



**nileGUIDE**

ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



# Business Travel to Hong Kong: Around the corner from the Hong Kong Exhibition Centre.

## Hong Kong, 1 Day

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# Guide Description



**AUTHOR NOTE:** Being stuck in the Hong Kong Business District on a business trip should never confine you to just seeing only the airport and the trade show. Authentic Chinese food is just round the corner and it is not possible to have been to Hong Kong without trying the BBQ goose at Yung Kee or the Char Siu at West Villa Restaurant. Perhaps Japanese at Zuma awaits. Real business takes places over drinks and the perfect watering hole would be Dragon-i or Kee Club or Aqua Spirit situated in Soho. If time does not allow exploring Hong Kong nightlife scene around Lan Kwai Fong then a ride on the Star Ferry is one in a thousand things that a business traveler must do in order to have fully experienced Victoria Harbour.

# Itinerary Overview

things to do  
restaurants  
hotels  
nightlife

## Day 1 - Hong Kong

**DAY NOTE:** Hong Kong hosts the most trade shows in the entire Asia Pacific and the Hong Kong convention and exhibition centre in Wan Chai is right in the central point of Victoria Harbour so that if you wanted to take the Star Ferry to experience the million dollar skyline, you also would not want to miss out dining at Yung Kee or Fook Lam Moon.



### Keel Club

Hip and happening club in LKF



### Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre

Largest tradeshow are held here every year



### Bank of China Tower

Hong Kong's signature postcard landmark



### Star Ferry

A 2 dollar ride for a billion dollar view



### Victoria Harbour

Stunning skyline views and Hong Kong's harbour



### Fook Lam Moon



### Yung Kee

Cantonese Dining and Famous Roast Goose



### Lan Kwai Fong

What Hong Kong nightlife means



### SoHo

Trendy neighbourhood with huge expat population



### West Villa Restaurant

BBQ pork and stir fry dishes worthy of a Michelin Award



### Zuma

Japanese fusion High Tea in the most prestigious Landmark.



### Dragon-i

Hip n' Happening in Hong Kong



### Aqua Spirit

Prime panoramic views of skyline

# Day 1 - Hong Kong

## QUICK NOTE

**DAY NOTE:** Hong Kong hosts the most trade shows in the entire Asia Pacific and the Hong Kong convention and exhibition centre in Wan Chai is right in the central point of Victoria Harbour so that if you wanted to take the Star Ferry to experience the million dollar skyline, you also would not want to miss out dining at Yung Kee or Fook Lam Moon.

**contact:**

tel: +852 2582 8888  
fax: +852 2802 7284  
<http://www.hkcec.com.hk/>

**location:**

1 Expo Drive  
Hong Kong

## 1 Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre

**DESCRIPTION:** The most important exhibition and convention venue in the territory, the Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre was the site of the 1997 handover ceremony of Hong Kong from the United Kingdom to the People's Republic of China. The new wing of the centre has a bird-influenced design, giving the impression that the building is about to take flight. Its harbour-facing glass curtain wall is the largest in the world and the promenade surrounding the new wing offers impeccable views over © wcities.com



wcities

**contact:**

tel: +852 2826 6888  
[http://www.bochk.com/web/common/multi\\_section.xml](http://www.bochk.com/web/common/multi_section.xml)

**location:**

1 Garden Road  
Hong Kong

## 2 Bank of China Tower

**DESCRIPTION:** The most elegant symbolic skyscraper in your mind along Hong Kong's waterfront. Built by American Chinese architect IM Pei and completed in 1989 around the time of the joint declaration. The 74 storey Bank of China's feng shui was reputed to be bad news - well not for the bank itself but for all the buildings around it. Its sharp corners, built in four triangular glass and steel shafts with an oriental flavour of the spikes on the roof, supposedly radiates bad vibes. Nevertheless, there is no observation deck on the 73/F so instead the highest that you will be able to go to is the 64/F where the majority tourists take photos of the stunning harbour views. © NileGuide



