that hotel prices can double or even treble on the weekend, on public holidays or during the summer high season.

Most large hotels add a 10% service charge and 5% government tax to the bill. Prices listed here are the rack rates quoted to walk-in customers.

MACAU PENINSULA

You can find a wide range of choices from cheap hotels and guesthouses through to top-end resorts in Macau. From 2008 to 2009 consortia will add a number of big names here, such as Hotel Sofitel at Ponte 16, and a new Mandarin Oriental at MGM Grand Macau.

WYNN MACAU Map pp316–17 Hotel \$\$\$
☎ 2888 9966; www.wynnmacau.com; Rua Cidada de Sintra, NAPE; r MOP\$3000–3700, ste from MOP\$7800

This five-star American-style resort has huge, impressive rooms with high ceilings, and almost everything automated. Bonuses include its outdoor swimming pool and some very serious restaurants.

POUSADA DE SÃO TIAGO

Map pp316–17 Hotel \$\$\$
☎ 2837 8111; www.saotiago.com.mo; Avenida da República; r MOP\$2600–3200, ste from MOP\$4200
The landmark São Tiago is built into the ruins of the 17th-century Barra Fort and is one of the most romantic places to stay in Macau.

MANDARIN ORIENTAL Map pp316–17 Hotel \$\$\$
☎ 2856 7888; www.mandarinoriental.com; 956–1110 Avenida da Amizade; r MOP\$2000–2600, ste from MOP\$5300

This classy hotel is notable for its impeccable service and its spa with impressive natural surroundings. As a long-standing favourite with tourists, it's always full during the weekends.

ROCKS HOTEL Map pp316-17 Hotel \$\$\$

☎ 295 6528; www.rockshotel.com.mo; Macau Fisherman's Wharf; r MOP\$1880-2580, ste from MOP\$4080

This elegant Victorian boutique hotel is set amid a tribal-hut African restaurant and Babylon Casino, reminding you that you're in the middle of a theme park. The rooms are decent and most have a view of the waterfront. It also has very affordable shuttle services with its Nissan Cefiro (MOP\$30/60/90 to Macau/Taipa/Coloane) and Benz-Mercedes (MOP\$150/250/350 to Macau/Taipa/Coloane).

LISBOA HOTEL Map pp316-17 Hotel \$\$\$

☎ 2837 7666; www.hotelisboa.com; 2-4 Avenida de Lisboa; r MOP\$1650-3000, ste from MOP\$3800
The Hotel Lisboa, one of Macau's most famous landmarks, is known locally for its unrestrained outlandishly gaudy looks and its raunchy atmosphere. For many punters its casino remains the only game in town, and hookers hunt for clients at the shopping arcade. At the time of writing, the hotel was under renovation; hopefully its facilities and services will be upgraded.

METRO PARK HOTEL Map pp316-17 Hotel \$\$

☎ 2878 1233; www.metroparkmacau.com; 199 Rua de Pequim; r MOP\$1680-2300, ste from MOP\$2800

Rooms are small and the service so-so, but this is a good-value casino-free option along the casino strip. A plus is a regular substantial discount (40% or more).

HOTEL SINTRA Map p320 Hotel \$\$

☎ 2871 0111; www.hotelsintra.com; Avenida de Dom João IV; r MOP\$1160-1760, ste from MOP\$2360

This centrally located three-star hotel often has a 50% discount and is a better place to stay than Metro Park. Rooms are spotless, but those facing Grand Emperor Hotel may find the big LED screen disturbing. It provides a shuttle service to the ferry terminal every 15 minutes.

RITZ HOTEL Map pp316-17 Hotel \$\$

☎ 2833 9955; www.ritzhotel.com.mo; 11-13 Rua do Comendador Kou Ho Neng; r MOP\$1080-1380, ste from MOP\$2080

This palace of a place, in a quiet street high above Avenida da República, is as close as you'll get to staying at the legendary Bela Vista across the road. This good-value, five-star hotel has a wonderful recreation centre, with a huge heated pool.

