



nileGUIDE

ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



Hong Kong Hiking and early morning bird watching

Hong Kong, 3 Days

Table of contents:

Guide Description 2

Itinerary Overview 3

Daily Itineraries 4

Hong Kong Snapshot 8

Guide Description



AUTHOR NOTE: As you see the different side of Hong Kong whether it be the country parks of Sai Kung, early morning bird watching in Kowloon park or the off the beaten path fruit wholesale markets in Yau Ma Tei, Hong Kong is a city that makes the most out of 24 hours. Different sides of Hong Kong quietly but efficiently bustle their way through the dawn hours. Good Morning Hong Kong!

Itinerary Overview

things to do
restaurants
hotels
nightlife

Day 1 - Hong Kong

DAY NOTE: Good Morning Hong Kong, discover and capture the sunrise over Hong Kong. Its no easy job, sunrise is just that one moment and its worthwhile to camp at Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park, to get the best views from Sai Kung as you barely open your eyes crawling out out your tent and wait in quiet anticipation for the sunrise



Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park

Marine conservation site



Sai Kung

Best holiday getaway in less than 30 minutes

Kong Park. Can't make it on Wednesday? Tours are given from 7:30-9:30am every Friday at Kowloon Park.



Kowloon Park

Tsim Sha Tsui's green oasis



Hong Kong Park

An Oasis in the Concrete Jungle



Hong Kong Zoological and Botanical Gardens

Marvel at the broad range of flora Hong Kong has

Day 2 - Hong Kong

DAY NOTE: Hong Kong consumes a shocking amount of fruits, in fact one of the biggest fruit importers in the world. Whether it be by land, sea, or by air all the world's fruits are transported to the Yau Ma Tei fruit wholesale market. Established in 1931, the wholesale market still retains the pre-war facade of red brick walls hanging with ivy. The busiest hours are 2-6am when the entire market lights up with orange tinted lightbulbs , a considerable amount of yelling and it is a frenzy of topless wholesale market workers moving and stacking crates and crates of fresh fruits. The fruit wholesale market not only retains its original appearance but each wholesaler has a special bargaining tool, the chinese ancient equivalent of a palm abacus to keep the price a secret. As competition is fierce it is only a matter of time before these half century old markets gradually lose their place in Hong Kong.



Yaumatei Tin Hau Temple

Temple used to be by the seaside



Yau Ma Tei

Experience traditional life in Hong Kong

Day 3 - Hong Kong

DAY NOTE: Hong Kong seems to the oddest place to go bird watching but urban birds choose to settle in the only green oasis in a concrete jungle - Kowloon Park and Hong Kong Zoological and Botanical Gardens. Want to learn more of Asian birds? The Hong Kong Bird Watching society and the Hong Kong leisure and sports district offices free open to public bird watching tours. Tours are offered every Wednesday from 8-10am at Hong

Day 1 - Hong Kong

QUICK NOTE

DAY NOTE: Good Morning Hong Kong, discover and capture the sunrise over Hong Kong. Its no easy job, sunrise is just that one moment and its worthwhile to camp at Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park, to get the best views from Sai Kung as you barely open your eyes crawling out out your tent and wait in quiet anticipation for the sunrise

contact:

tel: +852 2792 7365
http://parks.afcd.gov.hk/newmarine/eng/Oparks_info/p2.htm

location:

Hoi Ha Wan
Hong Kong

1 Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park

DESCRIPTION: The Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park is on the north coast of the Sai Kung peninsula, and is located in a sheltered bay less affected by pollution than most of Hong Kong's waters. It therefore has a nice crop of corals and a decent showing of fish. Fishing is prohibited, but non-destructive activities like snorkelling or underwater photography are allowed. The beach is secluded and relaxing. To get there, the easiest thing is to take a taxi from Sai Kung. Remember to arrange a time for the driver to return and pick you up. © wcities.com

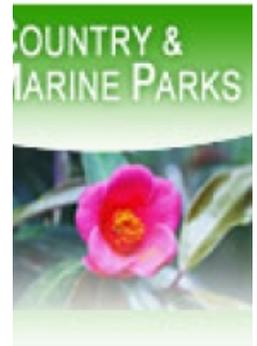


Photo courtesy of Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park

contact:

tel: +852 2508 1234
http://www.discoverhongkong.com/eng/touring/kung/ta_kung_138590.jhtml

location:

Sai Kung
Hong Kong New Territories

2 Sai Kung

DESCRIPTION: Sai Kung is located on the east side of the New Territories and is a popular destination for fishing, swimming, picnicking, hiking, camping and boating. Visitors can hire Sampans (small taxi-boats) for leisurely harbour trips or stroll around Sai Kung's town centre, which hosts a fresh-fish market displaying various kinds of seafood in big tanks. Customers can pick whatever fish they fancy, take it to a nearby restaurant of their choice and request the fish to be cooked in a certain way. After that, it is just a case of relaxing until the sumptuous seafood feast is served! © wcities.com



wcities

Day 2 - Hong Kong

QUICK NOTE

DAY NOTE: Hong Kong consumes a shocking amount of fruits, in fact one of the biggest fruit importers in the world. Whether it be by land, sea, or by air all the world's fruits are transported to the Yau Ma Tei fruit wholesale market. Established in 1931, the wholesale market still retains the pre-war facade of red brick walls hanging with ivy. The busiest hours are 2-6am when the entire market lights up with orange tinted lightbulbs, a considerable amount of yelling and it is a frenzy of topless wholesale market workers moving and stacking crates and crates of fresh fruits. The fruit wholesale market not only retains its original appearance but each wholesaler has a special bargaining tool, the Chinese ancient equivalent of a palm abacus to keep the price a secret. As competition is fierce it is only a matter of time before these half century old markets gradually lose their place in Hong Kong.

