



PLACES OF INTEREST

HONG KONG PLACES OF INTEREST

1 Ocean Terminal is a long wharf/building which juts out into Victoria Harbour. Within this complex you will find Ocean Centre, an upscale shopping mall. Along the waterfront is a small park which has benches and good views of the water.

2 Star House is a shopping “mall” located across from the Star Ferry Terminal. The Chinese Arts & Crafts store is located here. Many fast food outlets are to be found in this area.

3 Hong Kong Cultural Centre is adjacent to the Star Ferry Pier and is one of Hong Kong’s landmarks. The complex contains a concert hall, a theater, an arts library, a garden and two restaurants. The Hong Kong Museum of Art is now incorporated into the Cultural Centre and houses a collection of paintings, calligraphy, rubbings, lacquerware, embroidery and jade. The Space Museum shaped like half a golf ball, is located at 10 Salisbury Road, adjoining the Cultural Centre. Here you will find the Space Theater (planetarium), the Hall of Space Science and the Hall of Astronomy.

4 Kowloon Park was once the site of the Whitfield Barracks for British and Indian troops. The park is hidden behind Yue Hwa’s Park Lane Store on Nathan Road. The park is now basically “artificial,” but the highlights include the Sculpture Walk, aviary, an indoor sports hall, fountains, concrete plazas, a museum and multiple swimming pools.

5 Victoria Peak has been the place to live ever since the British moved in. The top of the tram line is 1,312 feet (400 meters) above Hong Kong and offers spectacular views and the three-level Peak Galleria, an excellent shopping mall. To reach Victoria Peak you should take the Peak Tram located at Garden Road, Central, behind the Hilton Hotel .5 mile (650 meters) from the Star Ferry Terminal on Hong Kong Island.

6 Aberdeen was once a quiet fishing village. Today this area houses a community of 6,000 people who live or work on junks anchored in the harbor. There are also three large floating seafood restaurants.

7 Stanley was home to 2,000 people when the British took possession in 1841. Stanley Market is the main attraction here and is open daily from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm.

8 The New Territories is considered to be Hong Kong’s bedroom community. About one third of Hong Kong’s population lives in this area in new towns which have been under construction since 1972.

SHORE EXCURSIONS To make the most of your visit to Hong Kong and surrounding areas we suggest you take one of our organized Shore Excursions. For information concerning tour content and pricing, consult your Shore Excursion Brochure or contact the Shore Excursion Desk. When going ashore, guests are advised to take with them only the items they need and to secure any valuables.

LOCAL CUSTOMS Bargaining: Bargaining is expected in Hong Kong’s tourist districts, but less so elsewhere. In an honest shop, you shouldn’t be able to bargain more than a 10% discount, if they will bargain at all. Price tags should be displayed on all goods. If not, watch out for price gouging.

Tipping: Historically the Chinese never had the habit of tipping, but Westerners introduced the custom and it stuck. Tips for hotel bellhops and airport porters are a must. Taxi drivers generally expect a gratuity. Good hotels and restaurants generally add a 10% service charge, but waiters and waitresses usually expect more.

Dress Code: Hong Kong is a very fashion conscious city and very cosmopolitan. Most items of clothing are accepted here. Flip-flop sandals should not be worn outdoors.

Avoiding Offence: Nude bathing at beaches is not allowed. Do not give a gift of white flowers except at funerals. Do not write anything in red ink as this conveys anger and hostility. Leaving chopsticks sticking vertically in a bowl is a bad omen as it resembles incense sticks in a bowl of ashes, a death sign. When handing someone an item, present it with both hands as a sign of respect.