GUIA HOTEL Map pp316-17 Hotel \$\$

☎ 2851 3888; guia@macau.ctm.net; 1-5 Estrada do Engenheiro Trigo; r MOP\$850-1080, tr MOP\$980, ste from MOP\$1480

If you want something smaller and a bit 'isolated', choose this place at the foot of Guia Hill. The recently renovated rooms are extremely clean and comfortable. The friendly and accommodating staff speak fairly adequate English.

POUSADA DE MONG HÁ Map pp316-17 Inn \$\$

☎ 2851 5222; www.ift.edu.mo; Colina de Mong Há; s/d Mon-Fri MOP\$500/600, Sat & Sun MOP\$600/800, ste Mon-Fri MOP\$1000, Sat & Sun MOP\$1200

This traditional-style Portuguese inn sits atop Mong Há Hill, near the ruins of a fort built in 1849. It is run by students at the Instituto de Formação Turística (Institute for Tourism Studies), so service is more than eager. Rates include breakfast. The restaurant here is open from noon to 3pm for lunch on weekdays, from 7pm to 10.30pm on Friday for a Macanese buffet (MOP\$160). Afternoon tea (3pm to 6pm) and cake-of-the-month is served at its atmospheric café.

EAST ASIA HOTEL Map p320 Hotel \$

☎ 2892 2433; fax 922 431; 1A Rua da Madeira; s MOP\$270-370, d MOP\$400-500, ste MOP\$720

The East Asia is housed in a classic green-and-white colonial-style building and, though it's been remodelled, has not lost all of its charm. The rooms are simple but spacious.

AUGUSTERS LODGE Map p320 Guesthouse \$

☎ 2871 3242; www.augusters.de; Flat 3J, Block 4, Edif Kam Loi, 24 Rua Do Dr Pedro José Lobo; dm MOP\$80, d MOP\$150, tr MOP\$200; ☎ 3, 3A, 10, 10A, 10B, AP1

If you're looking for something similar to a backpackers hub, head to this tiny, friendly guesthouse. Rooms are basic but clean, with shared bathrooms. It's located above the CTM shop.

SAN VA HOSPEDARIA Map p320 Guesthouse \$

☎ 2857 3701; www.sanvahotel.com; 67 Rua de Felicidade; r MOP\$70-100

This traditional-style guesthouse has survived since 1873 and definitely has character, though the cupboard-like rooms, separated by filmly cardboard partitions, are pretty spartan and a few rooms are occupied by the homeless. Even if you don't stay here overnight, it can be a great cheap place to hang out on an afternoon if you get the very affordable room with balcony (MOP\$90), buy some Chinese pastries and some drinks at the specialty food stores downstairs (p333), and relax on the balcony as you people-watch over this older part of Chinese Macau.

TAIPA & COLOANE ISLANDS

Taipa is a very happening place with the commencement of massive land-reclamation projects on the Cotai strip bringing in a bunch of top-end accommodation options. Coloane offers quite a diversity of places to stay – from two budget hostels to a 'cosy' inn to the territory's most exclusive resort.

Taipa Island

CROWN MACAU Map p328 Hotel \$\$\$

☎ 2886 8888; www.crown-macau.com; Avenida de Kwong Tung; r MOP\$3080, ste from MOP\$4180

Located next to the notorious Regency Hotel (the hotel staff are terribly rude) is this recently opened 'six-star hotel', where you are supposed to feel like a king, with three servants per guest. This has yet to prove itself, but the rooms are indeed impressive and spacious, and each has its own lounge area.

VENETIAN MACAO RESORT HOTEL Map p328 Hotel \$\$\$

☎ 2882 8888; www.venetianmacao.com; Cotai Strip; ste MOP\$1600-4500

At the time of writing only this landmark hotel was complete and ready for service in the Venetian Macau megaresort. The 32-storey tower has 3000 luxurious suites. Other amenities include a bizarre replica of the Venice canals, afloat with gondola and Chinese sampans. Four Seasons, Shangrila and Sheraton etc are all on their way.

