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Hong Kong

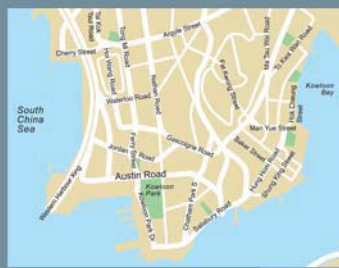
Hong Kong

Area Map

Metro Map

City Map

Attractions



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Hong Kong

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Nữ hão Hong Kong

A visit to Hong Kong/香港

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www.cnto.org

The Hong Kong metropolis is an extremely exciting city to visit and it has fascinated the millions of travelers that go there to experience its many unique contrasts.

Hong Kong is Chinese, but is also influenced by the more than 150 years of British rule, which ended in 1997. Between the skyscrapers, one finds small buildings made in the finest colonial architectural style, providing living proof of the city's history.

Hong Kong offers a colossal range of activities, modern business areas, and beautiful nature. The city is also filled with shopping opportunities, the delicacies of the Cantonese cuisine and ancient Chinese culture.

Hong Kong itself is mainly composed of Hong Kong Island and Kowloon, and the two combined offer both metropolitan atmosphere, lovely bathing beaches and wild nature. Nearby is Macau, where the distinct Portuguese touch still left behind from colonial times also creates a unique experience.

Have a good trip!

Historical outline

Even in prehistoric times, there were dwellings in the Hong Kong area, but thousands of years were to pass before the area began to develop further. With the opening of the Silk Road, which was at its height from about 200 BC to the year 950, the Chinese territory experienced a general development.

When Genghis Khan invaded China from the north around the year 1200, there was a big increase in the population of Hong Kong due to the numerous refugees from the Mongolian invasion in the other Chinese regions. In 1300, Hong Kong was officially founded as a Chinese city.

The first European to visit Hong Kong was Jorge Álvares, a Portuguese merchant who traded with the Chinese. His trade brought him there in 1513, and from then on, Portuguese traders visited the city regularly.

In 1840, Hong Kong became one of the centers of the Opium War between China and England. The Chinese administration in Peking demanded that the import of opium cease and all the established stores of opium were destroyed.

In response, on January 20, 1841, Charles Elliott declared Hong Kong a British crown colony, began to sell land and thus to re-inhabit Hong Kong Island. After some disputes and difficulties, Henry Pottinger took over the leadership of the island, and under him, the British holdings were expanded to other cities on the Chinese coast; among them was Shanghai. Just as they were about to take over Nanking, a peace agreement was reached and the Opium War ended.

One of the results of the peace agreement of Nanking was that China surrendered Hong Kong to England, and on June 16, 1843, Henry Pottinger was appointed the first British governor of Hong

Kong. During the same year, China got trade rights in Hong Kong.

In 1858, the second Opium War broke out, and, after numerous skirmishes, ended in 1860 with a settlement in Peking giving England the southern part of the mainland, present-day Kowloon.

The last decades of the 1800s were a period of great growth for the city. A cable car network, the Victoria Peak Tram, was built, and railroad connections to Canton were opened. In 1891, the Hong Kong dollar was introduced.

In 1898, the last expansion of Hong Kong's territory took place with the 99-year British lease agreement for the so-called New Territories, consisting of the mainland north of Kowloon and 236 islands. The new additions of land made it possible for the British to develop the city into the modern center that it still is today.

In 1941, Hong Kong was invaded by Japanese troops and after 16 days, the city surrendered. A large part of the population left for Macau. In 1945, Hong Kong's British rule was re-established. Just a few years later, in 1949, when Mao founded the People's Republic of China, supporters of Chiang Kai-Shek left China, many of them for Hong Kong, thus increasing the population of the small land area even further.

In 1956, Hong Kong came under regional home rule, still under the British crown, but with greatly increased local authority.

The following decades saw the beginning of Hong Kong's explosive period of economic growth. It began with the establishment of a large textile industry that could compete with the European producers, especially in terms of hourly wages.

After the textile industry, trade and industry in Hong Kong changed in line with the economic success and a strong financial sector developed. Over a period of only a few years, the city became one of the richest in the world.

During this time, changes also took place in the cultural and social areas, not least due to the overweight of Chinese inhabitants – for example, Cantonese became an official language on the same level as English. The transport sector also benefited from large investments – the metro, MTR, was opened in 1980, and eleven years later came plans for the modern airport, Chek Lap Kok.

In the beginning of the 1980s, China and England began negotiating British withdrawal from the area after the lease agreement expired. In 1984, an agreement was signed returning all of Hong Kong to China in 1997. Under the agreement, Hong Kong's status and system would continue partially unchanged until 2047. However, the city would be subject to Chinese territorial borders, defense rules and foreign policy immediately after 1997.

On July 1, 1997, Hong Kong became Chinese once again, and since then the city has become increasingly integrated into the present unique period of growth in China – for example, heavy investments have been made in Hong Kong's film industry.

Tour 1: Hong Kong

1. The Sheung Wan and Western Districts/上環 och 西環

MTR: Sheung Wan/上環

The Sheung Wan and Western districts hold historical significance for Hong Kong. It was in Possession Street that the English first raised the Union Jack in 1841. During the same year, more and more Chinese immigrants began to settle there and today, the area is still the best example of a traditional Chinatown within Hong Kong.

2. The University of Hong Kong/香港大學

Pok Fu Lam Road

www.hku.hk

MTR: Sheung Wan/上環

The university on Hong Kong Island is the oldest one in Hong Kong. The lovely main building was built in 1912 in colonial style. Among the many famous graduates of the university is Sun Yat-sen, the first president of the Chinese republic.

In the university museum, Chinese antiques and works of art can be seen; among them is the world's largest collection of bronze objects from the Yuan dynasty.

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3. The Western Market Building/西港城

323 Des Voeux Road Central

MTR: Sheung Wan/上環

Hong Kong's market building was built in 1906 in Edwardian style. After a thorough renovation, the market reopened in 1991. A visit here is a must – in the many small shops, one can buy Chinese handicrafts.

4. The Man Mo Temple/文武廟

Man Mo Temple/文武廟

124-126 Hollywood Road

MTR: Sheung Wan/上環

The Man Mo Temple is one of Hong Kong's oldest. It was built in 1847. The Temple's name stems from Man (the god of literature) and Mo (the god of war), but the temple itself is a beautiful, peaceful oasis in the midst of the surrounding city environs.

5. The Duddell Street Steps/中環都爹利街石階

中環都爹利街石階

Duddell Street

MTR: Central/中環

Between Duddell Street and Ice House Street, there is a set of fine stone stairs. All along the sides of the staircase, the last remaining gas lamps in the city are placed. They were set up in 1875 and stand there still, spreading a special, romantic atmosphere from the past and a great contrast to modern Hong Kong.

6. The Governor's Residence/香港禮賓府

香港禮賓府

Upper Albert Road

MTR: Central/中環



In the Mid-Levels Garden Park, the former official residence of the British governor in Hong Kong is situated. The governor's residence was built in 1855 and converted by the Japanese during World War II. Twenty-five British governors lived here until 1997, when Hong Kong was handed over to China.

