



nileGUIDE

ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



Hidden gems of Hong Kong

Hong Kong, 1 Day

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Guide Description



AUTHOR NOTE: The unusual, the unknown, the gritty and the gorgeous snapshots of the top hidden gems of Hong Kong are not limited to crowds, concrete and neon lights. If you beg to differ then visit Chi Lin Vegetarian Restaurant to see a classical Chinese garden. Early morning Tai Chi watching is conducive to serenity and tranquility but if you'd prefer shopping for an area to shop where you'll see less tourists then go to Sham Shui Po for electronics and computers. Yuen Po Street Bird Market as well as Mai Po Marsh are a haven for bird lovers. The most underestimated museum in Hong Kong is the Museum of History, think of this museum as a stake in the ground - the beginning, not the end of the debate about Hong Kong's history. According to those who live and love to travel in Hong Kong, Sheung Yiu Folk Museum and Tsing Tai Uk is definitely worth visiting if you love the history museum.

Itinerary Overview

things to do
restaurants
hotels
nightlife

Day 1 - Hong Kong



Chi Lin Vegetarian

Serenely tucked in Nan Lian Garden behind the waterfall



Mai Po Marsh

Wetland of international importance, UNESCO protected



Outlying Islands

Discover hamlets and derelict fishing villages



Museum of History

Permanent Hong Kong story on exhibit



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



Sham Shui Po

Traditional Hong Kong sights and scenes



Tsim Chai Kee

Michellin Awarded Wonton noodle shop



Sheung Yiu Folk Museum

Old Hakka village



Tsang Tai Uk

One of the few



AMC Festival Walk

Fanciest shopping mall in Kowloon Tong

contact:

tel: 852 3658 9388

location:

Long Men Lou, Nan Lian Garden, 60 Fung Tak Road, Diamond Hill Hong Kong

hours:

M-F 11:30a-9:00p, Sa-Su 11:00a-9:30p

Chi Lin Vegetarian

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Minimum spend of \$80 per person or try the set menu instead. Beware of the lines on Buddhist holidays, new and full moon days.

DESCRIPTION: Not to be missed regardless whether you are vegetarian or not, the best part is that in order to eat at Nan Lian vegetarian restaurant, you'll find a gem in the middle of the city. Tour this delightful 35,000 sq m Tang Dynasty style garden. You will find an atmosphere conducive to serenity and tranquility; an ambience in which you can enjoy moments of leisure and peace of mind. There is also the Pine Tea house right adjacent to Chi Lin Vegetarian. The Cantonese cuisine is delicious and you won't even notice that there is no meat. No fake meat like vegetarian roast goose or char siu, just vegetarian food in its natural simplicity.

The kitchen team of Chi Lin Vegetarian designs the menu using seasonal produce. The five fortune appetizer platter features good sized appetizers. For the mains, the miniature sized braised supreme assorted vegetables casserole is nowhere near as miniature as it makes out. An original portion is big enough to feed 12 people, and so a "miniature" easily feeds between two and three. Both dim sum and a la carte dishes are served during the day.

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editor

contact:

tel: +852 2652 0285

fax: +852 2651 0276

<http://www.wwf.org.hk/eng/maipol>

location:

Near Yuen Long, Deep Bay Hong Kong

1 Mai Po Marsh

DESCRIPTION: A nature reserve in the unlikeliest of spots in the northeastern New Territories designated a site of special scientific interest in 1983 and a wetland of international importance in 1995. There are over 60,000 water birds have wintered in and around the Mai Po, including endangered species such as Saunders' Gull and a quarter of the world's population of the Black-faced Spoonbill. In addition to the birds, the heart of the reserve is made up of 24 traditionally operated shrimp ponds (locally called gei wai), which are now the only such ponds in Hong Kong, and possibly in southern China. When the gei wai is drained, the areas of shallow water or exposed mud on the pond floor would provide feeding and roosting habitats hundreds of for fish-eating birds, particularly herons, egrets and the endangered Black-faced Spoonbill. Since this traditional form of gei wai management can contribute to the ecological value of the site, WWF Hong Kong is continuing with the winter drain down of the gei wai on a rotation basis. Access to the Reserve is limited so make a reservation well in advance online. © NileGuide



contact:

tel: +852 2508 1234
<http://www.hkta.org/home.htm>
|

location:

Outlying Islands
Hong Kong

hours:

8a-6p M-Su (Visitor hotline hours)

