

USEFUL INFORMATION



USEFUL
INFORMATION

① Push © Summit Entertainment

② Hooked on You © Media Asia Group Ltd



HKSAR Government	77
Land, People, Language and Customs	77
Climate	81
Economy and Currency	83
Mainland and Hong Kong	
Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement	84
Transportation	85
First Aid and Medical Services	89
Accommodation	93
Electricity Supply	93
Communications and the Media	93

HKSAR Government

Hong Kong was reunified with the mainland of China on July 1, 1997.

The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China has a high degree of autonomy and maintains its own economic, legal and social system.

Hong Kong has a free, open and vigorous media that operates without restriction or interference.

Land, People, Language and Customs

Hong Kong is situated on the southeastern coast of China. The total land area is 1,104 square kilometres covering Hong Kong Island, Kowloon Peninsula, the New Territories and 262 outlying islands that are mostly uninhabited.

About 95 per cent of the 6.99 million residents are of Chinese descent. There are significant expatriate populations from the Philippines, Indonesia, the United States, Canada, Britain, Thailand, Japan, India, Australia and Malaysia.

Buddhism and Taoism have a considerable number of followers in Hong Kong, while there are over 560,000 Christians, 90,000 Muslims, 40,000 Hindus, 8,000 Sikhs and 1,500 Jews.

USEFUL INFORMATION

The official languages of Hong Kong are Chinese and English. The majority of Hong Kong people speak the Cantonese dialect but Putonghua (also referred to as Mandarin) is gaining in popularity as closer ties develop with the mainland of China.

English is the *lingua franca* of the expatriate community as well as within business, commerce, finance and professional circles.

In order to work smoothly, especially when organising locations and logistics, overseas production companies filming in Hong Kong are strongly advised to include production crew who can speak both English and Cantonese, as well as Putonghua if filming in the mainland of China is envisaged.

Festivals and events

Hong Kong enjoys the best of East and West in regards to festivals and holidays — Chinese New Year is celebrated with as much enthusiasm as Christmas.

General holidays in 2009 and 2010:

	2009	2010
	Every Sunday	Every Sunday
New Year	1 January	1 January
Lunar New Year	26-28 January	13-16 February
Ching Ming Festival	4 April	5 April
Good Friday	10 April	2 April
The day following Good Friday	11 April	3 April
Easter Monday	13 April	5 April
Labour Day	1 May	1 May
Buddha's Birthday	2 May	21 May
Tuen Ng Festival	28 May	16 June
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Establishment Day	1 July	1 July
National Day	1 October	1 October
Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival	3 October	23 September
Chung Yeung Festival	26 October	16 October
Christmas Day	25 December	25 December
The first weekday after Christmas Day	26 December	27 December

USEFUL INFORMATION

Other traditional festivals include Spring Lantern (Chinese Valentine's Day), the birthday of Tin Hau (Queen of Heaven and the Goddess of the Sea), the Cheung Chau Bun Festival, the Hungry Ghost Festival, and the birthdays of Confucius and deities Tam Kung (patron of the boat people) and Kwan Tai (God of Righteousness).

The most important festival is Lunar New Year (also known as Chinese New Year), which marks the beginning of the Lunar New Year in late January or early February. During this time many local businesses will close for one or more days and many workers will take their annual leave.

During Lunar New Year and in the lead-up to Christmas and Western New Year, many buildings will put up magnificent displays of lights, which provide excellent photo opportunities.

During the Dragon Boat Festival (Tuen Ng), the waters around Hong Kong come alive to the sound of beating drums and Dragon Boat crews furiously paddling in a series of local and international races.

Lanterns of all shapes and sizes are brought out for the Mid-Autumn Festival, when families trek to the highest spots around Hong Kong to gaze at the full moon and eat specially prepared moon cakes.

