



## Hong Kong at a Glance

Hong Kong is known for its gorgeous skyline, efficient service, tasty cuisine, good shopping, and mix of cultural influences. Plus, its easy-to-use public transportation system (trains, trams, buses, subways, ferries, and taxis) makes hitting the city's myriad sites a snap. — H.S.



**VICTORIA PEAK** See it all by heading up this mountain, the highest on Hong Kong Island. You'll find Peak Tower, a wok-shaped structure boasting a 360-degree view of Hong Kong's skyline, and Peak Tram, a funicular railway that dates back to 1888.

**AVENUE OF STARS** Journey through 100 years of Hong Kong cinematic history here, where plaques honor 73 of the country's brightest film stars.

**HONG KONG SPACE MUSEUM** Recognizable by its egg-shaped dome, the museum features interactive exhibits on space science and astronomy.

**OCEAN PARK** Part amusement park, part marine conservatory, Ocean Park has something for everyone in the family. Visitors can ride the roller coasters and get up close and personal with pandas, dolphins, sharks, sea lions, and more.

**REPULSE BAY** Don't let the name fool you. The sand is soft, the water is pristine, and the waves are gentle at this former pirate hangout. Two goddess statues, Kwun Yum and Tin Hau, watch over the bay and protect fishermen.

**TEMPLE STREET** The open-air night market features fortune tellers, Cantonese opera singers, dozens of food stalls, and, of course, hundreds of vendors. Bargaining is expected.

**HAPPY VALLEY RACECOURSE** ↓ Catch a nighttime race at Happy Valley, where the stakes are high and the crowds are plentiful. Horse racing is Hong Kong's most popular spectator sport.

**A SYMPHONY OF LIGHTS** Lasers and searchlights dance across 33 buildings and over Victoria Harbour at this nightly event, which tells a story through five themes: awakening, energy, heritage, partnership, and celebration.

**TIAN TAN BUDDHA AT PO LIN MONASTERY** Take a trip to Hong Kong's outlying islands to see the world's tallest outdoor seated bronze Buddha, which is more than 110 feet tall and weighs 250 tons. (But first, you have to climb the 268 steps to reach the statue's base.)

**TAI O FISHING VILLAGE** After visiting Tian Tan, on Lantau Island, head west to Tai O, a Chinese village made up of stilt houses. The residents here are mostly the Tanka people, fishers who feel more comfortable on water than on land.

### GO FIGURE

The name Hong Kong means "fragrant harbor." It's derived from the area around present-day Aberdeen (on Hong Kong Island), where fragrant wood products and incense were once traded. // The median age at first marriage is 31 for males and 28 for females. // Hong Kong is one of the most densely populated areas in the world, with more than six million people living on 415 square miles. // The official languages are Chinese (Cantonese) and English, with English spoken by more than a third of the population. Mandarin, the official language of China, is now the second most popular Chinese dialect spoken in Hong Kong.