Local Cuisine: Rice is an inseparable part of the Chinese culture and wasting it is practically a sin to older Chinese. Chinese meals are social events. Typically, four or five people eat together at the same table. The idea is to order many dishes and then share. There are many different styles of Chinese cooking: Beijing-Shandong, Sichuan-Hunan, Shanghaiese and Cantonese-Chaozhou. Cantonese is the southern variety and is what Hong Kong is famous for. Specialties are abalone, shark’s fin soup, roast pig, snake and pigeon. Dim sum is a snack like variation consisting of small delicacies. Items are normally steamed in a small bamboo basket. You pay by the number of baskets you order. International restaurants abound in this food conscious city. Chinese, Japanese, Vietnamese, Malaysian, Indian, Italian, French, etc. are all easily found. European and American fast food restaurants are also readily available.

Drink Specialties: In Chinese restaurants tea is often served free of charge. Coffee is seldom available except in Western restaurants or coffee shops. There are three main types of tea to be found: Green or unfermented, Bolai or fermented (black tea) and Oolong which is semi-fermented. Most major brands of imported alcohol can easily be found in Hong Kong. Rice wine is more similar in strength to whiskey or rum than wine. Siu Hing is a rice based wine, Go Leung is distilled from sorghum and Mao Tai is made from millet. Excellent beer is available everywhere and San Miguel even has a brewery in Hong Kong. Bottled water is recommended.

SHOPPING FACILITIES The main shopping areas in Hong Kong are found in the tourist zone of Tsimshatsui. Ocean Terminal, Ocean Centre and Harbour City are three of the largest complexes. The New World Centre is found adjacent to the New World Hotel on Salisbury Road. Stanley Open-Air Market is well known for its bargains in cloth-

ing, toys, luggage, souvenirs, and Chinese arts and crafts.

Specialties of the area include antiques, curios, appliances, electronics, carpets, clothing, jade and jewelry. Ivory is a popular seller, but be fore-warned that it is forbidden to bring ivory into the U.S., Canada, and many European countries. Beware of counterfeit items such as watches and designer clothing. Again, importing these items to most countries is illegal. Some tourist oriented stores and street merchants may accept U.S. Dollars. Most stores allow the use of major credit cards.

LOCAL CURRENCY The unit of currency in Hong Kong is called the Hong Kong Dollar (HKD). The Hong Kong Dollar is divided into 100 cents. Notes are available in the following denominations: 10, 20, 50, 100, 500 and 1,000. Coins are minted in denominations of: \$.10, \$.20, \$.50, \$1, \$2, \$5 and \$10.

POST OFFICE AND TELEPHONE FACILITIES The General Post Office in Kowloon is located at 10 Middle Road, east of the Ambassador Hotel and Nathan Road. On Hong Kong Island, the GPO is on your right as you leave the Star Ferry. In Kowloon the local Telecom Office can be found at Hermes House, 10 Middle Road, Tsimshatsui (same location as the Post Office).

Dial the following access numbers to use a personal calling card:

AT&T: 800.96.1111 or 800.93.2266

MCI: 800.96.1121

TRANSPORTATION Taxis are available everywhere in Hong Kong. They will stop for you by raising your arm except in restricted busy areas. Credit cards are not accepted by drivers; U.S. Dollars may be accepted at a lower exchange rate. Hong Kong’s extensive bus system will take you almost anywhere you want to go. In Central (Hong Kong Island), the bus terminal is on the ground floor of the Exchange Square. In Kowloon, the Star Ferry Bus Terminal is the most convenient. Hong Kong boasts one of the world’s most modern metro systems, the Mass Transit Railway (MTR). This underground system is clean, fast and safe. Trains run every two to four minutes daily on three lines. Riding the line is easy, everything is automated – just follow the signage. One of the most scenic ways of getting from Kowloon to Central on Hong Kong Island is via the Star Ferry. The trip takes 7 minutes and offers fantastic photo opportunities.

TOURIST INFORMATION The Hong Kong Tourist Association Office is located at the Star Ferry Terminal in Kowloon.

USEFUL WORDS AND PHRASES

Hello - ni hao.

Good bye. - zai jian.

How much? - duo shao qian?

Thank-you - xie xie

You’re welcome - huan ying guang ling

I’m sorry/excuse me - dui bu qi

I don’t understand - wo bu dong

Where is the toilet? - ce suo zai na li?