

HKCONNECT

#COSMOPOLITAN

#DYNAMIC

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vol.  
22  
23

# ASIA'S WORLD CITY

An aerial photograph of Hong Kong at sunset. The city's dense skyline is visible, with numerous skyscrapers and residential buildings. The Victoria Harbour is in the center, reflecting the warm orange and yellow light of the setting sun. In the background, the green mountains of the New Territories are visible under a hazy sky. The overall scene captures the vibrant and cosmopolitan nature of the city.

**An international financial centre that takes pride in its business-friendly environment and cosmopolitan lifestyle, Hong Kong has achieved notable success in various fields.**

The international business hub provides unparalleled access to the Chinese economy and is a key core city of the Greater Bay Area – one of the world's most dynamic regional economies.

Besides mega sports and arts and cultural events throughout the year, Hong Kong is a nature lovers' delight where spectacular hiking trails, pristine beaches, scenic coastal areas and outlying islands are all within easy reach of urban areas.

Flip through these pages for a glimpse of what makes **Asia's world city** one of the most desirable places to live, work and invest.

# CONTENT

4-15

## #COSMOPOLITAN

East Meets West |  
Arts & Culture |  
Sports |  
Regional Education & Training Hub

16-31

## #DYNAMIC

Business & Economy |  
Talent Admission |  
International Innovation &  
Technology Hub |  
Sporting Achievements

32-41

## #SECURE

Governance & Law |  
Safety & Security

42-53

## #DIVERSE

Multicultural Society |  
Unique Journeys |  
Urban Architecture & Heritage |  
Cityscape & Nature

54-65

## #CONNECTED

Infrastructure & Transport |  
Air, Sea & Land Traffic Hub |  
Gateway to the Mainland |  
Advanced Physical & IT Infrastructure |  
Telecommunications

MAP

66-67

CONTACT US

68-69

FACTS & FIGURES

70-71





An aerial photograph of Hong Kong, showing the dense urban landscape, the Victoria Harbour, and the surrounding mountains. The skyline is dominated by numerous skyscrapers, with the Bank of China Tower being a prominent feature. The water is a deep greenish-blue, and the sky is bright blue with scattered white clouds. The text 'HONG KONG IS...' is overlaid on the left side of the image in a large, white, outlined font.

# HONG KONG IS...

**#COSMOPOLITAN**

East Meets West I  
Arts & Culture I  
Sports I  
Regional Education & Training Hub



# #COSMOPOLITAN

From architecture and entertainment to food and festivals, Hong Kong is a fascinating blend of East and West.



## Global village

There are many foreign diplomatic representations in Hong Kong. Chinese and English are official languages.

## Vibrant social scene

There are a host of chambers of commerce, business associations, special interest groups and networking clubs, making it easy for expatriates to build business and social networks.



## International media hub

Hong Kong strongly upholds the freedom of the press.

- > International media such as the Economist, Financial Times, New York Times, Nikkei, Wall Street Journal, Agence France-Presse, Associated Press, Bloomberg and Thomson Reuters have a presence in Hong Kong. International broadcasters with operations in Hong Kong include BBC, CNBC, CNN International, CNA and NHK.
- > About 70 locally-based foreign media organisations or correspondents regularly receive information from the Information Services Department.
- > **No censorship** of local and foreign media, including internet and satellite TV content beamed to Hong Kong.

## Year-round celebrations

Hong Kong celebrates **Western and Eastern festivals** with equal enthusiasm. Chinese New Year, Christmas and the Mid-Autumn Festival are especially good times to see Asia's glittering city in its full splendour.



## Sensational shopping

At the crossroads of world trade for over 170 years, Hong Kong is a great global emporium, with high-end malls selling trendy editions of international brands and bustling night markets where delightful bargains abound.



## Harbourfront delight

The iconic Victoria Harbour features waterfront promenades spanning 26 km along both sides of the harbour.

- > **Longest promenade** (about 8.7 km): along the harbourfront areas in the core business district on the northern shore of Hong Kong Island, roving thematic and festive pop-up art installations by local creative talents provide new visiting experiences from time to time.
- > **Special features along the way:** with strong local flavour, different special features are added to each promenade section to create unique spaces for people to enjoy, such as East Coast Park Precinct, Belcher Bay Promenade, and HarbourChill.



A vibrant melting pot of cultures, Hong Kong boasts many museums, concert halls and performance venues, and a vast array of cultural events from around the world. Hong Kong has emerged as one of world's largest art trading centres, on par with New York and London.

### Cultural hub

The **West Kowloon Cultural District** (WKCD), spanning 40 hectares, is **one of the largest cultural projects** in the world. With a variety of performance venues and museums, the WKCD hosts world-class exhibitions, performances, and arts and cultural events, helping strengthen Hong Kong's positioning as an East-meets-West Centre for International Cultural Exchange.



- > **M+**, Asia's first global museum of contemporary visual culture, defines contemporary art with a new perspective.
- > The **Hong Kong Palace Museum** displays priceless artefacts of Chinese art and culture from the collections of the Palace Museum, Beijing.
- > The **Xiqu Centre** is dedicated to preserving and promoting the art of Chinese traditional theatre.



### Arts events

- > Since 2013, **Art Basel Hong Kong**, attracting more than 200 leading galleries from around the world every year, helps cement Hong Kong as the epicentre of Asia's international art scene.
- > The city hosts **top-tier galleries** and **auction houses** such as the Gagosian, White Cube, Christie's and Sotheby's.



The cosmopolitan city hosts a variety of international and local major sporting events, including the Hong Kong Marathon, Hong Kong Sevens and Harbour Race, among others.



### Hong Kong Marathon

The Hong Kong Marathon, a Road Race Elite Label event recognised by World Athletics, is one of the most popular city-wide sports events.



### Magnificent 7s

From humble beginnings in 1976, the Hong Kong Sevens has grown to become a leading international rugby tournament, drawing thousands of fans from around the world.

### Harbour Race

After a suspension for more than 30 years since 1979, the Harbour Race returned in 2011 and has quickly re-established its status as one of the city's most celebrated events, attracting a large number of participants and spectators every year.





Hong Kong's universities, consistently ranked among the world's leading schools, are home to academics and researchers from around the world, attracted by the city's academic freedom, cosmopolitan and liberal environment, and supportive policies. These universities provide excellent prospects for internships and further education.

### Top-notch universities

Hong Kong's 22 degree-awarding institutions offer internationally recognised qualifications, the chance to acquire an international perspective and promising career prospects.