wcities

**contact:**

tel: +852 2367 7065  
fax: +852 2118 6028  
<http://www.starferry.com.hk>

**location:**

Star Ferry Pier, Edinburgh Place  
Hong Kong

## 3 Star Ferry

**DESCRIPTION:** One of the National Geographic Traveler "fifty places of a lifetime" – crossing the Victoria Harbour in Star Ferry. The Star Ferry has preserved its original looks, feel and smell since the 1960s era when Star Ferries were the main form of transport for Hong Kongers to cross the harbor between Hong Kong Island and Kowloon. What is meant by a Star Ferry trip is the main line from Tsim Sha Tsui to Central. Gaze up at Hong Kong's majestic skyline, which is an erratic stretch of skyscrapers, hotels and apartment blocks. The nighttime views, when Hong Kong glitters like a diamond, are a dramatic Red Neon lights and Golden glitter reflected against the lapping waters. As the cheapest therapy in town, few people disembark in anything but the lightest of moods. © NileGuide



wcities

**contact:**

tel: +852 2807 6543  
fax: +852 2806 0303 (Hong Kong Tourist Association)  
[http://www.discoverhongkong.com/eng/touring/harbour/ta\\_harb\\_138486.jhtml](http://www.discoverhongkong.com/eng/touring/harbour/ta_harb_138486.jhtml)

**location:**

Victoria Harbour  
Hong Kong

**4 Victoria Harbour**

**DESCRIPTION:** One of Hong Kong's star attractions and one of the deepest container ports in the world, the harbor is shielded on both sides by stunning skylines—skyscrapers and Victoria Peak on one side, and the Tsim Sha Tsui shoreline on the other. Everyday, hundreds of ferries, tugs, junks, speed boats, and barges chug up and down the shore, carrying people and cargo, only pausing for typhoons. Best viewed from the famous Star Ferry, or the Harbour Cruises. © wcities.com



wcities

**contact:**

tel: 852/2366 0286  
<http://www.fooklammoon-grp.com>

**location:**

53-59 Kimberley Rd  
Hong Kong

**hours:**

Daily 11:30am-2:30pm, for dim sum

**5 Fook Lam Moon**

**DESCRIPTION:** This is a Hong Kong old-timer, with an atmosphere reminiscent of an earlier era except without trolleys. The English menu is limited, listing only the restaurant's top choices, including the highest-priced item -- steamed shark's fin dumpling with superior soup. A branch at 35-45 Johnston Rd., Wan Chai (tel. **852/2866 0663**), is open the same hours with the same menu. © Frommer's



Photo courtesy of Fook Lam Moon

**contact:**

tel: 852 2522 1624  
fax: 852 2840 0888  
<http://www.yungkee.com.hk/>

**location:**

40 Wellington Street  
Hong Kong

**hours:**

Mo to Su from 11:00 AM to 11:30 PM

**6 Yung Kee**

**DESCRIPTION:** Popular for decades, Yung Kee started out in 1942 as a small shop selling roast goose, which did so well that it soon expanded into a very successful Cantonese enterprise. Through the years, it has won numerous food awards and is the only restaurant in Hong Kong ever to be included in Fortune magazine's top 15 restaurants of the world (although, it must be added, the award was back in 1968). Its specialty is still roast goose with plum sauce, cooked to perfection with tender meat on the inside and crispy skin on the outside; a half bird, enough for five or six people, costs HK\$210 (US\$27/£14), while a smaller portion for two people costs HK\$120 (US\$16/£7.80; note that goose is pulled from the menu any time there's an avian flu scare). Other specialties include thousand-year-old eggs and any of the fresh seafood, like braised garoupa tail. Dining is on one of the upper three floors, but if all you want is a bowl of congee or takeout, join the office workers who pour in for a quick meal on the informal ground floor. © Frommer's



