



# Hong Kong

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HISTORY



# HISTORY



The bustling metropolis that is Hong Kong holds over 7-million people within its borders in southern China. This lively, crowded city is rich in history, culture, and entertainment. Known as a unique administrative region, it maintains separate government and economic systems from the rest of the country. With on the most thriving economies, investing and international trade is massive in Hong Kong.



# In The Beginning

Initially, a place of salt production, farming, and fishing villages in the 1800s, Hong Kong has come a long way in economic growth and is now a major international financial center. Since the beginning, a lot has happened to make the city what it is today, making Hong Kong's history very complicated.

From 1839 to 1842, was The First Opium War. During this war, China attempted to steal Britain's opium to stop them from trading. China lost around 20,000 casualties, whereas Britain lost 250. It was 1842 when Britain and China signed the Treaty of Nanjing. This was the first of the few treaties that caused significant problems for China for over 56-years.

After The First Opium War, Hong Kong endured several other wars, including The Second Opium War, the Sino-Japanese War, and the Chinese Revolution. Things didn't get much better until recently. In the 1960s, the city bore natural disasters, riots, and civil unrest. Finally, after 150-years under British rule, Hong Kong goes back to Chinese rule.







MONEY



# MONEY



The currency in Hong Kong is Hong Kong Dollars (HKD). One Hong Kong Dollar is equivalent to \$0.13 in the U.S. The Hong Kong Dollar is subdivided into 100 cents. Banknotes come in denominations of HK\$10, HK\$20, HK\$50, HK\$100, HK\$500 and HK\$1,000. All coins come from the government and are either bronze, silver, or nickel, depending on its worth. You can receive up to date exchange rates at [www.xe.com](http://www.xe.com).



## Credit Cards & ATMs

Credits cards are widely used throughout the city. Visa, Mastercard, and American Express are all popular payment options and are accepted at a majority of the city's businesses. Most will have a sign posted on the door stating what cards are approved. If you plan on using a credit card for purchases, make sure the fees aren't astronomical first.

There is no shortage of ATMs in Hong Kong. Some will even exchange your currency for you. You will find them all over the metropolis. They will likely charge about \$5.00 per withdraw, so it's best to pull out as much as you need in one transaction. Make sure you are aware of your daily withdraw limit while overseas.

## Exchanging Currency

The banks are perhaps the wisest place to go for the exchange of your U.S. currency due to their lower rates. Hotels and the airport will also exchange money for tourists and expats. However, make sure the exchange rates in Hong Kong are more economical than that of the U.S.







HELPFUL INFO



## Climate

Hong Kong has four distinct seasons and is part of the oceanic subtropical monsoon climate. It is beautiful in the city throughout the year, with its mild climate ranging from the 50s to the 90s (Fahrenheit). When you book your trip, know that from May to November, it is considered tropical cyclone season, and in September is when typhoons are bound to happen.

## Electricity

The standard voltage in Hong Kong is 220 to 240 volts A.C., 50-Hz. In hotel rooms, you may find 110-volt outlets (like in the U.S.). You will need to bring the right adapter with you. The plugs and sockets are Type G, U.K. style.







## Technology & Communication

Technology and communication in the city is a very advanced infrastructure. There are 11 submarine communication cables, 235 Internet service providers, over 50,000 wireless access points for the public, as well as 2.5G, 3G, and 4G networks.

## Infrastructure & Transport

The infrastructure in Hong Kong is highly developed. There is plenty of public transportation options to get you anywhere you need to go. Some of which include the Mass Transport Railway, escalators that take you as far as a half-mile at a time, taxis, buses, and ferries.



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身體健康

添素君 工作亨通

平安大吉

4357

幸福快樂

平安大吉

生意興隆

財運



## In Case Of An Emergency

Police, Fire, Ambulance- 999

Customs and Excise Department 24-Hour Hotline- (852) 2815-7711

Telephone Directory Info.- 1081

Hong Kong Tourism Board Visitor Hotline- (852) 2508-1234

## Language

The official language of Hong Kong is a direct dialect of Chinese, Cantonese. However, a combination of English and Cantonese is often spoken by the natives.





