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Hong Kong is divided into four main areas - Kowloon, Hong Kong Island, the New Territories and the Outlying Islands. Kowloon and the New Territories are on a peninsula of the Chinese mainland, on the northern side of Victoria Harbour; Hong Kong Island is on the southern side of the harbour facing Kowloon; the Outlying Islands simply refers to any of the other 234 islands. The New Territories has a 20km (12mi) land border with China proper.

The city itself is centred around Victoria Harbour. The main business district is Central, on Hong Kong Island. East of Central lies the Admiralty commercial district; Wan Chai, known for restaurants and clubs; then Causeway Bay, a major shopping area. Towering above it all is the Peak, Hong Kong's premier scenic outlook

and residential district, which happily has plenty of public green space. In Kowloon, Tsim Sha Tsui (on the southern tip), Jordan and Yau Ma Tei are busy hotel and shopping areas, while Mong Kok is a bustling residential and shopping area.

## SIGHTS

### Victoria Harbour & Star Ferry

Commuting by ferry is the most enjoyable (and surprisingly the cheapest) way of taking in the dramatic panorama on Victoria Harbour. First launched in 1888, the Star Ferry is as much a tourist attraction as a mode of transport. Its romance is best appreciated on clear nights. It operates on four routes, but the most popular one by far is the short run between Tsim Sha Tsui and Central. Tours of Victoria Harbour are also available from the terminal.

*Star Ferry Pier, Tsim Sha Tsui*  
tel: 2367 7065

### Victoria Peak

The Peak is Hong Kong Island's highest point, and the most fashionable area to live in Hong Kong. The view from the summit is one of the most spectacular cityscapes in the world, and it's also a good way to get a visual perspective of Hong Kong. The best way up to the Peak is via the Peak Tram.

*Peak Rd*

### The Big Buddha

On a hill above the huge Po Lin Buddhist monastery sits the suitably majestic bronze Buddha statue, easily one of the world's heaviest and largest. It's well worth the 260 steps from the monastery for a closer look at the Buddha and surrounding views of Lantau island. The 5.7km cable car ride from Tong Chung to the monastery is every bit as spectacular.

*Po Lin Monastery, Lantau Island*

evening, you can watch crowds of people praying and seeking a glimpse of the future with *chim*, bamboo 'prediction sticks' that must be shaken out of a box on to the ground and then read. Behind the main temple and to the right are the Good Wish Gardens, replete with colourful pavilions.

*Lung Cheung Rd, Wong Tai Sin*  
tel: 2854 4333  
07:00 - 18:00

### Happy Valley Racecourse

Horse racing, worth more than US\$1 billion annually, remains the most popular form of gambling in Hong Kong. Be prepared for an excitable crowd at Happy Valley and join the locals with a bet. There are about 80 meetings a year and the racing season runs from September to early July.

*2 Sports Rd, Happy Valley*  
tel: 2895 1523



© Ali Bullock

## DINING

### Pierre

The godfather of French fusion, Pierre Gagnaire, has brought his revolutionary cuisine to the city that embodies the concept. Here, the three-star Michelin chef presents diners with dishes like chilled vegetable broth perfumed with lemon grass and honey, light butternut squash chutney, red beetroot and raspberry ice cream. The harbour view complements the decor, with portholes and chandeliers, and is reminiscent of a fine restaurant on a classic cruise liner.

*5 Connaught Rd, Mandarin Oriental, Central*  
tel: 2825 4001  
underground rail: Central (exit F)  
Mon-Fri lunch & dinner, dinner only on Sat,  
closed Sun

### Sik Sik Yuen Wong Tai Sin Temple

This Taoist Temple is an explosion of colour, with red pillars, bright yellow roofs and green-and-blue latticework. If you visit in the late afternoon or early



# Hong Kong



© Weekend Weekly

## Amber

Amber is the name of the restaurant as well as its colour tone. During daylight, it serves as a power restaurant for three-Martini lunches while at night, the restaurant is illuminated by a tubular ceiling light installation and wine menus on informative flat-screens where customers choose their bottle based on regions and varietals. The sophisticated menu offers items such as seared pork belly with hand-made gnocchi and baby artichokes or soy and maple glazed blue fin tuna.

