



HONG KONG AT A GLANCE

SIZE: Approximately 422 square miles, about six times the size of Washington, D.C.

POPULATION: 6,898,686 (July 2005 est.)

LANGUAGE: Chinese (Cantonese), English; both are official

CAPITAL: Hong Kong

TYPE OF GOVERNMENT: Special Administrative Region of China

CURRENCY: Hong Kong dollar (HK\$)

TIME ZONE: GMT + 8

ABOUT YOUR PORT GUIDE

This is your guide to Hong Kong, specially prepared by Princess Cruises. This guide is intended to assist you if you are on a shore excursion, touring independently or doing both.

Please note that the information provided is general in nature and is subject to change.

A City Rushing through the Present in Eager Anticipation of the Future

Visit Hong Kong once, and you lose your objectivity forever. Immediately upon your arrival, you find yourself surrounded by a sea of humanity all rushing to make money. The place never sleeps.

Hong Kong—which means Fragrant Harbor—was acquired by Britain from China in three stages: the island was gained in the Treaty of Nanking in 1842; the Kowloon Peninsula by the 1860 convention of Peking; and the New Territories—consisting of the mainland area adjoining Kowloon and 235 adjacent islands—under a 99-year lease by the Second Convention of Peking in 1898.

In 1841, when news of the cession of Hong Kong proper—a 26-square mile rock with seven peaks 1,000 feet or higher—into the British Empire was announced, London was dumbfounded. Parliament could only wonder how it had all come about, but they could not undo the fact. Most thought that the British negotiator, Captain (and later Admiral) Charles Elliott should have followed victory in the first Opium War more ambitiously.

Actually, negotiators for both sides met with their respective government's wrath; one for giving away too much, the other for not getting enough. China's negotiator, Kishen, was exiled to the distant Amur region, and Elliott drew the assignment as Britain Charge Affaires in the newly independent Republic of Texas before concluding his career as Governor of St. Helena.

Ironically, in a city so rich in the memory of its builders, Elliott remains unrecognized in the very colony that he founded. Apart from the 1941-45 Japanese occupation, between 1842 and 1950, Hong Kong served as a staging post and entry port for trade between China and the West. The colony's population, heavily reduced during the Japanese occupation, was rapidly boosted following the communist victory in China in 1949. More than 1 million refugees fled to Hong Kong in the immediate aftermath of China's civil war.

Since then, Hong Kong has transformed itself from a cheap manufacturing base to a regional service and financial center, while exporting many of its factories across the Chinese border to take advantage of lower costs.

The real reason people visit Hong Kong is to shop. The world's most spectacular shopping free-for-all reigns supreme with armies of hard-bargaining shopkeepers in more than 50,000 retail outlets crammed with every imaginable untaxed good, including jewelry, watches, optical goods, carpets, china, porcelain, electronics, cameras, antiques, artifacts and more.

Be warned, however, that while Hong Kong allows duty-free goods, your government's customs officer may insist you pay duty upon returning to your home shores.

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When not shopping in Hong Kong, visitors eat supremely—for the city has few culinary rivals. Here, most every cuisine known on earth is offered—as well as some of the best Chinese food prepared anywhere. Most think the best is the haute cuisine of the south, Cantonese.

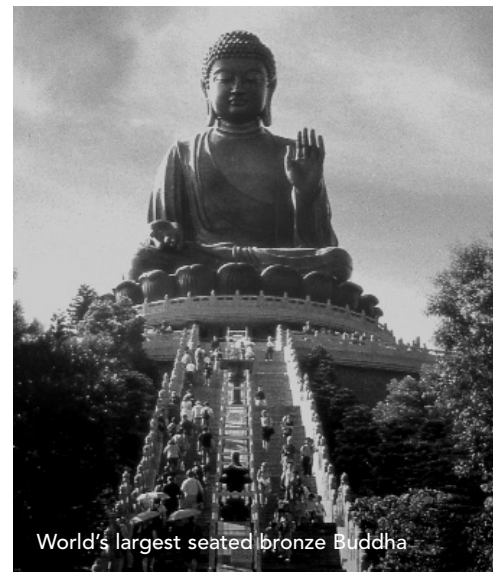
On July 1, 1997, according to the 1984 Sino-British Joint Declaration Hong Kong returned to China's control.

Looking ahead, nobody possesses the crystal ball that will allow us to view post-British Hong Kong. In the interim,

one prediction is every bit as good as the next. So Hong Kong very much remains a city rushing through the present in anticipation of the future.



Floating restaurant, Hong Kong



World's largest seated bronze Buddha

Places of Interest

VICTORIA HARBOUR

Victoria Harbour is ranked with Rio de Janeiro, San Francisco and Sydney as one of the world's most beautiful harbors.

VICTORIA PEAK

At 1,805 feet above sea level, Victoria Peak is the highest point on Hong Kong island.

KOWLOON

The Kowloon Peninsula forms the mainland section of Hong Kong.

STANLEY MARKET

A popular site for bargain hunters, this Hong Kong market offers everything from clothes to antiques.

ABERDEEN FISHING VILLAGE

The picturesque village is home to thousands of "water people" who live aboard their junks and sampans.

