

Hello Hong Kong

HOLIDAY AT HOME

Travel Guide





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HELLO, HONG KONG!

It's time to rediscover the wonderful world that's right in front of us. You don't have to go far to get away. After all, there's no place like home.

Through lesser-known Hong Kong experiences presented in this e-book, let's reignite our fondness for the familiar and not-so-familiar, and be reminded of our city's magnificence and beauty, inside and out. From our scenic harbour, lively culture and wellness retreats, to the endless entertainment, gastro-fantasies and shopping fiestas, Hong Kong has a gamut of exciting activities and sightseeing opportunities to offer. Traverse the city, acquaint yourself with its many facets and uncover hidden gems. Not sure where to start? Take inspiration from these curated, themed itineraries, and create your very own holiday at home. Check out HolidayHK.com to find great offers throughout the city!

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**South China
Morning Post**



REDISCOVER HONG KONG'S SPECTACULAR SKYLINE

What do a 'Mousetrap', 'Koala Tree' and 'Oil Rig' have in common? They are the affectionate nicknames of some of Hong Kong's familiar architectural landmarks: Jardine House, Lippo Centre and HSBC Main Building, respectively. These local pet names (and more) have been used since rapid development in the 1970s and 1980s transformed the city's skyline into one of the world's most distinctive sights. Hong Kong is known for having the world's most skyscrapers — a far cry from its modest origins and depiction in the first painting of its shoreline, *Waterfall at Aberdeen* by English artist William Havell in about 1816. Today its skyline features an exhilarating mix of old and new buildings beside dynamic unspoilt mountain peaks and countryside.



“And as you walk, you can see the traces of historical development — and can take in the story of Hong Kong if you pay close attention to your surroundings.”

Billy Tam Hon-wah
Director of Thomas Chow Architects



To experience Hong Kong's layered skyline, go to the city's Central and Western neighbourhoods

Our city's skyline — through architect Billy Tam's eyes

Getting Hong Kong architect Billy Tam to talk passionately about our city's skyline is almost too easy. Sitting in his loft-style office in Quarry Bay, he instantly dives into the subject.

“One moment you're sitting in an office within a skyscraper, yet an uphill walk into nature is just five minutes away,” he says. “This is something that's very special about Hong Kong.”

Tam, 45, who is director of Thomas Chow Architects, knows the city better than most people. His award-winning designs for numerous projects at places such as Diocesan Boys'

School, in Mong Kok, and The Mills, a textile factory-turned-creative hub in Tsuen Wan, are scattered across Hong Kong. He was also part of the team that saw the city make its debut at the 2006 Venice Biennale of Architecture.

Tam is particularly fond of our many-layered, multifaceted city skyline: towering waterfront office skyscrapers, flanked by the mountains in the background, with smaller, old and revitalised multi-purpose buildings in between.

These 'revamped' tenement houses, or *tong lau*, built for residential and business use from

the late 19th century until the 1960s, are as “unique to Hong Kong's streetscape”, as they are important, he says. “Some have stayed, evolved, and are supporting the more developed residential or financial regions. Although old, they still support our whole society.”

The city's Central and Western neighbourhoods, with their many 'forgotten' *tong lau* and other hidden gems, are among the best places to experience this kind of layered skyline, Tam says.

“The matrix of trams, mini alleys and staircases behind the skyscrapers enable you to choose a different path each time you walk there — and they are always welcoming,” he says. “That's the most appealing part for me.

“And as you walk, you can see the traces of historical development — and can take in the story of Hong Kong if you pay close attention

to your surroundings. Our skyline is spectacular in this sense.”

Tam, who won Hong Kong Institute of Architects' 2005 Young Architect Award, says his passion and motivation as an architect have evolved alongside his appreciation of Hong Kong's dynamic skyline.

“At the beginning of my career, I was driven to design good, perhaps award-winning, architectural spaces,” he says. “But now when I pick up my pen, I focus more on how people are going to make good use of the space and, hopefully, also some good memories.

“My intention is for people to appreciate and use the building happily. This may sound simple, but I think it's the most important thing as an architect,” says Tam.

Explore Hong Kong's skyline from past to present

Spoilt with one of the most impressive skylines in the world, Hongkongers can be a tough crowd to impress. But our urban fabric comprises more than simply skyscrapers. *Tong lau*, or low-rise 'shophouses' dating from the mid-19th century — many of which have been revived and revitalised — form a vital part of our history and landscape. And it's these handsome buildings that lined the original shores of our scenic harbour — before land reclamation began shifting it. Here are some of our favourite buildings, high and low, that you might have missed around Central and Sheung Wan.



1 HSBC Main Building

Renowned English architect Norman Foster has attributed his international success to the revolutionary HSBC Main Building — once the world's most expensive building. The steel exoskeleton structure, completed in 1985, remains one of the most stunning architectural marvels. Its lifts are fitted with technology used in the NASA space programme, while its glass-bottomed atrium offers a unique view of the interiors of the bank's headquarters.

📍 1 Queen's Road Central
 🌐 www.about.hsbc.com.hk/hsbc-in-hong-kong

2 City Hall

Often overshadowed by its swanky neighbours, City Hall — designed by British architects Ron Phillips and Alan Fitch in 1956 — remains one of the city's best examples of modern architecture. The iconic complex was the city's first public art and cultural centre. Head to the High Block's top floor for one of the best views of Victoria Harbour.

📍 5 Edinburgh Place, Central
 🌐 www.lcsd.gov.hk/hkch



3 Jardine House

Once the tallest building in Hong Kong, the 52-storey Jardine House is mostly known for its futuristic circular windows and law firm occupants. But in summer, the basement has transformed into the hottest food court in Central. Dubbed BaseHall, featuring homegrown F&B brands, including burger restaurant Honbo, cookie maker Cookie DPT and Return of Lemak, chef Barry Quek's latest *nasi lemak* concept.

📍 Jardine House, 1 Connaught Place, Central
 🌐 www.basehall.hk



4 Crafts on Peel

Follow the black and white neon sign on Peel Street to find the grooviest new kid on the block: Crafts on Peel. The non-profit creative space combines founder Yama Chan's love for the city's walk-up buildings and traditional crafts. The multi-storey building, which serves as a collaborative platform for traditional craftsmen and contemporary artists, includes carefully preserved and exposed architectural features of the 1948 *tong lau*.

📍 11 Peel Street, Central
 ☎ +852 2510 0637 🌐 www.craftsonpeel.com



5 The Gough Street - Kau U Fong Quarter

The eclectic mix of buildings in the Gough Street-Kau U Fong area is an attraction in itself. Have you noticed that many *tong lau* have 'shrunk' upper floors? This architectural feature of the 1960s to 1980s — imposed by the now defunct 'Street Shadow Regulation' — ensured sunlight reached street level. At sunset, head to the alley behind Kau U Fong to Godenya, an award-winning saké-pairing omakase restaurant.

📍 Godenya, 182 Wellington Street, Central
🌐 www.godenya.com

6 30 Houses

Hidden in a nook behind bustling SoHo is a *tong lau* cluster named '30 Houses'. These post-war buildings welcomed a crop of small shops in recent years, including Chez Trente, a bar and gallery where artists, musicians, writers and art lovers gather. It is also home to 30 Houses Kai Fong Yu Lan Festival, host of the annual Yu Lan, or Hungry Ghost, Festival celebrations.

📍 30 Houses Kai Fong Yu Lan Festival
62 Staunton Street, Central
📞 +852 6309 6103



7 Yuen Kat Lam's

This century-old building is one of Hong Kong's few remaining first-generation *tong lau*. The red and green building, named after the over 130-year-old Chinese herbal tea brand, Yuen Kat Lam's, is still owned by the Yuen family. In recent years, the seventh-generation owner has modernised the business by offering pre-packaged herbal tea, which you can buy while admiring the interior of its street-level shop on Jervois Street — a location that once overlooked the harbour.

📍 112 Jervois Street, Sheung Wan
📞 +852 2545 4714



8 Monsieur Chatte

Easily overlooked in fast-developing Sheung Wan district, Monsieur Chatte is in a quiet area among high-rises and dried seafood shops. French businessman Jean Yves Chatte opened his original French wine and grocery shop in 2008. Monsieur Chatte's signature foie gras — made using a recipe passed down from generations — was originally sold in the family's first charcuterie shop near Paris in 1949.

📍 91 Jervois Street, Sheung Wan
📞 +852 3105 8077
🌐 www.monsieurchatte.com





Explore Hong Kong's skyline from past to present

- | | | | |
|----------------------|------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| ① HSBC Main Building | ③ Jardine House | ⑤ The Gough Street-Kau U Fong Quarter | ⑦ Yuen Kat Lam's |
| ② City Hall | ④ Crafts on Peel | ⑥ 30 Houses | ⑧ Monsieur Châté |

Panoramic views from Tsim Sha Tsui and West Kowloon

Perfect for exploring on foot, Tsim Sha Tsui, once a quiet seafront area with a few small fishing villages, and neighbouring West Kowloon offer many vantage points from where you can enjoy spectacular skyline views of Victoria Harbour and Hong Kong Island's different districts. Here are some of our favourites:



3 Ocean Terminal Deck

Lookout points offering spectacular city skyline views often come at a cost. But Ocean Terminal Deck, the rooftop observation deck of Harbour City's new Ocean Terminal extension building, is free to the public. Head there after a frenetic day's shopping to enjoy the sunset and a breathtaking 270-degree panorama of Victoria Harbour. You can also dine at any of the 11 Harbour City restaurants with a view.

📍 Harbour City, 3-27 Canton Road, Tsim Sha Tsui
🌐 www.harbourcity.com.hk/en/



1 West Kowloon Cultural District Art Park

A green oasis facing Hong Kong Island's Western District, Art Park at West Kowloon Cultural District is where family and friends — and their pets — can gather on the lawn for a picnic while enjoying open-air performances, art exhibitions and other cultural events. Plant-lovers can join free tours and workshops to learn more about the species of trees and plants found in the Art Park.

📍 West Kowloon Cultural District, 28 Museum Drive
☎ +852 2200 0217 🌐 www.westkowloon.hk/en/artpark



2 sky100 Hong Kong Observation Deck

Did you know that the sky100 Observation Deck is the city's only indoor observation deck offering 360-degree views of the territory and Victoria Harbour? Reaching the 100th floor of the International Commerce Centre — Hong Kong's tallest building — is a 60-second thrill ride in the city's fastest double-decker, high-speed lift. Make your trip extra special by booking a personalised message in the sky as a surprise for loved ones.

📍 100/F, International Commerce Centre, 1 Austin Road West
☎ +852 2613 3888 🌐 sky100.com.hk



4 Harbour Kiosk at Avenue of Stars

For born-and-bred Hongkongers, Avenue of Stars has long been a popular waterfront spot for people-watchers and photography enthusiasts alike. Now revitalised, the avenue has solar-powered mobile carts selling food, drinks and souvenirs during the day. They include the kiosk of Hong Kong design and architectural firm, LAAB, with robotic design features inspired by local market stalls. See if you can spot the hoofprints of popular homegrown pig cartoon character, McDull.

📍 Tsim Sha Tsui Promenade, Salisbury Road, Tsim Sha Tsui East
🌐 www.avenueofstars.com.hk/en



5 Hong Kong Museum of Art

The recently renovated Hong Kong Museum of Art — home to 17,000 local, Chinese and modern artworks — has a new wing and rippling glass facade. Floor-to-ceiling windows ensure you can savour the city's skyline while visiting the latest exhibition, 'Classics Remix: The Hong Kong Viewpoint'. Enjoy afternoon tea with champagne at modern Australian restaurant HUE, or grab light bites at seafood bar INK, which both boast harbour views.

📍 10 Salisbury Road, Tsim Sha Tsui ☎ +852 2721 0116
🌐 hk.art.museum/en_US/web/ma/home.html



6 K11 MUSEA

This new mall has much to offer, including stunning harbourfront views while you learn about rooftop farming at K11 Musea's Natural Discovery garden, dubbed the city's first urban diversity museum. The paid tour is co-organised by K11 and Hong Kong's Jane Goodall Institute. If gazing across the harbour inspires you to get out your paints and brushes, sign up for an art jamming session at Bohemian Garden.

📍 18 Salisbury Road, Tsim Sha Tsui
☎ +852 3892 3890 🌐 www.k11musea.com



7 Signal Hill Tower

This Edwardian, 62-foot (19-metre)-high tower in Signal Hill Garden, built in 1907, once housed Hong Kong Observatory's time-signalling equipment. Until 1933, a huge suspended copper ball was dropped from a mast daily to indicate the time to boats in Victoria Harbour. The long-unused tower was restored in the 1980s and declared a monument in 2015. Visitors can climb up for fine views of both Kowloon and Hong Kong Island.