Photo courtesy of Yung Kee

**contact:**

tel: +852 2508 1234  
http://www.lankwaifong.com/

**location:**

D'Aguilar Street  
Hong Kong

**7 Lan Kwai Fong**

**DESCRIPTION:** Lan Kwai Fong was once an "expat hangout", but locals have gradually joined in the party fun. Centered around an L-shaped cobblestone lane just above the Central business area, Lan Kwai Fong houses some of the trendiest pubs and entertainment hangouts in town. Every year, during Christmas, New Year's and Halloween, people dress up and parade through the streets. But, whatever the time of year, Lan Kwai Fong is definitely a fun place to see and to be seen. © wcities.com



Lan Kwai Fong

**contact:**

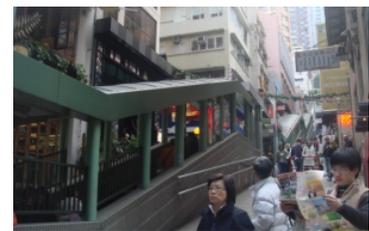
tel: +852 2807 6543  
http://www.hkta.org/

**location:**

Shelley, Staunton and Elgin Streets  
Hong Kong

**8 SoHo**

**DESCRIPTION:** This is Hong Kong's SoHo (South of Hollywood Road), a small area that has emerged as a great place for fine wining and dining in the last few years. The numerous upmarket eateries in the area, especially along Shelley, Staunton and Elgin Streets, offer a myriad of different international cuisines including French, Nepalese, Italian, Mexican, Portuguese and Indian, to name but a few. There is bound to be something for everyone!



wcities

**contact:**

tel: 852 2882 2110

**location:**

Room 101-102, 1/F., Lee Garden Phase 2, 28 Yan Ping Road  
Hong Kong

**West Villa Restaurant**

**DESCRIPTION:** Old Shanghai décor at West Villa welcomes you as you arrive at Lee Gardens in Causeway Bay, this restaurant has always been a canteen for local celebrities and amazing BBQ pork should be ordered as the pork is crispy on the outside whilst moist and juicy on the inside. Other than luxury dishes such as crabs roe bird nest, abalone and cantonese stir fries West Villa prepares excellent almond pastry buns that are best eaten hot out of the oven. Feast like celebrity at West Villa. © NileGuide

**hours:**

Daily 11:00a-11:30p

**contact:**

tel: 852 3657 6388  
fax: 852 3657 6399  
http://www.zumarestaurant.com/

**location:**

5/F, The Landmark, 16 Des Voeux Road Central  
Hong Kong

**9 Zuma**

**DESCRIPTION:** A Sunday favourite, this Japanese Sunday brunch includes starters and a choice of main with unlimited champagne or sake (lethal) and a dessert platter to share at the end of the meal. Meeting an old friend in Hong Kong and catching up is what ladies do on a Sunday afternoon brunch, Zuma has great sake to wash down all the five different kinds of fish, softshell crab sushi and tofu. The service is impeccable and the waiters speak fluent English. Grilled veggie skewers and the homemade desserts are a real treat. © NileGuide



Photo courtesy of Zuma

**hours:**

Lunch: M-Sa 12:00p-3p,  
Dinner: M-Sa 6:00p-11p

**contact:**  
tel: 852/3110 1222  
fax: +852 3110 1223  
www.dragon-i.com.hk

**location:**  
60 Wyndham St  
Hong Kong

**hours:**  
Mo to Su from 12:00 PM  
to 03:00 PM, Mo to Su from  
06:00 PM to 11:00 PM

## A Dragon-i

**DESCRIPTION:** This is one of Hong Kong's most talked-about bars; the fact that it lures models with promises of free drinks is obviously good for business, since it also brings in those who like to ogle models. Its interior is bathed in red from the glow of lanterns, while the outdoor patio, decorated with huge birdcages filled with live birds, provides some relief from the crowds, especially when things start hopping from 11:30pm when a DJ stirs action on the dance floor. The bar's other incarnation is as a venue for lunch or dinner (its all-you-can-eat lunch for HK\$148/US\$19/£9.60, served Mon-Sat from noon-2:30pm and Sun 11am-4pm, includes dim sum and Japanese fare); happy hour is from 3 to 9pm. Located on a hill above Lan Kwai Fong and open all day, it closes Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday at 3am and Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday at 5am, but you'll never get in on Wednesday, Friday, or Saturday unless you're a dead ringer for Uma Thurman. © Frommer's



