

## Asia's world city at a glance

### Overview

With a cosmopolitan community of 7.51 million people<sup>1</sup> who enjoy the best of East and West, Hong Kong is Asia's world city.

Famous for its hard assets, such as skyscrapers, world-class infrastructure and superb transportation system, Hong Kong also has many soft appeals in the form of beautiful countryside, interesting islands, a rich cultural and events calendar and exciting sports events.

Hong Kong is ranked as the world's freest economy among 165 economies across the globe in Canada's Fraser Institute's *Economic Freedom of the World 2025 Annual Report*.

Hong Kong welcomes talent, professionals and entrepreneurs from all over the world.

### One Country, Two Systems

On 1 July 1997 Hong Kong returned to the Motherland and became a Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China.

- The National People's Congress authorises the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region to exercise a high degree of autonomy, with executive, legislative and independent judicial powers, including that of final adjudication, in accordance with the provisions of the Basic Law.
- A free and open society where the rule of law is upheld by a judiciary exercising judicial power independently.
- A clean, efficient administration and civil service.
- Free flow of information, freedom of expression and association as well as freedom of the press guaranteed.
- The fundamental rights of residents protected by law.
- Separate immigration, customs, police and anti-corruption authorities and jurisdictions.
- Hong Kong continues to actively participate, as a separate member, in relevant international organisations such as the World Trade Organization, the World Customs Organization and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation using the name "Hong Kong, China".
- As at December 2025, there are 63 Consulates-General, 50 Honorary Consulates and eight Officially Recognised Bodies in Hong Kong.
- Chinese and English are official languages.

### On Top of the World

- Hong Kong people enjoy one of the world's longest life expectancies: In 2025, the expectation of life at birth was 88.7 years for females and 83.3 years for males<sup>2</sup>.

### International Business Hub

- Free flow of capital, free trade, free market.
- No foreign exchange controls.
- Simple and low tax system.
- Level playing field – local and international companies compete on an equal footing.
- Prime location at the mouth of the Pearl River Delta (PRD).
- One of the world's most service-oriented economies, with the service sector accounting for more than 90% of GDP.
- Hong Kong has been among the top 10 global Initial Public Offerings (IPO) fund raising markets in the past decade. In the first quarter of 2026, Hong Kong ranked 1<sup>st</sup> in the world.
- World's largest offshore Renminbi (RMB) liquidity pool. As at end-February 2026, RMB deposits (including outstanding certificates of deposit) in Hong Kong totalled about RMB1,181.0 billion.
- Asia's largest hedge fund hub and Asia's second largest private equity fund centre (March 2026).
- One of the world's leading fundraising hub for biotech companies – as of end-April 2026, 141 companies were listed in Hong Kong under the new listing regime introduced in 2018 and the listing regime for specialist technology companies introduced in 2023, 87 of which were listed through the relevant chapter for biotech companies. These 141 companies account for about 34% of total IPO funds raised in the period, with a total market capitalisation of about US\$1,150 billion (end-April 2026).
- Hong Kong is an international aviation hub, international maritime centre and regional logistics hub. In 2025, Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA) handled 61 million passengers and 394,730 flight movements, representing a robust growth in traffic, and was awarded the "Best Airport in the World" at the Global Travel Awards 2026, the Asia's Leading Airport and China's Leading Airport in 2025 at the World Travel Awards. On the cargo front, cargo throughput reached 5.07 million tonnes, maintaining HKIA's position as the World's Busiest Cargo Airport in 2025, also for the 15<sup>th</sup> time since 2010 (Airports Council International). Supported by a high-quality maritime services cluster, Hong Kong Port is renowned for its high efficiency and fast customs clearance. Hong Kong has ranked 4<sup>th</sup> globally in Xinhua-Baltic International Shipping Centre Development Index for six consecutive years from 2020 to 2025.
- Regional corporate and start-up hub – Hong Kong is home to over 11,000 overseas and Chinese Mainland companies, including more than 4,000 regional headquarters and offices. There are also over 5,200 start-ups operating in major public and private co-work

spaces and incubators, etc. in Hong Kong.

- Regional communications and broadcasting hub with world-class telecommunications infrastructure.
- 72 of the world's 100 top banks operate in Hong Kong (as at end-March 2026).
- Intellectual property is strongly protected.
- Hong Kong hosts some of the world's biggest trade fairs, including those for electronics, watches and clocks, gifts, lighting, and jewellery.

