

INTERNATIONAL CITY TOURS

UNIVERSITY CAREER ACTION NETWORK



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Hong Kong

City Overview

Brief History

Human activity in Hong Kong dates back over five millennia. The Han Chinese first settled the territory in the seventh century, A.D., and the first major migration from northern China to Hong Kong occurred during the Sung Dynasty (960-1279). In 1699, the British East India Company made the first successful sea venture to China, which caused Hong Kong's trade with British merchants to rapidly develop. After the British defeated the Chinese in the First Opium War (1839-42), Hong Kong was ceded to Britain in 1842 under the Treaty of Nanking. The 1860 Convention of Beijing granted Britain a perpetual lease on the Kowloon Peninsula and formally ended hostilities in the Second Opium War (1856-58). Due to its concern that Hong Kong could not be defended unless the surrounding areas were also under British control, the United Kingdom executed a 99-year lease of the New Territories in 1898, significantly expanding the size of the Hong Kong colony.

At the turn of the century, Hong Kong served as a warehousing and distribution center for U.K. trade with southern China. In 1949, after the end of World War II, the Communist takeover of mainland China caused hundreds of thousands of people to flee from China to Hong Kong. Hong Kong became an economic success and a center for manufacturing, commercial, finance, and tourism. The city's high life expectancy, literacy rate, per capita income, and other socioeconomic measures attest to Hong Kong's achievements over the last five decades.

Orientation



Hong Kong's four main areas include Kowloon, Hong Kong Island, the New Territories and the Outlying Islands. These main areas are centered around Victoria Harbor. Kowloon and the New Territories are on a peninsula of the Chinese mainland, which juts out into the northern side of Victoria Harbor. In Kowloon, Tsim Sha Tsui (on the southern tip), Jordan, and Yau Ma Tei are busy hotel and shopping areas, while Mong Kok is a bustling residential and shopping area.

Hong Kong Island, which hosts the city's main business district (called Central), is located on the southern side of the harbor facing Kowloon. Also, on Hong Kong Island is the Admiralty commercial district, a restaurant and club district called Wan Chai, and Causeway Bay, a major shopping area. Hong Kong's premier scenic

outlook and residential district, the Peak, towers above the other districts on Hong Kong Island and hosts plenty of green space. The Outlying Islands simply refer to any of the other 234 islands. The New Territories have a 20km (12mi) land border with China proper.

Culture

Hong Kong's culture combines influences from the East and from the West, from the old and from the new. The two official languages in Hong Kong are the Cantonese dialect of Chinese and English. Even amid the bustle and technology of a modern city, which has one of the highest population densities in the world, evidence of traditional Chinese culture can be found. Many people still adhere to their traditional beliefs and religions making the city's over 600 temples, shrines, and monasteries important cultural landmarks

where people go to pray, burn incense, and consult fortunetellers. Additionally, traditional Chinese culture can be seen in the colorful and energetic Chinese operas performed on outdoor stages in Temple Street Market and the lion and dragon dances performed during the Chinese New Year and other festive occasions. Tea drinking has also become a modern art and discipline, which derives its significance from traditional Chinese culture.

Weather

Hong Kong has a subtropical climate with hot, humid summers that can reach temperatures of 95°F (35°C) and humidity close to 100%. From May through September heavy rains and typhoons with strong winds are likely and can cause ferries to stop operating. Hong Kong’s weather is at its best from October through November with clear, sunny days and temperatures in the 60s F (20s C). December through February is the coldest time of year. The most popular times of year for tourism are during March through April and October through November. Many hotels offer substantial discounts outside of these times. Additionally, travel can be difficult during Chinese New Year in late January/early February. Following is a table of average temperature and rainfall year-round:

| Month | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | Apr. | May | Jun. | Jul. | Aug. | Sep. | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. |
|---------------------|------|------|------|------|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Average Temp. F | 63 | 64 | 70 | 73 | 81 | 82 | 82 | 84 | 82 | 79 | 72 | 64 |
| Average Temp. C | 17 | 18 | 21 | 23 | 27 | 28 | 28 | 29 | 28 | 26 | 22 | 18 |
| Average Rainfall mm | 48 | 11 | 57 | 133 | 162 | 1084 | 656 | 319 | 563 | 11 | 4 | 45 |