Today the governor's residence is used for concerts and other entertainment programs. Outside of the residence, one can enjoy the lovely garden with its rhododendrons and azaleas, not to mention many other attractive flowers.

7. The Former French Mission Building/前法國傳道會大樓

1 Battery Path

MTR: Central/中環

Among Hong Kong's skyscrapers in the Central District, one finds this red brick building in colonial style from the 1800s, which was bought by French missionaries in 1915. With its wooden shutters and cast-iron ornaments, the building is typical of French buildings of the time. Today, it houses part of the Hong Kong Court of Final Appeal.

8. Victoria Peak/太平山頂

Peak Road

www.thepeak.com.hk

www.madame-tussauds.com.hk

MTR: Central/中環

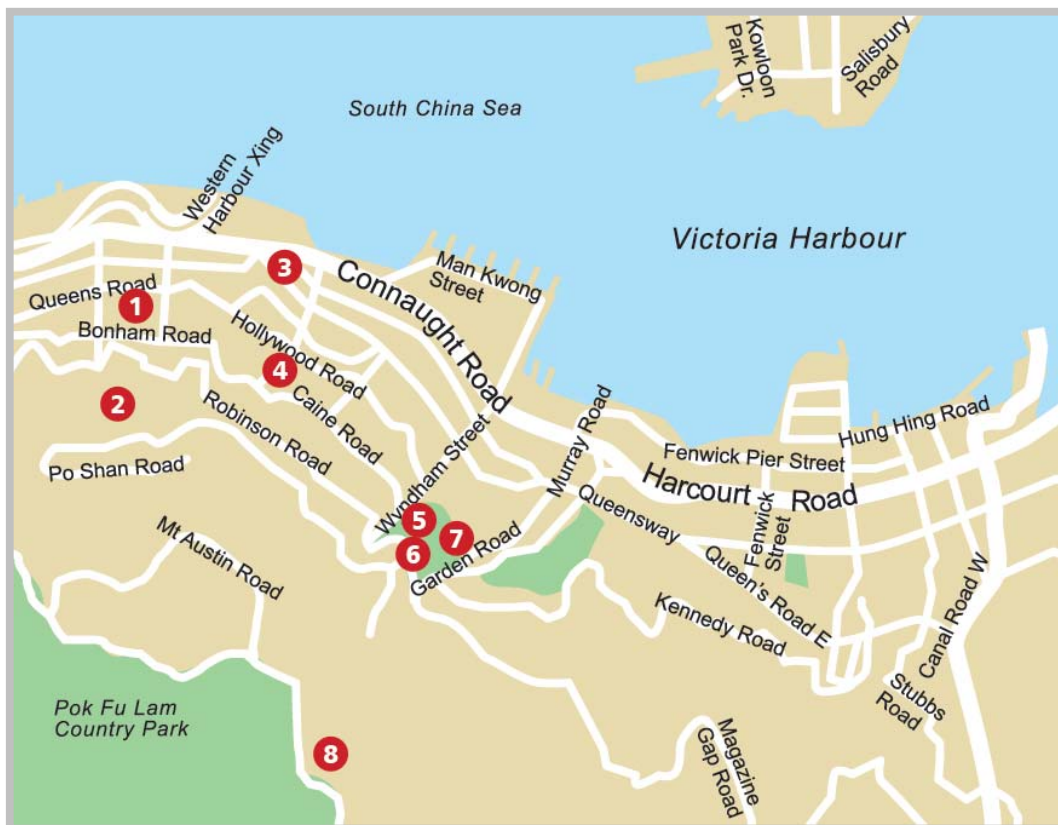


Victoria Peak is one of Hong Kong’s most visited spots. Its placement at the top of the mountain on Hong Kong Island provides a fantastic view out over the entire city. It is recommended that one make the journey upwards in the hours just before sunset and then stay on the peak until after nightfall. The view at both points in time is unforgettable.

Victoria Peak is also the starting point for a number of footpaths, which give one the possibility of experiencing Hong Kong outside the metropolis area. One of them gives a fine view of the southern side of the island and the ocean there.

In the unique tower on Victoria Peak itself one finds shops, restaurants and Madam Tussaud’s Wax Museum, which contains replicas of about 100 well-known personalities, among them Hong Kong’s own Jackie Chan.

The Peak Tram/山頂纜車 takes you to Victoria Peak from the terminal at Garden Road. It is a cable-car route established in 1888. The tram climbs 373 meters upwards, and you get an incredible view looking out from the right side of the wagons.



Tour 2: Hong Kong

9. St. John's Cathedral/聖約翰座堂

4-8 Garden Road

www.stjohnscathedral.org.hk

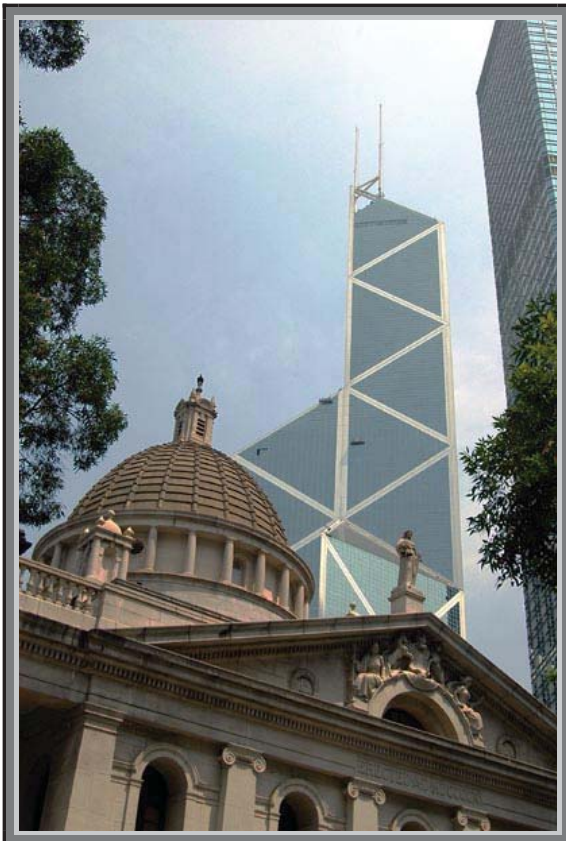
MTR: Central/中環/Admiralty/金鐘

St. John's Cathedral is believed to be the oldest Anglican church in the Far East. It was built in 1849 in a style that blends English architecture of the 1200s with decorated Gothic architecture.

10. The Bank of China Tower/中銀大廈

1 Garden Road

MTR: Central/中環/Admiralty/金鐘



The impressive Bank of China Tower is one of modern Hong Kong's most striking buildings. The architect, I. M. Pei, used bamboo as his inspiration. The building is 70 stories high and recognizable from all the popular vantage points in the city.

11. Flagstaff House/旗杆屋

10 Cotton Tree Drive

www.lcsd.gov.hk/ce/museum

MTR: Admiralty/金鐘

The Flagstaff House mansion in Hong Kong Park was built in 1846 as a residence for the British commander. It held that status until 1932. Today, the lovely house is a museum for tea sets.