HOTEL TAIPA Map p328 Hotel \$\$

☎ 2882 1666; www.hoteltaipa.com; 822 Estrada Governador Nobre Carvalho; r MOP\$880-1680, ste MOP\$2280-4280

If you want to avoid the casino-hotels on Taipa, this hotel's a decent place to stay, though it's lacking in character. It's an air-crew's favourite and has less tourist groups staying here.

Coloane Island

WESTIN RESORT MACAU Map p330 Hotel \$\$\$

☎ 2887 1111; www.westin.com/macau; 1918 Estrada de Hác Sá; r MOP\$2200-2700, ste from MOP\$5000

This 'island resort' complex is on the eastern side of Hác Sá Beach. Each room has a large terrace. The overall atmosphere is that of a country club, with an attached 18-hole golf course (p343), two swimming pools, an outdoor spa, and sauna and fitness centre on 60 hectares of land. The resort's **Panorama Lounge** (☎ 899 1020; ☎ 11am-1am) is a delightful spot for a sunowner.

POUSADA DE COLOANE Map p330 Inn \$\$

☎ 2888 2143; fax 2882 251; Estrada de Cheoc Van; s & d MOP\$680-750, tr MOP\$880-950

This inn has rooms furnished with some fantastic Portuguese-style décor overlooking Cheoc Van Beach and has a relaxed atmosphere. It serves a good Sunday lunch buffet (MOP\$120) and the restaurant has a nice bar area.

POUSADA DE JUVENTUDE DE CHEOC VAN Map p330 Hostel \$

☎ 2888 2024; Rua de António Francisco; dm/d Sun-Fri MOP\$40/70, Sat MOP\$50/100

To stay either here or at the hostel at Hác Sá, you must book through the **Education & Youth Services Department** (☎ 2855 5533, 397 2640; www.dsej.gov.mo) and have a **Hostelling International (HI)** card. During the high season (summer and holidays) competition

PRICE GUIDE

The price guide for rooms in Macau. Breakfast is usually included with hotels marked \$\$ and \$\$\$.

\$\$\$	Over MOP\$1650
\$\$	MOP\$500-1650
\$	Under MOP\$500

for beds is high and it might be shut altogether in August. The hostel has a garden and a small kitchen for making hot drinks.

POUSADA DE JUVENTUDE DE HÁC SÁ

Map p330 Hostel \$
☎ 2888 2701; Rua de Hác-Sá Long Chao Kok; dm/d/q Sun-Fri MOP\$40/50/70, Sat MOP\$50/70/100
This circular, grey-tiled building, at the southern end of Hác SÁ Beach, is more modern than the Cheoc Van hostel, though it's sometimes reserved for groups only.

TRANSPORT MACAU TO HONG KONG

Air

Travel to Macau by helicopter is a viable option and is becoming increasingly popular for residents and visitors alike.

Heli Express (☎ 2872 7288, in Hong Kong 2108 9898; www.helicopter.com) runs a 16-minute helicopter shuttle service between Macau and Hong Kong (HK\$1900, tax included) with up to 28 daily flights leaving between 9am and 10.30pm (9.30am to 11pm from Hong Kong). Flights arrive and depart in Macau from the roof of the **ferry terminal** (Map pp316–17; ☎ 790 7240). In Hong Kong departures are from the helipad atop the ferry pier that is linked to the **Shun Tak Centre** (Map p70; ☎ 2859 3359; 200 Connaught Rd Central) in Sheung Wan.

Sea

The vast majority of people make their way from Macau to Hong Kong by ferry. The journey takes just an hour and there are frequent departures throughout the day, with reduced service between midnight and 7am. Two ferry companies operate services to and from Macau, one from Hong Kong Island for the most part and the other usually from Tsim Sha Tsui.

TurboJet (☎ 790 7039, in Hong Kong information 2859 3333, bookings 2921 6688; www.turbojet.com.hk) operates three types of vessels (economy/superclass Monday to Friday HK\$142/\$244, Saturday to Sunday MOP\$154/260, night crossing MOP\$176/275), from the ferry terminal in Macau and the Shun Tak Centre in Hong Kong, which take between 55 and 65 minutes.