Exchange rates

Hong Kong’s currency is the Hong Kong Dollar, and the current exchange rate is HKD [7.7995](#) per USD. For the most up-to-date information about exchange rates, go to the “International” section of www.finance.yahoo.com

Typically, banks offer the best exchange rates, although the three largest banks, HSBC, Standard Chartered, and the Hang Seng Bank, do charge an HKD50.00 commission on transactions for non-account holders. Often, the exchange rate will improve on exchanges of several hundred US dollars or more.

Cost of Living

The cost of living in Hong Kong is high. Hong Kong ranks number 5 in the 2004 study of the “World’s costliest cities.” Vehicles and healthcare are very costly as well as property due to the shortage of land. Entertainment can be quite expensive as well, but public transportation is usually a real bargain.

Here is an assortment of items, and what they might cost:

- One-litre bottle of mineral water: HK\$4
- Financial Times* newspaper: HK\$20
- City-centre bus ticket: HK\$5.60
- Three-course meal with wine/beer: HK\$150-200

Visit this website to see a comprehensive list of Hong Kong costs
<http://www.geoexpat.com/about-hong-kong/information/cost-of-living-hong-kong-style/>

Job/Internship Search

Job boards

The most effective way to find a job in Hong Kong is by using online resources, local newspaper classifieds, and trade magazines.

Several websites will aid in a Hong Kong job search:

www.hkjobs.cpm
www.catererglobal.com
http://www.alloexpat.com/hong_kong_expats_forum/viewforum.php?f=70
<http://www.jobaccess.com/>
<http://www.myjob.com.hk/>
<http://teach-in-hongkong.com/>
<http://jobs.asiabot.com/hongkong/>
www.jobsdb.com
www.careertimes.com.hk
www.classifiedpost.com

Internships

The following companies offer Internships in Hong Kong:

AFS Intercultural Programs (<http://www.afs.org/AFSI/>)
AIESEC (<http://www.aiesec.org/>)
CitiGroup (<http://www.citigroup.com/citigroup/oncampus/gcib/index.htm>)
Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu (www.deloitte.com/)
Duke University Talent Identification Program (<http://www.tip.duke.edu/>)
IMG-International Management Group (www.imgworld.com/)
Procter & Gamble (www.pg.com/jobs)
Turner Broadcasting System (http://www.turner.com/careers/internships_international.html)
United States and Foreign Commercial Service
(http://www.export.gov/comm_svc/employment/employment_main.html)

Temp agencies

ADECCO Personnel Limited
1203, 12/F., Century Square
1-13 D'Aguilar Street, Central, Hong Kong
Tel : (852) 2521-0594
Fax : (852) 2845-2045

Cassie Personnel
Room 1410 Nam Fung Tower,
173 Des Voeux Road, Central, Hong Kong
Tel : (852) 2877-3383
Fax : (852) 2877-0196

Lindy Williams Ltd.
Unit 2211, 22/F, Bank of America Tower,
12 Harcourt Road, Admiralty, Hong Kong
Tel : (852) 2845-6777
Fax : (852) 2845-0689

Team Spirit
Room 608, Capital Centre
5-19 Jardine's Bazaar, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong
Tel : (852) 2881-0873
Fax : (852) 2890-9165

Webster Personnel Agency
Room 2003, Causeway Bay Plaza, Phase 1
489 Hennessy Road, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong

Tel : (852) 2838-8818
Fax : (852) 2838-8699

Cover Letter and Resume

The major languages in Hong Kong are Cantonese, Mandarin Chinese and English. Most business people are multilingual. If you do not know Chinese your resume may be English. The contents are quite similar to resumes in European countries.