📍 Signal Hill Garden, Minden Row, Tsim Sha Tsui
🌐 www.amo.gov.hk/en/monuments_109.php

8 East Tsim Sha Tsui Promenade

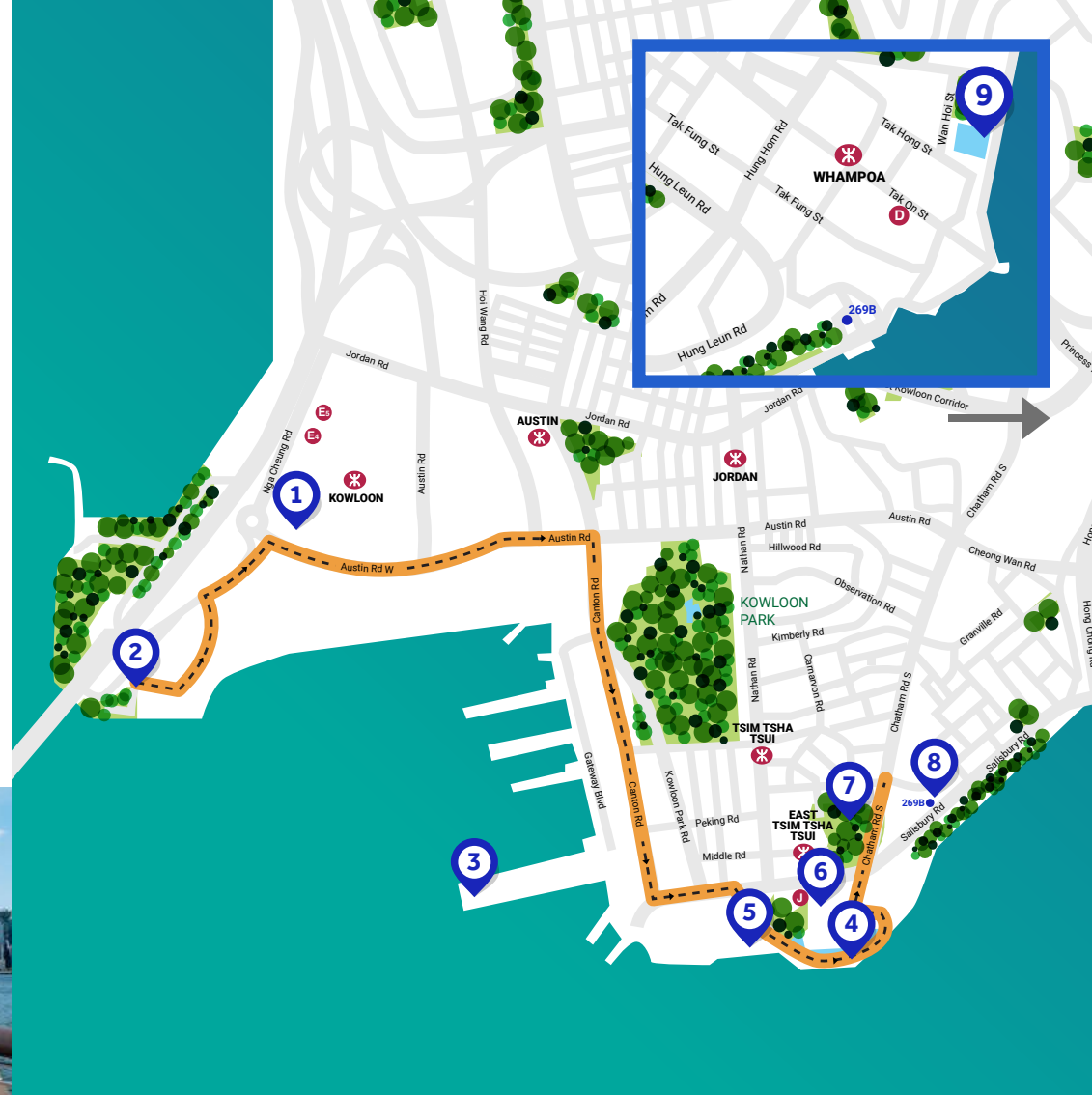
After that long walk from West Kowloon to Tsim Sha Tsui, it's time for a well-deserved scenic bus ride to Hung Hom. Many buses travelling there from East Tsim Sha Tsui bus station pass along Salisbury Road. The best option, 269B, ends at Hung Hom Hung Luen Road bus station — a stone's throw from the last stop of this tour.

📍 East Tsim Sha Tsui bus station, Salisbury Road

9 Tai Wan Shan Public Swimming Pool

Wrap things up with a swim at the outdoor Tai Wan Shan Public Swimming Pool — the perfect way to cool off during the hot months of summer. One of three public pools in the Kowloon City District, it offers a panoramic view of Victoria Harbour's skyline stretching from Kowloon East to Hong Kong Island.

📍 7, Wan Hoi Street, Hung Hom
🌐 www.lcsd.gov.hk



A panoramic view from Tsim Sha Tsui and West Kowloon

1 West Kowloon Cultural District Art Park

2 sky100 Hong Kong Observation Deck

3 Ocean Terminal Deck

4 Harbour Kiosk at Avenue of Stars

5 Hong Kong Museum of Art

6 K11 MUSEA

7 Signal Hill Tower

8 East Tsim Sha Tsui Promenade

9 Tai Wan Shan Public Swimming Pool

Scenic ferry crossings and day trips by boat

Now may not be ideal for travelling, but that shouldn't stop you from sailing off on a scenic ferry crossing or a day's boat trip to experience the side of Hong Kong you've always wanted to see. As a coastal city with more 250 islands, you can expect to enjoy many and varied memorable skyline views offering something different from the impressive, yet familiar picture-perfect Victoria Harbour images captured by tourists.



① Sai Wan Ho to Kwun Tong

Can't decide which side — Tsim Sha Tsui or Central — has the better skyline? Coral Sea Ferry's Sai Wan Ho-Kwun Tong route, on the harbour's eastern side, lets you capture both views during one trip. The 15-minute route offers front-row views of Kai Tak Cruise Terminal and the iconic Kowloon Flour Mills. The retro-decorated ferry runs every half an hour.

🌐 vps.coralseaferryservice.com.hk/en/timetable

② North Point to Kai Tak

The highlight of this 24-minute boat ride from North Point to Kai Tak, via Kwun Tong, is the slow ride in Kwun Tong Sheltered Bay, between Kwun Tong and Kai Tak. After departing Kwun Tong Pier, the ferry meanders alongside the fast-developing East Kowloon Skyline and the green park on the old Kai Tak runway. The hourly service operates only on Sundays and public holidays.

🌐 www.fortuneferry.com.hk



③ Dukling Cruise

Dukling, one of the city's few remaining original Chinese junks, runs regular cultural- and historical-themed tours for locals, including a two-hour weekend Cultural Journey around parts of Hong Kong Island, enabling its passengers to experience the life of fishermen. New tours include 30-minute narrated histories from Tsim Sha Tsui to To Kwa Wan (Saturdays), or from Central to Causeway Bay (Sundays).

🌐 www.dukling.com.hk/en/home



④ Tuen Mun to Tai O

The hour-long ferry ride from Tuen Mun to Tai O is one of the city's most underrated weekend activities. It takes passengers from the ferry pier of Tai O, through the channel between Hong Kong International Airport and Tung Chung to the promenade of Tuen Mun. The ride includes a stop at Sha Lo Wan village, with its 200-year-old temple, art installation and a giant pair of 400-year-old camphor trees, so you might want to disembark for some sightseeing before catching the next ferry to the final stop.

🌐 www.td.gov.hk/en/transport_in_hong_kong





5 Ma Liu Shui to Tap Mun

Although not as dazzling as Victoria Harbour's skyscrapers, the skylines along Sha Tin Hoi and Tolo Harbour are just as charming. Expect to see towering hills flanking Ma On Shan city centre on one side and Chinese University campus and the Science Park on the other. Traway's routes from Ma Liu Shui Ferry Pier include one to Tap Mun.

www.traway.com.hk/ferry

6 Aberdeen Boat Tour

Aberdeen makes up for its lack of striking buildings with its vibrant shoreline, which is home to a diverse mix of boat-dwelling communities. Aberdeen 1773 offers one of Hong Kong's most interesting audio-guided boat rides. Other tours are available from the pier, as well as a kaito service to Ap Lei Chau.

www.aberdeen1773.com/en/home

7 Park Island to Tsuen Wan

This ferry ride is not on the radar of many Hong Kong Island residents. The trip from Park Island to Tsuen Wan offers iconic Hong Kong views of Tsing Ma and Ting Kau Bridges. The 15-minute journey takes you under Ting Kau Bridge from Ma Wan Channel to Rambler Channel. In Tsuen Wan you can see New Territories' tallest skyscraper, the 89-storey Nina Tower, and do a spot of shopping at Nina Mall within.

www.pitcl.com.hk/en/ferry_service.php

8 Star Ferry

It's no surprise, but what boat-trip list would be complete without the iconic Star Ferry? With a more than 100-year history, the Star Ferry is still considered one of the world's most exciting ferry rides and the best way to see Victoria Harbour for less than HK\$4 (50 US cents). For the finest views, sit on the right when leaving Central and the left when departing Tsim Sha Tsui.

www.starferry.com.hk/en/home



Scenic ferry crossings and day trips by boat

1 Sai Wan Ho to Kwun Tong

2 North Point to Kai Tak

3 Dukling Cruise

3a: Central <-> Causeway Bay (Sun);

3b: Tsim Sha Tsui <-> To Kwa Wan (Sat)

4 Tuen Mun to Tai O

5 Ma Liu Shui to Tap Mun

6 Aberdeen Boat Tour

7 Park Island to Tsuen Wan

8 Star Ferry



THE CITY'S CULTURAL GEM: CONNECTING PEOPLE AND HEARTS

'Ding dings' are so tightly woven into Hong Kong's landscape and our everyday fabric, having been trundling across the Island's northern fringe for the past 116 years — and counting. One of the city's earliest forms of public transportation, and currently its most environmentally friendly, our tram fleet comprises one of the world's few remaining double-decker trams, says Cyril Aubin, managing director of Hong Kong Tramways. Since its inception in 1904, 'ding dings' have become an iconic symbol of Hong Kong's heritage, featured prominently in travel guides and frequented by tourists eager to experience the cityscape while on the move. For Hongkongers, however, the tram is as much an affordable, convenient way to get around the Island as it is a cultural gem.





“This unique transport system offers a sense of simplicity and authenticity — a slower pace of connectivity that we could all use in our crazy urban lives”

Cyril Aubin

Hong Kong Tramways' managing director



For Hong Kong Tramways' managing director Cyril Aubin, the now 116-year-old 'ding ding' system embodies the true Hong Kong spirit

At the helm of a piece of Hong Kong's heritage

Passionate about trams, Luk Man Wai counts himself lucky to have been working for Hong Kong Tramways for more than 15 years.

Luk first joined as one of the company's many motormen and women, who drive the 'ding dings' along Hong Kong Island's different passenger routes.

"I enjoy being outdoors and cannot stand [work that requires me] to stay in the office all the time, so this job is ideal for me," Luk says.

He and his colleagues have first-hand experience of the massive changes that have occurred following redevelopment of large areas of the city. "In Sai Wan, for example, there used to

be many factories and warehouses, but most of them have been torn down and replaced by residential buildings and hotels," he says.

Luk, who now works as an instructor training novice tram drivers, says he enjoys the satisfaction of helping thousands of passengers reach their tram-stop destinations safely each day. He also enjoys interacting with them, too.

"Once, on a party tram, a man proposed to his girlfriend with a bouquet of 999 red roses," Luk says. "I was delighted to be the motorman for the couple's unforgettable journey."

Echoing the sentiment, Cyril Aubin, Hong Kong Tramways' managing director, says 'ding dings'

embody the true Hong Kong spirit, and serve as collective memories for its people.

The tram system is built locally and maintenance is mostly done in-house at its Whitty Street depot factory — the only remaining industrial activity still being carried out on Hong Kong Island.

"This unique transport system offers a sense of simplicity and authenticity — a slower pace of connectivity that we could all use in our crazy urban lives," says Aubin, who takes the tram daily from his home in Wan Chai to his office at Whitty Street Tram Depot in Sai Wan. "To be in charge of maintaining and sustaining something that Hongkongers prize and love, not only for transportation but for what it represents in terms of memories and heritage, has just been amazing," he says.

'Ding dings' iconic image has continued despite the fleet regularly evolving and facing routine upgrades over the years. The latest model

to go into service is the company's seventh-generation tram.

"The [old] wooden body has been replaced by aluminium, making it lighter, stronger and more robust," Aubin says. "We've also redesigned the seats and interiors, adding handrails and handles, so rides are more ergonomic and comfortable for our passengers. We've also improved the motors so they consume less energy than before."

In the near future, these trams will become smarter, says Aubin who moved to Hong Kong with his family to take up his job in 2016. Using big data and artificial intelligence, Aubin and his team are working to improve the operational efficiency and reliability of 'ding dings'. He says: "We are currently working with scientists at the Chinese University of Hong Kong to develop special algorithms, so the tram system becomes even more robust to better serve Hongkongers."

Photo-worthy rides from Happy Valley to North Point

Hong Kong trams might be one efficient form of transit to get around the Island, but your journey need not be merely practical — it can be picture-perfect, too. The street scenes alongside the tramlines are crying out to be Instagrammed. Bonus: you won't even need to step off the tram to capture some of them!



2 Chung Wui Mansion

As your tram trundles along Johnston Road towards the Fleming Road stop, keep a lookout for Chung Wui Mansion. Painted in pastel shades spanning the colours of the rainbow, this 16-storey residential unit, built in 1964, certainly stands out. The vibrant building makes for a stunning Instagram photo, too, so be sure to get your camera phone out early.



3 Canal Road West

Underneath the Canal Road flyover, or Ngo Keng Kiu, you occasionally see elderly women engaging in the regional folk tradition of 'villain hitting' — a ceremony to curse one's enemies. Hop off the tram to take a better, documentary-style shot of this historic activity. The flyover's position above a three-way junction is purported to be an ideal area for dispelling evil, and casts great shadows for moody photos, too.



1 Broadwood Road and Happy Valley Terminus

Bustling Causeway Bay contrasts with more peaceful Happy Valley, home to its residences, cafes, and renowned Happy Valley Racecourse, with its links to horse racing since the mid 1800s. Take in views of Happy Valley Recreation Ground's sports pitches and jogging trail — encompassed by the racetrack — and pass through Happy Valley Terminus, one of seven across the city.