12. The Central Plaza Building/中環廣場

18 Harbour Road

18 Harbour Road

www.centralplaza.com.hk

MTR: Wan Chai/灣仔



Central Plaza's 78 stories make it one of Hong Kong's highest buildings. After nightfall, the neon light at the top of Central Plaza changes color every fifteen minutes, thus placing it among the city's most noteworthy modern skyscrapers.

13. The Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Center / 香港會議展覽中心

1 Expo Drive

www.hkcec.com

MTR: Wan Chai/灣仔



Hong Kong's unique convention and exhibition center is built on reclaimed land in Victoria Harbor. Its special roof construction makes it one of Hong Kong's landmarks. It was here that the official ceremony of Hong Kong's handover to China took place in 1997.

14. The Tin Hau Temple/Tin Hau Temple/天后寺

Tin Hau Temple Road 10

MTR: Tin Hau/天后

The little Tin Hau temple was built in the early 1700s by the Tai family. The temple was originally built to protect a statue of the goddess of the sea, Tin Hau, which the family is said to have found along the coast.

15. The Hong Kong Island cable cars

Hong Kong Island

Hong Kong's picturesque cable cars have rumbled through the streets of Hong Kong Island since 1904. A tour from east to west provides many impressive sights of the lovely buildings and breathtaking views of natural scenery in these parts.

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Tour 3: Hong Kong

16. Star Ferry/天星小輪

www.starferry.com.hk

MTR: Tsim Sha Tsui/尖沙咀/Central/中環



Since 1898, the Star Ferry has sailed the eight-minute route across Victoria Harbor, thus connecting Hong Kong Island to Tsim Sha Tsui.

The tour is a must for every visitor to Hong Kong. The view from the ferry of modern, beautifully situated Hong Kong and the special atmosphere on board are incomparable.

17. The Railway Clock Tower/

前九廣鐵路鐘樓

Waterfront Promenade

MTR: Tsim Sha Tsui/尖沙咀



The striking Railway Clock Tower at the waterfront near Star Ferries was erected in 1921 as part of the earlier main railway station of the Kowloon-Canton railway. Today, the area near the clock tower is a good starting point for a walk along the pleasant waterfront promenade.

18. The Marine Police Headquarters/前水警總部

Tsim Sha Tsui Hill

MTR: Tsim Sha Tsui/尖沙咀

Hong Kong's Marine Police have operated out of this building since the beautiful complex was finished in 1884. From the two-storey-high tower in the complex, a signal was given daily at 1:00 pm until 1907, so that the ships could set their clocks correctly.

19. Hong Kong Cultural Centre/香港文化中心

Salisbury Road 10

www.lcsd.gov.hk/hkcc

MTR: Tsim Sha Tsui/尖沙咀



Hong Kong's unique cultural center was constructed in 1984. It is the setting of a number of concerts and exhibitions. It also houses a couple of the city museums, including the art museum.

19a. Hong Kong Museum of Art/香港藝術館

www.lcsd.gov.hk/hkma

At the Hong Kong Museum of Art, one finds a very fine collection of works of art. Especially impressive are the works representing early Chinese history during the Han, Ming, and Qing dynasties. There are also galleries of international art at the museum.

20. Waterfront Promenade/ The Avenue of Stars/星光大道

Waterfront Promenade

www.lcsd.gov.hk/parks

MTR: Tsim Sha Tsui/尖沙咀



From the Railway Clock Tower, the waterfront promenade goes eastward along the water. In addition to viewing some of Kowloon's modern buildings, one can see an unforgettable sight – Victoria Harbor and the fascinating skyline of Hong Kong Island. The Avenue of Stars is the first street in Asia where movie stars have placed their names and imprints.

21. The Museum of History/ 香港歷史博物館

Chatham Road South 100

www.lcsd.gov.hk/hkmh

MTR: Tsim Sha Tsui/尖沙咀

Hong Kong's Museum of History depicts the history of the city and the southern Chinese area throughout the last 6,000 years in its exclusive permanent exhibition. The museum exhibits archaeological finds and has departments for ethnography and natural history, so one gets a lot out of the 7,000 square meters of space the museum holds.

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22. The Peninsula Hotel/半島酒店

Salisbury Road/Nathan Road

<http://hongkong.peninsula.com>

MTR: Tsim Sha Tsui/尖沙咀



The world-renowned Peninsula Hotel with its fantastic lobby was built in 1928 (the tall central building, however, was added later). It is one of the best places in Hong Kong to enjoy a classic English afternoon tea.

23. The Golden Mile/金域

Nathan Road

MTR: Tsim Sha Tsui/尖沙咀/Jordan/佐敦



In Kowloon's central district, Tsim Sha Tsui, we find Nathan Road, named after the British governor who laid the plan for the street. Nathan Road, with its many neon-lit shops, hotels, restaurants and nightclubs, is known as the Golden Mile. The Golden Mile gives visitors a good impression of the hectic daily life of Kowloon.

24. Kowloon Park/九龍公園

Nathan Road/Austin Road

www.lcsd.gov.hk/parks

MTR: Tsim Sha Tsui/尖沙咀

Kowloon Park is a beautifully landscaped oasis in the middle of the Kowloon district. The park covers about 34 acres and was created in an area that used to house military barracks. In the park, one can see sculptures made by local sculptors, a bronze statue made by Scottish Eduardo Paolozzi, a Chinese garden and an interesting labyrinth. In a corner of Kowloon Park is the Kowloon Mosque and Islamic Centre, built in white marble in Oriental style.

25. The Hong Kong Observatory/ 香港天文台

Nathan Road 134A

www.hko.gov.hk

MTR: Tsim Sha Tsui/尖沙咀



Hong Kong's observatory was built in 1883 in colonial style with arches and verandahs. The area's meteorological measurements continue to be taken from the lovely building. The observatory can be visited by groups if an appointment is made in advance.

26. The Kowloon British School/
前九龍英童學校

Nathan Road 136

MTR: Tsim Sha Tsui/尖沙咀站

Once a school for English children, the Kowloon British School was built in 1902 in Victorian style. Today, it is used for exhibitions arranged by the Antiquities and Monuments Office.



Tour 4: Hong Kong

27. The Jade Market/玉器市場

Kansu, Canton & Battery Street

MTR: Jordan/佐敦

At Kowloon’s renowned jade market, jade of every type is sold. At the many booths, one can purchase jewelry and other objects in an authentic Chinese street-market environment. Nearby is the Tin Hau Temple from the late 1800s.

28. The Mong Kok District/旺角

MTR: Mong Kok/旺角



The Mong Kok district north of Tsim Sha Tsui is one of Hong Kong’s most densely populated areas. A stroll here gives a clear impression of the intense atmosphere of this extremely active trading area. In the area, there are a number of different markets, among them the well-known bird market.

29. The Kowloon Walled City / 九龍城寨

Kowloon Walled City Park

www.lcsd.gov.hk/parks

MTR: Lok Fu/樂富

The Kowloon Walled City was built by the Qing government in 1847 as a military outpost facing south towards the English of the area. The area remained on Chinese hands until 1899, when the English invaded the walled-in city. In 1987, the city contained a large slum area, and a decision was made to tear it down. Today one can see the remains of the city’s entrance gates to the east and the south as well as the restored Yamen building.