### Green Hong Kong

- Hong Kong people cherish their green spaces, which serve as the city's "green lungs" as well as calming oases to relax and have fun. About 40% of the land of this territory is officially protected as country parks and special areas for nature conservation, recreation and education purposes.
- Hong Kong is blessed with a huge diversity of flora and fauna – including over 3,300 species of vascular plants, 249 species of butterflies, 136 species of dragonflies, 203 species of freshwater fish, 116 species of amphibians and reptiles, over 590 species of birds, and 55 species of terrestrial mammals. The Chinese white dolphin and Big-headed turtle are among the rare species found in Hong Kong.
- Hong Kong is committed to building a greener living environment by improving air quality, promoting cleaner energy sources and reducing waste.

### Arts, Culture and Creative Industries

- With a rich tapestry of arts and cultural events from East and West, Hong Kong has firmly established itself as an international cultural metropolis.
- The West Kowloon Cultural District (WestK) is one of the largest and most ambitious cultural hubs in the world and Hong Kong's new cultural tourism landmark, spanning 40 hectares alongside Victoria Harbour. WestK comprises a mix of landmark arts and cultural facilities, including world-class museums M+ and the Hong Kong Palace Museum, intricately designed performing arts venues the Xiqu Centre and Freespace, the 11-hectare Art Park with a waterfront promenade, and the upcoming WestK Performing Arts Centre. Hosting over 1,000 exhibitions, performances, programmes, and events each year, WestK welcomes more than 10 million visitors each year, has successfully established Hong Kong's international cultural brand and strengthened the city's strategic role as an East-meets-West centre for international cultural exchange.
- The Hong Kong Palace Museum, which opened to the public in July 2022, is committed to the study and appreciation of Chinese art and culture while advancing dialogue among

<sup>1</sup> Provisional figure as at year-end 2025

<sup>2</sup> Provisional figure

world civilisations through international partnerships. Embracing new curatorial approaches, the Museum offers a Hong Kong perspective and a global vision, presenting priceless treasures from the Palace Museum along with the finest collections from other world-renowned institutions. The Museum is also in the process of building its own world-class collection. The Museum has welcomed over 4.4 million visitors (April 2026) since its opening.

- M+, Asia's global museum of contemporary visual culture, has been opened since November 2021, dedicated to collecting, exhibiting, and interpreting visual art, design and architecture, moving image, and Hong Kong visual culture of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. The museum's multidisciplinary permanent collection encompasses objects from across Asia and beyond. The museum reported 11.4 million visitations (April 2026) since its opening.
- WestK Performing Arts strives to establish WestK as a focal point for vibrant arts performances in Asia and beyond. Led by the vision of amplifying Hong Kong's creative potential and transcending boundaries in the performing arts, the Performing Arts Division curates an exciting and innovative annual programme that spans dance, music, theatre and Chinese opera in a range of artistic styles and traditions. WestK provides a growing portfolio of world-class performing arts venues, including the Xiqu Centre and Freespace, and the WestK Performing Arts Centre (WestK PAC) which will open in 2027, attracting top artists and arts groups from around the world for cross-cultural and disciplinary collaborations which fuel artistic advancements for the city and the region.
- Hong Kong is a creative powerhouse with about 133,000 practitioners engaged in fields ranging from different professions of design and fashion design to printing and publishing, interactive games to animation and comics, advertising to architecture, and music to film and TV production.
- Established in 1962, the Hong Kong Museum of Art (HKMoA) is the first public art museum in Hong Kong and the custodian of an art collection with over 19,700 sets of items, representing the unique cultural legacy of Hong Kong's encounter with the globe. By curating a rich world of contrasts, from old to new, Chinese to Western, local to international, with a Hong Kong viewpoint, the museum aspires to refresh ways of looking at tradition and make art relevant to everyone, creating new experiences and possibilities. It has also been listed four times on the 100 most popular art museums in the world by the international art publication – The Art Newspaper in 2022, 2024, 2025 and 2026.

## Heritage Conservation

Hong Kong is proud of its built heritage. The Government's policy is to protect, conserve and revitalise historical and heritage sites and buildings through relevant and sustainable approaches. Hong Kong has 138 declared monuments, including historic buildings, ancient forts, rock carvings and archaeological sites.

## Infrastructure

Well-connected Hong Kong invests heavily in infrastructure to boost connectivity globally, with the Mainland and locally. These projects represent the vision for the city's long-term development. They include:

- "One-hour living circle" – a combination of infrastructure and transport projects greatly

reduce travel time between Hong Kong, Shenzhen and other PRD cities. The "Northbound Travel for Hong Kong Vehicles" and the "Southbound Travel for Guangdong Vehicles" are important measures to promote the integrated development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. Not only do they facilitate mutual engagement between residents of Guangdong and Hong Kong, but they also achieve a higher level of connectivity.

