

General Information about Hong Kong

Weather

Winter (Late October to early March): Cool and dry. Temperatures range from 10 to 20°C . Long sleeves and cotton are best with a lightweight sweater or jacket for air-conditioned venue.

Summer (June to August): hot, humid and sunny, with occasional showers and thunderstorms. The temperature can exceed 31°C.

Communication

Local phone numbers are in 8-digit. Fixed line number starts with 2 while mobile number starts with 6 or 9.

Cellphone: Hong Kong mobile phone operators support cellphones with the following frequent bands: GSM1800 (PCS), GSM dual-band, tri-band or quad-band. Please check with the specification of your mobile phone.

Stored-value SIM cards are available at convenient stores. Our recommendation: People's IDD Talk Stored Value SIM Card – free IDD to 30 countries/ destinations including USA and China on fixed-line and mobile numbers. Only local airtime will be charged which is only HK\$0.25/min (<http://www.peoples.com.hk>). Other service providers: Smartone-Vodafone, Peoples, Orange, One2Free...

Calling card: Buy a New World Telecom's IDD 009 Calling Card or CSL calling card from the convenient store. Make any international call at a pay/ fixed line/ mobile phone by dialing the card number and PIN as instructed at the back of the calling card.

Banking

The opening hours of major banks are 9am - 4:30pm on weekdays, and 9am - 12:30pm on Saturdays.

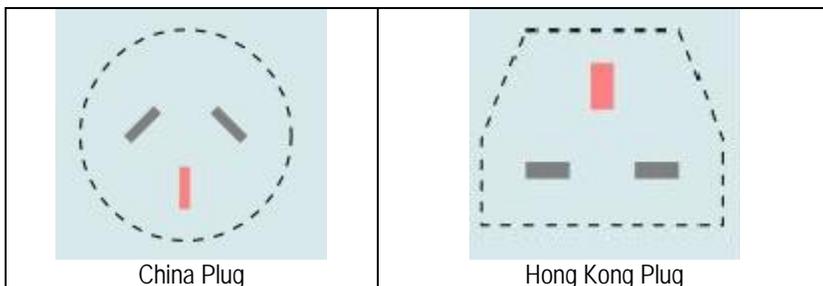
Most Automated Teller Machines (ATM) can be found in MTR/ KCR stations and outside banks. These machines provide access to funds for Visa and MasterCard holders, generally 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Withdrawal of cash via "PLUS" ATM Network costs you US\$3 – 4 per transaction.

Since the mid-1980s, the value of the Hong Kong dollar has been pegged at HK\$7.8 to the US dollar, and consequent rates of exchange to other currencies. However, the market rate exchange to the US dollar fluctuates marginally. Banks and money changers charge commission.

Electricity

The electrical system in Hong Kong and China is 220V at 50Hz. You need a converter/ transformer to convert 220V to 110V (USA standard)

Hong Kong shares the same type of physical plug and socket in United Kingdom while China follows the Australian standard. Adaptor is needed to let you insert the US plug into a Hong Kong or China socket.



Public transport

Please refer to the <http://www.discoverhongkong.com/eng/trip-planner/transport.html>

MTR system map: www.mtr.com.hk

Rules on road

In Hong Kong, we drive on the left in right-hand drive cars. Please check carefully the direction for oncoming traffic when you are crossing the road.

Arrows on the ground can give you a clue on which direction cars are coming from.

Octopus card

Octopus card is an electronic fare card that is accepted by almost all public transport, and at many fast food chains, supermarkets, convenience stores and vending machines.

You can buy your Octopus card at ticket offices at MTR/ KCR/ designated KCR Light Rail stations HK\$150 (HK\$100 use value + HK\$50 refundable deposit). The card can be reloaded at ticket offices, Add Value Machines or convenience stores. Minimum reload value is HK\$50. Please note that HK\$7 handling fee for cards returned within three months.

Post office

Nearly all post offices open from 9am – 6pm (Monday – Friday) and 9am – 1pm (Saturday). Opening hours and locations can be found at

<http://www.hongkongpost.com/chi/locations/branch/index.htm>

Health, Hygiene and Safety

Emergency Service at Hospital

Like many international cities, Hong Kong has world-class hospitals providing outstanding care. Visitors are required to pay \$570 if they use the Accident and Emergency services in Hong Kong public hospitals. The Hong Kong Government assures visitors they will receive the emergency care they require. People who cannot pay immediately will be billed later.

Smoking Ban

The law on smoking ban came into effect on 1st January, 2007. Smoking now is prohibited in all schools and many outdoor and indoor facilities including restaurants, karaokes, malls and some bars. The health department may send inspectors for discipline execution.

Water

We would highly recommend you to boil the tap water before drinking even it conforms in all respects – both chemically and bacteriologically – to standards for drinking water set by the World Health Organization.

Hygiene

Hong Kong has strict laws to maintain environmental hygiene, including fixed penalty fines of HK\$1,500 for littering or spitting. Please help keep Hong Kong clean and beautiful!

Find a location in Hong Kong

Interactive map of Centaline Property: <http://www.centamap.com/gc/home.aspx>

Useful website & telephone numbers:

- Hong Kong Tourism Board: (852) 2508-1234 (multilingual); <http://www.discoverhongkong.com/eng/index.html>
- Cultural Kaleidoscope programme created by the HK Tourism Board:
Meet the People: <http://www.discoverhongkong.com/eng/things-to-do/cultural-tours.html#schedule>
Museum Visits: <http://www.discoverhongkong.com/eng/attractions/museum.html>
- Guide book of Hikes and Walks in HK and Hong Kong's Outlying Islands : <http://www.discoverhongkong.com/eng/attractions/green.html>
- Ding ding HK tram guide: <http://www.discoverhongkong.com/tramguide/eng/index.jsp>
- Policy, Fire & Ambulance: 999
- Police Hotline: 2527 7177
- Hong Kong International Airport: 2181 8888
- Hong Kong Immigration Department: 2824 6111
- Directory Enquiries: 1081
- Collect Calls: 10010
- International Enquiry Service: 10013