On Cheung Chau Island — a 50-minute boat trip from Central — children dress in colourful costumes for the annual Bun Festival and parade which coincides with Buddha's Birthday. It is the only event of this kind in the world. The children sit atop tall poles, making it appear as though they are 'floating' above the crowd.



Climate

Hong Kong's climate is sub-tropical, tending towards temperate for nearly half of the year. During November and December we enjoy pleasant breezes, plenty of sunshine and comfortable temperatures. Many people regard these as the best months of the year.

January and February are more cloudy, with occasional cold fronts followed by dry northerly winds. It is not uncommon for temperatures to drop below 10°C in urban areas. The lowest temperature recorded at the Observatory is 0°C, although sub-zero temperatures and frost occur at times on high ground and in the New Territories.

March and April can be very pleasant although there are occasional spells of high humidity. Fog and drizzle can cause problems on high ground exposed to the southeast, and air traffic and ferry services are occasionally disrupted because of reduced visibility.

May to August is hot and humid with occasional showers and thunderstorms, particularly during the mornings. Afternoon temperatures often exceed 31°C while at night, temperatures generally remain around 26°C with high humidity. There is usually a fine dry spell in July that may last for one to two weeks, or even longer in some years.

USEFUL INFORMATION

September is the month during which Hong Kong is most likely to be affected by tropical cyclones or typhoons, although these are known to affect Hong Kong at any time between May and November. On average, about 30 tropical cyclones form in the western North Pacific or China Seas every year, and about half of them reach typhoon strength (winds of 118 kilometres per hour or stronger).

When a tropical cyclone is about 700 to 1000 kilometres southeast of Hong Kong, the weather is usually fine and exceptionally hot, but isolated thunderstorms sometimes occur in the evenings. When a storm approaches Hong Kong, winds will increase and rain can become heavy and widespread. Heavy rain from tropical cyclones may last for a few days and subsequent landslips and flooding sometimes cause considerably more damage than the winds.

The mean annual rainfall ranges from around 1,700 millimetres at Shek Kwu Chau to more than 2,800 millimetres in the vicinity of Tate's Cairn. About 80 percent of the rain falls between May and September. The wettest month is August, when rain occurs about four days out of seven and the average monthly rainfall at the Observatory is 444.6 millimetres. The driest month is January, when the monthly average is 24.9 millimetres and rain falls only about six days in the month.

Severe weather phenomena that can affect Hong Kong include tropical cyclones, strong winter monsoon winds, and thunderstorms with associated squalls that are most frequent from April to September. Waterspouts and hailstorms occur infrequently, while snow and tornadoes are rare.



Weather services and information

The Hong Kong Observatory provides a wide range of meteorological services, including the issue of frequent weather forecasts and tropical cyclone warnings. The Observatory also provides forecasts and advice to meet the diverse requirements of specialised users such as transport companies, public utilities, shipping and aviation on a cost-recovery basis. Information on the provision of specialised weather services can be obtained by calling the Observatory at 2926 3665.

The 187 8200 Dial-a-Weather service can be accessed interactively by dialing a touch-tone phone to 187 8200. Comprehensive weather information can be found on the Observatory's website: www.hko.gov.hk.

Economy and Currency

Hong Kong is a major international financial, trade and communications hub. Built on free enterprise, free trade, minimal government intervention and the rule of law, Hong Kong offers political stability, proximity to major markets, excellent infrastructure, an extensive network of financial and professional services, and quality local management.

Hong Kong has its own, freely convertible currency. The Hong Kong dollar has been linked since 1983 to the US dollar at a rate of HK\$7.80 to US\$1. There are no limits on the amount of any currency that can be brought into or taken out of Hong Kong.

Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA)

Hong Kong has become the premier gateway to China and is the largest external investor in the Mainland. A landmark free trade pact called the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA), which came into effect in 2004, gives preferential access to the Mainland market for a wide range of Hong Kong goods and services. One sector that has benefited from CEPA is Hong Kong's audiovisual services, which have taken advantage of the Arrangement to explore the Mainland market.