4 Paterson Street

Most of the city's footbridges are nondescript and easily forgotten. However, the circular pedestrian bridge overlooking Yee Wo Street is impossible to miss because of its shape, distinctive arches and salmon hue. You might have also caught a glimpse of it during the final showdown in the 2017 film *Ghost in the Shell*, which was partly filmed in Hong Kong.



5 Hong Kong Central Library

The 12-storey Hong Kong Central Library opposite Victoria Park — featuring more than 2 million items and a cosy Délifrance cafe — is the flagship and largest of Hong Kong's public libraries. Its geometric design was inspired by the Chinese philosophical saying: "The sky is round and the Earth square".

6 Fortress Hill Station

You can't miss the multi-level pedestrian staircase rising up the hillside just next to MTR Fortress Hill Station. The bold patchwork wall, painted in various hues of cream, green, grey and blue, is one of Hong Kong's most eye-catching sights; it is Instagrammable from the tram, too! For a more artistic photograph, hop off to get a little closer for that standout shot.

7 Chun Yeung Street Wet Market

The outdoor fresh market is one of the most emblematic examples of Hong Kong's culinary culture. The tram turns off of King's Road to trundle down this narrow street, teeming with shops and stalls selling fresh fruit, meat, clothing, knick-knacks and other goods, which gets busy from 5pm. Take immersive shots of the hubbub without losing your seat on the tram.

8 Tin Chiu Street and Shu Kuk Street

Historically a place where Shanghaiese and Fujianese immigrants settled, North Point offers an eclectic mix of upmarket housing estates and older buildings. Between the two streets you'll find the Sunbeam Theatre, a landmark cinema and theatre for Cantonese opera, founded in 1972. Strike a pose in front of the neon sign and billboards featuring colourful photos of performers to promote its latest shows.



Photo-worthy rides from Happy Valley to North Point

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1 Broadwood Road and Happy Valley Terminus | 5 Hong Kong Central Library |
| 2 Chung Wui Mansion | 6 Fortress Hill Station |
| 3 Canal Road | 7 Chun Yeung Street Wet Market |
| 4 Paterson Street | 8 Tin Chiu Street and Shu Kuk Street |

Cultural gems on the 'ding ding' from Tin Hau to Wan Chai

Riding the iconic 'ding ding' is a wonderful way to get around the city and also take in views of Hong Kong Island's urban landscape. Many cultural attractions can be found within walking distance of the tram stops along the Tin Hau to Wan Chai route, so why not plan a day of sightseeing around your journey?



3 Saint Mary's Church

Hong Kong Island's residents may have seen Saint Mary's, an episcopal church founded in 1911, as a chapel for destitute women. Redesigned in 1937 by architects Chau Lu-Nin and Richard Lee in the Chinese Renaissance architectural style, it combines elements of Chinese and European design. Take a short four-minute walk from the **Causeway Bay Terminus (CBT)** to view its ornate Chinese pillars and stained-glass windows.

📍 2A Tai Hang Road, Causeway Bay
☎ +852 2576 1768
🌐 dhk.hkskh.org/index.aspx?lang=1

1 Red Incent Burner Summit

If you've looked at maritime maps from the early 1800s, you'll know that Hong Kong Island has a different name — Hung Heung Lo, or Red Incent Burner. Legend says that a red incense burner was seen mysteriously floating in the sea. Seeing this as a message from God, villagers built a temple in the area, now Tin Hau Temple in Causeway Bay, and named the hill near the temple Red Incent Burner Summit. Hike up this 230-metre hill for its amazing sunset views.



2 Tuve

The cool, industrial-style design hotel, Tuve, sits between **Wing Hing Street** and **Lau Li Street tram stops**. Its minimalist, moody ambience was inspired by photographer Kim Holtermand's snaps of Sweden's fog-swathed Lake Tuve. Occasionally, the hotel holds art exhibitions in its public areas too!

📍 16 Tsing Fung Street, Tin Hau
☎ +852 3995 8899 🌐 www.tuve.hk



4 Tung Lin Kok Yuen

The little-known Buddhist nunnery and school, Tung Lin Kok Yuen — home to around 30 nuns and devotees — lies close to **Happy Valley Terminus**. Founded by Lady Clara Lin Kok, wife of renowned Hong Kong philanthropist Sir Robert Ho Tung, it is open to the public and houses Chinese-style couplets written by well-known Buddhists, a collection of calligraphy, and religious images and antiques that survived the Japanese occupation.

📍 15 Shan Kwong Road, Happy Valley
☎ +852 2572 2437 🌐 www.tlky.org



5 F11 Foto Museum

Around the corner from Tung Lin Koh Yuen is F11 Photographic Museum, a three-storey, 1930s Art Deco building showcasing exhibits, rare camera equipment and nearly 1,500 photo books. The private museum, which will thrill photography buffs, was founded by Douglas So, chairman of the Antiquities Advisory Board, who is a keen photographer and heritage conservationist.

📍 11 Yuk Sau Street, Happy Valley
☎ +852 6516 1122 🌐 f11.com





8 Starstreet Precinct

For a mini vacation, take a five-minute walk from **Arsenal Street tram stop** to Starstreet Precinct — an area around Three Pacific Place. Home to a selection of home-grown lifestyle stores and restaurants, Starstreet Precinct is a vibrant cultural melting pot that attracts the city's most fashionable and creative. Pop into Monocle's bureau/shop for stylish bric-a-brac, Kapok — a design-focused fashion and lifestyle store — and Odd One Out, a graphic arts and printmaking gallery space.

www.pacificplace.com.hk/en/starstreet

9 Kee Wah Studio

Not far from Starstreet Precinct is Kee Wah Studio — a co-baking space run by Kee Wah, the acclaimed Hong Kong bakery brand founded in 1938. Its studio offers the chance to attend a baking workshop and learn how to make traditional Chinese pastries, such as Kee Wah's popular egg tarts and wife cakes, and a parent and child pastry-making class — a great family activity.

2/F, 188 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai

+852 2343 8106

studio.keewah.com/frontend/web/index.php

6 The Han Li

Hong Kong earned the nickname 'Fragrant Harbour' because it was once one of the world's largest incense exporters. You'll find the charming little shop called The Han Li, where you can buy aromatic incense products and join a mindfulness workshop to learn more about traditional Chinese incense culture, across the street from **Wan Chai's Tonnochy tram stop**.

16A, CKK Commercial Centre,
289 Hennessy Road, Wan Chai

+852 2596 0383 www.thehanli.com

7 Pak Tai Temple

Blink and you might miss Pak Tai Temple — a monument and temple dedicated to the Northern Emperor deity Pak Tai built by Wan Chai residents in 1863. Take an 11-minute walk from **O'Brien Road tram stop** to view murals of life from a bygone era as well as a three-metre-tall Pak Tai statue, which is about 400 years old.

2 Lung On Street, Wan Chai +852 2573 2086

www.ctc.org.hk/en/directcontrol/temple10.asp



Cultural gems on the 'ding ding' from Tin Hau to Wan Chai

1 Red Incease Burner Summit

2 Tuve

3 Saint Mary's Church

4 Tung Lin Kok Yuen

5 F11 Foto Museum

6 The Han Li

7 Pak Tai Temple

8 Starstreet Precinct

9 Kee Wah Studio

Hipster hangouts on the 'ding ding' from North Point to Shau Kei Wan

Independent spirits who prefer avoiding the crowds that frequent Hong Kong Island's central districts will enjoy the unique arts and crafts, quality brews and artisanal foods found on its eastern side. Check out some alternative, cool and creative spots along the North Point to Shau Kei Wan tram route.



2 12 Oil Street

In 2013, the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club's former clubhouse at 12 Oil Street became Oi! — a place where artists can meet, collaborate and make their creative visions a reality. A short walk from **Jupiter Street and Fortress Hill tram stops**, Oi! works closely with the Hong Kong Visual Arts Centre to provide public art-training programmes, and is also a platform for visual artists to showcase their work.

📍 12 Oil Street, North Point ☎ +852 2512 3000
 🌐 www.lcsd.gov.hk/CE/Museum/APO/en_US/web/apo/about_oi.html



3 Woo Ping Optical

The vintage eyewear store, Woo Ping Optical, has been around since the 1970s. Just around the corner from the **Fortress Hill tram stop**, it stocks reasonably priced, fashionable, retro and vintage frames — including more contemporary designs from Japan and Korea and a range of statement frames from the 1960s and 1970s — which are much loved by its many bespectacled regular customers.

📍 278 King's Road, North Point
 ☎ +852 2571 7810



1 Coffee 101

Braemar Hill, one of the best spots in the city to watch sunsets, is a 30-minute walk from **Lau Li Street tram stop** in Causeway Bay. Before you make your way up the hill, stop at Coffee 101, a cosy, industrial-chic cafe, for a cup of made-to-order coffee or a millennial's must-have — avocado toast. Try the specials: Bailey's latte and crème brûlée coffee.

📍 Shop 12, Braemar Hill Shopping Centre, 45 Braemar Hill Road
 ☎ +852 2338 2521
 🌐 www.facebook.com/coffee101hk



4 Wander Kagu

Urban adventurers looking for hip outdoor apparel with street-cred will be happy to discover Wander Kagu. The store is home to more than 30 different independent brands of outdoor clothes, footwear, bags, and accessories such as chic crossbody bags and quirky-patterned travel towels. It also stocks hardwearing adventure gear, including Swedish Klattermusen mountaineering backpacks. The nearest tram stop is **Shipyard Lane**.

📍 405, 4/F, Eastern Centre, 1065 King's Road, Quarry Bay
 ☎ +852 6899 9622



5 Sugar Rooftop Bar

Sugar, at hotel and serviced residence complex, EAST, is a laid-back yet stylish rooftop bar, lounge and deck where you enjoy panoramic views of Victoria Harbour. Creative professionals frequently meet here for happy-hour drinks or late-night tête-à-têtes over delicious tapas as the resident DJ spins tunes. So, go order a glass of wine and some sliders and sit and marvel at the horizon.

🏠 32/F, EAST, 29 Taikoo Shing Road, Taikoo Shing
 ☎ +852 3968 3738
 🌐 www.easthotels.com/en/hongkong/restaurants-and-bars/sugar/



6 Gitone

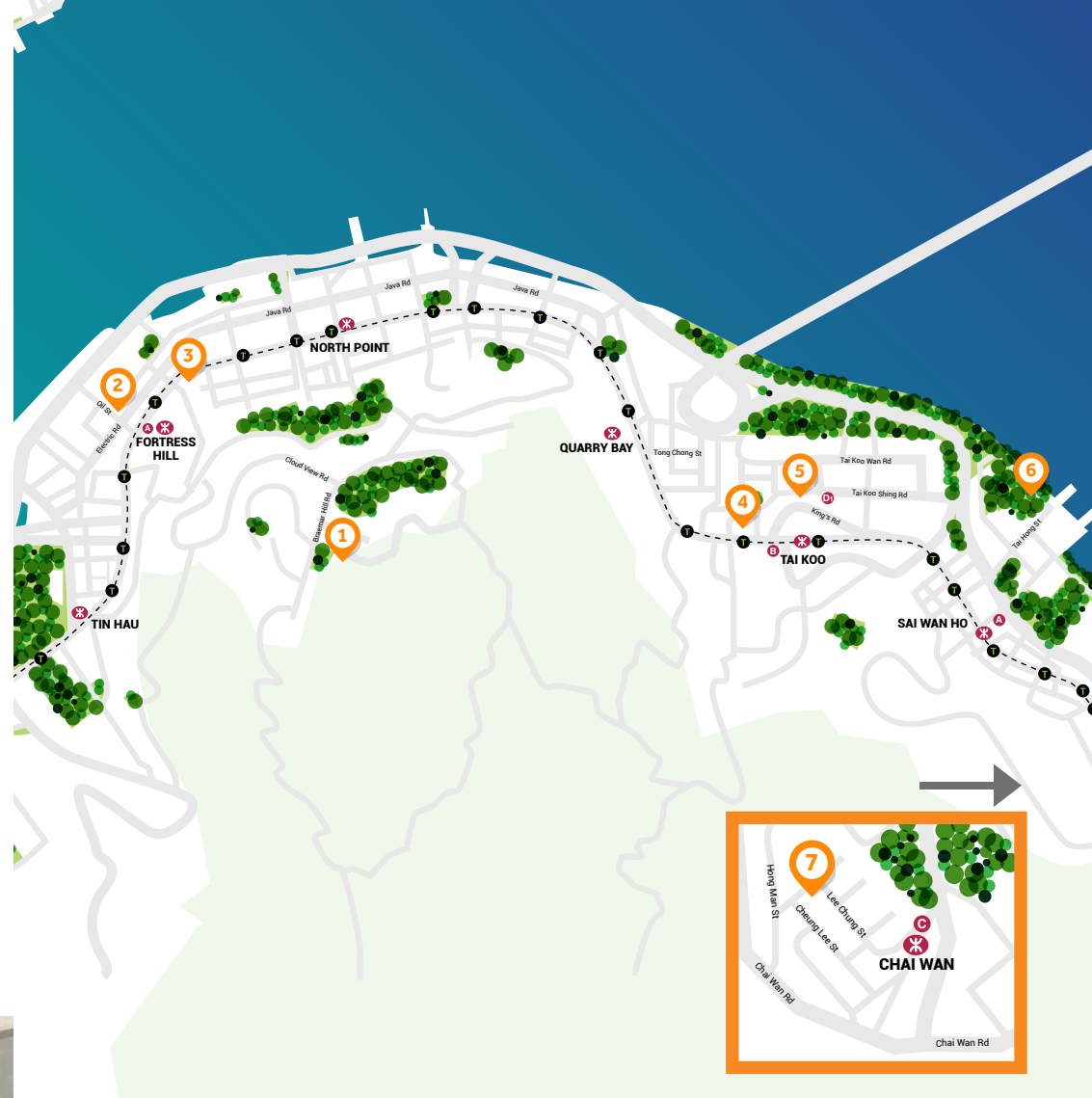
Most Hongkongers are familiar with private kitchen dining. Gitone combines this intimate experience with a shop and art gallery that hosts ceramic and painting workshops. Call ahead to book a painting or pottery class, then enjoy a sumptuous, multi-course meal afterwards. Gitone is less than a 15-minute walk from **Taikoo Shing Road tram stop** and close to Sai Wan Ho Ferry Pier.

