

HONG KONG PEOPLE REPUBLIC OF CHINA



Country Dialling Code (Tel/Fax): ++852

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Capital: Hong Kong Time GMT + 8

Background: Occupied by the UK in 1841, Hong Kong was formally ceded by China the following year; various adjacent lands were added later in the 19th century. Pursuant to an agreement signed by China and the UK on 19 December 1984, Hong Kong became the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) of China on 1 July 1997. In this agreement, China has promised that, under its "one country, two systems" formula, China's socialist economic system will not be imposed on Hong Kong and that Hong Kong will enjoy a high degree of autonomy in all matters except foreign and defense affairs for the next 50 years.

Map References: Southeast Asia

Area: total: 1,092 sq km, land: 1,042 sq km, water: 50 sq km

Terrain: hilly to mountainous with steep slopes; lowlands in north

Natural Resources: outstanding deepwater harbor, feldspar

Population: 6,980,412 (July 2007 est.)

Nationality: noun: Chinese/Hong Konger, adjective: Chinese/Hong Kong

Ethnic Groups: Chinese 94.9%, Filipino 2.1%, other 3% (2001 census)

Religions: eclectic mixture of local religions 90%, Christian 10%

Languages: Chinese 94.9%, Filipino 2.1%, other 3% (2001 census)

Economy: Hong Kong has a free market economy highly dependent on international trade. The territory has become more closely linked to mainland China over the past few years. Even before Hong Kong reverted to Chinese administration on 1 July 1997, it had extensive trade and investment ties with China. Hong Kong's service industry over the past decade has grown rapidly as its manufacturing industry has moved to the mainland. Hong Kong also has stepped up its efforts to gain approval to offer more mainland financial services in a bid to remain competitive with China's growing financial centers. Hong Kong's natural resources are limited, and food and raw materials must be imported. Gross imports and exports (including reexports to and from third countries) each exceed GDP in dollar value. Per capita GDP exceeds that of the four big economies of Western Europe. GDP growth averaged a strong 5% from 1989 to 2006, but Hong Kong suffered two recessions in the past eight years because of the Asian financial crisis in 1997-98 and the global downturn in 2001-02. Although the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) outbreak in 2003 also battered Hong Kong's economy, a solid rise in exports, a boom in tourism from the mainland because of China's easing of travel restrictions, and a return of consumer confidence resulted in the resumption of strong growth from late 2003 through 2006. Moreover, several large initial public offerings of Chinese companies on the Hong Kong stock exchange since late 2005 have helped to boost Hong Kong's status as a financial hub and have contributed to the improved performance of the market in late 2006.

Industries: textiles, clothing, tourism, banking, shipping, electronics, plastics, toys, watches, clocks

Currency: Hong Kong dollar (HKD)

Roadways: total: 1,955 km, paved: 1,955 km (2005)

Airports: 2 (2007)

Heliports: 5 (2007)

Visa: Entry requirements for Americans: United States citizens must have a valid passport, but no visa is required for a stay of up to three months. Entry requirements for UK nationals: British citizens must have a valid passport for their intended period of stay. No visa is required for a stay of up to six months, provided the passport holder is an endorsed British Citizen.

Entry requirements for Canadians: Canadians must have a valid passport, but no visa is required for a stay of up to three months.

Entry requirements for Australians: Australians must have a valid passport, but no visa is required for a stay of up to three months.

Entry requirements for South Africans: South Africans must have a valid passport, but no visa is required for stays of up to one month.

Entry requirements for New Zealanders: New Zealand citizens must have a valid passport, but no visa is required for a stay of up to three months.

Entry requirements for Irish nationals: Irish nationals must have a valid passport, but no visa is required for a stay of up to three months.

Passport/Visa Note: All passports must be valid for at least one month after period of intended stay. All visitors must be in possession of onward or return tickets, except when in transit to mainland China or Macao, as well as all documents required for next destination and sufficient funds to cover their stay in Hong Kong

Duty Free: A passenger aged 18 or above is allowed to bring into Hong Kong free of duty, for his/her own use, dutiable commodities to the extent of: 1 litre of alcoholic liquor; and 60 cigarettes or 15 cigars or 75 grammes of other manufactured tobacco. A passenger holding a Hong Kong Identity Card must have spent 24 hours or longer outside Hong Kong in order to be qualified for the above duty-free concessions.

Health: Hong Kong has maintained good public health standards. Major health indicators have reflected that the people in Hong Kong are generally enjoying good health. There has been a steady rise in the life expectancy of population. In 2004, life expectancy at birth is 78.6 years for men and 84.6 years for women. Systematic disease surveillance for infectious diseases is in place, such that effective and appropriate preventive and control measures can be initiated early. Public and private sectors provide high-class and comprehensive range of medical and health services to clients.

There is no vaccination requirement for Hong Kong. However, travellers should observe good personal and food hygiene and adopt anti-mosquito measures to prevent infectious diseases.