- > **3 universities in World Top 50 & Asia's Top 15:** Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings 2023 / QS Asia University Rankings 2023



The University of Hong Kong (HKU)

**21<sup>st</sup>** in world  
**4<sup>th</sup>** in Asia



The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK)

**38<sup>th</sup>** in world  
**12<sup>th</sup>** in Asia



The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST)

**40<sup>th</sup>** in world  
**14<sup>th</sup>** in Asia

- > **5 universities in World Top 100 & 5 among Asia's Top 25:** Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2023 / Times Higher Education Asia University Rankings 2022



HKU

**31<sup>st</sup>** in world  
**4<sup>th</sup>** in Asia



CUHK

**45<sup>th</sup>** in world  
**7<sup>th</sup>** in Asia



HKUST

**58<sup>th</sup>** in world  
**9<sup>th</sup>** in Asia



The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

**79<sup>th</sup>** in world  
**15<sup>th</sup>** in Asia



The City University of Hong Kong

**99<sup>th</sup>** in world  
**24<sup>th</sup>** in Asia

### International schools

The **54 international schools** in Hong Kong provide more than 10 curricula, including British, American, Australian, Japanese, Singaporean, French, German, Korean, Canadian and the International Baccalaureate programme.



## #DYNAMIC

Business & Economy I  
Talent Admission I  
International Innovation &  
Technology Hub I  
Sporting Achievements

# HONG KONG IS...



# #DYNAMIC



A powerful combination of factors – prime location, rule of law, high-speed communications, free flow of information and capital, a low and simple tax system and a pro-business government – makes Hong Kong a leading international business and financial centre.



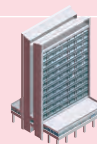
## A magnet for foreign firms

Overseas and Mainland companies in Hong Kong (2022):



Total number of operations

**8,978**



Regional headquarters

**1,411**



Regional offices

**2,397**



Local offices

**5,170**



Staff engaged

**468,000**

- > Sectors: Import/export trade, wholesale and retail; financing and banking; professional, business and education services
- > Major sources of parent companies: Mainland China, Japan, US, UK, Singapore

## Start-up hub

- > StartmeupHK is an initiative by Invest Hong Kong to attract entrepreneurial talent and innovative ventures from around the world to use Hong Kong as their global launch pad.
- > The city hosted **nearly 4,000 start-ups in 2022**.
- > Support for start-ups:
  - Excellent package of advantages
  - Incubators and accelerators
  - Government funding support
  - Private venture capital



## Leading capital markets

- > **World No.4 for Initial Public Offering (IPO)** funds raised in 2022, continuing to be a major global listing platform for companies from different jurisdictions
- > **World No.1 for arranging Asian international bond issuances** for 6 consecutive years since 2016 (March 2022).
- > **Asia's largest hedge fund hub** (December 2022) and **Asia's 2nd largest private equity fund centre** (December 2022).
- > **World's leading investment hub**: the amount of foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows and outflows ranked 3rd and 7th globally, respectively, in 2021 (UNCTAD: World Investment Report 2022).
- > **One of the world's leading fundraising hubs for biotech companies** – 86 companies listed under Hong Kong's new listing regime since its introduction in 2018, 56 of which are pre-revenue or pre-profit biotech companies. These 86 companies accounted for about 40% of total IPO funds raised in the period, with a total market capitalisation of around US\$1,000 billion (December 2022).



## Premier international banking centre

- > Hong Kong is **Asia's 2nd largest banking hub** for Chinese and international banks in terms of external positions (September 2022).
- > **77 of the world's 100 top banks** operate in Hong Kong (January 2023).
- > Robust, well-capitalised banking sector
  - **Free flow of capital** underpinned by a rule-based, transparent regulatory environment.
  - **World-class banking regulation and supervision** in line with international standards.
- > State-of-the-art **financial infrastructure**
  - **Real-time gross settlement systems** enabling safe and efficient settlement of interbank transfers in Hong Kong dollar, US dollar, Euro and Renminbi.
  - **Faster Payment System** enabling round-the-clock real-time fund transfer and payment services across different banks and stored value facilities.





## Leading offshore Renminbi business centre

Hong Kong is the **world's largest offshore RMB business centre**.

- > A wide range of RMB products and services meets the needs of local, Mainland and overseas companies and financial institutions.
- > World's largest offshore pool of RMB funds – RMB deposits and certificates of deposit totalling RMB981.7 billion (US\$142 billion, December 2022).
- > Hong Kong Monetary Authority maintains a long-standing currency swap agreement with the People's Bank of China, with a RMB swap size of RMB800 billion / HK\$940 billion.



## Strong Hong Kong-Mainland financial connections

- > **Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect** (from November 2014) and **Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect** (from December 2016) allow investors in Hong Kong and Mainland markets to trade securities in each other's markets through the trading and clearing facilities of the domestic exchange. In July 2022, Exchange-traded Funds (ETFs) were included under Stock Connect, deepening integration of the two capital markets.
- > **Bond Connect**: allows investors from the Mainland and overseas to trade in each other's bond markets through mutual access arrangements between the financial infrastructure institutions in Hong Kong and the Mainland. Northbound trading and Southbound trading commenced in July 2017 and September 2021 respectively.
- > The **Cross-boundary Wealth Management Connect** in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area enables residents in Hong Kong, Macao and 9 cities in Guangdong Province to engage in cross-boundary investment in wealth management products distributed by banks in the Greater Bay Area.
- > **Swap Connect**: Northbound trading will be launched first, allowing Hong Kong and overseas investors to participate in the Mainland's interbank derivatives market through mutual access arrangements between institutions in Hong Kong and the Mainland.



## Green finance hub

- > With a carbon-neutral target date of 2050, green finance continues to be a priority area.
- > **Premier financing platform** for international and Mainland green enterprises / projects.
- > **Green finance centre** in the GBA.



- > A total of close to US\$16 billion worth of green bonds under the **Government Green Bond Programme** covering multiple currencies and different tenors was issued. The issuances achieved breakthroughs in 7 aspects:
  - Establishment of the world's first "Global Medium Term Note Programme" by a government dedicated to green bond issuances
  - Issuance of the largest US dollar-denominated government green bond deal globally
  - The longest tenor US dollar-denominated government green bond in Asia
  - The longest tenor euro-denominated government green bond in Asia
  - The largest retail green bond globally
  - The largest ESG bond issuance in Asia
  - The first government tokenised green bond globally

A well-educated, diligent, efficient and multi-lingual local workforce is complemented by a substantial expatriate community that brings in professional skills and global perspectives, further enhancing the city's economic development and cultural vibrancy.