wcities

**contact:**  
tel: 852/3427 2288  
http://www.aqua.com.hk

**location:**  
1 Peking Rd  
Hong Kong

**hours:**  
Lunch: Daily noon-3:30p;  
Dinner: Daily 6p-12:30a;  
Late Night Supper: Th-  
Sa 10:30p-1a; Brunch: Su  
noon-4p; Aqua Spirit: 5p-next  
morning

## B Aqua Spirit

**DESCRIPTION:** This glam venue is one of Hong Kong's hottest bars, due in no small part to its unbeatable location on the 30th floor of a Tsim Sha Tsui high-rise, where slanted, soaring windows give an incredible bird's-eye view of the city. Circular booths shrouded behind strung beads, designer drinks, and a voyeur's dream location on an open mezzanine overlooking diners at the 29th-floor Aqua, which serves passable Italian and Japanese fare, make this one of Kowloon's most talked-about venues. Note the minimum drink charge of HK\$150 (US \$19/£9.75), but since drinks are pricey, you won't have trouble meeting your quota. Entrance to both Aqua and Aqua Spirit is on the 29th floor. The bar is open Sunday through Thursday from 5pm to 2am, and Friday and Saturday from 5pm to 3am. © Frommer's



**contact:**  
tel: 852 2810 9000  
fax: 852 2868 0036  
http://www.keeclub.com/

**location:**  
6/F, 32 Wellington Street  
Hong Kong

**hours:**  
Mo to Sa from 12:00 PM  
to 02:30 PM, Mo to Sa from  
07:00 PM to 11:00 PM

## C Kee Club

**DESCRIPTION:** The Kee Club invites you to unlimited drinking in a fun-filled atmosphere. Shake a leg to the fast track music played by resident DJ Vinnie and sip on your kind of drink – wine, brandy, scotch, cognac or beer. Antique paintings, small statues and mirrored walls constitute the interiors. The club also recently launched its own magazine, the Kee Magazine, which provides details on the various drinks and dishes on offer. Although Kee has a dinner menu, guests generally visit this place to chill out with a couple of drinks and some dance. Regulars are also treated to some discount by the club authorities. © wcities.com

# Hong Kong Snapshot

## Local Info

Cosmopolitan, international and a vivid city of the future, boasting an astonishing blend of beautiful mountain parks and vibrant modern architecture. Crowded, chaotic, but always charismatic, Hong Kong remains the gateway to China, and remains renowned as the 'Pearl of the Orient'.

Which country is Hong Kong in? Is Hong Kong part of China?

The handover of Hong Kong took place in 1997 and since then Hong Kong has been a Special Administrative Region belonging to China but its colonial roots and British influence on all walks of life can still be seen easily. Under the 'One country two systems' slogan, Hong Kongers have gotten used to the laissez faire attitude of the Hong Kong Government in juxtaposition to China. As one of the freest economies in the world, nearly seven million people are crammed and make a living from the mere 1,100 square kilometres that make up the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR). Hong Kong is second to Tokyo in terms of population density. The pace of life is quick and Hong Kong is renowned for its efficiency and rush hour traffic.

What does Hong Kong mean?

The official language in Hong Kong is Cantonese rather than Mandarin but English is commonly spoken as well. In Cantonese, which is a different dialect from Mandarin, 'Hong Kong' mirrors the Cantonese pronunciation 'Heung Gong' meaning fragrant harbour. The name stems from the fact that Hong Kong's harbour used to be a humid sleepy fishing village with plenty of boats parked around the harbour.

