

HONG KONG & MACAU TRIP NOTES

Hong Kong - Delectable dim sum, floating islands, and a breath taking skyline are just some of Hong Kong's unique features. Take the tram to the top of Victoria Peak for unparalleled views of the most vertical city in the world, then shop until you drop at any of Hong Kong's markets or designer stores. Finally, dine on exquisite Chinese cuisine. And that is just day one...

Macau - a short ferry ride across the Pearl River Delta from Hong Kong. The local tourism draw is based largely on gambling, with numerous casinos reminiscent of Las Vegas, but Macao, a former Portuguese colony, also offers a rich blend of Chinese and European architecture and culture. Sections of Macau Peninsula have been designated a UNESCO World Heritage site.

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

US citizens are eligible for 30 day visit visa on arrival. You will be required to have a passport valid for at least 6 months from date of return and at least 2 blank visa pages. This is subject to change without notice.

MEDICATIONS & INNOCULATIONS

No medication or vaccinations are required for entry to Hong Kong or Taiwan.

CURRENCY

The Hong Kong dollar (\$ or HK\$; code: HKD) is the official currency of Hong Kong.

The Macanese pataca (\$) (code MOP) is the official currency of Macau. Hong Kong dollars are widely accepted in Macau but a surcharge of about a 3% applies.

A convenient currency converter can be found at <http://www.xe.com/currencyconverter/>

CREDIT CARDS

Visa and Mastercard are widely accepted, American Express less so. ATMs are easily found in major shopping areas. Cash is needed to shop at smaller markets.



TIME DIFFERENCE

Hong Kong and Macau are 12 hours ahead of US Eastern Standard Time and 15 hours ahead of US Pacific Standard Time.

SHOPPING

Tax free Hong Kong is a shoppers paradise but beware of buying fake jewelry, especially jade. Even certificates which state that the jewelry is real can be fake!

Computers, electronics and tailored clothes are the biggest bargain items to buy. Macau is also a tax free shopping destination.

ELECTRICITY

The voltage in Hong Kong and Macau is 220 Volt, which is slightly different from North America (120V) and may require a voltage adaptor for some devices. Hong Kong and Macau electrical outlets take three square pin plugs, type G.

For more information on plugs and voltage, please visit

<http://www.worldstandards.eu/electricity/plugs-and-sockets/>

LANGUAGE

Cantonese is the official language of Hong Kong. Cantonese and Portuguese are the official language of Macau. English is a mandatory subject in school and simple, polite questions prefaced by "Excuse me, ..." are likely to be understood and responded to.

CLIMATE

Hong Kong has a humid subtropical climate with hot, humid summers and mild, drier winters. The tropical cyclone (typhoon) season normally runs from July to September.

TIPPING GUIDELINES

Tipping isn't a big part of Hong Kong culture. Be sure to check your restaurant bill to see if a service charge has been included. If not, a 10% tip is considered polite at sit down restaurants. Leaving your change as a tip works at casual eateries.

Guides appreciate a tip of \$10 per full day, and will share this with the driver.

ETIQUETTE

Chinese people generally dislike being touched by strangers. Clicking fingers or whistling is considered rude. Never put your feet on a desk or a chair. To beckon a Chinese person, face the palm of your hand downward and move your fingers in a scratching motion. Never use your index finger to beckon anyone. Chinese point with an open hand. Never point with your index finger.

This information is provided by Asia Answers as a guideline to the country you will be visiting, and is up to date to the best of our knowledge. Further information is available to you on the official Hong Kong Tourism Office website - <https://www.discoverhongkong.com/us/index.html>