REPULSE BAY

Hong Kong's most beautiful beach is both a resort destination and a home to Hong Kong's elite.

MUSEUM OF ART

The museum includes Chinese antiquities, fine arts historical pictures and contemporary art of Hong Kong. Also included are hundreds of oil paintings, drawings and etchings as well as lithograph of Old Hong Kong.

HONG KONG MUSEUM OF HISTORY

The museum traces Hong Kong's evolution from a sleepy fishing island to world metropolis using historical photographs, documents and models.

WONG TAI SIN TEMPLE

Visit one of Hong Kong's largest Taoist temples and enjoy a rare opportunity to observe the daily rituals. Taoism and Buddhism are the dominant religions of Hong Kong.

BIRD MARKET

Birds are popular pets, and the market is filled with colorful birds in ornate bamboo cages.

LANTAU ISLAND

The largest outlying island of Hong Kong, Lantau is twice the size of Hong Kong Island with a mere fraction of its population - just some 25,000 souls live there. Much of the island is designated parkland.

PO LIN MONASTERY

This Buddhist retreat in Lantau's western hills is the island's most popular attraction. Tour the monastery and view the largest seated outdoor bronze Buddha in the world.

MAN MO TEMPLE

Hong Kong Island's oldest and most important temple was built in the 1840s and is named after its two principal deities: Man, the god of literature, who is dressed in red and holds a calligraphy brush; and Mo, the god of war, wearing a green robe and holding a sword. But what makes the temple particularly memorable are the giant incense coils hanging from the ceiling, imparting a fragrant, smoky haze—these are purchased by patrons seeking fulfillment of their wishes, such as good health or a successful business deal.

THESE SITES CAN BE FOUND ON THE MAP AT THE BACK OF THIS GUIDE

Practical Information

DOCKING

Your Princess ship will dock at Ocean Terminal in the downtown Tsim Sha Tsui area of the Kowloon Peninsula.

SHORE EXCURSION DEPARTURES

Passengers will meet at a specific location for each shore excursion departure. Please refer to your tour ticket and the Princess Patter for the correct place and time. Your Shore Excursion staff will be at that location to assist you.

TAXIS

Taxis are available at the Star Ferry Terminal, and accept only HK Dollars in cash. Passengers should pay by the meter, and a computerized receipt is available upon request. There are extra charges for luggage and tunnel crossing which is added to the meter total.

FERRIES

The Star Ferry Terminal is an approximate 15 minute walk outside of the pier area. Star Ferries travel daily from between Kowloon Peninsula and Hong Kong's Island's Central District.

SHOPPING

Hong Kong is a mecca for shoppers and tourists. Hong Kong boasts every name worth mentioning in the fashion industry, cameras and electronics, watches, stereo equipment, jewelry and much more. The best places to shop are:

Harbour City: Located adjacent to the Ocean Terminal, this large shopping center has more than 500 shops inside.

Nathan Road: Also known as the "Golden Miles" of Hong Kong, Nathan Road consists of more than 2,000 shops and is only a 20 minute walk from the Ocean Terminal.

Currency: Local currency is encouraged when shopping ashore in Hong Kong as many shops may not accept U.S. dollars. Credit cards are accepted at many locations. Stores will accept either major credit cards or Hong Kong dollars (HKD).

OPENING AND CLOSING TIMES

Banks: Nearest banks are located on Tsim Sha Tsui. Generally open weekdays from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; closed Sundays and public holidays.

Shops: Generally open daily including holidays from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Post Office: Nearest post office is located on No. 1 Middle Road, Tsim Sha Tsui. Generally open weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.; closed Sundays and public holidays.

LOCAL CUISINE

Cantonese Natural flavors are brought out by fast cooking at high temperatures. Ingredients, especially seafood, beef, pork, vegetables, mushrooms and inland river fish from Guangdong (Canton) province, are bought fresh from the markets every morning.

One of the best known Chinese dishes is:

Peking Duck: It consists of thin slivers of meat wrapped in a pancake with spring onion, cucumber and plum sauce. Other recommended dishes are wheat dumplings, lamb with spring onion, and beggar's chicken.

It is always recommended that you drink bottled water while in port.

TIPPING

Suggested tipping is 10 to 15 percent for good service.

SOME USEFUL WORDS

With a population of more than 6 million, Hong Kong is one of the most densely populated areas in the world. Some 98% of its residents are Chinese, and more than half of them were born in Hong Kong. But the Chinese themselves are a diverse people and they hail from different parts of China. Most are Cantonese from southern China—hence, Cantonese is one of the two official languages of the colony. English being the other.

Good morning	Joe Sun
Good afternoon	Uum On
Good Evening	Mount On
Yes	Ho
No	Uum Ho
Please	Uum Goy
Thank you	Doll Chae

PRINCESS CRUISES AGENTS

In case of emergency while you are ashore, please contact:

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10/F Grand Centre
8 Humphreys Avenue
90825 Tsimshatsui Post Office
Kowloon
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA
Hong Kong
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Telefax: 852-23147300



Note: The information in this port guide is subject to change without notice. We apologize for any inconvenience, but Princess Cruises cannot accept responsibility for any such alterations. Thank you.