Personal information is listed at the top of the first page. Other personal details, such as age, marital status, etc., may not legally be requested, but are often included in the resume. List details of your education, in chronological order, with emphasis on your college and university studies. Add sections on extracurricular activities, special training, professional memberships, and honors or awards. Under "Experience," list the positions you have held, in chronological order, with an emphasis on responsibilities similar to those required in the job you are seeking. Cite your achievements with supporting data. Also list any special skills you may have, such as foreign language fluency and knowledge of computer languages and applications. Letters of reference do not have to be included, but are brought to the interview.

Overview of Industries in Hong Kong

According to the CIA Fact book, the major industries of Hong Kong are: textiles, clothing, tourism, banking, shipping, electronics, plastics, toys, watches, and clocks. For more detailed profiles of Major Hong Kong Service Industries, visit: <http://www.tdctrade.com/main/si/servicei.htm>

Hong Kong's success in recent years has been based on its ability to take advantage of China's low-cost labor. In Hong Kong's economy, textiles are most important; tourism is second. In electronics, Hong Kong is not known for any specific products, but some of its strengths are in electronic packaging designs.

Employers by Industry

Building & Maintenance

Unisilk Ltd

Computers & Software

Avery Dennison

New Way

Rainbow Technologies

GDC Technology Ltd

Macromedia

Design

[Ranktop Ltd](#)

[PPIA Interior Architecture](#)

Engineering

[Nehlsen HK Ltd.](#)

Financial & Insurance

American International Assurance Company (Bermuda) Limited

First Data International/Western Union International

Cinergy Financial Services

Health & Nutrition

[Fame Sky \(HK\) Ltd](#)

Hospitality

Hospitality Marketing Concepts
Flairview Travel
Hotel Dynamics Group

Human Resources

Compass Management Consulting Ltd
Carpe Diem
Worldwide Human Capital

Manufacturing

Sirius international hk ltd
Ranktop ltd
Global Treasure Industries Limited
Utex Style Ltd.
Inphone electronics Enterprise Co., Ltd.
Chun Shing electronic company limited
Ying Yeung Shoes Mfg. Co. Ltd.
InVision Technologies
Kena Motors Company Limited
TechStyle

Non profit & Government

Destiny 2013 Ltd.

Raw Materials

Plasticland

Telecommunications

NextExpert
Global Gateway Telecom Limited

American companies operating Hong Kong

There are 50,000 American citizens in Hong Kong. There are some 1,100 American companies operating in Hong Kong. According to some estimates, these employ around 10 percent of the Hong Kong workforce. Some of these companies include:

American Express (International Office based in Hong Kong)
Esprit
AIG—Insurance and Banking
ABC
Crawford and Country
American Airlines
Fuji Xerox (HK) Ltd
Hewitt Associates LLC
Honeywell Ltd
Lark Int'l Holdings Ltd
Leading Hotels of the World, The
Marriott International, Inc
Milliken & Co
Worldwide Flight Services

Student Visas & Work Permits

U.S. Citizens visiting the Hong Kong SAR for not more than three months are not required to obtain visas. They must have a U.S. passport valid for at least 3 months and evidence of adequate funds for their stay and onward transportation. Those wishing to stay more than three months must obtain visas from the Chinese Embassy or Consulate in whose district they live. Visitors are not permitted to study or work (whether paid or not).

Work Permit

If you wish to work in Hong Kong, whether such work is paid or unpaid, you must apply for an employment visa. To be eligible to work in Hong Kong one must satisfy the immigration Department that they possess (1) special skills, knowledge or experience which are of value to and not readily available in Hong Kong and (2) that the position in which they wish to work cannot be filled by a Hong Kong resident. Application for a work visa may be sent by mail directly to the Hong Kong Immigration Department, or may be made through the Chinese Embassy or Consulate in whose district the applicant lives prior to coming. All applicants for work or study visas must have a local sponsor. Processing time varies, but applicants in the U.S. should expect to wait six to eight weeks once the application is submitted.