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30. The Wong Tai Sin Temple/ 齋色園黃大仙祠

Lung Cheung Road

MTR: Wong Tai Sin/黃大仙

Wong Tai Sin is a traditionally built Chinese temple with red pillars, a curved golden roof and colorful decorations in wood. Believers, who wish to seek advice and relief from health problems or financial difficulties, visit the temple.

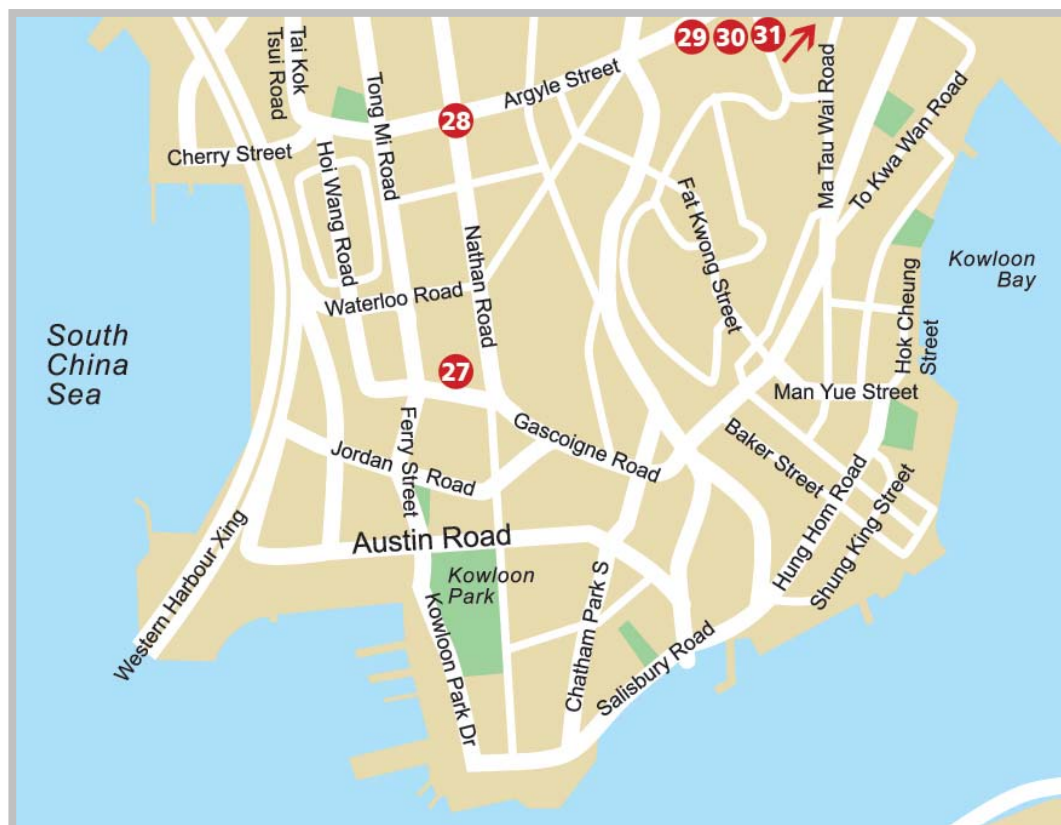
The present-day Wong Tai Sin Temple was built in 1956, but the painting of the shepherd, Wong Tai Sin, was already brought to Hong Kong in 1915. In the temple, you can have your fortune told.

31. Diamond Hill/鑽石山

Diamond Hill

MTR: Diamond Hill/鑽石山

The beautifully renovated convent, Chi Lin (志蓮淨苑), on Diamond Hill, is kept in traditional Chinese style. The stillness of the place makes a sharp contrast to modern Hong Kong, and the convent is like a living museum of the Tang dynasty, which gave inspiration to its construction. Make sure to visit the Pagoda with the 10,000 Buddhas nearby the convent as well.



Day Tours from Hong Kong

32. The Sam Tung Uk Village/三棟屋

Tsuen Wan

www.heritagemuseum.gov.hk

MTR: Tsuen Wan/荃灣

The square Sam Tung Uk village was built in 1786. The little village was constructed by the Chan clan, and it is fascinating to see the way it is built with walls surrounding it. The village was renovated and opened as a museum in 1987.

33. Tai Po/大埔

Tai Po

Station: Tai Po/大埔

The town of Tai Po in the New Territories is one of the oldest inhabited places in the Hong Kong area. Tai Po was extremely wealthy due to pearl fishing. In recent decades, the town has grown dramatically but even today, it is still a comfortable, homey place where one can meet both traditional and modern China.

33a. The Waterfront Park/大埔海濱公園

www.lcsd.gov.hk/parks

Tai Po's Waterfront Park is a lovely piece of landscaping. Here we find the 32.4-meter-high futuristic tower, which provides a choice view of the town, the harbor and the surrounding landscape. It is possible to look across the former border between Hong Kong and the rest of China. Note also the unique, fan-shaped arrangement of the flowerbeds made to resemble a large rainbow – this can best be seen from the tower.

33b. The Tai Po Market Station/大埔墟站

www.heritagemuseum.gov.hk

Station: Tai Po Market/大埔墟

The train station at the Tai Po Market is different from the others in the area because it is built in

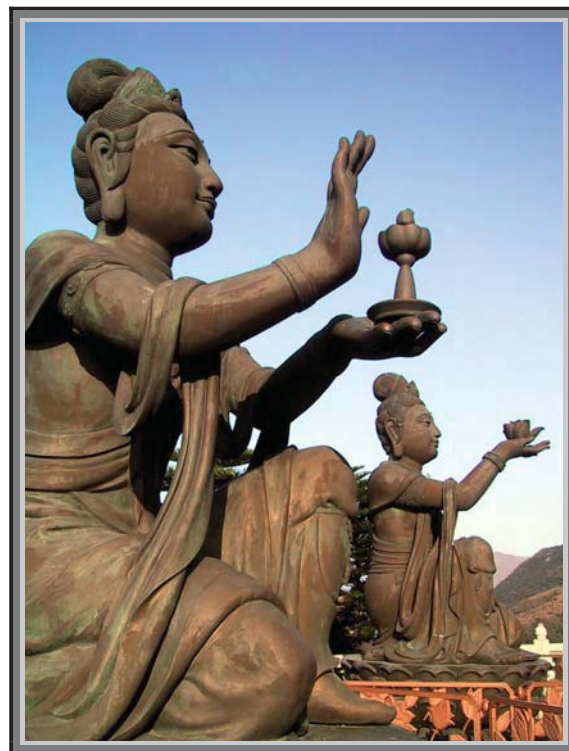
Chinese style. It was built in 1913 and today an exciting railway museum stands here.

34. The Po Lin Monastery/天壇大佛

Ngong Ping

www.plm.org.hk

Station: Tung Chung/東涌



The Po Lin monastery is placed in a beautiful area on Lantau Island, 520 meters above sea level. The monastery is known for its large bronze Buddha from 1993. The Buddha is 26.4 meters high and weighs 220 tons. It is the largest of its kind in the world.