🏠 G/F, GB27-28, 45 Tai Hong Street, Lei King Wan, Sai Wan Ho
 ☎ +852 2527 3448
 🌐 gitone.ecec-shop.com/en/index.php

7 Duo Dots Design

If you've ever dreamt of designing your own light sculpture then you should head to Duo Dots Design. The Hong Kong-based interior decorative lighting company, a few blocks from Cheung Tat Centre, offers light sculpture-making workshops. You can also choose from a selection of beautiful lamps, inspired by nature and origami, to jazz up your home. **From Shau Kei Wan tram terminus**, Duo Dots Design is just two stops away by MTR get off at Chai Wan.

🏠 Unit A3, 18/F Sunrise Industrial Building, 10 Hong Man Street, Chai Wan
 ☎ +852 9663 9929
 🌐 duodotsdesign.com



Hipster hangouts on the 'ding ding' from North Point to Shau Kei Wan

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Coffee 101 | 5 Sugar Rooftop Bar |
| 2 12 Oil Street | 6 Gitone |
| 3 Woo Ping Optical | 7 Duo Dots Design |
| 4 Wander Kagu | |



HONG KONG'S GREAT OUTDOORS — OUR NATURAL PLAYGROUND

Tourists are filled with awe when they discover the sheer vastness and variety of terrain in Hong Kong's stunning wilderness. Who can blame them?

Our city is mostly associated with images of skyscrapers and neon lights. But we locals know better. Many of us are used to weekend retreats to the city's greener, more tranquil rural side, with its hills, reservoirs, waterfalls, rocky coastlines and hundreds of forest trails.

Country parks and protected reserves form more than 40 per cent of the land, so we have endless options — from the highest peak, Tai Mo Shan, with its 35-metre Long Falls, to the UNESCO-listed Hong Kong Global Geopark, featuring volcanic rock formations created more than 140 million years ago.





Taking a pause to relax in nature is especially beneficial for Hongkongers, says Jasmine Nunns



“Nature teaches us that there is a time for rest and regeneration before we can begin again.”

Jasmine Nunns

Forest therapy guide and founder of Kembali

Forest therapy with Jasmine Nunns

One Hong Kong native who often finds herself having to debunk visitors' misconceptions about our city's landscape is Jasmine Nunns, a certified forest therapy guide and founder of Kembali — a company that offers individuals, groups and families activities such as nature and forest bathing walks, camping and swimming in rock pools, as well as craft workshops and life coaching.

Forest bathing — the Japanese practice of *shinrin-yoku*, or 'forest bath' — is a form of preventative therapy to improve mental and physical health, which has been shown to enhance a person's sleep quality and mood, sharpen focus, reduce stress levels and improve the cardiovascular system.

It involves 'bathers' spending time in nature — connecting with it using their ears, eyes, nose, mouth, hands and feet — so their senses savour the feel, sights, smells and sounds of their surroundings while walking slowly and aimlessly in nature.

“The walks are therapeutic in their essence: they invite the healing power of nature to benefit us socially, emotionally and physically,” Nunns, 35, says. “For me, it's a practice of remembering our five senses and also our relationship with the natural environment. In doing so, we develop a sense of affection and compassion not only with nature, but also for ourselves.”

Nunns says studies have proved the positive

effects of time spent in nature — benefits which are especially advantageous for Hongkongers, who generally live a hectic lifestyle. “In an urban environment like Hong Kong, we are constantly trying to extend and stretch our capacity to work longer, party harder, be awake longer, sleep less and do more,” she says. “Nature teaches us that there is a time for rest and regeneration before we can begin again.”

Nunns' deep appreciation of nature stems from her childhood. Growing up in a village in Tai Po, near Kadoorie Farm, she was able to play in — and embrace — unspoilt nature, swim in streams, climb trees and rescue animals. She studied geography at university and worked for animal welfare charities and environmental non-profit organisations before founding Kembali, which means 'to return to' in Bahasa Indonesia.

When deciding where to take Kembali's forest

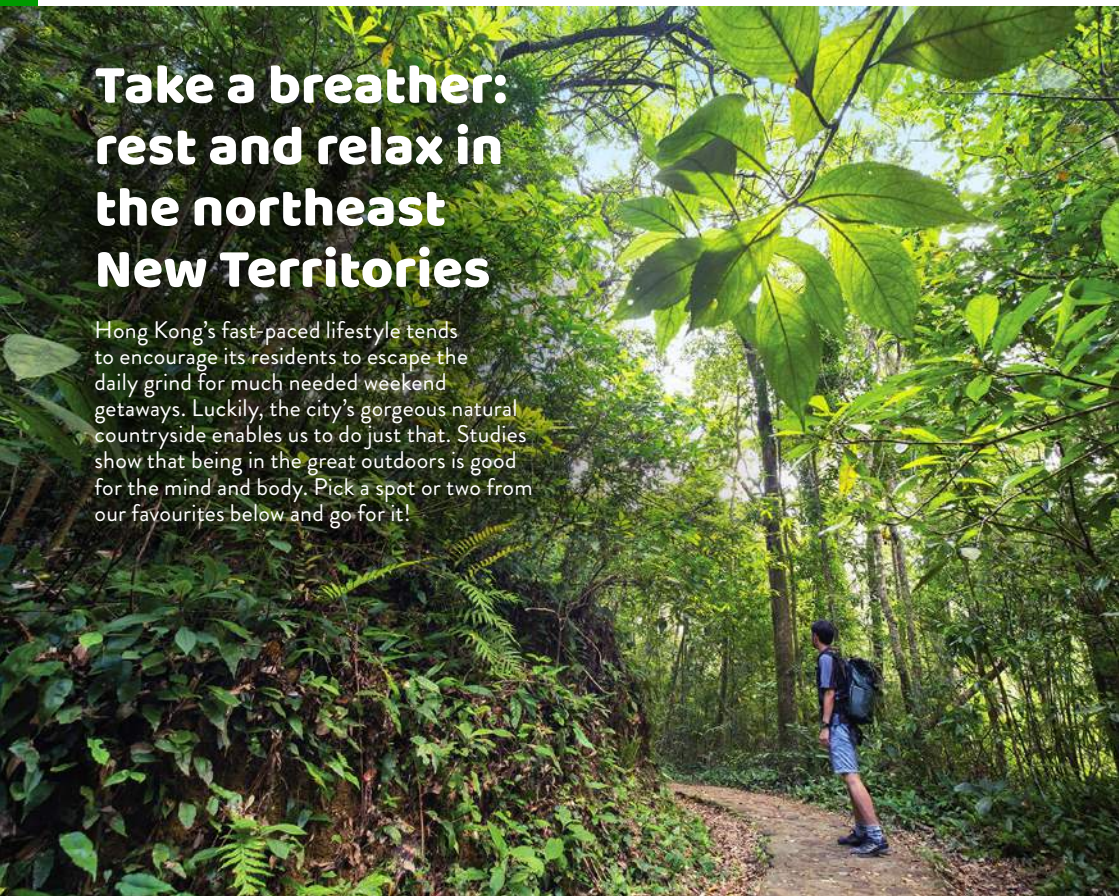
bathers, Nunns says she's spoilt for choice. “The natural space in Hong Kong is incredible,” she says. “There are so many opportunities to explore — just thousands of kilometres of trails we can go on.”

Top of Nunns' list of criteria for selecting a therapy venue is the presence of an open space, which will allow Kembali's bathers to move freely. She particularly enjoys visiting one special spot in Tai Mei Tuk near the Bride's Pool Waterfall. “I find myself really drawn to that area because there are forests, rivers and other bodies of water,” she says.

“It feels really alive and abundant. But honestly, I just love the diversity of all the places we have here in Hong Kong.”

Take a breather: rest and relax in the northeast New Territories

Hong Kong's fast-paced lifestyle tends to encourage its residents to escape the daily grind for much needed weekend getaways. Luckily, the city's gorgeous natural countryside enables us to do just that. Studies show that being in the great outdoors is good for the mind and body. Pick a spot or two from our favourites below and go for it!



2 Green Hub

The Old Tai Po Police Station — New Territories' first permanent police station, which opened in 1899 — was declared a grade one historic building in 2009. Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden has transformed it into Green Hub, a space dedicated to low-carbon living programmes and workshops. Take a tour or join a cooking class to learn how to incorporate sustainable, healthy eating into your daily life.

📍 11 Wan Tau Kok Lane, Tai Po

☎ +852 2996 2800

🌐 www.greenhub.hk



3 Mr Cardigan

You can make-believe that you're in a fairy-tale cottage at this cafe and teahouse. Step into the converted shipping container through the quaint brick entrance before being greeted by a space that's teeming with greenery. Explore the gardens outside or take some photos of the surrounding views once you're done with your meal or drink. Note that the cafe is open only on Sundays from 2-6pm.

📍 Shan Liu Road, Tai Po

🌐 www.facebook.com/mrcardiganplanthouse



1 Tai Po Kau Nature Reserve

'Forest bathing' or *shinrin-yoku*, which originated in Japan in the 1980s, is the concept of mindfully immersing yourself in nature as a form of therapy — sometimes while blindfolded to truly absorb the sounds and scents of your surroundings. In Hong Kong, there's no better place to do this than the Tai Po Kau Nature Reserve, which offers 460 hectares (1,135 acres) of unspoiled woodland.

🌐 www.afcd.gov.hk



4 Tai Wai to Tai Mei Tuk

One of Hong Kong's most stunning cycling routes is a 20km (12-mile) or so journey from Tai Wai to Tai Mei Tuk along the Tolo Harbour, which takes you past villages, temples, parks, rivers, local landmarks — and many breathtaking views. Outside MTR Tai Wai Station Exit A you'll find bike rental shops all along nearby Tsuen Nam Road.



7 Ping Che Mural Village

Inspired by Taiwan's 'Rainbow Village', artists and residents from Ping Yeung Village in Ping Che, Fanling, picked up their paintbrushes to transform their sleepy village with colourful murals. Now dubbed Ping Che Mural Village, it has become a local attraction, luring city dwellers looking for a weekend escape. Every mid-Autumn festival, visitors flock there for a spectacular fire dragon dance and cosy outdoor music festival.

📍 Ping Yuen Road, Ta Kwu Ling
☎ +852 2112 3344 🌐 www.facebook.com/pingcheart

8 Ha Pak Nai

For dramatic, unobstructed sunset views, head northwest to the shallow beach-wetlands along Ha Pak Nai shore. This 6km (3.5-mile) stretch of coastline is a prime spot for couples and families looking to escape the city's hustle and bustle. Photography buffs should arrive well before 7pm in the summer to ensure they don't miss the magic hour. Minibus 33 takes you there from Yuen Long.

📍 Lau Fau Shan, Yuen Long

5 Bradbury Jockey Club Youth Hostel

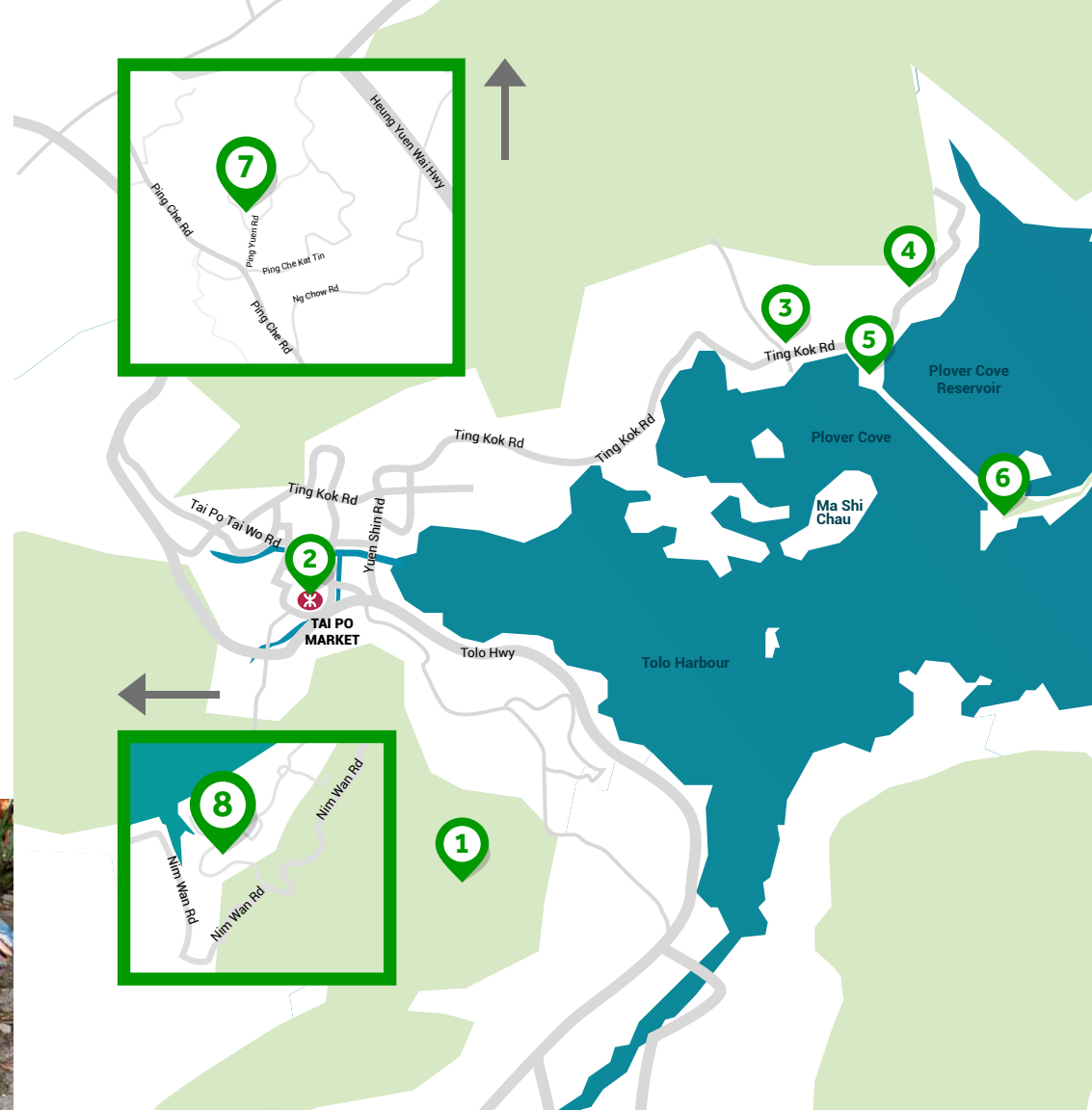
Make a booking for a night at Bradbury Jockey Club Youth Hostel, which is close to Plover Cove Reservoir, as well as hiking trails leading to Bride's Pool and Pat Sing Leng. For an unforgettable experience, sign up for a sunset kayaking session. Led by a professional coach, participants will be taught basic kayaking skills before paddling away. Sessions usually run throughout the summer and autumn.