Student Visa

If accepted by a local school, the prospective student would apply for the student visa through the Chinese Embassy or Consulate having jurisdiction over where he lives. Proof of acceptance by the school as well as adequate finances would have to be submitted along with the completed visa application forms. A local sponsor must also be nominated. Students are not permitted to work without the permission of HKID.

Link to the Hong Kong Immigration Department
<http://www.info.gov.hk/immd/>

Find a Chinese Embassy near you:
<http://www.china-embassy.org/eng/hzqz/t84229.htm>

Housing

Links

<http://www.moveandstay.com/hongkong/>
<http://hong-kong-service-apartment.biz-stay.com/home.cfm>

Universities

City University of Hong Kong
<http://www.cityu.edu.hk/cityu/index.html>

The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
<http://www.polyu.edu.hk/>

The Chinese University of Hong Kong
<http://www.cuhk.hk/v5/en/>

Hong Kong Baptist University
<http://www.hkbu.edu.hk/eng-ver/index.html>

Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
<http://www.ust.hk/en/index.html>

Lingan Univeristy

<http://www.ln.edu.hk/>

The University of Hong Kong

<http://www.hku.hk>

Insider Tips

See Victoria's Peak during daylight and again when it is dark.

Travel on the Star Ferry in second class and get close to the water!

Try all kinds of food; it is delicious and generally not expensive.

Hong Kong is best enjoyed by just walking without a time table. Walk down narrow side streets and experience the smells and sounds. It's best to not be in a hurry.

Almost all public buildings have air conditioning while few have heating; dress accordingly.

Voltage in Hong Kong is 220v (50Hz) and outlets use 3 rectangular-pin type plugs.

Local calls are free except through phone booths which charge HK\$1 per 5 minutes.

Hong Kong is a very fashion conscious city, but you can still get away with wearing almost anything. Often times, colors have meaning. Black, white and blue are colors of mourning. Red and pink are happy colors.

Flip flops are generally not worn outside except around a swimming pool or beach.

Hong Kong people are extremely aware of public behavior. "Face" is very important, conflict and open aggression is to be avoided, and punctuality is a sign of respect.

Attractions/Transportation

Brief Overview of Attractions

As far as attractions go, some are ancient, such as Man Mo Temple on Ladder Street in Western District, Hong Kong's oldest - and one of its most important - places of worship. Others are relatively new, such as Wong Tai Sin in Kowloon. Some of Hong Kong's most modern attractions are, in fact, dedicated to ancient religions. The serene, mystical Big Buddha sitting on a plateau on Lantau Island, and at 8 feet high the world's largest bronze outdoor seated Buddha was only opened to the public in 1990. One of the most popular attractions is Victoria's Peak located high above Hong Kong Island on the 'back of the Dragon' and provided magnificent harbor and city views. The Peak also offers visitors a multitude of fantastic entertainment, dining and shopping options.

Colonial attractions include the Cenotaph & Statue Square where you can find City Hall (also a concert hall and theatre), the Former French Mission Building, the Fringe Club, the Government House and even Hong Kong Tramways. Sheung Wan & Western is Hong Kong's most typical traditional "Chinatown" area and is always teeming with activity. Vibrant Western is a hive of shophouses, exotic markets and steep "ladder" lanes. Important modern landmarks include Happy Valley & Sha Tin Racecourses, Bank of China Tower, Central Plaza, Cheung Kong Center, and Exchange Square.