New World First Ferry (NWWF; ☎ 2872 7676, in Hong Kong 2131 8181; www.nwwf.com.hk) operates high-

speed catamarans from the Macau ferry terminal every half-hour or so between 7am and 8.30pm. In Hong Kong they leave the **China ferry terminal** (Map p92; Canton Rd, Tsim Sha Tsui) on the half-hour from 7am to 9pm or 10pm. The trip takes 60 to 75 minutes and tickets cost HK\$140/175 on weekdays/nights (ie from 6pm to 9pm or 10pm from Hong Kong and 6.30pm to 8.30pm from Macau), and HK\$155/175 on weekends and public holidays. Deluxe class is HK\$245/275 on weekdays/nights and HK\$260/275 on weekends and public holidays.

Macau is also linked directly to Hong Kong International Airport by the **TurboJet Sea Express** (☎ 2859 3333; www.turbojetseaxpress.com.hk), which leaves at 9.45am, 1pm, 3pm, 4.30pm and 8pm. It costs MOP\$200/155/110 per adult/child/infant and takes 45 minutes.

The new **Macau Express Link** (☎ 2886 1111, in Hong Kong 2859 3401), run by Turbojet and seven airlines operating in Macau, connects Macau International Airport to Hong Kong. Passengers are able to check-in and transit straight through to Macau from Shop G02 at the ferry terminal at Shun Tak Centre. Make sure you arrive at the ferry terminal three hours before flight departure. You'll be given a temporary boarding pass after you check in. When you arrive at the ferry terminal in Macau, you do not need to go through immigration, but instead, proceed to the Express Link waiting room at Berth 2, and a transit bus (four daily from 11am to 6.30pm; from Macau airport, six departures between noon and 8pm) will take you directly to the airport. The fare is the same as the normal Turbojet service.

Tickets can be booked up to 28 days in advance at the ferry terminals, many travel agencies or online. You can also simply buy tickets on the spot, though advance booking is recommended if you travel on weekends or public holidays. There is a standby queue for passengers wanting to travel before their ticketed sailing. You need to arrive at the pier at least 15 minutes before departure, but you should allow 30 minutes because of occasional long queues at immigration.

You are limited to 10kg of carry-on luggage in economy class, but oversized or overweight bags can be checked.

MACAU TO CHINA

Nationals of Australia, Canada, EU, New Zealand and most other countries (but not US citizens) will be able to purchase their

visas at the border with Zhuhai, but it will ultimately save you time if you buy one in advance. These are available in Hong Kong (see p286) or in Macau from **China Travel Service** (CTS; Map pp316–17; ☎ 2870 0888; 207 Avenida do Dr Rodrigo Rodrigues, Nam Kwong Bldg; ☎ 9am–6pm), usually in one day.

Air

Air Macau (NX; Map pp316–17; ☎ 396 5555; www.airmacau.com.mo; Ground fl, Nam Ngan Garden Bldg, 398 Alameda Doutor Carlos d'Assumpção; ☎ 9am–6pm) and/or several carriers of the **China National Aviation Corporation** (CNA; Map p320; ☎ 2878 8034; fax 2878 8036; 5th fl, lat Teng Hou Bldg, Avenida de Dom João IV) group link **Macau International Airport** (Map p328; ☎ 2886 1111; www.mcau-airport.gov.mo) with at least five flights a week to Beijing, Fuzhou, Guilin, Hangzhou, Kunming, Shanghai, Xiamen and Xian. The departure tax for adults is MOP\$80 and for children aged two to 12 MOP\$50.

Heli Express (☎ 2872 7288, in Hong Kong 2108 9898; www.helicopter.com) has a helicopter shuttle linking Macau with Shenzhen five times a day from 9.45am to 7.45pm (11.45am to 8.30pm from Shenzhen) for HK\$1900 (HK\$1900 from Shenzhen). The trip takes 25 minutes.