📍 66 Tai Mei Tuk Road, Tai Po
☎ +852 2788 1638 🌐 www.yha.org.hk

6 Plover Cove and Ma Shi Chau

Trails through Plover Cove will take you past shady streams, abandoned — and revitalised — Hakka village houses and farmland, while Ma Shi Chau is home to fascinating rock formations and other geological features. Take a relaxing hike or consider doing some outdoor yoga while overlooking Plover Cove Reservoir, the world's first 'reservoir in the sea' and the city's second-largest reservoir.

📍 Tai Po 🌐 www.wsd.gov.hk/en/home/index.html



Take a breather: rest and relax in the northeast New Territories

- 1 Tai Po Kau Nature Reserve
- 2 Green Hub
- 3 Mr Cardigan
- 4 Tai Wai to Tai Mei Tuk

- 5 Bradbury Jockey Club Youth Hostel
- 6 Plover Cove and Ma Shi Chau
- 7 Ping Che Mural Village
- 8 Ha Pak Nai

Explore the wild side of Hong Kong

Some visitors may think Hong Kong is good only for shopping and eating, but most locals are in the know. The city is home to a wide range of gorgeous natural landscapes that are perfect for many exciting sports and outdoor activities. So those of you with an adventurous spirit, put on your trekking shoes and let's go exploring.

Extreme sports carry an increased level of risk. Please refer to the last page of this e-book for HKTB's full disclaimer.



① A full day of outdoor adventure in Ma On Shan

Ma On Shan Country Park's unyielding mountains are perfect for experienced hikers looking for a challenge. Press on and you will even stumble into a beautiful hidden waterfall. Join Hong Kong Rock Climbing Adventure for a day trip of canyoning, rock climbing, abseiling and zip lining, or hike from Tai Shui Hang Station, soak up the beautiful surroundings and reward yourself with a dip in one of its clear pools.

📍 Ma On Shan Country Park
🌐 www.afcd.gov.hk

📍 Hong Kong Rock Climbing Adventure
☎ +852 5405 4960 (Whatsapp only) 🌐 www.hkrca.com



② Be awed by the rugged shores of Basalt Island

Part of the Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark, Basalt Island is a hidden gem east of the city where you can marvel at its beautiful bays, spectacularly steep cliffs and rock formations dating back to the Cretaceous period — some 140 million years ago. Book a two-hour boat tour with EcoJet to learn everything you need to know about the Geopark's various islands.

📍 Eco Travel 🌐 www.ecotravel.hk/en/home-en
☎ +852 3105 0767



③ Windsurf, picnic or play bubble soccer on Cheung Chau

There's more to Cheung Chau than relaxing on the beach or exploring its street markets. The birthplace of windsurfing Olympian Lee Lai-shan is the perfect spot for kayaking and — of course — windsurfing. Take a family-friendly hike to the North Lookout Pavilion and picnic at the highest point on the island for an amazing view. For even more action, try archery or bubble soccer at the Saiyuen.

📍 Cheung Po Tsai Cave
Cheung Po Tsai Road, Cheung Chau

📍 Saiyuen
Lot 12, Saiyuen, Cheung Chau
☎ +852 2981 1010 🌐 www.saiyuen.com





④ Kiteboarding at Shui Hau, Lantau

The longest stretch of beach in Hong Kong, Shui Hau is known for its mangroves and plentiful clams. It is also a hotspot for kitesurfing thanks to the strong winds. The sport's enthusiasts use wind power and a kite to propel themselves while balancing on a board. Interested? Rent the gear or sign up for beginners' lessons with Hong Kong Kiteboarding School.

📍 Shui Hau Wan, Lantau
Kiteboarding Hong Kong Association
☎ +852 2488 1155 🌐 khka@khka.com.hk



⑤ Snorkelling and diving with Diving Adventure

This retail and rental shop organises snorkelling and diving trips to various locations including Tung Ping Chau, Port Island, Ninepin Group and Lung Ha Wan. Its passionate founders strive to promote safe, eco-friendly diving practices while educating participants about the local marine wildlife. If you don't own diving gear then choose a package that includes equipment rental.

📍 Diving Adventure
☎ +852 2572 2138 🌐 www.divinghk.com

⑥ Zip lining and abseiling on Tung Lung Chau

The craggy island of Tung Lung Chau is perfect for a nice, leisurely walkabout. Yet for a more memorable experience you'll want to shift your gaze upwards. Hong Kong Rock Climbing Adventure runs a group day trip to Tung Lung Chau where you can zip line and abseil down its sheer sea cliffs. The island is easily accessible via a ferry from Yau Tong or Sai Wan Ho.

📍 Hong Kong Rock Climbing Adventure
☎ +852 5405 4960 (Whatsapp only) 🌐 www.hkrca.com



Explore the wild side of Hong Kong

① Ma On Shan Country Park

② Basalt Island

③ Cheung Chau

④ Shui Hau, Lantau

⑤ Tung Ping Chau

⑥ Tung Lung Chau

Explore Hong Kong's picturesque, uninhabited islands

Many of us in Hong Kong spend weekends on its numerous islands and beaches, but our great city is actually home to 50 uninhabited islands that are waiting to be explored by nature lovers, geology buffs and photographers. A number of these islands are accessible through limited ferry services often only at the weekend, or chartered boats. But their breathtaking scenery and stunning Jurassic landforms make the journeys well worth the effort.

Adhere to safety precautions while island-hopping. Please refer to the last page of this e-book for HKTb's full disclaimer.



1 Port Island

Located at the mouth of Tai Po's Tolo Harbour is Port Island, known locally as Chek Chau or 'red island' because it is formed entirely of iron-rich, red-coloured sedimentary rocks. As you approach by boat, be sure to have your camera ready to capture the magnificent vista of the island's grand red peaks, green trees and rusty earth known as 'Danxia Wonder at Sea'.

www.geopark.gov.hk/en_s4f10.htm

2 Wang Chau Island

Photographers and nature lovers often take a boat to Wang Chau, the smallest of the four Ung Kong Islands to the southeast of Sai Kung Peninsula, to snap pictures of Wang Chau Kok Cave. Take in the sights of the cave, one of the 'Four Sea Arches' and capture dramatic images of waves crashing into the crevice.

www.geopark.gov.hk/en_s4f2.htm

3 Jin Island

Known in Cantonese as Tiu Chung Chau (Temple Bell Island) because of the shape of its 30-metre-high arch, Jin Island is located in Port Shelter harbour, south of Sai Kung Peninsula. Strong waves and winds have carved stunning island landforms, notably Goldfish Wagging Tail, a goldfish-shaped stack, which you can admire from a speedboat or a ferry tour.

www.geopark.gov.hk/en_s2b1.htm



4 Wong Mau Chau Island

A tiny island off the northeastern coast of Sai Kung's Sharp Peak, Wong Mau Chau has a charming old lighthouse photographed by many visitors. The island can be explored in less than an hour. It is popular among kayakers and snorkellers, and from the tranquil little beach, photographers can capture lovely scenes of the island's hilly mound, the South China Sea, and other isles.

📍 Book a kayaking/snorkelling tour or charter a boat from Wong Shek Pier

📞 ATeam Adventures +852 2560 8838

www.ateamedventures.com



5 Ninepin Group

Some of the world's rarest landforms on the Ninepin Group of 29 islands — located east of Clear Water Bay — were created millions of years ago when Hong Kong was a volcanic zone. Photograph the spectacular hexagonal columns on North Ninepin Island, the Sunken Ship Crack, Hok Tsai Pai detached islet, and Big Stove Arch on the northernmost point of Ngan Peng Tau.

📍 Join local ecotour to The Ninepin Group or charter a boat from Sai Kung Pier

📞 Eco Travel +852 3105 0767 www.ecotravel.hk





6 Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park

Designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest in 1979, the 1,200-hectare (2,965-acre) Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Marine Park is where wildlife enthusiasts can come to catch a glimpse of roosting cormorants. Because the park is fed by run-off from the Pearl River, the waters here are rich in micro-organisms that support thriving marine life.

- 🏠 This is a protected marine reserve, but visitors can join a dolphin-watching tour
- 📞 Hong Kong Dolphinwatch Ltd +852 2984 1414
- 🌐 www.hkdolphinwatch.com/booking_a.php

7 Tung Ping Chau

Intriguing wave-cut sedimentary rock stacks and platforms line the shore of Tung Ping Chau, Hong Kong's easternmost island, which is popular with campers. Follow a trail to photograph A Ma Wan – a platform resembling a chequerboard, Lung Lok Shui, a band of rocks that look like a dragon diving into the sea, and Cham Keng Chau, a broken spur that forms a natural corridor with sharp cliffs.

- 🏠 Take a boat (1.5 hours) from Ma Liu Shui Ferry Pier at Science Park Road
- 📞 +852 2272 2022
- 🌐 www.td.gov.hk/en/transport_in_hong_kong

8 Middle Island

Situated between Deep Water Bay and Repulse Bay, about 100 metres (328 feet) off the southern coast of Hong Kong Island, the compact Middle Island is home to the three clubhouses of the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club. While most of the island is accessible only to the club's members, there is a tranquil sandy public beach just a two-minute boat ride from Repulse Bay.

- 🏠 Join Aberdeen Boat Club's Dinghy Sailing Course on Middle Island (open to members and non-members) or charter a boat from Causeway Bay Sheltered Bay
- 📞 Aberdeen Boat Club Middle Island +852 2812 2037
- 🌐 www.abcmiddleisland.com/training



Explore Hong Kong's picturesque, uninhabited islands

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| 1 Port Island | 5 Ninepin Group |
| 2 Wang Chau Island | 6 Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park |
| 3 Jin Island | 7 Tung Ping Chau |
| 4 Wong Mau Chau Island | 8 Middle Island |



AFTER DARK DELIGHTS OF HONG KONG'S NIGHTLIFE SCENE

Hong Kong's reputation as a party city isn't an urban legend. From sports pubs, dive bars and award-winning cocktail lounges to live-music venues and mainstream or alternative clubs — the list of options for a fun night out is long. While tourists tend to swarm the trendy Lan Kwai Fong strip, locals have long explored far beyond this hot spot to fully experience the city's vibrant nightlife.

Over the past decade, enterprising Hongkongers have been creating their own alcoholic offerings. First came the rise of the mixologists, serving cocktails with exceptional technique, innovation and creativity. Then homegrown craft beer breweries popped up around the city, with the brews served at some of the city's best restaurants and bars.





How a passion for infusing gin became a calling for Hong Kong's Dimple Yuen

Hongkongers are starting to take a greater interest in locally produced craft gins compared with established international brands, according to distiller Dimple Yuen.

“Already renowned brands may be the safer choice, but [they are] not necessarily as interesting,” Yuen, 31, says. “Often, there’s a very nice story behind the bottle or the brand, which locals can relate to.”

Yuen’s interest in gin started out as a “passion

project” — where she would buy bottles of gin and experiment to infuse them with flavours in her home kitchen — before developing into her profession.

She gave up her job as a programmer to spend two years studying the finer points of gin distilling at different producers in the United Kingdom and other countries.

“I visited many microdistilleries and met mentors who, till this day, give me guidance and advice,”

“Everyone in the industry is just working towards the same goal; to create something — be it beer, spirits or cocktails — that can really represent Hong Kong and make Hong Kong people proud”

Dimple Yuen
Distiller



Over the years, Hong Kong craft beers and spirits have become increasingly popular among locals



Yuen shares. “I also took a diploma in distilling to hone my professional knowledge.”

Yuen has never looked back since returning to Hong Kong as a gin distiller. “I love being able to completely immerse myself in the distillation process,” she says. “I enjoy how creative I can be, as I play around with different flavours and styles.”