The Po Lin monastery itself is also worth seeing. It is beautiful and gives a fine impression of a Chinese temple complex. One can try to gain information on one's future here – this is done by means of bamboo sticks.

Near the Po Lin monastery, one can walk along the Wisdom Path, a replica of a Buddhist prayer, which is several hundred years old. The Wisdom Path was laid out in 2002.

One can also choose to walk to Lantau Peak – with its 934 meters it is the Hong Kong area’s next-highest mountain. From the top, there is a formidable view of the archipelago - in clear weather all the way to Macau.

35. Guangzhou/廣州

Guangzhou

www.cnto.org/guangzhou.asp

Station: Guangzhou/廣州

The metropolis of Guangzhou lies at the mouth of the Pearl River (Xi Jiang). The town used to be called Canton and was founded more than 2,000 years ago. Its geographical placement quickly made it a lively trading port, and in the period from 1757-1842 it was the only Chinese harbor open to foreign trade.

Guangzhou was the place where Sun Yatsen worked and where the national Kuomintang party had its head office. Today, the city is extremely modern and busy and gives a clear picture of the explosive development China has been experiencing in present decades, although it is also filled with historical locations and monuments.

35a. Yuexiu Gongyuan/Yuèxiù Gōngyuán/ 越秀公园

Close to the city’s railroad station is the large park called Yuexiu Gongyuan. The park is beautifully landscaped with numerous lakes and hills. In the center is the Zhenhailou Tower, which houses the city museum. The museum shows relics from Guangzhou’s history. The tower is a memorial to the seafarer Zheng He, who went on many voyages to other countries, including Africa, in the beginning of the 1400s.

35b. The Sun Yatsen Monument and the Memorial Hall/Sūn Zhōngshān Jì niàntáng/ 孙中山纪念堂

The Sun Yat Sen monument is located on a hilltop just south of the Yuexiu Gongyuan park. From here, there is a beautiful view over the city and of the Sun Yatsen Memorial Hall. The memorial hall was built in the years from 1925 to 1931 and different cultural arrangements are held there.

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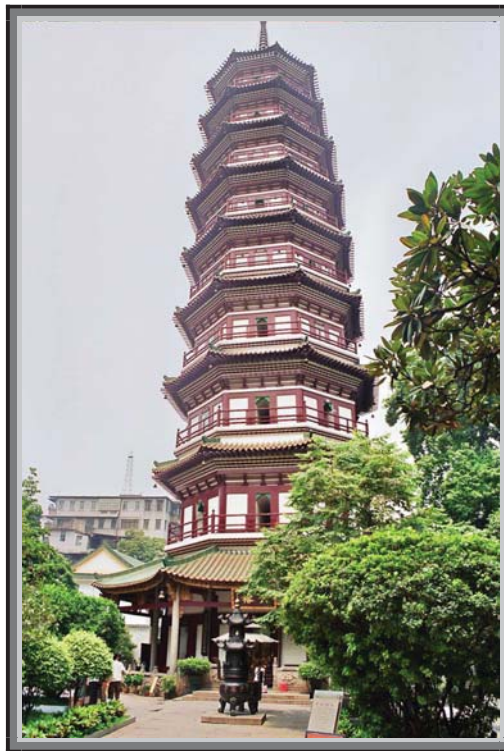


**35c. The Catholic Cathedral/
Shíshì Shèngxīn Jiàotáng / 石教圣心教堂**



Guangzhou's Catholic Cathedral was built in 1888. After decades of decay, it was restored in the 1980s. Today it belongs to the Chinese Catholic Church

**35d. The Temple of the Six Banyan Trees/
Liù Róng Sì / 六榕寺**



This temple is best known for its pagoda, which is one of the city's landmarks. The Pagoda is called the Flower Pagoda/Hua Ta and it was built in 1097. Inside, the pagoda has 17 stories. It is possible to go to the top and thus be rewarded with an interesting view. Here we can truly see a blend of the old and the new China.

**35e. The Chen Family Temple/Chénjiā Sì /
陈家寺**

This large and opulently decorated temple complex was first built in 1894, but rebuilt after the Cultural Revolution. The temple area is in classical style, with pagodas, temple gates, a fine garden and, naturally, the temple buildings themselves.

35f. Shamian Island/Shāmiàn Dǎo/沙面島

Little Shamian Island by the Pearl River was divided up into foreign concession areas in the mid-1800s.

Today, one can still enjoy a look at many of the buildings from colonial times – mainly French ones.

36. Macau/澳門**Macau**

www.macautourism.gov.mo

Access with the jetfoil from Hong Kong



In 1557, Portugal founded the town and the colony of Macau. The town belonged to the Portuguese for 442 years until 1999, when it was handed over to China. Throughout the entire period, Portugal left its cultural and architectural mark on Macau in a very charming way. Today it has a unique atmosphere, which blends Asia with southern Europe.

It is a nice experience to stroll through the streets all over town, including the great Senado Square, Largo do Senado, where the lovely Leal Senado building from 1784 stands. The façade was finished in 1876.

Today, all that is left of the large São Paulo Cathedral from the 1500s is the impressive façade. The big staircase leading up to the façade is perhaps what makes this place the most impressive in Macau.

Near São Paulo is the Monte Fort from the 1620s. In addition to the impressive walls of the fort, this is also where you will find the Macau Museum, which depicts the town's noteworthy history.



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Hong Kong for children

Hong Kong Disneyland/ 香港迪士尼樂園
(Lantau Island):

www.hongkongdisneyland.com

Hong Kong Science Museum
(Science Museum Road):

www.hk.science.museum

Hong Kong Zoological Garden (Victoria Peak):

www.lcsd.gov.hk/parks

The Hong Kong Railway Museum/ 香港鐵路博物館
(Shung Tak Street 13, Tai Po):

www.heritagemuseum.gov.hk

A Symphony of Lights/ 幻彩詠香江 (Avenue of
Stars, Waterfront Promenade):

www.tourism.gov.hk/symphony

Ocean Park/ 海洋公園 (Aberdeen):

www.oceanpark.com.hk

Shopping in Hong Kong

Nathan Road, Salisbury Road, Tung Choi Street,
Temple Street, Sai Yeung Choi Street

Festival Walk (80 Tat Chee Avenue):

www.festivalwalk.com.hk

IFC Mall (8 Finance Street):

www.ifc.com.hk

Megabox (Kowloon Bay):

www.megabox.com.hk

New Town Plaza (Shatin Centre Street):

www.newtownplaza.com.hk

Ocean Terminal (3 Canton Road):

www.oceanterminal.com.hk

Pacific Place (88 Queensway):

www.pacificplace.com.hk

Public transportation in Hong Kong

Hong Kong city transport:

www.mtr.com.hk

Hong Kong airport:

www.hongkongairport.com

China's railways:

www.train.chinamor.cn.net

Timetables for Chinese trains:

www.treehouse.ofb.net/guide/searchtrainsations?lang=en

Metro Map



Facts about China



Political

Official name	Zhonghua Renmin Gongheguo
Capital	Beijing
Form of government	People's republic
Head of state	President Hu Jintao
Head of Government	Prime Minister Wen Jiabao
National Independence Day	1 October
Achieved independence	1 October 1949, People's Republic proclaimed
Primary religions	Confucianism, Buddhism, Taoism
Language	Chinese (primarily Mandarin and Cantonese)
Area	9 640 821 km ²
Population (2000)	1 242 612 000