#DYNAMIC

## Hong Kong welcomes talent

- > The **Talent List** comprises **51 targeted professions** that are in high demand in Hong Kong. They cover 9 industry segments: business support; creative industries, arts and culture, performing arts; development and construction; environmental technology services; financial services; healthcare services; innovation and technology; legal and dispute resolution services; and maritime services.
- > The **Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises** (OASES) helps and encourages high potential and representative strategic enterprises from around the globe to set up operations in Hong Kong. Special facilitation measures as part of its reach-out strategy cover tax and financing etc. The office also provides respective employees with guidance on aspects such as visa application and education arrangements for their children.
- > The **Top Talent Pass Scheme** engages talents with a one-stop platform **Hong Kong Talent Engage** to provide support services for incomers looking for information and assistance in finding jobs and settling down.



With world-class universities and technology infrastructure such as Cyberport and Hong Kong Science Park, Hong Kong is a prominent international R&D hub in the region. The Government lends support in the form of grants and facilities, and in fostering a vibrant innovation and technology ecosystem that welcomes talent from around the world.



## Innovation and technology

- > The World Digital Competitiveness Ranking 2022 issued by the International Institute for Management Development placed Hong Kong **3rd in Asia-Pacific and 9th in the World** for digital competitiveness.
- > The **InnoHK Research Clusters** at Hong Kong Science Park have pooled together 28 research laboratories, involving 7 local universities and research institutions as well as over 30 institutions from 11 economies.



## Hong Kong Smart City Blueprint 2.0

More than 130 initiatives categorised under 6 smart areas, namely Smart Mobility, Smart Living, Smart Environment, Smart People, Smart Government and Smart Economy.



#DYNAMIC

The tenacity and perseverance of Hong Kong's athletes exemplify the city's "can-do" spirit. The Government attaches great importance to supporting athletes.

## Sports stars

The Hong Kong, China Delegation performed with distinction at the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games, achieving the **best results** of **1 gold, 2 silver** and **3 bronze** medals in Hong Kong history, with a number of athletes breaking Hong Kong records or attaining personal best results.



> **Fencing athlete Cheung Ka-long** won the gold medal in the Men's Foil individual event, becoming the second Olympic Games gold medal winner in the city's history.



> **Swimming athlete Siobhan Haughey** won 2 silver medals in the Women's 100m and 200m Freestyle and broke the respective Asian records. She is the first Hong Kong athlete to have won 2 medals at an Olympic Games.

> **Cycling athlete Lee Wai-sze** won the bronze medal in the Women's Sprint, the second Olympic medal of her career.



> **Karate athlete Lau Mo-sheung** won the bronze medal in the Women's Kata event, which is the first karate Olympic medal in Hong Kong history.



> **Table tennis athletes Lee Ho-ching** (centre), **Doo Hoi-kem** (left) and **Soo Wai-yam** claimed bronze in the Women's Table Tennis Team event. It is the second time the Hong Kong, China Delegation has won an Olympic medal in table tennis.



Photos courtesy of SF & OC



The Hong Kong, China Delegation also achieved outstanding results of **2 silver** and **3 bronze** medals at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games.

- > **Boccia disabled athletes Leung Yuk-wing** (centre), **Lau Wai-yan** (left) and **Wong Kwan-hang** won the silver medal in the Mixed BC4 Pairs event. Leung also won a bronze medal in the Mixed Individual BC4 event.



- > **Badminton disabled athlete Chu Man-kai** (left) won a silver medal in the Men's Singles SH6 event, while **Chan Ho-yuen** won the bronze medal in the Men's Singles WH2 event. This was the first time for badminton to be officially enlisted as a Paralympic event.



- > Another bronze medal was won by **Table tennis disabled athlete Wong Ting-ting** in the Women's Singles TT11 event, who took part in the Paralympics for the first time.



*Photos courtesy of the Hong Kong Paralympic Committee & Sports Association for the Physically Disabled*



### Kai Tak Sports Park

- > Construction of Kai Tak Sports Park, at the site of the former Kai Tak Airport, started in February 2019, targeted for completion in 2024.
- > Kai Tak Sports Park includes a 50,000-seat Main Stadium, 10,000-seat Indoor Sports Centre, 5,000-seat Public Sports Ground and over 8 hectares of landscaped areas and sitting-out facilities. When completed, it will become the main venue for hosting major sports events in Hong Kong, including the 2025 National Games as a co-host city.

*Photo courtesy of the Kai Tak Sports Park Limited*





# HONG KONG IS...

**#SECURE**

Governance & Law |  
Safety & Security



# #SECURE

The rule of law, a clean government, a level playing field for business and disciplinary forces reputed to be among Asia's finest combine to create a stable and safe environment for people to live, work and enjoy life.

Under the principle of “one country, two systems”, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) exercises a high degree of autonomy. The Basic Law preserves Hong Kong's common law system, upholds judicial independence and stipulates that all Hong Kong residents shall be equal before the law. Fundamental rights and freedoms of residents are also safeguarded under the Basic Law.

## A Special Administrative Region under “one country, two systems”

- > Hong Kong exercises a high degree of autonomy and enjoys executive, legislative and independent judicial power, including that of final adjudication.
- > Capitalist system and way of life shall remain unchanged.
- > Laws previously in force shall be maintained, except for any that contravene the Basic Law.
- > “Hong Kong, China” participates as a separate member of various international organisations, conferences and events not limited to states, such as:
  - World Trade Organization
  - Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation
  - World Customs Organization
  - International sports events such as the Olympics

#SECURE



## The Basic Law – The constitutional document of Hong Kong

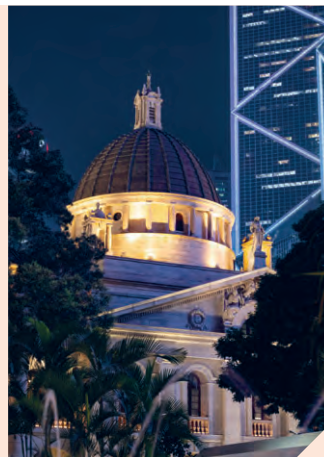
Enacted in accordance with the Constitution of the People's Republic of China, the Basic Law prescribes the systems to be practised in the HKSAR, to ensure the implementation of the basic policies of the People's Republic of China regarding Hong Kong, and safeguards the fundamental rights and freedoms of residents.