Besides using juniper berries, which are the only mandatory ingredient in gin, some people have been known to add unusual flavours, including lobster and bacon fat, Yuen explains. “That’s why gin is such an amazing spirit: it’s so expressive — the sky’s the limit!”

Hong Kong’s invigorating nightlife scene and growing interest in local craft beer and gin has convinced Yuen that she made the right choice to switch careers.

“The [craft] scene and community are really open and receptive to new and exciting ideas,” she says.

“We can see that with the diverse number of bars, breweries and now distilleries that are opening across the city.

“Everyone in the industry is just working towards the same goal; to create something — be it beer, spirits or cocktails — that can really represent Hong Kong and make Hong Kong people proud,” Yuen adds.

When she is not busy concocting new gin flavours at work, Yuen, like many Hongkongers, enjoys a night out with friends at some of Hong Kong’s popular bars. Her favourite haunts include Ping Pong 129 “because it is a gin-focused bar”, 001 in Central and Room 309 at The Pottinger Hong Kong.

“The city’s nightlife scene has so much to offer everyone,” she says. “No matter your mood, taste or budget, you’re bound to find something suitable which you will enjoy.”

'Made in Hong Kong' drinks crawl

Over the past few years, Hong Kong craft beer has gone from an emerging trend to a city staple. Local spirits have come next, with gin distilleries following the slew of craft breweries. Taste some of the best locally created craft beers and spirits that the city has to offer at these intriguing bars, restaurants and liquor shops. Don't forget to line your stomach with some delicious bites along the way.



3 Craftissimo

If you're looking for some bottles to take home — or quaff on the way to your next destination — stop off at this craft beer shop on trendy Tai Ping Shan Street. Its shelves are crammed with bottles by small and independent local labels such as Young Master Brewery, Moonzen Brewery and Tai Wai Beer, and the selections are rotated weekly.

📍 22-24 Tai Ping Shan Street, Sheung Wan
☎ +852 6274 3130
🌐 www.craftissimo.hk



1 Ping Pong 129

Sip local style gin at this arty basement bar in a quiet Sai Ying Pun street. Descend the dim staircase to find gritty walls decked with work by local artists, a red neon sign over the bar and plenty of delicious gin-based drinks.

📍 LG/F, Nam Cheong House, 129 Second Street, Sai Ying Pun
☎ +852 9835 5061



2 River Sichuan Restaurant

Enjoy beers by Hong Kong Beer Co, the city's first beer microbrewery founded in 1995, at this family-run Sichuan restaurant. Brewed locally using the finest malts, hops, and yeasts from around the world, the beers are the perfect accompaniment to spicy sharing dishes amid traditional, yet no-fuss surroundings — think blue-and-white tableware on striking red tablecloths.

📍 62 Centre Street, Sai Ying Pun
☎ +852 2520 3222



4 Blue Supreme

Hong Kong is home to numerous excellent craft beer breweries. Try offerings created by Heroes Beer Co, Yardley Brothers and Carbon Brews at this intimate restaurant serving upmarket Western pub grub including tacos, sliders and steak. A few wine options are available, but most of the drinks are beers from Europe, the US and, of course, Hong Kong.

📍 21 Tung Street, Sheung Wan
☎ +852 5998 3088 🌐 www.bluesupreme.live



5 Safe Bubbles & Malt

Hongkongers are so proud of their locally brewed beer that it has even slipped into the drinks menu of this whisky and champagne bar. Beer buffs can order craft beers by Moonzen Brewery, inspired by Chinese mythology and culture, if the bar's dizzyingly extensive collection of several hundred bottles do not appeal. Expect moody lighting, glimmering silver walls and a vibe like a gentlemen's club.

📍 Shop 2, 1/F Manhattan Avenue, 255 Queen's Road, Central
☎ +852 2505 9988



6 Sofofama

A collaboration between lifestyle brand G.O.D. and organic, health-conscious restaurant group Locofama, Sofofama serves modern Chinese cuisine using locally grown ingredients, some from its own on-site mini organic farm. The concept extends to its drinks, too. Its cocktails include locally distilled plum spirits and rice wine. Even the shiso leaf garnishes are grown in Hong Kong.

📍 G/F, Block A Staunton, PMQ, 35 Aberdeen Street, Central
☎ +852 2858 8238 🌐 www.sohofama.com

7 Big Sur

This Californian barbecue restaurant teamed up with local craft beer label, Young Master Brewery, to create a bespoke craft beer menu that complements the food. One of Asia's highest rated craft breweries, Young Master prides itself on its wide range of exciting beer styles. For bites, expect tacos, ribs and pulled pork, plus lighter options such as ceviche, served in a breezy, coastal dining room with an al fresco terrace.

📍 22 Staunton Street, Central
☎ +852 2529 3001 🌐 www.bigsur.com.hk

8 Behind Bars

Big demand for Gweilo Beer's IPA craft beer enabled the Hong Kong brewery, operating from a spare bedroom in 2015, to open its own state-of-the-art facilities two years later. To enjoy its offerings in a chic environment, head to Behind Bars, a stylish nightlife venue transformed from the interlinked jail cells of Tai Kwun Art and Heritage Centre's E-Hall. They also have a great cocktail menu overseen by award-winning bar manager James Barker.

📍 Shop 15, G/F, Barrack Block, Tai Kwun, 10 Hollywood Road, Central

9 Bar de Luxe

If you have yet to try local Perfume Trees gin, made using locally sourced ingredients steeped in Hong Kong's heritage, then savour this multi-award-winning spirit here. Order acclaimed Japanese bartender Hidetsugu Ueno's signature cocktail, Nostalgia, created using this gin. The bar — the height of class with its stately wood and leather furnishings — forms part of the gentlemen's sanctuary, Attire House.

📍 30/F, Asia Pacific Centre, 8 Wyndham Street, Central
☎ +852 3706 5716



'Made in Hong Kong' drinks crawl

1 Ping Pong 129

2 River Sichuan Restaurant

3 Craftissimo

4 Blue Supreme

5 Safe Bubbles & Malt

6 Sofofama

7 Big Sur

8 Behind Bars

9 Bar de Luxe

Booze-free nightlife in Kowloon's Sham Shui Po and Yau Tsim Mong

It's no surprise — especially to locals — that Hong Kong's nightlife offerings feature much more than bar-hopping and clubbing. There are plenty of things to do long after sunset in Kowloon's vibrant districts of Sham Shui Po and Yau Tsim Mong, which cater to everyone from foodies and gamers to bookworms and crafters. Here are eight ideas for a great evening out that are not based around drinking.



2 Dine and dance at Wing Fat Cha Chuan Teng

This is not your typical local restaurant. By day, Wing Fat Cha Chuan Teng serves the usual affordable, Hong Kong-style fare, such as scrambled eggs and instant noodles. But at night the green-tiled, family-run eatery is transformed into an entertainment venue hosting art exhibitions and live concerts, where music-lovers can groove to their favourite bands. Check out its Facebook page for the event line-up.

📍 847 Canton Road, Yau Ma Tei
 ☎ +852 2770 3626
 🌐 www.facebook.com/Wing-Fat-Cafe
 -1422878834404707



3 Reinvigorate body and mind at Chuan Spa

A soothing massage or a herbal body treatment is a great way to pamper your body and relax your mind. The Cordis, Hong Kong hotel's Chuan Spa — rooted in traditional Chinese medicine principles — offers 60 different holistic treatments. Be sure to book your evening spa therapy session before 10pm. As a bonus, you can swim in the rooftop pool while awaiting your treatment.

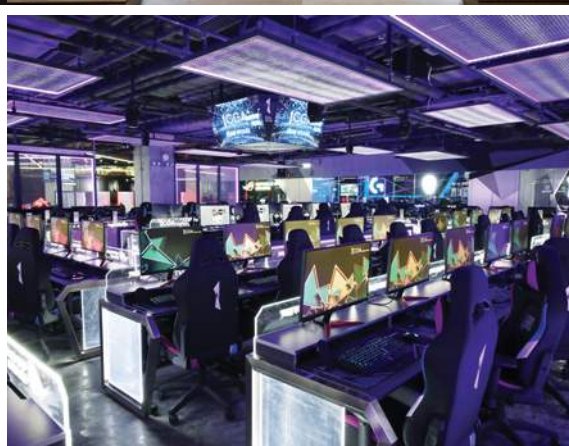
📍 Cordis Hong Kong, 41/F, 555 Shanghai Street, Mong Kok
 ☎ +852 3552 3510 🌐 www.chuanspa.com.hk



4 Play e-sports at CGA eSports Stadium

Partygoers are not the only night owls. Hong Kong friends Ryan Chow, Kurt Li and Sam Wan launched the Cyber Games Arena eSports Stadium — Asia's largest e-sports complex — in 2019. Open 24-hours a day, the 25,000-square-foot (2,320-square-metre) stadium covers two floors and offers enthusiasts a gaming arena for up to 80 competitors, high-end computer hardware, advanced training facilities, streaming equipment and even a cafe.

📍 38 Nelson Street, Mong Kok
 ☎ +852 2788 2230 🌐 es.cga.gg



1 Bake your own cake at Bakebe

Want to bake your own cake or desserts, but have no oven? If you prefer to master the art of baking before you buy one then head to Bakebe. This co-baking studio provides all the baking tools and ingredients needed for the cake or pastry recipe of your choice. It then guides you through the process with detailed, but easy-to-follow instructions via an app on an iPad.

📍 Shop 170, Level 1, Mira Place 2, 118-130 Nathan Road, Tsim Sha Tsui
 ☎ +852 3165 8279 🌐 www.bakebe.com

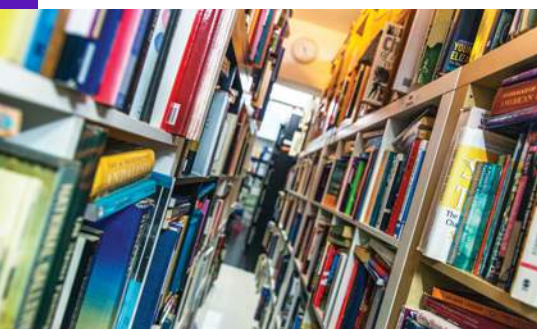




5 Make your own leather goods at Leatherism

Founded by Hongkongers Isa Lai and Michael Chan in 2009, Leatherism sells exquisitely made artisanal leather products. The shop is open from 3-7:30pm, but the owners also organise after-hours private or group leathercraft workshops. Simply send them an email for details and you can spend your evenings learning how to make your own leather items, such as wallets or bags.

📍 1235 Canton Road, Mong Kok
☎ +852 3488 6490 🌐 www.leatherism.net



6 Browse books at My Book Room

Bookworms will appreciate second-hand bookstore My Book Room's late opening hours until 9:30pm. This no-fuss store has more than 20,000 Chinese- and English-language fiction and non-fiction books to browse at your leisure. Its owners also collect pre-loved books if you wish to pass on yours.

📍 G/F, 79 Lai Chi Kok Road, Prince Edward
☎ +852 6121 8222

7 After dark dim sum at Prince Dragon

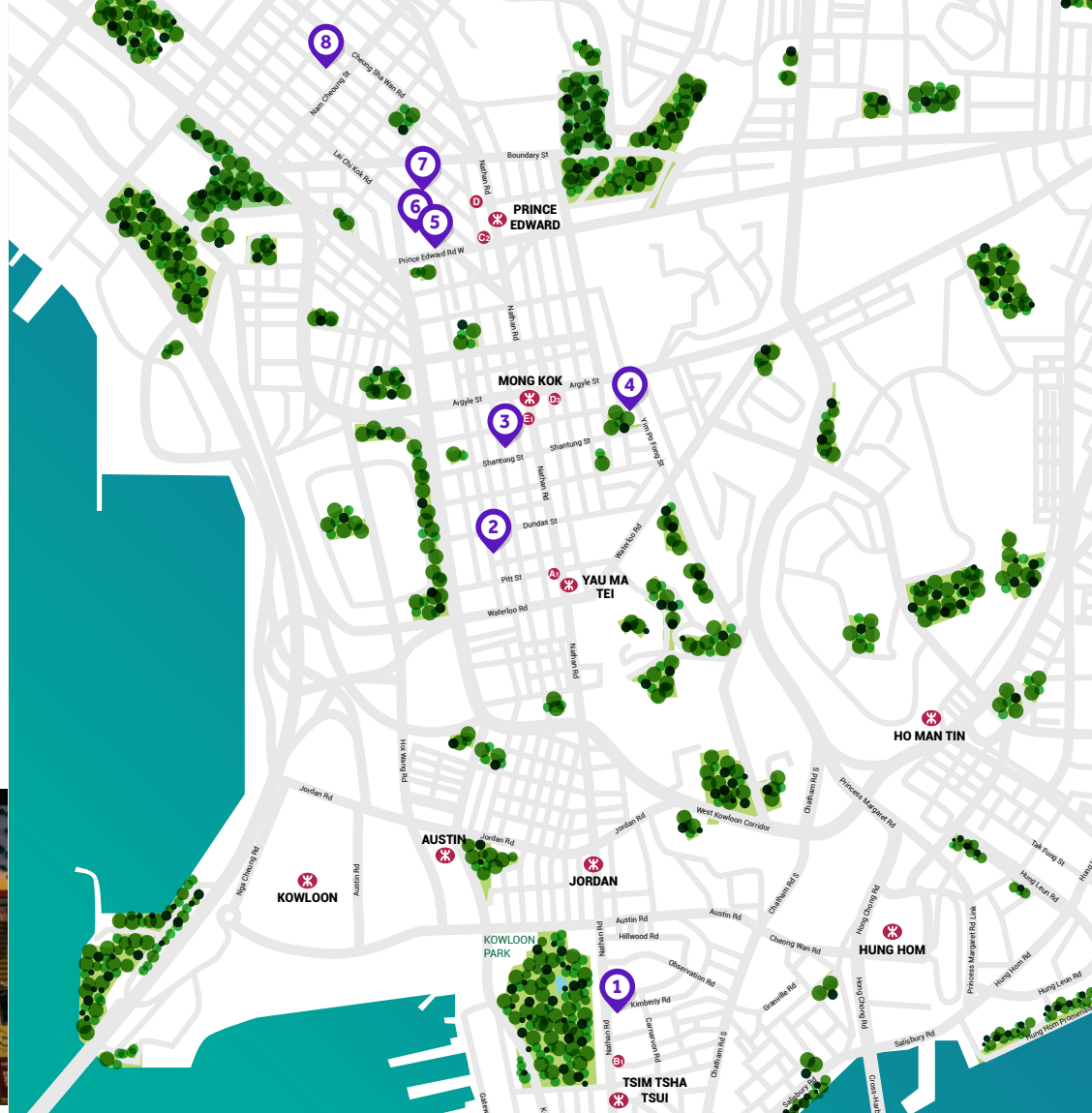
Cancel that early *dim sum* brunch if you are not a morning person. Instead, treat yourself to midnight snacks at Prince Dragon — a *dim sum* restaurant with value-for-money offerings that's open until 2am. Go alone or with a group of friends and enjoy scrumptious *dim sum* classics, such as shrimp dumpling, pan-fried turnip cake or the restaurant's signature abalone *siu mai* dumplings.