Borders on	
North	Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Russia
South	Nepal, India, Bhutan, Myanmar, Laos, Vietnam, South China Sea
East	North Korea, Russia, Yellow Sea, East China Sea
West	Kirghizstan, Tadsjikistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India

Highest mountains	
Mount Everest	8 850 meters
K2	8 611 meters
Lhotse I	8 516 meters
Makalu I	8 463 meters
Cho Oyu	8 201 meters
Gasherbrum I	8 068 meters
Broad Peak	8 047 meters
Gasherbrum II	8 035 meters
Shishma Pangma	8 013 meters
Kamet	7 756 meters

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Inés Aréizaga Esteva (Spain), 25 years old
Education: Chemical Engineer

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Largest islands

Taiwan/臺灣省	35 801 km ²
Hainan/海南	33 210 km ²
Chongming	1 041 km ²
Zhoushan	503 km ²
Lantau	146 km ²
Quemoy	145 km ²
Shangchuan	137 km ²

Largest lakes

Qinghai	4 635 km ²
Xingkai Hu (Khanka) *	4 190 km ²
Poyang	3 585 km ²
Dongting Hu	2 820 km ²
Tai Hu	2 250 km ²
Chao Hu	760 km ²
Qiandao	573 km ²
Bayyangdian	366 km ²
Kunming Hu	298 km ²
Dagze Co	260 km ²

* partially located in Russia

Longest rivers*

Chang Jiang (Yangtze)	6 300 km
Huang He (The Yellow River)	5 464 km
Heilongjiang (Amur)	4 444 km
Mekong	4 350 km
Erqisi (Irtysj)	4 228 km
Indus	3 200 km
Saluen	2 980 km
Xi Jiang (Pärfloden)	2 197 km
Xijiang	1 930 km
Hanshui	1 532 km

* Some rivers flow in part through other countries than China

Largest cities (2002)	
Shanghai/上海	9 031 000
Beijing/北京	7 130 000
Hong Kong/香港	7 000 000
Tianjin/天津	4 345 000
Wuhan/武漢	3 958 000
Shenyang/沈阳	3 453 000
Guangzhou/廣州	3 434 000
Harbin/哈爾濱	2 765 000
Xi'an/西安	2 657 000
Chongqing/重慶	2 312 000

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Administrative divisions		
Provinces	Area	Capital
Anhui/安徽	139 400 km ²	Hefei
Fujian/福建	121 400 km ²	Fuzhou
Gansu/甘肅	454 000 km ²	Lanzhou
Guangdong/广东	177 900 km ²	Guangzhou
Guizhou/貴州	176 100 km ²	Guiyang
Hainan/海南	33 920 km ²	Haikou
Hebei/河北	187 700 km ²	Shijiazhuang
Heilongjiang/黑龍江省	460 000 km ²	Harbin
Henan/河南	167 000 km ²	Zhengzhou
Hubei/湖北	185 000 km ²	Wuhan
Hunan/湖南	211 800 km ²	Changsha
Jiangsu/江蘇	102 600 km ²	Nanjing
Jiangxi/江西	166 900 km ²	Nanchang
Jilin/吉林	187 400 km ²	Changchun
Liaoning/遼寧	145 900 km ²	Shenyang
Qinghai/青海	721 000 km ²	Xining
Shaanxi/陝西	205 800 km ²	Xi'an
Shandong/山東	156 700 km ²	Jinan
Shanxi/山西	156 800 km ²	Taiyuan
Sichuan/四川	485 000 km ²	Chengdu
Taiwan/臺灣省	36 200 km ²	Taipei
Yunnan/雲南	394 100 km ²	Kunming
Zhejiang/浙江	101 800 km ²	Hangzhou
Autonomous regions	Area	Capital
Guangxi/广西	236 700 km ²	Nanning
Nei Menggu (Inner Mongolia)/ 內蒙古自治區	1 183 000 km ²	Hohhot
Ningxia/宁夏	66 000 km ²	Yinchuan
Xinjiang/新疆	1 660 000 km ²	Ürümqi
Xizang (Tibet)/ 西藏自治區	1 228 400 km ²	Lhasa

City regions	Area	Capital
Beijing/北京市	16 800 km ²	Beijing
Chongqing/重慶市	82 300 km ²	Yuzhong Qu
Shanghai/上海市	7 000 km ²	Shanghai
Tianjin/天津市	11 900 km ²	Tianjin
Special administrative regions	Area	Capital
Xianggang (Hong Kong)/ 香港特別行政區	1 100 km ²	-
Aomen (Macao)/ 澳門特別行政區	29 km ²	-

De facto leaders of China since 1949	
Mao Zedong	1943-1976
Hua Guofeng	1976-1981
Deng Xiaoping	1981-1989
Jiang Zemin	1989-2004
Hu Jintao	2004-

Heads of state since 1949	
Mao Zedong	1949-1959
Liu Shaoqi	1959-1968
Soong Ching-ling	1968-1972, 1981-1981
Dong Biwu	1968-1975
Zhu De	1975-1976
Ye Jianying	1978-1981, 1981-1983
Li Xiannian	1983-1988
Yang Shangkun	1988-1993
Jiang Zemin	1993-2003
Hu Jintao	2003-

Prime Ministers since 1949

Zhou Enlai	1949-1976
Hua Guofeng	1976-1980
Zhao Ziyang	1980-1987
Li Peng	1987-1998
Zhu Rongji	1998-2003
Wen Jiabao	2003-

National holidays and remembrance days

1-2 January	New Year
1-3 May	1 st of May celebrations
1 July	Founding of the Communist Party
1 August	Army Day
1-3 October	National Independence Day celebrations

Various facts

Currency	Renminbi/Yuan
Currency code	RMB/CNY
Time zone	China Time/EST (UTC+8)
International postal code	PRC
Internet domain	.cn
Country code	+86

Climate - Beijing	Mean temperature (°C/°F)	Precipitation (millimetres/inches)
January	-4.6/23.7	4/0.2
February	-1.8/28.8	5/0.2
March	4.7/40.5	8/0.3
April	13.6/56.5	18/0.7
May	20.0/68.0	33/1.3
June	24.4/75.9	78/3.1
July	26.0/78.8	224/8.8
August	24.7/76.5	170/6.7
September	19.8/67.6	58/2.3
October	12.6/54.7	18/0.7
November	3.9/39.0	9/0.4
December	-2.6/27.3	3/0.1

Source: WorldClimate (www.worldclimate.com)