7F The Landmark Mandarin Oriental,  
15 Queen's Rd Central, Central  
tel: 2132 0066

underground rail: Central (exit G)  
also open for breakfast 06:30 - 10:30

## Jumbo Kingdom Floating Restaurant

The larger of two floating restaurants moored in Aberdeen Harbour and specialising in seafood, the Jumbo is touristy in the extreme and the food is so-so. The interior looks like Beijing's Imperial Palace crossbred with a Las Vegas casino; think of it as

a spectacle - a show - and you'll have fun. There's free transport for diners from the pier on Aberdeen Promenade. Dim sum is served from 07:30 to 16:30 on Sunday.

Shum Wan Pier Dr, Wong Chuk Hang  
tel: 2553 9111

## Felix

A special elevator takes you directly to Felix, at the top floor of the famous Peninsula Hotel, where a fantastic setting awaits you both inside and out. You're sure to pay as much attention to the views and the dynamic interior as you will to the Hong Kong fusion food, including culinary delights such as lobster nachos or hoisin grilled ribs. The ambience is set by towering ceilings and copper-clad columns surrounding the Art Deco tables.

28F Peninsula Hong Kong Hotel, Salisbury Rd  
tel: 2315 3188

underground rail: Tsim Sha Tsui (exit E)  
18:00 - 02:00

## Yung Kee Restaurant

This long-standing institution is probably the most famous Cantonese restaurant in Central Hong Kong. Its signature roast goose has been the talk of the town since 1942; the restaurant even farms its own geese for quality control. Dim sum here is also excellent or, for those feeling more daring, try imperial abalone with wine, pan-fried beef fillet Chinese style, or a host of frog, seafood and vegetarian dishes.

32-40 Wellington St  
tel: 2522 1624

underground rail: Central (exit D2)

## ENTERTAINMENT

### Lan Kwai Fong

Lan Kwai Fong is quite simply Hong Kong Islands chief entertainment district. With a massive number of bars and pubs, the area draws in tourists and locals alike for happy hour and pub crawling expeditions. The Wyndham St pocket has slightly more upmarket bars and restaurants with Soho to the west (South of

Hollywood Rd) another choice option for good food and nightlife.

South of Queen's Rd Central, around D'Aguilar & Wyndham St  
underground rail: Central MTR

### Temple St Night Market

Temple St, named after the temple dedicated to Tin Hau that resides at the street's centre, hosts the liveliest night market in Hong Kong. But you don't just come here to shop - this is also a place for eating and entertainment. You might pop into Mido, Hong Kong's best known cha chan tang, or café, that serves local dishes, before visiting one of the fortune-tellers or herbalists. You can also find free, open-air Cantonese opera performances here.

Yau Ma Tei, btwn Jordan Rd & Man Ming La  
underground rail: Jordan, exit C2; Yau Ma Tei, exit C

### Champagne Bar

Take your fizz in the sumptuous surrounds of the Grand Hyatt's Champagne Bar, kitted out in Art Deco furnishings realistic enough to evoke the Paris of the 1920s. Live blues or jazz rings through the bar most evenings, and the circular main bar is always busy.

Ground fl, Grand Hyatt Hotel, 1 Harbour Rd, Wan Chai  
tel: 2588 1234 ext 7321

underground rail: MTR Wan Chai  
17:00 - 01:00



© Grey Elms. Lonely Planet Images.

### Aqua Spirit

This magnificent mezzanine bar above a restaurant sits on top of one of Kowloon's newest skyscrapers and is everyone's favourite place for a drink with a view. Huge panes of glass provide spectacular vistas of Hong Kong's twinkling city lights, and the plush lounges and booths provide ideal vantage points to appreciate the views. The cocktails offered are more sophisticated than your average mojito and the clientele is suitably beautiful.