📍 9 Cedar Street, Prince Edward
☎ +852 2648 8911

8 Stave off midnight munchies at Sun Hang Yuen

Don't fancy *dim sum*? Then choose *cha chaan teng* delights, such as egg and beef sandwiches and milk tea. If you crave such breakfast comfort foods during the night then Sun Hang Yuen is your best bet. The family-run, Hong Kong-style eatery — open since the 1960s — serves food around the clock. Its speciality is cooked pork knuckle in *naam yu* (red fermented tofu) sauce with noodles.

📍 38 Kweilin Street, Sham Shui Po
☎ +852 2386 2748



Booze-free nightlife in Kowloon's Sham Shui Po and Yau Tsim Mong

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| 1 Bakebe | 5 Leatherism |
| 2 Wing Fat Cha Chaan Teng | 6 My Book Room |
| 3 Chuan Spa | 7 Prince Dragon |
| 4 CGA eSports Stadium | 8 Sun Hang Yuen |

A neon-lit night in Yau Tsim Mong

Hong Kong's multicoloured streets full of illuminated neon signs are a striking, instantly recognisable feature captured in countless photographs and films. Glowing and flickering in the dark, these landmarks create a mesmerising and memorable night-time experience for both visitors and locals. But many of the familiar, flamboyant signs like those featured in our 'highlights' tour are fast disappearing, so snap them before it's too late.



① Woosung Street

For a more cinematic shot with the soft glow of neon signs reflecting on old Hong Kong buildings, turn right on Pak Hoi Street into Woosung Street. Zoom in for close-ups of Hop Hing Hot Pot's sign, with its steaming hot pot icon, on the right and Tak Hing Sea Products' sign on the left — both hanging, as if in harmony, alongside numerous clothes drying racks.



③ Temple Street

Let neon signs be the star — and clickbait — of your Instagram's Temple Street Market snapshots. Pak Po Tong Herbal Tortoise Jelly Company's corner shop has a playful neon sign featuring a tortoise — what else? — along with a bowl and the character 'ling' (苓) referring to a traditional Chinese herb. If you're using a digital single-lens reflex camera, hold the exposure for longer to capture the sign's vibrancy while blurring the passing people and cars.

② Tak Sang Pawn Shop

Pawn shops often display a neon sign — traditionally a symbol of prosperity for the business. The shape of this red and white sign resembles a bat clasp a coin. Founded in 1940, Tak Sang Pawn Shop on Shanghai Street is a good second stop. Then head east to Temple Street to see the reflection of Ming Sang Pawn Shop's neon sign in the windows of a nearby residential *tong lau*.

📍 178 Shanghai Street, Yau Ma Tei



4 Wo Hing Victory Mahjong Gaming Centre

The street corner of Woosung Street and Kansu Street is home to neon signs galore. This is where the glowing signs of Koon Nam Wah Bridal Shop, Wo Hing Victory Mahjong Gaming Centre — one of largest still in use across the city — and Tak Hing Sea Products converge, each one seemingly trying to outshine the other.

📍 385 Nathan Road, Yau Ma Tei



5 Koon Nam Wah

The two neon signs of Koon Nam Wah hanging in Kansu Street, with their curly yellow border and purple text, suggest a more feminine influence than many other examples. This is the perfect spot for some experimental snaps from various angles. Take inspiration from Spanish photographer Rainer Torrado's dazzling series of images of neon lights and capture shots of the signs from below.

📍 383-389C Nathan Road, Yau Ma Tei



6 Tai Ping Koon, Jordan

This branch of Tai Ping Koon, which has been serving delicious fried beef noodles and oversized soufflés in the neighbourhood since the 1960s, boasts a two-storey-high neon sign above Mau Lam Street. Its unique zigzag shape is recognisable from afar. Make use of the nearby glass surfaces to photograph the reflection of this gleaming blue and orange sign.

📍 19-21 Mau Lam Street, Yau Ma Tei

ENDLESS ENTERTAINMENT

7 Nathan Road

You can take a bus from Jordan to Prince Edward along Nathan Road to savour the bustling street view in comfort. You probably already know you should sit on the upper deck of the bus for the best views. The numerous LED-powered light boxes along the street help to illuminate the neon signs, which include those of hostels, jewellery and gaming arcades.



8 Mong Kok pedestrian footbridge system

End your neon-lit night with a stroll along the elevated Mong Kok pedestrian footbridge system, above Mong Kok Road, which takes you up close to the hanging neon signs of Sai Yeung Choi Street, Tung Choi Street and Fa Yuen Street. Food company Pat Chun's neon sign is only an arm's length from the bridge — perfectly bright for a flattering Instagram selfie.



A neon-lit night in Yau Tsim Mong

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Woosung Street | 5 Koon Nam Wah |
| 2 Tak Sang Pawn Shop | 6 Tai Ping Koon, Jordan |
| 3 Temple Street | 7 Nathan Road |
| 4 Wo Hing Victory Mahjong Gaming Centre | 8 Mong Kok pedestrian footbridge system |



OUR OWN LITTLE FOOD PARADISE

Foodies in Hong Kong are a lucky bunch. Whether it's street-stall curried fish balls, back-alley bowls of hot wonton noodles, our pride-and-joy *dim sum*, or many of Asia's best restaurants, including Michelin-starred kitchens creating the most exquisite dishes, our city serves fine food to suit everyone's taste. Universally, great food has a natural way of bringing different people together — something that's certainly true in Hong Kong. And now that we can come together over great meals again, it's time to enjoy all of the city's many culinary delights you've been meaning to try.





Appreciating Hong Kong's gourmet culture with Agnes Chee

Becoming a Hong Kong food critic is not all glamour: it requires a lot of hard work, too. Agnes Chee, a Malaysian food writer who has lived in Hong Kong for 15 years, can attest to that.

Chee, 43, vividly remembers her interview with Vincent Thierry, former sous chef of Michelin-starred restaurant Caprice at Four Seasons Hotel Hong Kong, 10 years ago. Then in the infancy of her career, she had no clue what “broth”, “bouillon” or “consommé” meant.

“They sounded like an alien language to me,” Chee says. Embarrassed by her lack of

knowledge, she spent hours googling every term the chef graciously wrote down for her and carefully studied French cookery books. She has been honing her skills and knowledge, including interacting with many of the city’s top chefs, on a journey of culinary discovery ever since.

Establishing her career in Hong Kong, where the “gourmet culture is of international standard”, has been a dream come true and she still marvels at the food industry’s exciting evolution.

“People’s taste has become even more refined, creating a robust food scene here,” Chee says.

“People’s taste has become even more refined, creating a robust food scene here”

Agnes Chee
Malaysian food writer



Japanese sea bream, or amadai, with sea urchin cream is a signature dish at I M Teppanyaki, which Agnes Chee recommends



“Hong Kong’s unique geographical location and favourable business environment let us acquire produce from all over the world, enabling the diversity, richness and depth in its food culture.”

Chee’s favourite dining spots in the city are plentiful — and they are not all in Hong Kong’s Central district.

She recommends the crab soup udon at Snapper, a seafood restaurant in Quarry Bay, and — if you love your meals grilled theatrically on a hot metal surface — a trip to Michelin-starred I M Teppanyaki in the hip Tai Hang neighbourhood.

“Its owner, Lawrence Mok, has brought interesting modern twists to the dishes from his years of travelling,” Chee says.

However, the food industry can be brutally competitive — eateries come and go, sometimes without a trace, Chee, who is of Cantonese descent, says.

Inspired to chronicle Cantonese recipes before

they vanish entirely, Chee wrote and published the book, *Vanishing Flavours of Cantonese Cuisine*, in collaboration with local chefs and cooks. Some of the traditional dishes Chee documented — lamb cheek and knuckle soup and double-boiled pig stomach stuffed with chicken and bird’s nest — are still available upon request at a few traditional Cantonese restaurants, such as Seventh Son Restaurant in Wan Chai.

“I think it’s a pity that the dishes are so little-known today and there are no published records of them, so I find it necessary to put it in writing,” she says. “This is my personal contribution to my own roots.”

Chee hopes that the city’s culinary scene continues to flourish, without people jettisoning traditions. “Hong Kong must preserve its local food culture and make room for young entrepreneurs to be a part of it, too,” she says.

Editor’s note: If you spot any elusive traditional Cantonese dishes on a local menu, send us a photo — it’s a rare find!

Award-winning eats on the Island's east side

Often overshadowed by star-studded Central and Western Districts, Hong Kong Island's eastern side offers its own unique breadth of culinary gems. From the only Michelin-starred teppanyaki restaurant in town to the eatery helmed by the 'King of Congee', here's a list of the district's must-try eateries you should check out.



1 I M Teppanyaki

As the only teppanyaki restaurant given a Michelin star in Hong Kong, I M Teppanyaki is a culinary treat for anyone who appreciates top-notch ingredients, precise grill skills and captivating showmanship. Most customers opt for its teppanyaki omakase menu, but an a la carte menu is also available. Do try the fried amadai fish with urchin cream sauce and fried rice with dried noodle fish.

📍 134 Tung Lo Wan Road, Tai Hang
☎ +852 2507 7088 🌐 www.imteppanyaki.com

2 Shek Kee Kitchen

Once a well-guarded secret among those living in Tin Hau, Shek Kee Kitchen achieved stardom after being named a Bib Gourmand restaurant in 2012 – and the next eight years. An unassuming *cha chaan teng* by day, Shek Kee Kitchen attracts a huge foodie following at night with its seasonal menu and cosy atmosphere. The cuisine is mostly Cantonese with some Hakka and Chiuchow touches.

📍 15–17 Ngan Mok Street, Tin Hau
☎ +852 2571 3348



3 YUÈ

Serving exquisite Cantonese dishes with a contemporary twist, YUÈ is a favourite with food critics. The hotel restaurant has won multiple awards, including a Michelin star in successive years. In 2020, it was named a Michelin Plate restaurant. Chicken pot with figs and preserved lemons, barbecued pork and seared star garoupa fillet with fish maw on egg whites with truffle sauce are all recommended.

📍 1/F, City Garden Hotel,
9 City Garden Road, North Point
☎ +852 2806 4918
🌐 www.sino-hotels.com/en/hk/city-garden-hotel-hong-kong/dining/yue



4 BriKetenia

The newly opened BriKetenia hasn't won any official awards yet, but its stellar line-up has made it Eastern District's most anticipated 2020 opening. An outpost of the eponymous Michelin-starred hotel-restaurant in Guethary, Southern France, BriKetenia Hong Kong is helmed by Junya Nakanishi, former chef of the award-winning Signature in Tokyo and Pierre at Mandarin Oriental Hong Kong. Expect delicate French cuisine with a Japanese twist.

📍 Shop 206, 2/F, Harbour North Phase 2,
123 Java Road, North Point
☎ +852 5505 1115





5 Congee and Noodle Shop

This isn't your typical congee shop. The chef, dubbed the 'King of Congee' by industry peers, was the master helming the famous Sang Kee Congee in Sheung Wan. The congee stock is made daily from scratch with a generous amount of fried mud carp, pork bones and bean curd. The shop has made it into Michelin's Bib Gourmand list for the past eight years.

📍 2/F, Kerry Centre, 683 King's Road, Quarry Bay
☎ +852 2750 0208



6 Snapper

The star that shines most brightly in Snapper is the fish stock used in most of its dishes. Every morning, the restaurant's chef buys fresh snappers from Aberdeen Wholesale Fish Market and simmers them into a creamy, flavourful stock. Voted one of the district's favourite restaurants on OpenRice, it serves mostly udon or rice soup dishes including its signature abalone and fish maw rice soup.

📍 Shop 3A, G/F, Dragon View House,
6-16 Hoi Tai Street, Quarry Bay
☎ +852 2618 2696

7 Kyo Hayashiya

Recognised as one of the top three eateries in the Eastern District in the OpenRice Best Restaurants Awards, this matcha speciality dessert shop from Kyoto boasts a history of more than two centuries. Kyo Hayashiya is the inventor of the matcha parfait and hojicha (Japanese roasted green tea). The matcha parfait is often paired with fresh peaches, matcha jellies, mochi dumplings and cream. The Tai Koo shop is Hong Kong's second after Hysan Place, Causeway Bay — the chain's first overseas outlet.