For more information on health and medical services, please visit the websites of the Department of Health, Centre for Health Protection and Hospital Authority.

HOTELS•MOTELS•INNS

HONG KONG SAR

B P INTERNATIONAL, 8 Austin Road Tsimshatsui, Kowloon Hong Kong Tel: (852) 2376 1111, Fax: (852) 2376 1333, Email: enquiry@bpjh.com.hk, www.bpjh.com.hk

CONRAD HONG KONG, Pacific Place, 88 Queensway, Hong Kong, China | Tel: 852-2521-3838, Email: hongkonginfo@conradhotels.com, www.conradhotels1.hilton.com

COSMO HOTEL HONG KONG, 375-377 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai, Hong Kong, Tel: +852 3552 8388, Fax: +852 3552 8399, E-mail: generalmanager@cosmohotel.com.hk, www.cosmohotel.com.hk

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ISLAND PACIFIC HOTEL, 152 Connaught Road West, Hong Kong, Telephone: (852) 2131 1188, Fax: (852) 2131 1212, Email: info@islandpacifichotel.com.hk, www.sino-hotels.com

JW MARRIOTT HOTEL HONG KONG, Pacific Place, 88 Queensway Hong Kong SAR, China, Phone: 852 28108366, Fax: 852 28450737, Sales: 852 28413838, Sales fax: 852 28455808, www.marriott.com

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SHERATON HONG KONG HOTEL & TOWERS, 20 Nathan Road - Kowloon - Hong Kong, Hong Kong SAR, China, Phone: (852) 2369 1111, Fax: (852) 2739 8707, res.hongkong@sheraton.com, www.starwoodhotels.com

THE ISLAND SHANGRI-LA, Pacific Place, Supreme Court Road, Central, Hong Kong, T: (852) 2877 3838, F: (852) 2521 8742, www.shangri-la.com

THE RITZ-CARLTON, HONG KONG, 3 Connaught Road Central, Hong Kong, China, Phone: 852 2877 6666, Fax: 852 2877 6778, www.ritzcarlton.com

RESTAURANTS & BARS

HONG KONG

AQUA, One Peking Road, Hong Kong China, +852 3427 2288, info@aqua.com.hk, www.aqua.com.hk

BANANA LEAF CURRY HOUSE, 3/F, Golden Crown Court, 68 Nathan Road, Hong Kong China, +852 2721 4821, www.bananaleaf.com

DOLCE VITA (LA), 9 Lan Kwai Fong, Hong Kong China, +852 2186 1888, info@lankwaifong.com, www.lankwaifong.com

FINDS BAR AND RESTAURANT, 33 Wyndham St, 2F, LKF Tower, Hong Kong, Hong Kong, +852 2522 9318, Fax: +852 2521 9818, E-mail: reservations@finds.com.hk, www.finds.com.hk

FELIX, The Peninsula, Salisbury Road, Hong Kong China, +852 2315 3188, dining.pen@peninsula.com

GRISSINI, 2/F, Grand Hyatt, 1 Harbour Road, Hong Kong China, +852 2588 1234, info@grandhyatt.com.hk, www.hongkong.grand.hyatt.com

HELLO KITTY CAFE, Shop 11, 2/F, The New Face By Sogo, 24-26 East Point Road, Hong Kong China, +852 2890 9021

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SWISS CHALET, 12-14 Hart Avenue, Hong Kong China, +852 2191 9197, tschwale@netvigator.com

THE PEAK LOOKOUT, 121 Peak Road, The Peak, Hong Kong, Tel: 2849 1000, Fax: 2849 4343, E-mail: info@peaklookout.com.hk, www.thepeaklookout.com.hk

ENTERTAINMENTS

HONG KONG

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LAN KWAI FONG, Central, Hong Kong China, +852 2807 6543 (HK Tourism Board), info@lankwaifong.com, Open Hours, 24 hours daily; individual business hours vary, www.lankwaifong.com

OCEAN PARK, Ocean Park Rd, Hong Kong China, +852 2552 0291, qr@oceanpark.com.hk, Open Hours, Daily 9a-6:30p, www.oceanpark.com.hk

VICTORIA HARBOUR, Edinburgh Place, Hong Kong Island, WA 98282 China, +852 2807 6543 (Hong Kong Tourist Association), Open Hours, 24 hours daily

VICTORIA PEAK, No. 1 Lugard Road, Hong Kong China, +852 2849 7654, peaktram@peninsula.com, www.thepeak.com.hk

STANLEY, Stanley Market Road, Stanley Village, Hong Kong China, +852 2508 1234

THE STAR FERRY, Tel: 2367 7065, Fax: 2118 6028, Email: sf@starferry.com.hk, For Ferry Booking : Tel: 2118 6120, www.starferry.com.hk

WONG TAI SIN TEMPLE, upper edge of Wong Tai Sin Estate, Hong Kong China, +852 2320 2883, Open Hours, 7am-5:30pm daily

AIRLINES/HELICOPTERS/AIRPORTS

HONG KONG

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