

Hong Kong

Those that have been to Hong Kong usually agree that this is one of the world's most exciting and vibrant cities. Nowhere else can you experience such a fabulous mix of East and West. Unfortunately, most people only scratch the surface, using Hong Kong as a short stopover point, which does not really do it justice. If you have more than a couple of nights to spend there you'll be thoroughly rewarded. Hong Kong has much to offer aside from what is arguably the most spectacular cityscape in Asia.

Experience



The view from Victoria Peak

Hong Kong markets

To get a taste for Chinese life beyond the main tourist areas visit some of Hong Kong's markets. The most interesting are on the Kowloon side, where they tend to be more authentically Chinese.

1 Temple Street Night Market is one of the best, selling cheap clothing, toys and other inexpensive goods. The quality of items on sale is not high, but it is a lively and vibrant market to visit.

2 Another favourite is Yuen Po Street Bird Market where birds are sold, exchanged and generally made a fuss of by collectors, although the animal welfare standards are a little different to our own. Look out for the bird owners feeding their charges with chopsticks. Nearby is the colourful flower market.

3 The streets around Wan Chai on Hong Kong Island also have lively markets selling clothes, meat, fish, fruit and vegetables.

The fish stalls in particular are a sight to behold.

4 Victoria Peak

To see the best of Hong Kong take a panoramic tram ride up to Victoria Peak where you can admire the harbour and the city laid out in front of you. There are many restaurants at the top of the Peak if you want to stop for lunch.

5 Star Ferry

Hong Kong's Star Ferries are something of an institution, having ferried people from the island to the mainland since the early days of the colony. For classic views of Hong Kong take a Star Ferry cruise around the harbour. Alternatively, the regular ferry service, which criss-crosses the bay, allows you to take in the harbour front. The views are best at dusk, with a myriad of lights illuminating the city.

6 Macau

If you fancy something different, the former Portuguese colony of Macau is a lovely place with a very different feel to Hong Kong. A day trip allows plenty of time to stroll through the old part of the city, with some beautiful Portuguese-style architecture and striking Catholic churches. A high speed hydrofoil makes the journey between the two islands in just 55 minutes.



Sleep

7 Clean and comfortable: Metropark

This hotel offers good value accommodation in the heart of Hong Kong and is only about five minutes' walk from Victoria Park in Causeway Bay. The rooms are small but comfortable and tastefully decorated, and there is a small roof-top pool with great views.

8 Elegance and classic style: The Peninsula

Often called the 'Grand Old Lady' of Hong Kong, this classic hotel opened her doors in 1928. All these years later, the hotel retains its elegance and opulence, helped

along by an extensive renovation in the 90s. It remains the place to stay when in town.

9 Contemporary chic: The InterContinental

The InterContinental is excellently located on the harbour front, only a few minutes' walk from the Star Ferry and Nathan Road, and is one of Hong Kong's most prestigious landmarks. Famous for its fantastic views of Hong Kong Island, the hotel offers an excellent standard of facilities including a large outdoor swimming pool set in landscaped gardens overlooking the harbour.



Restaurant bar in the Peninsula



Sunrise over Hong Kong

Eat

Nathan Road

The streets around Nathan Road on the Kowloon side are teeming with street food and good value Cantonese restaurants. Come here to dine with the locals if you're looking for that authentic Hong Kong experience.

Lan Kwai Fong

The streets around the Lan Kwai Fong area on Hong Kong island are full of international restaurants. This area is popular with ex-pats and a good place to come if you're looking for good value food but have had your fill of Chinese dishes.

Gaddi's at the Peninsula

One of Hong Kong's most iconic and elegant restaurants, this place offers a range of gourmet French cuisine and an extensive wine list. Although it has been challenged by a number of other fabulous eateries, it is still somewhat of an institution and is well worth a try.

Nobu

Recently named one of the hottest places to dine in the city, the InterContinental Hong Kong provides a showcase for world famous chef Nobu Matsuhisa's

innovative Japanese cuisine. Mouth-watering Japanese fusion food is served in a restaurant designed to reflect the Japanese countryside in which Nobu grew up. Some tables have views of the harbour rewarding diners with a stunning view of the city's skyline.

Aqua Tokyo and Roma

Aqua Tokyo and Roma offer some of the best views of the Hong Kong skyline. With a double height window and the darkened interior serving to highlight the skyline, the views are simply stunning. Diners can choose dishes from either a Japanese menu or an Italian menu, or have a mixture of the two. The atmosphere is lively and the views are truly unforgettable.

Luk Yu Tea House

Luk Yu is the most famous traditional teahouse remaining in the city. Operating since 1933, the 'eating house and restaurant' captures the elegance of the period with ornate wood panelling, stained-glass murals, black and white ceiling fans and brass spittoons. The quality of both the food and the tea is excellent.



Last visit

by **Victoria Kurtaz**

China specialist

With English still spoken widely and public transport simple, quick and economical, Hong Kong remains a fantastic place to explore independently. I found it refreshingly easy to navigate around on my own after spending a few weeks exploring China with my guide. The city has

got something to please everyone, from glitzy modern skyscrapers and designer shops to bustling traditional markets and some beautiful scenery. This is without a doubt one of the most fabulous cities I have ever visited.



FACTfile

Time in Hong Kong can easily be included in trips to China, Southeast Asia, Australia and New Zealand. A ten day trip to China, including time in Hong Kong, would cost from £1,975 per person including international flights. For more information please call our China specialists on 01993 838 220.

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Fish stall in a Hong Kong market