📍 Shop G406, G/F, Ming Kung Mansion,
22 Tai Koo Shing Road, Tai Koo ☎ +852 2638 3698



8 Hop Sze Restaurant

This cosy eatery, listed as a Bib Gourmand restaurant in the 2020 Michelin Guide Hong Kong, serves hearty Cantonese dishes and soups. Operating more like a private kitchen, Hop Sze does not display most of its dishes on the menu — the admired tea-marinated chicken, for example. Stir-fried sticky rice with Chinese preserved sausage and shrimp toasts are other recommended treats. Call ahead to reserve particular dishes before your arrival so they don't run out.

📍 G/F, Lai Wan Building, 39 Shau Kei Wan Road,
Sai Wan Ho
☎ +852 2569 0862



Award-winning eats on the Island's east side

- 1 I M Teppanyaki
- 2 Shek Kee Kitchen
- 3 YUÈ
- 4 BriKetenia

- 5 Congee and Noodle Shop
- 6 Snapper
- 7 Kyo Hayashiya
- 8 Hop Sze Restaurant

Ode to *cha chaan tengs*, past and present

Cha chaan tengs are a quintessential part of the city's culture and have come a long way since they first began to appear in the 1950s. Thanks to regular customers — young and old — a handful of cherished traditional institutions have stood the test of time, while upmarket hotels and modern cafes are presenting their own versions as a nod to these familiar and beloved eateries.



2 Silver Café

This cafe is a stationery buff's dream: up to 10,000 items — including fountain pens, pencils, piggy banks, glass paper lanterns and old typewriters — are on display. The interior is warm and welcoming, with wooden furniture and cat-themed graphics. It is located within the 618 Shanghai Street complex — an urban renewal project that saw 10 historic tenement buildings transformed into a collection of local lifestyle shops and restaurants.

📍 Shop 301A & 302, 3/F, 618 Shanghai Street, Mong Kok
☎ +852 3468 2433

3 Cross Café

This long-established cafe has rejigged its image with a charming, modern take on retro *cha chaan teng* design elements: black and white tiled floors, handbills covering bright red walls and striking neon signs. Expect all the usual favourites, such as pork chop pineapple buns, baked pork chop rice and macaroni soup. All of its milk-based desserts and drinks use milk from the local Trappist Dairy.

📍 Shop G01, G/F, The Argyle, 102 Argyle Street, Mong Kok
☎ +852 2385 3266
🌐 www.lark.com.hk/en/crosscafe/index.html

1 Kam Wah Café

Open since 1973, this *cha chaan teng* and bakery is best known for its pineapple buns; diners often form long queues for the warm, comforting pastry served with a thick slice of cold butter in the middle. Its egg tarts and French toast are popular, too. This *cha chaan teng* is as old-school as they come, so expect the usual table-sharing and no-frills service.

📍 47 Bute Street, Prince Edward
☎ +852 2392 6830



4 Mido Café

One of the city's last remaining *cha chaan tengs* from the 1950s, Mido Café's vintage interior, complete with retro mosaics, cosy booths and iron window frames, has featured in local films such as Wong Kar-wai's *Days of Being Wild* and Andrew Lau's *Goodbye Mr Cool*. It's a big hit with Instagram buffs. Order the baked pork ribs rice, French toast, milk tea or red bean ice.

📍 63 Temple Street, Yau Ma Tei
☎ +852 2384 6402





7 Sham Chai Kee Restaurant

Known for decades for its wonton noodles, Sham Chai Kee's move into *cha chaan tengs* began with a bang. It is run by the chef who managed the Australia Dairy Company's kitchen — the city's *cha chaan teng* renowned for its scrambled eggs offerings — and a consultant who worked at Happy Valley's award-winning French restaurant, Amigo. Try its scrambled eggs, of course, and noodles with cheese sauce.

📍 G/F, Kowloon Centre, 29–39 Ashley Road, Tsim Sha Tsui ☎ +852 9377 0072

8 Holt's Café, Rosewood Hong Kong

Cha chaan teng classics such as *char siu* rice, Hong Kong-style French toast and milk tea have been given an upmarket spin at Holt's Café. Located at the stylish Rosewood Hong Kong hotel, this all-day restaurant also serves *dim sum* and Western fare, and a comprehensive Chinese tea programme that includes premium and rare teas brewed to order by certified tea masters.

📍 2/F, Rosewood Hong Kong, 18 Salisbury Road, Tsim Sha Tsui ☎ +852 3891 8732
www.rosewoodhotels.com/en/hong-kong/dining/holts-cafe

5 Sha Li Man Coffee & Cake Shop

Tucked in a nondescript area of Shanghai Street, this cosy cafe and cake shop is another 1950s-founded establishment that offers traditional *cha chaan teng* fare: plenty of noodles, macaroni and fried rice dishes, as well as sandwiches and baked goods.

📍 109 Shanghai Street, Jordan ☎ +852 2384 0906

6 Dang Wen Li by Dominique Ansel

Even New York pastry chef Dominique Ansel, known for creating the 'cronut' — a cream-filled croissant-doughnut hybrid — can't help but be inspired by *cha chaan teng* fare. Instead of his famed pastry, Ansel's Hong Kong flagship cafe offers desserts that are inspired by local treats. Try the coconut passionfruit pineapple bun, red bean ice cream mochi — shaped to resemble curry fish balls — and the thousand-year egg coffee tart.

📍 Shop OT G63A, G/F, Ocean Terminal, Harbour City, 3–27 Canton Road, Tsim Sha Tsui ☎ +852 2613 8618 www.dangwenli.com



Ode to *cha chaan tengs*, past and present

1 Kam Wah Café

2 Silver Café

3 Cross Café

4 Mido Café

5 Sha Li Man Coffee & Cake Shop

6 Dang Wen Li by Dominique Ansel

7 Sham Chai Kee Restaurant

8 Holt's Café, Rosewood Hong Kong

From sea to table

As a port city surrounded by the South China Sea, Hong Kong's seafood offerings are bountiful and diverse. Top quality fish are also easy enough to find and enjoy even for the most discerning of seafood lovers. However, for the freshest catch head to one of these sea-to-table eateries in Aberdeen, Sai Kung, Tuen Mun, Central or North Point.



1 Yee Hope Seafood Restaurant

Hong Kong's largest and oldest wholesale fish market, Aberdeen Wholesale Seafood Market, sells more than 70 per cent of the city's live seafood. Inside, Yee Hope restaurant offers fresh seafood sourced straight from the fishing boats. Because the restaurant also serves as a canteen for the fish market employees, it is open only from 4am to 4pm. Advance bookings are recommended.

📍 Aberdeen Wholesale Seafood Market, 102 Shek Pai Wan Road, Aberdeen
☎ +852 2177 7872



2 Dragon Inn Seafood Restaurant

Hong Kong's answer to Tokyo's famous Tsukiji fish market is the Castle Peak Fish Market — the city's only seafood market that holds fish auctions. A number of well-known restaurants nearby serve seafood straight from the fresh market produce. One of them, Dragon Inn Seafood Restaurant, which has been in operation for more than 60 years, serves both Chinese- and Western-style seafood dishes.

📍 19 Milestone, Castle Peak Road, Castle Peak Bay, Tuen Mun
☎ +852 2450 6366



3 Sai Kung island delights

Savour locally caught crabs, prawns and other seafood delights at Yau Ley Seafood Restaurant, or visit Tung Ping Chau Island's family-run Sun Cheong Store, which serves piping hot uni (sea urchin) fried rice on weekends. During uni season from February to May, fans of this delicacy should head to High Island — or Leung Shuen Wan — on the southeast side of Sai Kung Peninsula, which is home to Hong Kong's only sea urchin farm.

📍 Yau Ley Seafood Restaurant Lot 359, Sha Kiu Tsuen, Lueng Shuen Wan, Sai Kung
☎ +852 2791 1822
📍 Sun Cheong Store
Tung Ping Chau Public Pier, Tung Ping Chau
☎ +852 2666 9915



4 Faai Che

Affordable *cha chaan teng* eatery Faai Che, on the island of Peng Chau, is popular among local foodies. Bring your own seafood, bought from the island's wet market, and the owners will cook it for around HK\$100. Do book ahead as there is often a queue for its signature dishes such as shrimp with glutinous rice and milky fish soup with fried tofu.

📍 53 Peng Chau Wing On Street, Peng Chau
☎ +852 2983 8756



5 Happy Seafood Restaurant

Local seafood aficionados often visit the little village of Lau Fau Shan and head to the popular Happy Seafood Restaurant — the scene of happy childhood memories of family gatherings — which serves a wide range of high-quality seafood. Choose live fish or lobster from the tanks outside the restaurant and then relax while chefs create mouth-watering dishes for your entire table.

📍 12 Shan Tung Street, Lau Fau Shan
☎ +852 2472 3450



7 Hong Kong Flavour

For a different fresh market shopping experience, head to Hong Kong Flavour, a modern version of a typical Hong Kong fresh market with stalls selling meat, dry goods and fresh-caught seafood of the day on display in two massive fish tanks. The market offers cooked-to-order services, serving seafood as well as other homemade delights from dumplings to spam. Digital forms of payment are available instead of cash.

📍 Tsz Wan Shan Shopping Centre, 2/F
213-222, 23 Yuk Wah Street, Tsz Wan Shan, Wong Tai Sin



6 Hoi Tin Garden Restaurant

Rows of *dai pai dongs* (food stalls) sell delightful seafood offerings beside bustling Tuen Mun Sam Shing Seafood Market at Castle Peak Beach. But first of all, ask how much these will cost, as market prices may vary. If you prefer to eat seafood in a more upmarket setting, book a table at Michelin-starred Hoi Tin Garden Restaurant, which will prepare your market-bought fish just the way you want.

📍 5 Sam Shing Street, Castle Peak Bay, Tuen Mun
☎ +852 2450 6331



8 Chuk Yuen Fu Yuen Seafood Restaurant

A quintessential Hong Kong neighbourhood eatery, this no-frills institution has been where local residents go to for their seafood fix for decades. The tanks of live produce in the shopfront are a good sign of the freshness of the ingredients used here. Signature dishes include lobster baked in cheese sauce, and steamed fresh abalone. Stir-fried vegetables, steamed rice as well as soft drinks and beer are complimentary.

📍 G/F, 454-456 Prince Edward Road West, Kowloon City
☎ +852 2383 9362 / 2382 2168



From sea to table

- ① Yee Hope Seafood Restaurant
- ② Dragon Inn Seafood Restaurant

- ③ Sai Kung island delights
- ④ Faii Che

- ⑤ Happy Seafood Restaurant
- ⑥ Hoi Tin Garden Restaurant

- ⑦ Hong Kong Flavour
- ⑧ Chuk Yuen Seafood Restaurant



SHOP 'TIL YOU DROP IN HONG KONG

For many seasoned shopaholics, nothing quite beats walking into carefully curated stores and having that tactile, in-person experience. Whether you have grown up in Hong Kong or are here to visit, work or play, you will know its retail offerings are all-encompassing. From trendy mega-shopping malls and stylish independent stores of up-and-coming local designers, to artisanal produce, crafts and unique treasures you uncover — and haggle over — in street markets, Hong Kong's dizzyingly tempting offerings put e-commerce shopping in the shade.





'Feng shui designer' Thierry Chow uncovers surprises beyond malls

Hongkonger Thierry Chow may have single-handedly made *feng shui* cool again. During the past two years, she has appeared on the cover of a slew of magazines and on television shows rhapsodising about her passion for modern design and the ancient Chinese practice of positioning objects in harmony with nature.

At first glance, Chow's appearance, with a striking half-blonde, half-black bob and deep-purple lipstick, make her look more like a fashion trendsetter than a traditional *feng shui* master.

Yet today Chow, 33, the daughter of *feng shui* master Chow Hon Ming, explains the blurring between the two by describing herself as a '*feng shui* designer'.

"I grew up in a family rooted in *feng shui* traditions, but for a long time I wasn't really interested," she says. "I had always thought I was going to be a fashion designer."

Chow's love of art saw her graduate from Canada's Sheridan College with a bachelor's degree in applied illustration. A decade ago, she

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Thierry Chow
Feng shui designer



Chow enjoys vintage and antique shopping — collecting pieces of items reminiscent of Hong Kong



followed her father into Chinese geomancy, but her passion for tasteful designs has never waned.

Last year, she created a jade capsule collection, infused with *feng shui* principles, for the major Hong Kong department store Lane Crawford. Chow has launched her own line of home decor — Go Lucky — too, featuring items that aim to bring positive energy into the personal spaces of her customers. She has also been invited by department stores and brands to offer consultation services to shoppers who wish to integrate *feng shui* principles into their modern homes.

Chow's eclectic tastes are reflected in her own shopping style.

She says she is most proud to have bought a large metal sign displaying the Chinese character, hong (行), meaning 'business firm', which belonged to a Sheung Wan shop that was closing down.

"When practising *feng shui*, metal elements are needed, so I went up [to the shop owner] and asked if I could buy it," Chow says.

She bought two papier mâché Chinese lion heads for her studio the same way.

"These items are meaningful as they are pieces of Hong Kong," Chow says. "Sometimes, shopping in Hong Kong need not be confined to a shopping mall. If you keep your mind open, you can randomly find amazing stuff. Every street and alley can, in a sense, be your shopping destination."

These kinds of delightful surprises are what she finds so charming and exciting about shopping in Hong Kong.

"There is so much grittiness and so much attitude, but it's real," Chow says. "Once you get under the surface, the beauty within is deep. You just have to look harder."



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