



nileGUIDE

ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



Fun free things to do in Hong Kong

Hong Kong, 1 Day

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Guide Description



AUTHOR NOTE: Cash maybe king in Hong Kong but it is so important to know where and what the fun free things to do in Hong Kong are. Only a limited people know that the musuem of history is free every Wednesday so don't miss it. Relax to the extreme at the Hong Kong Zoological and Botanical Gardens or your the Lantau island landscape on the Lantau trail. Wondering about what to do in the early morning on a budget? Early morning tai chi watching at Kowloon Park will introduce you to the favourite means of keeping fit in Hong Kong among the older generation. Wong Tai Sin Temple and Man Fat Monastery are both free things to do in Hong Kong. When the sun sets over Victoria Harbour, the best thing to do is the free 270 degree view of the harbour as you walk down Tsim Sha Tsui Promenade. Whilst exploring the Bank of China Tower, remember that the 47/ F is a free viewing terrace. Free nightlife in Hong Kong consists of more than taking the mid levels escalator to Soho because watching the symphony of lights at 8pm every night is a million dollar paid for by the Government so you can watch it free.

Itinerary Overview

things to do
restaurants
hotels
nightlife

Day 1 - Hong Kong



Museum of History

Permanent Hong Kong story on exhibit



Mid-levels Escalator

Longest covered outdoor escalators in the world



Yuen Po Street Bird Garden

Where all the birds and old retire folk hang out



Early Morning Tai Chi Watching

Take part in an ancient discipline



Bank of China Tower

Hong Kong's signature postcard landmark



Tsim Sha Tsui Promenade

Panoramic harbour views



Hong Kong Zoological and Botanical Gardens

Marvel at the broad range of flora Hong Kong has



Wong Tai Sin Temple

Busiest temple in Hong Kong



Man Fat Monastery (Ten Thousand Buddhas)

Ten Thousand Buddhas Temple



Aberdeen Country Park

The pristine back garden of Hong Kong Island

Day 1 - Hong Kong

QUICK NOTE

contact:

tel: +852 2367 1124
<http://www.lcsd.gov.hk/CE/Museum/History/>

location:

Kowloon Park, Haiphong Road
Hong Kong Hong Kong

hours:

10a-6p Tue-Sat; 1p-6p Sun

1 Museum of History

DESCRIPTION: From the Hakka to the Hang Seng, from Neolithic to Neocapitalist, this excellent information-stop will divulge everything you ever wanted to know about Hong Kong's history but were too afraid to ask. On show are old photographs, ancient costumes, snuffboxes used by former governors, and even a reconstruction of a 100 year old street. Guides are available and a good half-day spent roaming the exhibitions will leave you educated, elated and exhausted. Plenty of bars in the Tsim Sha Tsui area are on standby to boost faltering spirits. Free all day Wednesday. © wcities.com



editor

contact:

tel: +852 2807 6543

location:

Connaught Road
Hong Kong

hours:

Downhill: Daily 6a-10a ,
Uphill: Daily 10a-10p

2 Mid-levels Escalator

DESCRIPTION: OK, who wants to see an escalator? Well, this 800-metre hillside escalator starts from Connaught Road Central, runs to the Hang Seng Bank Building on Des Voeux Road Central, then passes through the Central Market and continues to climb past Hollywood Road to the prime Mid-levels residential district. The free ride from Central to Conduit Road takes about 20 minutes, a lot quicker than walking up which usually takes forever. The longest covered outdoor escalator system in the world, the system took two and a half years and more than HKD205 million to build. © wcities.com



wcities

contact:

tel: +852 2807 6543
<http://www.lcsd.gov.hk>

location:

Yuen Po Street
Hong Kong

3 Yuen Po Street Bird Garden

DESCRIPTION: Originally, the bird market was on Hong Lok Street, but it relocated to this Chinese-style bird garden on Yuen Po Street. There are hundreds of birds on display and the price of a bird is often decided by how well the bird sings. Apart from the birds, there are also other accessories for sale, including bamboo and teak cages, ceramic water vessels and food containers, and different types of bird food, including live crickets sold by the bag-full. © wcities.com



wcities

contact:

fax: +852 2807 6543 (Hong Kong Tourist Association)
http://www.discoverhongkong.com/eng/touring/heritage/ta_heri_13849711.jhtml