- > Freedom of speech
- > Freedom of movement
- > Equality before the law
- > Access to the courts
- > Prohibition of arbitrary or unlawful search of the body of any resident



## The Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the HKSAR (the Hong Kong National Security Law)

The Hong Kong National Security Law is a historical step to improve the system for Hong Kong to safeguard our country's sovereignty, unity, territorial integrity, security and development interests. It sets out a clear direction for the principle of "one country, two systems" to maintain stability and prosperity.



The law aims to prevent, suppress and impose punishment for acts and activities endangering national security and clearly stipulates the following offences:

- > Secession
- > Subversion
- > Organisation and perpetration of terrorist activities
- > Collusion with a foreign country or with external elements to endanger national security

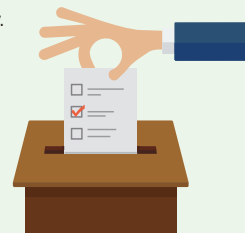
## Improving Electoral System

The Improving Electoral System (Consolidated Amendments) Ordinance 2021 was published in the Gazette and came into effect on May 31, 2021. The improved electoral system puts in place institutional safeguards to ensure a full application of "patriots administering Hong Kong". This is conducive to enhancing the effective governance of Hong Kong, thereby achieving long-term stability and safety. It ensures the steadfast and successful implementation of "one country, two systems".

## Legislative Council

The 90-seat LegCo is Hong Kong's law making body. Its main functions include:

- > Enacting laws
- > Approving public expenditure
- > Monitoring the work of the Government





## The Rule of Law – Hong Kong's core value

Judicial independence underpins the rule of law. Judges enjoy security of tenure and the Court of Final Appeal may also call on esteemed judges from other common law jurisdictions to hear final appeals.<sup>#</sup>

# There are 11 overseas non-permanent judges (as at March, 2023).



## Global legal hub

- > Hong Kong is an internationally respected **dispute resolution centre**.
- > Effective **protection of property rights**, including intellectual property rights.
- > **Arbitral awards** made in Hong Kong enforceable in 170 Contracting States to the New York Convention, Mainland China and Macao under reciprocal enforcement arrangements.
- > Ideal venue for dispute resolution through **arbitration and mediation**.
- > Hong Kong ranks the **3<sup>rd</sup> most preferred seat for arbitration globally** according to the 2021 International Arbitration Survey by Queen Mary University of London.

## International dispute resolution centre

- > **New dispute resolution cases** handled by Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre, including arbitration, mediation and domain name disputes, was 515 in 2022; the total disputed amount in all the arbitration cases was approximately **US\$5.5 billion** in 2022.
- > Mediation mechanism under the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA) to resolve investment disputes. Hong Kong has **2 CEPA designated mediation institutions and 43 CEPA designated mediators**.
- > **Greater Bay Area Mediation Platform in Hong Kong, Macao and Guangdong** promulgating unified accreditation standards and code of conduct best practices for GBA mediators.

## Deep pool of legal talent

Hong Kong's strong legal infrastructure is supported by a deep pool of local and international legal talent with expertise in a wide variety of legal sectors and jurisdictions around the world. There are:



About  
**11,000**  
practising  
solicitors



**74**  
registered foreign  
law firms

About  
**1,600**  
practising  
barristers



**1,439**  
registered foreign  
lawyers from 33  
jurisdictions



Note: Figures as at February, 2023

Hong Kong is a safe city with a low crime rate. The city also has a robust anti-corruption regime to prevent money laundering and terrorist financing.



### Safe city

Hong Kong has one of the world's lowest overall crime rates.

- > 2022 overall crime rate (crimes per 100,000 population) – 961
- > **World No.6 for order and security** (World Justice Project: The Rule of Law Index 2022)



### Corruption fighter

International surveys consistently rate Hong Kong as one of the “least corrupt” places in the world.

- > **Asia’s No.2** and **World No.9** for the **absence of corruption** (World Justice Project: The Rule of Law Index 2022).



### Anti-money laundering

- > Hong Kong is a **safe and clean place for doing business**, because of world-class regulation and supervision of the financial system, according to international standards.
- > **A robust system** to combat money laundering and terrorist financing is underpinned by a solid legal foundation, rigorous law enforcement and strong international cooperation.
- > In 2019, Hong Kong was recognised by the Financial Action Task Force as the **No.1 jurisdiction in the Asia-Pacific region** in its fourth round of mutual evaluation for having an effective anti-money laundering and counter-financing of terrorism system of international standard.







# HONG KONG IS

## #DIVERSE

Multicultural Society |  
Unique Journeys |  
Urban Architecture & Heritage |  
Cityscape & Nature



# #DIVERSE

Hong Kong is synonymous with diversity and inclusiveness, thriving on free flow of information, people and ideas.

## Social harmony

Hong Kong society is characterised by cultural diversity. Ethnic minorities live in harmony in Hong Kong. The Government facilitates their integration into the community while helping them preserve their cultures.

## Freedom of expression

A free press ensures debate and reportage on issues of the day, while political parties and interest groups speak freely and openly in Hong Kong in accordance with the law.

## Religious freedom

Churches, monasteries, mosques, synagogues, temples and other places of worship give all major religions a focus for their faith in Hong Kong.



## Culinary paradise

An exotic fusion of Eastern and Western flavours, Hong Kong's cuisine features a variety of creative culinary delights with local characteristics. Frequently listed as gourmets' favourite choices in travelogues, dim sum and local treats such as egg tarts have become the city's culinary icons.

**71 Hong Kong restaurants with Michelin stars** comprise high-end restaurants and inexpensive street food stalls (2022 edition of Michelin Guide Hong Kong and Macao).





## Theme parks

- > **Ocean Park Hong Kong** situated on the southern side of Hong Kong Island, has become an iconic resort and leisure destination that focuses on conservation and immersive experience in nature since its opening in 1977. Together with two newly-built hotels, the park restaurants and amenities offer extensive international menus as well as unbeatable views of the South China Sea.
- > **Hong Kong Disneyland Resort** located at the north-eastern part of the enchanting island of Lantau, comprises Disneyland and three distinctive resort hotels. Billed as one of the finest Disney theme parks in Asia since its opening in 2005, Hong Kong Disneyland brings many magical journeys to families with their favourite life-size Disney characters, parades with marching bands and elaborate floats and new additions from time to time.