2 Outlying Islands

DESCRIPTION: The outlying Islands are abundant because Hong Kong has more than 80 big and small island but Peng Chau and Lamma Island are two Islands worth visiting the most. Ferries from Central Pier will take you there and the ferry trip in itself is worth it for the cool sea wind and views. Peng Chau is quite similar to Cheung Chau, just much smaller. Home to fishing hamlets, as is the case with most outlying islands. Peng Chau does also have a small rattan and hand-painted ceramics industry. A walk through the rabbit-warren lanes of the town leads past some of the shops selling these local wares, as well as many sweet Chinese desserts and local salted preserved fish and shrimp. Lamma Island, on the other hand, has gained a reputation as a hippy expat hangout. Rumors circulate that the Japanese used Lamma during their World War II occupation. Supposedly, they used the island as a snake farm, with many snakes flown in around the world - explaining the numerous unusual breeds on the island. Now creates dangerous and exciting Lamma that numerous nature-loving residents now live on. Still quite an alternative culture from mainstream Hong Kong. Be sure to take note of the last ferry times or else there will be no other ways of getting back to Hong Kong Island. © NileGuide



Outlying Islands

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

3 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
<http://www.lcsd.gov.hk>

location:

Yuen Po Street
Hong Kong

4 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

location:

Gloucester Road
Hong Kong Hong Kong

5 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 focus of Tai Chi 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 2508 1234
http://www.discoverhongkong.com/eng/mustknow/hkstory/hk_stor_sham.jhtml

location:

Sham Shui Po
Hong Kong Kowloon

6 Sham Shui Po

DESCRIPTION: Sham Shui Po is totally geared up for the local market and is not the place to go looking for designer goods. Computer fanatics will love the Golden Computer Centre and New Capital Computer Plaza, where all the latest computer and high-tech products are sold. Aпли Street Market, on the other hand, is a good place to look for interesting electrical accessories, including everything from old room fans to second hand mobile phones and television sets. © wcities.com



editor

contact:

tel: 852 2850 6471

location:

98 Wellington Street
Hong Kong

hours:

Daily 8:30a-9:30p

Tsim Chai Kee

DESCRIPTION: Both filling and wholesome, a bowl of wonton noodles from Tsim Chai Kee makes a great feed any time of the day. Wontons are quintessentially Hong Kong and people like to dip it in chilli oil or vinegar. Wontons from Tsim Chai Kee are the jumbo size of a ping pong ball and so remember to chew thoroughly to get the tastes on your tongue. Take a bite of crunchy Canton Egg noodles and then order another bowl. Fishball noodles are equally popular and just remember that tipping is not necessary. © NileGuide

contact:

tel: +852 2792 6365
<http://www.lcsd.gov.hk/CE/Museum/Science/eeducat/esy.htm>

location:

Pak Tam Chung Nature Trail
Hong Kong

hours:

9a-4p W-M

7 Sheung Yiu Folk Museum

DESCRIPTION: This museum was once a fortified Hakka village, which was established in the mid-19th century by the Wongs, who started a kiln industry producing bricks, tiles and lime. A declared monument, the restored site opened as a folk museum in 1984. On display are typical Hakka dwellings including pigsties, a cattle shed, a six metre-high watchtower, a spacious drying terrace, farm implements and other everyday objects of the Hakka people. The admission is free. © wcities.com



Door of the Sheung Yiu Folk Museum

contact:

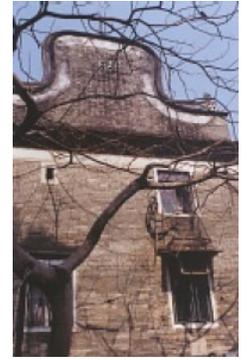
tel: +852 2508 1234
http://www.discoverhongkong.com/eng/touring/hkwalks/ta_walk_walk4.jhtml

location:

Sha Kok Road
Hong Kong

8 Tsang Tai Uk

DESCRIPTION: Surrounded by high-rise housing estates, this 150-year-old walled village built by the Tsang clan is still going strong. High walls with formidable corner towers enclose a warren of small passages, family dwellings and the ancestral hall. Although not all areas are open to the public, a walk around the outside and through the massive entrance gates to the ancestral hall still gives the impression that not much has changed in the lifetime of the village. For a great day out, visit the nearby Che Kung and Ku Au Tseng Yuen temples and the Man Fat Monastery. © wcities.com



wcities

contact:

tel: 852 2265 8933
fax: 852 2393 3617
<http://www.amctheaters.com>

location:

80 Tat Chee Avenue
Hong Kong

9 AMC Festival Walk

DESCRIPTION: The AMC is a recent multiplex and boasts comfortable seating with ample legroom and armrests with drinks holders. Home to 11 screens and with two films sometimes sharing the same house, you are spoilt for choice whether you are after the latest Cantonese romance, an action movie from the States, a British comedy, or a Japanese horror film. Everything seems to play here. Book in advance as weekend seats tend to fill up fast. All the usual snacks are available at reasonable prices: just a few dollars for popcorn, hot dogs, soft drinks, and sweets. © 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 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.

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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, 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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