Land

Macau is an easy gateway by land into China. Simply take bus 3, 5 or 9 to the **border gate** (Portas do Cerco; off Map pp316–17; ☎ 7am–midnight) and walk across. A second – and much less busy crossing – is the **Cotai Frontier Post** (Map p330; ☎ 9am–8pm) on the causeway linking Taipa and Coloane, which allows visitors to cross over the Lotus Flower Bridge by shuttle bus (MOP\$4) to Zhuhai. Buses 15, 21 and 26 will drop you off at the crossing.

If you want to travel further afield in China, buses run by the **Kee Kwan Motor Road Co** (Map p320; ☎ 2893 3888; ☎ 7.15am–9pm) leave the bus station on Rua das Lorchas. Buses for Guangzhou (MOP\$55, 2½ hours) depart about every 15 minutes and for Zhongshan (MOP\$25, one hour) every 20 minutes between 8am and 6.30pm. There are many buses to Guangzhou (MOP\$75) and Dongguan (MOP\$80) from Macau International Airport.

Sea

A daily ferry run by the **Yuet Tung Shipping Co** (☎ 2877 4478) connects Macau with the port of Shekou in Shenzhen. The boat departs from

Macau at 10am, 2pm, 6pm and 8.15pm and takes 1½ hours; they return from Shekou at 8.15am, 11.45am, 3.45pm and 6.30pm. Tickets (adult/child MOP\$114/\$67) can be bought up to three days in advance from the point of departure, which is **pier 14** (Map p320) in the Inner Harbour. A departure tax of MOP\$20 applies.

Sampans and ferries also leave from the same pier for Wanzai (MOP\$12.50) on the mainland, crossing the Inner Harbour. Departures are every half-hour between 8am and 4.15pm, returning a half-hour later.

MACAU TO ASIA

Apart from **AirAsia** (☎ in Hong Kong 3167 2299; www.airasia.com), new budget airline **Viva Macau** (www.flyvivamacau.com) is expected to service destinations including Mumbai, Delhi, Jakarta, Manila and Sydney by the time you read this. The website www.gomacau.com acts as a consolidator. The departure tax for adults is MOP\$130 and for children aged two to 12 MOP\$80.

CAR & MOTORCYCLE

The streets of Macau Peninsula are a gridlock of cars and mopeds that will cut you off at every turn. A Moke (a brightly coloured Jeep-like convertible) can be a convenient way to explore the islands, as can a motorbike.

Hire

Happy Rent A Car (Map pp316–17; ☎ 2872 6868; fax 2872 6888), in room 1025 of the ferry terminal arrivals hall, has four-person Mokes available for hire for MOP\$450 a day. Mokes seating six are available from **Avis Rent A Car** (Map pp316–17; ☎ 2833 6789; www.avis.com.mo; Room 1022, Ground fl, Macau ferry terminal; ☎ 8am–7pm), which also has an office at the Mandarin Oriental hotel car park; they cost MOP\$500/\$600 per day on weekdays/weekends.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Public buses and minibuses run by **TCM** (☎ 2885 0060) and **Transmac** (☎ 2877 1122) operate on 40 routes from 6.45am till shortly after midnight. Fares – MOP\$2.50 on the peninsula, MOP\$3.30 to Taipa Village, MOP\$4 to Coloane Village, MOP\$5 to Hác SÁ Beach – are dropped into a box upon entry; there's no change given.

The **Macau Tourist Map** (p351) has a full list of both bus companies' routes. The two

most useful buses on the peninsula are buses 3 and 3A, which run between the ferry terminal and the city centre, near the post office. Bus 3 continues up to the border crossing with the mainland, as does bus 5, which can be boarded along Avenida Almeida Ribeiro. Bus 12 runs from the ferry terminal, past the Lisboa Hotel and then up to the Lou Lim Ioc Garden and Kun Iam Temple.

The best services to Taipa and Coloane are buses 21, 21A, 25 and 26A. Bus 22 goes to Taipa, terminating at the Macau Jockey Club. Buses to the airport are AP1, 26, MT1 and MT2.