## Peak Tram

- > In service **since 1888**.
- > One of the oldest and most famous funicular railways in the world.
- > Running from Central up to Victoria Peak, the highest spot on Hong Kong Island, from where you can enjoy a beautiful vista of the city spreading out on both sides of Victoria Harbour.

## Ngong Ping 360

- > Asia's longest bi-cable aerial ride - a **5.7km** journey
- > Offering stunning views of Hong Kong's largest island (Lantau Island) and the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge, the cable car takes passengers from Tung Chung to Ngong Ping Village on the highlands of Lantau where the **Big Buddha** sits serenely on a cliff adjoining a Buddhist monastery.



## Ding-Ding

Founded in 1904, the electric double deck trams, affectionately called "ding-ding", run on 13km of double track along the northern shore of Hong Kong Island, and about 3km of single track around Happy Valley. Passengers take in all the views along the way, which reflect how new and old urban developments co-exist, in a much slower pace.



## Star Ferry

- > In service **since 1880**.
- > Ranked first in a poll of the world's "most exciting and scenic" ferry rides by the Society of American Travel Writers.

## City wall art

Art is seen not only in galleries but also on the streets through artworks by local and overseas wall artists. Paintings on outdoor stairways and building facades brighten up different corners of the city.



There are 132 declared monuments in Hong Kong (October 2022). Many heritage trails often offer a glimpse into Hong Kong's unique past. The city has received 21 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation.

## Monuments in Central District

- > **The Exterior of the Old Supreme Court** (built in 1912) – now Court of Final Appeal Building
- > **St John's Cathedral** (built in 1847-1849)
- > **Flagstaff House** (built in 1844-1846) – now Flagstaff House Museum of Tea Ware
- > **The Cenotaph in Statue Square** (built in 1923) – a memorial for those who served and died in the two World Wars
- > **Jamia Mosque** (built in 1915-1916)



## Blue House in Wanchai

The Blue House Cluster (built in 1920s - 1950s) has been revitalised into the **Viva Blue House**, which shows the typical configuration of tenement houses in Hong Kong in the early 20th century, with shops on the ground floor and residential flats on upper floors. This revitalisation project won the **top Award of Excellence in the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation (2017)**.

## Tai Kwun in Central

- > The **revitalised Central Police Station compound**, Tai Kwun – Centre for Heritage and Arts, has become a cultural hub on Hong Kong Island.
  - The 13,600 m<sup>2</sup> complex has 16 heritage buildings built in the mid-19th century, including the former Central Police Station, Central Magistracy and Victoria Prison.
- > Won the **top Award of Excellence** in the **UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation (2019)**.



#DIVERSE



Hong Kong is packed with astonishing diversity of nature – mountains, wetlands, beaches, spectacular rock formations, scenic country parks, rural villages, farming areas, and marshlands rich in flora and fauna.

### Country and marine parks

- > About 40% of the territory of Hong Kong has been designated as country parks and special areas.
- > **24 country parks** and **22 special areas** dedicated to conservation, education and recreation.
- > **7 marine parks** and **1 marine reserve**



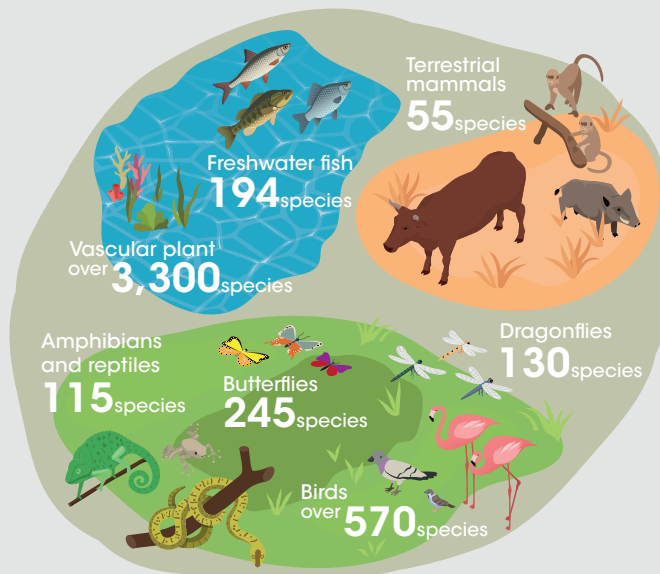
### Amazing geopark

In Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark, visitors can explore the fascinating story of our planet from the **Devonian Period 400 million years ago**, traversing the **Jurassic and Cretaceous Periods** when dinosaurs roamed the earth, to the Ice Age and the era when the climate turned warm.

- > **Natural geological gallery of the Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark** features world-class hexagonal rock columns and diverse spectacular landforms.
- > **There are 8 visitor centres, 12 land-based tour routes and 2 boat tour routes.**

### Rich biodiversity

Hong Kong is blessed with a rich diversity of flora and fauna:



### Rare species

- > Hong Kong provides important habitats for rare species, such as Spoon-billed Sandpiper and the endemic Bogadek's Burrowing Lizard.
- > Other species first discovered here and named after the city include the Hong Kong Camellia, Hong Kong Balsam and Hong Kong Newt.
- > Globally threatened species found here include Romer's Tree Frog, Three-banded Box Turtle, Chinese Pangolin, Chinese White Dolphin and Indo-Pacific Finless Porpoise.

## The great outdoors

Many scenic hiking trails meandering through Hong Kong's country parks offer a great escape from busy city life.

- > **The MacLehose Trail** – 100km trail running east-west across mountains, valleys and beaches in the New Territories (Listed on National Geographic's "World's Best Hikes: 20 Dream Trails").
- > **Dragon's Back** on Hong Kong Island – voted Asia's "Best Urban Hike" by Time (Asia) magazine.
- > **Lantau Trail** – 70km circular trail, traversing mountains, valleys, forests, streams, waterfalls and old villages on Lantau Island.



## Wetland Park

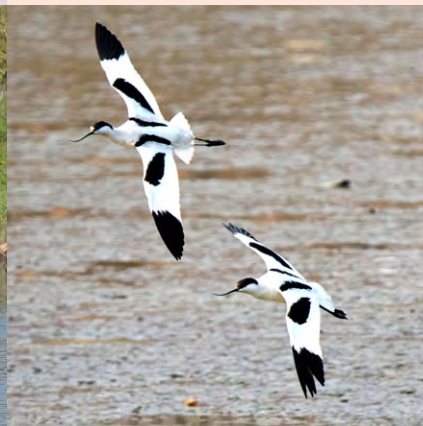
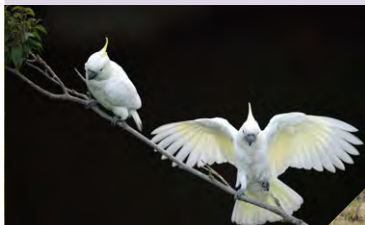
The **61-hectare Hong Kong Wetland Park** in the New Territories is a recreated wetland habitat for waterbirds and other wildlife.