Co-productions

Commencing 2006, the import of Chinese language films made by production companies set up in Hong Kong and which own more than 50% of the copyright of the films concerned is exempted from quota restrictions for distribution in the Mainland, after being examined by and obtaining the approval of the relevant authorities in the Mainland.

Further, more than 50% of the total principal personnel in the motion pictures concerned should be Hong Kong residents. This includes roles of director, screenwriter, leading actor, leading actress, supporting actor, supporting actress, producer, cinematographer, editor, art director, costume designer, action choreographer, and composer of the original film score.

For CEPA details, please visit the Trade and Industry Department's webpage at www.tid.gov.hk/english/cepa/tradeservices/audiovisual.html



Transportation

It is easy and cheap to get around Hong Kong, which has a world-class public transport network and impressive transport infrastructure. Trains, boats, buses, minibuses, taxis and trams move millions of people a day.

Railways

Railways account for 35% of the total daily public transport volume. The existing railway network comprises the Mass Transit Railway (MTR), Airport Express and Light Rail.

MTR

The most popular and convenient transport is the MTR, Hong Kong's equivalent of the London Underground or the New York Subway. The MTR's territory-wide nine-line commuter network provides convenient transfers between the lines:

Kwun Tong Line:

Running between Yau Ma Tei in Kowloon and Tiu Keng Leng in the New Territories

Tsuen Wan Line:

Running between Tsuen Wan in the New Territories and Central on Hong Kong Island

Island Line:

Running between Sheung Wan and Chai Wan on Hong Kong Island

Tung Chung Line:

Running between Tung Chung on North Lantau and Hong Kong Station on Hong Kong Island

USEFUL INFORMATION

Tseung Kwan O Line:

Running between Po Lam in the New Territories and North Point on Hong Kong Island

Disneyland Resort Line:

Spur line of Tung Chung Line linking Sunny Bay and Hong Kong Disneyland on North Lantau

East Rail Line:

The East Rail Line, which was operated by the Kowloon Canton Railway before its merger with Mass Transit Railway Corporation in December 2007, is a 35-kilometer north-south line servicing the New Territories between Tsim Sha Tsui in Kowloon and the border station at Lo Wu.

Through train services to the Mainland cities of Guangzhou East, Dongguan, Foshan, Zhaoqing, Beijing and Shanghai depart from Hung Hom Station.

Ma On Shan Line:

This Line links Ma On Shan and Tai Wai in Sha Tin. Tai Wai Station serves as an interchange between Ma On Shan Rail and East Rail.

West Rail Line:

It links Sham Shui Po in West Kowloon via Kwai Tsing and Tsuen Wan with Yuen Long and Tuen Mun in the northwest New Territories.

Airport Express

Running between AsiaWorld-Expo and Hong Kong International Airport at Chek Lap Kok and Hong Kong Station on Hong Kong Island



Light Rail

It operates in the northwest New Territories between the new towns of Yuen Long, Tuen Mun and Tin Shui Wai.

Trams

Hong Kong has a unique electric tram system that has operated since 1904 on an east-west line on Hong Kong Island. A loop circuit takes trams into Happy Valley, home of the famous racetrack. The double-deck trams provide an interesting glimpse of street-level Hong Kong, especially from a seat on the top deck.

The Peak Tram is a funicular railway that opened in 1888 and runs from Central to the Peak. It is the quickest trip to the top of the mountain, and also the most spectacular.

Ferries

The famous Star Ferry links Hong Kong to the Kowloon Peninsula via services from Central and Wan Chai to Hung Hom and Tsim Sha Tsui. The leisurely trip across busy Victoria Harbour is one of the best-value and most nostalgic ferry trips in the world.

Other major ferry service operators including New World First Ferry Services Ltd, Hong Kong and Kowloon Ferry Co Ltd and Discovery Bay Transportation Services Ltd provide cross-harbour and outlying island passenger ferry services.