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Climate - Hong Kong	Mean temperature (°C/°F)	Precipitation (millimetres/inches)
January	16.2/61.2	27/1.1
February	16.1/61.0	44/1.7
March	18.4/65.1	75/2.9
April	22.1/71.8	140/5.5
May	26.1/79.0	298/11.7
June	28.0/82.4	399/15.7
July	28.7/83.7	371/14.6
August	28.6/83.5	377/14.8
September	27.9/82.2	297/11.7
October	25.4/77.7	119/4.7
November	21.8/71.2	38/1.5
December	17.7/63.9	25/1.0

Source: WorldClimate (www.worldclimate.com)

Climate - Harbin	Mean temperature (°C/°F)	Precipitation (millimetres/inches)
January	-19.6/-3.2	4/0.2
February	-15.4/4.3	5/0.2
March	-5.2/22.6	11/0.4
April	6.0/42.8	22/0.9
May	14.1/57.4	43/1.7
June	19.8/67.6	89/3.5
July	23.0/73.4	156/6.1
August	21.3/70.3	117/4.6
September	14.3/57.7	61/2.4
October	5.6/42.1	28/1.1
November	-6.1/21.0	10/0.4
December	-16.0/3.2	5/0.2

Source: WorldClimate (www.worldclimate.com)

Climate - Ürümqi	Mean temperature (°C/°F)	Precipitation (millimetres/inches)
January	-14.4/6.1	8/0.3
February	-12.1/10.2	10/0.4
March	-1.8/28.8	18/0.7
April	9.9/49.8	30/1.2
May	17.0/62.6	31/1.2
June	21.8/71.2	34/1.4
July	24.1/75.4	21/0.8
August	22.8/73.0	21/0.8
September	16.6/61.9	24/0.9
October	7.4/45.3	26/1.0
November	-3.6/25.5	19/0.7
December	-11.9/10.6	12/0.5

Source: WorldClimate (www.worldclimate.com)

Climate - Lhasa	Mean temperature (°C/°F)	Precipitation (millimetres/inches)
January	-1.6/29.1	0/0.0
February	1.2/34.2	3/0.1
March	4.8/40.6	4/0.1
April	8.4/47.1	6/0.2
May	12.4/54.3	24/0.9
June	16.0/60.8	72/2.8
July	15.5/59.9	132/5.2
August	14.7/58.5	128/5.0
September	13.1/55.6	58/2.3
October	8.5/47.3	9/0.4
November	2.6/36.7	1/0.1
December	-1.1/30.0	0/0.0

Source: WorldClimate (www.worldclimate.com)

Phrase book

Courtesy phrases

Greetings

	問候
Good morning	早安
Good day	祝你愉快
Good afternoon	午安
Good night	晚安
Hi/Hey	嗨!
farewell	再會
See you	再見

Others

	其他
Thanks	謝謝
Thanks for the help	謝謝你的幫助
Yes	是
No	不
Okay	好
Be so good	非常好
Be so kind	真是太好了
Sorry	對不起
My name is.....	我叫...。
What is your name?	你叫什麼名字?

Question (Inquiring) words

What...?	什麼...?
Where...?	哪裡...?
When...?	何時...?
Who...?	誰...?
How...?	如何...?
Why...?	為什麼...?

Find way

To the right	向右
To the left	向左
Straight on	直行
Back	向後

Where is?	...在哪里?
Can you show the way to.....?	你能指給我去...的路嗎?
Where am I/we at present?	現在我/我們在哪里?
How do I reach....?	我如何到達...?
how far is it to.....?	到...有多遠?
Where is the nearest station?	最近的車站在哪里?
Address	地址
What is the address?	地址是哪里?

Tourist in the city

Have you a city map?	你有城市地圖嗎?
What shall I see here in this city?	在這個城市裏我應該遊覽什麼?
Can you recommend a sight seeing tour?	你能推薦一個觀光旅行嗎?

Visit to the toilet

	去廁所
Toilet	廁所
Have you a toilet?	有廁所嗎?
Do you have some more toilet paper?	還有廁紙嗎?
Can I change the toilet?	我可以換廁所嗎?

Transport for the trip

Railway

	鐵路
Underground railway	地下鐵路
Train	火車
Till what time does the train run?	火車要到什麼時間發車?
Time table	時間表
Station (train)	車站 (火車)

Bus and Tram

Tram 電車
 Bus 公共汽車
 Till what time does the bus/tram run....? 公共汽車/電車要到什麼時間發車?
 At what time is the last bus/tram? 最後一班公共汽車/電車是什麼時間?
 Station (bus) 車站 (公共汽車)
 Stop 車站

Airway

Airway 空中航線
 Airport 飛機場
 Check-in 辦理登機手續
 Passport 護照

Ship

Ferry 船
 Port 渡口
 Port 港口

Automobile

Motorcar 汽車
 Car rental 汽車租賃
 Driving License 駕駛證
 I would like to hire a.... 我想租用...。
 Have you a children's seat? 有兒童座椅嗎?
 Does it run on petrol or diesel? 它使用的是汽油還是柴油?
 Parking space 停車位
 Multi-storeyed car park 多層停車場

Taxi

Taxi 出租車
 Drive me to this address 請送我到這個位址
 I shall go to..... 我將去.....。
 How much is it by taxi to? 乘出租車去要多少錢?

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General	一般	Single room	單人房
Cycle	自行車	Double room	雙人房
Motorcycle	摩托車	What is the room number?	房間號碼是多少?
Arrival/arrival time	到達/到達時間	Which floor?	哪一層?
Departure/departure time	離開/離開時間	Where is the elevator?	電梯在哪?
Baggage	行李	No smoking	禁止吸煙
Baggage locker	行李暫存箱	Smoking	抽煙
Entertainment		Have you a vacant room?	有空房間嗎?
Cinema	電影院	What is the cost of a single-/double room?	單人房/雙人房的費用是多少?
Theatre	戲院	Can I order for an extra bed?	可以加床嗎?
Match	比賽	Have you a baby cot?	有嬰兒床嗎?
Concert	音樂會	Where is the breakfast?	哪里吃早餐?
Park	公園	When is the breakfast?	何時吃早餐?
Circus	馬戲團	When shall we check in?	何時辦理登記手續?
Museum	博物館	Where can I park?	哪里可以停車?
Amusement park	遊樂場	Can I call for a taxi?	我可以叫輛出租車嗎?
Casino	娛樂場	Have you a card with the hotel's address?	你有帶有旅館位址的卡片嗎?
Disquothe	Disquothe	Have you a security locker?	你有保險箱嗎?
Night club	夜總會	Is there a swimming pool?	這裏有游泳池嗎?
Aquarium	水族館	Can I ask for a wake up call?	我可以請求喚醒服務嗎?
Zoological garden	動物公園	Can I borrow an ironbox/-board?	我可以借一個鐵盒/板嗎?
Tickets		Can I borrow a hair drier?	我可以借一個電吹風嗎?
Adult	成人	Can I keep my baggage?	我可以保存我的行李嗎?
Child	兒童	Can I request for extra toilet paper?	我可以多要些廁紙嗎?
Pensioner	退養人員		
Student	學生		
Can I get a ticket?	我可以買一張票嗎?		
Can I get a daily ticket?	我可以買一張日票嗎?		
In the hotel			
I/we have a reservation	我/我們已經預訂了房間。		
The name is....	名字是...。		