- > Home to many varieties of butterflies, dragonflies, amphibians, reptiles, fish, crabs and celebrity crocodile "Pui Pui".
- > World-class eco-park featuring many of Hong Kong's native flora and fauna in a natural setting.
- > International awards include the prestigious **Global Award for Excellence** from the Urban Land Institute in the US.

## Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site

Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site of Hong Kong is a major stopover site along the **East Asian-Australasian Flyway**. **Over 50,000 migratory waterbirds refuel and overwinter here** every year.

- > **A wetland of international importance** comprising gei wai, freshwater ponds, mangroves, mudflats, reedbeds and fishponds.
- > About **440 species** of birds recorded, including globally threatened species such as the Black-faced Spoonbill and Nordmann's Greenshank.



#DIVERSE



# HONG KONG IS...

## #CONNECTED

Infrastructure & Transport |

Air, Sea & Land Traffic Hub |

Gateway to the Mainland |

Advanced Physical & IT Infrastructure |

Telecommunications





# #CONNECTED

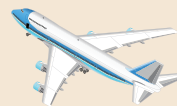
Strategically located at the centre of the Asia-Pacific region, Hong Kong is well-connected to the rest of the world. Within a four-hour flight from Asia's key markets and a five-hour flight from half the world's population, the city is an international centre for finance, trade, shipping and aviation.



Hong Kong invests heavily in infrastructure projects to boost connectivity locally and globally. These projects represent the vision for the city's long-term development.

## Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA)

- > Airport of the Year 2022 (Air Cargo Week: World Air Cargo Awards 2022)
- > Asia's Leading Airport 2021 (World Travel Awards)
- > Cargo handled: 5 million tonnes (2021)



Flight movements

**420,000**



Passengers

**71.5** million



About **120** airlines connecting to some

**220** destinations worldwide

(2019)

The third runway, as part of a visionary Three-Runway System (3RS), was officially commissioned for operation in November 2022. Airport Authority Hong Kong is forging ahead with the remaining 3RS project targeted for completion in 2024. It will raise HKIA's passenger and cargo handling capacity significantly. The development, together with a high value-added logistics centre on the Airport Island, the SKYCITY project and future developments on the Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facilities Island of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge and of AsiaWorld-Expo will transform HKIA into an Airport City.





## Regional hub port

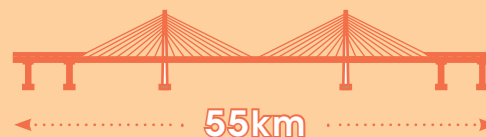
- > **One of the world's busiest and most efficient container ports.**
- > Hong Kong **Shipping Register** ranks **No. 4** in the world in terms of gross tonnage.
- > **No. 4 globally in the 2022 Xinhua-Baltic International Shipping Centre Development Index.**
- > Some 270 international container liner services per week connecting to nearly 600 destinations worldwide (2021).
- > Marine cargo movements with over 90 countries along the Belt and Road Initiative.
- > Nearly **18 million TEUs** handled in 2021.



## Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB)

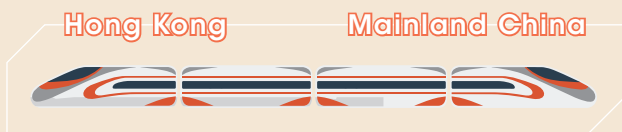
- > World's longest bridge-tunnel sea crossing.
- > 15 times the length of San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge.
- > Brings the Western Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and Hong Kong within a **3-hour commuting radius**.
- > Main Bridge – Dual 3-Lane carriageway **30km** (23km sea viaduct + 7km sub-sea tunnel).
- > Strengthens Hong Kong's position as a regional trade and logistics hub.

The HZMB Hong Kong Section project was awarded the **Institution of Civil Engineers People's Choice Award 2019** for the remarkable project management and contribution to the enhancement of regional transportation networks.



## The Hong Kong Section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link

- > Links Hong Kong with the over **40,000km** national high-speed rail network.
- > Hong Kong Section (26km) runs from West Kowloon to Shenzhen.
- > Slashes journey time between Hong Kong and Guangzhou to **46 minutes** with a top speed of 200km/h on the Hong Kong Section.



### Getting around Hong Kong is a breeze

With a highly efficient transport network, ranging from its modern railway system to trams, buses, mini-buses and ferries, Hong Kong is one of the least car-dependent cities in the world.

Hong Kong's strategic location at the estuary of the Pearl River Delta makes it the natural gateway to Mainland China. The city's connections reach beyond infrastructure to language, culture and information. Hong Kong is an ideal gateway for companies seeking access to Mainland China and for Mainland companies reaching out to the world.

## Belt and Road Initiative (B&R Initiative)

The Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road – the B&R Initiative – promotes co-operation among more than 100 countries and regions.



### Five Co-operation Priorities



Policy  
Co-ordination



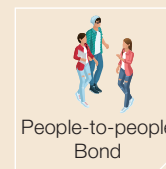
Facilities  
Connectivity



Unimpeded  
Trade



Financial  
Integration

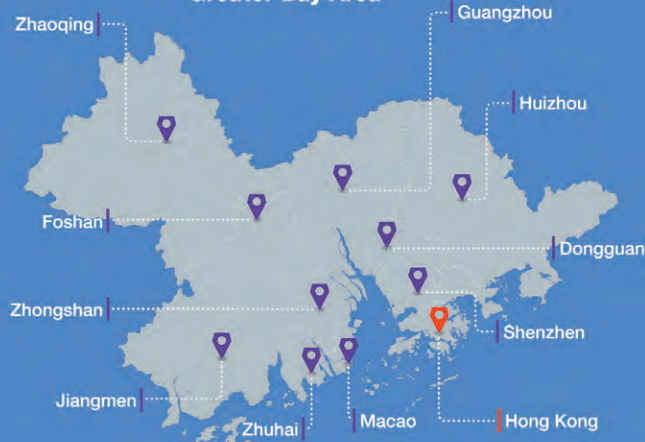


People-to-people  
Bond

Hong Kong plays a unique role as the functional platform and a key link for the B&R, leveraging our distinct advantages to provide **two-way connections** to the Mainland and B&R regions, including international project financing, professional services support, economic and trade co-operation, and cultural exchange.



## Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area



## Dovetailing with national strategies

The National 14th Five-Year Plan sets out the blueprint and action agenda for national development from 2021 to 2025 and establishes a clear positioning and direction for Hong Kong's economic development, including support for Hong Kong to enhance, consolidate and develop its "centre" status in 8 traditional and emerging sectors:

- > Consolidate Hong Kong's competitive edge by enhancing 4 **"traditional centres"** – international finance, transportation, trade, and legal and dispute resolution services in the Asia-Pacific region.
- > Develop new advantages for Hong Kong by establishing 4 **"emerging centres"** – international aviation, international innovation and technology, regional intellectual property trading, and East-meets-West centre for international cultural exchange.

## Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA)

- > 9 cities in Guangdong Province plus the two Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and Macao.
- > Population: over 86 million
- > GDP: over US\$1.9 trillion

Hong Kong can help companies take advantage of opportunities in the GBA:

- > Unique dual advantages under **"one country, two systems"**
- > An **international gateway** helping Mainland enterprises explore international opportunities and bring in foreign investment
- > Strong policy support for **start-ups** and **talents**



**Hong Kong's telecommunications infrastructure is one of the world's most advanced, with a wide range of innovative services available at low cost. Broadband and mobile networks cover almost 100% of the city, providing companies and people with reliable, accessible and secure communications.**

## IT infrastructure

- > A world leader in the areas of IT infrastructure, digital economy, internet security and free information flow.
- > An early adopter of Internet of Things (IoT) technologies in city management, transport and logistics, trade and e-commerce.



## Data centres

Hong Kong offers an excellent location for the development of data centres in the Asia-Pacific region with:

- > Robust telecommunications infrastructure
- > Reliable power supply
- > Protection of information privacy and security

Hong Kong's Data Technology Hub, developed by the Hong Kong Science & Technology Parks Corporation located at the 75-hectare Tseung Kwan O INNOPARK, helps maintain the city's position as one of the world's leading information and technology hubs.



## Wi-Fi hotspots

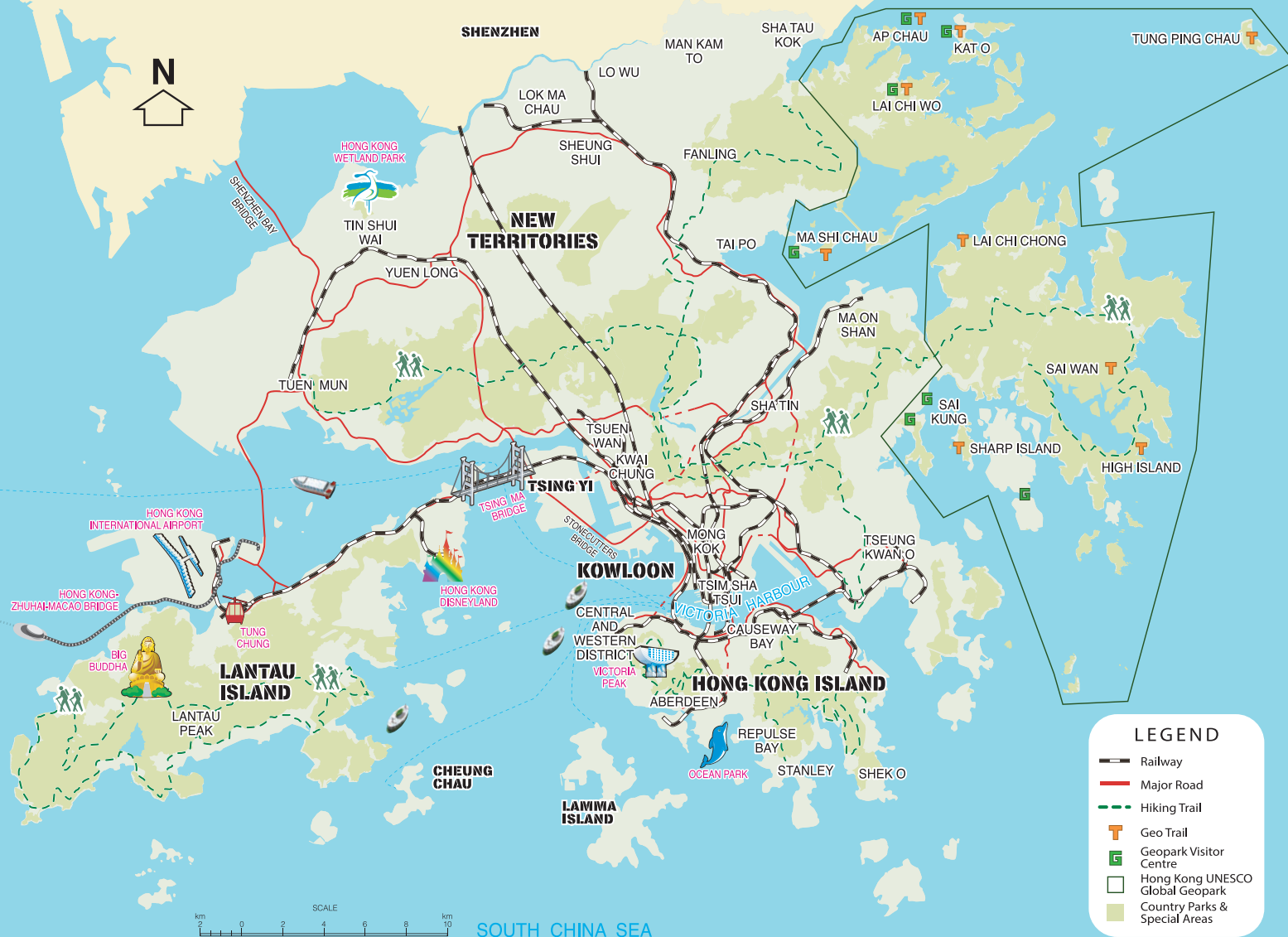
- > Over **86,432 public Wi-Fi access points** across the city (January 2023).
- > A “Wi-Fi Connected City” programme continues to expand coverage of the common brand “Wi-Fi.HK” through public and private collaboration.
- > Free Wi-Fi services to citizens and visitors.
- > A mobile app available to show all “Wi-Fi.HK” hotspot locations.