The Hong Kong and Macau Ferry Terminal in Sheung Wan, the China Ferry Terminal in Tsim Sha Tsui and the Tuen Mun Ferry Terminal in Tuen Mun provide high-speed ferry services to Macao and 16 ports in the Mainland.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Taxis

There are three types of taxis in Hong Kong: red, green and blue.

Red taxis operate in the urban areas of Hong Kong Island and Kowloon, but can also take passengers to and from the New Territories (NT).

Green taxis operate in the New Territories and are cheaper than the urban taxis. They cannot take passengers into the urban areas of Kowloon and Hong Kong Island.

Blue taxis operate on Lantau Island only and are cheaper than urban and NT taxis.

Minibuses / Maxicabs

Minibuses are yellow with a red stripe. They can pick up and drop off passengers anywhere except at a bus stop and the usual restricted areas. Fares vary according to the route and you pay as you get off.

Maxicabs are yellow with a green stripe and operate along defined routes with set fares. Pay as you get on.

Buses

Bus services run by The Kowloon Motor Bus Co (1933) Ltd, New World First Bus Services Ltd and Citybus cover most of Hong Kong Island, Kowloon and the New Territories. New Lantau Bus Co (1973) Ltd operates on Lantau Island. Long Win Bus Company Limited provides franchised bus services to north Lantau and the Airport.



First Aid and Medical Services

Medical services are provided by both the public and private sectors. They include general and specialist out-patient clinics run by the Hospital Authority, and some private hospitals and clinics operated by practitioners in private practice. Accident and emergency services are mostly provided by the Hospital Authority, which also offers in-patient services in public hospitals.

Out-patient clinics

Holiday services are available at the following 11 general out-patient clinics run by the Hospital Authority:

Hong Kong Island

Violet Peel General Out-patient Clinic
LG, Tang Shiu Kin Hospital
(Community Ambulatory Care Centre),
282 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai

Shau Kei Wan Jockey Club Clinic
8 Chai Wan Road, Shau Kei Wan

Kowloon

Kwun Tong Jockey Club Health Centre
457 Kwun Tong Road, Kwun Tong

Robert Black General Out-patient Clinic
600 Prince Edward Road East, San Po Kong

Yau Ma Tei Jockey Club Clinic
145 Battery Street, Yau Ma Tei

USEFUL INFORMATION

New Territories

Lady Trench General Out-patient Clinic
213 Sha Tsui Road, Tsuen Wan

Yuen Long Jockey Club Health Centre
269 Castle Peak Road, Yuen Long

Shek Wu Hui Jockey Club Clinic
108 - 130 Jockey Club Road, Shek Wu Hui, Sheung Shui

Lek Yuen Health Centre
9 Lek Yuen Street, Sha Tin

Tai Po Jockey Club Clinic
37 Ting Kok Road, Tai Po

Tuen Mun Clinic
11 Tsing Yin Street, San Hui, Tuen Mun

Private practice

Primary health consultation is available at private clinics. Some are open during holidays.

The Hong Kong Medical Association runs a tele-doctor hotline — MediLink — to provide pre-recorded information about access to medical consultation in Hong Kong during holiday periods of three or more days. Information is available by calling 90000 222 322.

Some private hospitals also provide 24-hour out-patient services.



Accident and emergency services

Emergency assistance can be sought by dialling 999. Cases of acute illness and accident casualties are taken by ambulance to the nearest Accident and Emergency Department of public hospitals. Ambulance services can be sought by calling 2535 3355.