Macau is suffering from a severe shortage of drivers, so you may have to wait at least 20 minutes for a bus. Expect buses to be very crowded. Hopping aboard the free casino shuttles (p340) to some of the sights is a viable alternative. The shuttles depart from both the ferry terminal and Portas do Cerco every 10 minutes between 9.30am and midnight. Originally they were designed to bring Hong Kong and the mainland gamblers to spend money, but in reality nobody checks whether you go gambling or not, and now Macau citizens use them regularly instead of waiting for the never-coming buses.

TAXI

Flag fall is MOP\$10 for the first 1.5km and MOP\$1 for each additional 200m. There is a MOP\$5 surcharge to go to Coloane; travelling between Taipa and Coloane is MOP\$2 extra. Journeys starting from the airport incur an extra charge of MOP\$5. A taxi from the airport to the centre of town should cost about MOP\$40. Large bags cost an extra MOP\$3. For yellow radio taxi call ☎ 2851 9519 or ☎ 2893 9939. Again, flagging a taxi in the downtown area can be as difficult as getting a bus. Good luck.

DIRECTORY

Much of the advice given for Hong Kong applies to Macau as well. If you find any sections missing here, refer to the ones in the Hong Kong Directory chapter (p287).

BOOKS

Macau: The Imaginary City: Culture and Society, 1577 to Present, by Jonathan Porter, provides a vivid account of Macau's history. Novels set in Macau are rare, but Austin

Coates' *City of Broken Promises*, a fictionalised account of 18th-century Macanese trader Martha Merop (p319), is a classic. *Lights and Shadows of a Macao Life: the Journal of Harriett Low, Travelling Spinster*, by Harriett Low Hillard, is an American woman's account of Macau from 1829 to 1834. For short stories, you won't do better than *Visions of China: Stories from Macau*, edited by David Brookshaw, which includes works by writers with strong Macau connections, including Henrique de Senna Fernandes. If you want to learn more about Macau's distinctive hybrid cuisine, try Annabel Jackson's *Taste of Macau: Portuguese Cuisine on the China Coast*.

These books can be found at **Livaria** (Map p320; ☎ 2856 6442; 18-20 Rua de São Domingos; ☎ 11am-7pm Mon-Sat) or **BookaChino** (Map pp316-17; ☎ 2872 3362; 434 Rua Cidade de Santarém; ☎ 11am-8pm).

BUSINESS HOURS

Most government offices are open from 9am to 1pm and 2.30pm to 5.30pm or 5.45pm on weekdays. Banks normally open from 9am to 5pm weekdays and to 1pm on Saturday.

CLIMATE

Macau's climate is similar to Hong Kong's (p288), with one major difference: there is a delightfully cool sea breeze on warm summer evenings along the waterfront.

CUSTOMS

Customs formalities are virtually nonexistent here, but Hong Kong only allows you to import small amounts of duty-free tobacco and alcohol (see p290).

DISCOUNT CARDS

The Macau Museums Pass, a card allowing you entry to Grand Prix Museum, the Macau Wine Museum, the Maritime Museum, Lin Zexu Memorial Hall in Lin Fung Temple, the Macau Museum of Art and the Macau Museum, valid for five days, is available for MOP\$25/12 for adults/concessions, from the MGTO or any participating museum.

EMERGENCY

In the event of any emergency, phone the **central 505 number** (☎ 999) for the fire services, police or an ambulance. Important numbers:

Ambulance (☎ 2837 8311)

Consumer Council (☎ 988 9315)

Fire service (☎ 2857 2222)

Police (☎ 2857 3333)

Tourist Assistance Hotline (☎ 2834 0390) From 9am to 6pm.

HOLIDAYS

In Macau half-days are allowed on the day before the start of Chinese New Year and on the day of New Year's Eve. For holidays celebrated in both Hong Kong and Macau, see p293. The following are public holidays in Macau only.

All Souls' Day 2 November

Feast of the Immaculate Conception 8 December

Macau SAR Establishment Day 20 December

Winter Solstice 22 December

INTERNET ACCESS

In NAPE, you can check your email at the **Unesco Internet Café** (Map pp316-17; ☎ 2872 7066; Alameda Doutor Carlos d'Assumpção; per 30/60min MOP\$5/10; ☎ noon-8pm Wed-Mon), and for free at two terminals in the **MGTO** (Map p320; ☎ 397 1120; ☎ 9am-6pm) at Largo do Senado.