## Internet

Household broadband penetration rate **99.1%** (October 2022)

- > Broadband networks cover nearly all commercial and residential buildings.





## Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government

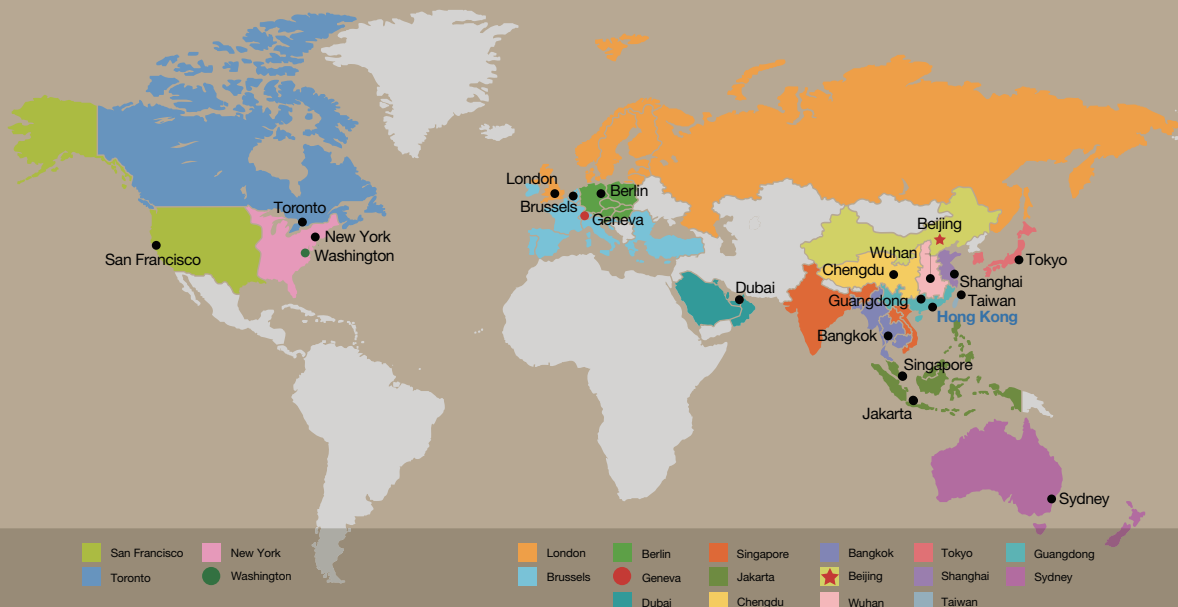
www.gov.hk

- **Information Services Department**  
Tel.: (852) 2842 8777  
E-mail: internet@isd.gov.hk  
www.isd.gov.hk
- **Brand Hong Kong Management Unit**  
Tel.: (852) 2842 8849  
E-mail: brandhk@isd.gov.hk  
www.brandhk.gov.hk

## The Office of the HKSAR Government in Beijing

Tel.: (86 10) 6657 2880

E-mail: bjohksar@bjo-hksarg.org.cn  
www.bjo.gov.hk



San Francisco Toronto New York Washington

London Brussels Berlin Geneva Singapore Jakarta Chengdu Bangkok Beijing Wuhan Shanghai Taiwan Sydney

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www.gdeto.gov.hk
- **Shanghai**  
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E-mail: enquiry@sheto.gov.hk  
www.sheto.gov.hk
- **Wuhan**  
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E-mail: general@hongkong-eu.org  
www.hongkong-eu.org
- **Geneva**  
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E-mail: hketo@hketogeneva.gov.hk  
www.hketogeneva.gov.hk
- **London**  
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www.hketodubai.gov.hk

### North America

- **New York**  
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www.hketony.gov.hk
- **San Francisco**  
Tel.: (1) 415 835 9300  
E-mail: hketosf@hketosf.gov.hk  
www.hketosf.gov.hk
- **Washington**  
Tel.: (1) 202 331 8947  
E-mail: hketo@hketowashington.gov.hk  
www.hketowashington.gov.hk
- **Toronto**  
Tel.: (1) 416 924 5544  
E-mail: info@hketotoronto.gov.hk  
www.hketotoronto.gov.hk

## Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office (Taiwan) (Temporary suspension of operations)



# HONG KONG

## Facts and Figures 2022

### Population

Total: 7.33 million

Median age: 47.1

Gender ratio:

840 males per 1,000 females

Life expectancy:

Men 81.3 years# Women 87.2 years#

Note: #Provisional figure



### Roads and vehicles

2,223 km of public roads

809,416 licensed vehicles



### Weather

Coldest month: February  
(mean temperature 15.2 °C)

Hottest month: July  
(mean temperature 30.3 °C)

Annual total rainfall: 2,205.4mm



### Religions

Buddhism, Catholicism, Christianity,  
Confucianism, Hinduism, Islam,  
Judaism, Sikhism and Taoism, etc.



### Electricity supply

AC 220V

Plug type: British three-pin



### Useful telephone numbers

Emergency: 999

Directory enquiries (Chinese): 1083

Directory enquiries (English): 1081



### Official languages

Chinese, English



### Economy

Gross Domestic Product  
(at current market prices):  
US\$361 billion

GDP per capita  
(at current market price): US\$49,136

Exchange rate:  
US\$1 = HK\$7.832 (average in 2022)



### Time zone

GMT + 8 hours



### Important dates

National Day: October 1

Hong Kong SAR  
Establishment Day: July 1



### Land area

Total: 1,114.35 km<sup>2</sup>

Total urban or built-up area:  
about 25%

Country parks and special areas:  
about 40%



### Related Organisations:

Invest Hong Kong  
Tel: (852) 3107 1000  
E-mail: [enq@investhk.gov.hk](mailto:enq@investhk.gov.hk)  
[www.investhk.gov.hk](http://www.investhk.gov.hk)

Hong Kong Tourism Board  
Tel: (852) 2508 1234  
E-mail: [info@hktb.com](mailto:info@hktb.com)  
[www.discoverhongkong.com](http://www.discoverhongkong.com)

Hong Kong Trade Development Council  
Tel: (852) 1830 668  
E-mail: [hktcdc@hktcdc.org](mailto:hktcdc@hktcdc.org)  
[www.hktcdc.com](http://www.hktcdc.com)

An electronic version of this booklet is available at [www.brandhk.gov.hk](http://www.brandhk.gov.hk)  
Keep up with Hong Kong's latest developments at [www.news.gov.hk](http://www.news.gov.hk)



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May 2023