The following 16 hospitals provide 24-hour accident and emergency services:

Hong Kong Island

Queen Mary Hospital
102 Pok Fu Lam Road, Pok Fu Lam

Ruttonjee Hospital
266 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai

Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital
3 Lok Man Road, Chai Wan

St John Hospital
Cheung Chau Hospital Road, Tung Wan, Cheung Chau

Kowloon

Queen Elizabeth Hospital
30 Gascoigne Road, Jordan

Kwong Wah Hospital
25 Waterloo Road, Yau Ma Tei

United Christian Hospital
130 Hip Wo Street, Kwun Tong

Caritas Medical Centre
111 Wing Hong Street, Sham Shui Po

USEFUL INFORMATION

Tseung Kwan O Hospital
2 Po Ning Lane, Hang Hau, Tseung Kwan O

Princess Margaret Hospital
2-10 Princess Margaret Hospital Road, Lai King

New Territories

Prince of Wales Hospital
30-32 Ngan Shing Street, Sha Tin

Tuen Mun Hospital
Tsing Chung Koon Road, Tuen Mun

Alice Ho Miu Ling Nethersole Hospital
11 Chuen On Road, Tai Po

North District Hospital
9 Po Kin Road, Sheung Shui

Yan Chai Hospital
7-11 Yan Chai Street, Tsuen Wan

Pok Oi Hospital
Au Tau, Yuen Long

Hospital services

Persons requiring emergency hospitalisation may be admitted to public hospitals through Accident and Emergency Departments, or referral from specialist out-patient clinics, general out-patient clinics or private practitioners. Admission is entirely at the discretion of the duty medical officer according to the patient's condition.



Accommodation

There is a wide variety of accommodation for visitors on different budgets. Moderately priced accommodation is available at youth hostels, or hostels run by voluntary organisations such as Caritas, YMCA, YWCA and the Scout Association.

There are many hotels offering services in the three to five star categories. Contact the Hong Kong Tourism Board on 2807 6543 for details or visit its website: www.discoverhongkong.com. You can also check out hotels licensed by the Home Affairs Department at the following website: <http://sc.info.gov.hk/gb/www.hadla.gov.hk/english/hotel/locat.htm>

Electricity Supply

Hong Kong's power supply is plentiful and reliable. The supply is at 50Hz alternating current, while voltage is 220 volts single phase and 380 volts three phase.

Communications and the Media

Hong Kong is a global communications hub, with some of the best physical infrastructure anywhere in the world.

International direct dialling is available to over 250 destinations around the world as well as most cities in the Mainland. Telephone penetration rates and business fax use are among the highest in the world.

Broadband networks cover virtually all commercial buildings and households. There were 168 Internet service providers as at June 2008.

There are over 6,800 Wi-Fi hotspots installed for the provision of public Wi-Fi services throughout Hong Kong. By mid-2009, free Wi-Fi services in some 350 Government premises will be available.

Sound broadcasting

Hong Kong has 13 radio channels: three operated by Hong Kong Commercial Broadcasting Co Ltd (Commercial Radio), three by Metro Broadcast Corporation Ltd (Metro Broadcast) and seven by Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK). There are seven Cantonese channels, four English channels, one Putonghua channel and one bilingual channel (English & Cantonese).

Television

There are four categories of television broadcasting services in Hong Kong: domestic free television programme services, domestic pay television programme services, non-domestic television programme services, and other licensable television programme services. As of June 2008, Hong Kong had two domestic free television broadcasters, three domestic pay television broadcasters, 16 non-domestic television broadcasters and 25 licensees who are operating other licensable television programme services to hotels.



The Television Programme Service Licensees in Hong Kong are:

Domestic Free Television Programme Services


- Asia Television Ltd (ATV) operates one English-language (World) and one Chinese-language (Home) analogue television channel and six digital terrestrial television channels, including one high definition (aTV HDTV) and five standard definition television channels (News and Business, His TV, Her TV, Plus TV and CCTV 4).
- Television Broadcasts Ltd (TVB) operates one English-language (Pearl) and one Chinese-language (Jade) analogue television channel, and three digital terrestrial television channels, including one high definition (HD Jade) and two standard definition television channels (J2 and Interactive Information Channel) which are on trial broadcast.