天王殿

念運河死



## LGBT Travel

The LBGT community is steadily growing in Hong Kong, although it is still relatively small in size. It wasn't until the 1990s that gay-friendly bars and businesses began opening. There are very few laws regarding LGBT, and the residents are usually very accepting of same-sex couples. Some of the best gay bars in the city exist in the Central District (SoHo), the Causeway Bay District, and the Tsim Sha Tsui District. There are also plenty of gay beaches to catch some sun.

## Religion

The beliefs in Hong Kong are diverse. You'll find that most natives practice a multi-faith Chinese folk religion. However, you'll find that the region consists of Buddhists, Hindus, Sikhs, Muslims, and Protestants too. There are many churches and places of worship in the city, even a few that hold English services.







## Getting There

First and foremost, you will need a U.S. passport to enter Hong Kong. San Francisco, New York, San Jose, Seattle, Chicago, Los Angeles, and Honolulu all provide direct flights to Hong Kong. Once you arrive at the airport, you have many public transportation options that will take you wherever you need to go.

## Driving

As long as you have a legitimate driver's license, you can drive in Hong Kong. With such a sophisticated infrastructure, driving around the region as a foreign national will prove tricky. Most residents of Hong Kong choose to take public transportation due to the overwhelming amount of traffic congestion, especially during peak hours.



THE EXPERIENCE



## Culture

Hong Kong consists primarily of Cantonese, Jewish, British, Shanghainese, and Indian residents. Although a sovereign government, Hong Kong keeps many of the Chinese traditions and has combined them with influence from western culture. The holidays consist of traditional Chinese celebrations. Some of their holidays include the Chinese Lunar New Year, Ching Ming Festival (Qing Ming Festival), and Mid-Autumn Festival, also often celebrated is Christmas Day, Eastern Monday, and Good Friday..



## Bucket List

Take off to the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas in Sha Tin

Get a ride from the world's longest escalator

Check out Mongkok and the Ladies Market

View Hong Kong from Victoria Peak

Take a walk through the Temple Street Night Market

Walk down the Avenue of Stars

Wander through the Goldfish Market

Catch a horse race

Eat at a dine in the dark restaurant

Dance the night away in Lan Kwai Fong

Hike Dragon's Back

Have an adult beverage at the world's highest bar, the Ozone Bar



# Family Travel Highlights

Play around in Hong Kong's Disneyland and Ocean Park

Dine at Jumbo Kingdom Floating Restaurant

Visit the Big Buddha

Visit the Hong Kong Museum of History

Shop the Markets and Toy Streets

Get a ride from the Star Ferry Hong Kong

Take the Peak Tram

Visit Hong Kong Park

Book a glass-bottom Cable car at Ngong Ping 360

Shop and dine in the Ngong Ping 360 Village

## Tourism Authority

Hong Kong Island Visitor Centre- 852-2508-1234

Hong Kong International Airport Visitor Centre





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## Foods To Try

Snake Soup

Dim Sum

Lo Mai Gai

Roast Goose

Roast Pork

Char Siu

Clay Pot Rice

Roast Chicken

Braised Pigeon

Brisket Curry

Fishball Noodles

Wonton

Curry Fried Rice



## Drinks To Try

Bubble Tea

Lemon Tea

Milk Tea

Red Bean Ice

Chinese Beer

Pineapple Ice







# Photography Hot Spots

The Flower Market

Lok Wah South Estate

Choi Hung Estate

Nan Lian Garden

Yuen Po Bird Garden

Chi Lin Nunnery

Man Mo Temple

Victoria Peak

Tank Lane

Lion's Pavilion

Ngong Ping 360

Tian Tan Buddha



# Souvenirs To Buy

Antiques

Maneki Neko (lucky cat figures)

Hong Kong Snacks

Engraved Cyprus

Dried fish and Seafood

Porcelain

Carved Precious Stones

Chopsticks

Embroidery

Silk Dresses

Chinese Paintings