The skyline of Hong Kong is one of the most awe inspiring and panoramic in the world. Some of Hong Kong's favourite skyscrapers include but are not limited to the HSBC building, Bank of China Tower, IFC and Central Plaza complimented by numerous high rise residential apartments. Not just a city of skyscrapers, there is also lush countryside in Sai Kung, Tai Mo Shan and small rural communities in Peng Chau, Cheung Chau as well as Lamma Island.

© NileGuide

## Restaurants Insights

Hong Kong is dubbed as a culinary heaven not for no good reason, the food is a paradise, tantalizingly diverse and innovative. From sophisticated fine dining in Eastern, Western, Fusion as well as international buffets to street food outlets serving local delicacies, there is something for everyone and every budget and food is available everywhere you go at every corner and at all hours. If you want to spring for a dream meal you can do that too. The vast majority of Hong Kong's 10,000 odd restaurants serve Cantonese food, of course. Cantonese is by far the most popular Chinese cuisine in Hong Kong, but Chiu Chow, Shanghainese, Sichuanese and Northern are also widely available. Because of Hong Kong's close proximity to China, Hong Kong Restaurants are incredibly blessed with an army of incredible and artistic culinary Chinese chefs who pride themselves in their innovative and artistic culinary skills, serving up signature dishes from around China.

For a real dining experience in Hong Kong, eating out in the street cafes and stalls is a must. At these informal outlets, and Temple street night market is especially worth a mention where you can experience local dai pai dong food in the surrounding streets. Famous throughout Hong Kong and beyond, the 'greasy goose' restaurants at Yue Kee Sham Tseng have been popular for many years. The famous Sham Tseng Roast goose is specially air dried for some hours after initial basting with honey, oil and spices. This process, apparently, helps to crisp the skin and makes the flesh moist and tender. Sham Tseng siu ngor (roast goose) is renowned all over Hong Kong and weekend evenings are especially popular times to visit Sham Tseng, and the goose restaurants are one of those perennial local favourites that too many visitors to Hong Kong never see or experience. Well worth trying!

One of Tsim Sha Tsui's most popular venues for late night tong shui (Chinese sweet soups), Honeymoon Dessert has been around for years and packs in the crowds, especially on weekends when

he queue for a table can easily stretch out into the street. Yet another popular one is Tong Pak Fu Like many culinary phenomena that newcomers either love or loathe, Chinese tong shui must be tried at least a few times before a firm like it or not decision can be reached.

In fact, all the flavours of the world are showcased here. Japanese food is the most popular Asian food after Chinese, and a plethora of Japanese restaurants with famous international brand names such as Nobu and Zuma have opened their doors here to the well heeled crowds. In contrast, there are inexpensive Japanese cafes and small outlets like Yoshinoya and Genryoku Sushi serving an array of Japanese street food Japanese style.

Authentic Thai tastes can be surprisingly difficult to find, and many enthusiasts find a culinary pilgrimage to Orchid Thai Food every so often is well worth the journey. It is unsurprisingly most patronized by expat Thais and those Hong Kong Chinese who appreciate the authenticity on offer here.

If you are having a bad noodle day, don't despair: you've in fact come to the right place- Hong Kong is where East eats West and you'll find bangers and mash at the Stag's Head, lasagne at Fat Angelo's as well as Curry Chicken at Gaylord's before you can say 'beef congee'. Central is the best pick for Western Restaurants, especially Soho, though you'll find a fair few offering alfresco dining in Tsim Sha Tsui's Knutsford Terrace.

© NileGuide

## Nightlife Insights

Soho is the place to be for the lively atmosphere of Hong Kong nightlife. Chic restaurants, upbeat bars and cafes, make a beeline for South of Hollywood Road, or Soho for short. The area consists of Stanton's Wine bar and Cafe, Drop, Prive as well as the Fringe Club.

While Soho has its appeal to a younger expat crowd by day and night, Lan Kwai Fong by D'Arguilar Street in Central is the place to be when the lights are low and you are in the party mood. The place is buzzing with clubs, funky bars, pubs and restaurants that swell up with crowds of merrymakers and drinkers partying till the

## Hong Kong Snapshot continued

crack of dawn. It is party central for the 'in crowds and night owls'.