4 Early Morning Tai Chi Watching

DESCRIPTION: To China this may seem like a rather insignificant everyday happening, but to a westerner, seeing hundreds of voluntary Tai Chi devotees going through the paces is quite the Kodak moment. Each morning in the rising mist of dawn Victoria Park fills with the concentrated

location:
Gloucester Road
Hong Kong Hong Kong

focus of Tai Chai disciples, who, through their movement, seemingly match the silent feel of the moment. It is not only a spectacle of sight, but also of Chinese culture in general. © wcities.com

contact:
tel: +852 2826 6888
http://www.bochk.com/web/common/multi_section.xml

location:
1 Garden Road
Hong Kong

5 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



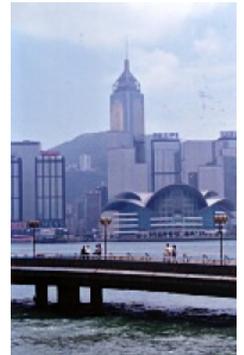
wcities

contact:
tel: +852 2508 1234

location:
Tsim Sha Tsui
Hong Kong

6 Tsim Sha Tsui Promenade

DESCRIPTION: Stretching from the Tsim Sha Tsui Star Ferry to Hunghom, this promenade offers some of the best views in Hong Kong, especially at night, when the Hong Kong skyline is lit up with neon signs. The Promenade is a popular place for lovers, joggers, photographers with tripods and the occasional fisherperson fishing in the waters of the harbour. During the Chinese New Year fireworks display, tons of people crowd into the area to watch the spectacle. © 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

7 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

contact:
tel: +852 2320 2883

location:
upper edge of Wong Tai Sin Estate
Hong Kong

8 Wong Tai Sin Temple

DESCRIPTION: Hong Kong's most popular place of worship because of its reputed good blessings. Or wishes almost exclusively centered around money. People flock here to earn enough merit for a big win at the horse races, the lottery or any other windfall the powerful Wong Tai Sin, god of good fortune and healing, may bestow. Even if you aren't a temple fan, this really is the one to visit, simply to watch the crowds of devotees. It's a crowded, colorful spectacle and famed for its soothsayers Wong Tai Sin Temple was founded on the lower slopes of Kowloon Hills over half a century ago after a shepherd boy gained immortality through his good deeds and mystical healing powers. Tossing a bamboo can full of joss sticks and make offering of food or fruit, which isn't left behind because the god is never that hungry and no one wants good food to go to waste. © NileGuide



wcities

contact:
tel: +852 2691 1067
http://www.gohk.gov.hk/text/eng/welcome/st_spots.html

location:
Pai Tau Tsuen
Hong Kong

9 Man Fat Monastery (Ten Thousand Buddhas)

DESCRIPTION: A red pagoda marks the Ten Thousand Buddhas Temple, making it clearly visible from nearby Shatin KCR station. There are 12,800 Buddhas housed in the temple, each in a slightly different pose. The statues have all been donated by worshippers and were handmade by 12 craftsmen from Shanghai, who took ten years to complete this project. There are more than 400 steps leading up to the temple, so a pair of comfortable shoes and some water is essential. The climb up to the temple leads past a modern Buddhist temple, often mistaken for the Ten Thousand Buddhas Temple. © wcities.com



wcities

contact:
tel: +852 2508 1234
http://www.afcd.gov.hk/english/country/cou_vis/cou_vis_cou_vis_cou_abe/cou_vis_cou_abe.html

location:
Aberdeen Reservoir Road
Hong Kong

A Aberdeen Country Park

DESCRIPTION: Aberdeen Country Park covers 410 acres, with Aberdeen Upper and Lower Reservoirs at its very heart. Simple exercise units are dotted along the park trails, providing a useful place to warm-up and stretch before a spot of hiking. There are also barbecue and picnic areas inside the park, an ideal place for gathering with friends at the weekend. Other facilities include the visitors' centre displaying botanical and insect specimens, and an education trail introducing the different plants in the park. The park connects to the Pok Fu Lam Country Park and to Wanchai by two different trails. © wcities.com



Aberdeen Country Park

contact:

tel: +852 2508 1234
http://www.hkta.org/eng/heritage/monuments/mo_hk_0001.jhtml

location:

Central
Hong Kong

1 Colonial Duddell Street Steps

DESCRIPTION: So the fun evening of partying in Lan Kwai Fong is over, but what to do about a night that is definitely still young? Okay, how about grabbing a few cans of beer from the bar and walking to Duddell Street, which is only five minutes away. Just off Ice House Street, the stone steps at Duddell Street were built between 1875 and 1889 and are lit by the only surviving gas street lamps in Hong Kong. An ideal spot, in fact, for whiling away those late night hours, relaxing and enjoying the night air. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of Colonial Duddell Street Steps.

contact:

tel: +852 2807 6543
<http://www.hkoutdoors.com/lantau-island/hiking-southwest-lantau.html>

location:

Mui Wo, Lantau
Hong Kong

2 Lantau Trail

DESCRIPTION: This popular trail is a circular route that begins and ends in Mui Wo, also known as Silvermine Bay. It consists of 70 kilometers of easy, difficult and at times torturous hiking. A good hiker can cover the trail in a couple of days, camping at designated spots, though it is best to take your time and dawdle rather than race. The trail is divided into 12 sections and maps are available from the Government Publications Office next to Pacific Place. Check the weather before you set off, take a mobile phone and let someone know your route. © wcities.com



hours:

24 hrs

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.

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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
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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 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.

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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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