On shopping

Shopping centre	購物中心
Departmental stores	百貨商店
Main shopping area	主要購物區
Pedestrian street	行人街道
Is it available in large size?	它有大號的嗎?
Is it available in small size?	它有小號的嗎?
What is the cost of this/that?	這件/那件多少錢?
Do you have this/ these in my size?	這件/那件有我穿的型號嗎?
Can you pack this in a gift wrap?	你可以將此包裝成禮品包裝嗎?
Do you accept credit card?	你接受信用卡嗎?
When do you close?	什麼時候打烊??
Open	營業
Closed	停止營業

In the restaurant/café

Breakfast	早餐
Lunch	午餐
Supper	晚餐
May I see the menu card?	我可以看看功能表嗎?
May I see the liquor card?	我可以看看酒單嗎?
Menu for the children	兒童菜單
Vegetarian	蔬食
Well done	全熟
Medium	五分熟
Red (rare)	全生
It must not be very strong	千萬不要太濃烈
I cannot bear....	我不能忍受....
Bill	帳單
May I pay?	我可以付賬嗎?

Can I pay with the credit card?
我可以使用信用卡付賬嗎?

From the menu card

Starters	菜單上 第一道菜
Main course	主菜
Desserts	甜點
Fish	魚
Shell fish	貝類海鮮
Poultry	家禽
Chicken	雞肉
Duck	鴨子
Goose	鵝肉
Turkey	火雞
Pork	豬肉
Beef	牛肉
Veal	小牛肉
Lamb	小羊
Bread	麵包
Butter	奶油
Egg	蛋
Yoghurt	酸乳酪
Soup	湯
Salad	沙拉
Sandwich	三明治
Sausages	臘腸
Hotdog	熱狗
Pizza	比薩餅
Hamburger	漢堡
French fries	薯條
Cheese	乳酪
Ice	冰
Cake	蛋糕
Sugar	糖

Beverages

Milk	飲料
Mineral water	奶
Juice	礦泉水
Soda water	汁
Without ice	蘇打水
Coffee	不加冰
Tea	咖啡
Cocoa	茶
Beer	可哥飲料
White wine	啤酒
Red wine	白葡萄酒
Champagne	紅葡萄酒
Liquor	檳酒
Spirits	酒
	烈酒

Service

Knife	服務
Fork	小刀
Spoon	叉子
Teaspoon	匙
chop stick	茶匙
Glass	筷子
Plate	玻璃杯
Napkin	盤子
	餐巾紙

Bank, post, internet and telephone**Bank and money**

Bank	銀行和金錢
Where is a bank?	銀行
Automatic teller machine	銀行在哪里?
Where can I draw money?	自動櫃員機
Change money	哪里可以取錢?
Where can I change currency?	貨幣兌換
	哪里可以兌換貨幣?

What is the rate of exchange?
兌換率是多少?

Post

Post office	郵政
Where is the post office?	郵局
Post box	郵局在哪里?
Where is a post box?	信箱
Stamp	信箱在哪里?
Do you have an envelope?	郵票
	你有信封嗎?

Internet

Where is the internet café?	網際網路
Do you have internet, which I can use?	網咖在哪里?
	你有我可以使用的網際網路嗎?

Telephone

Can I borrow a telephone?	電話
How do I ring abroad?	能借電話用一下嗎?
How much does it cost to ring to...?	如何撥打國外電話?
	打電話到...的費用是多少?

Alarm and Sickness**Police and Fire**

Help	員警和火災
I have been robbed	救命
Telephone the police	我被搶劫了
Police station	打電話給員警
Theft/stop the thief	警察局
Fire/ the burner	盜竊/捉賊
Ring up the fire fighting service	火災/火爐
	打電話給消防勤務

Doctor and pharmacy

醫生和藥房	醫生和藥房
Ring for an ambulance	打電話叫救護車
Can you fix up an appointment with the doctor for me?	你能為我預約一下醫生嗎?
Hospital	醫院
Doctor	醫生
Pharmacy	藥房
Where is the pharmacy?	藥房在哪里?
I have pain	我感到疼痛
I have pain here	我感到這裏疼痛
I have pain in the head	我頭部疼痛
I have nausea	我感到惡心
I have diarrhoea	我腹瀉
I have pain in the stomach	我胃部疼痛
Have you pills for head ache?	你有治療頭疼的藥丸嗎?
Have you pills for diarrhoea?	你有治療腹瀉的藥丸嗎?
Tablets	藥片

Dentist

牙醫	牙醫
Can you fix up an appointment with the dentist for me?	你能為我預約一下牙醫嗎?
I have tooth ache	我牙痛

Numbers

Zero	零
One	一
Two	二
Three	三
Four	四
Five	五
Six	六
Seven	七

Eight	八
Nine	九
Ten	十
Twenty	二十
Thirty	三十
Fourty	四十
Fifty	五十
Sixty	六十
Seventy	七十
Eighty	八十
Ninety	九十
Hundred	百
Thousand	千
Million	百萬

Calendar and time

Days	日
Monday	星期一
Tuesday	星期二
Wednesday	星期三
Thursday	星期四
Friday	星期五
Saturday	星期六
Sunday	星期天
Yesterday	昨天
Today	今天
Tomorrow	明天
Day after tomorrow	後天

Months	月
January	一月
February	二月
March	三月
April	四月
May	五月
June	六月
July	七月
August	八月
September	九月
October	十月
November	十一月
December	十二月

Time	時間
What is the time?	幾點鐘？
The time is quarter past....	...點鐘過一刻
The time is half past....	...點半
The time is quarter to.....	...點差一刻

Please click the advert



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A man wearing a wide-brimmed hat, a tropical print short-sleeved shirt, and shorts stands on a brick-paved platform next to a silver train car. He is looking towards the right. The background shows a clear blue sky and the side of the train with several windows.

About the Author

Stig Albeck (1969) is the author behind the travel books at OnLibri.com. Stig writes the way you travel the destinations!

The books often take their departure in the world's most exhilarating cities and evolve to the attractions and sights in their vicinity. Stig is a devoted traveller and a passionate explorer which brings him around the world several times each year to search for new exciting destinations.

Going to big cities or more adventurous destinations, Stig writes his travel guides to help and inspire readers to get the full benefit of their destination of choice.

Travelling is about enjoying the moment, but also about taking home memories and gaining new knowledge. No matter how far or near by the destination might be there sure are great experiences waiting to be unveiled.

Stig holds a masters degree in marketing and tourism from Copenhagen Business School in Denmark. He has been working in the tourism industry and with global marketing of tourist destinations.

If you have questions or perhaps made a discovery that you would like to share, then send Stig an email to travelstig@gmail.com (if you attach photos you agree to letting us use these for future travel guides).

Stig offers lectures on his travel experiences, or any specific tour that you might be about to head out for. To learn more about things like touring Australia, visiting the Mongolian capital Ulan Bator, or enjoying a fresh smoked omul at the Lake Baikal in February, visit www.stigalbeck.com.

Bonne Voyage!