Although Wanchai had a reputation during the Vietnam War as an anything goes red light district, today it's mainly a centre for shopping, business and more upmarket entertainment. If you want to see how far Wanchai has come, check out Klong Bar, Ang grill and La Bamba. Royal Arms retains some of its old character with hostess bars along Lockhart Road, and part upbeat fun with lots of zippy club action and late night cover band venues at the western ends of Jaffe and Lockhart Road.

Yau Ma Tei is well known for all manner of cheap and cheerful items, from inexpensive clothing to copy watches to plastic toys and gadgets. Temple Street is still a lot of fun to wander around if you want to see the local Hong Kong nightlife and is as popular with locals out for a low cost nightlife in Kowloon as tourists. To the right of Temple Street are complexes which house a plethora of English speaking, tourist friendly fortune tellers. The temple has a curious arrangement whereby the individual worshiper draws the lost but not the slip of paper explaining what the lot means. This is where fortune tellers come in to give you a vague interpretation.

© NileGuide

### Things to Do Insights

Hong Kong culture:

What to do in Hong Kong?

All right, so you have settled into your hotel, you have ordered room service, you are all set for your big meeting tomorrow and you are bored. What to do? Never fear, the answer is here! Movies, dance, music, museums or horse racing, one thing is for sure: Hong Kong will not disappoint.

Hong Kong traditions:

**Cantonese Opera: Shriill Pleasure** In a style that critics describe as "the sound of cats mating to music," the proud tradition of Cantonese Opera is alive and well in Hong Kong. Actually, learning a little about this art form beforehand, and getting a synopsis of the plot, can make watching Cantonese Opera very rewarding. The costumes and stylised gestures, along with the often acrobatic dancing and high-pitched

singing, make for a unique entertainment experience.

There are several varieties of Chinese Opera, but the Cantonese style tends to have the most outstanding physical choreography. The form is now taught in a special program at the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, and performances can be seen at many venues around town. Civic Theatres such as the Shatin Town Hall, or the North District Town Hall will happily provide more information. In addition, there is often a major opera company performing at the annual Hong Kong Arts Festival in February and March.

**Canto Pop: What It Is, and How to Avoid It** Canto Pop is the term used to describe Hong Kong's particular brand of pop music. Think Celine Dion meets Karaoke. Sugary, and generally composed of bland tunes that rip off mid-70s hits by the Eagles, it is definitely an acquired taste! However, if a good, clean melodic puppy-love tune is the order of the day, then Canto Pop is the answer.

The best way to hear Canto Pop is to ride the local buses, on which loudspeakers pipe in local radio broadcasts. For anyone hankering after a live performance, there are the occasional concerts at the Hong Kong Coliseum or the Queen Elizabeth Stadium by huge stars like Faye Wong, Andy Lau or Leon Lai.

**Dance: Something for Everyone** Most of the city's arts festivals feature dance as a major component. Whether it be ballet, modern dance or the traditional Chinese Lion Dance, there is usually lots of movement to be found at venues such as the Hong Kong Arts Centre, Shatin Town Hall, Kwai Tsing Theatre, and Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts.

The Hong Kong Ballet performs strong renditions of classical ballets, while the City Contemporary Dance Company creates modern, innovative pieces. The colourful Lion Dance is usually performed at the opening of new businesses, at weddings or at other events where the organizers want to ward off evil spirits. Chinese New Year is a great time to see a lion dance on the street or near a temple.

**Theatre: What a Buzz** Aside from the many major international touring productions that stop off in Hong Kong, there is lots going on in the local theatre

scene, both in Cantonese and English. The Fringe Club is the hub of theatre activity in town. It also puts on the annual City Festival, a multi-disciplinary festival that features a blend of up-and-coming theatre artists with more well-known performers. In addition, the Kwai Tsing Theatre lines up a challenging season of new commissioned works as well as classics.