LEFT LUGGAGE

There are electronic lockers on both the arrivals and departure levels of the Macau ferry terminal. They cost MOP\$20 or MOP\$25, depending on the size, for the first two hours and MOP\$25/30 for each additional 12-hour period. There is also a left-luggage office on the departures level that's open from 6.45am to midnight daily. It charges MOP\$10 for the first six hours and another MOP\$10 till midnight. Each additional day costs MOP\$10.

MAPS

The MGTO distributes the excellent (and free) *Macau Tourist Map*, with major tourist sights and streets labelled in English, Portuguese and Chinese characters, small inset maps of Taipa and Coloane, and bus routes marked.

MEDICAL SERVICES

Macau's two hospitals both have 24-hour emergency services.

Conde São Januário Central Hospital (Map pp316-17;

☎ 2831 3731; Estrada do Visconde de São Januário)

Southwest of the Guia Fort.

Kiang Wu Hospital (Map pp316-17; ☎ 2837 1333; Rua de Coelho do Amaral) Northeast of the ruins of the Church of St Paul.

MONEY

Macau's currency is the pataca (MOP\$), which is divided up into 100 avos. Bills are issued in denominations of MOP\$10, MOP\$20, MOP\$50, MOP\$100, MOP\$500 and MOP\$1000. There are little copper coins worth 10, 20 and 50 avos, and silver-coloured MOP\$1, MOP\$2, MOP\$5 and MOP\$10 coins.

The pataca is pegged to the Hong Kong dollar at the rate of MOP\$103.20 to HK\$100. As a result, exchange rates for the pataca are virtually the same as for the Hong Kong dollar, which is accepted everywhere in Macau. When you spend Hong Kong dollars in big hotels, restaurants and department stores, usually your change will be returned in that currency. Try to use up all your patacas before leaving Macau.

Most ATMs allow you to choose between patacas and Hong Kong dollars, and credit cards are readily accepted at Macau's hotels, larger restaurants and casinos. You can also change cash and travellers cheques at the banks lining Avenida da Praia Grande and Avenida de Almeida Ribeiro, as well as at major hotels.

Banco Comercial de Macau (Map p320; ☎ 2879 1000; 572 Avenida da Praia Grande; ☎ 9am-5pm Mon-Fri, 9am-12.30pm Sat)

Banco Nacional Ultramarino (Map p320; ☎ 2835 5111; 22 Avenida de Almeida Ribeiro; ☎ 9am-5.30pm Mon-Fri)

Bank of China (Map p320; ☎ 2878 1828; Avenida do Doutor Mario Soares; ☎ 9am-5pm Mon-Fri)

HSBC (Map p320; ☎ 2855 3669; 639 Avenida da Praia Grande; ☎ 9am-5pm Mon-Fri, 9am-1pm Sat)

POST

Correios de Macau, Macau's postal system, is efficient and inexpensive.

The **main post office** (Map p320; ☎ 2832 3666; 126 Avenida de Almeida Ribeiro; ☎ 9am-6pm Mon-Fri, 9am-1pm Sat) faces Largo do Senado; pick up poste restante from counter 1 or 2. There are other post offices in Macau Peninsula, including a **Macau ferry terminal branch** (Map pp316-17; ☎ 2872 8079; ☎ 10am-7pm Mon-Sat).

Domestic letters cost MOP\$1.5/\$2 for up to 20/50g, while those to Hong Kong

are MOP\$2.50/\$4. For international mail, Macau divides the world into zones: zone 1 (MOP\$4/\$5 for up to 10/20g) is east and Southeast Asia; zone 2 (MOP\$5/\$6.50) is everywhere else except for the mainland (MOP\$3.50/\$4.50) and Portugal (MOP\$4/\$5.50).

EMS Speedpost (☎ 2859 6688) is available at the main post office. Other companies that can arrange express forwarding are **DHL** (☎ 2837 2828), **Federal Express** (☎ 2870 3333) and **UPS** (☎ 2875 1616).