30th fl, 1 Peking Rd, Tsim Sha Tsui  
tel: 3427 2288

underground rail: Tsim Sha Tsui (exit E)  
18:00 - 01:00 Sun-Thu, 16:30 - 03:00 Fri & Sat

### Gecko Lounge

Entered from narrow Ezra's Lane off Cochrane Street or Pottinger Street, Gecko is an intimate lounge and wine bar run by a friendly French sommelier and wine importer with a penchant for absinthe. The well-hidden DJ mixes good sounds with Parisian tunes and there's usually live music on Tuesday and Wednesday. Obviously the wine list is great, and the cocktails, beers and sociable atmosphere all add up to a great night on the town.

Lower ground fl, 15-19 Hollywood Rd, Central  
tel: 2537 4680

underground rail: Central (exit D1)  
16:00 - 03:00 Mon-Thu, 16:00 - 06:00 Fri & Sat,  
happy hour 18:00 - 21:00



# Hong Kong

## HOTELS

### Grand Hyatt Hotel

The sizeable Grand Hyatt Hotel is defined by unrestrained luxury in both its public and private areas. Subtle – it is not. The spacious rooms are equally well-equipped to catch up on work or to relax, with marble clad bathrooms and a variety of wonderful views. Its Champagne Bar is one of the chicest places to drink in town. The stunning Plateau, a 7500-sq-metre spa complex with every treatment imaginable, is an oasis on the 11th floor.

1 Harbour Rd, Wan Chai  
tel: 2588 1234  
underground rail: Wan Chai



© Michael Coyne. Lonely Planet Images.

### Island Shangri-La Hotel

The colossal exterior of this hotel does not prepare you for the sophistication that awaits inside. The guestrooms are among the loveliest in Hong Kong and the public spaces are filled with chandeliers and marble. The lift, linking the 39th and 56th floors, provides views of the hotel's signature 60m-high painting, a mountainous Chinese landscape said to be the largest

in the world. Facilities include an outdoor spa, a 24-hour business centre and a good selection of food options.

Pacific Pl, Supreme Court Rd, Admiralty  
tel: 2877 3838

### Peninsula Hong Kong

The Peninsula Hong Kong occupies a fabulous grey-stone edifice that has enjoyed a hallowed reputation since it first opened its doors in 1928. Its classical architecture, rather like that of a grand old mansion, is a refreshing departure from the skyscraping modernity around it. Even the modern extension topped by two helipads blends well.

Salisbury Rd, Tsim Sha Tsui  
tel: 2920 2888  
underground rail: Tsim Sha Tsui

### Four Seasons

A recent luxury arrival in Hong Kong, the Four Seasons arguably moves into top place for its amazing views of the island, its location nearby the Star Ferry and Hong Kong Station, and its palatial rooms. Add to the mix a glorious pool and spa complex that indulges guests with massages and facial treatments and 24-hour business services. The downstairs lobby lounge that looks out onto the harbour is a wonderful place to enjoy afternoon tea.

8 Finance St, Central  
tel: 3196 8888

### Mandarin Oriental

The esteemed Mandarin set Hong Kong's high standard of accommodation and continues to do so. The styling, service, food and atmosphere are superb throughout, and a recent refurbishment has managed to retain the hotel's sense of gracious old world charm. It's also home to Captain's Bar, one of Hong Kong's great bars, and great restaurants such as Pierre. The new rooms in the Landmark Building offer more modern luxury and are beautifully designed even down to the door knobs.

5 Connaught Rd Central  
tel: 2522 0111

## FAST FACTS

### Population

6921700

### Language

Chinese  
English

### Currency

Hong Kong Dollar  
HKD

### Money & cost

Nothing beats cash for convenience. Banks generally offer the best exchange rates, Credit cards are widely accepted. Though not a particularly tip-conscious city, it's almost mandatory to tip hotel staff.

### When to go

Weatherwise, October, November and December are the best months to visit Hong Kong; the skies are clear and sunny. Hotel prices come down outside the March-April and October-November high seasons.