**Movies: Everybody was Kung-fu Fighting** Most people think Hong Kong cinema is all about violence and martial arts and they are right, for the most part. Heroes such as Bruce Lee and Jackie Chan have spawned a whole slew of violent martial arts films with overblown tragic plots and fast action.

Aside from seeing the latest films, sitting in a big, comfy, air-conditioned theatre, such as the AMC Festival Walk, can also be a great way to escape the heat of summer.

As well as all the usual cinematic offerings, there is a strong indie film scene, mainly featured at the Hong Kong International Film Festival, while art house and foreign films can be found at venues such as the Goethe-Institut (mainly German films) and the Broadway Cinemateque.

**Museums and Galleries: So Much to Do, So Little Time** From the scientific rigours of the Space Museum to the modern art installations in the galleries at the Fringe Club, from the informative and unique Law Uk Folk Museum to the bizarre (and definitely worth a visit) Police Museum, there is no shortage of cultural venues in Hong Kong. Of course, there is also the Hong Kong Cultural Centre, and the fantastic Marine Land at Ocean Park, and a quick stroll through Central will reveal many intriguing little antique stores and galleries, so take your pick! Those who dismissively suggest that modern Hong Kong gives no attention to its own past should visit the Hong Kong History Museum. The Hong Kong Story is justifiably one of the museum's most popular permanent exhibits, and remains one of the best ways to gain a broad overview of Hong Kong's past. Well-curated thematic galleries take the visitor through various stages of Hong Kong's development.

**Horse Races** To experience the complete insanity of a crowd in Hong Kong, a visit to one of the city's horse-racing tracks—the Happy Valley Racecourse or the Shatin Racecourse—is a must. Intense gambling

## Hong Kong Snapshot continued

and socializing mixed with the excitement of first-rate horse racing; who knows who will be the winner. No group of people enjoys a flutter as much as Hong Kong, and horse racing worth more than \$1 billion annually, remains the most popular form of gambling in Hong Kong. Be prepared for a lot of noise at the races. If you are in Hong Kong for less than 21 days and are over 18 years old, it's best to buy a tourist ticket, which allows you to jump the queue, sit in the members enclosure and walk around next to the finish area.

**Essential Booking Information** Cityline:  
(+852) 2314 4228 URBTIX:(+852) 2734  
9009 Hong Kong Tourist Association:(+852)  
2508 1234  
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### Travel Tips

#### Getting There:

##### By Air:

Hong Kong International Airport has, since its inception, been awarded the World's best airport year after year and the Hong Kong Chek Lap Kok airport second to Chicago's O'Hare airport in terms of passenger traffic and the amount of cargo it handles. Offering 14 hour service on numerous airlines to destinations around the globe. Because of Hong Kong's geographical location as the gateway to China, plenty choose to stopover in Hong Kong and spend a few days touring the city when transferring flights.

There are a number of transit services that provide transportation from Hong Kong International Airport to destinations in and around urban Hong Kong. From the airport, there are MTR Airport Express trains(+852 2881 8888/<http://www.mtr.com.hk/prehome/index.html>), as well as a number of Cityflyer buses that are bound to cover the location that you want to get to. Limousines are definitely abundant and of course taxis will get you to the city in less than an hour.

##### Hong Kong MTR:

The MTR train comes every 2 minutes so there is no such thing as missing the train in Hong Kong. Getting around Hong Kong and visiting any point of interest couldn't be easier with the quick, clean and efficient MTR. Burgeoning demand has led to the steady increase of MTR lines and currently the MTR consists of ten lines. The three major lines are the blue Island line, the

red Tsuen Wan line and the green Kwun Tong line. Rail service to and from the New Territories is provided by East Rail as well as the Ma On Shan line, West rail and the Light Rail Transit System.

##### Taxis:

Red taxis serve urban Hong Kong Island and Kowloon, while the New Territories ones are green and the Lantau taxis are only allowed to travel on Lantau Island and nowhere else. Taxi flags start at HKD 18 and crossing there are cross harbour tolls.