Visit this link to search attractions by district:

<http://www.discoverhongkong.com/eng/touring/hkiidistricts/index.jhtml>

Entertainment Links

Hong Kong's Clubbing and Nightlife Guide
<http://www.hkclubbing.com/v4/>

See what other people think are the Hong Kong hotspots at night!
http://www.virtualtourist.com/travel/Asia/Hong_Kong/Nightlife-Hong_Kong-TG-C-1.html

Transportation Links

Public transportation is efficient enough that working and living in Hong Kong without a car is quite possible. Taxis are plentiful in Hong Kong and Kowloon, although there is an extra charge for the Cross Harbour Tunnel. An average fare around town will cost about 60 HKD

Information on Railways, Buses, Minibuses, Taxies, Ferries, Trams, and parking
http://www.info.gov.hk/td/eng/transport/transport_menu.html
http://www.12hk.com/hk_xprt.html
http://www.yourrooms.com/hongkong_hotels/transportation.htm
<http://www.hong-kong-travel.org/Transportation.asp>

Publications

Newspapers

| | | |
|---|---------------------|------------------|
| Apple Daily http://www.atnext.com/new/index.cfm | general news | Chinese |
| Asia Times (Internet) http://www.atimes.com/ | general news | English, Chinese |
| Hong Kong Voice of Democracy http://www.democracy.org.hk/EN/index.html | General news | English, Chinese |
| Christian Times http://www.christiantimes.org.hk/ | Religion: Christian | Chinese |
| Hong Kong Commercial Daily http://www.hkcd.com.hk/ | business news | Chinese |
| Ming Pao Daily News http://www.mingpaonews.com/ | General news | Chinese |
| Sing Pao Daily News http://www.singpao.com/ | general news | Chinese |
| Sing Tao www.singtao.com | general news | Chinese |
| South China Morning Post http://www.scmp.com/ | general news | English |
| The Standard http://www.thestandard.com.hk/stdn/std/index.html | business news | English |
| The Sun / Oriental Daily News http://www.orisun.com | general news | Chinese |
| Tai Kung Pao http://www.takungpao.com.hk/ | general news | Chinese |
| Wen Wei Po http://www.wenweipo.com/ | general news | Chinese |

Other Media

| | | |
|---|----------|--------------------------|
| ATV http://www.hkatv.com/ | TV | Chinese |
| RTHK (Radio Television Hong Kong) http://www.rthk.org.hk/ | TV | Chinese, English |
| TVB http://www.tvb.com/ | TV | Chinese |
| China News Service (CNS) http://www.cnsjp.net/ | Agency | Chinese, English |
| Xinhua Financial Network http://www.xfn.com/en/main/index.html | Agency | English, Korean, Chinese |
| Construction & Contract News http://www.building.com.hk/ccn/ccnindex.html | Magazine | English |
| Time Out: Hong Kong (city guides) http://www.timeout.com/travel/hongkong | Magazine | English |
| RTHK Radio 3 & 4 http://www.rthk.org.hk/ | Radio | English, Chinese |

Safety

Consulate information

*U.S. Consulate General
 Hong Kong and Macau
 26 Garden Road, Hong Kong
 Tel: (852) 2523-9011
 Fax: (852) 2845-1598
<http://www.usconsulate.org.hk/>

Online Travel Registration: <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/>

Travel registration is a free service provided by the U.S. Government to U.S. citizens who are traveling to, or living in, a foreign country. Registration allows you to record information about your upcoming trip abroad that the Department of State can use to assist you in case of an emergency. Americans residing abroad can also get routine information from the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

Emergency contact numbers

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Emergency (Ambulance, Fire, Police) | 999 |
| Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre | 2582 8888 |
| Hong Kong Association of Travel Agents | 2869 8624 |
| Consumer Council | 2929 2222 |
| Hong Kong Trade Development Council | 183 0668 |
| Hong Kong International Airport | 2181 0000 |
| Immigration Department | 2824 6111 |
| Time & Temperature Enquiry | 18501 |
| Telephone Directory | English 1081 |

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|--|---------------------------------|
| | Cantonese 1083 Mandarin 1088 |
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*Up-to-date information on security can also be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll free in the United States, or, for callers outside the United States and Canada, a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).