- The Hong Kong Section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link connects Hong Kong to the world's largest, 50,000 km long national high-speed rail network.
- The Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge links the three major Greater Bay Area cities.
- The Hong Kong Major Transport Infrastructure Development Blueprint formulated a planning framework for the city's strategic railway and major road networks up to 2046 and beyond, including the Central Rail Link, Northern Link Eastern Extension, Northeast New Territories Line, Tseung Kwan O Line Southern Extension, Northern Metropolis Highway, Sha Tin Bypass, and Tseung Kwan O-Yau Tong Tunnel.
- The governments of Hong Kong and Shenzhen continue to follow up the implementation work of cross-boundary railway projects including the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Rail Link (Hung Shui Kiu - Qianhai) and the Northern Link Spur Line through the "Task Force for Hong Kong-Shenzhen Co-operation on Cross-Boundary Railway Infrastructure", jointly developing the "Greater Bay Area on the Rail".
- Other local railway projects are also progressing in a timely and orderly manner. The construction works of the Tung Chung Line Extension, Oyster Bay Station, Tuen Mun South Extension, Kwu Tung Station, and Hung Shui Kiu Station have commenced for progressive completion from 2027 onwards. The Government has signed the Part 1 Project Agreement with the MTR Corporation Limited to implement the Northern Link Main Line in combination with the Spur Line, so as to achieve synergies and enhance speed and efficiency. The target is to achieve simultaneous commissioning by 2034 or earlier.
- The Government is devoted to take forward the smart and green mass transit systems in East Kowloon, Kai Tak and Hung Shui Kiu/Ha Tsuen and Yuen Long South New Development Area, with a view to providing residents with convenient and green feeder services to nearby railway stations and major public transport interchanges. Smart and green mass transit system will also be adopted to take forward South Island Line (West), forming a transit loop with the South Island Line (East) and Island Line.
- Capitalising on its unique advantages, Hong Kong is playing an important role in the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and the Belt and Road Initiative.
- The Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point, equipped with direct access facilities for both passengers and vehicles, directly connects to the eastern part of Shenzhen, greatly shortening the travelling time between Hong Kong, eastern Shenzhen and eastern Guangdong.
- The Kai Tak Cruise Terminal serves the world's largest cruise liners.
- With the Energizing Kowloon East initiative, Kowloon East has been successfully transformed into the second core business district for Hong Kong to support our economic growth and strengthen our competitiveness.
- The Three-Runway System at HKIA commenced operation in November 2024, which has

raised HKIA's passenger and cargo handling capacities significantly. The new passenger departure facilities at Terminal 2 of HKIA commenced operations in late May 2026. With the Government's support, the Airport Authority Hong Kong continues to actively take forward various projects for the Airport City development, "SKYTOPIA", a landmark project encompassing high end commercial, art, tourism and leisure activities.

- A vibrant, connected, world-class harbourfront is being developed.

## Soft Appeals

- Convenient, compact, cosmopolitan city with stunning harbour, skyline and parkland vistas – Hong Kong's easily accessible countryside features hill walks and a unique geopark.
- Many interesting islands are just a short ferry trip from urban areas.
- World-class sports events held throughout the year.
- Vibrant cultural scene with world-class cultural performances, arts and drama festivals, art exhibitions and street carnivals.
- One of the world's safest large cities with a law-abiding community and a well-trained, professional police force.
- Good education facilities – 22 local degree-awarding institutions and over 50 international schools.
- Four universities ranked the World Top 50 in the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings 2027 and five universities ranked Top 10 in QS Asia University Rankings 2026 (The University of Hong Kong: 11<sup>th</sup>/1<sup>st</sup>, The Chinese University of Hong Kong: 18<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup>, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology: 33<sup>rd</sup>/6<sup>th</sup>, City University of Hong Kong: 7<sup>th</sup> in Asia and The Hong Kong Polytechnic University: 50<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup>).
- World's No.3 for education competitiveness (International Institute for Management Development: World Competitiveness Yearbook 2026).
- Culinary paradise with many restaurants, ranging from deluxe restaurants to modest noodle shops, featured in the *Michelin Guide Hong Kong and Macau 2026*.

## Caring Society

- Comprehensive medical and welfare systems.
- Social security net for the less privileged and the elderly.
- 12 years of free primary and secondary education have been provided to all students attending public-sector schools since 2008. About 80% of young people have access to post-secondary education in the 2025/26 academic year. The Kindergarten Education Scheme has been implemented from the 2017/18 school year. Around 90% of the half-day programmes of kindergartens joining the scheme are free while the school fees for whole-day programmes are at a low level.
- Statutory minimum wage.
- As at the fourth quarter of 2025, about 43% of the Hong Kong population resided in public rental housing or subsidised sale flats.
- Pluralistic and inclusive society.
- Active and robust civil society.