##### By Bus:

Double decker buses that are found throughout London are ubiquitous in Hong Kong. Hong Kong bus service is reliable and so interconnected that it is impossible to find a place that isn't serviced by a bus or mini bus of some kind. Single as well as double decker buses are operated by KMB(Kowloon Motor Bus), New World First Bus, and Citybus. The quickest if not the best way to see which bus you want to take by asking anyone waiting at the bus stop and they will be sure to point you to the right bus.

##### By Mini bus:

Green mini buses cover Hong Kong, Kowloon and the New Territories and are by far one of the most local Hong Kong ways of getting to places. Hong Kong is all about speed and when people find that buses take too long or stop too frequently along the line, there will then be a minibus route that most people want to get to but are not patient enough to wait for the bus. It is the unspoken and unwritten rule that when you want to get off the mini buses you must yell out to the driver that you want to get off before the stop.

Red Mini buses are a lot more flexible in their routes and the driver is free to choose and operate 24 hours, they also cover both Hong Kong Island, Kowloon and the New Territories.

##### By Ferry:

The Star Ferry used to be the only form of transport if you wanted to travel between the Kowloon Peninsula and Hong Kong Island but not its role is slowly reduced to a popular sightseeing trip for families and tourists alike. Named one of the fifty things to do in a lifetime by the National Geographic Magazine, the Star Ferry takes you to and from Tsim Sha Tsui to Wanchai

and Central and vice versa. There are also Hung Hom to Central and Hung Hom to Wanchai routes which serve locals as well as tourists. The two most frequented lines are the Tsim Sha Tsui to Central and Tsim Sha Tsui to Wanchai ferry lines. Star Ferry tours of the harbour are also recommended.

##### Getting Around:

An Octopus card is all that you need, a stored value ticket which is found in every single Hong Konger's wallet. With its growing functionality as instant cash at various supermarkets and convenience stores, it primarily enables you to save the hassle of rummaging for exact change and waiting for the person in front of you to get their change as you board all transport. Octopus cards can be used on all forms of public transport in Hong Kong and the one and only exception is taxis.

Second only to Tokyo in terms of interconnectness, the Hong Kong transportation system is a marvel for it allows over seven million people to get to places in under an hour's time in orderly fashion. The MTR is the easiest way of getting around Hong Kong and a map of the Hong Kong rail system is all you need. Otherwise buses and mini buses are the perfect way to accessing areas that are not covered by the MTR and there are always taxis.

© NileGuide

### Fun Facts

1. Fun Fact: The household size has decreased from 4.3 to 3 over the past three decades.
2. Interesting Fact: To many Hong Kong people, their dreams are to own a home.
3. Public transport fun fact: 7 in 10 people take buses and 35% take taxis every week.
4. Fun fact about travel: the number of people taking an air trip outside Hong Kong has leapfrogged 7 times in 30 years from 4% in 1975 to 30% in 2009.
5. Random Fact about shopping: Jusco and Sogo are among the top 3 department stores visited.
6. True fact or False fact? Hong Konger's personal income increased 16 times in 30 years.

## Hong Kong Snapshot continued

7. Interesting fact: Cha Charn Teng (Hong Kong styled cafe) unique in Hong Kong are visited by half of people in Hong Kong on a weekly basis.

8. Another Interesting fact about Hong Kong dining habits: More and more people frequently visit fast food restaurants,

outpacing their visits to other types of restaurant.

9. Weird fact: The first McDonalds offered customers the very first American Big Mac in Hong Kong was located at Paterson Street, Causeway Bay in 1975.

10. Fun fact: The world's longest outdoor covered escalator system leading from Central to the Mid-Levels was up and running in 1993.

11. Interesting fact: The Big Buddha on Lantau Island, the world's tallest outdoor seated bronze statue was unveiled in 1993.

12. Random Fact: Hong Kongers are renowned for being hard working, fast, flexible and energetic. Hong Kongers have among the world's highest cinema attendance per capita.

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