TELEPHONE

Macau's telephone service provider is **Companhia de Telecomunicações de Macau** (CTM; ☎ inquiry hotline 1000; www.ctm.net). Note that from 2007, the initial digits of '28' were added to all six-digit telephone numbers and fax numbers, and '6' was added to mobile phone numbers. But seven-digit telephone numbers remain unchanged.

Local calls are free from private telephones, while at a public payphone they cost MOP\$1 for five minutes. Most hotels will charge you at least MOP\$3. All payphones permit International Direct Dialling (IDD) using a phonenumber available from CTM for between MOP\$50, MOP\$100 and MOP\$200. Rates are cheaper from 9pm to 8am during the week and all day Saturday and Sunday.

The international access code for every country, except Hong Kong, is ☎ 00. If you want to phone Hong Kong, dial ☎ 01 first, then the number you want; you do not need to dial Hong Kong's country code (☎ 852). To call Macau from abroad – including Hong Kong – the country code is ☎ 853.

Convenient CTM branches in Macau include the following:

CTM branch (Map p320; 22 Rua do Doutor Pedro José Lobo; ☎ 10.30am-7.30pm) South of Avenida da Praia Grande.

CTM main office (Map pp316-17; 25 Rua Pedro Coutinho; ☎ 10.30am-7.30pm) Two blocks northeast of the Lou Lim loc Garden.

Useful Numbers

The following is a list of some important telephone numbers. For numbers to call in the case of an emergency, see p350.

International directory assistance (☎ 101)

Local directory assistance (☎ 181)

Macau ferry terminal (☎ 790 7240)

New World First Ferry (☎ 2872 6301)

Tourist Hotline (☎ 2833 3000)

TurboJet (☎ 790 7039)

TOURIST INFORMATION

The **Macau Government Tourist Office** (MGTO; ☎ 2831 5566; www.macautourism.gov.mo) is a well-organised and helpful source of information. It has a half-dozen outlets scattered around town, including ones in the **Largo do Senado** (Map p320; ☎ 397 1120; ☎ 9am-6pm), at the **Guia Lighthouse** (Map pp316-17; ☎ 2856 9808; ☎ 9am-1pm & 2.15-5.30pm), at the **ruins of the Church of St Paul** (Map p320; ☎ 2835 8444; ☎ 10am-6pm) and in the **Macau ferry terminal** (Map pp316-17; ☎ 2872 6416; ☎ 9am-10pm), which dispense information and a large selection of free literature, including pamphlets on everything from Chinese temples and Catholic churches to fortresses, gardens and walks. The MGTO also runs a **tourist assistance unit** (☎ 2834 0390; ☎ 9am-6pm) to help travellers who may have run into trouble.

MGTO also has a **Hong Kong branch** (Map p70; ☎ 2857 2287; 11th Fl, Yue Thai Commercial Bldg, 128 Connaught Rd Central, Sheung Wan, Hong Kong; ☎ 9am-1pm & 2.15-5.30pm).

VISAS

Most travellers, including citizens of the EU, Australia, New Zealand, the USA, Canada and South Africa, can enter Macau with just their passports for between 30 and 90 days.

Travellers who do require them can get visas valid for 30 days on arrival in Macau. They cost MOP\$100/\$50/\$200 for adults/children under 12/families.

You can get a single one-month extension from the **Macau Immigration Department** (Map pp316-17; ☎ 2872 5488; Ground fl, Travessa da Amizade; ☎ 9am-12.30pm & 2.30-5pm Mon-Fri).

WEBSITES

Useful Macau websites:

Cityguide (www.cityguide.gov.mo) Good source of practical information, such as transport routes.

Macau Cultural Institute (www.icm.gov.mo) Macau's cultural offerings month by month.

Macau Government Information (www.macau.gov.mo) The No 1 source for nontourism information about Macau.

Macau Government Tourist Office (www.macautourism.gov.mo) The best source of information for visiting Macau.

Macau Yellow Pages (www.yip.com.mo) Telephone directory – with maps.

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