Domestic Pay Television Programme Services

- Hong Kong Cable Television Ltd (Cable TV) provides about 100 channels with programmes primarily in English, Cantonese and Putonghua. The service includes basic, premium and pay-per-view channels.
- PCCW Media Ltd (now Broadband TV) provides over 130 channels with programmes primarily in English, Cantonese and Putonghua, on a pay-by-channel basis.
- TVB Pay Vision Ltd provides about 40 channels with programmes broadcast primarily in English, Cantonese and Putonghua. The service includes basic and premium channels.

Non-domestic Television Programme Services

- Starvision Hong Kong Ltd (Star TV) offers 36 satellite television channels providing programmes in four languages, targeting viewers in Asia and the Middle East.
- TVB Pay Vision Ltd operates 30 channels targeting viewers across Asia, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and parts of Europe. The service is primarily in Putonghua.
- APT Satellite TV Development Ltd operates 42 channels targeting viewers across Asia, Oceania, and parts of the Pacific Ocean.
- Starbucks (HK) Ltd operates one free-to-air English satellite television channel targeting global viewers. The channel is receivable in Hong Kong.
- MATV Ltd operates one satellite television channel, providing movies and entertainment programmes in Cantonese and Putonghua. The channel targets Chinese viewers in Asia.
- Turner International Asia Pacific Ltd operates six English satellite television channels targeting Asia and Australia. Two of them are receivable in Hong Kong on a subscription basis.
- China Entertainment Television Broadcast Ltd operates one Putonghua satellite television channel targeting Chinese viewers in the Mainland and Asia. The channel is receivable in Hong Kong.
- i-CABLE Satellite Television Ltd operates one Putonghua satellite television channel targeting the Mainland. The channel is receivable in Hong Kong.

- 
- Pacific Century Matrix (HK) Ltd provides 15 satellite television channels in various languages targeting Asian viewers. Eight of them are receivable in Hong Kong.
 - Sun Television Cybernetworks Enterprises Ltd operates one Putonghua satellite television channel targeting Asia.
 - Skywave TV Co Ltd operates 35 satellite television channels targeting the Mainland. Twenty-four are receivable in Hong Kong on a subscription basis. The channels are primarily in English and Putonghua.
 - Asia Television Ltd: Its launch date is to be confirmed.
 - Auspicious Colour Ltd operates three English and Thai channels targeting Asia. Two of them are receivable in Hong Kong.
 - Phoenix Satellite Television Co Ltd operates three Putonghua channels targeting the Mainland. Two are receivable in Hong Kong.
 - Asia Times Online Limited operates seven satellite TV channels in Thai and English targeting the South East Asian region. The channels are receivable in Hong Kong.
 - Times International Media Group Limited: Its launch date is to be confirmed.

Other Licensable Television Programme Services

- There are 25 licensees providing other licensable television programme services to hotels in Hong Kong.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Newspapers and magazines

A total of 44 daily newspapers and 689 periodicals are published in Hong Kong. There are also a number of electronic newspapers.

The Chinese-language newspapers are the most popular and widely read. 'Apple Daily' and 'Oriental Daily' are among the two bestsellers.

There are two local English-language newspapers — the 'South China Morning Post' and 'The Standard', which is distributed free of charge. Editions of the 'Financial Times', 'Asian Wall Street Journal', 'International Herald Tribune', 'USA Today International' and 'Nihon Keizai Shinbun' are published daily in Hong Kong.

Periodicals cover myriad topics from motor cars, entertainment, food, public affairs, and travels to economics.

Information Services Department

The Information Services Department (ISD) provides a link between the Government, the media and the public through the dissemination of news and public relations material.

ISD staff are well-placed in a number of Government departments to provide information and advice on conditions and procedures for filming in Hong Kong.

The names and contact details of the relevant departmental information officers can be obtained by phoning the ISD Duty Officer (24-hour service) on 2842 8747.