### Phone

country dialling code: 852  
mobile network: GSM 900/1800

### Local Cathay Pacific contact information

Reservation numbers: (852) 2747-1888  
Check-in counters: Hong Kong International Airport, Terminal 1, Aisles B and C

### Local Dragonair contact information

Reservation numbers: (852) 3193-3888  
Check-in counters: Hong Kong International Airport, Terminal 1, Counters on Aisle D



# Hong Kong

## LUXE CITY GUIDES RECOMMEND

The following suggestions are selected exclusively for Cathay Pacific by LUXE City Guides, the consummately stylish pocket travel guide, packed with astute, opinionated information for the busy and sophisticated visitor.

### Accommodation

**Hotel LKF.** Calm oasis smack bang in the heart of the Lan Kwai Fong and Wyndham St. party hub, with generous, minimalist, wired-up rooms complete with metro views, and suave Azure bar/resto. Take high floor corner or city-facing rooms.

*33 Wyndham St / Central / +852 3518 9688 / hotel-lkf.com.hk*

### Restaurants

**Island Tang.** Bon vivant entrepreneur David Tang waves his magic wand in the rotunda-esque Galleria building and conjures up a version of the private, Shanghai 30s glam China Club for the masses. The fare is refined Cantonese, and while antiques still feature, membership is exempt.

*Shop 222 / The Galleria / 9 Queen's Rd / Central / +852 2526 8798 / lunch & dinner daily*

**The Pawn.** Hong Kong is notorious for replacing its wonderful heritage buildings with glass and steel same-sameys, so we're glad that this historic pawnshop has been restored into a three-storey, mod pub meets groovy HK gen-X sip and sup joint, with refined Brit-dish comfort fare, plus balcony and rooftop chill spot.

*62 Johnston Rd / Wan Chai / +852 2866 3444*

**Lin Heung.** Fancy pig's intestines and steamed fish head for brunch? Then head on down for the full-on warts n' all HK experience at this rarer by the day, old-school, fluoro-lit teahouse for the daily dim sum bunfight as diners rush for trolleys or stand behind your shoulder waiting for your seat – not for the timid, rewarding for the adventurous. Dinner is saner.

*160 Wellington St / Central / +852 2544 4556 / breakfast, lunch & dinner daily*

### Bars

**SEVVA.** Hobnobbing penthouse with scenesational wraparound terrace, smack bang amidst the city's skyscrapers. It's more about the mwah than the mmm, so go for drinks and stick to champagne and wine and avoid the tricky cocktails.

*25/F / Prince's Bldg / 10 Chater Rd / Central / +852 2537 1388 / daily*

**The Oriental Spa.** The epitome of urban spa excellence. Gals get Laconium, Rasul and Amethyst Crystal Steam; guys get Hamam, Tropical Rain Sauna and dry Sauna. 'Cool mist' and 'Arctic rain' showers, plus vitality pools, heated Tepidarium recliners, yoga and Pilates for all.

*5/F / Landmark Mandarin Oriental / 15 Queen's Rd / Central / +852 2132 0188 / mandarinoriental.com*

### Shopping

**Horizon Plaza.** You're in Hong Kong to shop, but there's no need to pay full price for anything. Head to the south side of HK Island for twenty-one floors of décor, funny and fash warehouses, outlet stores and nightmare lifts; use stairs wherever possible. Check out Joyce Warehouse on the 21/F and Lane Crawford on the 25/F for heavily discounted Chloé, Balenciaga, Etro et al, Tumi luggage, Frette linen and more. **Space** is nearby for discount Prada and Miu Miu.

*Horizon Plaza / 2 Lee Wing St / Ap Lei Chau / daily*

*Space / 2/F East Commercial Block / Marina Sq / South Horizon / Ap Lei Chau / daily*

### Activities

**Helicopter.** Experience the thrill of taking off from the iconic Peninsula hotel's rooftop before whirling and zipping high above the fabulous Hong Kong skyline and round its islands. To make the views last, pop in post-flight for a meal or drink at the Pen's Felix restaurant and bar. Sadly, there are no night flights.

*Heliservices / 2802 0200 / heliservices.com.hk  
The Peninsula / Salisbury Rd / Tsim Sha Tsui / +852 2920 2888 / peninsula.com*