contact:

tel: +852 2508 1234

http://www.discoverhongkong.com/eng/touring/hkwalks/ta_walk_walk2.jhtml

location:

Yaumatei
Hong Kong

1 Yaumatei Tin Hau Temple

DESCRIPTION: This traditional Tin Hau Temple is one of the most popular sites for the filming of Hong Kong gangster movies. Located just a block north of the Jade Market, it is yet another one of the many temples in Hong Kong dedicated to the Goddess of the Sea. The public square of this temple complex is a favourite place for Chinese chess players and acts as the communal heart of Yaumatei. In front of the main temple, there is a row of fortune-tellers, who are only too keen to help temple visitors see into the future. © wcities.com



wcities

contact:

tel: +852 2508 1234

<http://www.hong-kong-travel.org/YauMaTei.asp>

location:

Lower Kowloon Peninsula
Hong Kong

hours:

8a-6p (Visitor hotline hours)

2 Yau Ma Tei

DESCRIPTION: Yaumatei is one of the liveliest districts in Hong Kong. One can easily spend a whole day wandering around the area, which is buzzing with traditional Chinese street-scenes. For the elderly to enjoy a chat and sip tea, this is definitely a glimpse into traditional Chinese lifestyle and excellent to explore on foot. Retirees love to gather around the public square in front of the Tin Hau Temple, and enjoy a game of Chinese chess as well as Horse race betting. Start by exploring Jordan Road and end off at Temple street. Along Shanghai Street, street shops sell traditional Chinese red wedding Gowns. Tin Hau temple is between the Market and public square street. A little further is the Jade Market with a wide range of jade products on sale. Sometimes the best times to visit are at night, the Temple Street Night Market is packed with people looking for bargain merchandise, and there are also Chinese fortune-tellers, Nepalese palm readers, Tarot Card fortune readers for that elusive look into the future. © NileGuide



wcities

Day 3 - Hong Kong

QUICK NOTE

DAY NOTE: Hong Kong seems to be the oddest place to go bird watching but urban birds choose to settle in the only green oasis in a concrete jungle - Kowloon Park and Hong Kong Zoological and Botanical Gardens. Want to learn more of Asian birds? The Hong Kong Bird Watching society and the Hong Kong leisure and sports district offices are free open to public bird watching tours. Tours are offered every Wednesday from 8-10am at Hong Kong Park. Can't make it on Wednesday? Tours are given from 7:30-9:30am every Friday at Kowloon Park.

contact:

tel: +852 2508 1234

<http://www.lcsd.gov.hk/parks/kp/en/index.php>

location:

Nathan Road
Hong Kong

1 Kowloon Park

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Despite urban development, there are still old trees on Nathan Road, Haiphong Road. According to the Government's register of old and valuable trees, 13 camphor trees on Haiphong Road are 130 years old, and all the Chinese Banyans on Nathan Road are 70 to 120 years old. Meanwhile, in Kowloon Park it's common to find trees that are over a century old.

DESCRIPTION: Once the Whitefield Barracks, the site of military barracks for British and Indian troops, the 14 hectare Kowloon Park is an oasis of green in the heart of Tsim Sha Tsui. Those who are familiar with old photographs of Hong Kong will remember the image of a broad, tree lined Nathan Road. The parkland attractions include a bird lake and aviary, a maze, Chinese gardens and a banyan tree court. Sculpture Walk is an open-air exhibition featuring works by local sculptors and a magnificent bronze statue by Sir Eduardo Paolozzi. At night, the sculptures are illuminated. Kowloon Park is also home to the Urban Council Health Education Exhibition and Resources Centre, the Hong Kong Museum of History, and a large sports complex.

© wcities.com



editor

contact:

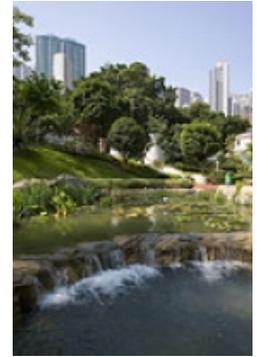
tel: +852 2521 5041
fax: +852 2537 1236
<http://www.lcsd.gov.hk/parks/hkp/en/index.php>

location:

Admiralty
Hong Kong

2 Hong Kong Park

DESCRIPTION: Hong Kong Park is not just a park: it features an aviary, greenhouse, fountain plaza, lily ponds, playgrounds, artificial waterfall, viewing tower, visual arts centre, museum, restaurant, indoor games hall and even a marriage registry. Some people say it looks anything but natural. Still, it is beautiful in its own odd way, with high-rise buildings on one side and mountain greenery on the other. The aviary houses over 150 species of birds and visitors walk on a suspended wooden bridge around 10m above the ground to look at the birds perched in tropical greenery at eye level. © wcities.com



wcities

contact:

tel: +852 2530 0154
fax: +852 2537 1207
<http://www.lcsd.gov.hk/parks/hkzbg/en/index.php>

location:

Albany Road,
Hong Kong

3 Hong Kong Zoological and Botanical Gardens

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Walk along the foliage shaded paths for a feel of what a park should really be like. The Gardens are a five minute walk uphill from Hong Kong park.

DESCRIPTION: Located near the Old Government House, the Zoological and Botanical Gardens is a popular place for parents to bring their children on the weekends. The gardens are divided into two main areas: plants and aviaries in one area and animals in the other. Although the zoo is not that big, it is one of the world's leading centers for captive breeding of endangered species, and thus is worth visiting. It is also a great place to take pictures of the kids with the various spotted, striped and feathered animals on show. © wcities.com



wcities

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 reknowned 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 all. 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, its 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
© NileGuide

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 way of getting to places. Hong Kong is all about speed and when people find that buses take too long or stops 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.

© NileGuide